

Leviticus 26:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

Analysis

And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

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

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. 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם	בְּחִקְתִּי י	וְתִמָּאֵסוּ	אֶת וְאִם	מִשְׁפָּטִי י	תִּגְעַל ל	
H518	my statutes	And if ye shall despise	H518	H853	my judgments	abhor
	H2708	H3988			H4941	H1602
וְנִפְשְׁכֶם	לְבַלְתִּי י	עֲשׂוֹת	אֶת	כָּל	מִצְוֹתִי י	
or if your soul	H1115	so that ye will not do	H853	H3605	all my commandments	
H5315		H6213			H4687	
לְהַפְרֹךְ	אֶת	בְּרִיתִי:				
but that ye break	H853	my covenant				
H6565		H1285				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:16 (Covenant): And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

2 Kings 17:15 (Covenant): And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

Isaiah 24:5 (Covenant): The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Jeremiah 11:10 (Covenant): They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.

Ezekiel 16:59 (Covenant): For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.

Numbers 15:31 (Word): Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.