

Exodus 23:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

Analysis

I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

ל	א	אָגַרְשׁ	כִּי	בְּשִׁנְהָה	מִפָּנֵי	יְהָ	אַחֲתָה	פָּנִים	תְּהִלָּה
H3808	I will not drive them out	from before		year	thee in one		H6435	H1961	
	H1644		H6440	H8141	H259				
בָּשָׂדֶה:	פִּי	תְּ	עַל	יְבָ	וְכָבֵה	הַ	פָּשָׁדָה:		
lest the land	become desolate	multiply	H5921	and the beast	H2416	H7704	of the field		
H776	H8077	H7227							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:22 (Parallel theme): And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

Joshua 15:63 (Parallel theme): As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day.

Joshua 16:10 (Parallel theme): And they drove not out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer: but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites unto this day, and serve under tribute.