

Exodus 22:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if the owner thereof be with it, he shall not make it good: if it be an hired thing, it came for his hire.

Analysis

But if the owner thereof be with it, he shall not make it good: if it be an hired thing, it came for his hire.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אָמַן בַּעַל יְהוָה לֹא עַמְּדָה נִשְׁלָה

H518 **But if the owner** H1167 H5973 H3808 **thereof be with it he shall not make it good** H7999

אָמַן שָׁכֵן יְהוָה בְּאָמַן בְּשָׁכְרוֹן

H518 **if it be an hired** H7916 H1931 H935 **thing it came for his hire** H7939

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