

Leviticus 13:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the plague be greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; it is a plague of leprosy, and shall be shewed unto the priest:

Analysis

And if the plague be greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; it is a plague of leprosy, and shall be shewed unto the priest:

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.

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. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

א וּ בְּבִגְד אֲדָמָה א וְ יִרְקֵב קוּ נִגַּע וְהָיָה ה
H1961 And if the plague H5061 be greenish H3422 either H176 or reddish H125 in the garment H899 either H176

כָּלִי בְּכָל א וְ בַּעֲרֵב א וְ בִּשְׂתֵי א וְ עוֹר of skin H5785 either H176 in the warp H8359 either H176 or in the woof H6154 either H176 H3605 or in any thing H3627

אֶת וְהִרְאָה הָ הִיא וְצָר עֵת נִגַּע עוֹר of skin H5785 And if the plague H5061 of leprosy H6883 H1931 and shall be shewed H7200 H853

הַכֹּהֵן:
unto the priest H3548