

Leviticus 13:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall look on the plague on the seventh day: if the plague be spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in a skin, or in any work that is made of skin; the plague is a fretting leprosy; it is unclean.

Analysis

And he shall look on the plague on the seventh day: if the plague be spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in a skin, or in any work that is made of skin; the plague is a fretting leprosy; it is unclean.

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.

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 holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

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

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 can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

וְרָאָה הַ	אֶת	הַנִּגַּע	בַּיּוֹם	הַשְּׁבִיעִי י	כִּי	פָּשַׁה הַ
And he shall look	H853	if the plague	day	on the seventh	H3588	be spread
H7200		H5061	H3117	H7637		H6581
הַנִּגַּע	בַּבְּגָד	אוֹ	בִּשְׂתֵי י	אוֹ	בְּעֵרֶב	אוֹ
if the plague	in the garment	H176	either in the warp	H176	or in the woof	H176
H5061	H899		H8359		H6154	
הָעוֹר	לְכָל ל	אֲשֶׁר הַ	יַעֲשֶׂה הַ	הָעוֹר	לְמַלְאָכָה הַ	צָרַח עֵת
of skin	H3605	H834	that is made	of skin	or in any work	leprosy
H5785		H6213	H5785		H4399	H6883
מִמָּאֵרֶת	הַנִּגַּע	טֵמֵא א	הוּא:			
is a fretting	if the plague	it is unclean	H1931			
H3992	H5061	H2931				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 14:44 (Parallel theme): Then the priest shall come and look, and, behold, if the plague be spread in the house, it is a fretting leprosy in the house: it is unclean.