

Leviticus 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

Analysis

Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

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

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

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 texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמְרֶתֶם	אֶת	חֻקֹּתַי	וְאֶת	מִשְׁפָּטַי	אֲשֶׁר
Ye shall therefore keep	H853	my statutes	H853	and my judgments	which
H8104		H2708		H4941	H834
וְעָשׂוּ	אֵת	הָאֲדָרָם	וְהָיָה	אֲנִי	יְהוָה
do	H853	if a man	he shall live	H0	H589
H6213		H120	H2425		H3068
					in them I am the LORD

Additional Cross-References

Romans 10:5 (Parallel theme): For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Ezekiel 20:11 (Judgment): And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

Galatians 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Luke 10:28 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Ezekiel 20:13 (Judgment): But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Ezekiel 20:21 (Judgment): Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

Exodus 6:2 (References Lord): And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

Exodus 6:6 (Judgment): Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

Exodus 6:29 (References Lord): That the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I am the LORD: speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say unto thee.

Malachi 3:6 (References Lord): For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.