

# THE LAW OF THE STRANGER

**A**s we close in on the latter times that the scriptures speak of many questions arise as to the fate of the Strangers and their relationship with Israel. There are many false doctrines and Israelite apologists who incorrectly teach that the strangers will take part in the Salvation of Israel and are accepted of the Lord. An important fact to remember is that during our captivity in Egypt all Nations were subject to the rule of Pharaoh. Many nations witnessed the 10 plagues of Egypt and observed the deliverance of the Children of Israel through the power of The Most High. Upon witnessing this extraordinary power, many nations clung to the Children of Israel desiring to leave the bonds of Egypt.

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*Exodus 12:37-38: [37] "And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.[38] And a mixed **multitude** went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle."*

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The "*mixed multitude*" is the other nations. Their dwelling amongst Israel was **conditional** and not a given or inherited right.

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*Exodus 12:49: "One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the **stranger that sojourneth among you.**"*

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The word "*stranger*" as defined in the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance ("Strong's") in the Hebrew #1616 is *gar* which is a stranger as a sojourner or a temporary inhabitant, a newcomer **lacking inherited rights**. Now your search doesn't stop there, the root word for *gar* is found in Strong's H1481 *gawar* which means to sojourn, abide, dwell in, dwell with, remain, inhabit, be a stranger, be continuing, surely. So, clearly by definition and context of the scriptures, the "*strangers*" of the "*mixed multitude*" were temporary residents with no inherited rights (no covenant and no law). You also will find the word "*gentile*" in regard to nations as in,

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*Genesis 10:5: "By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations."*

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Also, you will find using Strong's H1471 you will find under "*nations*" the Hebrew word *gawaya* which also means nation, a people, usually non-Hebrew people. Clearly, the "*strangers*" were non-Israelite nations who were allowed to dwell amongst Israel provided they abided by the law.

For many, the following question then arises: Isn't that the equivalent to the salvation of Israel? To be delivered from destruction and keep the laws in righteousness? No! Absolutely not!

Remember the scriptures said that one law would be for Israel and one law for the stranger (Leviticus 24:22, Exodus 12:49). Let's examine a few laws that differentiated the strangers from Israel:

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*Deuteronomy 23:19-20: "[19] Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury: [20] Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it."*

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Usury is a form of interest (a percentage or increase applied to an amount of money or item that is loaned). It is unlawful for an Israelite to lend with a clause of usury to his fellow Israelite, however, it was lawful to do so to the other nations.

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*Leviticus 22:25: "[25] Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you."*

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Regarding the law and unblemished offerings, a stranger could not offer a sacrifice for Israel, being they are corrupted and blemished. This alone shows you there is no equality in the eyes of the Most High. An Israelite was responsible for making their own offering's to YHWH (Leviticus 22:19-20).

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*Leviticus 25:44-46: "[44] Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. [45] Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. [46] And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour."*

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The key difference between a stranger/heathen/gentile and an Israelite is that the stranger is nothing more than a servant of an Israelite! They were to be purchased and utilized for bondmen and bondwomen. They were even passed down as possessions of inheritance to our children!

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*Deuteronomy 14:21: "Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not see the kid in his mother's milk."*

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Israel was not allowed to eat any clean animal that died of itself, meaning, it had to be killed and prepared to eat. However, the stranger was allowed to eat an animal this way. Again, it is clear to see the separation and distinction between Israel and the strangers that sojourned amongst us.

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*Deuteronomy 17:15: "Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother."*

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Rulership was exclusive to Israel only! As you can see, the stranger wasn't even acknowledged as a "brother" contrary to the teachings of religion and philosophy that say we're all brothers.

There are also some who claim that since the "*mixed multitude*" was with Israel when the curses were pronounced against Israel (Deuteronomy 28:15) that the strangers took part in slavery and everything else too. Nothing could be further from the truth! They didn't take part in Deuteronomy 28:1: And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high **above all nations of the earth:** Israel was promised dominance and rulership over all nations including those strangers! However the strangers did play a part in,

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*Deuteronomy 28:43-44: "[43] The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.[44] He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail."*

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The strangers took NO PART of the afflictions and curses of Israel! In fact, they were used to fulfill these prophecies. The roles would be reversed. The stranger now rule over us and lend to us due to our disobedience. Observe David's prayer:

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*Psalms 54:3: "For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah."*

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When Israel once again becomes obedient and fears YHWH, we have been promised to once again return to our prominence and position of rulership.

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*Isaiah 14:1-3: “[1] For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. [2] And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. [3] And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,”*

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Lastly we also need to be clear that there are points in the scriptures where contextually the *strangers* are in fact Israelites.

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*Ephesians 2:11-12: “[11] Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; [12] That **at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:**”*

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Paul acknowledged that Israel was **considered**, strangers, aliens and Gentiles in the **FLESH**. There’s a big difference in being considered and actually being a stranger or gentile. Dispersed Israelites (Zechariah 7:14; Deuteronomy 28:64) were considered strangers/gentiles due to their fleshly actions. Following and living after the manner of the other nations which dwelled amongst them. All Israelites without Christ and the laws are considered strangers/gentiles without hope and without YHWH.

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*II Chronicles 30:17-20: “[17] For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD.[18] For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one [19] That prepareth his heart*

*to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. [20] And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.”*

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Similar to the gentiles (Israelites) of the New Testament, even in the Old Testament there were many Israelites who were not cleansed and carried themselves as heathens, but humility and understanding allowed the prayer of Hezekiah to be heard of YHWH and they were cleansed and allowed to partake of the Passover. Read Acts the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter to understand how Paul and Barnabas went thru a similar situation with the elders of Judea regarding the uncircumcised Israelites and cleansing them through Christ.

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*Leviticus 25:23-24: “[23] The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; **for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.** [24] And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.”*

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We see that YHWH called Israel strangers who must respect his land. Let it be made crystal clear, YHWH has not changed any ordinances or judgments regarding Israel or the other nations (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). Israel was commanded to be separate (Nehemiah 9:2; II Corinthians 6:17) and not allowed to marry those of another nation (Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Nehemiah 13:23-31; I Esdras 9:7). Once we repent and obey the laws, statutes and commandments of YHWH as we did during the time of our first Exodus and receive our kingdom and position of rulership once more as previously mentioned in Isaiah 14:1-3 (read also Micah 4:1-5; Zechariah 8:21-23), then and only then, will the strangers be allowed amongst Israel again.