

A Thought about Wesleyan Reading ...

In my journey as a United Methodist, I have found the writings of Randy Maddox to be helpful entry points into Wesleyan Scholarship. In his essay “John Wesley – A Man of One Book,” Maddox identifies several of Wesley’s principles of biblical interpretation, one of which is: *Read comparatively in light of God’s Central Purpose*. According to Maddox, “Wesley was ... concerned to read the entire canon with attention to those things that emerge repeatedly.”¹ As stated by Wesley himself:

Every truth which is revealed in the oracles of God is undoubtedly of great importance. Yet it may be allowed that some of those which are revealed therein are of greater importance than others as being more immediately conducive to the grand end of all, the eternal salvation of [humanity]. And we may judge of their importance even from this circumstance, that they are not mentioned only once in the sacred writings, but are repeated over and over.²

One of the most divisive issues before The United Methodist Church today is whether or not homosexuality is compatible with the Christian lifestyle. This debate evolves from the interpretation of 7 passages identified by verses on page 2 of this document. Out of curiosity and an educated hunch, I thought I’d follow Wesley’s own suggestion and look to what may be judged to be of more importance to God’s central purpose in the sacred writings by repetition: “over and over.”

John Wesley himself insisted on the use of original languages and the best study tools available. Using original language tools I have at my disposal I identified the 2 Hebrew and 3 Greek words that are typically in the NRSV translated as **stranger/resident alien**. The words occur in **173 verses** listed beginning on page 3. I also identified the Greek and Hebrew words that translate as **poor/ needy/widow/orphan** (8 Hebrew and 5 Greek); these occur in **310 verses** listed beginning on page 21.

I fully admit, that these verses have been removed from their literary context. I also am not suggesting that there are not important theological issues at stake in the 7 verses so hotly debated. At least from this study, I would suggest, however, that by Wesley’s own standard there are issues far more important to God’s central purpose: the salvation of humanity.

— Peace, Rev. Mark F. Sturgess

¹In Joel B. Green & David F. Watson, eds., *Wesley, Wesleyans and Reading Bible as Scripture* (Waco: Baylor University Press), 3-18.

² From Sermon “On Hell” in *Works* 3:31, as cited by Maddox

Same Sex Acts (7 references)

The New Revised Standard Version

- [Genesis 19:5](#) and they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them.”
- [Leviticus 18:22](#) You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.
- [Leviticus 20:13](#) If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them.
- [Romans 1:26–27](#) **26** For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, **27** and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.
- [1 Corinthians 6:9–10](#) **9** Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, **10** thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God.
- [1 Timothy 1:9–10](#) **9** This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, **10** fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching
- [Jude 7](#) Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.
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Stranger/Resident Aliens (2 Heb, 3 Grk, 173 verses)

The New Revised Standard Version

[Genesis 12:10](#) Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land.

[Genesis 15:13](#) Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years;

[Genesis 19:9](#) But they replied, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and he would play the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near the door to break it down.

[Genesis 20:1](#) From there Abraham journeyed toward the region of the Negeb, and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While residing in Gerar as an alien,

[Genesis 21:23](#) now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but as I have dealt loyally with you, you will deal with me and with the land where you have resided as an alien."

[Genesis 21:34](#) And Abraham resided as an alien many days in the land of the Philistines.

[Genesis 23:4](#) "I am a stranger and an alien residing among you; give me property among you for a burying place, so that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

[Genesis 26:3](#) Reside in this land as an alien, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will fulfill the oath that I swore to your father Abraham.

- [Genesis 32:5](#) instructing them, “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have lived with Laban as an alien, and stayed until now;
- [Genesis 35:27](#) Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had resided as aliens.
- [Genesis 47:4](#) They said to Pharaoh, “We have come to reside as aliens in the land; for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, we ask you, let your servants settle in the land of Goshen.”
- [Exodus 2:22](#) She bore a son, and he named him Gershom; for he said, “I have been an alien residing in a foreign land.”
- [Exodus 3:22](#) each woman shall ask her neighbor and any woman living in the neighbor’s house for jewelry of silver and of gold, and clothing, and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters; and so you shall plunder the Egyptians.”
- [Exodus 6:4](#) I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens.
- [Exodus 12:19](#) For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether an alien or a native of the land.
- [Exodus 12:48](#) If an alien who resides with you wants to celebrate the passover to the LORD, all his males shall be circumcised; then he may draw near to celebrate it; he shall be regarded as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it;
- [Exodus 12:49](#) there shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you.
- [Exodus 18:3](#) along with her two sons. The name of the one was Gershom (for he said, “I have been an alien in a foreign land”),

- [Exodus 20:10](#) But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.
- [Exodus 22:20](#) You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.
- [Exodus 23:9](#) You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.
- [Exodus 23:12](#) Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed.
- [Leviticus 16:29](#) This shall be a statute to you forever: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall deny yourselves, and shall do no work, neither the citizen nor the alien who resides among you.
- [Leviticus 17:8](#) And say to them further: Anyone of the house of Israel or of the aliens who reside among them who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice,
- [Leviticus 17:10](#) If anyone of the house of Israel or of the aliens who reside among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood, and will cut that person off from the people.
- [Leviticus 17:12](#) Therefore I have said to the people of Israel: No person among you shall eat blood, nor shall any alien who resides among you eat blood.
- [Leviticus 17:13](#) And anyone of the people of Israel, or of the aliens who reside among them, who hunts down an animal or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth.
- [Leviticus 17:15](#) All persons, citizens or aliens, who eat what dies of itself or what has been torn by wild animals, shall wash their clothes, and bathe themselves in water, and be unclean until the evening; then they shall be clean.

- [Leviticus 18:26](#) But you shall keep my statutes and my ordinances and commit none of these abominations, either the citizen or the alien who resides among you
- [Leviticus 19:10](#) You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.
- [Leviticus 19:33](#) When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.
- [Leviticus 19:34](#) The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.
- [Leviticus 20:2](#) Say further to the people of Israel: Any of the people of Israel, or of the aliens who reside in Israel, who give any of their offspring to Molech shall be put to death; the people of the land shall stone them to death.
- [Leviticus 22:18](#) Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them: When anyone of the house of Israel or of the aliens residing in Israel presents an offering, whether in payment of a vow or as a freewill offering that is offered to the LORD as a burnt offering,
- [Leviticus 23:22](#) When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the LORD your God.
- [Leviticus 24:16](#) One who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall be put to death; the whole congregation shall stone the blasphemer. Aliens as well as citizens, when they blaspheme the Name, shall be put to death.
- [Leviticus 24:22](#) You shall have one law for the alien and for the citizen: for I am the LORD your God.

- [Leviticus 25:6](#) You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you;
- [Leviticus 25:23](#) The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants.
- [Leviticus 25:35](#) If any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, you shall support them; they shall live with you as though resident aliens.
- [Leviticus 25:45](#) You may also acquire them from among the aliens residing with you, and from their families that are with you, who have been born in your land; and they may be your property.
- [Leviticus 25:47](#) If resident aliens among you prosper, and if any of your kin fall into difficulty with one of them and sell themselves to an alien, or to a branch of the alien's family,
- [Numbers 9:14](#) Any alien residing among you who wishes to keep the passover to the LORD shall do so according to the statute of the passover and according to its regulation; you shall have one statute for both the resident alien and the native.
- [Numbers 15:14](#) An alien who lives with you, or who takes up permanent residence among you, and wishes to offer an offering by fire, a pleasing odor to the LORD, shall do as you do.
- [Numbers 15:15](#) As for the assembly, there shall be for both you and the resident alien a single statute, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you and the alien shall be alike before the LORD.
- [Numbers 15:16](#) You and the alien who resides with you shall have the same law and the same ordinance.
- [Numbers 15:26](#) All the congregation of the Israelites shall be forgiven, as well as the aliens residing among them, because the whole people was involved in the error.

- [Numbers 15:29](#) For both the native among the Israelites and the alien residing among them—you shall have the same law for anyone who acts in error.
- [Numbers 15:30](#) But whoever acts high-handedly, whether a native or an alien, affronts the LORD, and shall be cut off from among the people.
- [Numbers 19:10](#) The one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. This shall be a perpetual statute for the Israelites and for the alien residing among them.
- [Numbers 35:15](#) These six cities shall serve as refuge for the Israelites, for the resident or transient alien among them, so that anyone who kills a person without intent may flee there.
- [Deuteronomy 1:16](#) I charged your judges at that time: “Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien.
- [Deuteronomy 5:14](#) But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.
- [Deuteronomy 10:18](#) who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing.
- [Deuteronomy 10:19](#) You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
- [Deuteronomy 14:21](#) You shall not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to aliens residing in your towns for them to eat, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. You shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.

[Deuteronomy 14:29](#) the Levites, because they have no allotment or inheritance with you, as well as the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows in your towns, may come and eat their fill so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work that you undertake.

[Deuteronomy 16:11](#) Rejoice before the LORD your God—you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites resident in your towns, as well as the strangers, the orphans, and the widows who are among you—at the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

[Deuteronomy 16:14](#) Rejoice during your festival, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, as well as the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows resident in your towns.

[Deuteronomy 18:6](#) If a Levite leaves any of your towns, from wherever he has been residing in Israel, and comes to the place that the LORD will choose (and he may come whenever he wishes),

[Deuteronomy 23:8](#) You shall not abhor any of the Edomites, for they are your kin. You shall not abhor any of the Egyptians, because you were an alien residing in their land.

[Deuteronomy 24:14](#) You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns.

[Deuteronomy 24:17](#) You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge.

[Deuteronomy 24:19](#) When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings.

[Deuteronomy 24:20](#) When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

[Deuteronomy 24:21](#) When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

[Deuteronomy 26:5](#) you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

[Deuteronomy 26:11](#) Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

[Deuteronomy 26:12](#) When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year (which is the year of the tithe), giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns,

[Deuteronomy 26:13](#) then you shall say before the LORD your God: "I have removed the sacred portion from the house, and I have given it to the Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows, in accordance with your entire commandment that you commanded me; I have neither transgressed nor forgotten any of your commandments:

[Deuteronomy 27:19](#) "Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice." All the people shall say, "Amen!"

[Deuteronomy 28:43](#) Aliens residing among you shall ascend above you higher and higher, while you shall descend lower and lower.

[Deuteronomy 29:10](#) your children, your women, and the aliens who are in your camp, both those who cut your wood and those who draw your water—

[Deuteronomy 31:12](#) Assemble the people—men, women, and children, as well as the aliens residing in your towns—so that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God and to observe diligently all the words of this law,

- [Joshua 8:33](#) All Israel, alien as well as citizen, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark in front of the levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, that they should bless the people of Israel.
- [Joshua 8:35](#) There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the aliens who resided among them.
- [Joshua 20:9](#) These were the cities designated for all the Israelites, and for the aliens residing among them, that anyone who killed a person without intent could flee there, so as not to die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until there was a trial before the congregation.
- [Judges 5:17](#) Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan; and Dan, why did he abide with the ships? Asher sat still at the coast of the sea, settling down by his landings.
- [Judges 17:7](#) Now there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the clan of Judah. He was a Levite residing there.
- [Judges 17:8](#) This man left the town of Bethlehem in Judah, to live wherever he could find a place. He came to the house of Micah in the hill country of Ephraim to carry on his work.
- [Judges 17:9](#) Micah said to him, "From where do you come?" He replied, "I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to live wherever I can find a place."
- [Judges 19:1](#) In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite, residing in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.
- [Judges 19:16](#) Then at evening there was an old man coming from his work in the field. The man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was residing in Gibeah. (The people of the place were Benjaminites.)

- [Ruth 1:1](#) In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons.
- [2 Samuel 1:13](#) David said to the young man who had reported to him, "Where do you come from?" He answered, "I am the son of a resident alien, an Amalekite."
- [2 Samuel 4:3](#) (Now the people of Beeroth had fled to Gittaim and are there as resident aliens to this day).
- [1 Kings 17:20](#) He cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?"
- [2 Kings 8:1](#) Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Get up and go with your household, and settle wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and it will come on the land for seven years."
- [2 Kings 8:2](#) So the woman got up and did according to the word of the man of God; she went with her household and settled in the land of the Philistines seven years.
- [1 Chronicles 16:19](#) When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in the land,
- [1 Chronicles 22:2](#) David gave orders to gather together the aliens who were residing in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God.
- [1 Chronicles 29:15](#) For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope.

- [2 Chronicles 2:16](#) Then Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were residing in the land of Israel, after the census that his father David had taken; and there were found to be one hundred fifty-three thousand six hundred.
- [2 Chronicles 15:9](#) He gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing as aliens with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.
- [2 Chronicles 30:25](#) The whole assembly of Judah, the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the resident aliens who came out of the land of Israel, and the resident aliens who lived in Judah, rejoiced.
- [Ezra 1:4](#) and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem.”
- [Job 19:15](#) the guests in my house have forgotten me; my serving girls count me as a stranger; I have become an alien in their eyes.
- [Job 28:4](#) They open shafts in a valley away from human habitation; they are forgotten by travelers, they sway suspended, remote from people.
- [Job 31:32](#) the stranger has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler—
- [Psalm 5:5](#) For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you.
- [Psalm 15:1](#) [title](#) A Psalm of David. [1](#) O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- [Psalm 39:13](#) “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears. For I am your passing guest, an alien, like all my forebears.

- [Psalm 61:5](#) Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings. *Selah*
- [Psalm 94:6](#) They kill the widow and the stranger, they murder the orphan,
- [Psalm 105:12](#) When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it,
- [Psalm 105:23](#) Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.
- [Psalm 119:19](#) I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.
- [Psalm 120:5](#) Woe is me, that I am an alien in Meshech, that I must live among the tents of Kedar.
- [Psalm 146:9](#) The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- [Isaiah 5:17](#) Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture, fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins.
- [Isaiah 11:6](#) The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- [Isaiah 14:1](#) But the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land; and aliens will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob.
- [Isaiah 16:4](#) let the outcasts of Moab settle among you; be a refuge to them from the destroyer." When the oppressor is no more, and destruction has ceased, and marauders have vanished from the land,
- [Isaiah 23:7](#) Is this your exultant city whose origin is from days of old, whose feet carried her to settle far away?

[Isaiah 33:14](#) The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: “Who among us can live with the devouring fire? Who among us can live with everlasting flames?”

[Isaiah 52:4](#) For thus says the Lord GOD: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause.

[Jeremiah 7:6](#) if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt,

[Jeremiah 14:8](#) O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night?

[Jeremiah 22:3](#) Thus says the LORD: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.

[Jeremiah 30:23](#) Look, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

[Jeremiah 35:7](#) nor shall you ever build a house, or sow seed; nor shall you plant a vineyard, or even own one; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you reside.’

[Jeremiah 42:15](#) then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: If you are determined to enter Egypt and go to settle there,

[Jeremiah 42:17](#) All the people who have determined to go to Egypt to settle there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; they shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I am bringing upon them.

[Jeremiah 42:22](#) Be well aware, then, that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go and settle.”

[Jeremiah](#)
[43:2](#)

Azariah son of Hoshai and Johanan son of Kareah and all the other insolent men said to Jeremiah, "You are telling a lie. The LORD our God did not send you to say, 'Do not go to Egypt to settle there';

[Jeremiah](#)
[43:5](#)

But Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to settle in the land of Judah from all the nations to which they had been driven—

[Jeremiah](#)
[44:8](#)

Why do you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands, making offerings to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have come to settle? Will you be cut off and become an object of cursing and ridicule among all the nations of the earth?

[Jeremiah](#)
[44:12](#)

I will take the remnant of Judah who are determined to come to the land of Egypt to settle, and they shall perish, everyone; in the land of Egypt they shall fall; by the sword and by famine they shall perish; from the least to the greatest, they shall die by the sword and by famine; and they shall become an object of execration and horror, of cursing and ridicule.

[Jeremiah](#)
[44:14](#)

so that none of the remnant of Judah who have come to settle in the land of Egypt shall escape or survive or return to the land of Judah. Although they long to go back to live there, they shall not go back, except some fugitives.

[Jeremiah](#)
[44:28](#)

And those who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah, few in number; and all the remnant of Judah, who have come to the land of Egypt to settle, shall know whose words will stand, mine or theirs!

[Jeremiah](#)
[49:18](#)

As when Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighbors were overthrown, says the LORD, no one shall live there, nor shall anyone settle in it.

[Jeremiah](#)
[49:33](#)

Hazor shall become a lair of jackals, an everlasting waste; no one shall live there, nor shall anyone settle in it.

- [Jeremiah 50:40](#) As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighbors, says the LORD, so no one shall live there, nor shall anyone settle in her.
- [Lamentations 4:15](#) "Away! Unclean!" people shouted at them; "Away! Away! Do not touch!" So they became fugitives and wanderers; it was said among the nations, "They shall stay here no longer."
- [Ezekiel 14:7](#) For any of those of the house of Israel, or of the aliens who reside in Israel, who separate themselves from me, taking their idols into their hearts and placing their iniquity as a stumbling block before them, and yet come to a prophet to inquire of me by him, I the LORD will answer them myself.
- [Ezekiel 22:7](#) Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the alien residing within you suffers extortion; the orphan and the widow are wronged in you.
- [Ezekiel 22:29](#) The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress.
- [Ezekiel 47:22](#) You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who reside among you and have begotten children among you. They shall be to you as citizens of Israel; with you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.
- [Ezekiel 47:23](#) In whatever tribe aliens reside, there you shall assign them their inheritance, says the Lord GOD.
- [Hosea 7:14](#) They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; they gash themselves for grain and wine; they rebel against me.
- [Zechariah 7:10](#) do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

- [Malachi 3:5](#) Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.
- [Matthew 17:25](#) He said, "Yes, he does." And when he came home, Jesus spoke of it first, asking, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their children or from others?"
- [Matthew 17:26](#) When Peter said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the children are free.
- [Matthew 23:15](#) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.
- [Matthew 25:35](#) for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- [Matthew 25:38](#) And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?
- [Matthew 25:43](#) I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'
- [Matthew 25:44](#) Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'
- [Matthew 27:7](#) After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners.
- [Luke 16:12](#) And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?
- [John 10:5](#) They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

- [Acts 2:11](#) Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”
- [Acts 6:5](#) What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.
- [Acts 7:6](#) And God spoke in these terms, that his descendants would be resident aliens in a country belonging to others, who would enslave them and mistreat them during four hundred years.
- [Acts 13:43](#) When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.
- [Acts 17:18](#) Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)
- [Acts 17:21](#) Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.
- [Romans 14:4](#) Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- [Romans 15:20](#) Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else’s foundation,
- [Romans 16:23](#) Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.
- [2 Corinthians 10:15](#) We do not boast beyond limits, that is, in the labors of others; but our hope is that, as your faith increases, our sphere of action among you may be greatly enlarged,

- [2 Corinthians 10:16](#) so that we may proclaim the good news in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in someone else's sphere of action.
- [Ephesians 2:12](#) remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- [Ephesians 2:19](#) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,
- [1 Timothy 5:22](#) Do not ordain anyone hastily, and do not participate in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.
- [Hebrews 9:25](#) Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own;
- [Hebrews 11:9](#) By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.
- [Hebrews 11:13](#) All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,
- [Hebrews 11:34](#) quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
- [Hebrews 13:9](#) Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them.
- [1 Peter 4:12](#) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.
- [3 John 5](#) Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you;

Poor/Needy/Widow/Orphans (8 Heb, 5 Grk; 310 verses)

The New Revised Standard Version

[Genesis](#)
[38:11](#)

Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Remain a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up”—for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father’s house.

[Genesis](#)
[41:19](#)

Then seven other cows came up after them, poor, very ugly, and thin. Never had I seen such ugly ones in all the land of Egypt.

[Exodus](#)
[22:21](#)

You shall not abuse any widow or orphan.

[Exodus](#)
[22:23](#)

my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans.

[Exodus](#)
[22:24](#)

If you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, you shall not deal with them as a creditor; you shall not exact interest from them.

[Exodus 23:3](#)

nor shall you be partial to the poor in a lawsuit.

[Exodus 23:6](#)

You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in their lawsuits.

[Exodus](#)
[23:11](#)

but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

[Exodus](#)
[30:15](#)

The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you bring this offering to the LORD to make atonement for your lives.

[Leviticus
14:21](#)

But if he is poor and cannot afford so much, he shall take one male lamb for a guilt offering to be elevated, to make atonement on his behalf, and one-tenth of an ephah of choice flour mixed with oil for a grain offering and a log of oil;

[Leviticus
19:10](#)

You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

[Leviticus
19:15](#)

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.

[Leviticus
21:14](#)

A widow, or a divorced woman, or a woman who has been defiled, a prostitute, these he shall not marry. He shall marry a virgin of his own kin,

[Leviticus
22:13](#)

but if a priest's daughter is widowed or divorced, without offspring, and returns to her father's house, as in her youth, she may eat of her father's food. No lay person shall eat of it.

[Leviticus
23:22](#)

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the LORD your God.

[Leviticus
25:25](#)

If anyone of your kin falls into difficulty and sells a piece of property, then the next of kin shall come and redeem what the relative has sold.

[Leviticus
25:35](#)

If any of your kin fall into difficulty and become dependent on you, you shall support them; they shall live with you as though resident aliens.

[Leviticus
25:39](#)

If any who are dependent on you become so impoverished that they sell themselves to you, you shall not make them serve as slaves.

- [Leviticus 25:47](#) If resident aliens among you prosper, and if any of your kin fall into difficulty with one of them and sell themselves to an alien, or to a branch of the alien's family,
- [Leviticus 27:8](#) If any cannot afford the equivalent, they shall be brought before the priest and the priest shall assess them; the priest shall assess them according to what each one making a vow can afford.
- [Numbers 30:10](#) (But every vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, by which she has bound herself, shall be binding upon her.)
- [Deuteronomy 10:18](#) who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing.
- [Deuteronomy 14:29](#) the Levites, because they have no allotment or inheritance with you, as well as the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows in your towns, may come and eat their fill so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work that you undertake.
- [Deuteronomy 15:4](#) There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the LORD is sure to bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you as a possession to occupy,
- [Deuteronomy 15:7](#) If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor.
- [Deuteronomy 15:8](#) You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.
- [Deuteronomy 15:9](#) Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt.

- [Deuteronomy 15:11](#) Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”
- [Deuteronomy 16:11](#) Rejoice before the LORD your God—you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites resident in your towns, as well as the strangers, the orphans, and the widows who are among you—at the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.
- [Deuteronomy 16:14](#) Rejoice during your festival, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, as well as the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows resident in your towns.
- [Deuteronomy 24:12](#) If the person is poor, you shall not sleep in the garment given you as the pledge.
- [Deuteronomy 24:14](#) You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns.
- [Deuteronomy 24:15](#) You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt.
- [Deuteronomy 24:17](#) You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge.
- [Deuteronomy 24:19](#) When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings.
- [Deuteronomy 24:20](#) When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.
- [Deuteronomy 24:21](#) When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

[Deuteronomy 26:12](#) When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year (which is the year of the tithe), giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns,

[Deuteronomy 26:13](#) then you shall say before the LORD your God: "I have removed the sacred portion from the house, and I have given it to the Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows, in accordance with your entire commandment that you commanded me; I have neither transgressed nor forgotten any of your commandments:

[Deuteronomy 27:19](#) "Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice." All the people shall say, "Amen!"

[Judges 6:15](#) He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

[Judges 18:10](#) When you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people. The land is broad—God has indeed given it into your hands—a place where there is no lack of anything on earth."

[Judges 19:19](#) We your servants have straw and fodder for our donkeys, with bread and wine for me and the woman and the young man along with us. We need nothing more."

[Judges 19:20](#) The old man said, "Peace be to you. I will care for all your wants; only do not spend the night in the square."

[Ruth 3:10](#) He said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

[1 Samuel 2:8](#) He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.

- [1 Samuel 18:23](#) So Saul's servants reported these words to David in private. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, seeing that I am a poor man and of no repute?"
- [2 Samuel 3:1](#) There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.
- [2 Samuel 12:1](#) and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.
- [2 Samuel 12:3](#) but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.
- [2 Samuel 12:4](#) Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him."
- [2 Samuel 13:4](#) He said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."
- [2 Samuel 14:5](#) The king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "Alas, I am a widow; my husband is dead.
- [2 Samuel 22:28](#) You deliver a humble people, but your eyes are upon the haughty to bring them down.
- [1 Kings 7:14](#) He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, whose father, a man of Tyre, had been an artisan in bronze; he was full of skill, intelligence, and knowledge in working bronze. He came to King Solomon, and did all his work.

[1 Kings
11:26](#)

Jeroboam son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, rebelled against the king.

[1 Kings 17:9](#)

"Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

[1 Kings
17:10](#)

So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink."

[1 Kings
17:20](#)

He cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?"

[Esther 9:22](#)

as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

[Job 5:15](#)

But he saves the needy from the sword of their mouth, from the hand of the mighty.

[Job 5:16](#)

So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth.

[Job 6:27](#)

You would even cast lots over the orphan, and bargain over your friend.

[Job 20:10](#)

Their children will seek the favor of the poor, and their hands will give back their wealth.

[Job 20:19](#)

For they have crushed and abandoned the poor, they have seized a house that they did not build.

[Job 22:9](#)

You have sent widows away empty-handed, and the arms of the orphans you have crushed.

[Job 24:3](#) They drive away the donkey of the orphan; they take the widow's ox for a pledge.

[Job 24:4](#) They thrust the needy off the road; the poor of the earth all hide themselves.

[Job 24:9](#) "There are those who snatch the orphan child from the breast, and take as a pledge the infant of the poor.

[Job 24:14](#) The murderer rises at dusk to kill the poor and needy, and in the night is like a thief.

[Job 24:21](#) "They harm the childless woman, and do no good to the widow.

[Job 27:15](#) Those who survive them the pestilence buries, and their widows make no lamentation.

[Job 29:12](#) because I delivered the poor who cried, and the orphan who had no helper.

[Job 29:13](#) The blessing of the wretched came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

[Job 29:16](#) I was a father to the needy, and I championed the cause of the stranger.

[Job 30:25](#) Did I not weep for those whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the poor?

[Job 31:16](#) "If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail,

[Job 31:17](#) or have eaten my morsel alone, and the orphan has not eaten from it
—

- [Job 31:19](#) if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or a poor person without covering,
- [Job 31:21](#) if I have raised my hand against the orphan, because I saw I had supporters at the gate;
- [Job 34:19](#) who shows no partiality to nobles, nor regards the rich more than the poor, for they are all the work of his hands?
- [Job 34:28](#) so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to him, and he heard the cry of the afflicted—
- [Job 36:6](#) He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right.
- [Job 36:15](#) He delivers the afflicted by their affliction, and opens their ear by adversity.
- [Psalm 9:13](#) For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.
- [Psalm 9:19](#) For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.
- [Psalm 10:2](#) In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor— let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.
- [Psalm 10:9](#) they lurk in secret like a lion in its covert; they lurk that they may seize the poor; they seize the poor and drag them off in their net.
- [Psalm 10:12](#) Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.
- [Psalm 10:14](#) But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your hands; the helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the helper of the orphan.

- [Psalm 10:18](#) to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more.
- [Psalm 12:6](#) "Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan, I will now rise up," says the LORD; "I will place them in the safety for which they long."
- [Psalm 14:6](#) You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.
- [Psalm 18:28](#) For you deliver a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.
- [Psalm 22:25](#) For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- [Psalm 25:16](#) Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
- [Psalm 34:7](#) This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.
- [Psalm 34:10](#) O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.
- [Psalm 34:11](#) The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- [Psalm 35:10](#) All my bones shall say, "O LORD, who is like you? You deliver the weak from those too strong for them, the weak and needy from those who despoil them."
- [Psalm 37:14](#) The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to kill those who walk uprightly;
- [Psalm 40:18](#) As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

- [Psalm 41:2](#) Happy are those who consider the poor; the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.
- [Psalm 49:3](#) both low and high, rich and poor together.
- [Psalm 68:6](#) Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.
- [Psalm 68:11](#) your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.
- [Psalm 69:30](#) But I am lowly and in pain; let your salvation, O God, protect me.
- [Psalm 69:34](#) For the LORD hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds.
- [Psalm 70:6](#) But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!
- [Psalm 72:2](#) May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
- [Psalm 72:4](#) May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- [Psalm 72:12](#) For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
- [Psalm 72:13](#) He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
- [Psalm 74:19](#) Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals; do not forget the life of your poor forever.
- [Psalm 74:21](#) Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame; let the poor and needy praise your name.

- [Psalm 78:64](#) Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.
- [Psalm 82:3](#) Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
- [Psalm 82:4](#) Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- [Psalm 86:1](#) [title](#) A Prayer of David. [1](#) Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
- [Psalm 88:16](#) Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
- [Psalm 94:6](#) They kill the widow and the stranger, they murder the orphan,
- [Psalm 102:1](#) A prayer of one afflicted, when faint and pleading before the LORD.
- [Psalm 107:41](#) but he raises up the needy out of distress, and makes their families like flocks.
- [Psalm 109:9](#) May his children be orphans, and his wife a widow.
- [Psalm 109:12](#) May there be no one to do him a kindness, nor anyone to pity his orphaned children.
- [Psalm 109:16](#) For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted to their death.
- [Psalm 109:22](#) For I am poor and needy, and my heart is pierced within me.
- [Psalm 109:31](#) For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save them from those who would condemn them to death.

- [Psalm 112:9](#) They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.
- [Psalm 113:7](#) He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- [Psalm 132:15](#) I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread.
- [Psalm 140:13](#) I know that the LORD maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor.
- [Psalm 146:9](#) The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- [Proverbs 3:34](#) Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he shows favor.
- [Proverbs 6:11](#) and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior.
- [Proverbs 10:4](#) A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
- [Proverbs 10:15](#) The wealth of the rich is their fortress; the poverty of the poor is their ruin.
- [Proverbs 11:24](#) Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.
- [Proverbs 13:7](#) Some pretend to be rich, yet have nothing; others pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth.
- [Proverbs 13:8](#) Wealth is a ransom for a person's life, but the poor get no threats.

- [Proverbs 13:18](#) Poverty and disgrace are for the one who ignores instruction, but one who heeds reproof is honored.
- [Proverbs 13:23](#) The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.
- [Proverbs 14:20](#) The poor are disliked even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.
- [Proverbs 14:21](#) Those who despise their neighbors are sinners, but happy are those who are kind to the poor.
- [Proverbs 14:23](#) In all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
- [Proverbs 14:31](#) Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the needy honor him.
- [Proverbs 15:15](#) All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.
- [Proverbs 15:25](#) The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but maintains the widow's boundaries.
- [Proverbs 16:19](#) It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- [Proverbs 17:5](#) Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who are glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
- [Proverbs 18:23](#) The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.
- [Proverbs 19:1](#) Better the poor walking in integrity than one perverse of speech who is a fool.

- [Proverbs 19:4](#) Wealth brings many friends, but the poor are left friendless.
- [Proverbs 19:7](#) If the poor are hated even by their kin, how much more are they shunned by their friends! When they call after them, they are not there.
- [Proverbs 19:17](#) Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and will be repaid in full.
- [Proverbs 19:22](#) What is desirable in a person is loyalty, and it is better to be poor than a liar.
- [Proverbs 21:5](#) The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.
- [Proverbs 21:13](#) If you close your ear to the cry of the poor, you will cry out and not be heard.
- [Proverbs 21:17](#) Whoever loves pleasure will suffer want; whoever loves wine and oil will not be rich.
- [Proverbs 22:2](#) The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.
- [Proverbs 22:7](#) The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.
- [Proverbs 22:9](#) Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.
- [Proverbs 22:16](#) Oppressing the poor in order to enrich oneself, and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss.
- [Proverbs 22:22](#) Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;

- [Proverbs 23:10](#) Do not remove an ancient landmark or encroach on the fields of orphans,
- [Proverbs 24:34](#) and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior.
- [Proverbs 28:3](#) A ruler who oppresses the poor is a beating rain that leaves no food.
- [Proverbs 28:6](#) Better to be poor and walk in integrity than to be crooked in one's ways even though rich.
- [Proverbs 28:8](#) One who augments wealth by exorbitant interest gathers it for another who is kind to the poor.
- [Proverbs 28:11](#) The rich is wise in self-esteem, but an intelligent poor person sees through the pose.
- [Proverbs 28:15](#) Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.
- [Proverbs 28:19](#) Anyone who tills the land will have plenty of bread, but one who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.
- [Proverbs 28:27](#) Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but one who turns a blind eye will get many a curse.
- [Proverbs 29:7](#) The righteous know the rights of the poor; the wicked have no such understanding.
- [Proverbs 29:13](#) The poor and the oppressor have this in common: the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.
- [Proverbs 29:14](#) If a king judges the poor with equity, his throne will be established forever.

- [Proverbs 30:8](#) Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need,
- [Proverbs 30:14](#) there are those whose teeth are swords, whose teeth are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mortals.
- [Proverbs 31:7](#) let them drink and forget their poverty, and remember their misery no more.
- [Proverbs 31:9](#) Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.
- [Proverbs 31:20](#) She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- [Ecclesiastes 4:14](#) One can indeed come out of prison to reign, even though born poor in the kingdom.
- [Ecclesiastes 5:7](#) If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and right, do not be amazed at the matter; for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.
- [Ecclesiastes 6:8](#) For what advantage have the wise over fools? And what do the poor have who know how to conduct themselves before the living?
- [Isaiah 1:17](#) learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
- [Isaiah 1:23](#) Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not defend the orphan, and the widow's cause does not come before them.
- [Isaiah 3:14](#) The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: It is you who have devoured the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

- [Isaiah 3:15](#) What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor? says the Lord GOD of hosts.
- [Isaiah 9:16](#) That is why the Lord did not have pity on their young people, or compassion on their orphans and widows; for everyone was godless and an evildoer, and every mouth spoke folly. For all this his anger has not turned away; his hand is stretched out still.
- [Isaiah 10:2](#) to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be your spoil, and that you may make the orphans your prey!
- [Isaiah 10:30](#) Cry aloud, O daughter Gallim! Listen, O Laishah! Answer her, O Anathoth!
- [Isaiah 11:4](#) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- [Isaiah 14:30](#) The firstborn of the poor will graze, and the needy lie down in safety; but I will make your root die of famine, and your remnant I will kill.
- [Isaiah 14:32](#) What will one answer the messengers of the nation? "The LORD has founded Zion, and the needy among his people will find refuge in her."
- [Isaiah 25:4](#) For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
- [Isaiah 26:6](#) The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.
- [Isaiah 29:19](#) The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

- [Isaiah 32:7](#) The villainies of villains are evil; they devise wicked devices to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right.
- [Isaiah 41:17](#) When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
- [Isaiah 47:8](#) Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children"—
- [Isaiah 49:13](#) Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.
- [Isaiah 51:21](#) Therefore hear this, you who are wounded, who are drunk, but not with wine:
- [Isaiah 54:11](#) O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.
- [Isaiah 58:7](#) Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- [Isaiah 66:2](#) All these things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine, says the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word.
- [Jeremiah 2:34](#) Also on your skirts is found the lifeblood of the innocent poor, though you did not catch them breaking in. Yet in spite of all these things
- [Jeremiah 5:4](#) Then I said, "These are only the poor, they have no sense; for they do not know the way of the LORD, the law of their God.

- [Jeremiah 5:28](#) they have grown fat and sleek. They know no limits in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy.
- [Jeremiah 7:6](#) if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt,
- [Jeremiah 15:8](#) Their widows became more numerous than the sand of the seas; I have brought against the mothers of youths a destroyer at noonday; I have made anguish and terror fall upon her suddenly.
- [Jeremiah 18:21](#) Therefore give their children over to famine; hurl them out to the power of the sword, let their wives become childless and widowed. May their men meet death by pestilence, their youths be slain by the sword in battle.
- [Jeremiah 20:13](#) Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.
- [Jeremiah 22:3](#) Thus says the LORD: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.
- [Jeremiah 22:16](#) He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the LORD.
- [Jeremiah 39:10](#) Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.
- [Jeremiah 49:11](#) Leave your orphans, I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me.
- [Lamentations 1:1](#) How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal.

- [Lamentations 5:3](#) We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows.
- [Ezekiel 16:49](#) This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.
- [Ezekiel 18:12](#) oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore the pledge, lifts up his eyes to the idols, commits abomination,
- [Ezekiel 18:17](#) withholds his hand from iniquity, takes no advance or accrued interest, observes my ordinances, and follows my statutes; he shall not die for his father's iniquity; he shall surely live.
- [Ezekiel 19:7](#) And he ravaged their strongholds, and laid waste their towns; the land was appalled, and all in it, at the sound of his roaring.
- [Ezekiel 22:7](#) Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the alien residing within you suffers extortion; the orphan and the widow are wronged in you.
- [Ezekiel 22:25](#) Its princes within it are like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows within it.
- [Ezekiel 22:29](#) The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress.
- [Ezekiel 44:22](#) They shall not marry a widow, or a divorced woman, but only a virgin of the stock of the house of Israel, or a widow who is the widow of a priest.
- [Hosea 14:4](#) Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses; we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."

- [Amos 2:6](#) Thus says the LORD: For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—
- [Amos 2:7](#) they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way; father and son go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned;
- [Amos 4:1](#) Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on Mount Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to their husbands, “Bring something to drink!”
- [Amos 5:11](#) Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.
- [Amos 5:12](#) For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.
- [Amos 8:4](#) Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
- [Amos 8:6](#) buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
- [Habakkuk 3:14](#) You pierced with their own arrows the head of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter us, gloating as if ready to devour the poor who were in hiding.
- [Zephaniah 3:12](#) For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD—
- [Zechariah 7:10](#) do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

- [Zechariah 9:9](#) Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- [Zechariah 11:7](#) So, on behalf of the sheep merchants, I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. I took two staffs; one I named Favor, the other I named Unity, and I tended the sheep.
- [Zechariah 11:11](#) So it was annulled on that day, and the sheep merchants, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD.
- [Malachi 3:5](#) Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.
- [Matthew 5:3](#) “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- [Matthew 11:5](#) the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- [Matthew 19:21](#) Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”
- [Matthew 26:9](#) For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.”
- [Matthew 26:11](#) For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.
- [Mark 10:21](#) Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

- [Mark 12:40](#) They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."
- [Mark 12:42](#) A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.
- [Mark 12:43](#) Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.
- [Mark 12:44](#) For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."
- [Mark 14:5](#) For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.
- [Mark 14:7](#) For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me.
- [Luke 2:37](#) then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
- [Luke 4:18](#) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,
- [Luke 4:25](#) But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;
- [Luke 4:26](#) yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
- [Luke 6:20](#) Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

- [Luke 7:12](#) As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town.
- [Luke 7:22](#) And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them.
- [Luke 14:13](#) But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.
- [Luke 14:21](#) So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.'
- [Luke 16:20](#) And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,
- [Luke 16:22](#) The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.
- [Luke 18:3](#) In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'
- [Luke 18:5](#) yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "
- [Luke 18:22](#) When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."
- [Luke 19:8](#) Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."
- [Luke 20:47](#) They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

- [Luke 21:2](#) he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.
- [Luke 21:3](#) He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them;
- [Luke 21:4](#) for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”
- [John 12:5](#) “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?”
- [John 12:6](#) (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)
- [John 12:8](#) You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”
- [John 13:29](#) Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor.
- [John 14:18](#) “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
- [Acts 6:1](#) Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.
- [Acts 9:39](#) So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.
- [Acts 9:41](#) He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.
- [Romans 15:26](#) for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

- [1 Corinthians 7:8](#) To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried as I am.
- [1 Corinthians 16:17](#) I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence;
- [2 Corinthians 6:10](#) as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
- [2 Corinthians 8:2](#) for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.
- [2 Corinthians 8:9](#) For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.
- [2 Corinthians 8:14](#) your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.
- [2 Corinthians 9:12](#) for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.
- [2 Corinthians 11:9](#) And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way.
- [Galatians 2:10](#) They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.

- [Galatians 4:9](#) Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again?
- [Philippians 2:30](#) because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.
- [Philippians 4:11](#) Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have.
- [Colossians 1:24](#) I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.
- [1 Thessalonians 3:10](#) Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
- [1 Timothy 5:3](#) Honor widows who are really widows.
- [1 Timothy 5:4](#) If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn their religious duty to their own family and make some repayment to their parents; for this is pleasing in God's sight.
- [1 Timothy 5:5](#) The real widow, left alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day;
- [1 Timothy 5:9](#) Let a widow be put on the list if she is not less than sixty years old and has been married only once;
- [1 Timothy 5:11](#) But refuse to put younger widows on the list; for when their sensual desires alienate them from Christ, they want to marry,
- [1 Timothy 5:16](#) If any believing woman has relatives who are really widows, let her assist them; let the church not be burdened, so that it can assist those who are real widows.

- [James 1:27](#) Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.
- [James 2:2](#) For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,
- [James 2:3](#) and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"
- [James 2:5](#) Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?
- [James 2:6](#) But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?
- [Revelation 2:9](#) "I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- [Revelation 3:17](#) For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
- [Revelation 13:16](#) Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,
- [Revelation 18:7](#) As she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, so give her a like measure of torment and grief. Since in her heart she says, 'I rule as a queen; I am no widow, and I will never see grief,'