

# Exodus 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

## Analysis

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### **Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.**

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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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מְכַשֵּׁפַת הָנָדֶב לְחַיָּה  
Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live  
H3784 H2421

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 20:27** (Parallel theme): A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

**1 Samuel 28:3** (Parallel theme): Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

**Leviticus 20:6** (Parallel theme): And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

**Revelation 22:15** (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

**Leviticus 19:26** (Parallel theme): Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

**Leviticus 19:31** (Parallel theme): Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

**Isaiah 19:3** (Parallel theme): And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

**Acts 19:19** (Parallel theme): Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

**Galatians 5:20** (Parallel theme): Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

**1 Samuel 28:9** (Parallel theme): And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

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