

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, תְּצַאקָה, she cried out) but no rescuer (moshia, מוֹשִׁיעַ, 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

| | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|-------------------|--------|
| כִּי | בַּשָּׂדֶה הַ | מָצָא הַ | צָעַק הַ | הַנִּעְרָה | הַמָּאֲרֻשָּׁה הַ | וְאֵין |
| H3588 | her in the field | For he found | cried | damsel | and the betrothed | H369 |
| | H7704 | H4672 | H6817 | H5291 | H781 | |
| | מוֹשֵׁ יֵעַ | לָהּ: | | | | |
| | and there was none to save | | | | | |
| | H3467 | H0 | | | | |

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