

# Exodus 21:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.

## Analysis

**But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.**

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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לְבָרֵג זִי רַע הַוְיָה עַל אִישׁ יְהִי תְּבִרְגָּה  
H3588 come presumptuously H2102 But if a man H376 H5921 upon his neighbour H7453 H2026 to slay

לְמִתּוֹת: תִּקְרַב אֵלָיו מִזְבֵּחַ יְהָוָה מִעַם בְּעָרָם הַ  
him with guile H5973 him from mine altar H4196 thou shalt take H3947 that he may die H4191

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 10:26** (Sacrifice): For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

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