

Deuteronomy 22:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.

Analysis

Practical wisdom: 'Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.' Unequal yoking prohibited—oxen and donkeys have different strengths, gaits, and sizes. Forcing them together inefficiently plows while harming both animals. This reflects creation order—respecting animals' design and treating them humanely. Proverbs 12:10: 'A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast.' Paul applies this spiritually: 'Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 6:14)—partnerships require compatibility. Unequal spiritual yoking (believer with unbeliever) creates inefficiency and spiritual harm. The principle: respect created differences; avoid mismatched partnerships.

Historical Context

Agriculture dominated ancient economy. These practical laws ensured efficient, humane farming. Respecting animals distinguished Israel from pagan cultures practicing cruelty. Later rabbinic law (מִמ, mum, blemish regulations) developed extensive animal welfare provisions. Paul's 'unequally yoked' application shows Old Testament agricultural laws contained spiritual principles transferable to New Covenant. Physical creation teaches spiritual truth—God's design extends from agriculture to relationships to church partnerships.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does unequal yoking principle apply to business partnerships, friendships, and marriage?
2. What does humane treatment of animals teach about broader respect for God's creation?
3. How do we discern when physical Old Testament commands contain transferable spiritual principles?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	תִּהְיֶה	בְּשׂוֹר	וּבִמְלֵךְ	יַחְדָּו:
H3808	Thou shalt not plow	with an ox	and an ass	together
	H2790	H7794	H2543	H3162

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