

# Exodus 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

## Analysis

**If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.**

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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כִּי	תְּרִא	הַ	חַמ	וְרִ	שְׁנָאָב	רָבֶּץ	תְּחַת	תְּ
H3588	If thou see		the ass		of him that hateth	thee lying		H8478
		H7200		H2543		H8130		H7257
מִשְׁא	וְ		וְקַדְלֵם		בְּלִזְבּוּן	תְּפַעַז	בְּ	עַלְוֹן
under his burden			and wouldest forbear		help	HO	help	H5973
H4853			H2308		H5800		H5800	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 22:4** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.

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