

# Psalm 146:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

## Analysis

**The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.** God's special care for society's most vulnerable—shomer gerim (שָׁמָר גֵּרִים) "guards strangers/sojourners"—those without tribal protection or land rights. Yatom ve'almanah (יָתָם וְאַלְמָנָה) "orphan and widow" were defenseless without male protectors. God personally defends those humans neglect or exploit.

**The way of the wicked he turneth upside down** (vēderek rēsha'im ye'avvet, זֶדֶרֶךְ רְשָׁעִים יְאַבֵּת) means to twist, pervert, overturn. God actively opposes the wicked's path, ensuring their schemes fail. This judicial reversal anticipates Mary's Magnificat, where God casts down the mighty and exalts the humble (Luke 1:52-53).

## Historical Context

Mosaic Law commanded special protection for strangers, orphans, and widows (Exodus 22:21-24, Deuteronomy 10:18, 24:17-21), threatening divine wrath on oppressors. Prophets condemned Israel's failure to care for the vulnerable (Isaiah 1:17, Jeremiah 7:6, Zechariah 7:10). This verse celebrates God's faithfulness to His own commands.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How should God's care for strangers, orphans, and widows shape the church's ministry priorities?
2. What modern equivalents to 'strangers, orphans, and widows' should receive special Christian compassion?
3. How can believers trust God to overturn the wicked's way when they seem to prosper indefinitely?

## Interlinear Text

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אֱלֹמֶן הַ יְהִינְתָּה שָׁמָר אֶת יְמֵנָה גָּרִים  
The LORD preserveth the strangers the fatherless and widow  
H3068 H853 H1616 H3490 H490

יְعִזֵּךְ תְּעִזֵּךְ יְמֵנָה רְשָׁעִים עִזּוֹת  
he believeth but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down  
H5749 H1870 H7563 H5791

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 68:5** (Parallel theme): A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

**Psalms 147:6** (Evil): The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

**Proverbs 15:25** (References Lord): The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

**Jeremiah 49:11** (Parallel theme): Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me.

**Malachi 3:5** (References Lord): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

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