

# Exodus 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her.

## Analysis

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**If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her.**

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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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### 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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אָמַם	בְּעֵינֵי	אָדָן יְהֹוָה	לֹא אָשָׁר	יְשַׁׁבֵּת הָ
H518 <b>If she please</b> H7451	H5869 <b>not her master</b> H113	H834	H3808 <b>who hath betrothed</b> H3259	
הַשְׁפֵּךְ הָ	לְעֵד	נָכֵר	לֹא	
<b>her to himself then shall he let her be redeemed</b> H6299	<b>nation</b> H5971	<b>her unto a strange</b> H5237		H3808
לֹמַכְתָּה בְּבָגְדָו			בְּהָ	
<b>he shall have no power</b> H4910	<b>to sell</b> H4376	<b>seeing he hath dealt deceitfully</b> H898		H0

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