

Leviticus 26:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

This verse falls within the section on **Blessings and Curses**. Covenant blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience, establishing consequences of Israel's covenant relationship.

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

Covenant blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience, establishing consequences of Israel's covenant relationship. 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 Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

וְמִצְבָּה
לֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה אֱלֹהִים לֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה וְאֶפְסָל
H3808 Ye shall make H0 you no idols H457 nor graven image H6459 a standing image H4676

לֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁכֵּן יְהוָה אֶלָּא בְּנֵי יִמְוֹן
H3808 neither rear you up H0 of stone H68 any image H4906

אֶלָּא כִּי עַל יְהֹוָה תַּחֲטֹף תַּבְּרֹךְ מִתְּמָנָה
neither shall ye set up in your land to bow down H5921 H3588 H589

אֶל הָיָם:
unto it for I am the LORD your God
H3068 H430

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:4 (References God): Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.

Exodus 23:24 (References God): Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

Deuteronomy 27:15 (References Lord): Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

Numbers 33:52 (Parallel theme): Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:

Exodus 20:23 (References God): Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

