**That Stinks Elective Texts**

*Hebrew Texts from Mechon-Mamre.org / English from BibleORT and/or Sefaria.org.*

*Texts compiled in this article: http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/widows-in-jewish-tradition/2/#*

**Exodus 22:21-23**

כא  כָּל-אַלְמָנָה וְיָתוֹם, לֹא תְעַנּוּן.כב  אִם-עַנֵּה תְעַנֶּה, אֹתוֹ--כִּי אִם-צָעֹק יִצְעַק אֵלַי, שָׁמֹעַ אֶשְׁמַע צַעֲקָתוֹ.כג  וְחָרָה אַפִּי, וְהָרַגְתִּי אֶתְכֶם בֶּחָרֶב; וְהָיוּ נְשֵׁיכֶם אַלְמָנוֹת, וּבְנֵיכֶם יְתֹמִים.

21 Do not mistreat a widow or an orphan. 22 If you mistreat [them](http://bible.ort.org/books/torahd5.asp?action=displaypage&book=2&chapter=22&verse=18&portion=18#C1434), and they cry out to Me, I will hear their cry. 23 I will [then] display My anger and kill you by the sword, so that your wives will be widows, and your children, orphans

**Isaiah 1:17**

יז  לִמְדוּ הֵיטֵב דִּרְשׁוּ מִשְׁפָּט, אַשְּׁרוּ חָמוֹץ; שִׁפְטוּ יָתוֹם, רִיבוּ אַלְמָנָה.

17 Learn to do well; Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

**Jeremiah 7:5-6**

ה  כִּי אִם-הֵיטֵיב תֵּיטִיבוּ, אֶת-דַּרְכֵיכֶם וְאֶת-מַעַלְלֵיכֶם:  אִם-עָשׂוֹ תַעֲשׂוּ מִשְׁפָּט, בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֵעֵהוּ.

ו  גֵּר יָתוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה, לֹא תַעֲשֹׁקוּ, וְדָם נָקִי, אַל-תִּשְׁפְּכוּ בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה; וְאַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים לֹא תֵלְכוּ, לְרַע לָכֶם. ז  וְשִׁכַּנְתִּי אֶתְכֶם, בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה--בָּאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לַאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם:  לְמִן-עוֹלָם, וְעַד-עוֹלָם.

5 Nay, but if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute justice between a man and his neighbor;

6 if ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt;7 then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

**Questions about the text:**

* These texts talk specifically about populations that God and the prophets were interested in protecting.  Why do you think these people are a focus for protection and care?
* God gets really angry in the Exodus quote - why do you think the punishment is so severe in this case?
* Based on your experiences as a staff member at your camp, who are the people you most feel the need to protect and care for, above and beyond the typical camper?
* If you had to restate one of the texts above, using words that apply to the people in your camp you’re trying to protect, what would it look and sound like?