

Leviticus 18:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Analysis

Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

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

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

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. 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 use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָל	נִטְמָא	וְאַל	אֵלֶּה	בְּכָל	כִּי
H408	Defile	H3605	not ye yourselves in any of these things	H3588	H3605
		H2930		H428	
אֵלֶּה	נִטְמָא	וְאַל	בְּכָל	כִּי	אֵשֶׁר
not ye yourselves in any of these things	Defile	for in all these the nations	not ye yourselves in any of these things	not ye yourselves in any of these things	H834
H428	H2930	H1471	H428	H2930	
אֲנִי	מִפְנִיכֶם	בְּפִנְךֶּם	מִשְׁלֵךְ	מִשְׁלֵךְ	
H589	which I cast out	before	which I cast out	before	
	H7971	H6440			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 18:12 (Parallel theme): For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Leviticus 18:30 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.

Jeremiah 44:4 (Parallel theme): Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.

1 Corinthians 3:17 (Parallel theme): If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Deuteronomy 12:31 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

Leviticus 18:3 (Parallel theme): After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.
