

Exodus 21:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.

Analysis

If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

אִם	בְּגַפּוֹ	יָבֹא	בְּגַפּוֹ	וְיֵצֵא ה	אִם	בֵּעַל
H518	by himself	If he came in	by himself	he shall go out	H518	if he were married
	H1610	H935	H1610	H3318		H1167
אִשָּׁתוֹ	וְהָיָה	וְיֵצֵא ה	אִשָּׁתוֹ	עַמּוּ:		
then his wife	H1931	he shall go out	then his wife	H5973		
H802		H3318	H802			