

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

אִם	בְּעַל יוֹ	עַם וְ	לֹא	יִשְׁלֵם
H518	But if the owner	H5973	H3808	thereof be with it he shall not make it good
	H1167			H7999

אִם	שֶׂכֶר יֵרֶ	הָ וְאֵ	בָּא	בְּשֶׂכְרוֹ:
H518	if it be an hired	H1931	thing it came	for his hire
	H7916		H935	H7939

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