

Exodus 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if he have betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters.

Analysis

And if he have betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters.

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

בְּמַשְׁפֵּט וְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּהִנְצָרָה וְלֹבֶן וְאֶם
H518 her unto his son And if he have betrothed with her after the manner
H1121 H3259 H4941

לֹה: לְבָנָה יִעַשֶּׂה הַבָּנִים וְתַּ
of daughters he shall deal H0
H1323 H6213

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