

Leviticus 18:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

וְכַמַּעַשׂ ה	אֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	אֲשֶׁר	יֹשְׁבֵיהֶם	בְּ ה	ל א
After the doings	of the land	of Egypt	H834	wherein ye dwelt	H0	H3808
H4639	H776	H4714		H3427		
תַּעֲשׂ ו	וְכַמַּעַשׂ ה	אֶרֶץ	כְּנָעַן	אֲשֶׁר	אֲנִי	
shall ye not do	After the doings	of the land	of Canaan	H834	H589	
H6213	H4639	H776	H3667			
מֵב יא	אֲתָךְ מ	שָׁמָּה	ל א	תַּעֲשׂ ו	וּבְחֻקֵּיהֶם מ	
whither I bring	H853	H8033	H3808	shall ye not do	in their ordinances	
H935				H6213	H2708	
תִּלְכּוּ: ל א						
H3808	H1980					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:24 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

Leviticus 20:23 (Parallel theme): And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.

Ezekiel 23:8 (References Egypt): Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her.

Psalms 106:35 (Parallel theme): But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

Romans 12:2 (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Deuteronomy 12:4 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

