

Leviticus 20:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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 access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

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. Ancient texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

אִישׁ	אִשָּׁה	כִּי	יְהִי הָ	בָּהֶם	אֹב	אִלּוּ
A man	also or woman	that hath			a familiar spirit	
H376	H802	H3588	H1961	H0	H178	H176
וְדַעַן י	יוֹמָם תּוֹ	יוֹמָם תּוֹ	בָּאֵבָן	יִקְגְּמוּ ו		
or that is a wizard	be put to death	be put to death	them with stones	they shall stone		
H3049	H4191	H4191	H68	H7275		
אֶתָּה	דְּמִיָּה	בָּם:				
H853	their blood	H0				
	H1818					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:31 (Spirit): Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6 (Spirit): And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

Exodus 22:18 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

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