

Leviticus 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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 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

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. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding

cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
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

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| וַיֹּדֶבֶר | יְהוָה | אֶל | מֹשֶׁה | לֵאמֹר: |
| spake | And the LORD | H413 | unto Moses | saying |
| H1696 | H3068 | | H4872 | H559 |