

# Leviticus 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shall he profane his seed among his people: for I the LORD do sanctify him.

## Analysis

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**Neither shall he profane his seed among his people: for I the LORD do sanctify him.**

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.

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.

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

## Historical Context

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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 texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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 point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

## Interlinear Text

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|                |                          |          |                  |        |      |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------|------------------|--------|------|
| וְלֹא          | יִחַל ל                  | זֶרַע ו  | בְּעַמּוֹ י      | אֶנִּי | כִּי |
| H3808          | Neither shall he profane | his seed | among his people | H3588  | H589 |
|                | H2490                    | H2233    | H5971            |        |      |
| יְהוָה ה       | מְקַדְּשׁוֹ:             |          |                  |        |      |
| for I the LORD | do sanctify              |          |                  |        |      |
| H3068          | H6942                    |          |                  |        |      |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 11:16** (Parallel theme): For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

**1 Corinthians 7:14** (Parallel theme): For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

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