

Leviticus 25:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:

Analysis

And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:

This verse falls within the section on **Sabbath Year and Jubilee**. Sabbath year rest for land and Year of Jubilee releasing debts and slaves, teaching trust in God's provision.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

Historical Context

Sabbath year rest for land and Year of Jubilee releasing debts and slaves, teaching trust in God's provision. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and

eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְיִ	תִּמְלָא	אֵת יְמִ	עַבְדָּ	וְיִמְכַר
H3588	that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor	And if thy brother	H5973	and be sold
	H4134	H251		H4376
לֹא	תִּמְלָא	תִּמְלָא	עַבְדָּ	עַבְדָּ
H0	H3808	unto thee thou shalt not compel	H0	him to serve as a bondservant
		H5647	H5656	H5650

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:2 (Parallel theme): If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.

1 Kings 9:22 (Parallel theme): But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.

Nehemiah 5:5 (Parallel theme): Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

Leviticus 25:46 (Parallel theme): And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour.

2 Kings 4:1 (Parallel theme): Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.