

Leviticus 20:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.

Analysis

And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.

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 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| וְאִם יִשָּׁא | אֲשֶׁר | יִקַּח | אֶת | אֲחֹתוֹ | בִּתּוֹ | אָבִיו | אוֹ |
| And if a man | H834 | shall take | H853 | his sister | daughter | his father's | or |
| H376 | | H3947 | | H269 | H1323 | H1 | H176 |
| בִּתּוֹ | אֶת | תִּרְאָהּ | אֶת | עֲרֹתָהּ | וְהָיָא | וְתִרְאָהּ | אֶת |
| daughter | his mother's | and see | H853 | her nakedness | H1931 | and see | H853 |
| H1323 | H517 | H7200 | | H6172 | | H7200 | |
| עֲרֹתָהּ | הִיא | כִּי קֹדֶשׁ | וְהָיָא | וְנִכְרְתוּ | לְעֵינֵי | | |
| her nakedness | it is a wicked thing | H1931 | and they shall be cut off | in the sight | | | |
| H6172 | H2617 | | H3772 | H5869 | | | |
| בְּנֵי | עַמּוֹ | עֲרֹתָהּ | אֲחֹתוֹ | גָּלָהּ | עֲוֹנוֹ | | |
| H1121 | of their people | her nakedness | his sister | he hath uncovered | his iniquity | | |
| | H5971 | H6172 | H269 | H1540 | H5771 | | |
| יִשָּׂא: | | | | | | | |
| he shall bear | | | | | | | |
| H5375 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 18:9 (Parallel theme): The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.

Deuteronomy 27:22 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.