

Leviticus 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.

Analysis

For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.

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.

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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------|
| כִּי | אֶל יֵשׁ | אֶל יֵשׁ | אֲשֶׁר | קִלַּל ל | אֶת | אָבִי | אֶת |
| H3588 | For every | For every | H834 | he hath cursed | H853 | his father | H853 |
| | H376 | H376 | | H7043 | | H1 | |
| וְאִמִּי | יִמָּת | יִמָּת | אָבִי | וְאִמִּי | קִלַּל ל | | |
| or his mother | put to death | put to death | his father | or his mother | he hath cursed | | |
| H517 | H4191 | H4191 | H1 | H517 | H7043 | | |
| דָּמִי | בְּ: | | | | | | |
| his blood | H0 | | | | | | |
| H1818 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:17 (Curse): And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

Mark 7:10 (Curse): For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

Deuteronomy 27:16 (Curse): Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Matthew 15:4 (Curse): For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Proverbs 20:20 (Curse): Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Proverbs 30:17 (Parallel theme): The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Proverbs 30:11 (Curse): There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

2 Samuel 1:16 (Blood): And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.