

Exodus 21:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter,
according to this judgment shall it be done unto him.

Analysis

Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done unto 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

אוּ	בֶן	אִם	אוּ	בִּת	אִם
or	a son	Whether he have gored	or	a daughter	Whether he have gored
H176	H1121	H5055	H176	H1323	H5055
כַּמִּשְׁפָּט		הִזְה	יַעֲשֶׂה	לֹא	
according to this judgment		H2088	shall it be done	H0	
H4941			H6213		

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