

Leviticus 21:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken;

Analysis

Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken;

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.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

Interlinear Text

אֹו H176	גִּבֹּ H1384	אוּ H176	יָד קַ H1851	אוּ H176	תִּבֶּלֶ ל H8400	בְּעֵינָו H5869	אוּ H176
Or crookbackt		or a dwarf		or that hath a blemish		in his eye	
גִּרְבִּי H1618	אוּ H176	יָלַ פֶּת H3217	אוּ H176	מָרוֹחַ H4790	אֲשָׁר: H810		
or be scurvy		or scabbed		broken	or hath his stones		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 23:1 (Parallel theme): He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

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