

Leviticus 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

Analysis

And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself 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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

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 16:26 (Parallel theme): And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp.

Leviticus 17:15 (Parallel theme): And every soul that eateth that which died of itself, or that which was torn with beasts, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even: then shall he be clean.

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