

Leviticus 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if any man's seed of copulation go out from him, then he shall wash all his flesh in water, and be unclean until the even.

Analysis

And if any man's seed of copulation go out from him, then he shall wash all his flesh in water, and be unclean until the even.

This verse falls within the section on **Bodily Discharges**. Laws concerning various bodily discharges, emphasizing that approaching God's holy presence requires ritual purity.

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

Laws concerning various bodily discharges, emphasizing that approaching God's holy presence requires ritual purity. 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם יִשׁ	כִּי	תֵצֵא	נֹו	מִמָּוֶה	שְׂכִיבָת	זֶרַע
And if any man's		go out		of copulation		seed
H376	H3588	H3318		H4480	H7902	H2233
וְכֵן יֵצֵא		בַּמַּיִם	אֶת	כָּל	בְּשָׁרֹו	וְטֵמֵא
from him then he shall wash		in water			all his flesh	and be unclean
H7364		H4325	H853	H3605	H1320	H2930
עַד	הָעֶרֶב:					
H5704	until the even					
	H6153					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 22:4 (Parallel theme): What man soever of the seed of Aaron is a leper, or hath a running issue; he shall not eat of the holy things, until he be clean. And whoso toucheth any thing that is unclean by the dead, or a man whose seed goeth from him;

Leviticus 15:5 (Parallel theme): And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

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