

Leviticus 13:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall look on him again the seventh day: and, behold, if the plague be somewhat dark, and the plague spread not in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean: it is but a scab: and he shall wash his clothes, and be clean.

Analysis

And the priest shall look on him again the seventh day: and, behold, if the plague be somewhat dark, and the plague spread not in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean: it is but a scab: and he shall wash his clothes, and be clean.

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.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

Interlinear Text

וְיִרְאָה	רְפָהָה	וְיִמְצָא	בַּיּוֹם	וְיִתְהַלֵּל	בַּיּוֹם	וְיִתְהַלֵּל	וְיִתְהַלֵּל	וְיִתְהַלֵּל
shall look	And the priest	H853	day	the seventh	on him again			H2009
H7200	H3548		H3117	H7637		H8145		
כַּךְ הַ	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע	כַּךְ גַּע
be somewhat dark	and behold if the plague	H3544	H5061	H3808	spread	and behold if the plague		H5061
				H6581				
וְרָ	כָּהֵן	מְסֻפֵּת	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ
not in the skin	and be clean	And the priest	it is but a scab				H1931	
H5785	H2891	H3548	H4556					
וְרָ	כָּהֵן	מְסֻפֵּת	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ	וְרָ
and he shall wash	his clothes	and be clean						
H3526	H899	H2891						

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 11:25 (Parallel theme): And whosoever beareth ought of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

Leviticus 14:8 (Parallel theme): And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

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