

Leviticus 11:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.

Analysis

Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.

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.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

אַל H408	תִּשְׁקֹצוּ H8262	אֶת H853	נַפְשׁ יֵיכֶם H5315	בְּכָל H3605	הַשֹּׁרֵץ H8318
	Ye shall not make		yourselves		with any creeping thing
הַשֹּׁרֵץ H8317	וְלֹא H3808	תִּטְמְאוּ H2930			בָּהֶם H0
		with them that ye should be defiled			
	וְנִטְמַתְּ H2933		בָּהֶם: H0		
	neither shall ye make yourselves unclean				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 20:25 (Parallel theme): Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.