

Leviticus 14:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which the plague is, and they shall cast them into an unclean place without the city:

Analysis

Then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which the plague is, and they shall cast them into an unclean place without the city:

This verse falls within the section on **Cleansing from Skin Diseases**. Elaborate cleansing ritual for healed lepers, involving birds, blood, and multiple offerings, symbolizing restoration.

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

Historical Context

Elaborate cleansing ritual for healed lepers, involving birds, blood, and multiple offerings, symbolizing restoration. 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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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 understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶבֶן יָמָת אֶת יְחִילָצָה
shall command Then the priest that they take away the stones

H6680

H3548

H2502

H853

away the stones

H834

H68

אַל לְעִיר מִחְזִיק בָּהּ | וְהַשְׁלִיכוּ בְּבָהּ גָּעָבָה
the plague is and they shall cast

H0

H5061

H7993

H853

H413

without

the city

H413

H2351

H5892

מִקְרָב וּמִ
place them into an unclean

H4725

H2931

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