

Leviticus 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you.

Analysis

And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you.

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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה אָשָׁר כִּי קָרָא אֶל אָשָׁר הָיָה אֶת אֶת אֶת אֶת
And if a man take a wife and her mother

אָתָּה וְאֶת הָיָה אֶת שְׁרֵפָה בְּאָשָׁר יְשִׁרְפָּה
both he and they that there be no wickedness with fire they shall be burnt

אָתָּה וְאֶת הָיָה אֶת שְׁרֵפָה בְּאָשָׁר יְשִׁרְפָּה
both he and they that there be no wickedness

בְּתוּכָם:

among

H8432

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 18:17 (Evil): Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; for they are her near kinswomen: it is wickedness.

Deuteronomy 27:23 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that lieth with his mother in law. And all the people shall say, Amen.

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:

Joshua 7:15 (Parallel theme): And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.

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