

Leviticus 11:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Analysis

For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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.

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word *qadosh* (קֹדֶשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי יְהוָה H3588 H589	For I am the LORD H3068	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם H430	your God	וְהִתְקַדְּשֶׁתֶם H6942	ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves
וְהִיִּתְּ מִ H1961	קָדוֹשׁ H6918	וְהִיִּתְּ מִ H3588	קָדוֹשׁ H6918	אֲנִי H589	וְלֹא H3808
תִּטְמָאוּ H2930	אֶת H853	בְּכָל H3605	נַפְשׁ תִּיכֶם H5315	הִשָּׁרָץ H8318	
תִּטְמָאוּ H7430	עַל H5921	הָאָרֶץ: H776			
thing that creepeth H7430	upon the earth H776				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 20:2 (References God): I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Leviticus 19:2 (Holy): Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

Leviticus 20:7 (Holy): Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Holy): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Leviticus 20:26 (Holy): And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

1 Peter 2:9 (Holy): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Leviticus 21:8 (Holy): Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, am holy.

Deuteronomy 14:2 (Holy): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Revelation 22:11 (Holy): He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Psalms 99:5 (Holy): Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

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