

Leviticus 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman.

Analysis

Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman.

This verse falls within the section on **Unlawful Sexual Relations**. Prohibitions against various sexual sins, distinguishing Israel from Canaanite practices and protecting family sanctity.

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

Prohibitions against various sexual sins, distinguishing Israel from Canaanite practices and protecting family sanctity. 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 sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

תְּגַלְתִּי	ה	לֹא	אֶבְיוֹבָה	אֶחָדָה	בָּתְרִיתְךָ	תְּגַלְתִּי
the nakedness	sister	of thy father's	H3808	Thou shalt not uncover		
H6172	H269	H1			H1540	

רָשָׂא	בָּתְרִיתְךָ	אֶבְיוֹבָה	קְוָא:
near kinswoman	of thy father's		
H7607	H1		H1931

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 20:19 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister, nor of thy father's sister: for he uncovereth his near kin: they shall bear their iniquity.

