

### Ordinances for the People

21:1 “Now these are the <sup>a</sup>ordinances which you are to set before them. 2 “If you buy <sup>a</sup>a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment. 3 “If he comes <sup>1</sup>alone, he shall go out <sup>1</sup>alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 “If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall belong to her master, and he shall go out <sup>1</sup>alone. 5 “But <sup>a</sup>if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’ 6 then his master shall bring him to <sup>1</sup>God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently. 7 “<sup>a</sup>And if a man sells his daughter as a female slave, she is not to <sup>1</sup>go free <sup>b</sup>as the male slaves <sup>1</sup>do. 8 “If she is <sup>1</sup>displeasing in the eyes of her master <sup>2</sup>who designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He does not have authority to sell her to a foreign people because of his <sup>3</sup>unfairness to her. 9 “And if he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. 10 “If he takes to himself another woman, he may not reduce her <sup>1</sup>food, her clothing, or <sup>a</sup>her conjugal rights. 11 “And if he will not do these three *things* for her, then she shall go out for nothing, without *payment of money*.

### Personal Injuries

12 “<sup>a</sup>He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. 13 “<sup>a</sup>But <sup>1</sup>if he did not lie in wait *for him*, but <sup>b</sup>God let *him* fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee. 14 “<sup>a</sup>If, however, a man acts presumptuously toward his neighbor, so as to kill him craftily, you are to take him *even* from My altar, that he may die.

15 “And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

16 “<sup>a</sup>And he who <sup>1</sup>kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his <sup>2</sup>possession, shall surely be put to death. 17 “<sup>a</sup>And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

18 “And if men have a quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with *his* fist, and he does not die but <sup>1</sup>remains in bed; 19 if he gets up and walks around outside on his staff, then he who struck him shall go unpunished; he shall only pay for his <sup>1</sup>loss of time, and <sup>2</sup>shall take care of him until he is completely healed.

20 “And if a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod and he dies <sup>1</sup>at his hand, he shall <sup>2</sup>be punished. 21 “If, however, he <sup>1</sup>survives a day or two, no vengeance shall be taken; <sup>a</sup>for he is his <sup>2</sup>property.

22 “And *if* men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that <sup>1</sup>she has a miscarriage, yet there is no *further* injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman’s husband <sup>2</sup>may demand of him; and he shall <sup>a</sup>pay <sup>3</sup>as the judges *decide*. 23 “But if there is *any further* injury, <sup>a</sup>then you shall appoint *as a penalty* life for life, 24 <sup>a</sup>eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, <sup>1</sup>bruise for bruise.

26 “And if a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he shall let him go free on account of his eye. 27 “And if he <sup>1</sup>knocks out a tooth of his male or female slave, he shall let him go free on account of his tooth.

**28** “And if an ox gores a man or a woman <sup>1</sup>to death, <sup>a</sup>the ox shall surely be stoned and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall go unpunished. **29** “If, however, an ox was previously in the habit of goring, and its owner has been warned, yet he does not confine it, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death. **30** “If a ransom is <sup>1</sup>demanded of him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is <sup>1</sup>demanded of him. **31** “Whether it gores a son or <sup>1</sup>a daughter, it shall be done to him according to <sup>2</sup>the same rule. **32** “If the ox gores a male or female slave, <sup>1</sup>the owner shall give his *or her* master <sup>a</sup>thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

**33** “And if a man opens a pit, or <sup>1</sup>digs a pit and does not cover it over, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, **34** the owner of the pit shall make restitution; he shall <sup>1</sup>give money to its owner, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

**35** “And if one man’s ox hurts another’s so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide its price equally; and also they shall divide the dead *ox*. **36** “Or *if* it is known that the ox was previously in the habit of goring, yet its owner has not confined it, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

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<sup>a</sup> Ex. 24:3, 4; Deut. 4:14; 6:1

<sup>a</sup> Lev. 25:39-43; Deut. 15:12-18; Jer. 34:14

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *by himself*

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<sup>a</sup> Deut. 15:16, 17

<sup>1</sup> Or, *the judges who acted in God’s name*

<sup>a</sup> Neh. 5:5

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *go out*

<sup>b</sup> Ex. 21:2, 3

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *go out*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *bad*

<sup>2</sup> Another reading is *so that he did not designate her*

<sup>3</sup> Lit., *dealing treacherously*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *flesh*

<sup>a</sup> 1 Cor. 7:3, 5

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 9:6; Lev. 24:17; Num. 35:30; Matt. 26:52

<sup>a</sup> Num. 35:10-34; Deut. 19:1-13; Josh. 20:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *he who*

<sup>b</sup> 1 Sam. 24:4, 10, 18

<sup>a</sup> Deut. 19:11, 12; 1 Kin. 2:28-34

<sup>a</sup> Deut. 24:7

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *steals*

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *hand*

<sup>a</sup> Lev. 20:9; Prov. 20:20; Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *lies*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *his sitting*

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *healing, he shall cause to be healed*

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<sup>1</sup> Lit., *under*

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *suffer vengeance*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *stands*

<sup>a</sup> Lev. 25:44-46

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *money*

<sup>1</sup> Or, *an untimely birth occurs*; lit., *her children come out*

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *lays on him*

<sup>a</sup> Ex. 21:30; Deut. 22:18, 19

<sup>3</sup> Lit., *by arbitration*

<sup>a</sup> Lev. 24:19; Deut. 19:21

<sup>a</sup> Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21; Matt. 5:38

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *welt*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *causes to fall*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *so that he dies*

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 9:5; Ex. 21:32

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *laid on him*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *laid on him*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *gores a daughter*

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *this judgment*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *he*

<sup>a</sup> Zech. 11:12; Matt. 26:15; 27:3, 9

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *if a man digs*

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *give back*

<sup>i</sup> *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.