

Leviticus 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female.

Analysis

Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female.

This verse falls within the section on **Purification After Childbirth**. Regulations for ritual purification following childbirth, acknowledging both the blessing of life and effects of the fall.

The Hebrew word kaphar (כָּפַר) means 'to cover' or 'to make atonement.' The sacrificial system provided temporary covering for sin, pointing forward to Christ's perfect, once-for-all sacrifice. Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence. Leviticus 17:11 declares 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' establishing blood's sacred role in atonement, pointing to Christ's blood shed for redemption.

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

Historical Context

Regulations for ritual purification following childbirth, acknowledging both the blessing of life and effects of the fall. 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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
2. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
3. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?

Interlinear Text

וְהִקְרִיב וְ	לִפְנֵי יְ	יְהוָה	וְכִפֹּר ר	עַל יָהּ
Who shall offer	it before	the LORD	and make an atonement	
H7126	H6440	H3068	H3722	H5921
וְטִהַר ה	מִמֶּקְר	דַּם יָהּ	זֶאת	תּוֹכַחַת
for her and she shall be cleansed	from the issue	of her blood		This is the law
H2891	H4726	H1818	H2063	H8451
הִיא דֹּת	לְזָכָר	אִו	לְנִקְבָּה:	
for her that hath born	a male		or a female	
H3205	H2145	H176	H5347	

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