

Leviticus 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shall he go in to any dead body, nor defile himself for his father, or for his mother;

Analysis

Neither shall he go in to any dead body, nor defile himself for his father, or for his mother;

This verse falls within the section on **Priestly Holiness**. Higher standards for priests due to their sacred role, including restrictions on mourning practices and marriage.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

Historical Context

Higher standards for priests due to their sacred role, including restrictions on mourning practices and marriage. 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

ל	ע	ל	כָּל	תְּנַפֵּשׁ	מִתְ	ל	א	בָּא
H5921	H3605	body	to any dead	H3808	Neither shall he go in			
		H5315	H4191			H935		
לֵאמֹן	לֵאמֹת	ל	טָפַח					
himself for his father	or for his mother	H517	H3808	nor defile		H2930		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 19:14 (Parallel theme): This is the law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days.

Leviticus 19:28 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Numbers 6:7 (Parallel theme): He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

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