

Numbers 15:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Analysis

But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.¹ This verse distinguishes presumptuous sin from unintentional error. The Hebrew 'beyad ramah' (בְּיַד רָמָה, 'with a high hand') literally means with uplifted hand, indicating defiant, deliberate rebellion against God. Such sin 'reproacheth the LORD' (blasphemes or reviles God), treating His authority with contempt. The penalty 'cut off from among his people' could mean execution or divine judgment removing the person from covenant community. This shows that attitude matters in sin—intentional defiance differs from weakness or ignorance. The inclusion of 'born in the land, or a stranger' shows God's standards apply equally to all. Jesus distinguished between servants who knew their master's will and those ignorant (Luke 12:47-48). While all sin requires atonement, presumptuous sin shows hardened heart. This warns against high-handed rebellion versus weakness and failure.

Historical Context

This verse concludes regulations about unintentional sins (Numbers 15:22-29), which could be atoned through prescribed offerings. Presumptuous sin, by contrast, had no sacrifice—it meant cutting off from the people. The immediately following narrative (Numbers 15:32-36) illustrates this with the Sabbath-breaker who deliberately violated God's command and was executed. Psalm 19:13 prays for

deliverance from 'presumptuous sins,' recognizing their severity. Ancient Near Eastern law codes distinguished intentional and accidental offenses, but Israel's distinction was unique in the theological emphasis—defiant sin blasphemes God. The Book of Hebrews warns that 'if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins' (Hebrews 10:26). This doesn't mean believers lose salvation but warns against deliberate, persistent rebellion. The principle distinguishes struggling with sin from embracing it defiantly.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between struggling with sin and presumptuously defying God, and why does it matter?
2. How does this verse inform our understanding of the unforgivable sin and persistent rebellion?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִלְאָקָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה	בְּמִתְחָדָה
But the soul	H834	that doeth	H3027	ought presumptuously		or a stranger	

בָּאָזְבָּחַ	whether he be born in the land	וְאֵלֹן	or a stranger	רְבָּעָה	אֶת	בְּגָד	הַיְהָה	אֵת	הַיְהָה	וְאֵת
H249		H4480		H1616		H853		H3068		H1931

מִקְרָב	בַּהֲרָבָה	מִגְדָּל	הַנִּכְרָתָה	בְּפֶשׁ	וְאַתָּה	מִקְרָב
the same reproacheth	shall be cut off	But the soul	H1931		from among	H7130

עַמּוֹ
his people

Additional Cross-References

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,

Psalms 19:13 (Parallel theme): Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Deuteronomy 1:43 (References Lord): So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill.

Hebrews 10:29 (Parallel theme): Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Matthew 12:32 (Parallel theme): And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Psalms 74:18 (References Lord): Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.

Psalms 74:22 (Parallel theme): Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

Psalms 79:12 (References Lord): And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

Psalms 89:51 (References Lord): Wherewith thine enemies have reproached, O LORD; wherewith they have reproached the footsteps of thine anointed.

2 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.