

Leviticus 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, if the hair in the bright spot be turned white, and it be in sight deeper than the skin; it is a leprosy broken out of the burning: wherefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is the plague of leprosy.

Analysis

Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, if the hair in the bright spot be turned white, and it be in sight deeper than the skin; it is a leprosy broken out of the burning: wherefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is the plague of leprosy.

This verse falls within the section on **Diagnosing Skin Diseases**. Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צִרְעָת, 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. Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

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

Historical Context

Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צִרְעָת, 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 texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

וְהִפָּךְ וְהָיָה הַכֹּהֵן אֵת הַיָּדָא הַזֶּה
shall look H7200 H854 **Then the priest** H3548 H2009 **be turned** H2015

עַמְקִי וּמִרְאָהּ בִּבְהֵרָה לְבָיִשׁ שָׁעָרָא
upon it and behold if the hair H8181 **white** H3836 **in the bright spot** H934 **and it be in sight** H4758 **deeper** H6013

מִן הָעוֹר צָרַתָּהּ הָיָה וּבִמְכֹן הַפָּרֶה
H4480 **than the skin** H5785 **it is a leprosy** H6883 H1931 **out of the burning** H4348 **broken** H6524

צָרַתָּהּ נִגַּע הַכֹּהֵן אֵת וְטִמְאָהּ
shall pronounce him unclean H2930 H853 **Then the priest** H3548 **it is the plague** H5061 **it is a leprosy** H6883

הוא:
H1931