

Leviticus 21:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.

Analysis

He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.

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.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

לֶחֶם	אֱלֹהֵי יוֹ	וְהַקֹּדֶשׁ יְיָ	וְהַקֹּדֶשׁ יְיָ	וּמִן	וְהַקֹּדֶשׁ יְיָ
the bread	of his God	and of the holy	and of the holy	H4480	and of the holy
H3899	H430	H6944	H6944		H6944

יֹאכֵל:
He shall eat
H398

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 2:3 (Holy): And the remnant of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire.

1 Corinthians 9:13 (Holy): Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

Leviticus 2:10 (Holy): And that which is left of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire.

Leviticus 7:1 (Holy): Likewise this is the law of the trespass offering: it is most holy.

Numbers 18:19 (Holy): All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.