

# Leviticus 26:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

## Analysis

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**And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.**

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.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

## Historical Context

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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. 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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

## Interlinear Text

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לְפָנֶיךָ	וְנִגְבַּת	לְפָנֶיךָ	וְנִגְבַּת
And I will set	before	הַ	against you and ye shall be slain
H5414	H6440	H0	H5062
your enemies	you shall reign	הַ	they that hate
H341	H7287	H0	H8130
אִיָּין	רֹאשׁ	בְּכָמָה	שְׁנָאִיכָּם
when none pursueth			over you and ye shall flee
H369	H7291		H5127
אֵין	רֹאשׁ	בְּכָמָה	אָתְּכֶם:
			H853

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 28:1** (Parallel theme): The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

**Leviticus 17:10** (Parallel theme): And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

**Psalms 53:5** (Parallel theme): There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

**Deuteronomy 28:25** (Kingdom): The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

**Jeremiah 19:7** (Parallel theme): And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcases will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

**Judges 2:14** (Parallel theme): And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold

them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

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