

Exodus 21:12-27 **Penalty For Various Acts Of Assault**

12 "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. 13 However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

14 "But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

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

16 "He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.

17 "And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

18 "If men contend with each other, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed, 19 if he rises again and walks about outside with his staff, then he who struck him shall be acquitted. He shall only pay for the loss of his time, and shall provide for him to be thoroughly healed.

20 "And if a man beats his male or female servant with a rod, so that he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. 21 Notwithstanding, if he remains alive a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his property.

22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

26 If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye. 27 And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ As God speaks the moral law in the hearing of Israel, we find that the Children of Israel are standing far back from the mountain while Moses is standing near, but the Children of Israel can still hear the words being spoken by God. [\[Exodus 20:21\]](#)
- ✧ God makes a distinction between accidental death and deliberate murder. God provided a city of refuge for the one who killed by accident, while prescribing the death penalty for the murderer.
- ✧ This is in keeping with the law God gave to all mankind as Noah came out of the Ark.

“Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.” [\[Genesis 9:5-6\]](#) NKJV

- ✧ The death penalty is also prescribed for the one who strikes his father or his mother.
- ✧ The death penalty is prescribed for the kidnapper. [[Deuteronomy 24:7](#), [Exodus 21:16](#)]
- ✧ The death penalty is prescribed for the one who curses his father or his mother.
- ✧ The victor in a fight is liable for the loss of time and medical expenses of the one who is injured.
- ✧ Punishment is required for a person who beats his male or female servant to death. If the servant does not die for a day or two, any loss is his own loss of his own property.
- ✧ If a pregnant woman is injured when men are fighting, the penalty will be whatever her husband imposes and the judges determine.
 - ✧ If there is a lasting injury, then the punishment will be proportional; life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.
- ✧ If a man injures his male or female servant, the servant goes free because of the injury whether it is an eye or a tooth.
- ✧ There is equality and justice in liability in God's Laws.

- ✧ All these words were heard by Moses and by the Children of Israel as God spoke from heaven, while His awesome presence was visible on the mountain in the most spectacular display of power. [[Exodus 19:9-19](#), [20:18](#), [20:22](#)]