

Exodus 22:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

Analysis

He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

זֶבֶחַ	לְאֵלֵּהִי יִם	יִחָדֵם	בְּלֹתִי י
He that sacrificeth	unto any god	only he shall be utterly destroyed	save
H2076	H430	H2763	H1115
לִיהוָה ה	לְבָדּוֹ:		
unto the LORD			
H3068	H905		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 18:20 (References God): But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.