

Leviticus 26:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

Analysis

And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

וְאַבְדָּת מִ	בּוֹנִי מִ	וְאֶכֶּל הַ	אַתְּכָ מִ	אֵצֶן
And ye shall perish	among the heathen	shall eat you up	H853	and the land
H6	H1471	H398		H776

אַבְדִּיכֶם:
of your enemies
H341

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