

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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

