

# Exodus 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man sell his daughter to be a maid-servant, she shall not go out as the menservants do.

## Analysis

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**And if a man sell his daughter to be a maid-servant, she shall not go out as the menservants do.**

This provision regulates Hebrew servitude (עבד עברי, eved ivri), protecting indentured servants from exploitation. Unlike ancient Near Eastern chattel slavery, Israel's system limited bondage to six years with mandatory release, reflecting God's concern for human dignity. These laws temper economic necessity with compassion, ensuring even servants retain personhood and future hope. The regulations reveal God's heart for the vulnerable and point to ultimate redemption —Christ freed us from sin's slavery to serve Him voluntarily.

## Historical Context

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Debt-servitude in ancient Israel allowed impoverished persons to work off obligations while maintaining basic rights. These protections were revolutionary compared to surrounding nations' perpetual slavery systems.

## Related Passages

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of 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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ל א לֹא אִם הִנֵּכְךָ רְאֵנִי  
H3588 sell And if a man H853 his daughter to be a maidservant H3808  
H4376 H376 H1323 H519

פָּעֲבָדִים: כִּי אַתָּה כִּי אַתָּה  
do do as the menservants  
H3318 H3318 H5650

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 5:5** (Parallel theme): Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

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