

# Exodus 21:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The owner of the pit shall make it good, and give money unto the owner of them; and the dead beast shall be his.

## Analysis

---

**The owner of the pit shall make it good, and give money unto the owner of them; and the dead beast shall be his.**

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

---

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

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by 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

---

לְבַעַל יוֹ	הַבּוֹר	יִשַׁל מֶ	כֶּסֶף	יֵשׁ יב	לְבַעַל יוֹ
<b>The owner</b>	<b>of the pit</b>	<b>shall make it good</b>	<b>money</b>	<b>and give</b>	<b>The owner</b>
H1167	H953	H7999	H3701	H7725	H1167
וְהֵם ת	לֹא יִהְיֶה				
<b>of them and the dead</b>					
H4191	H1961	H0			

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)