

## Leviticus 22 – the law relating to strangers, sojourners and hired servants

What is the relationship with the Kohenim and the non-Israelites?

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Tag: strangers (zur, nekar, ger) sojourners (toshab) hired servants (sakiyr)

**Lev 22:25 KJV** Neither from a stranger's hand<sup>H3027 yawd H1121 son H5236 nekar</sup> shall ye offer the bread<sup>H3899 lechem</sup> of your God<sup>H430 elohechem</sup> of any of these; because their corruption<sup>H4893 mashechatam</sup> is in them, and blemishes<sup>H3971 mum</sup> be in them: they shall not be accepted<sup>H7521 ratsah</sup> for you.

**Lev 22:25 NIV** and you must not accept such animals from the hand of a foreigner and offer them as the food of your God. They will not be accepted on your behalf, because they are deformed and have defects.' "

Is the problem that the gift, regardless of its physical condition, originally came from a stranger (Heb. neker) or is it only that the gift itself has a physical defect? If it's the later, why mention the fact that it came from the stranger (which leads me to believe this is not the proper translation). Is this law setup to prevent an Israelite from mischievously trying to get around the law about giving a defective gift by getting some stranger to give the gift for him on his behalf? Is this verse talking about the corruption being more of a legal/spiritual issue? What I'm getting at is to think about what a nekar is? By definition he is not one who has does not have a covenant with YHVH and probably is a polytheist. If he also gives gifts to his many other gods then the question arises, does he have an expectation that the glory (as a result of receiving a blessing) must be shared YHVH along with his other gods? If this is true then this would of course be an unacceptable assumption as YHVH is a jealous Elohim and (therefore) does not share his glory with any other gods.

This was kind of my initial understanding when I first read this (which I still think is right) but after re-reading it (and comparing it with the NIV) I wasn't really sure. My initial thought was coming from a BCR/SHRB&C<sup>1</sup> mindset i.e. we need to guard (Heb. shomer) privileges that this world offers and in this day and age the ground is covered with privilege "land mines". The problem is that when you take a privilege from the state, which is in physical and spiritual bankruptcy, the world of the walking dead, your acting like a debtor. And if you also claim to be an agent of YHVH, then you drag him into this bankruptcy/corruption as well. This concept relates to this verse because you are in effect serving the agent of a foreign god so therefore your serving that god (this is the understanding of agency) and it's also related to the idea of "be careful who you contract with".

### Related Verses

**Lev 22:10** There shall no stranger<sup>H2114 zur</sup> eat of the holy thing: a sojourner<sup>H8453 toshab</sup> of the priest, or an hired servant,<sup>H7916 sakiyr</sup>, shall not eat of the holy thing.

**Lev 22:12** If the priest's daughter also be *married* unto a stranger,<sup>H376 eesh H2114 zur</sup> she may not eat of an offering of the holy things.

Context shifts to include not just Aharon and his sons, but all of the children of Israel...

**Lev 22:18** Speak unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them, Whatsoever *he be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers<sup>H1616 ger</sup> in Israel, that will offer his oblation for all his vows, and for all his freewill offerings, which they will offer unto the LORD for a burnt offering;

<sup>1</sup> BCR/SHRB&C: Biblical Commercial Redemption/Strongly Held Religious Beliefs and Convictions

## Table Summary

	Hebrew Word	Strong's	King James Translations	Meaning For more detail see <a href="#">here</a>	Stay	Modern Day Parallel	<a href="#">IRC</a>
1	Nokrim	<a href="#">H5236</a> , <a href="#">H5237</a>	5236 strange (r) (ers) 97% 5237strange (r) (ers) 38 = 84%; alien(s) 4 = 9%; foreigner(s) 2 = 4%; outlandish 1 = 2%	Visiting or working Gentiles <sup>1</sup> .	T	Mexican migrant workers.	Temporary Aliens
2	Zarim	<a href="#">H2114</a> .	strange(r) (ers) (ers') occurs 69 time or 87%	Same as above <sup>1</sup> .	T		
3	Ger Toshav	<a href="#">H8453</a>	sojourner(s) 9 = 64%; stranger(s) 4 = 29%; foreigner and inhabitant combined= 14%	Gentiles who can receive many of the blessings afforded to Beni Yisrael <sup>2</sup> .	SP		Resident Alien
4	Ger	<a href="#">H1616</a>	strange(r) (ers) (ers') occurs 90 times or 98%; alien 1%, sojourn 1%; stranger's 1%	Gentiles who were Torah practicing except circumcision <sup>3</sup> .	P		Permanent Aliens
	Gur	<a href="#">H1481</a>	99 sojourn(eth) (ed) (ers) (ing) 59, 59%				
	Gershom	H1647		See " <a href="#">How the Order of Gershom got its name</a> "			
5	Proselyte	<a href="#">G4339</a>					
6	<b>Beni Yisrael</b>						Non Resident Aliens
	Hellen hellenistes	G1672 G1675	greek(s) 20 74%, gentile 26% grecians				
	akrobusia	G203	uncircumcis(ion) 16 (ed) 3 95%				
	alophulos	G246	another 50% nation 50%				
	anomos	G459					
	diaspora	G1290	Scattered 50%, abroad 25%, dispersed 25%				
	ethnic	G1482, G1483 or G1484					
	<b>Beni Ephraim</b>						

**Stay:** T=temporary, SP=Semi Permanent; P=Permanent

**Reference:** "Biblical-Word-Study-and-Commentary-on-ones-Legal-Status" Article #[210](#)