

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

אָם	רָתָה	אֶחָד	יָקַח	לֹא	שָׁאַבְתָּה	פְּסֹתְתָה
H518	him another	If he take	H30	wife her food	her raiment	

וְעַתָּה הִגְרָעַ לֹא
and her duty of marriage H3808 shall he not diminish
H5772 H1639

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