

Leviticus 17

Chapter 17 of 27 · 16 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Sanctity of Blood

¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

² Speak unto Aaron, and unto his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them; This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying,

³ What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp,

⁴ And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people:

⁵ To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them for peace offerings unto the LORD.

⁶ And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

⁷ And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

⁸ And thou shalt say unto them, Whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice,

9 And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people.

Eating Blood Forbidden

10 And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

12 Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.

13 And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.

14 For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

15 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.

16 But if he wash them not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Atonement — כָּפַר (Kaphar)

To cover, make atonement

The Hebrew **kaphar** (כָּפַר) means to cover or make atonement—the basis for Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). The blood of sacrifices covered sin: 'it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul' (Leviticus 17:11).

Blood — דָּם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָּם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

Iniquity — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 17:4 **Blood:** Isaiah 66:3. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 17:14; John 10:7; 10:9; 14:6.

Sacrifice: Ezekiel 20:40

Leviticus 17:6 **Blood:** Leviticus 3:2; Numbers 18:17

Leviticus 17:7 **Sacrifice:** Exodus 22:20; 32:8; 34:15; Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalms 106:37; 1 Corinthians 10:20. **Evil:** 2 Chronicles 11:15; Revelation 9:20. **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 20:5; Deuteronomy 31:16

Leviticus 17:9 **Temple:** Leviticus 17:4

Leviticus 17:10

Blood: Leviticus 3:17; 17:11; Genesis 9:4; Deuteronomy 12:16; 12:23; 15:23; 1 Samuel 14:33.

References Israel: Jeremiah 44:11. **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 26:17; Psalms 34:16

Leviticus 17:11 **Blood:** Genesis 9:4; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Romans 3:25; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:22; 13:12; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5

Leviticus 17:13 **Blood:** Leviticus 7:26; Deuteronomy 12:16; 15:23; Ezekiel 24:7. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 12:24

Leviticus 17:14 **Blood:** Genesis 9:4; Deuteronomy 12:23

Leviticus 17:15 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 11:25; 15:5; 22:8; Exodus 22:31; Deuteronomy 14:21; Ezekiel 4:14; 44:31; Revelation 7:14

Leviticus 17:16 **Sin:** Leviticus 5:1

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