

Leviticus 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name.

Analysis

And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name.

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 central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word *qadosh* (קֹדֶשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲנִי	נָתַתִּי	אֶת	פָּנַי	בְּאִישׁ	הַהוּא
H589	And I will set	H853	my face	against that man	H1931
	H5414		H6440	H376	
	וְהִכָּתֵתִי	אֶת	מִקְרֵב	עַמּוֹ	כִּי
	and will cut him off	H853	from among	his people	H3588
	H3772		H7130	H5971	H2233
	נָתַתִּי	לְמֹלֶךְ	לְמַעַן	אֶת	מִקְדָּשִׁי
And I will set	unto Molech	H4616	to defile	H853	my sanctuary
H5414	H4432		H2930		H4720
					and to profane
					H2490
אֶת	שְׁמִי	קֹדֶשִׁי			
H853	name	my holy			
	H8034	H6944			

Additional Cross-References

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.

Ezekiel 5:11 (Temple): Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

Leviticus 17:10 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.