

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 (צָרָעָת, 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 (צָרָעָת, 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

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. 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

וְיָרַא הַשְׁבִיעִי	בְּיֹום הַיּוֹם	בְּיֹום הַיּוֹם	בְּיֹום הַיּוֹם	בְּיֹום הַיּוֹם	בְּיֹום הַיּוֹם	בְּיֹום הַיּוֹם
And he shall look	if the plague	day	on the seventh			be spread
H7200	H853	H5061	H3117	H7637	H3588	H6581
if the plague	in the garment	either in the warp		or in the woof		
H5061	H176	H8359	H176	H6154	H176	
of skin	H3605	H834	that is made	of skin	or in any work	leprosy
H5785			H6213	H5785	H4399	H6883
is a fretting	if the plague	it is unclean				
H3992	H5061	H2931	H1931			

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.

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