

Leviticus 20:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Analysis

And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

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.

Leviticus 17:11 declares 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' establishing blood's sacred role in atonement, pointing to Christ's blood shed for redemption.

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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 practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

לְרַבֵּעַ הַ
And if a woman approach and the beast and lie down
H802 H834 H7126 H3605 H929 H7250

אַתָּה וְבָרֵגֶת אַתָּה וְאַתָּה וְאַתָּה
thereto thou shalt kill And if a woman and the beast
H854 H2026 H853 H802 H853 H929

וְיִמְתַּבֵּל מִדְמִיתָה בְּמִמְּלֵאָה
be put to death be put to death their blood
H4191 H4191 H1818 H0

