

Leviticus 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

Analysis

And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

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.

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

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. 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	אִשָּׁה	בְּתוּלָה	יְהוָה	יִקַּח:
H1931	a wife	in her virginity	And he shall take	
	H802	H1331	H3947	

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 14:4 (Parallel theme): These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

2 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Ezekiel 44:22 (Parallel theme): Neither shall they take for their wives a widow, nor her that is put away: but they shall take maidens of the seed of the house of Israel, or a widow that had a priest before.

Leviticus 21:7 (Parallel theme): They shall not take a wife that is a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he is holy unto his God.

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