

Leviticus 22:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If the priest's daughter also be married unto a stranger, she may not eat of an offering of the holy things.

Analysis

If the priest's daughter also be married unto a stranger, she may not eat of an offering of the holy things.

This verse falls within the section on **Acceptable Sacrifices**. Requirements for acceptable sacrifices and those who may eat sacred offerings, maintaining sacrifice quality.

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 Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

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

Requirements for acceptable sacrifices and those who may eat sacred offerings, maintaining sacrifice quality. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

Interlinear Text

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|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------------|------|-------|
| וּבִת | כֹּהֵן | תְּהִי | הָ | כִּי | לֹא | יֵשׁ | זָר |
| daughter | If the priest's | | | | also be married unto a stranger | | |
| H1323 | H3548 | H3588 | H1961 | | H376 | | H2114 |
| וְהָ | בְּתֻרֹמַת | הַקֹּדֶשׁ | יִם | לֹא | תֹאכַל: | | |
| H1931 | of an offering | of the holy things | | H3808 | she may not eat | | |
| | H8641 | H6944 | | | H398 | | |

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