

Exodus 21:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed:

Analysis

And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed:

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|------------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|-----|-----------|--------|
| רַע | הוּא | אַתָּה | רַע | הוּא | אַתָּה | רַע | הוּא | אַתָּה | רַע | הוּא | אַתָּה |
| H3588 | strive | together and one | H5221 | smite | together and one | H376 | H3808 | il | A | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |
| H7378 | | H376 | | H5221 | | H376 | | ל | א | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |
| | | | | | | | | ל | א | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |
| with a stone | or | with his fist | H106 | | | H4191 | and he die | ל | א | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |
| H68 | H176 | H106 | | | | H4191 | not but keepeth | לֹא | א | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |
| | | | | | | H5307 | his bed | לֹא | א | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |
| | | | | | | H4904 | | לֹא | א | בְּאֶגֶּר | רַע |

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:20 (Parallel theme): And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished.

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