

Leviticus 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if the priest's daughter be a widow, or divorced, and have no child, and is returned unto her father's house, as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's meat: but there shall no stranger eat thereof.

Analysis

But if the priest's daughter be a widow, or divorced, and have no child, and is returned unto her father's house, as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's meat: but there shall no stranger eat thereof.

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

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 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. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וּבִת	כֹּהֵן	כִּי	תִהְיֶה	אִלְמָנָה	וְגֵרוּשָׁה
daughter	But if the priest's			be a widow	or divorced
H1323	H3548	H3588	H1961	H490	H1644
וְזָכַע	אֵין	לָהּ	וְשָׁבָה	אֶל	בֵּית אָבִיהָ
and have no child			and is returned	house	of her father's
H2233	H369	H0	H7725	H413 H1004	H1
כַּנְעוּרָהּ	מִלֶּחֶם	אָבִיהָ	יֹאכֵל	וְכֹל	אִם
as in her youth	meat	of her father's	eat		but there shall no stranger
H5271	H3899	H1	H398	H3605	H2114
לֹא	יֹאכֵל	בּוֹ:			
H3808	eat	H0			
	H398				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 38:11 (Parallel theme): Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

Leviticus 10:14 (Parallel theme): And the wave breast and heave shoulder shall ye eat in a clean place; thou, and thy sons, and thy daughters with thee: for they be thy due, and thy sons' due, which are given out of the sacrifices of peace offerings of the children of Israel.