

A serene landscape with misty mountains and a calm lake reflecting the scenery. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

A flourishing life...

Hospitality and Immigration

The Stranger or Foreigner in the OT

- Sojourner.
- Permanent resident of Israel who was once a citizen of another land.
- Often left homeland under some distress.
- One who sought refuge and acceptance among the people of Israel.

The background of the slide is a soft, teal-colored landscape. It features a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the light. In the middle ground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains and a line of trees. The background is a hazy, light blue sky, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere.

As we read...

What is God's heart toward the immigrant in Israel?

How does God feel about the displaced stranger?

Exodus 22

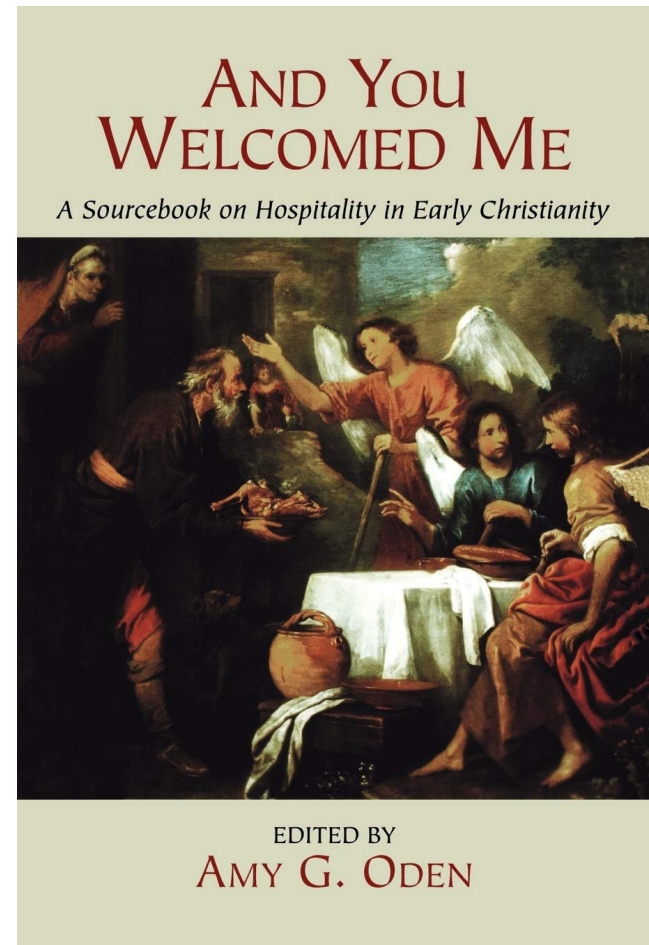
21 “You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. 22 You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. 23 If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, 24 and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

Leviticus 19

32 “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. 33 “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Amy G. Oden

"The feeling of pity and the desire to better the lives of others is a good thing, often inspired by God in ones' heart. But it is seductive, even dangerous, for the host to view herself as the helper. The would-be act of hospitality becomes an act of condescension and failure to see, either one's own need or the true identity of the stranger as Christ."



Leviticus 24

22 You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 14

28 “At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. 29 And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

Deuteronomy 10

17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

What is God's heart toward the outsider?

Israel was to...

1. Treat the stranger justly because they are vulnerable.
2. Go beyond fairness and equity to love the immigrant.
3. Offer them full participation in the economic systems.
4. Supply the same protections and provisions of the social safety net.
5. Love the sojourner because God loves the sojourner.

“Which of these do you think proved to be a neighbour?”

