

Exodus 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

Analysis

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto 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

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

אַתָּה	אַשְׁלֵחַ	אִמְתַּחַת	לִפְנֵי	בָּכָרְתָּ	כָּל	אַתָּה	כָּל
H853	H367	H7971	H6440	H2000	H853	H3605	
my fear	I will send	before	thee and will destroy				
אֶת	רַבְנָתָךְ	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	בְּכָרְתָּ	אֶת	יְמִתָּתָךְ	אַתָּה
H5971	H834	H935	H0	H5414	H853	H5414	H3605
all the people	to whom thou shalt come				and I will make		
כָּל	אֶלְכָהָרָבָנָתָךְ	אֶלְכָהָרָבָנָתָךְ	עַכְרָבָנָתָךְ				
H3605	H341	H413	H6203				
all thine enemies		turn their backs					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 2:25 (Parallel theme): This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

Genesis 35:5 (Parallel theme): And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

Deuteronomy 7:23 (Parallel theme): But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.

Deuteronomy 11:25 (Parallel theme): There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

Psalms 18:40 (Parallel theme): Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

Deuteronomy 11:23 (Parallel theme): Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

2 Kings 7:6 (Parallel theme): For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

2 Chronicles 14:14 (Parallel theme): And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

1 Samuel 14:15 (Parallel theme): And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.