

## THE POOR IN THE SCRIPTURES

### THE POOR IN THE LAW

If thou lend money to *any of my people that is poor* by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury (interest).

**Exodus 22:25**

Neither shalt thou countenance (show partiality to) a poor man in his cause.

**Exodus 23:3**

Thou shalt not wrest (pervert) the judgment of thy poor in his cause.

**Exodus 23:6**

And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: But the seventh *year* thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, *and* with thy oliveyard.

**Exodus 23:10, 11**

And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather *every* grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I *am* the LORD your God.

**Leviticus 19:10**

And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I *am* the LORD your God.

**Leviticus 23:22**

And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold...

And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: *yea, though he be* a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. <sup>7</sup>Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase. I *am* the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, *and* to be your God.

And if thy brother *that dwelleth* by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant: ...And *then* shall he depart from thee, *both* he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return. For they *are* my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen. Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God.

**Leviticus 25:24-43**

Save when there shall be no poor among you; for the LORD shall greatly bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance to possess it: Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day. For the

LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.

If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, *in that* which he wanteth...

For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

**Deuteronomy 15:4-11 (Matthew 26:11, Mark 14:7, John 12:8)**

And if the man *be* poor, thou shalt not sleep with his pledge: In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment, and bless thee: and it shall be righteousness unto thee before the LORD thy God.

Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant *that is* poor and needy, *whether he be* of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that *are* in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give *him* his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he *is* poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.

**Deuteronomy 24:12-15**

## THE POOR IN THE WRITINGS

The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

**1 Samuel 12:7, 8 (Psalm 113:7)**

But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty. So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.

**Job 5:15, 16**

Because he hath oppressed *and* hath forsaken the poor; *because* he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not; Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.

**Job 20:19**

For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall *not* perish for ever.

**Psalms 9:18**

Thou hast seen *it*; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite *it* with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

**Psalms 10:14**

For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set *him* in safety *from him that* puffeth at him.

**Psalms 12:5**

All my bones shall say, LORD, who *is* like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

**Psalm 35:10**

But I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

**Psalm 40:17**

Blessed *is* he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; *and* he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

**Psalm 41:1-3**

Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.

**Psalms 68:10**

For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

**Psalm 69:33**

He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.

The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.

He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and *him* that hath no helper.

He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

**Psalm 72:2-4, 12-13**

O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name.

**Psalm 74:21**

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Deliver the poor and needy: rid *them* out of the hand of the wicked.

**Psalm 82:3, 4**

I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, *and* the right of the poor.

**Psalm 140:12**

He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

**Proverbs 14:21, 31**

Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: *and* he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

**Proverbs 17:5**

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

**Proverbs 19:17**

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

**Proverbs 21:13**

Rob not the poor, because he *is* poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: <sup>23</sup>For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

**Proverbs 22:22, 23**

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

**Proverbs 28:27**

The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it*.

**Proverbs 29:7**

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

**Proverbs 31:9**

If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for *he that is* higher than the highest regardeth; and *there be* higher than they.

**Ecclesiastes 5:8**

## THE POOR IN THE PROPHETS

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

**Isaiah 11:4**

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones *is* as a storm *against* the wall.

**Isaiah 25:4**

*Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I *am*.

**Isaiah 58:6-9**

For thus saith the LORD touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah, which reigned instead of Josiah his father, which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more: But he shall die in the place whither they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more. <sup>13</sup>Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; *that* useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and *it is* ceiled with cedar, and painted with vermilion. <sup>15</sup>Shalt thou reign, because thou closest *thyself* in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and

justice, *and then it was well with him?* He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then *it was well with him: was not this to know me?* saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 22:11-16**

Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

**Amos 2:6**

I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

**Zephaniah 3:12**

## **THE POOR IN THE GOSPELS**

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

**Matthew 11:5 (Luke 7:22)**

And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called *unto him* his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: <sup>44</sup>For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.

**Mark 12:42-44 (Luke 21:2)**

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he *gave it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

**Luke 4:17-21**

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed *be ye* poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

**Luke 6:20**

But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

**Luke 14: 13, 14**

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

.... Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

**Matthew 25:31-46**

## THE POOR IN THE EPISTLES

For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

**Romans 15:26**

Only *they would* that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

**Galatians 2:10**

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that wareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? <sup>7</sup>Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?

**James 2:1-7, 14-16**

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

**1 John 3:17**