

Exodus 23:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

Analysis

But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְאִם	תִּשְׁמַע	תִּשְׁמַע	וְעַש	יְמַת	בְּכָל	וְ
H3588	H518	But if thou shalt indeed	But if thou shalt indeed	his voice	and do	
		H8085	H8085	H6963	H6213	
כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	אֲתָּה	אֲכִיבָּתִי	אֲדֹבֶר	
H3605	H834	all that I speak	unto thine enemies	H853	then I will be an enemy	
		H1696	H341		H340	
אֶתְרָיוֹנִים	אֶת	אֶת	אֶתְרָיוֹנִים:			
unto thine adversaries	H853	and an adversary	H6887			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 12:3 (Parallel theme): And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Deuteronomy 30:7 (Parallel theme): And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

Jeremiah 30:20 (Parallel theme): Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

Zechariah 2:8 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

Numbers 24:9 (Parallel theme): He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

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