

Laws That Protect Mother and Child Right After Childbirth:
Symbolizes the Need for Cleansing from the Sinful Nature
Leviticus 12:01–08

1. *A mother and son were protected*

a. The mother was counted ceremonially unclean for 7 days

1) Physically:

Isolated to recover

2) Spiritually:

Isolated to focus upon God's grace and upon sin

b. The son was circumcised, identified as one of God's people

c. Both needed protection through an extended semi-isolation:
Had to wait 33 days for the ritual of purification

1) Gave time for nurturing

2) Gave time for spiritual focus

2. *A mother and daughter were protected*

a. Spiritually:

Counted unclean for two weeks (gave time to focus upon God and the sin nature)

b. Physically: Was to wait 66 days before her purification

3. *A mother was protected by approaching God for cleansing*

a. Through the Burnt Offering:
Seeking reconciliation through the sacrifice (a symbol of Christ)

1 The LORD said to Moses,

2 “Say to the Israelites:

‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period.

3 On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.

4 Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over.

5 If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must wait sixty-six days to be purified from her bleeding.

6 “When the days of her purification for a son or daughter are over, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering.

<p>b. Through the Sin Offering: Seeking forgiveness through the sacrifice (a symbol of Christ)</p> <p>c. The result</p> <p>1) Made atonement: Reconciliation with God, forgiveness</p> <p>2) Counted ceremonially clean: Able to participate in religious services</p> <p>4. <i>A poor mother was protected by God's mercy</i></p> <p>a. She could offer two pigeons if she could not afford a lamb</p> <p>b. The result: atonement (reconciliation) and the forgiveness of sin</p>	<p>7 He shall offer them before the LORD to make atonement for her, and then she will be ceremonially clean from her flow of blood. “These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl.</p> <p>8 But if she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.’ ”</p>
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