

Exodus 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.

Analysis

Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.

This ordinance reveals God's comprehensive justice—regulating economic transactions, property rights, and social relationships. The mishpatim create framework for covenant community to flourish. Each law applies broader principles: love God supremely, love neighbor practically. Modern believers aren't bound by ceremonial laws but should pursue their spirit—justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). God's character revealed in law guides Christian ethics.

Historical Context

These civil regulations distinguished Israel from surrounding nations, creating a society reflecting God's justice. The laws balance individual rights with community welfare, property rights with compassion for the poor.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

שָׁבֵעׁ תְ	יְהִי הָ	תְּקִבָּה	בֵּין	שְׁנִינָה מִ	אָם
Then shall an oath	of the LORD	H1961	H996	be between them both	H518
H7621	H3068			H8147	
לֹא	שֶׁלֶת	בְּמַלְאָכַת	יד וְ	רֵעַ הַ	
H3808	that he hath not put	his hand	goods	unto his neighbour's	
	H7971	H3027	H4399	H7453	
וְלֹא	בְּעֵל	וְ	וְ	וְ	
of it shall accept	and the owner	H3808	thereof and he shall not make it good		
H3947	H1167		H7999		
וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:16 (Parallel theme): For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.