

# Deuteronomy 22:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter:

## Analysis

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**Unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death**—explicit protection of the rape victim, with emphatic declaration of her innocence. The comparison **as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him** classifies rape as violent assault equivalent to murder, not mere sexual sin.

This analogy is profound: just as a murder victim bears no guilt for being killed, a rape victim bears no guilt for being violated. The verb *qum* (קם, riseth against) conveys premeditated attack. God's law recognizes sexual assault as violent crime against personhood, not consensual immorality requiring shared punishment.

## Historical Context

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The comparison to murder elevated rape's legal and moral seriousness beyond other ancient Near Eastern codes. By treating rape as violent crime rather than property violation, Mosaic law affirmed women as persons bearing God's image (Genesis 1:27), not mere chattel whose value was determined by male ownership.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How should the church respond to sexual assault victims in light of God's clear declaration of their innocence?
2. What does this passage reveal about the image of God in every person and the violent evil of violating another's personhood?

## Interlinear Text

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לְנַעֲרָה	לֹא	תַעֲשֶׂה	הַדָּבָר	אֵין	
<b>But unto the damsel</b>	H3808	<b>thou shalt do</b>	<b>him even so is this matter</b>	H369	
H5291		H6213	H1697		
לְנַעֲרָה	חַטָּא	מְוֹתָ	כִּי	בְאִשֶּׁר	יִקְוֶם
<b>But unto the damsel</b>	<b>no sin</b>	<b>worthy of death</b>	H3588	H834	<b>riseth</b>
H5291	H2399	H4194			H6965
אִישׁ	עַל	רֵעֵהוּ	וּרְצַח	וְנָפֵשׁ	כִּן
<b>for as when a man</b>	H5921	<b>against his neighbour</b>	<b>and slayeth</b>	H5315	H3651
H376		H7453	H7523		
הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה:				
<b>him even so is this matter</b>	H2088				
H1697					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 21:22** (Sin): And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:

