

# Numbers 15:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be forgiven all the congregation of the children of Israel, and the stranger that sojourneth among them; seeing all the people were in ignorance.

## Analysis

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**And it shall be forgiven all the congregation of the children of Israel, and the stranger that sojourneth among them**—God's forgiveness extended beyond ethnic Israelites to include ger (גֵּר, "stranger" or "sojourner"), Gentiles living among Israel who submitted to covenant obligations. This inclusion anticipates the gospel's universal scope: atonement available to "whosoever will" (Revelation 22:17). The ger wasn't a temporary visitor but a permanent resident alien who participated in Israel's worship and came under their laws.

The phrase **seeing all the people were in ignorance** provides the basis for corporate forgiveness. The sin was committed unknowingly, qualifying for atonement rather than judgment. This distinguishes from high-handed rebellion (v. 30-31) which brought being "cut off." God's justice required punishment for sin; His mercy provided substitutionary atonement for the repentant. This balance reveals both God's holiness (sin must be addressed) and grace (He provides the solution).

## Historical Context

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The ger (sojourner/stranger) occupied a unique legal category in Israel—not native-born, yet not foreign either. Examples include Rahab, Ruth, and Uriah the Hittite. They could participate in Passover if circumcised (Exodus 12:48-49) and were protected by specific laws (Exodus 22:21; Leviticus 19:33-34). This provision

demonstrated that covenant relationship with Yahweh wasn't purely ethnic—faith and commitment mattered more than genealogy. This foreshadows Paul's teaching that true Israel consists of faith-descendants, not merely flesh-descendants of Abraham (Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:29).

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the inclusion of "strangers" in Israel's atonement prefigure the gospel going to Gentiles?
2. What does God's provision for sojourners teach about the church welcoming outsiders?
3. How should this passage shape Christian attitudes toward immigrants and refugees?

## Interlinear Text

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וְנִסְלַח ח	לְכֹל	עֵדוּת	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	
And it shall be forgiven	H3605	all the congregation	of the children	of Israel	
H5545		H5712	H1121	H3478	
וְלִגְר	הַגֵּר	בְּתוֹכָם	כִּי י	לְכֹל	הָעָם
and the stranger	that sojourneth	among	H3588	H3605	them seeing all the people
H1616	H1481	H8432			H5971
בְּשִׁגְגָה:					
were in ignorance					
H7684					