Exodus 21:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake.

Analysis

And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake.

This provision regulates Hebrew servitude (עֶבֶּד עִבְּרִי, eved ivri), protecting indentured servants from exploitation. Unlike ancient Near Eastern chattel slavery, Israel's system limited bondage to six years with mandatory release, reflecting God's concern for human dignity. These laws temper economic necessity with compassion, ensuring even servants retain personhood and future hope. The regulations reveal God's heart for the vulnerable and point to ultimate redemption —Christ freed us from sin's slavery to serve Him voluntarily.

Historical Context

Debt-servitude in ancient Israel allowed impoverished persons to work off obligations while maintaining basic rights. These protections were revolutionary compared to surrounding nations' perpetual slavery systems.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

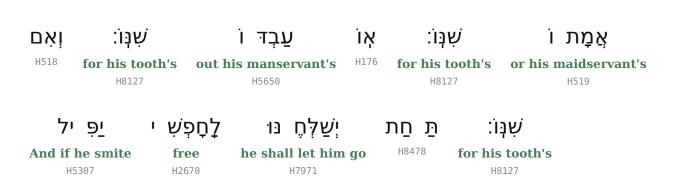
1 John 4:8 — God is love

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



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