

Exodus 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

This ordinance reveals God's comprehensive justice—regulating economic transactions, property rights, and social relationships. The mishpatim create a 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 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

כָּל	עַל	דְּבָר	פָּשָׁע	עַל	שׁוֹר	עַל	מֹר	עַל
H5921	H3605	For all manner	of trespass	H5921	whether it be for ox	H5921	for ass	
		H1697	H6588		H7794			
עַל	שְׁלָמָם	הַעֲלֵה	עַל	כָּל	עַל	אֶבֶד	הַ	
H5921	for sheep	H5921	for raiment	H5921	H3605	or for any manner	of lost thing	
	H7716		H8008				H9	
אֲשֶׁר	וְאָמַר	כִּי	וְאַ	הַ	זֶה	עַד		
H834	which another challengeth	H3588	H1931	H2088	H5704			
	H559							
אֶלְקָה	יְמִ	יְבָ	דְּבָר	שְׁבַע	רֶשֶׁת	אֲשֶׁר	יְרַשְׁיָהּ	
and whom the judges	shall come	For all manner		double	H834	shall condemn		
H430	H935	H1697		H8147			H7561	
אֶלְקָה	יְמִ	וְשַׁלְּמֵ	שְׁבַע	לְרַעֲהָוּ				
and whom the judges	he shall pay	double	unto his neighbour					
H430	H7999	H8147	H7453					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 25:1 (Judgment): If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

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.

Matthew 18:35 (Parallel theme): So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

1 Kings 8:31 (Parallel theme): If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:

Exodus 22:28 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Matthew 18:15 (Parallel theme): Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

2 Chronicles 19:10 (Judgment): And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass.
