

RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE BIBLE

(To read full scriptures, scroll down. New International Version)

Love the Foreigner

Exodus 12:49
Exodus 22:21
Leviticus 19:34

Leviticus 19:33-34
Leviticus 24:22

God is the god of Justice

Deuteronomy 10:18-19
Psalm 68:4-6
Psalm 82 1-4
Psalm 99:4
Psalm 97:1-2

Psalm 146:7 & 9
Psalm 68:4-6
Proverbs 14:31
Matthew 23:23

Do Not Mistreat the Foreigner, Fatherless & Widow

Deuteronomy 27:19
Jeremiah 7:5-7
Jeremiah 22:3-5
Ezekiel 47:21-22

Malachi 3:5b
Luke 10:25-37
Jeremiah 22:3; 13-16
Deuteronomy 24:14-15, 17

Do Justice and Be Merciful

Proverbs 31: 8-9
Mark 12:31
Micah 6:6-8

Amos 5:21-24
Proverbs 16:8
Leviticus 19:15

Jews and Gentiles - One in Christ

Acts 15 (select passages)
Romans 10:12-13
Galatians 3:28

Colossians 3:11
Ephesians 2:11-22
Acts 6:1-8

All People - One in Christ

1 John 3:15-16
Revelation 5:9

Revelation 7:9

Love the Foreigner

Exodus 12:49

⁴⁹ The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.

Exodus 22:21

²¹ Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt .

Leviticus 19:34

³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. ³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 24:22

²² You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God.

God is the god of justice

Deuteronomy 10:18-19

¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Psalms 68:4-6

⁴ Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him— his name is the LORD.
⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
⁶ God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Psalms 82:1-4

¹ God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:

- ² “How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?
³ Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 99:4

- ⁴ The King is mighty, he loves justice—
you have established equity;
in Jacob you have done
what is just and right.

Psalm 97:1-2

- ¹ The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
² Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Psalm 146:7 & 9

- ⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,
⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Matthew 23:23

- ²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices— mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law— justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

Psalm 68:4-6

- ⁴ Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him— his name is the Lord.
⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
⁶ God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Proverbs 14:31

³¹ Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Do not mistreat foreigner, fatherless and widow.

Deuteronomy 27:19

¹⁹ Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.

Jeremiah 7:5-7

⁵ If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, ⁶ if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, ⁷ then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.

Jeremiah 22:3-5

³ This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. ⁴ For if you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David's throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people. ⁵ But if you do not obey these commands, declares the Lord, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin.

Ezekiel 47:21-22

²¹ You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. ²² You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners residing among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.

Malachi 3:5b

⁵ "So I will come to put you on trial those who (...) oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

Luke 10:25-37 (Mercy towards Samaritan)

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Jeremiah 22:3; 13-16

¹³ This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

“Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness,
his upper rooms by injustice,
making his own people work for nothing,
not paying them for their labor.

¹⁴ He says, ‘I will build myself a great palace
with spacious upper rooms.’

So he makes large windows in it,
panels it with cedar
and decorates it in red.
with spacious upper rooms.’

So he makes large windows in it,
panels it with cedar
and decorates it in red.

¹⁵ “Does it make you a king
to have more and more cedar?

Did not your father have food and drink?

He did what was right and just,
so all went well with him.

¹⁶ He defended the cause of the poor and needy,
and so all went well.

Is that not what it means to know me?”
declares the LORD.

Deuteronomy 24:14 - 15, 17

¹⁴ Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. ¹⁵ Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin. ¹⁷ Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.

Do Justice and Be Merciful

Proverbs 31: 8-9

⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Mark 12:31

³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no commandment greater than these.

Micah 6:6-8

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Amos 5:21-24

²¹ I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

²³ Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Proverbs 16:8

⁸ Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

Leviticus 19:15

¹⁵ Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

Jews and Gentiles-One in Christ

Acts 6:1-8

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 15 (select verses below)

³ The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

⁷ Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to

us. ⁹ He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

Romans 10:12-13

¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Galatians 3:28

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11

¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Ephesians 2:11-22 - Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

All People - One in Christ

1 John 3:15-16

¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Revelation 5:9

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Revelation 7:9

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.