

# Exodus 21:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.

## Analysis

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**If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.**

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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## 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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וְיִצְא אֲנָשָׁם בְּרָה בְּרָה וְיִבְצָא אֲנָשָׁם  
H3588 strive H5327 If men H582 and hurt H5062 a woman H802 with child H2030 depart H3318

אֲסִלְךָ יְרֵדְךָ הַלְּאֵלִים אֲסִלְךָ  
so that her fruit H3206 H3808 H1961 from her and yet no mischief follow H611

בָּעֵל עַלְיוֹן שְׁמַעְנָה רְפָאָשָׁר שְׁמַעְנָה  
he shall be surely H6064 he shall be surely H6064 will lay H834 as the judges H7896 husband H5921 H1167

בְּפָלְלִים: וְיִתְּפַלֵּל  
a woman H802 upon him and he shall pay H5414 as the judges H6414

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 21:30** (Parallel theme): If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him.

