

Exodus 21:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him.

Analysis

If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

אִם	כֹּפֶר	יֹשֵׁת	עַל יוֹ	וְנָתַן	
H518	on him a sum of money	If there be laid	H5921	then he shall give	
	H3724	H7896		H5414	
פְּדִי	נַפְשׁוֹ	כֹּכ ל	אֲשֶׁר	יֹשֵׁת	עָלָיו:
for the ransom	of his life	H3605	H834	If there be laid	H5921
H6306	H5315		H7896		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:22 (Parallel theme): If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.

Exodus 30:12 (Redemption): When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them.