

# Exodus 21:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.

## Analysis

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**But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.**

This case law addresses property damage and personal injury, establishing liability principles. The mishpatim (מִשְׁפָּטִים, judgments) apply Decalogue principles to everyday situations, creating just society. Owner responsibility reflects broader biblical principle: we're stewards of possessions, accountable for harm they cause. The law balances justice (compensation for victims) with mercy (proportional rather than excessive penalties). These principles undergird modern tort law and demonstrate God's concern for social order.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern law codes (Hammurabi, Hittite) addressed similar property issues but often with class-based penalties. Israel's law applied more uniformly regardless of social status.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 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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וְאִם	הַשּׂוֹר	נִגַּח	הָ וְאִם	מִתְמָ ל
H518	But if the ox	were wont to push with his horn	H1931	in time past
	H7794	H5056		H8543
שֶׁלֹּשׁ	וְהוּעַ ד	בְּעַל יוֹ	וְלֹא	יִשְׁמַךְ נֹו
H8032	and it hath been testified	and his owner	H3808	and he hath not kept
	H5749	H1167		H8104
יּוֹמָת:	אִישׁ	אִשָּׁה	הַשּׂוֹר	יִסָּק ל
also shall be put to death	a man	or a woman	But if the ox	shall be stoned
H4191	H376	H176 H802	H7794	H5619
וְגַם	בְּעַל יוֹ	יּוֹמָת:		
H1571	and his owner	also shall be put to death		
	H1167	H4191		

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