

Leviticus 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

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 (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with 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 sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

וְהִ聖ִּיתִ מִ וְהַ קָּדְשֵׁתִ אַתִּ יְהִי

Sanctify

H1961

yourselfs therefore and be ye holy

H3588

H589

H6942

H6918

יְהִי הָ

אֱלֹהִיכֶם:

for I am the LORD

H3068

your God

H430

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 11:44 (Holy): For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Leviticus 19:2 (Holy): Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

Ephesians 1:4 (Holy): According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Colossians 3:12 (Holy): Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Holy): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (References God): For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

Hebrews 12:14 (Holy): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: