

We Are To Protect the Vulnerable Exodus 22:21-27; 23:9

I. Old Testament laws protected the most vulnerable in society

A. Widows.

1. Do not afflict widows. Exodus 22:22

²² **"You shall not afflict any widow or orphan.** Exodus 22:22 (NASB)

2. God executes justice for widows. Deuteronomy 10:18-19

¹⁸ **"He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.** ¹⁹ **"So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.** Deuteronomy 10:18-19

3. Every third year the tithe was given to aliens, orphans, and widows. Deut. 14:28-29

²⁸ **"At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town.** ²⁹ **"The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.** Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (NASB)

4. The residue of the crops was left for aliens, orphans, and widows. Deut. 24:19-22

¹⁹ **"When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.** ²⁰ **"When you beat your olive tree, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.** ²¹ **"When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not go over it again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.** ²² **"You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this thing.** Deuteronomy 24:19-22 (NASB)

5. Do not pervert the justice due to an alien, orphan or widow. Deut. 24:17

¹⁷ **"You shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.** Deuteronomy 24:17 (NASB)

¹⁹ **'Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'** Deuteronomy 27:19 (NASB)

6. God protects widows and orphans. Psalm 68:5

⁵ **A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation.** Psalms 68:5 (NASB)

B. Orphans.

1. Do not afflict orphans. Exodus 22:22

2. God executes justice for orphans. Deuteronomy 10:18

3. Every third year the tithe was given to aliens, orphans, and widows. Deut. 24:28-29

4. The residue of the crops was left for aliens, orphans, and widows. Deut. 24:19-22

5. Do not pervert the justice due an alien, orphan or widow Deut. 24:17

C. Foreigners.

1. Do not wrong foreigners. Exodus 22:21; 23:9
2. Every third year the tithe was given to aliens, orphans, and widows. Deut. 24:28-29
3. The residue of crops was left for aliens, orphans, and widows. Deut. 24:19-22
4. Do not pervert justice due an alien orphan or widow. Deut. 24:17
5. There is one law for both natives and foreigners. Leviticus 24:22

²² ~"There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 24:22 (NASB)

6. Love the foreigner because God loves him. Deut. 10:18-19 (see above)

D. The poor.

1. Leave the residue of your crops for the poor. Leviticus 19:9-10

⁹ "Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ ~"Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:9-10 (NASB)

2. Do not loan at interest to the poor. Exodus 22:25

²⁵ "If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; you shall not charge him interest. Exodus 22:25 (NASB)

3. Do not keep the poor person's cloak overnight. Exodus 22:26-27

²⁶ "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets, ²⁷ for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear *him*, for I am gracious. Exodus 22:26-27 (NASB)

4. Give to the poor. Deuteronomy 15:7-11

⁷ "If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; ⁸ but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need *in* whatever he lacks. ⁹ "Beware that there is no base thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,' and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing; then he may cry to the Lord against you, and it will be a sin in you. ¹⁰ "You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings. ¹¹ "For the poor will never cease *to be* in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.' Deuteronomy 15:7-11

5. Do not withhold pay from the poor. Deuteronomy 24:14-15

¹⁴ "You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, whether *he is* one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. ¹⁵ "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the Lord and it become sin in you. Deuteronomy 24:14-15 (NASB)

II. New Testament commands protected the vulnerable.

A. Widows. 1 Timothy 5:3-16

B. Orphans. James 1:27

²⁷ **Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.** James 1:27 (NASB)

C. Foreigners. Hebrews 13:2

² **Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.** Hebrews 13:2 (NASB)

D. Poor. Matthew 6:2-4; Romans 15:26; James 2:2-4; Luke 14:13-14

² **"So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.**

³ **"But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.** Matthew 6:2-4

²⁶ **For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.** Romans 15:26 (NASB)

² **For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, ³and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?** James 2:2-4 (NASB)

¹³ **"But when you give a reception, invite *the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,***

¹⁴ **and you will be blessed, since they do not have *the means* to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."** Luke 14:13-14 (NASB)

III. Application.