

Exodus 22:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double.

Analysis

If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double.

Theft laws emphasize restitution over retribution—restoring victims exceeds merely punishing thieves. The graduated penalties (200-500% depending on circumstances) deter theft while providing for victim's losses. This restorative justice model contrasts with purely punitive systems. The principle: sin has consequences requiring repayment. Gospel application: Christ paid infinitely more than our debt, providing ultimate restitution for sin's theft of God's glory.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern theft penalties varied widely—some death, some forced labor, some restitution. Israel's approach balanced deterrence with restoration, protecting both victim and perpetrator.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 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

כִּי H3588	יִתֵּן H5414	אִם יִשׁ H376	אֶל H413	רֵעֵהוּ H7453	כֶּסֶף H3701	אוֹ H176	כֻּלִּים H3627
shall deliver		If a man		unto his neighbour	money		or stuff
לְשָׂמֹר H8104	וְגַנֵּב H1589	מֵבֵית H1004	אִם יִשׁ H376	אִם H518	יִמָּצֵא H4672	הַגֵּנֵב H1590	
to keep	and it be stolen	house	If a man		be found	if the thief	
יִשְׁלֹם H7999	שְׁנַיִם H8147						
let him pay	double						

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:4 (Parallel theme): If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.