

Exodus 22:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down:

Analysis

If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down:

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 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

אָם	תַּחַבְ לְ	שְׁלָמָת	רְשָׁבָה	עַד
H518	If thou at all	If thou at all	raiment	thy neighbour's
	H2254	H2254	H8008	it unto him by
				H5704

בְ אַלְכָה	בְּשָׁמֶשׁ	כְּשִׁיבָה	בְּ
goeth down	that the sun	thou shalt deliver	H0
H935	H8121	H7725	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:16 (Parallel theme): Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

Amos 2:8 (Parallel theme): And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.

Deuteronomy 24:6 (Parallel theme): No man shall take the nether or the upper millstone to pledge: for he taketh a man's life to pledge.