

Exodus 23:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

Analysis

Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

This command shapes Israel's covenant community life, applying moral law to social relationships. God's justice concerns everyday matters—truthfulness, fairness, compassion. The accumulation of ordinances creates comprehensive ethic governing Israelite society. These aren't arbitrary rules but revelations of God's character. He is just, merciful, truthful; His people must reflect these attributes. New Testament ethics build on this foundation, radicalizing commands while maintaining their spirit.

Historical Context

The Book of the Covenant concludes with liturgical calendar and worship regulations, integrating Israel's civil, moral, and ceremonial life under God's comprehensive rule.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

שְׁלֹשָׁ	פְּעָמִים	בַּשָּׁנָה	יֵרָאֶה	כָּל	זָכָר וְרָכָה	אֶל	פְּנֵי י'
Three	times	in the year	shall appear	H3605	all thy males	H413	before
H7969	H6471	H8141	H7200		H2138		H6440

וְהָיָה:	יְהוָה:
the Lord	GOD
H113	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 16:16 (References God): Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Exodus 34:23 (References God): Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.