

## Text Study on Housing's Impact on the Poor

Leviticus 25:35

וְכִי-יָמוּד אָחִיךָ, וּמָטָה יָדוֹ עִמָּךָ--וְהִקְזַקְתָּ בּוֹ, גֵר וְתוֹשֵׁב וְחֵי עִמָּךְ.

And if your brother becomes impoverished, and his hand fails with you; then you should uphold him as a resident alien and a settler and he shall live with you.

There are eight names....

[ויקרא רבה ל"ד:ו'](#)

שמנה שמות נקראו לעני: עני, אביון, מסכן, רש, דל, דך, מך, הלך

1. עני, כמשמעו.
2. אביון, שמתאב לכל.
3. מסכן שהוא בזוי לכל, שנאמר (קהלת ט): וחכמת המסכן בזויה.
4. רש, מן הנכסים.
5. דל, מדולדל מן הנכסים.
6. דך, מדוכדך רואה דבר ואינו אוכל, רואה דבר ואינו טועם ואינו שותה.
7. מך, שהוא מך לפני כל עשוי, כמין סקופה התחתונה.

לפיכך משה מזהיר לישראל: וכי ימוך אחיך:

[Vayikra Rabbah 34:6](#)

There are eight names for a poor person: *ani*, *evyon*, *misken*, *rash*, *dal*, *each*, *mach*, *helech*.

1. *Ani* [afflicted] means literally "poor"
2. *Evyon* [one who longs] because he longs (*mita'ev*) for everything
3. *Misken* [despised] because he is despised by all as it says "The poor man's (*misken*) wisdom is despised." (Eccl 9:16)
4. *Rash* [impoverished] because he is dispossessed (*mitroshesh*) of property
5. *Dal* [detached] because he is detached (*meduldal*) from property
6. *Dach* [oppressed] because he is crushed (*meduchdach*); he sees a thing but cannot eat it, he sees a thing and cannot taste it, and cannot drink it
7. *Mach* [trampled upon] because he is lowly before everyone, like a kind of lowest threshold.
8. *Helech* [vagrant] or *Chelech* [weak]

Therefore Moses warns Israel: "if your brother becomes poor

- How is housing tied to poverty?
- Which terms relate to the experience of housing deprivation?
- Some communities have gone to a Housing First model of dealing with homeless population. If people have a secure home how does it work to eliminate the other problems inherent in the other names for a poor person?