

Leviticus 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

Analysis

And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

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 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

אִישׁ בְּאִישׁ אִתְּשַׁפֵּכְךָ אִשָּׁה אִשָּׁה
If the woman having her sickness
And if a man shall lie with a woman

H1739 H802 H854 H376 H7901 H834

בָּעֵבֶת הַמְּקֻרְבָּה אִתְּשַׁפֵּכְךָ עֲרֵיתָה
he hath discovered her fountain her nakedness
and shall uncover

H6168 H4726 H6172 H853 H1540

וְכַרְתֵּת וְכַרְתֵּת הַמְּקֻרְבָּה אִתְּשַׁפֵּכְךָ אִתְּשַׁפֵּכְךָ
of them shall be cut off of her blood her fountain
and shall uncover

H3772 H1818 H4726 H853 H1931 H1540

שְׁנִיהם מִקְרָב עֲמָם
their people from among both
and both

H5971 H7130 H8147

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 15:24 (Parallel theme): And if any man lie with her at all, and her flowers be upon him, he shall be unclean seven days; and all the bed whereon he lieth shall be unclean.

Leviticus 18:19 (Parallel theme): Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.