

Exodus 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

This provision regulates Hebrew servitude (עֶבֶד עִבְרִי, 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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וְכִי H3588	יִמְכֹּר H4376	אִישׁ H376	אֶת H853	בֵּתוֹ H1323	לְאֻמָּה H519	לֵא H3808
	sell	And if a man		his daughter	to be a maidservant	
אֶת H3318	כֵּן H3318	כֵּן H3318	אֶת H3318	אֶת H3318	אֶת H3318	אֶת H3318
do	do	do	do	do	do	do
		as the menservants				

Additional Cross-References

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.