

Leviticus 13:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the priest shall look, and, behold, the plague be not spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin;

Analysis

And if the priest shall look, and, behold, the plague be not spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin;

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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 help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם יִרְאֶה ה'

H518

shall look

H7200

הַכֹּהֵן

And if the priest

H3548

וְהִנֵּה

H2009

לֹא

H3808

פָּשׂה ה'

be not spread

H6581

וְהִנֵּה גַע

and behold the plague

H5061

בְּבִגְד

in the garment

H899

אוּ

either

H176

בִּשְׂתֵי

in the warp

H8359

אוּ

either

H176

בְּעֵרֵב

in the woof

H6154

אוּ בְּכֹל

either

H176

H3605

כָּלִי

in any thing

H3627

עוֹר:

of skin

H5785

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