

Leviticus 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty.

Analysis

Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty.

This verse falls within the section on **Guilt Offerings**. The guilt offering (אֲשָׁם, *asham*) addressed specific trespasses requiring both sacrifice and restitution, emphasizing sin's relational damage.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

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

The guilt offering (אֲשָׁם, *asham*) addressed specific trespasses requiring both sacrifice and restitution, emphasizing sin's relational damage. Leviticus was given to Israel at Mount Sinai, shortly after the tabernacle's construction described in Exodus. The name 'Leviticus' (from Latin *Leviticus*, referring to the Levites) reflects its focus on priestly duties, though the Hebrew title *Wayyiqra* ('And He called') emphasizes God's initiative in revealing these laws. The first seven

chapters detail the five main offerings, providing both worshiper instructions and priestly procedures. Ancient Near Eastern cultures had various sacrificial systems, but Israel's sacrificial worship was unique in its ethical foundation, monotheistic framework, and emphasis on atonement rather than appeasement. Unlike pagan rituals focused on manipulating deities, Israel's sacrifices acknowledged God's sovereignty and sought reconciliation based on His gracious provision. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

וְאִי כִי	יִגַע	טִמְאַת וְ	אֶדָם	לְכָל	טִמְאַת וְ
H176	H3588	Or if he touch	the uncleanness	of man	H3605 the uncleanness
	H5060		H2932	H120	H2932
אֲשֶׁר	וְטָמֵא	בְּהֵי	וְנִעְלָם	מִמֶּנּוּ	
H834	it be that a man shall be defiled	H0	withal and it be hid	H4480	
	H2930		H5956		
וְהוּא	יָדַע	וְאָשָׁם:			
H1931	from him when he knoweth	of it then he shall be guilty			
	H3045	H816			

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