

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

בְּ עַל	אָמָּן	בְּגַפְּוִי	יָבָא	וַיַּצְאַה	אָמָּן	בְּ
H518 by himself	H1610	H935	H1610	H3318	H518 if he were married	H1167
וַיַּצְאַת	עַל	וַיַּצְאַה	וַיַּצְאַת	וַיַּצְאַת	וַיַּצְאַת	וַיַּצְאַת
then his wife	H1931	H3318	he shall go out	then his wife	H5973	

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