

Leviticus 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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.

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 New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with 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. 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל H3605	וְכָל H5315	אֶשׁ ר H834	תֹּאכֶל ל H398	נִבְלָה H5038
And every soul that eateth that which died				
וְטָרַף ה H2966		בְּאֶזְכְּח H249		
of itself or that which was torn with beasts whether it be one of your own country				
וְיֵגֵר ר H1616	וְיֵגֵר ס H3526	וְיֵגֵד יו H899	וְיֵרַח י H7364	בִּמְיָם H4325
or a stranger he shall both wash his clothes and bathe himself in water				
וְטָמֵא א H2930	עַד H5704	הָעַרְב H6153	וְטָהֵר: H2891	
and be unclean until the even then shall he be clean				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:31 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be holy men unto me: neither shall ye eat any flesh that is torn of beasts in the field; ye shall cast it to the dogs.

Deuteronomy 14:21 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

Leviticus 22:8 (Parallel theme): That which dieth of itself, or is torn with beasts, he shall not eat to defile himself therewith: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 11:25 (Parallel theme): And whosoever beareth ought of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

Revelation 7:14 (Parallel theme): And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Ezekiel 4:14 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

Ezekiel 44:31 (Parallel theme): The priests shall not eat of any thing that is dead of itself, or torn, whether it be fowl or beast.

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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