

Leviticus 20:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

Analysis

Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵל H413	מִבְּנֵי י H1121	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל ל H3478	תֹּאמַר H559	אִישׁ H376	
he be of the children		in Israel	Again thou shalt say	Whosoever	
אִישׁ H376	מִבְּנֵי י H1121	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל ל H3478	וּמִן H4480	הֵגֵר H1616	
Whosoever	he be of the children	in Israel		or of the strangers	
הֵגֵר H1481	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל ל H3478	אֲשֶׁר H834	יֵתֵן H5414	מִזֶּרַע ו H2233	לִמֹּלֶךְ H4432
that sojourn	in Israel		that giveth	any of his seed	unto Molech
יֹוֹמָת H4191	יֹוֹמָת H4191	עַם H5971	הָאֶרֶץ H776	יִרְגְּמוּ הוּ H7275	בָּאֲבָנֵי: H68
be put to death	be put to death	the people	of the land	shall stone	him with stones

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 21:21 (References Israel): And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Leviticus 24:23 (References Israel): And Moses spake to the children of Israel, that they should bring forth him that had cursed out of the camp, and stone him with stones. And the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 20:27 (Parallel theme): A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

Leviticus 24:14 (Parallel theme): Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

Leviticus 18:21 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

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