

Leviticus 20:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Analysis

And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

This verse falls within the section on **Penalties for Disobedience**. Punishments for violations of sexual and religious laws, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in God's holy community.

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

Punishments for violations of sexual and religious laws, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in God's holy community. 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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ	רַא	אֲשֶׁר	וּבְנִאָפָתִים	אֲתָה	אֲשֶׁר	וְאֵשׁ	רַא	אֲשֶׁר
And the man	H834	and the adulteress	H5003		wife		And the man	H834
	H376				H802			H376
וְאֵשׁ	רַא	אֲשֶׁר	וּבְנִאָפָתִים	אֲתָה	אֲשֶׁר	וְאֵשׁ	רַא	אֲשֶׁר
and the adulteress	H5003			H854	wife		with his neighbour's	be put to death
					H802		H7453	H4191
וְאֵשׁ	רַא	אֲשֶׁר	וּבְנִאָפָתִים	אֲתָה	אֲשֶׁר	וְאֵשׁ	רַא	אֲשֶׁר
be put to death		and the adulteress		and the adulteress				
H4191		H5003		H5003				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:18 (Parallel theme): Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Leviticus 18:20 (Parallel theme): Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.

2 Samuel 12:13 (Parallel theme): And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org