

Leviticus 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or if the raw flesh turn again, and be changed unto white, he shall come unto the priest;

Analysis

Or if the raw flesh turn again, and be changed unto white, he shall come unto the priest;

This verse falls within the section on **Diagnosing Skin Diseases**. Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צִרְעָה, tzaraat), often translated 'leprosy' but covering various conditions.

The Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

Historical Context

Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צִרְעָה, tzaraat), often translated 'leprosy' but covering various conditions. 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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְאִי	יָשׁוּב	הַבָּשָׂר	הֵם י	וְנִהְיָ	לָלָב	
H176	H3588	turn again	flesh	Or if the raw	and be changed	unto white
	H7725		H1320	H2416	H2015	H3836
וְיָבֹא	אֵל	הַכֹּהֵן:				
he shall come	H413	unto the priest				
H935		H3548				