

Leviticus 22:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or suffer them to bear the iniquity of trespass, when they eat their holy things: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

Analysis

Or suffer them to bear the iniquity of trespass, when they eat their holy things: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

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.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

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 sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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 this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

וְהָשׂ יְהוָה	אוֹתָם	עוֹן	אֲשֶׁמָּה	בְּאֲכָלָם	אֶת
Or suffer them to bear	H853	the iniquity	of trespass	when they eat	H853
H5375		H5771	H819	H398	
קִדְּשֵׁיהֶם	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	מְקַדְּשָׁם:		
their holy things	H3588	for I the LORD	do sanctify		
H6944		H3068	H6942		

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 22:9 (Sin): They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them.

1 Peter 2:24 (Sin): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

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