

~ALIEN RESIDENT (1380)

[Hebrew noun *ger*, Hebrew *toh-shav'*, meaning settler, Greek, *pro-se'ly-tos*]

• Settler

• Stranger

• Christian Principles Regarding Strangers

• In its general meaning the Hebrew noun *ger* refers to anyone who is residing as an **alien** outside his native land and who is restricted in civil rights. He may or may not have religious connections with the natives of the land in which he resides. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants were referred to as such before they were given legal title to the Promised Land.

• And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an **alien** resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. (**Genesis 15:13**)

• And I will give to you and to your seed after you the land of your **alien** residences, even the entire land of Canaan, for a possession to time indefinite, and I will prove myself God to them. (**Genesis 17:8**)

• You must not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother. You must not detest an Egyptian, for you became an **alien** resident in his country. (**Deuteronomy 23:7**)

• When the Bible refers to a person of non-Israelite origin in relation to the Israelite commonwealth, the designation **alien** resident sometimes applies to one of these who had become a proselyte or a full worshiper of Yehowah. At times it refers to a settler in the land of Palestine who was content to live among the Israelites, obeying the fundamental laws of the land but not fully accepting the worship of Yehowah. The context determines to which class the term applies.

• The Greek Septuagint translates *ger* as proselyte Greek, *pro-se'ly-tos* more than 70 times. Some suggest that often the **alien** resident attached himself to a Hebrew household for protection and was somewhat of a dependent, but still distinguished from a slave. This is inferred from the expression **your alien resident**.

- But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yehowah your God. You must not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter nor your slave man nor your slave girl nor your bull nor your ass nor any domestic animal of yours nor **your alien resident** who is inside your gates, in order, that your slave man and your slave girl may rest the same as you. (**Deuteronomy 5:14**)
- And I went on to command your judges at that particular time, saying; When having a hearing between your brothers, you must judge with righteousness between a man and his brother or **his alien resident**. (**Deuteronomy 1:16**)
- And **no stranger** at all may eat anything holy. **No settler** with a priest nor a hired laborer may eat anything holy. (**Leviticus 22:10**)
- Where the term *toh-shav'*, meaning, **settler**, is used.
- When the Law covenant was transmitted at Mount Sinai, special legislation was embodied governing, in a very loving spirit, the relationship of the **alien resident** to the natural Israelite. Being at a disadvantage because of not being a natural-born Israelite, the alien resident was given special consideration and protection under the Law covenant, which had many provisions for the weak and vulnerable.
- Regularly Yehowah called Israel's attention to the fact that they themselves knew the afflictions that beset an alien resident in a land not his own and hence should extend to the alien residents among themselves the generous and protective spirit that they had not received.
- And you must not maltreat an **alien resident** or oppress him, for you people became alien residents in the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 22:21**)
- And you must not oppress an **alien resident**, as you yourselves have known the soul of the alien resident, because you became alien residents in the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 23:9**)
- Executing judgment for the fatherless boy and the widow and loving the **alien resident** so as to give him bread and a mantle. (**Deuteronomy 10:18**)

- Basically, the **alien resident**, especially the proselyte, was to be treated as a brother.
- And in case an **alien resident** resides with you as an alien in your land, you must not mistreat him. (**Leviticus 19:33**)
- The **alien resident** who resides as an **alien** with you should become to you like a native of yours, and you must love him as yourself, for you became **alien residents** in the land of Egypt. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 19:34**)
- Although the terms of the Law covenant allowed for persons of all national backgrounds to come into membership of the congregation of Israel by accepting the true worship of Yehowah and becoming circumcised, there were exceptions and restrictions. The Egyptians and Edomites could not enter into the congregation until the third generation, that is, the third generation living in the land of Israel.
- You must not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother. You must not detest an Egyptian, for you became an **alien** resident in his country. (**Deuteronomy 23:7**)
- The sons that may be born to them as the third generation may come for themselves into the congregation of Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 23:8**)
- Illegitimate sons and their descendants were denied entry into the congregation to the tenth generation.
- No illegitimate son may come into the congregation of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of his may come into the congregation of Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 23:2**)
- Ammonites and Moabites were prohibited to the tenth generation to time indefinite. You must not work for their peace and their prosperity all your days to time indefinite.
- No Ammonite or Moabite may come into the congregation of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of theirs may come into the congregation of Yehowah to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 23:3**)
- For the reason that they did not come to your aid with bread and water in the way when you were going out of Egypt, and because

- they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia to call down evil upon you. ([Deuteronomy 23:4](#))
- And Yehowah your God did not want to listen to Balaam, but Yehowah your God in your behalf changed the malediction into a blessing, because Yehowah your God loved you. ([Deuteronomy 23:5](#))
 - You must not work for their peace and their prosperity all your days to time indefinite. ([Deuteronomy 23:6](#))
 - These restrictions all applied to males of these nations. Also, no male mutilated in his sexual parts could ever become a member of the congregation.
 - No man castrated by crushing the testicles or having his male member cut off may come into the congregation of Yehowah. ([Deuteronomy 23:1](#))
 - The **alien** resident who had become a circumcised worshiper was bound to one Law with the Israelites, that is, to obey all the terms of the Law covenant.
 - One judicial decision should hold good for you. The **alien** resident should prove to be the same as the native, because I am Yehowah your God. ([Leviticus 24:22](#))
 - A few examples are examined below. He was required to keep the Sabbath,
 - But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yehowah your God. You must not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your slave man nor your slave girl nor your domestic animal nor your **alien** resident who is inside your gates. ([Exodus 20:10](#))
 - Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you are to desist, in order, that your bull and your ass may rest and the son of your slave girl and the **alien** resident may refresh themselves. ([Exodus 23:12](#))
 - And to celebrate the Passover,
 - And in case an **alien resident** should be residing with you as an alien, he also must prepare the Passover sacrifice to Yehowah.

- According to the statute of the Passover and according to its regular procedure is the way he should do. There should exist one statute for you people, both for the alien resident and for the native of the land. (**Numbers 9:14**)
- And in case an **alien resident** resides as an alien with you and he will actually celebrate the Passover to Yehowah, let there be a circumcising of every male of his. First then he may come near to celebrate it, and he must become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised man may eat of it. (**Exodus 12:48**)
 - One Law is to exist for the native and for the **alien resident** who is residing as an alien in your midst. (**Exodus 12:49**)
 - **The Festival of Unfermented Cakes**
 - Seven days no sourdough is to be found in your houses, because anyone tasting what is leavened, whether he is an **alien resident** or a native of the land, that soul must be cut off from the assembly of Israel. (**Exodus 12:19**)
 - **The Festival of Weeks,**
 - Then you must celebrate the festival of weeks to Yehowah your God, according to the voluntary offering of your hand that you will give, just as Yehowah your God may bless you. (**Deuteronomy 16:10**)
 - And you must rejoice before Yehowah your God, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite who is inside your gates and the **alien resident** and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are in your midst, in the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there. (**Deuteronomy 16:11**)
 - **The Festival of Booths,**
 - The festival of booths you should celebrate for yourself seven days when you make an ingathering from your threshing floor and your oil and winepress. (**Deuteronomy 16:13**)
 - And you must rejoice during your festival, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite and the **alien resident** and the fatherless boy and the

widow, who are inside your gates. ([Deuteronomy 16:14](#))

- **The Day of Atonement,**
- **And it must serve as a statute to time indefinite for you people: In the seventh month on the tenth of the month you should afflict your souls, and you must not do any work, either the native or the **alien resident** who is residing as an alien in your midst. ([Leviticus 16:29](#))**
- **For on this day atonement will be made for you to pronounce you clean. You will be clean from all your sins before Yehowah. ([Leviticus 16:30](#))**
- **He could offer sacrifices**
- **And in case there should be residing as an **alien** with you an **alien resident** or one who is in your midst for generations of you, and he must render up an offering made by fire, of a restful odor to Yehowah, just as you should do, so he should do. ([Numbers 15:14](#))**
- **And had to do so in the same manner as prescribed for the natural Israelite.**
- **You who are of the congregation and the **alien resident** who is residing as an alien will have one statute. It will be a statute to time indefinite for your generations. The alien resident should prove to be the same as you before Yehowah. ([Numbers 15:15](#))**
- **There should prove to be one Law and one judicial decision for you and for the **alien resident** who is residing as an alien with you. ([Numbers 15:16](#))**
- **His offerings were to be unblemished.**
- **Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, As for any man of the house of Israel or some **alien resident** in Israel who presents his offering, for any of their vows or for any of their voluntary offerings, which they may present to Yehowah for a burnt offering. ([Leviticus 22:18](#))**
- **To gain approval for you it must be sound, a male among the herd, among the young rams or among the goats. ([Leviticus](#)**

22:19)

- Anything in which there is a defect you must not present, because it will not serve to gain approval for you. (**Leviticus 22:20**)
- And brought to the entrance of the tent of meeting just as was done by the natural Israelite.
- And you should say to them; As for any man of the house of Israel or some **alien resident** who may be residing as an alien in your midst who offers up a burnt offering or a sacrifice (**Leviticus 17:8**)
- And does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to render it to Yehowah, that man must be cut off from his people. (**Leviticus 17:9**)
- He could not engage in any false worship.
- You are to say to the sons of Israel, Any man of the sons of Israel, and any **alien resident** who resides as an alien in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to Molech, should be put to death without fail. The people of the land should pelt him to death with stones. (**Leviticus 20:2**)
- For any man at all from the house of Israel or from the **alien residents** that reside as aliens in Israel, that withdraws himself from following me and that brings up his dungy idols upon his heart and that sets the very stumbling block causing his error in front of his face and that actually comes to the prophet to make inquiry for himself by me, I, Yehowah, I am letting myself be brought to answer him by myself. (**Ezekiel 14:7**)
- He was required to drain blood out of game killed in hunting and would be cut off if he ate it undrained.
- As for any man of the house of Israel or some **alien resident** who is residing as an **alien** in your midst who eats any sort of blood, I shall certainly set my face against the soul that is eating the blood, and I shall indeed cut him off from among his people. (**Leviticus 17:10**)
- For the soul of the flesh is in the blood, and I myself have put it

- upon the altar for you to make atonement for your souls, because it is the blood that makes atonement by the soul in it. (**Leviticus 17:11**)
- That is why I have said to the sons of Israel; No soul of you must eat blood and no **alien resident** who is residing as an alien in your midst should eat blood. (**Leviticus 17:12**)
 - As for any man of the sons of Israel or some **alien resident** who is **residing as an alien** in your midst who in hunting catches a wild beast or a fowl that may be eaten, he must in that case pour its blood out and cover it with dust. (**Leviticus 17:13**)
 - For the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood by the soul in it. Consequently I said to the sons of Israel; You must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh, because the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood. Anyone eating it will be cut off. (**Leviticus 17:14**)
 - He could receive forgiveness along with natural Israel for community responsibility for sins.
 - And it must be forgiven the whole assembly of the sons of Israel and the **alien resident** who is residing as an **alien** in their midst, because it was by mistake on the part of all the people. (**Numbers 15:26**)
 - As to the native among the sons of Israel and the **alien resident** who is **residing as an alien** in their midst, there should prove to be one Law for you as respects doing something unintentionally. (**Numbers 15:29**)
 - He had to observe the purification procedures, for example, if unclean by touching a human corpse.
 - And the one gathering the ashes of the cow must wash his garments and be unclean until the evening. And it must serve the sons of Israel and the **alien resident** who is **residing as an alien** in their midst as a statute to time indefinite. (**Numbers 19:10**)
 - Anyone touching the corpse of any human soul must also be unclean seven days. (**Numbers 19:11**)

- The **alien resident** who could be given the body of an animal that had died of itself was evidently one who had not become a full-fledged worshiper of Yehowah.
- You must not eat any body already dead. To the **alien resident** who is inside your gates you may give it, and he must eat it, or there may be a selling of it to a foreigner, because you are a holy people to Yehowah your God. You must not boil a kid in its mother's milk. ([Deuteronomy 14:21](#))
- Judicially, the **alien resident** was guaranteed impartial justice in judgments involving a natural Israelite.
- And I went on to command your judges at that particular time, saying; When having a hearing between your brothers, you must judge with righteousness between a man and his brother or his **alien resident**. ([Deuteronomy 1:16](#))
- You must not be partial in judgment. You should hear the little one the same as the great one. You must not become frightened because of a man, for the judgment belongs to God. The case that is too hard for you, you should present to me, and I must hear it. ([Deuteronomy 1:17](#))
- He was not to be defrauded or subjected to perverted judgment.
- You must not defraud a hired laborer who is in trouble and poor, whether of your brothers or of your **alien residents** who are in your land, within your gates. ([Deuteronomy 24:14](#))
- You must not pervert the judgment of the **alien resident** or of the fatherless boy, and you must not seize the garment of a widow as a pledge. ([Deuteronomy 24:17](#))
- Curses were laid on those who rendered injustice to **alien residents**.
- Cursed is the one who perverts the judgment of an **alien resident**, a fatherless boy and a widow. And all the people must say; Amen! ([Deuteronomy 27:19](#))
- The cities of refuge for the unintentional manslayer were available for the **alien resident** and the settler as well as the natural Israelite.

- For the sons of Israel and for the **alien resident** and for the settler in the midst of them these six cities will serve as a refuge, for anyone to flee there that fatally strikes a soul unintentionally. (**Numbers 35:15**)
- These became the cities appointed for all the sons of Israel and for the **alien resident** who resides as an **alien** in their midst, for anyone to flee there who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally, that he may not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until his standing before the assembly. (**Joshua 20:9**)
- **Alien** residents, not having any land inheritance, might be merchants or hired laborers. Some were slaves.
- As for your slave man and your slave girl who become yours from the nations that are round about you people, from them you may buy a slave man and a slave girl. (**Leviticus 25:44**)
- And also from the sons of the settlers who are **residing as aliens** with you, from them you may buy, and from their families that are with you whom they had born to them in your land, and they must become your possession. (**Leviticus 25:45**)
- And you must pass them on as an inheritance to your sons after you to inherit as a possession to time indefinite. You may use them as workers, but upon your brothers the sons of Israel, you must not tread, the one upon the other, with tyranny. (**Leviticus 25:46**)
- There was a possibility of their becoming wealthy.
- But in case the hand of the **alien resident** or the settler with you becomes wealthy, and your brother has become poor alongside him and must sell himself to the **alien resident** or the settler with you, or to a member of the family of the **alien resident**. (**Leviticus 25:47**)
- The **alien resident** who is in your midst will keep ascending higher and higher above you, while you, you will keep descending lower and lower. (**Deuteronomy 28:43**)

- Generally, however, the Law classified them as among the poor and outlined arrangements for protecting and providing for them. The **alien resident** could share in the tithes provided every third year.
- At the end of three years you will bring out the entire tenth part of your produce in that year, and you must deposit it inside your gates. (**Deuteronomy 14:28**)
- And the Levite, because he has no share or inheritance with you, and the **alien resident** and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are inside your gates, must come, and they must eat and satisfy themselves, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand that you will do. (**Deuteronomy 14:29**)
- When you finish with tithing the entire tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you must also give it to the Levite, the **alien resident**, the fatherless boy and the widow, and they must eat it within your gates and satisfy themselves. (**Deuteronomy 26:12**)
- Gleanings of the field and of the vineyard were to be left for him.
- And when you people reap the harvest of your land, you must not reap the edge of your field completely, and the gleaning of your harvest you must not pick up. (**Leviticus 19:9**)
- Also, you must not gather the leftovers of your vineyard, and you must not pick up the scattered grapes of your vineyard. For the afflicted one and the **alien resident** you should leave them. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 19:10**)
- And when you people reap the harvest of your land, you must not do completely the edge of your field when you are reaping, and the gleaning of your harvest you must not pick up. You should leave them for the afflicted one and the **alien resident**. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 23:22**)
- In case you reap your harvest in your field, and you have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you must not go back to get it. It should stay for the **alien resident**, for the fatherless boy and for the widow, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand. (**Deuteronomy 24:19**)
- In case you beat your olive tree, you must not go over its boughs

- following up yourself. It should stay for the **alien resident**, for the fatherless boy and for the widow. (**Deuteronomy 24:20**)
- In case you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you must not gather the leftovers following up yourself. They should stay for the **alien resident**, for the fatherless boy and for the widow. (**Deuteronomy 24:21**)
 - He could receive the benefits of what grew during Sabbath years.
 - And the Sabbath of the land must serve you people for food, for you and your slave man and your slave girl and your hired laborer and the settler with you, those who are residing as **aliens** with you. (**Leviticus 25:6**)
 - He was given equal protection with a native Israelite as a hired laborer. A poor Israelite might sell himself to a wealthy **alien resident**, in which case the Israelite was to be treated kindly, like a hired laborer, and could be repurchased at any time by himself or by a kinsman or, at the latest, was released on the seventh year of his service or at the Jubilee.
 - And in case your brother grows poor alongside you and he has to sell himself to you, you must not use him as a worker in slavish service. (**Leviticus 25:39**)
 - He should prove to be with you like a hired laborer, like a settler. He should serve with you till the Jubilee year. (**Leviticus 25:40**)
 - And he must go out from you, he and his sons with him, and he must return to his family, and he should return to the possession of his forefathers. (**Leviticus 25:41**)
 - For they are my slaves whom I brought out of the land of Egypt. They must not sell themselves the way a slave is sold. (**Leviticus 25:42**)
 - You must not tread down upon him with tyranny, and you must be in fear of your God. (**Leviticus 25:43**)
 - As for your slave man and your slave girl who become yours from the nations that are round about you people, from them you may buy a slave man and a slave girl. (**Leviticus 25:44**)

- **And also from the sons of the settlers who are **residing as aliens** with you, from them you may buy, and from their families that are with you whom they had born to them in your land, and they must become your possession. (Leviticus 25:45)**
- **And you must pass them on as an inheritance to your sons after you to inherit as a possession to time indefinite. You may use them as workers, but upon your brothers the sons of Israel, you must not tread, the one upon the other, with tyranny. (Leviticus 25:46)**
- **But in case the hand of the **alien resident** or the settler with you becomes wealthy, and your brother has become poor alongside him and must sell himself to the alien resident or the settler with you, or to a member of the family of the alien resident. (Leviticus 25:47)**
- **After he has sold himself, the right of repurchase will continue in his case. One of his brothers may buy him back. (Leviticus 25:48)**
- **Or his uncle or the son of his uncle may buy him back, or any blood relative of his flesh, one of his family, may buy him back. Or if his own hand has become wealthy, he must also buy himself back. (Leviticus 25:49)**
- **And he must reckon with his purchaser from the year he sold himself to him till the Jubilee year, and the money of his sale must correspond with the number of years. The way workdays of a hired laborer are reckoned he should continue with him. (Leviticus 25:50)**
- **If there are yet many years, he should in proportion to them pay his repurchase price over from the money of his purchase. (Leviticus 25:51)**
- **But if only a few remain of the years until the Jubilee year, he must then make a calculation for himself. In proportion to the years of his he should pay over his repurchase price. (Leviticus 25:52)**
- **He should continue with him like a hired laborer from year to year. He may not tread him down with tyranny before your eyes. (Leviticus 25:53)**

- However, if he cannot buy himself back on these terms, he must then go out in the year of Jubilee, he and his sons with him. **(Leviticus 25:54)**
- In case you should buy a Hebrew slave, he will be a slave six years, but in the seventh he will go out as one set free without charge. **(Exodus 21:2)**
- In case there should be sold to you your brother, a Hebrew or a Hebrewess, and he has served you six years, then in the seventh year you should send him out from you as one set free. **(Deuteronomy 15:12)**
- During the period of the kings the **alien residents** continued to enjoy favorable relations. At the time of the construction of the temple at Jerusalem, they were drawn on as construction workers.
- David now said to bring together the **alien residents** that were in the land of Israel, and then he set them as stone hewers to hew squared stones for building the house of the true God. **(1 Chronicles 22:2)**
- Then Solomon took a count of all the men that were **alien residents**, who were in the land of Israel, after the census that David his father had taken of them, and there came to be found a hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred. **(2 Chronicles 2:17)**
- So he made seventy thousand of them burden bearers and eighty thousand cutters in the mountain and three thousand six hundred overseers for keeping the people in service. **(2 Chronicles 2:18)**
- When King Asa acted to restore true worship in Judah, **alien residents** from all over the Promised Land assembled at Jerusalem along with natural Israelites, to enter jointly into a special covenant to search for Yehowah with all their heart and soul.
- And as soon as Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage and proceeded to cause the disgusting things to vanish from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had captured from the mountainous region of Ephraim, and to renew Yehowah's altar

- that was before the porch of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 15:8)
- And he began to collect together all Judah and Benjamin and the **alien residents** with them from Ephraim and Manasseh and Simeon, for they had deserted to him from Israel in great number when they saw that Yehowah his God was with him. (2 Chronicles 15:9)
 - So they were collected together at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign. (2 Chronicles 15:10)
 - Then they sacrificed to Yehowah on that day from the spoil they had brought, seven hundred cattle and seven thousand sheep. (2 Chronicles 15:11)
 - Furthermore, they entered into a covenant to search for Yehowah the God of their forefathers with all their heart and with all their soul. (2 Chronicles 15:12)
 - That anyone that would not search for Yehowah the God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. (2 Chronicles 15:13)
 - So they swore to Yehowah with a loud voice and with joyful shouting and with the trumpets and with horns. (2 Chronicles 15:14)
 - After cleansing the temple, King Hezekiah declared a Passover celebration in Jerusalem in the second month. He sent the invitation throughout Israel, and many **alien residents** responded.
 - And all the congregation of Judah and the priests and the Levites and all the congregation that came from Israel and the **alien residents** that came from the land of Israel and those dwelling in Judah continued rejoicing. (2 Chronicles 30:25)
 - Following the restoration of the remnant of Israelites from the Babylonian exile, **alien residents**, comprised of such groups as the Nethinim, meaning, **Given Ones**, slaves, professional male and female singers, and the sons of the servants of Solomon, were again found associated with them in true worship at the temple. The Nethinim included the Gibeonites who had been assigned by Joshua to permanent temple service.

- **Consequently some of the sons of Israel and of the priests and the Levites and the singers and the gatekeepers and the Nethinim went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. (Ezra 7:7)**
- **And to you men it is being made known that, as respects any of the priests and the Levites, the musicians, the doorkeepers, the Nethinim, and the workers of this house of God, no tax, tribute or toll is allowed to be imposed upon them. (Ezra 7:24)**
- **Then I gave them a command concerning Iddo the head one in the place Casiphia, and I put in their mouth words to speak to Iddo and his brothers the Nethinim in the place Casiphia, to bring to us ministers for the house of our God. (Ezra 8:17)**
- **So they brought to us, according to the good hand of our God upon us, a man of discretion from the sons of Mahli the grandson of Levi the son of Israel, namely, Sherebiah and his sons and his brothers, eighteen. (Ezra 8:18)**
- **And Hashabiah and with him Jeshaiiah from the sons of Merari, his brothers, and their sons, twenty. (Ezra 8:19)**
- **And from the Nethinim, whom David and the princes gave to the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim, all of whom had been designated by their names. (Ezra 8:20)**
- **Joshua now called them and spoke to them, saying; Why did you trick us, saying; We are very far away from you, whereas you are dwelling in our very midst? (Joshua 9:22)**
- **And now you are cursed people, and a slaves position and being gatherers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God will never be cut off from you. (Joshua 9:23)**
- **Then they answered Joshua and said; It was because your servants were plainly told that Yehowah your God had commanded Moses his servant to give you all the land and to annihilate all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and we became very much afraid for our souls because of you. So we did this thing. (Joshua 9:24)**
- **And now here we are, in your hand. Just as it is good and right in your eyes to do to us, do. (Joshua 9:25)**

- And he proceeded to do so to them and to deliver them from the hand of the sons of Israel, and they did not kill them. (**Joshua 9:26**)
- Accordingly Joshua constituted them on that day gatherers of wood and drawers of water for the assembly and for Yehowah's altar, down to this day, at the place that he should choose. (**Joshua 9:27**)
- Down to the last mention of them these **alien residents** were inseparable adherents to the true worship of Yehowah, serving with the remnant of faithful natural Israelites who had returned from Babylon.
- And these are the heads of the jurisdictional district who dwelt in Jerusalem, but in the cities of Judah there dwelt, each one in his own possession, in their cities, Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the Nethinim and the sons of the servants of Solomon. (**Nehemiah 11:3**)
- And the Nethinim were dwelling in Ophel, and Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim. (**Nehemiah 11:21**)
- In the Postexilic period, prophets of Yehowah reiterated the principles of the Law covenant that safeguarded the rights of the **alien resident**.
- And defraud no widow or fatherless boy, no **alien resident** or afflicted one, and scheme out nothing bad against one another in your hearts. (**Zechariah 7:10**)
- And I will come near to you people for the judgment, and I will become a speedy witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against those swearing falsely, and against those acting fraudulently with the wages of a wage worker, with the widow and with the fatherless boy, and those turning away the **alien resident**, while they have not feared me, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 3:5**)
- The prophet Ezekiel foretold a time when the **alien resident** would receive an inheritance in the land like a native among the sons of Israel.

- **And you must apportion this land to yourselves, to the twelve tribes of Israel. (Ezekiel 47:21)**
- **And it must occur that you should allot it for inheritance to yourselves and to the **alien residents** who are residing as aliens in your midst, who have become father to sons in the midst of you. And they must become to you like a native among the sons of Israel. With you people they will fall by lot into an inheritance in the midst of the tribes of Israel. (Ezekiel 47:22)**
- **And it must occur that in the tribe with which the **alien resident** has taken up **residence as an alien**, there is where you should give his inheritance, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (Ezekiel 47:23)**
- **After the coming of Jesus Christ the Good News of the Kingdom was preached to Jews and proselytes, and these could equally become members of the Christian congregation. Then, in the time of Cornelius **36 C.E.**, an uncircumcised Gentile and his household were accepted by Yehowah, receiving gifts of the spirit. (Acts of Apostles Chapter 10)**
- **From that time on, uncircumcised Gentiles, upon accepting Christ, were admitted into the Christian congregation, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all things and in all.**
- **Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, **foreigner**, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all things and in all. (Colossians 3:11)**
- **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)**
- **And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrising, having a seal of the living God, and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea. (Revelation 7:2)**
- **Saying; Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads. (Revelation 7:3)**
- **And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred**

and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. (**Revelation 7:4**)

- Out of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand sealed. Out of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand. (**Revelation 7:5**)
- Out of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand. (**Revelation 7:6**)
- Out of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand. (**Revelation 7:7**)
- Out of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand sealed. (**Revelation 7:8**)
- Describes Spiritual Israel as made up of 12 tribes of 12,000 each. Then (**Revelation 7: 9-17**) tells of a great crowd that no man could number, people out of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues who hail the enthroned King and his Lamb and receive God's favor and protection.

•• Settler

- A settler was an inhabitant of a land or country not his own. The Hebrew word for settler Hebrew *toh-shav'* comes from the root verb *ya-shav'*, meaning dwell.
- Further Abimelech said; Here my land is available to you. **Dwell** where it is good in your eyes. (**Genesis 20:15**)
- Evidently some of the **settlers** in Israel became proselytes, others were content to dwell with the Israelites and to obey the fundamental laws of the land but did not become worshipers of Yehowah as did circumcised proselytes. The **settler** was distinguished from the foreigner, who was generally a transient and was only extended the hospitality that is usually accorded guests in the Orient.
- The **settler** who was an uncircumcised dweller in the land did not eat of the Passover or of anything holy.

- A **settler** and a hired laborer may not eat of it. (**Exodus 12:45**)
- And no **stranger** at all may eat anything holy. No **settler** with a priest nor a hired laborer may eat anything holy. (**Leviticus 22:10**)
- He received benefits along with the **alien residents** and the poor during the Sabbath year and the Jubilee year by being able to share in what the land produced.
- And the Sabbath of the land must serve you people for food, for you and your slave man and your slave girl and your hired laborer and the settler with you, those who are residing as **aliens** with you. (**Leviticus 25:6**)
- For it is a Jubilee. It should become something holy to you. From the field you may eat what the land produces. (**Leviticus 25:12**)
- He or his offspring could be purchased as slaves by the Israelites and passed on as a permanent inheritance without the right of repurchase or benefit of Jubilee release.
- And also from the sons of the **settlers** who are residing as **aliens** with you, from them you may buy, and from their families that are with you whom they had born to them in your land, and they must become your possession. (**Leviticus 25:45**)
- And you must pass them on as an inheritance to your sons after you to inherit as a possession to time indefinite. You may use them as workers, but upon your brothers the sons of Israel, you must not tread, the one upon the other, with tyranny. (**Leviticus 25:46**)
- On the other hand, an Israelite might sell himself as a slave to a **settler** or to members of the **settlers** family, maintaining the right of repurchase at any time, as well as release in his seventh year of servitude or at the Jubilee.
- But in case the hand of the **alien resident** or the **settler** with you becomes wealthy, and your brother has become poor alongside him and must sell himself to the **alien resident** or the **settler** with you, or to a member of the family of the **alien resident**. (**Leviticus 25:47**)

- **After he has sold himself, the right of repurchase will continue in his case. One of his brothers may buy him back. (Leviticus 25:48)**
- **Or his uncle or the son of his uncle may buy him back, or any blood relative of his flesh, one of his family, may buy him back. Or if his own hand has become wealthy, he must also buy himself back. (Leviticus 25:49)**
- **And he must reckon with his purchaser from the year he sold himself to him till the Jubilee year, and the money of his sale must correspond with the number of years. The way workdays of a hired laborer are reckoned he should continue with him. (Leviticus 25:50)**
- **If there are yet many years, he should in proportion to them pay his repurchase price over from the money of his purchase. (Leviticus 25:51)**
- **But if only a few remain of the years until the Jubilee year, he must then make a calculation for himself. In proportion to the years of his he should pay over his repurchase price. (Leviticus 25:52)**
- **He should continue with him like a hired laborer from year to year. He may not tread him down with tyranny before your eyes. (Leviticus 25:53)**
- **However, if he cannot buy himself back on these terms, he must then go out in the year of Jubilee, he and his sons with him. (Leviticus 25:54)**
- **In case you should buy a Hebrew slave, he will be a slave six years, but in the seventh he will go out as one set free without charge. (Exodus 21:2)**
- **In case there should be sold to you your brother, a Hebrew or a Hebrewess, and he has served you six years, then in the seventh year you should send him out from you as one set free. (Deuteronomy 15:12)**
- **While only the natural Israelites had a hereditary possession in the land, Yehowah was the actual owner and could put them in or out**

of the land as it suited his purpose. Regarding the sale of land he said, So the land should not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is mine. For you are **alien residents** and **settlers** from my standpoint.

- So the land should not be sold in perpetuity, because the land is mine. For you are **alien residents** and **settlers** from my standpoint. (**Leviticus 25:23**)

·· Stranger

- The word for stranger, **Hebrew zar**, evidently comes from the root **zur**, meaning turn aside, become estranged
- They had not turned aside from their desire, while their food was yet in their mouth. (**Psalms 78:30**)
- I have become one estranged to my brothers, and a foreigner to the sons of my mother. (**Psalms 69:8**)
- And thus has the basic meaning one who distances or removes himself. [**Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament, edited by G. Botterweck and H. Ringgren, 1980, Vol. 4, p. 53**]
- The considering of persons as strangers was done in matters pertaining to the Aaronic family and the tribe of Levi, and it affected the natural Israelite and the **alien resident**, as well as all other persons. Priestly functions were committed by the Law to the family of Aaron
- And as for you, bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him from the midst of the sons of Israel that he may act as priest to me, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron. (**Exodus 28:1**)
- And you must make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and beauty. (**Exodus 28:2**)
- And you yourself are to speak to all the one's wise with a heart that I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, and they must make Aaron's garments for sanctifying him, that he may act as priest to me. (**Exodus 28:3**)
- And other temple matters were assigned to the tribe of Levi in general.

- Only the tribe of Levi you must not register, and the sum of them you must not take in among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 1:49**)
- And you yourself appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony and over all its utensils and over everything that belongs to it. They themselves will carry the tabernacle and all its utensils, and they themselves will minister at it, and around the tabernacle they are to camp. (**Numbers 1:50**)
- And the Levites should encamp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that no indignation may arise against the assembly of the sons of Israel, and the Levites must keep the service due to the tabernacle of the Testimony. (**Numbers 1:53**)
- All other persons, including the natural Israelites of the 12 non-Levitical tribes, were likened to strangers with respect to the Levitical tribe in certain affairs.
- And they must eat the things with which atonement has been made to fill their hand with power, in order to sanctify them. But a stranger may not eat them, because they are something holy. (**Exodus 29:33**) ^{Footnote;} Or, “non-Aaronite” that is, a man not of the family of Aaron.
- Non-Aaronite, that is, a man not of the family of Aaron. **KJ** margin, every one not a Levite,
- And those camping before the tabernacle toward the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrising, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, those taking care of the obligation to the sanctuary, as the obligation for the sons of Israel. And any stranger coming near would be put to death. (**Numbers 3:38**) ^{Footnote;} That is, a non-Levite. See (**Numbers 1:51**)
- That is, a non-Levite, **JB**, layman.
- And no **stranger** at all may eat anything holy. No **settler** with a priest nor a hired laborer may eat anything holy. (**Leviticus 22:10**)
- And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their priesthood, and any **stranger** coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 3:10**)

- According to the context **stranger**, in most occurrences in the Pentateuch, refers to anyone not of the family of Aaron or not of the tribe of Levi, because priestly or ministerial privileges and duties were not assigned to him.
- The **stranger**, non-Aaronite, could not eat of the installation sacrifice
- And they must eat the things with which atonement has been made to fill their hand with power, in order to sanctify them. But a **stranger** may not eat them, because they are something holy. (**Exodus 29:33**)
- Nor be anointed with holy anointing oil,
- Anyone who makes an ointment like it and who puts some of it upon a **stranger** must be cut off from his people. (**Exodus 30:33**)
- Nor eat anything holy,
- And no **stranger** at all may eat anything holy. No **settler** with a priest nor a **hired laborer** may eat anything holy. (**Leviticus 22:10**)
- A non-Aaronite **stranger** could not handle any priestly duties.
- And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their priesthood, and any **stranger** coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 3:10**)
- As a memorial for the sons of Israel, to the end that no strange man who is not of the offspring of Aaron should come near to make incense smoke before Yehowah, and no one might become like Korah and his assembly, just as Yehowah had spoken to him by means of Moses. (**Numbers 16:40**)
- And you and your sons with you should safeguard your priesthood as regards every concern of the altar and as regards what is inside the curtain, and you men must render service. As a service of gift I shall give your priesthood, and the stranger drawing near should be put to death. (**Numbers 18:7**)
- A non-Levite **stranger**, that is, even those of any of the other 12 tribes, could not come near the tabernacle to set it up or for any

purpose except to offer sacrifices or to approach the priests at the gate of the tent of meeting.

- **And he must lay his hand upon the head of the young goat and slaughter it in the place where the burnt offering is regularly slaughtered before Yehowah. It is a sin offering. (Leviticus 4:24)**
- **And if any soul of the people of the land sins unintentionally by his doing one of the things that Yehowah commands should not be done and he does become guilty. (Leviticus 4:27)**
- **Or his sin that he has committed has been made known to him, then he must bring as his offering a female kid of the goats, a sound one, for his sin that he has committed. (Leviticus 4:28)**
- **And he must lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering and slaughter the sin offering in the same place as the burnt offering. (Leviticus 4:29)**
- **The daughter of a priest who married a non-Aaronite **stranger** could not eat of the contribution of the holy things, nor could her **stranger** husband.**
- **And in case the daughter of a priest should become a man's who is a **stranger**, she as such may not eat of the contribution of the holy things. (Leviticus 22:12)**
- **But in case the daughter of a priest should become a widow or divorced when she has no offspring, and she must return to her father's house as in her youth, she may eat some of her father's bread, but no **stranger** at all may feed on it. (Leviticus 22:13)**
- **The word **stranger** was also applied to those who turned aside from what was in harmony with the Law and so were **alienated** from Yehowah. Thus the prostitute is referred to as a strange woman.**
- **To deliver you from the **strange woman**, from the foreign woman who has made her own sayings smooth. (Proverbs 2:16)**
- **Let them prove to be for you alone, and not for **strangers** with you. (Proverbs 5:17)**
- **To guard you against the woman **stranger**, against the foreigner who has made her own sayings smooth. (Proverbs 7:5)**

- Both the worshipers of false gods and the deities themselves are termed **strangers**.
- Hold your foot back from becoming barefoot, and your throat from thirst. But you proceeded to say; It is hopeless! No, but I have fallen in love with **strangers**, and after them I am going to walk. (**Jeremiah 2:25**)
- Only take note of your error, for it is against Yehowah your God that you have transgressed. And you continued scattering your ways to the **strangers** under every luxuriant tree, but to my voice you people did not listen, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 3:13**)
- **Strangers** in the sense of persons with whom one is unacquainted, or foreigners, are also referred to in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- And it came about on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also proceeded to give birth. And we were together. There was no **stranger** with us in the house, no one but the two of us in the house. (**1 Kings 3:18**)
- Those residing as **aliens** in my house, and my slave girls themselves reckon me as a **stranger**, a real foreigner I have become in their eyes. (**Job 19:15**)

•• Christian Principles Regarding Strangers

- In the **Christian Greek Scriptures** love toward the stranger, **Greek, *xe'nos***, is strongly emphasized as a quality the Christian must exercise. The apostle Paul says: Do not forget hospitality, **Greek, *phi-lo-xe-ni'as***, **fondness for strangers**.
- Do not forget **hospitality**, for through it some, unknown to themselves, entertained angels. (**Hebrews 13:2**)
- Jesus showed that he counts hospitality extended to his brothers, **strangers** or unacquainted though they may be at the time, as having been extended toward him.
- Then the king will say to those on his right, Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

- from the founding of the world. (**Matthew 25:34**)
- For I became hungry and you gave me something to eat. I got thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a **stranger** and you received me hospitably. (**Matthew 25:35**)
 - Naked, and you clothed me. I fell sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to me. (**Matthew 25:36**)
 - Then the righteous one's will answer him with the words, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty, and give you something to drink? (**Matthew 25:37**)
 - When did we see you a **stranger** and receive you hospitably, or naked, and clothe you? (**Matthew 25:38**)
 - When did we see you sick or in prison and go to you? (**Matthew 25:39**)
 - And in reply the king will say to them; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (**Matthew 25:40**)
 - Then he will say; In turn, to those on his left, Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. (**Matthew 25:41**)
 - For I became hungry, but you gave me nothing to eat, and I got thirsty, but you gave me nothing to drink. (**Matthew 25:42**)
 - I was a **stranger**, but you did not receive me hospitably, naked, but you did not clothe me, sick and in prison, but you did not look after me. (**Matthew 25:43**)
 - Then they also will answer with the words; Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a **stranger** or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister to you? (**Matthew 25:44**)
 - Then he will answer them with the words; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of these least ones, you did not do it to me. (**Matthew 25:45**)
 - And these will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous one's into everlasting life. (**Matthew 25:46**)

- The apostle John wrote commending Gaius for his good works toward Christian men, **strangers** to Gaius, sent to visit the congregation of which Gaius was a member, and he condemns Diotrephes, who showed them no respect.
- Beloved one, you are doing a faithful work in whatever you do for the brothers, and **strangers** at that. (3 John 1:5)
- Who have borne witness to your love before the congregation. These you will please send on their way in a manner worthy of God. (3 John 1:6)
- For it was in behalf of his name that they went forth, not taking anything from the people of the nations. (3 John 1:7)
- We, therefore, are **under obligation to receive such persons hospitably**, that we may become fellow workers in the truth. (3 John 1:8)
- I wrote something to the congregation, but Diotrephes, who likes to have the first place among them, does not receive anything from us with respect. (3 John 1:9)
- That is why, if I come, I will call to remembrance his works which he goes on doing, chattering about us with wicked words. Also, not being content with these things, **neither does he himself receive the brothers with respect**, and those who are wanting to receive them he tries to hinder and to throw out of the congregation. (3 John 1:10)
- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained **strangers**, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. (1 Timothy 5:10)
- Christians are termed **aliens** and **temporary residents** in the sense, that they are no part of this world.
- If you were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because you are **no part of the world**, but I have chosen you out of the world, on this account the world hates you. (John 15:19)

- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the **temporary residents** scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, to the one's chosen (**1 Peter 1:1**)
- They are **aliens** in that they do not conform to the practices of the world hostile to God.
- Beloved, I exhort you as **aliens** and **temporary residents** to keep abstaining from fleshly desires, which are the very ones that carry on a conflict against the soul. (**1 Peter 2:11**)
- Those of the Gentile nations, once **strangers** to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world, are, through Christ, no longer **strangers** and **alien residents**, but fellow citizens of the holy one's and are members of the household of God.
- Therefore keep bearing in mind that formerly you were people of the nations as to flesh, uncircumcision you were called by that which is called circumcision made in the flesh with hands. (**Ephesians 2:11**)
- That you were at that particular time without Christ, **alienated** from the state of Israel and **strangers** to the covenants of the promise, and you had no hope and were without God in the world. (**Ephesians 2:12**)
- Certainly, therefore, you are no longer **strangers** and **alien residents**, but you are fellow citizens of the holy one's and are members of the household of God. (**Ephesians 2:19**)
- The other sheep that Jesus said he would gather into the one flock likewise take a position separate from the world, with favor of God and hope of life.
- And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold, those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd. (**John 10:16**)
- And he will put the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. (**Matthew 25:33**)
- Then the king will say to those on his right; Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. (**Matthew 25:34**)

- **And these will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous one's into everlasting life. (Matthew 25:46)**
- **After these things I saw, and, look! A great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and there were palm branches in their hands. (Revelation 7:9)**
- **And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying; Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb. (Revelation 7:10)**
- **And all the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell upon their faces before the throne and worshiped God. (Revelation 7:11)**
- **Saying; Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7:12)**
- **And in response one of the elders said to me; These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from? (Revelation 7:13)**
- **So right away I said to him; My lord, you are the one that knows. And he said to me; These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:14)**
- **That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple, and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. (Revelation 7:15)**
- **They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down upon them nor any scorching heat. (Revelation 7:16)**
- **Because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7:17)**

- One who attempts to gather religious followers to himself is termed by Christ as **a thief** and **a stranger**, one dangerous to Christ's sheep, and is considered a false shepherd. Jesus true sheep will give no recognition to a false shepherds voice, just as the faithful Israelites kept themselves separate from the foreigner who advocated strange gods.
- Most truly I say to you, He that does not enter into the sheepfold through the door but climbs up some other place, that one is a thief and a plunderer. (**John 10:1**)
- A stranger they will by no means follow but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers. (**John 10:5**)

See Also FOREIGNER