

Exodus 22:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof.

Analysis

And if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְאִם
וְאִם בָּאָתִים בָּאָתִים מִנְעָמִים

H518 **And if it be stolen** H1589 **And if it be stolen** H1589 H5973

וְשַׁלֵּם לְבָעֵל

from him he shall make restitution **unto the owner**

H7999 H1167

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 31:39 (Parallel theme): That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org