

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

וְיָצָא וְהָרָה הָאִשָּׁה וְנָגַף וְאָנָּשׁ יִמְּצוּ וְיָצָא וְיָכִי
H3588 **strive** H5327 **If men** H582 **and hurt** H5062 **a woman** H802 **with child** H2030 **depart** H3318

אֲסֹן וְיִהְיֶה וְלֹא יִלְדֵּי יָהּ
H3808 H1961 **from her and yet no mischief follow** H611
so that her fruit H3206

בְּעַל עָלָיו וְיָשׁ יֵת כְּאִשָּׁה רַחֲמָנָא וְיִעֲנֶה שׁ וְיִעֲנֶה שׁ
H834 H5921 H1167 **husband**
will lay H7896 **he shall be surely** H6064 **he shall be surely** H6064 **he shall be surely** H6064

וְהָאִשָּׁה וְיָנִת וְכָפְלִים:
H802 H5414 H6414 **a woman** **upon him and he shall pay** **as the judges**

Additional Cross-References

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.

