

Leviticus 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water:

Analysis

And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water:

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.

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

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. 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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 understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	הַצֶּפֶר וְ	אֶת	יִשָּׁח ט	הַכֹּהֵן	וְצִוָּה
H413	H6833	H853	H7819	H3548	H6680
that one	of the birds		be killed	And the priest	shall command
H259	H6833		H7819	H3548	H6680
תִּים:	מֵי	עַל	הַיָּשׁ	כֵּל	קֵלִי
H2416	H4325	H5921	H2789	H3627	
over running	water	in an earthen	vessel		
H2416	H4325	H5921	H2789	H3627	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 14:50 (Parallel theme): And he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water:

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