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God's Concern and Judgment

God's concern:

Psalm 33:18-19 - "Behold, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, and those who hope in his steadfast love, to save their lives from death, and to keep them alive in famine."

Matthew 6:26 - "Look at the birds of the sky, which neither sow nor reap nor store up in barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them; are you not more valuable than the birds?"

1Peter 5:7 - "Cast all your anxiety on God, because he cares for you."

God's judgment:

Ecclesiastes 12:14 - "For God will judge every work and every hidden thing, whether good or evil."

Matthew 25:31-46 - Speaking of the Last Judgment, Jesus will judge people according to their good or evil deeds to others, and enter into eternal life or eternal sin.

John 5:28-29 - Jesus said, "A time is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."

These verses emphasize God's concern and concern for us, while also reminding us that he will judge each person's actions in the future. We should fear God and seek to live under his watchful eye, while remembering that his judgments will be administered according to our beliefs and works

Let us pray together

Dear Father God,

We gather before you at this hour and humbly ask for your attention and judgment. We know that You are Almighty, Merciful, and Righteous.

Please listen to our prayers and take care of our plight and needs. May your eyes light our lives so that we may know your will and act according to your teachings.

We admit our transgressions and mistakes, and we all have sinful actions and thoughts. Please grant us a heart of repentance, so that we can gain Your mercy and forgiveness in repentance.

Please take special care of those who are struggling and let them feel your love and comfort. Helping those in need recover, restore health and vitality.

Please show your love and blessings in our daily life. May your grace fill our family, let our family unite and love each other, and support each other.

In our country and around the world, let your peace come, let war and conflict cease, and let people live in mutual respect and harmony.

Lord, we also pray for the world. In this era of challenges and changes, let your light illuminate every corner in the darkness. May your truth spread to every corner of the earth so that everyone can understand your will and find spiritual peace. On the day of judgment in the last days, I ask you to execute justice, support the suffering, punish evil deeds, and return the world to peace and justice.

We ask your mercy to wash our hearts and show us whether we are on the path of justice and goodness. If we stray from your path, please guide us back on the right track. Let us be a people of purity, kindness, and mercy. May your attention and love guide us forever, and let us be messengers of hope and love.

We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

Exodus Chapter 22

Ex. 22:1 “If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.

Ex. 22:2 “If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed;

Ex. 22:3 but if it happens after sunrise, he is guilty of bloodshed. “A thief must certainly make restitution, but if he has nothing, he must be sold to pay for his theft.

Ex. 22:4 “If the stolen animal is found alive in his possession — whether ox or donkey or sheep — he must pay back double.

Ex. 22:5 “If a man grazes his livestock in a field or vineyard and lets them stray and they graze in another man’s field, he must make restitution from the best of his own field or vineyard.

Ex. 22:6 “If a fire breaks out and spreads into thornbushes so that it burns shocks of grain or standing corn or the whole field, the one who started the fire must make restitution.

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Ex. 22:7 “If a man gives his neighbour silver or goods for safekeeping and they are stolen from the neighbour’s house, the thief, if he is caught, must pay back double.

Ex. 22:8 But if the thief is not found, the owner of the house must appear before the judges to determine whether he has laid his hands on the other man’s property.

Ex. 22:9 In all cases of illegal possession of an ox, a donkey, a sheep, a garment, or any other lost property about which somebody says, ‘This is mine,’ both parties are to bring their cases before the judges. The one whom the judges declare guilty must pay back double to his neighbour.

Ex. 22:10 “If a man gives a donkey, an ox, a sheep or any other animal to his neighbour for safekeeping and it dies or is injured or is taken away while no-one is looking,

Ex. 22:11 the issue between them will be settled by the taking of an oath before the LORD that the neighbour did not lay hands

on the other person's property. The owner is to accept this, and no restitution is required.

Ex. 22:12 But if the animal was stolen from the neighbour, he must make restitution to the owner.

Ex. 22:13 If it was torn to pieces by a wild animal, he shall bring in the remains as evidence and he will not be required to pay for the torn animal.

Ex. 22:14 "If a man borrows an animal from his neighbour and it is injured or dies while the owner is not present, he must make restitution.

Ex. 22:15 But if the owner is with the animal, the borrower will not have to pay. If the animal was hired, the money paid for the hire covers the loss.

Ex. 22:16 "If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife.

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Ex. 22:17 If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must still pay the bride-price for virgins.

Ex. 22:18 "Do not allow a sorceress to live.

Ex. 22:19 "Anyone who has sexual relations with an animal must be put to death.

Ex. 22:20 "Whoever sacrifices to any god other than the LORD must be destroyed.

Ex. 22:21 "Do not ill-treat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens

in Egypt.

Ex. 22:22 “Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan.

Ex. 22:23 If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry.

Ex. 22:24 My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.

Ex. 22:25 “If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a money-lender; charge him no interest.

Ex. 22:26 If you take your neighbour’s cloak as a pledge, return it to him by sunset,

Ex. 22:27 because his cloak is the only covering he has for his body.

What else will he sleep in? When he cries out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

Ex. 22:28 “Do not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people.

Ex. 22:29 “Do not hold back offerings from your granaries or your vats.

“You must give me the firstborn of your sons.

Ex. 22:30 Do the same with your cattle and your sheep. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but give them to me on the eighth day.

Ex. 22:31 “You are to be my holy people. So do not eat the meat of an animal torn by wild beasts; throw it to the dogs

Exodus Chapter 22 continues with the laws and regulations that God gave to the Israelites through Moses. These laws cover a variety of topics, including restitution for theft and property damage, compensation for loss of property, and the treatment of widows, orphans, and foreigners.

The chapter begins with rules regarding theft and property damage. If someone steals or damages property, they are required to pay restitution or compensation to the victim. If the stolen property is found in the thief's possession, the thief must pay double the value of the stolen property. If an animal damages someone else's property, the owner is responsible for the damage and must compensate the victim.

God also establishes laws on lending and borrowing. If someone lends money or goods to another person, they are not allowed to charge interest or take any collateral, except for clothing to keep warm. The borrower is required to return the loan in a timely manner.

The chapter also covers the treatment of widows, orphans, and foreigners. God commands the Israelites to treat these vulnerable groups with compassion and fairness. If a widow or orphan is mistreated, God promises to punish the offender. The Israelites are also commanded to provide for the needs of foreigners living among them.

Finally, the chapter ends with a warning to the Israelites not to worship other gods or make any treaties with the Canaanites, who are described as idolaters.

key verses from Exodus chapter 22:

1. "Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep." (Exodus 22:1)
2. "If a thief is caught breaking in at night and is struck a fatal blow, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed" (Exodus 22:2)
3. "If the stolen animal is found alive in their possession—whether ox or donkey or sheep—they must pay back double." (Exodus 22:4)
4. "Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt." (Exodus 22:21)
5. "Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless." (Exodus 22:22)
6. "If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not treat it like a business deal; charge no interest." (Exodus 22:25)
7. "Do not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people." (Exodus 22:28)

These are just a few key verses, and the entire chapter provides guidelines for social justice and morality in various situations.

Here's a reflection on Exodus chapter 22:

Exodus chapter 22 continues the series of laws and regulations given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. This chapter focuses on various social and civil laws that address issues such as theft, property rights, restitution, and responsibilities towards one another. These laws are designed to promote justice, fairness, and social harmony within the community.

One of the central themes in this chapter is the importance of personal responsibility and integrity. God's laws in Exodus 22 emphasize the need for honesty, accountability, and restitution when harm or damage occurs. They provide guidelines for resolving conflicts, ensuring that individuals take responsibility for their actions and make amends when necessary.

The laws in this chapter also highlight the value of compassion and care for the vulnerable and marginalized. God's instructions include provisions for protecting the rights of widows, orphans, and strangers. These laws demonstrate God's heart for the vulnerable and call the Israelites to extend love and compassion to those in need.

Another significant theme in this chapter is the recognition of God as the ultimate judge and avenger of wrongs. The laws outline the consequences and penalties for various offenses, trusting that God will bring justice to those who commit wrongdoing. This theme reminds the Israelites that they are accountable not only to one another but also to God, who sees all and will ensure justice is served.

Reflecting on Exodus chapter 22, we can draw several lessons for our own lives. Firstly, it reminds us of the importance of personal integrity and responsibility. We are called to act honestly, ethically, and with consideration for others. When we cause harm or infringe upon someone's rights, we should take responsibility, seek forgiveness, and make restitution to the best of our ability.

Secondly, this chapter emphasizes the need for compassion and care for the vulnerable and marginalized. We are called to extend love and support to those in need, just as God has shown compassion to us. It challenges us to examine our attitudes and actions towards those who may be disadvantaged or overlooked in society and to actively work towards justice and equality.

Furthermore, Exodus chapter 22 points us to the ultimate source of justice—God Himself. The laws given in this chapter reflect God's character and desire for a just and righteous community. They remind us that God is the ultimate judge and avenger of wrongs, and we can trust in His perfect justice, even when human systems may fall short.

In conclusion, Exodus chapter 22 presents laws and regulations that address various aspects of social justice, personal responsibility, and care for the vulnerable. It calls us to act with integrity, to take responsibility for our actions, and to extend compassion and support to those in need. By reflecting on these lessons, we can strive to live in a way that honors God, promotes justice, and fosters a community marked by love and care for one another.