

Leviticus 13:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall look on the plague, after that it is washed: and, behold, if the plague have not changed his colour, and the plague be not spread; it is unclean; thou shalt burn it in the fire; it is fret inward, whether it be bare within or without.

Analysis

And the priest shall look on the plague, after that it is washed: and, behold, if the plague have not changed his colour, and the plague be not spread; it is unclean; thou shalt burn it in the fire; it is fret inward, whether it be bare within or without.

This verse falls within the section on **Diagnosing Skin Diseases**. Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (תַּצָּרָאת, 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. 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 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 (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 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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 can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

וְנִאֵּה | הַכֶּה | אַמְרֵי | אַתְּ | הַכְּבָשׂ | אַתְּ | וְנִבְנֵי |
shall look And the priest after that it is washed H853 and behold if the plague
H7200 H3548 H310 H3526 H5061

לֹא | הַכֶּה | וְנִבְנֵי | אַתְּ | עִינּוֹ |
H2009 H3808 H2015 H5061 H853 H5869
have not changed and behold if the plague his colour

וְנִבְנֵי | לֹא | פָּשַׁ | אָטָם | הַ | וְאֵשׁ |
and behold if the plague H3808 be not spread it is unclean H1931 H784
H5061 H6581 H2931

אַתְּ | בְּקָרְבָּת | תִּשְׁרַף | כֵּן |
thou shalt burn it is fret H1931 inward whether it be bare within H176
H8313 H6356 H7146

בְּגַבְּחָתָן
or without
H1372

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