

# Exodus 22:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.

## Analysis

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**And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.**

'Entice' (הַפְּאֵה, yefateh) means seduce—consensual but unmarried sex. The man 'shall surely endow' (מְהֹרֶת יִמְהַרֵּנָה, mahor yimharenah)—pay bride-price and marry her. This protects the woman's reputation and future—in ancient culture, loss of virginity outside marriage ruined marriage prospects. The law forces responsibility: you engaged her sexually, now marry her. The bride-price compensates the father for daughter's diminished value. Deuteronomy 22:28-29 adds the marriage is permanent (he cannot divorce her). The law deters sexual immorality while protecting victims of seduction.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued female virginity highly for marriage. This law protected seduced women from abandonment and destitution. The bride-price (mohar) was substantial, making seduction costly for men.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does forcing marriage after seduction protect the woman in ancient culture?
2. What principles about sexual purity and responsibility can Christians apply from this law?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶבֶן שָׁה לֹא אִשָּׁה רְבָתוֹל הָאִישׁ יִפְגַּת הַיְמִינִי  
H3588 entice And if a man a maid H834 H3808 that is not betrothed H781  
H6601 H376 H1330

לֹא אִשָּׁה: לְאִישׁ וְמִמְּבָכְבָחָה וְמִמְּבָכְבָחָה עַמְּתָה וְשַׁבְכָבָחָה  
H0 her to be his wife H802

H7901 H5973 H4117 H4117

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