

Exodus 23:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

Analysis

And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְבָבֵךְ תְּעַבְּדָתִ מְ	אֵת	יְהִי הָ	אֵלֹהִיכָּם	וְבָבֵךְ תְּעַבְּדָתִ מְ	אֵת
And ye shall serve	H853	the LORD	your God	and he shall bless	H853
	H5647		H3068		H1288
לְחִמֵּךְ וְאֶת מִימֶנְךָ יְבָשָׂתִ יְ	מִתְּחִלָּה	מִקְרָבֶךָ:			
thy bread	H853	and thy water	and I will take	sickness	from the midst
	H3899		H4325		H4245
			H5493		H7130

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:15 (References Lord): And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

Exodus 15:26 (References God): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Joshua 22:5 (References God): But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Isaiah 33:24 (Parallel theme): And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.

Deuteronomy 7:13 (Blessing): And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

Psalms 103:3 (Parallel theme): Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Deuteronomy 10:12 (References God): And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Deuteronomy 6:13 (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Matthew 4:10 (References God): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Deuteronomy 10:20 (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.