

Leviticus 13:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest shall see the plague: and, behold, if it be in sight deeper than the skin; and there be in it a yellow thin hair; then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a dry scall, even a leprosy upon the head or beard.

Analysis

Then the priest shall see the plague: and, behold, if it be in sight deeper than the skin; and there be in it a yellow thin hair; then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a dry scall, even a leprosy upon the head or beard.

This verse falls within the section on **Diagnosing Skin Diseases**. Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צָרַעַת, 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.

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 (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 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן אֶת הַנֶּגַע וְהָיָה הוּא
shall see **Then the priest** ^{H853} **the plague** ^{H2009} **and behold if it be in sight**
^{H7200} ^{H3548} ^{H5061} ^{H4758}

דָּק מִן עֲמֻקָּה וְהָיָה בָּהּ צֹהַב וְהָיָה דָּק
deeper ^{H4480} **than the skin** ^{H0} **hair** ^{H8181} **and there be in it a yellow** **thin**
^{H6013} ^{H5785} ^{H6669} ^{H1851}

וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה
shall pronounce him unclean ^{H853} **Then the priest** **it is a dry scall** ^{H1931}
^{H2930} ^{H3548} ^{H5424}

וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה
even a leprosy **upon the head** ^{H176} **or beard** ^{H1931}
^{H6883} ^{H7218} ^{H2206}