

Leviticus 26:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

Analysis

And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

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. 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

שָׁבֵד מִתְּמִימָה לֹא כִּי כִּי | כִּי כִּי
shall be spent in vain And your strength H3808 shall not yield for your land H776
H8552 H7385 H3581 H5414 H776

אַתְּ הַיְבוֹלֵה וְאַתְּ כִּי כִּי | כִּי כִּי
her increase neither shall the trees for your land shall not yield
H853 H2981 H6086 H776 H3808 H5414

פְּרִיּוֹן
their fruits
H6529

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:4 (Parallel theme): Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.

Psalms 127:1 (Parallel theme): Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Deuteronomy 11:17 (Parallel theme): And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

Habakkuk 2:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?

Leviticus 26:4 (Parallel theme): Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.