

Leviticus 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

This verse falls within the section on **Sanctity of Blood**. Regulations prohibiting consumption of blood and requiring proper slaughter, emphasizing blood's sacred role in atonement.

Leviticus 17:11 declares 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' establishing blood's sacred role in atonement, pointing to Christ's blood shed for redemption.

The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

Historical Context

Regulations prohibiting consumption of blood and requiring proper slaughter, emphasizing blood's sacred role in atonement. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the

LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְכֶשֶׁ	כָּל	בָּשָׂר	דָּמ וְ	וְכֶשֶׁ	הוּא
H3588	For it is the life	H3605	of all flesh	is the blood	For it is the life	H1931
	H5315		H1320	H1818	H5315	
	וְאָמַר	לְבָנַי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	דָּמ וְ	כָּל	בָּשָׂר
	thereof therefore I said	unto the children	of Israel	is the blood	H3605	of all flesh
	H559	H1121	H3478	H1818		H1320
ל א	אֲכָל יוֹ	כִּי	וְכֶשֶׁ	כָּל	בָּשָׂר	דָּמ וְ
H3808	Ye shall eat	H3588	For it is the life	H3605	of all flesh	is the blood
	H398		H5315		H1320	H1818
	הוּא					
כָּל	אֲכָל יוֹ	יִכָּרֵת:				
H3605	Ye shall eat	it shall be cut off				
	H398	H3772				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 9:4 (Blood): But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Deuteronomy 12:23 (Blood): Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh.