

# 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 (עבד עברי, 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

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## 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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וְאֶם	שְׁנָוֶה	עָבֶד	וְאֶז	שְׁנָוֶה	אָמָת	וְאֶם
H518	for his tooth's	out his manservant's	H176	for his tooth's	or his maidservant's	H519
	H8127	H5650		H8127		H519
וְאִם	לְחַפֵּשׁ	בְּשִׁלְךָ	כִּי	פְּתַח	שְׁנָוֶה	וְאֶם
And if he smite	free	he shall let him go		H8478	for his tooth's	
H5307	H2670	H7971			H8127	

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