

# Encountering the Stranger in Jewish, Muslim, & Christian Texts

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## Exodus 23:9

You must not oppress the stranger: you know how a stranger feels, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt.

## Leviticus 19: 32-34

If a stranger lives with you in your land, do not molest him. You must count him as one of your own countrymen and love him as yourself – for you were once strangers yourselves in Egypt. I am Yahweh your God.

## Tobit 4: 7-8

Set aside part of your goods for almsgiving. Never turn your face from any poor man and God will never turn his from you.

## Psalms 82: 2-4

No more of justice,  
no more favoring of the wicked!  
Let the weak and the orphan have justice,  
be fair to the wretched and destitute;  
rescue the weak and needy,  
save them from the clutches of the wicked!

## Psalms 103: 6

Yahweh, who does what is right, is always on the side of the oppressed.

## Proverbs 31: 8-9

Speak, yourself, on behalf of the dumb, on behalf of all the unwanted; speak, yourself, pronounce a just verdict, uphold the rights of the poor, of the needy.

## Ecclesiasticus 4: 8-9

To the poor man lend an ear,  
and return his greeting courteously.  
Save the oppressed from the hand of the oppressor and do not be mean-spirited in your judgments.

## Isaiah 10: 1-2

Woe to the legislators of infamous laws  
to those who issue tyrannical decrees,  
who refuse justice to the unfortunate  
and cheat the poor among my people of their rights,  
who make widows their prey,  
and rob the orphan.

## Isaiah 61: 1-2

The spirit of the Lord Yahweh has been given to me, or Yahweh has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from Yahweh

## Jeremiah 22: 3-4

Yahweh says this: practice honesty and integrity; rescue the man who has been wronged from the hands of his oppressor; do not exploit the stranger, the orphan, the widow; do no violence, shed no innocent blood in this place.

## Micah 6: 8

What is good has been explained to you; this is what Yahweh asks of you; only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.

### Zachariah 7: 8-11

(The word of Yahweh was addressed to Zachariah as follows:) He said: Apply the law fairly, and practice kindness and compassion toward each other. Do not oppress the widow and the orphan, the settler and the poor man, and do not secretly plan evil against one another.

## **Christian Testament**

### Matthew 25: 35-40

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.

I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.

### Mark 12: 30-31

This is the first [commandment]... you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

### Luke 4: 18-19

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

### Galatians 3: 28

... there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

### Philippians 2: 5-8

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

### Colossians 3: 12-13

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.

### 1 John 4: 19-21

Anyone who says, I Love God, and hates his brother is a liar, since a man who does not love the brother that he can see cannot love God, whom he has never seen, so this is the commandment that he has given us, that anyone who loves God must also love his brother

## **The Qur'an**

The verse numbers given in the references below sometimes vary slightly in different editions and translations of the Qur'an. However, they are rarely off by more than five verses in either direction.

### Verse 107

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful Hast thou observed him who believeth (makes a lie of) religion? This is he who repelleth the orphan. And urgeth not the feeling of the needy. Ah, woe unto worshippers who are heedless of their prayer, who would be seen (at worship). Yet refuse small kindnesses.

### Verse 4: 97

Lo as for those whom the angels take (in death) while they wrong themselves (by sinning), (the angels) will ask: in what were ye engaged? They

will say: We were oppressed in the land (The angels) will say , Was not god's earth spacious that ye could have migrated therein?

Verse 55:9

But those who entered the city and the faith before them love those who flee unto them for refuge, and find in their breasts no need for that which has been given to them, but prefer (the refugees) above themselves through poverty become their lot. And who is saved from his own avarice --- such are they who are successful

Verse 16:41

And those who became (refugees) for the cause of God after they had been oppressed. We verily shall give them goodly lodging in the world, and surely the reward of the hereafter is greater, if they but know.

Verse 24:22

And let not those who possess dignity and ease among you swear not to give to the near of kin and to the needy, and to refugees for the cause of God. Let them forgive and show indulgence. Yearn ye not that God forgive you? God is forgiving, merciful

Verse 4:135

Be ye staunch in justice, witnesses for God, even though it be against (the worldly interests of yourselves or (your) parents or (your) kindred, whether (the case be of) a rich man or a poor man.

Verse 5:8

Be steadfast witnesses for God in equity, and let not hatred of any people seduce you that ye deal not justly. Deal justly, that is nearer to your duty. Observe you duty to God! Lo! God is informed of what ye do.