

OT Laws Concerning Private Property Exodus 21:28-36, etc.

I. OT Laws concerning private property.

A. Liability for accidental death to humans caused by livestock.

1. For true accidental death, the owner's liability is limited to the loss of his livestock (Ex. 21:28).
2. For an accidental death where the livestock has a history of goring, the owner shall be liable for the death by capital punishment unless a ransom was allowed (Ex. 21:30-32).

B. Liability for negligent use of property (Exodus 21:33-34; 22:6)

C. Liability for destruction of other property by livestock (Exodus 21:35-36)

D. Laws concerning theft of private property (Exodus 22:1-5)

E. Laws concerning loss of entrusted goods (Exodus 22:7-15)

F. Laws concerning protection of other's property (Exodus 23:4-5)

G. Beware lest the accumulation of possessions lead you to pride (Deuteronomy 8:11-20)

II. Transferable principles from OT property laws.

A. The Bible affirms the concept of private property.

B. You are responsible to ensure that the use of your property does not harm others.

C. You are responsible to help preserve the private property of others.

D. Private property must be seen as a gift from God that encourages our grateful service to God.