

Exodus 21:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish.

Analysis

If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish.

This judgment (mishpat) from the Book of the Covenant applies moral law to civil society. God's justice is comprehensive—addressing economic disputes, family relations, and community welfare. The case laws teach covenant people how to love God and neighbor practically. Through detailed ordinances, God shapes Israel as holy nation, distinct from pagan neighbors. These laws reveal God's character: just, merciful, concerned with details of everyday life.

Historical Context

The Book of the Covenant (Exodus 20:22-23:33) is Israel's foundational legal code, predating later expansions in Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. It addresses civil, criminal, and ceremonial matters.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this law reveal God's character—His justice, mercy, or holiness?
2. What New Testament principles build upon or fulfill this Old Testament regulation?

Interlinear Text

אִם	אֶחָד	אֶחָד	יִקַּח	לִוּ	שֶׁאֵכָהּ	בְּסוּתָהּ
H518	him	another	If he take	H0	wife her food	her raiment
	H312		H3947		H7607	H3682
		וְעֹנֶתָּהּ	לֹא		יִגְרַע:	
	and her duty of marriage		H3808		shall he not diminish	
	H5772				H1639	

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org