

Leviticus 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or whosoever toucheth any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he hath;

Analysis

Or whosoever toucheth any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he hath;

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

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
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

אָוֶן	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	בְּכָל	כִּי	עַ	בְּכָל	שְׁרֵץ	שְׁרֵץ	אֲשֶׁר
H176	Or whosoever	H834	toucheth	H3605	any	creeping	thing	H834			
H376				H5060				H8318			
וְיִטְמַא			אַל	וְאַל	אֲשֶׁר	בְּאַדְםָן	אֲשֶׁר				
of whom he may take uncleanness			H0	H176	or a man	H834					
H2930						H120					
וְיִטְמַא			לְכָל	לְכָל							
of whom he may take uncleanness			H0	H3605							
H2930											
כִּי מְאַתָּה											
whatsoever uncleanness											
H2932											

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 15:7 (Parallel theme): And he that toucheth the flesh of him that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

Leviticus 15:19 (Parallel theme): And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even.