

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

Psalm 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

שָׁבֵר	תְּחִתָּה	שָׁבֵר	תְּחִתָּה	עֵין	תְּחִתָּה	עֵין	שִׁבְעָה	תְּחִתָּה	שִׁבְעָה
Breach H7667	H8478	Breach H7667	eye H5869		H8478	eye H5869	for tooth H8127	H8478	for tooth H8127
פָּאֵשׁ ר		יְהִי תְּנִזֵּן	מִזְמָר	מִזְמָר	בְּאֵד מ	בְּאֵד מ	יְהִי תְּנִזֵּן	יְהִי תְּנִזֵּן	בְּנִזְבֵּן
H834		as he hath caused	a blemish		in a man	H3651	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.

