

Ezekiel 44:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall come at no dead person to defile themselves: but for father, or for mother, or for son, or for daughter, for brother, or for sister that hath had no husband, they may defile themselves.

Analysis

And they shall come at no dead person to defile themselves—Priestly purity laws: אל-מֵת אָדָם לֹא יָבֹא לְטָמֵא ('el-mēt 'ādām lō' yābō' lētōm'āh, 'to a dead person he shall not come for defilement'). Contact with corpses caused ritual uncleanness (Numbers 19:11-16).

But for father, or for mother, or for son, or for daughter, for brother, or for sister that hath had no husband, they may defile themselves—Exceptions for close relatives (Leviticus 21:1-3): אָב ('āb, 'father'), אֶם ('ēm, 'mother'), בֶן (bēn, 'son'), בָת (bat, 'daughter'), אָח ('āh, 'brother'), אֶתְנָח ('āhōt, 'sister'). Even in grief, holiness requirements persist, but family obligations are recognized. This balance—maintaining purity while honoring family—demonstrates Torah's pastoral wisdom, fulfilled in Christ who touches death (cleansing lepers, raising the dead) without defilement because He conquers death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

Historical Context

Priestly purity regulations (Leviticus 21-22) set priests apart for holy service. Corpse contamination was most severe uncleanness, requiring seven-day purification (Numbers 19). High priests couldn't defile themselves even for parents (Leviticus 21:11); regular priests had limited exceptions. Ezekiel's vision maintains

these distinctions, showing that holiness remains essential in millennial worship, though Christ has made ultimate purification.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does corpse defilement teach about sin and death's incompatibility with God's holiness?
2. How does allowing family exceptions demonstrate Torah's balance of holiness and compassion?
3. How does Jesus touching dead bodies without defilement demonstrate His power over death?

Interlinear Text

אַל	מֵת	מִתְּמַמָּן	לֹא	אַתָּם	וְאַבְדָּל	וְאַבְדָּל	אַמְּתָאָה	אַמְּתָאָה	אַמְּתָאָה
H413	at no dead	person	H3808	And they shall come	they may defile	H3588	H518		
	H4191	H120		H935	H2930				
לֹא	בְּ	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
themselves	but for father	or for mother	or for son	or for daughter	for brother				
	H1	H517	H1121	H1323	H251				
לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	בִּתְהַנְּתָה	לֹא	וְשָׁ	לֹא	וְשָׁ	וְשָׁ	וְשָׁ
or for sister	H834	H3808	H1961	that hath had no husband	they may defile				
	H269			H376	H2930				

