

Exodus 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand;
then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.

Analysis

And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְאִשָּׁר H834	לֹא H3808	צָדַק H6658	אֲנִי ה' וְקָדְלָהּ יָם H430	אֲנִי ה' וְקָדְלָהּ יָם H579
		And if a man lie not in wait	but God	deliver
לִידּוֹ H3027	וְשִׁמְתִּי יָ H7760	לָךְ H0	מִקֹּדֶם H4725	אֲשֶׁר H834
		him into his hand	then I will appoint	thee a place
וְיָ H5127	שָׁמָּה: H8033			
whither he shall flee				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 24:18 (Parallel theme): And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

1 Samuel 24:4 (Parallel theme): And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

1 Samuel 24:10 (Parallel theme): Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.

