

Leviticus 15:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.

Analysis

Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.

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.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

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. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְהִצַּדְתֶּם	אֶת	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּטִמְאַתָּם	לֹא
Thus shall ye separate	H853	the children	of Israel	from their uncleanness	H3808
H5144		H1121	H3478	H2932	
יָמָּם	בְּטִמְאַתָּם	בְּטִמְאָם	אֶת	מִשְ�כְּנִי	אֶשֶׁר
that they die	from their uncleanness	when they defile	H853	my tabernacle	H834
H4191	H2932	H2930		H4908	
בְּתוֹכָם:					
that is among					
H8432					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 19:20 (Temple): But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.

Ezekiel 5:11 (Temple): Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

Numbers 19:13 (Temple): Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.

Ezekiel 23:38 (Temple): Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths.

Numbers 5:3 (Parallel theme): Both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell.

Hebrews 10:29 (Parallel theme): Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

1 Corinthians 3:17 (Temple): If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Ezekiel 44:23 (Parallel theme): And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

Jude 1:4 (Parallel theme): For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel 9:27 (Parallel theme): And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

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