

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 (אַשָּׁם, 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 (אַשָּׁם, 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| וְאֵת | כִּי | גַּע | טְמִאָת | וְאֵת | לְכָל | טְמִאָת | וְאֵת |
| H176 | H3588 | Or if he touch | the uncleanness | of man | H3605 | the uncleanness | |
| | | H5060 | H2932 | H120 | | H2932 | |
| אֲשֶׁר | אֵת | יִטְמַהֵּן | בְּהַ | מִתְנַعַּל | בְּ | מִתְנַעַּל | |
| H834 | it be that a man shall be defiled | H0 | withal and it be hid | H4480 | | | |
| | H2930 | | H5956 | | | | |
| וְאֵת | וְאֵת | עַ | וְאֵת | | | | |
| H1931 | from him when he knoweth | H3045 | of it then he shall be guilty | H816 | | | |

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