

Leviticus 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

Analysis

The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

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 access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to 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.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
2. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

עֲרֹוֹת	אִשְׁתְּ	אָבִיךָ	לֹא	תִגְלֶה
The nakedness	wife	it is thy father's	H3808	shalt thou not uncover
H6172	H802	H1		H1540

עֲרֹוֹת	אָבִיךָ	הוא:
The nakedness	it is thy father's	H1931
H6172	H1	

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 5:1 (Parallel theme): It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

Leviticus 20:11 (Parallel theme): And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness: both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Deuteronomy 22:30 (Parallel theme): A man shall not take his father's wife, nor discover his father's skirt.

Deuteronomy 27:20 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Genesis 49:4 (Parallel theme): Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

Amos 2:7 (Parallel theme): That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name: