

Leviticus 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.

Analysis

These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.

This verse falls within the section on **Clean and Unclean Animals**. Dietary laws distinguishing clean from unclean animals, teaching Israel holiness and separation from pagan practices.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence. What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

Historical Context

Dietary laws distinguishing clean from unclean animals, teaching Israel holiness and separation from pagan practices. Chapters 11-15 address ritual purity, teaching Israel to distinguish clean from unclean. These laws served multiple purposes: promoting health, teaching spiritual lessons about sin's defilement, and separating Israel from pagan practices. Archaeological evidence shows Canaanite worship involved practices Israel's laws explicitly prohibited. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and

establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

כָּל הַשְׁנִים בְּכָל לְכָל בְּטֻמָּא יְמִין אֵלֶּה
H3605 to you among all that creep H8318 H3605
H428 These are unclean H2931

עַד אַתְּ מִתְּבָנָה בְּמִתְּבָנָה בְּמִתְּבָנָה
H5704 shall be unclean H2930 H4194 H0
whosoever doth touch H5060

בְּעַרְבָּה:
until the even
H6153

