

Exodus 23:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

Analysis

And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

אֶת	וְגִרְשָׁהּ	מִלִּפְנֵיהֶם:	הַצִּרְעָה	אֶת	וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי
H853	H1644	H6440	H6880	H853	H7971
	thee which shall drive out	before	hornets		And I will send
מִלִּפְנֵיהֶם:	הַחִתִּי	וְ	הַכְּנַעֲנִי	אֶת	הַחִוִּי
H6440	H2850	H853	H3669	H853	H2340
before	and the Hittite		the Canaanite		the Hivite

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:20 (Parallel theme): Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.