

# WIDOWS, ORPHANS, AND IMMIGRANTS

Exodus 22:21-24

*Share God's concern for widows, orphans, and immigrants.*

## **REPETITION—How are these laws expressed elsewhere in the Torah?**

Exodus 23:9  
Leviticus 19:33-34  
Deuteronomy 10:18-19

## **CLASSIFICATION—Who receives special protection by these laws?**

God has a special concern for immigrants.  
God has a special concern for widows.  
God has a special concern for orphans.

## **PROHIBITION—What do these laws instruct God's people not to do?**

Do not mistreat them.  
Do not oppress them.  
Do not take advantage of them.

## **AFFIRMATION—What do these laws instruct God's people to do?**

Treat the immigrant as a native-born citizen.  
Love the disadvantaged as you love yourself.

## **JUSTIFICATION—What is the rationale for these laws?**

God loves the immigrant.  
God defends the cause of the widow and the orphan.  
God's people know what it's like to be mistreated as outsiders.

## **VIOLATION—What are the consequences of breaking these laws?**

God will be angry.  
God will hear the cries of the disadvantaged for mercy and respond to them.  
God will lift his hand of protection from the violators.

## **IMPLICATION—What do these laws tell us about the nature and ways of God?**

God cares deeply about those who are powerless and disadvantaged in society.  
God wants people to be like him in this respect and to care about the disadvantaged.  
God expects people to treat others as they themselves would want to be treated.  
God wants his people to treat those of an ethnic minority with the same respect as a national.

## **INCARNATION—How did Jesus embody these laws?**

Jesus and the immigrants—like Father, like Son!  
Jesus and the widows—like Father, like Son!  
Jesus and the orphans—like Father, like Son!

## **APPLICATION—What do these laws mean for believers today?**

If you are a disadvantaged person, know that God is deeply concerned about your well-being.  
If you know a disadvantaged person, strive to value that person as you value yourself.  
If you take advantage of others or look down on minorities, you can expect God's displeasure.