

Deuteronomy 22:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her.

Analysis

For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her—God presumes the woman resisted (tza'aqah, הַקְעָה, she cried out) but no rescuer (moshia, מֹשֶׁה, savior) was available. The legal presumption favors the victim when circumstances make resistance futile.

This principle reveals God's compassionate justice: the law accounts for human limitations and dangerous circumstances. The same verb moshia (savior) used throughout Scripture for God rescuing His people appears here for earthly rescue, reminding Israel that God identifies with the vulnerable who cry out for deliverance (Exodus 2:23-25, Psalm 34:17).

Historical Context

Israelite agricultural life meant women often worked in fields distant from population centers, making them vulnerable to attack. This law provided crucial protection by establishing evidential standards that recognized practical realities of rural life rather than demanding impossible proof of resistance.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's presumption of innocence in ambiguous situations challenge you to extend grace rather than suspicion?
2. What does this verse teach about God hearing the cries of those who suffer violence with no earthly deliverer?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׂדֵה	מִצְאָה	בְּשָׂדֵה	צָעֵק	בְּנֵאֶת	בְּמִאֵת	בְּשָׂדֵה
H3588 her in the field	H4672 For he found	H6817 cried	H5291 damsel	H781 and the betrothed	H369	
H7704						
מֹשֵׁעַ	לֹא					
and there was none to save	H0					
	H3467					

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