> Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.
> — *Exodus 22:22-24*

Book: Old Testament / Exodus
Topics: orphans, widows

Interpretation:
The Bible cares for the most vulnerable members of society, especially widows and orphans. *Exodus 22:22-24* tells us not to oppress them, and this concern is repeated throughout the biblical text. In ancient times, these people were especially vulnerable due to the lack of support and resources in patriarchal societies.

What does it mean to grieve widows and orphans?

Harming widows and orphans can have different meanings depending on the situation. Typically, the goal is to avoid causing them suffering or abusing them in any way. This can manifest itself in various ways, such as breach of trust, deception, misinformation, exploitation, and so on.

God's justice is inseparable from mercy

Reading these verses, we may be alarmed by the harshness of God's words. How can we reconcile this wrathful God with the loving God we also find in the Bible? It's important to remember that throughout the Bible, God reveals Himself in different ways and uses different methods to communicate with His people. However, one of the purposes of each of these methods *is to remind the people of Israel (and us) that He is God, and that we must respect and obey Him*.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
> — *Isaiah 1:17*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: orphans, neighbor, protection, righteousness, widows

Interpretation:
Isaiah 1:17 is a clear call from the prophet *Isaiah* to the people of Israel to do good. In times of injustice and oppression, the prophet exhorts the people to seek justice, help the oppressed, and protect orphans and widows.

Learning to do good

The first part of the verse calls us to learn to do good. This seems as simple as simply doing good deeds, but in reality, it implies something deeper: it is a learning process in which we must be willing to abandon negative habits that hinder us from doing good. It is an invitation to rethink our behavior and find ways to improve it, to contribute to the creation of a more just and caring society.

Seeking truth

The second part of the verse calls us to seek justice. In a world where the law of might often prevails, seeking justice means striving for fairness, equality, and respect for the rights of all people. This implies a willingness to defend the rights of those who cannot do so themselves and to fight for a society that guarantees a decent life for all.

Help the victims

The third part of the verse calls us to help the victims. A victim can be anyone who has suffered injustice, rights violations, misrepresentation, or slander. Helping these people means being attentive to their suffering and being willing to lend a helping hand so they can overcome their situation.

Do justice to the orphan

The fourth part of the verse calls us to do justice to orphans. In many cultures, orphans are the most vulnerable of all the vulnerable. Doing justice to orphans means treating them with dignity, protecting them, and providing them with a better future. We have the power to make society more just and respectful of children's rights.

Protect the widow

The last part of the verse calls us to protect the widow. In many cultures, widows are the most vulnerable women, deprived of protection, financial support, and a voice in society. Protecting a widow means respecting her dignity, protecting her, supporting her in her struggle for survival, and striving for a society in which all people have equal rights and opportunities.

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> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
> — *James 1:27*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: orphans, Blameless, neighbor, sin, widows, world

Interpretation:
In the context of *James 1:27*, the idea of ??religion is not only what we do in church, but also in all the actions we take in our daily lives. Visiting orphans and widows is a sign of solidarity and love for the most vulnerable members of society.

Being unspotted from the world means staying away from worldly practices and adhering to Christian principles. We should strive to stay away from sin and temptation, as they can lead us away from God. We should also always be mindful of our actions so that we can be role models for those around us.

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> Because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow’s heart sing.
> — *Job 29:12-13*

Book: Old Testament / Job
Topics: orphans, poverty, singing, widows

Interpretation:
In the Bible, *Job 29:12-13* speaks *of Job's* passion for helping those in need. These verses describe how Job extended a helping hand to those on the verge of losing everything, offering them help and joy in their most difficult moments.

Through his kindness and care for others, Job earned God's mercy and blessing. This passage shows us the importance of showing solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the faith and how our actions can have a positive impact on their lives.

How can these verses help us in our own lives?

These Bible verses teach us much about following Job's example and helping those in need. Often, people need much more than just financial or material help. They also need emotional and spiritual support.

Someone who will reach out to them, listen to them, and encourage them to continue on their journey. In this sense, we can follow Job's example and become an emotional support for those in need. This is how we can share God's blessings with others.

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> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
> *— John 14:18*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: orphans, Comforter, Jesus, nearness, reliability, Spirit

Interpretation:
John 14:18 is a comforting promise for all believers in *Jesus Christ*. In this passage, Jesus assures his disciples that he will not leave them orphans and will return to them. This promise also extends to all followers of *Christ* who come after them.

Jesus never leaves us without comfort

The phrase *“I will not leave you as orphans”* refers to the loss and loneliness that comes with the death of a loved one. Jesus acknowledges that the loss of a loved one is a difficult and painful experience for anyone. However, He assures us that we will never be without comfort and support during these difficult times.

This promise is a reminder that Jesus is always present in our lives, even in the most difficult times. He gives us his peace and his love, which comfort us in the darkest hours and help us overcome adversity.

Jesus keeps his promise to return to us

The second part of the verse says, *“I will come to you.”* This promise refers to:

1. The resurrection of Christ and His return to heaven after His death on the cross.
2. The giving of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to us.
3. The promised Second Coming of Jesus, when He will return to earth to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

This promise is a reminder that although we cannot see Jesus physically now, He is always present in our lives and will one day return in a visible and tangible way.

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> Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
>
> *— Proverbs 31:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: orphans, children, protection, speaking, weakness

Interpretation:
In this verse, we are called to be advocates for those who cannot advocate for themselves. It is a call to stand with those whose voices are not heard and whose rights are being trampled upon. As believers, we must strive to be the voice of those who cannot speak and fight for them in the judgment of the helpless.

The **“destitute”** in this verse can refer not only to those who cannot speak, but also to those who cannot defend themselves. This could be people with physical or mental disabilities, people who do not have access to resources or education, or people who are oppressed by society. The helpless are those who are unprotected and vulnerable. This could be children, the elderly, widows, or anyone who depends on others for their protection and safety.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to love and care for those around us. This verse shows us that God wants us to take an active role and participate in defending those who need protection. We can apply this verse in many ways. We can start by being more aware of the needs of others. We can get involved in charities, community projects, and programs that help vulnerable populations. We can make an effort to be more compassionate and give more attention to those who feel ignored.

We should strive to be the answer to their prayers by being the hope they need. This verse reminds us that together we can make a difference in the lives of others by the grace of God.

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> The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
> *— Psalm 146:9*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: orphans, protection, punishment, widows

Interpretation:
The Lord protects foreigners

Psalm 146:9 says that the Lord protects foreigners. This demonstrates God's compassion for those in difficult situations, such as foreigners. Foreigners are often vulnerable, but God promises to protect them.

In the Bible, foreigners are those who are not citizens of the country in which they live and who do not enjoy the same protection and support as citizens of that country. In today's world, many foreigners can be found around the globe, especially those fleeing conflicts in their home countries or seeking economic opportunities abroad.

God's care for orphans and widows

Psalm 146:9 also mentions that God supports orphans and widows. Orphans and widows were especially vulnerable in ancient societies, as they lacked financial support and were vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. This promise of God remains relevant today, as many people around the world still find themselves in a similar situation.

Contrast with the wicked

The second part of the verse mentions that God destroys the paths of the wicked. This means that God places obstacles in the path of those who do evil. This promise is a source of hope for those who feel oppressed by evildoers. Ultimately, God assures us that good will triumph over evil.

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> Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.
>
> *— Psalm 68:4-5*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: orphans, Holiness, safety, singing, widows, worship

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is one of the most poetic and metaphorical books in the Bible, and one of the main themes of the Psalms is praise and worship of God. In these verses, the psalmist calls upon the people of God to sing psalms and praise the name of the Most High.

Exalt Him Who rides on the heavens

The verse tells us about God as the one who sits in the heavens. This image may be difficult for some to understand, but it points to the greatness and omnipotence of God. In the time of the Psalms, kings rode chariots into battle, which gave them a powerful and extraordinary image. The analogy here is that God is so great and powerful that He is able to win any battle.

The Importance of Caring for the Most Vulnerable

In this verse, we see how the Bible describes God as a loving father who protects and cares for those whom society considers the most vulnerable: *orphans and widows*. At the time the Psalms were written, these groups were especially vulnerable because they did not have the protection of a father or husband and could be subject to poverty and oppression.

This verse reminds us of the importance of caring for the most vulnerable in our society. Instead of ignoring or marginalizing those less fortunate than us, we should follow God's example and pay attention to their needs.

A Loving and Protective God

This verse also shows us the nature of God as a loving and protective Creator. God does not abandon those who need Him and is always ready to help those who cry out for His help. If we are feeling down or in despair, we can find comfort in the fact that God is watching over us like a loving father.

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> Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
> *— Psalm 82:3*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: orphans, neighbor, poverty, righteousness, weakness

Interpretation:
Psalm 82:3 is a call to social justice, urging us to protect the weak and orphans, and to show justice to the oppressed and needy. In this verse, God shows us the importance of caring for the vulnerable in our society and providing them with the help and justice they need.

Compassion and empathy

At the time this psalm was written, protecting orphans and the poor was the responsibility of governments and religious leaders. However, today, we can all take part in this work. Each of us can contribute to creating a more just and equal society for all.

It is important to follow *Jesus'* example and show compassion and empathy to those who are suffering and in need. We must teach our children that compassion is an important virtue and that everyone deserves fair and loving treatment. Instead of ignoring those in need, we must find ways to help and support them in their struggles. Therefore, we must do everything possible to support the charities that work tirelessly to improve the lives of those who need it most. We can make donations, offer our time and skills, or simply spread the word about the causes that matter most to us.

Fighting injustice

It's also important to do our part to fight injustice. While it may seem overwhelming to be angry about the problems we face nationally and internationally, we must remember that every small action matters. If we all take action, we can make a significant difference in the world around us.

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