

Leviticus 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.

Analysis

And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.

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 Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

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 texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וּבִת	אֶיֶשׁ	כִּי	מְחַלֵּלָהּ	לְזָנוֹת
And the daughter	of any	priest	if she profane	herself by playing the whore
H1323	H376	H3548	H2490	H2181
אֶת	אָבִיהָ	הִיא	מְחַלֵּלָהּ	בְּאֵשׁ
H853	her father	H1931	if she profane	with fire
	H1	H2490	H784	H8313
				תִּשְׂרָף:
				she shall be burnt

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 38:24 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

Leviticus 19:29 (Parallel theme): Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.

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