

Leviticus 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death:
and ye shall slay the beast.

Analysis

And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.

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.

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

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 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
2. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם יִשָּׁר	אֲשֶׁר	יִתֵּן	שְׁכַבְתָּ	וְהַבֵּהֶם	יִמָּוֶת
And if a man		lie		the beast	be put to death
H376	H834	H5414	H7903	H929	H4191
יִמָּוֶת	וְאֵת	הַבֵּהֶם	וְאַתָּה		
be put to death		the beast	and ye shall slay		
H4191	H853	H929	H2026		

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 18:23 (Parallel theme): Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.

Deuteronomy 27:21 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Exodus 22:19 (Parallel theme): Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.

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