

Exodus 23:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

Analysis

And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

וְאַתָּה	גַּבְלָבָן	עַד	סִינָן	עַד
And I will set	thy bounds	even unto the sea	from the Red	H5704
H7896	H1366	H3220	H5488	
עַד	פָּلֶשֶׁת יָם	וּמִמִּדְבָּר	עַד	כִּי
even unto the sea	of the Philistines	and from the desert	H5704	unto the river
H3220	H6430	H4057	H5104	H3588
אַתָּה	בְּיַדְךָ מִ	וִשְׁבֵבָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	
for I will deliver	into your hand	H853	the inhabitants	of the land
H5414	H3027	H3427	H776	
מִפְּנֵיכֶם	וְגַרְשַׁתְּ מֵ			
and thou shalt drive them out	before			
H1644	H6440			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 15:18 (Parallel theme): In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Deuteronomy 11:24 (Parallel theme): Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be your's: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.

Joshua 21:44 (Parallel theme): And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

Joshua 1:4 (Parallel theme): From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

Psalms 72:8 (Parallel theme): He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

Joshua 24:18 (Parallel theme): And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

1 Kings 4:24 (Parallel theme): For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphrah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him.

1 Kings 4:21 (Parallel theme): And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

Judges 1:4 (Parallel theme): And Judah went up; and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men.

Judges 11:21 (Parallel theme): And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

