

Leviticus 13:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man whose hair is fallen off his head, he is bald; yet is he clean.

Analysis

And the man whose hair is fallen off his head, he is bald; yet is he clean.

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

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 (תְּzָraּaּt, 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ	כִּי	וְאֵשׁ	רָאשׁ	וְאֵשׁ
And the man	H3588	whose hair is fallen	off his head	he is bald
H376		H4803	H7218	H7142
וְאֵשׁ	כִּי	וְאֵשׁ	רָאשׁ	וְאֵשׁ

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 4:13 (Parallel theme): Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

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