

Leviticus 20:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

Analysis

Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

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.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

Interlinear Text

הַבָּדָק לְתַיִן	לְטָהָר בְּבָהָמָת בֵּין	לְטָהָר בְּבָהָמָת וְבְּטָהָם אֶת
Ye shall therefore put difference	beasts and clean	and between unclean
H914	H996 H929	H2889 H2931
וְבָעַז וְבָנִין	לְטָהָר וְלֹא תִשְׁקַׁצֵּן וְאַתָּה	לְטָהָר וְלֹא תִשְׁקַׁצֵּן וְאַתָּה
H996 fowls and between unclean	H3808 H2889	H853 H8262
H5775 H2931		
נַפְשָׁתִיכָּם	וְבָעַז וְבְּבָהָמָת הַבָּדָק לְתַיִן	אַשְׁר וְבָכֶל
and ye shall not make your souls	beasts fowls	H3605 H834
H5315	H929 H5775	
תְּרַמֵּם שְׁ	בְּאָדָם הַבָּדָק לְתַיִן	אַשְׁר בְּאָדָם הַבָּדָק לְתַיִן
or by any manner of living thing that creepeth	on the ground	H834
H7430	H127	
הַבָּדָק לְתַיִן	לְכָמָן לְטָהָר	לְטָהָר מִ
Ye shall therefore put difference	from you as unclean	H0 H2930
H914		

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