

Leviticus 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, am holy.

Analysis

Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, am 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 (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes.

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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

Thou	shall	sanctify		אַתָּה	תָּמִיד	לְ	צְמַדְתָּךְ	בְּ	אֱלֹהִים	יְהִי	וְאַתָּה	מְקַדֵּשְׁךָ:				
H6942				H3588	H853		H3899		H430		H1931					
him	therefore	for	he	offereth		he	shall	be	holy		יְהִי	וְשָׁ	קָדָשׁ			
H7126							H6918		H1961		H0	H3588	he	shall	be	holy
												H6918				
unto	thee	for	I	the	LORD		Thou	shall	sanctify		מְקַדֵּשְׁךָ:	וְאַתָּה	בְּ	אֱלֹהִים	יְהִי	וְאַתָּה
H589							H3068		H6942							

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:2 (Holy): Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

Leviticus 21:6 (Holy): They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

John 17:19 (Holy): And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

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