

Leviticus 23:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

This verse falls within the section on **Appointed Feasts**. God's sacred calendar including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, marking redemption and agricultural blessings.

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 access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

Historical Context

God's sacred calendar including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, marking redemption and agricultural blessings. 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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

בְּגַאֲרָה בָּ	אַתָּה	בְּצִירָבָ	אַתָּה בְּגַאֲרָה בָּ	לֹא אָרַצְךָ מִ	לֹא אָרַצְךָ מִ
And when ye reap	H853	of thy harvest	H7105	of your land	H3808
H7114		H776		H7704	
תְּכַל הַ	פָּאַת	שְׁדָבָ	בְּגַאֲרָה בָּ		
thou shalt not make clean riddance		of the corners		of thy field	And when ye reap
H3615		H6285		H7704	H7114
אַל קָטָ	לֹא בְּצִירָבָ	תְּלַקֵּט			לְעָבָר
any gleanings	of thy harvest	H3808	neither shalt thou gather	them unto the poor	H6041
H3951	H7105		H3950		
וְלֹא תִּלְגַּר	בְּתַעַז בָּ	אַתָּה אַתָּה אַתָּה מִ			אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
and to the stranger	thou shalt leave	H5800	H853	H589	I am the LORD
H1616					H3068
					H430

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 58:10 (Parallel theme): And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

Luke 11:41 (Parallel theme): But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.