

Exodus 22:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

Analysis

If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

אִם	תִּעֲנֶה ה'	תִּעֲנֶה ה'	אֶת י'	אִם	וְצָעֵק
If	them in any wise	them in any wise	H853	If	and they cry
H518	H6031	H6031	H3588	H518	H6817
	וְצָעֵק	אֶל י'	אֲשֶׁמַּע	אֲשֶׁמַּע	צָעֲקָתוֹ:
and they cry	H413	hear	hear	their cry	
H6817		H8085	H8085	H6818	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:6 (Parallel theme): In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Job 34:28 (Parallel theme): So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him, and he heareth the cry of the afflicted.

Luke 18:7 (Parallel theme): And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Job 35:9 (Parallel theme): By reason of the multitude of oppressions they make the oppressed to cry: they cry out by reason of the arm of the mighty.

Deuteronomy 15:9 (Parallel theme): Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

James 5:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Psalms 145:19 (Parallel theme): He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

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