**Exodus 21:1**

[*https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/exod/exod-21/exodus-211/*](https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/exod/exod-21/exodus-211/)

*So begins a section known as the Book of the Covenant. It contains 42 judgments.*

The first verse of the chapter serves as the title for the section of Exodus called “the Book of the Covenant,” a title given to it in [Exodus 24:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+24.7&t=NASB95). Many scholars think that the section starts in [Exodus 20:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+20.22&t=NASB95), where the rules for worshipping the LORD are stipulated. Within this section are 42 “judgments” designed to govern life in Israel.

The word translated *ordinances* (Heb. “mishpatim”) literally means “decisions.” They specified how judges in Israel were to deal with issues that arose in the daily life of the Israelites.

**Biblical Text:**

**1 “Now these are the ordinances which you are to set before them:**