

Leviticus 19:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Analysis

And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

This verse falls within the section on **Various Laws of Holiness**. Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18).

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

Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18). 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

Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	תִשָּׁבַע וְ	שְׁמִי	לִשְׁקֹר	וְחִלַּלְתָּ
H3808	And ye shall not swear	by my name	falsely	neither shalt thou profane
	H7650	H8034	H8267	H2490
אֶת	שְׁמִי	אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ	אֲנִי יְהוָה:	
H853	by my name	of thy God	I am the LORD	
	H8034	H430	H3068	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 20:7 (References God): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Deuteronomy 5:11 (References God): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Leviticus 18:21 (References God): And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

James 5:12 (Parallel theme): But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

Leviticus 6:3 (Parallel theme): Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein:

Leviticus 24:11 (References Lord): And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:)