

Hands, Feet, Eyes and Ears of God

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Appendix E – Hands, feet, eyes and ears of God

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't do more to provide for and protect the powerless and the defenseless in this world? Have you ever wondered whether God cared? As I have been studying the Bible, I have noticed that this topic comes up quite often. So I did a word search and gathered up most of the verses that have something to do with this. I searched for the following words in the context of us or God caring for this class of people, so if a verse simply described someone with one of these key words, I didn't include it. I do not claim this is an exhaustive search, including every applicable verse.

Word	Count
Poor	44
Orphan or fatherless	23
Alien, stranger, sojourner	21
Widow	20
Oppress or mistreat	17
Justice or Judgment	16
Destitute or needy	12
Afflicted or humble	3

So, does this word search tell us if God cares about the plight of this class of people? In some of these verses, God says that He will protect and defend them, but I found that in most cases He asks us to do it, and He condemns those who do the opposite.

I think most of us have this idea that the ancient Israelites failed God because they forsook Him and worshipped idols. But what I found in many cases was that, God condemned them for the exploitation and mistreatment of this class of people and did not even mention idolatry.

So why doesn't God just step in and take care of and protect these people all the time? I think there are several reasons.

1. I think that God and Satan have some ground rules about when and where they can intervene and impose their will. If not, what would prevent Satan from just possessing or killing anyone he wanted? I think you can see that he often works by getting people to do his evil deeds. In the same way God wants to use us to do His good work.
2. We were created with free will to choose and to learn by suffering the natural consequences of our choices. In many cases, intervening would negate the consequences of choices that were made either by the oppressed or the oppressor.
3. Just as there are natural consequences of making poor choices, I believe there are laws of nature that govern the consequences of making good decisions. In other words, by choosing to care for and defend this class of people, good consequences will naturally come to us. Now I'm not trying to say that for each good deed we perform, one good thing will happen to us. I'm saying that if you live a life where your general pattern is to do good for others, to treat people as you would like to be treated, the same should come back to you.

I am also not saying that sinners and bad people will never treat you poorly, but as it says in Ecclesiastes, what you give will eventually come back to you.

[Ecclesiastes 11:1](#) Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. [Ecclesiastes 11:1 NKJV](#)

Notice, that it doesn't say you will immediately find it. I think I should also add that I don't believe that the good that comes back will always be in the same form that you gave it.

So, if you wanted to allow yourself to become the eyes, ears, hands and feet of God, what are some things you can do?

- Can you go over to Africa and deal with the corrupt regimes who abuse their power and don't seem to care if their people are starving? [what can you do?]
- Can you spend billions of dollars on research and development as Bill Gates does to try to end malaria in third world countries? [what can you do?]
- Can you feed all the hungry people in your city, let alone your country or the world? [what can you do?]
- Can you provide shelter for homeless people in your city? [what can you do?]
- Can you prevent bad parents from abusing or neglecting their kids? [what can you do?]
- Can you adopt an orphan? [what can you do?]
- What was the plight of widows in Bible times? [how does that apply today?]
- What is an alien and how are they disadvantaged? [how can you help them?]

Word search results:

[Exodus 22:22](#) "You shall not afflict any **widow** or **fatherless** child. [Exodus 22:22 NKJV](#)

[Exodus 22:25](#) "If you lend money to [any of] My people [who are] **poor** among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. [Exodus 22:25 NKJV](#)

[Exodus 23:6](#) "You shall not pervert the **judgment** of your **poor** in his dispute. [Exodus 23:6 NKJV](#)

[Leviticus 25:35](#) 'If one of your brethren becomes **poor**, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a **stranger** or a **sojourner**, that he may live with you. [Leviticus 25:35 NKJV](#)

[Leviticus 25:39](#) 'And if [one of] your brethren [who dwells] by you becomes **poor**, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave. [Leviticus 25:39 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 10:17](#) "For the LORD your God [is] God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ "He administers **justice** for the **fatherless** and the **widow**, and loves the **stranger**, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ "Therefore love the **stranger**, for you were **strangers** in the land of Egypt. [Deuteronomy 10:17-19 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 14:28](#) "At the end of [every] third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store [it] up within your gates. ²⁹ "And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the **stranger** and the **fatherless** and the **widow** who [are] within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do. [Deuteronomy 14:28-29 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 15:7](#) "If there is among you a **poor** man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your **poor** brother, ⁸ "but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

⁹ "Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at

hand,' and your eye be evil against your **poor** brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you. ¹⁰ "You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. ¹¹ "For the **poor** will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your **poor** and your **needy**, in your land.' ¹² "If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. [Deuteronomy 15:7-12 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 24:10](#) "When you lend your brother anything, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge. ¹¹ "You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you lend shall bring the pledge out to you. ¹² "And if the man [is] **poor**, you shall not keep his pledge overnight. ¹³ "You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the LORD your God. [Deuteronomy 24:10-13 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 24:14](#) "You shall not **oppress** a hired servant [who is] **poor** and **needy**, [whether] one of your brethren or one of the **aliens** who [is] in your land within your gates. ¹⁵ "Each day you shall give [him] his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he [is] **poor** and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you. [Deuteronomy 24:14-15 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 24:17](#) "You shall not pervert **justice** due the **stranger** or the **fatherless**, nor take a **widow's** garment as a pledge. [Deuteronomy 24:17 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 24:19](#) "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰ "When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**. ²¹ "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean [it] afterward; it shall be for the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**. [Deuteronomy 24:19-21 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 26:12](#) "When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in the third year--the year of tithing--and have given [it] to the Levite, the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled, ¹³ "then you shall say before the LORD your God: 'I have removed the holy [tithe] from [my] house, and also have given them to the Levite, the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten [them]. [Deuteronomy 26:12-13 NKJV](#)

[Deuteronomy 27:19](#) 'Cursed [is] the one who perverts the **justice** due the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and **widow**.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' [Deuteronomy 27:19 NKJV](#)

[Psalm 10:12](#) Arise, O LORD!

O God, lift up Your hand!

Do not forget the **humble**.

¹³ Why do the wicked renounce God?

He has said in his heart,

"You will not require [an account]."

¹⁴ But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief,

To repay [it] by Your hand.

The helpless commits himself to You;

You are the helper of the **fatherless**.

¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked and the evil [man];

Seek out his wickedness [until] You find none. [Psalm 10:12-15 NKJV](#)

[Psalm 82:3](#) Defend the **poor** and **fatherless**;

Do **justice** to the **afflicted** and **needy**. [Psalm 82:3 NKJV](#)

[Psalm 102:17](#) He shall regard the prayer of the **destitute**,

And shall not despise their prayer. [Psalm 102:17 NKJV](#)

[Psalm 140:12](#) I know that the LORD will maintain

The cause of the **afflicted**,

[And] **justice** for the **poor**. [Psalm 140:12 NKJV](#)

[Psalm 146:7](#) Who executes **justice** for the **oppressed**,

Who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners. [Psalm 146:7 NKJV](#)

[Psalm 146:9](#) The LORD watches over the **strangers**;

He relieves the **fatherless** and **widow**;

But the way of the wicked He turns upside down. [Psalm 146:9 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 14:31](#) He who **oppresses** the **poor** reproaches his Maker,

But he who honors Him has mercy on the **needy**. [Proverbs 14:31 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 15:25](#) The LORD will destroy the house of the proud,

But He will establish the boundary of the **widow**. [Proverbs 15:25 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 19:17](#) He who has pity on the **poor** lends to the LORD,

And He will pay back what he has given. [Proverbs 19:17 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 21:13](#) Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the **poor**

Will also cry himself and not be heard. [Proverbs 21:13 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 22:9](#) He who has a generous eye will be blessed,

For he gives of his bread to the **poor**. [Proverbs 22:9 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 22:16](#) He who **oppresses** the **poor** to increase his [riches],

[And] he who gives to the rich, [will] surely [come] to poverty. [Proverbs 22:16 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 28:27](#) He who gives to the **poor** will not lack,

But he who hides his eyes will have many curses. [Proverbs 28:27 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 29:7](#) The righteous considers the cause of the **poor**,

[But] the wicked does not understand [such] knowledge. [Proverbs 29:7 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 29:14](#) The king who judges the **poor** with truth,

His throne will be established forever. [Proverbs 29:14 NKJV](#)

[Proverbs 31:20](#) She extends her hand to the **poor**,
Yes, she reaches out her hands to the **needy**. [Proverbs 31:20 NKJV](#)

[Isaiah 1:17](#) Learn to do good;
Seek **justice**,
Rebuke the **oppressor**;
Defend the **fatherless**,
Plead for the **widow**. [Isaiah 1:17 NKJV](#)

[Isaiah 1:23](#) Your princes [are] rebellious,
And companions of thieves;
Everyone loves bribes,
And follows after rewards.
They do not defend the **fatherless**,
Nor does the cause of the **widow** come before them. [Isaiah 1:23 NKJV](#)

[Isaiah 3:14](#) The LORD will enter into **judgment**
With the elders of His people
And His princes:
"For you have eaten up the vineyard;
The plunder of the **poor** [is] in your houses.
¹⁵ What do you mean by crushing
My people And grinding the faces of the **poor**?"
Says the Lord GOD of hosts. [Isaiah 3:14-15 NKJV](#)

[Isaiah 10:1](#) "Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees,
Who write misfortune,
[Which] they have prescribed
² To rob the **needy** of **justice**,
And to take what is right from the **poor** of My people,
That **widows** may be their prey,
And [that] they may rob the **fatherless**. [Isaiah 10:1-2 NKJV](#)

[Isaiah 58:6](#) "[Is] this not the fast that I have chosen:
To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens,
To let the **oppressed** go free,
And that you break every yoke?
⁷ [Is it] not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the **poor** who are cast out;
When you see the naked, that you cover him,
And not hide yourself from your own flesh? [Isaiah 58:6-7 NKJV](#)

[Jeremiah 5:28](#) They have grown fat, they are sleek;
Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked;
They do not plead the cause,
The cause of the **fatherless**;

Yet they prosper,
And the right of the **needy** they do not defend. [Jeremiah 5:28 NKJV](#)

[Jeremiah 7:5](#) "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute **judgment** between a man and his neighbor, ⁶ "[if] you do not **oppress** the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, ⁷ "then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. [Jeremiah 7:5-7 NKJV](#)

[Jeremiah 22:3](#) 'Thus says the LORD: "Execute **judgment** and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the **oppressor**. Do no wrong and do no violence to the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, or the **widow**, nor shed innocent blood in this place. [Jeremiah 22:3 NKJV](#)

[Ezekiel 16:49](#) "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the **poor** and **needy**. [Ezekiel 16:49 NKJV](#)

[Ezekiel 18:12](#) If he has **oppressed** the **poor** and **needy**,
Robbed by violence,
Not restored the pledge,
Lifted his eyes to the idols,
[Or] committed abomination; [Ezekiel 18:12 NKJV](#)

[Ezekiel 18:17](#) [Who] has withdrawn his hand from the **poor**
[And] not received usury or increase,
But has executed My **judgments**
And walked in My statutes--
He shall not die for the iniquity of his father;
He shall surely live! [Ezekiel 18:17 NKJV](#)

[Ezekiel 22:6](#) "Look, the princes of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you. ⁷ "In you they have made light of father and mother; in your midst they have **oppressed** the **stranger**; in you they have **mistreated** the **fatherless** and the **widow**. [Ezekiel 22:6-7 NKJV](#)

[Ezekiel 22:29](#) "The people of the land have used **oppressions**, committed robbery, and **mistreated** the **poor** and **needy**; and they wrongfully **oppress** the **stranger**. [Ezekiel 22:29 NKJV](#)

[Daniel 4:27](#) Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by [being] righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to [the] **poor**. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity." [Daniel 4:27 NKJV](#)

[Hosea 14:3](#) Assyria shall not save us,
We will not ride on horses,
Nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands,
'[You are] our gods.'
For in You the **fatherless** finds mercy." [Hosea 14:3 NKJV](#)

[Amos 4:1](#) Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who [are] on the mountain of Samaria,
Who **oppress** the **poor**,
Who crush the **needy**,

Who say to your husbands,
"Bring [wine], let us drink!"

² The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness:

"Behold, the days shall come upon you
When He will take you away with fishhooks,
And your posterity with fishhooks. [Amos 4:1-2 NKJV](#)

[Amos 5:11](#) Therefore, because you tread down the **poor**

And take grain taxes from him,
Though you have built houses of hewn stone,
Yet you shall not dwell in them;
You have planted pleasant vineyards,
But you shall not drink wine from them.

¹² For I know your manifold transgressions

And your mighty sins:
Afflicting the just [and] taking bribes;
Diverting the **poor** [from **justice**] at the gate. [Amos 5:11-12 NKJV](#)

[Zechariah 7:9](#) "Thus says the LORD of hosts:

'Execute true **justice**,
Show mercy and compassion
Everyone to his brother.

¹⁰ Do not **oppress** the **widow** or the **fatherless**,
The **alien** or the **poor**.

Let none of you plan evil in his heart
Against his brother.' [Zechariah 7:9-10 NKJV](#)

[Malachi 3:5](#) And I will come near you for **judgment**;

I will be a swift witness
Against sorcerers,
Against adulterers,
Against perjurers,
Against those who exploit wage earners and **widows** and **orphans**,
And against those who turn away an **alien**--
Because they do not fear Me,"
Says the LORD of hosts. [Malachi 3:5 NKJV](#)

[Matthew 19:21](#) Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the **poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." [Matthew 19:21 NKJV](#)

[Mark 10:21](#) Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the **poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." [Mark 10:21 NKJV](#)

[Luke 14:13](#) "But when you give a feast, invite [the] **poor**, [the] maimed, [the] lame, [the] blind. [Luke 14:13 NKJV](#)

[Luke 18:22](#) So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the **poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." [Luke 18:22 NKJV](#)

[James 2:1](#) My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with partiality. ² For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a **poor** man in filthy clothes, ³ and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the **poor** man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," ⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the **poor** of this world [to be] rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the **poor** man. Do not the rich **oppress** you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? [James 2:1-7 NKJV](#)