

Leviticus 19:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

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).

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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
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

אֵל	תִּפְנֹו	אֵל	הָאֲבֹת	וְאֵל	הַדְּעֹנִים	אֵל
H408	Regard	H413	not them that have familiar spirits	H413	after wizards	H408
	H6437		H178		H3049	
וְלֹא יִתְבַּקֵּשׁוּ	לְטֻמְאָה	בָּהֶם	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:	
neither seek	to be defiled	H0	H589	by them I am the LORD	your God	
H1245	H2930			H3068	H430	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 8:19 (Spirit): And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Leviticus 20:27 (Spirit): A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

2 Chronicles 33:6 (Spirit): And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

1 Chronicles 10:13 (Spirit): So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

2 Kings 21:6 (Spirit): And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1 Samuel 28:3 (Spirit): Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

Isaiah 47:13 (Parallel theme): Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

Isaiah 29:4 (Spirit): And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Exodus 22:18 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

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