

- **God instructs people to care for the orphans**

**Deuteronomy 24:17-22**

<sup>17</sup> Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. <sup>18</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. <sup>19</sup> When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. <sup>20</sup> When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. <sup>21</sup> When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

**James 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> 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.

- **God defends the cause of the orphans**

**Exodus 22:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> “Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. <sup>23</sup> If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. <sup>24</sup> My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.

**Deuteronomy 10:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. <sup>15</sup> Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. <sup>16</sup> Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. <sup>18</sup> He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

- **God sternly warns those who mistreat the orphans that He will judge accordingly**

**Malachi 3:1-5**

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup> and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. <sup>5</sup> “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against

sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

**Deuteronomy 27:19**

<sup>19</sup>“Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow.”  
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”