

Leviticus 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Analysis

Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear 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).

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

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. 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| לֹא | תַּקְלִל | לְ | שֶׁ | בִּלְפְּנֵי | עַד | אַ | לֹא | תַּתְּ | נָ |
| H3808 | Thou shalt not curse | H7043 | the deaf | H2795 | before | H6440 | the blind | H5787 | nor put |
| | | | | | | | | | H5414 |
| מַכְשֵׁל | אָתָּה | בְּ | מָאֹלֶךְ | אַתָּה | אָתָּה | אָתָּה | אָתָּה | אָתָּה | אָתָּה |
| a stumblingblock | but shalt fear | H3372 | thy God | H430 | H589 | I am the LORD | H3068 | | |
| H4383 | | | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 27:18 (Curse): Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Leviticus 19:32 (References God): Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Romans 14:13 (Parallel theme): Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Leviticus 25:17 (References God): Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God.

1 Peter 2:17 (References God): Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Revelation 2:14 (Parallel theme): But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Nehemiah 5:15 (References God): But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

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