

Leviticus 21:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous,

Analysis

For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous,

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. 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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------|
| כָּל | אִישׁ | בְּאִשֶּׁר | מִוֹם | לֹא |
| H3588 | H3605 | H834 | H0 | H3808 |
| For whatsoever man | | he be that hath a blemish | | |
| H376 | | H3971 | | |
| יִקְרָב | אִישׁ | עִוְרִי | אִוְ | אִוְ |
| H7126 | H376 | H5787 | H176 | H176 |
| he shall not approach | For whatsoever man | a blind | or a lame | |
| | | | H6455 | |
| חָרָם | אִוְ | שְׁרוּעַ: | | |
| H2763 | H176 | H8311 | | |
| or he that hath a flat nose | or any thing superfluous | | | |

