

# „The LORD watches over the sojourners“ (Psalm 146,9)

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## 1. Migration is usual – even in the Bible

- Abraham hikes with his family from pasture to pasture. Due to a famine in the land he goes to Egypt to sojourn there. (Genesis 12,10)
- The experience of slavery in Egypt and the liberation thanks to the God Jahveh leave their mark on the Israel people. (see: „**Historical Credo**“ Dtn 26,5-10)
- Above all famines (Rut 1,1) and wars lead to migration and escape.

## 2. The laws for the protection of strangers in the Torah, the five book of Moses.

<b>Federal Book</b> Exodus 21,1-23,23	<b>Deuteronomy</b>	<b>Law of Holiness</b> Leviticus 17,1-26,46
End of the 8th century BC	End of the 7 <sup>th</sup> century BC	Half of 6 <sup>th</sup> century BC
<i>Refugees from Syria and the North of Israel seek protection in Jerusalem and Judea.</i>	<i>Foreign Domination from the Assyrians</i>	<i>Experience of the Babylonian captivity</i>
You shall <b>not wrong</b> a sojourner <b>or oppress</b> him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 22,20)	Cursed, who bends the <b>rights of strangers</b> , who are orphans, and that of the widows. (Deuteronomy 27,19)	You shall have the <b>same rule</b> for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 24,22)
You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Ex 23,9)		When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. (Lev 19,33)
	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 sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and	

	<p>the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, <b>you shall not strip it afterward.</b> It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this. (Dtn 24,19-22)</p>	
<p>Six days you shall do your work, but <b>on the seventh day you shall rest;</b> that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed. (Ex 23,12; see also Ex 20,10)</p>		
	<p>And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and (...) the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you. You shall <b>rejoice in your feast,</b> you and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. (Dtn 16,11.14)</p>	
	<p><b>He (Jahveh) loves the sojourners</b> giving them food and clothing. <b>Love the sojourner,</b> therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Dtn 10,18-19)</p>	<p>You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you <b>as the native</b> among you, <b>and you shall love him as yourself,</b> for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Lev 19,34)</p>

3. **The Church Jesus doesn't know any strangers, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** (Gal 3,26-29).

4. **Who welcomes a stranger, welcomes Christ.** Who doesn't welcome a stranger, doesn't welcome Christ. (Matthew 25,31-46)

„Amen, I say to you: Amen, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[f] you did it to me.” (Matthew 25,40)

5. **Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution „Gaudium et spes“, Article 66:**

“The workers who come from other peoples or countries, who contribute with their work to the economical success of the people of the land, may not be discriminated at all concerning wages and labour conditions. Everybody in the host country, namely the public bodies, must not treat them as simple resources, but have to treat them as human beings. Furthermore they should help them to move their families, get an appropriate accommodation and facilitate the integration in the social life of the host country and its population. As far as possible the workers should get work in their own home countries.”