

**Laws That Protect Relationships within Society:
How to Prevent Abuse
Deuteronomy 24: 14–22**

7. *The protection of the poor worker*

a. The Law

1) Must not take advantage of the poor or needy worker

2) Must pay him full wages and pay on time

b. The warning:

God will hear the cry of the poor and charge you with sin — condemn you

8. *The protection of justice*

a. The law: A father or child must not be punished for the other

b. The reason: Each is individual is personally responsible

9. *The protection of the defenceless: Foreigner, orphan and widow*

a. The law: Must grant true justice and show compassion

b. The reason: God delivered, redeemed you from Egypt (a symbol of salvation)

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.

16 Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin.

17 Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.

18 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.

**10. *The protection of
the food supply for the poor
and underprivileged***

a. The law

1) Must leave some grain
for the poor:

Assures God's blessing
upon your work

2) Must leave some olives
for the poor

3) Must leave some grapes
for the poor

b. The reason:

God is the One who has
blessed you — saved you
from slavery and poverty

19 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.

20 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.

21 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.

22 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt.
That is why I command you to do this.