

# Exodus 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

## Analysis

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**Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.**

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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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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

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וְהִגִּישׁוּ	אֶל	יְמִינָה	בְּאֶלְף	וְהִגִּישׁוּ
he shall also bring	Then his master	H413	him unto the judges	he shall also bring
H5066	H113		H430	H5066
אֶל	לְתַתּ	אֶל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	אֶל
H413	him to the door	H176	or unto the door post	shall bore
H1817	H413	H4201	H7527	H113
אֶת	אֶת	בְּמִרְאֵת	תִּعְבֹּד	לְעִלּוֹם:
H853	his ear	through with an aul	and he shall serve	him for ever
H241	H4836	H5647	H5769	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 15:17** (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust it through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.

**Leviticus 25:40** (Parallel theme): But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubile:

**1 Samuel 28:2** (Parallel theme): And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.