

Exodus 23:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

Analysis

Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

לֹא	תִּכְרֹת	לָהֶם	וְלֹא־לֵהֶם	בְּרִית:
H3808	Thou shalt make	H0	with them nor with their gods	no covenant
	H3772		H430	H1285

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:12 (Covenant): Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:

Deuteronomy 7:2 (Covenant): And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Exodus 34:15 (Covenant): Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

Psalms 106:35 (Parallel theme): But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

Deuteronomy 7:16 (References God): And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

2 Corinthians 6:15 (Parallel theme): And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?