

Leviticus 22

Verses 1-9

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Tell Aaron and his sons to be careful with the holy *gifts* of the sons of Israel, which they dedicate to me, so as not to profane my holy name; I am the Lord. ³Say to them, ‘If any man among all your descendants throughout your generations approaches the holy *gifts* which the sons of Israel dedicate to the Lord, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from before Me; I am the Lord. ⁴No man of the descendants of Aaron, who is a leper or who has a discharge, may eat of the holy *gifts* until he is clean. And if one touches anything made unclean by a corpse or if a man has a seminal emission, ⁵ or if a man touches any teeming things by which he is made unclean, or any man by whom he is made unclean, whatever his uncleanness; ⁶ a person who touches any such shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat of the holy *gifts* unless he has bathed his body in water. ⁷ But when the sun sets, he will be clean, and afterward he shall eat of the holy *gifts*, for it is his food. ⁸ He shall not eat *an animal* which dies or is torn *by beasts*, becoming unclean by it; I am the Lord. ⁹ They shall therefore keep my charge, so that they will not bear sin because of it and die thereby because they profane it; I am the Lord who sanctifies them.

Tell Aaron and his sons to be careful with the holy gifts of the sons of Israel, which they dedicate to me

The holy gifts means the sacrifices of the people given at the altar.

If any priest approaches the holy gifts, while he is unclean

The 6 kinds of uncleanness listed in verses 1 thru 9 above include:

A leper, a discharge, by a corpse, a seminal emission, any teeming things, or by an animal which dies or is torn by beasts

There are other kinds of uncleanness but this paragraph covers a large number of them

See chart 2205

Types of Uncleanness

Leviticus	Types	Chapter 22
11	Foods	
	Animals	
	Birds	
	Things in the water	
	swarming things	Yes
12	Giving Birth	
	Leprosy	
13	In the flesh	Yes
13	In clothing	
14	In a house	
15	Discharges	
	Abnormal	Yes
	Normal	Yes
	Seminal Emission	Yes
17	Animal which dies or is torn by beasts	Yes
21	By a corpse	Yes

That person shall be cut off from before me

We are not told if God would be the one to take care of the punishment but that seems like a logical conclusion based on the fact that the other priests may not know if a fellow priest had become unclean by breaking one of these rules.

A priest shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat of the holy *gifts* unless he has bathed his body in water

Until their cleansing had occurred by bathing in water and waiting until sunset, they were not allowed to eat of the holy food or perform any of their customary duties.

Verses 10-16

¹⁰ ‘No layman, however, is to eat the holy *gift*; a sojourner with the priest or a hired man shall not eat of the holy *gift*. ¹¹ But if a priest buys a slave as *his* property with his money, that one may eat of it, and those who are born in his house may eat of his food. ¹² If a priest’s daughter is married to a layman, she shall not eat of the offering of the *gifts*. ¹³ But if a priest’s daughter becomes a widow or divorced, and has no child and returns to her father’s house as in her youth, she shall eat of her father’s food; but no layman shall eat of it. ¹⁴ But if a man eats a holy *gift* unintentionally, then he shall add to it a fifth of it and shall give the holy *gift* to the priest. ¹⁵ They shall not profane the holy *gifts* of the sons of Israel which they offer to the Lord, ¹⁶ and so cause them to bear punishment for guilt by eating their holy *gifts*; for I am the Lord who sanctifies them.’”

No layman, however, is to eat the holy *gift*

The breast and/or thigh of certain sacrifices went to the priests for food

This could only be eaten by him and his immediate family

However, there were several exceptions to this rule

If a priest buys a slave as *his* property with his money

A childless widow or divorcee that returned to her father's house in her youth

But if a man eats a holy *gift* unintentionally, then he shall add to it a fifth of it and shall give the holy *gift* to the priest.

Provision was also made for one who unknowingly ate the forbidden food

The sin required a penalty of 20%

Verses 17-25

¹⁷ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁸ “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the Lord for a burnt offering—¹⁹ for you to be accepted—*it must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats. ²⁰ Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you. ²¹ When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. ²² Those *that are* blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the Lord. ²³ In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted *member*, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted. ²⁴ Also anything *with its testicles* bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the Lord, or sacrifice in your land, ²⁵ nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you.’”

Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel

These verses apply to both priests and laymen.

Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the Lord for a burnt offering—¹⁹ for you to be accepted—*it must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats.

Any Israelite or alien who presents a votive (because of a vow) or freewill offering (no sin was committed) offering as a burnt offering (none of it is eaten), it must be a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats (domesticated)

²² **Those *that are* blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the Lord.**

See Malachi 1:6-8

In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted member, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted.

There was one exception to the rule of offering perfect sacrifices but it only applied to a free will offering.

²⁴ Also anything *with its testicles* bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the Lord, or sacrifice in your land, ²⁵ nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you.”

This should have been self-evident but as was often the case with this group of people, they lacked common sense when it came to spiritual matters.

Verses 26-33

²⁶ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁷ “When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be accepted as a sacrifice of an offering by fire to the Lord. ²⁸ But, *whether* it is an ox or a sheep, you shall not kill *both* it and its young in one day. ²⁹ When you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted. ³⁰ It shall be eaten on the same day, you shall leave none of it until morning; I am the Lord. ³¹ So you shall keep My commandments, and do them; I am the Lord. ³² “You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be sanctified among the sons of Israel; I am the Lord who sanctifies you, ³³ who brought you out from the land of Egypt, to be your God; I am the Lord.”

When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be accepted as a sacrifice

Younger animals were more desirable because their flesh was tender

But, *whether* it is an ox or a sheep, you shall not kill *both* it and its young in one day.

There may have been more than just sentiment behind this command but we don't know with any certainty why this command was given.

It shall be eaten on the same day; you shall leave none of it until morning. When you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord

The peace-offering is divided into three kinds

Thanksgiving, Votive and Freewill

A thanksgiving offerings, had to be eaten on the day of the offering

A votive or a freewill offering can be finished on the next day

See Leviticus 7:15 – 16