

Leviticus 18:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God.

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.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

דַּבֵּר	אֶל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאָמַרְתָּ	אֵלֶיךָ	אֲנִי
Speak	H413	unto the children	of Israel	and say	H413 H589
H1696		H1121	H3478	H559	
וְהָאֲנִי יְהוָה			אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:		
unto them I am the LORD			your God		
H3068			H430		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:7 (References God): And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Leviticus 11:44 (References God): For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Ezekiel 20:5 (References God): And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God;

Leviticus 20:7 (References God): Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.