

# Exodus 23:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

## Analysis

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**Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:**

Majority doesn't determine morality—'don't follow multitude to evil' (לא תָּתַּחַיֵּה אֶפְרַיִם) (lo-tihyeh acharei-rabbim lera'ot). Peer pressure toward wickedness must be resisted. The second clause warns against testimony swayed by popular opinion rather than truth. Courts must render just verdicts regardless of public sentiment. Noah stood alone; Abraham argued against Sodom's majority; Elijah opposed 450 prophets of Baal. Jesus faced mob crying 'Crucify!' Paul warns 'do not be conformed to this world' (Romans 12:2). Truth isn't democratic; it's theocratic—God's word determines right, not polls.

## Historical Context

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Ancient courts involved community members as witnesses and judges. The pressure to conform to majority opinion could pervert justice. This command requires courage to stand for truth against popular sentiment.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

1. When have you faced pressure to 'follow the multitude to do evil'—how did you respond?
2. How does this command apply to modern contexts like social media mobs or cancel culture?

## Interlinear Text

לֹא	תָּהִי	הַ	אֶחָד	בְּ	יְמִ	לְבָעֵת	לֹא
H3808	H1961		<b>Thou shalt not follow</b>	<b>a multitude</b>	<b>to do evil</b>		H3808
			H310	H7227	H7451		
אֶחָד	בְּ	עַל	רְבָעֵת	לְפָטָת:	לְפָטָת:	אֶחָד	
neither	shalt	thou	speak	<b>in a cause</b>	<b>to decline</b>	<b>Thou shalt not follow</b>	
H6030			H5921	H7379	H5186		H310
לְפָטָת:	בְּ	יְמִ					
<b>a multitude</b>	<b>to decline</b>						
H7227		H5186					

## Additional Cross-References

**Proverbs 1:15** (Parallel theme): My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

**Job 31:34** (Parallel theme): Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?

**Deuteronomy 1:17** (Judgment): Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

**Proverbs 4:14** (Evil): Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

**Mark 15:15** (Parallel theme): And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

**Luke 23:51** (Parallel theme): (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

**Joshua 24:15** (Evil): And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

**1 Kings 19:10** (Parallel theme): And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

**Acts 24:27** (Parallel theme): But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

**Acts 25:9** (Judgment): But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?