

Exodus 22:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.

Analysis

If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.

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

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

וְנִאָּכַל לְ	קִצְיִים	וּמִצָּאָהּ	אֵשׁ	תֵּצֵא	כִּי
be consumed	in thorns	and catch	If fire	break out	
H398	H6975	H4672	H784	H3318	H3588
הַשָּׂדֶה	אִו	הַקֶּמֶה	אִו	גֵּד יֵשׁ	
or the field		or the standing corn		so that the stacks of corn	
H7704	H176	H7054	H176	H1430	
הַבְּעֵרָה:	אֶת	הַמִּבְעֵר	יֵשׁ	יֵשׁ	וְ
the fire		therewith he that kindled	make restitution	make restitution	
H1200	H853	H1197	H7999	H7999	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:9 (Parallel theme): For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.