

# 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

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**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

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## 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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אִם	תֵּעֲנֶה ה'	תֵּעֲנֶה ה'	אֶת י	אִם	וְצָעֶק
If	them in any wise	them in any wise	H853	If	and they cry
H518	H6031	H6031	H3588	H518	H6817
וְצָעֶק	אֶל י	אֲשָׁמָה ע	אֲשָׁמָה ע	צָעֶקְתָּו:	
and they cry	H413	hear	hear	their cry	
H6817		H8085	H8085	H6818	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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