

Leviticus 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if he be poorer than thy estimation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall value him; according to his ability that vowed shall the priest value him.

Analysis

But if he be poorer than thy estimation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall value him; according to his ability that vowed shall the priest value him.

This verse falls within the section on **Vows and Dedications**. Regulations for voluntary vows and dedicating persons or property to God, teaching careful commitment.

The Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

Historical Context

Regulations for voluntary vows and dedicating persons or property to God, teaching careful commitment. 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. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| וְאִם | מִנְ | הָוּא | מִעֲרָכָ בְּ | וְקָרְמִידָ |
| H518 | But if he be poorer | H1931 | than thy estimation | then he shall present |
| | H4134 | | H6187 | H5975 |
| לִפְנֵי | בְּפְנֵי | אֵת וְ | עַל | |
| himself before | and the priest | shall value | בְּפְנֵי | and the priest |
| H6440 | H3548 | H6186 | H3548 | H5921 |
| בְּ | אֲשֶׁר | פְּשִׁיאָה | בְּ | בְּ |
| him according to | H834 | H5381 | his ability | that vowed |
| H6310 | | H3027 | H5087 | H6186 |
| בְּפְנֵי: | | | | |
| and the priest | | | | |
| H3548 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:7 (Parallel theme): For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

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