

Leviticus 26:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

Analysis

And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם	לֹא	תִּסְרָו	לִי
H518	H428	H3808	H0
And if ye will not be reformed			
H3256			
וְהֵלַכְתִּי			
בְּמֵי			
קִרְיָ:			
by me by these things but will walk			
H1980			
עִמִּי			
H5973			
contrary			
H7147			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 5:3 (Parallel theme): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Jeremiah 2:30 (Parallel theme): In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

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