

Leviticus 24:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.

Analysis

Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.

This verse falls within the section on **Oil, Bread, and Blasphemy**. Instructions for tabernacle maintenance and the account of a blasphemer's punishment, showing reverence for God's name.

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

Historical Context

Instructions for tabernacle maintenance and the account of a blasphemer's punishment, showing reverence for God's name. 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 tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
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

שֶׁ בָּרַח	שֶׁ בָּרַח	עַיִן	עַיִן	שֶׁ בָּרַח	שֶׁ בָּרַח
Breach	Breach	eye	eye	for tooth	for tooth
H7667	H7667	H5869	H5869	H8127	H8127
כְּאֵשׁ רָ	יָנִי תֵן	מוֹם	בְּאֵדָם	יָנִי תֵן	בְּאֵדָם
H834	as he hath caused	a blemish	in a man	as he hath caused	H0
	H5414	H3971	H120	H5414	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:38 (Parallel theme): Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

Deuteronomy 19:21 (Parallel theme): And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

