

# Leviticus 26:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

## Analysis

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**And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.**

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.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

## 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. Ancient texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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

## Interlinear Text

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וְנָתַתִּי י	אֶת	עָרֵיכֶם	חֲרָבָה	וְהָשֵׁמוֹת י	אֶת	מִקְדָּשֵׁיכֶם
And I will make	H853	your cities	waste	and bring	H853	your sanctuaries
H5414		H5892	H2723	H8074		H4720
וְלֹא א	אֶרֶב יִי	בִּרְיִי	נִיחֻסְכֶּם:			
H3808	and I will not smell	the savour	of your sweet odours			
	H7306	H7381	H5207			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 2:3** (Parallel theme): And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

**Hebrews 10:26** (Parallel theme): For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

**Jeremiah 4:7** (Parallel theme): The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

**Ezekiel 9:6** (Parallel theme): Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

**Lamentations 2:7** (Parallel theme): The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast.

**Lamentations 1:10** (Parallel theme): The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.