

Deuteronomy 15:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

Analysis

And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God—Blemished animals (מוֹם, mum, 'defect, flaw') are unacceptable offerings. God deserves **the best**, not leftovers. Malachi confronts Israel: **Ye offer polluted bread...and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee?...Ye offered the blind for sacrifice...offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee?** (Malachi 1:7-8).

The blemish requirement foreshadows Christ: **a lamb without blemish and without spot** (1 Peter 1:19). His sinless perfection qualified Him as the ultimate sacrifice. The standard calls worshipers to excellence: **Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God** (1 Corinthians 10:31). Offering God our second-best (leftover time, minimal effort, token generosity) insults His worth. He gave His flawless Son; we owe wholehearted devotion.

Historical Context

Temple priests examined animals for blemishes before accepting sacrifices (Leviticus 22:17-25). This quality control maintained worship standards and prevented Israelites from treating God casually—offering diseased animals they couldn't sell while keeping healthy stock for personal profit.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'blemished' offerings (half-hearted obedience, leftover time, token generosity) are you tempted to give God?
2. How does Christ's perfect sacrifice (unblemished Lamb) both judge and enable your worship?
3. In what specific areas is God calling you to 'first-quality' devotion rather than convenient minimums?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי	יְהִי הַ	בּוֹ	מִמֶּנֶּם	כִּי	אִם	יְהִי הַ
H3588	H1961	H0				H176
			And if there be any blemish	therein as if it be lame		
			H3971	H6455		
אוֹר	כֹּל	מִמֶּנֶּם	כִּי	אִם	יְהִי הַ	
H5787	H3605					H3808
or blind		And if there be any blemish	or have any ill			
		H3971	H7451			
תִּזְבֹּחַ נֹו	לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ:				
thou shalt not sacrifice	it unto the LORD	thy God				
H2076	H3068	H430				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 17:1 (Sacrifice): Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

