

God's Word on Foreigners & Aliens

Borders, boundaries, immigration laws, treatment of foreigners

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Summary: With all the buzz over the Arizona immigration law, drug cartels, the millions of illegal immigrants who have poured into USA, how should children of God treat foreigners and immigrants? Find out, in this comprehensive review of Scriptural laws and principles on this topic. Also: the first borders, border guards, deportation, affirmative action and more. Does God favor the Jews? What color is God? You may be surprised what Scripture actually has to say on all these and more.

Hello brothers and sisters of our Savior Yeshua, Jesus the Christ. One of the most contentious topics and hottest debates going on here and in Europe – is the issue of border security, foreigners in our country, aliens and immigrants – legal or illegal –and the *role* of foreigners in a country. More and more states are enacting laws to protect their citizens from a flood of illegal or undocumented immigrants pouring over our borders.

These laws are very controversial. As children of the Eternal God, some are wondering how we balance the commands to love everyone with concepts of border security. Sometimes we may find less than perfect love in our hearts as we see our emergency rooms full of foreign speaking nationals, or as we hear of violent drug cartels crossing our lands with impunity. Once we see the balance in Scripture, much of our dismay on the subject may dissipate, as we learn what Abba tells us to do.

This is Philip Shields, with the topic “What Yahweh Elohim, the Eternal God, says about how we are to regard and interact with aliens, foreigners and immigrants in our country”.

By the way, remember you can download these to your iPod or I-phone or cd. I believe you can also set it up for automatic podcast downloads as new sermons are uploaded to the website.

Just for clarification, I often use the Hebrew names of God – like Yahweh. Or instead of Jesus Christ, I'll often use the name His mama called Him - “Yeshua”. Both “Christ” and “Messiah” mean “Anointed one”, but “Christ” comes from the Greek and “Messiah” from the Hebrew. Father is the God of all human beings who accept him, whether Greek, Hebrew, Chinese or Bolivian. So I'll say “Jesus” sometimes, and “Yeshua” other times, but I'm referring to the one Son of God, OK?

As our heavenly Father's children, we are to reflect the mind of our Savior - -Yeshua, or Jesus the Christ, in all things (Phil. 2:5), as He in turn reflected His Father. I think you're going to be surprised by just how much Scripture has to say.

What do I bring to the subject? I spent almost half *my* life actually living in *other* countries as a foreigner myself – in the Philippines, the UK and Canada. I've traveled extensively in 26 countries. I am *married* to a foreigner, a legal alien. My children were born in Canada and hold dual citizenship.

So I'm an American, my wife is English, my children are Canadian-Americans, and I have a Chinese pug for good measure! (Lol) That's what I bring to the table.

But most importantly what I bring to the table on this subject is that I've studied Yahweh's word on this and want to share what He says about this, with you. (Remember I like to frequently use the revealed name of the Eternal God – Yahweh –instead of just saying "God").

WHY do we need to discuss and learn this topic of Yahweh's word on foreigners?

- To have HIS mind on this vital subject rather than what we hear on talk radio, TV news or any other source. It won't matter if what I say appears far right or far left. What matters is that it be scriptural.
- More on this in a couple minutes: but also because we ourselves are spiritual foreigners in this world (**1 Peter 2:11**).
- Frankly, Father says in Deut 28, because we as a nation have gone astray, there will be some consequences:
 - The sojourner among us will rise higher and higher over us, and we will go down lower and lower (**Deut. 28:43**). They will rule over us. You watch: this is starting to happen and will increase more and more until the return of the Son of God.
 - Instead of being a lending nation, we will become the world's greatest debtor nation (Deut. 28:44). The borrower is servant to the lender. We're there already!

Another reason to learn this: Successful life is about having successful relationships – even with foreigners. That's ultimately what brings us joy and what we remember with happiness. And conversely, ultimately we are not happy when our relationships aren't good, even if we have lots of money and everything else. The entirety of scripture, in fact, can be boiled down to loving the Eternal God and loving our neighbors as ourselves, according to our Savior. It boils it down to having loving relationships.

Children of God are Pilgrims and Foreigners in this World

Over and over, in fact, Yahweh tells us that WE of all people should have a heart for this topic. Why? Because spiritually we ourselves are pilgrims and sojourners in the world (1 Pet. 2:11).

- Our forefathers like Abraham and others openly admitted to being strangers and pilgrims (Hebrews 11:13; Genesis 23:4; Genesis 47:9). King David even called himself "a stranger on the earth" (Psalm 119:19; 39:12). Do you and I realize that same thing? **We are, SPIRITUALLY speaking, pilgrims, sojourners, strangers in the world (1 Pet. 2:11).**
- **Our primary citizenship is in heaven** above (**Phil.3:20**). That's our true home, heavenly Jerusalem, a city with real foundations whose builder and maker is God (**Hebrews 11:10**).

With that in mind, this scripture in Deut 10 should really speak to us – if we recognize we too are foreigners on this earth.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

“For YHWH (Yahweh) your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, *showing no partiality* and taking no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, *and loves the foreign resident*, giving him food and clothing. 19 **You also must love the foreigner, since you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.**”

Have you thought of that? *Almighty God loves the foreign resident*. So as we go through this teaching today, please understand this is our premise: we *ourselves* are foreigners on the earth. There will be issues which scripture will address that has to do with borders and coming over legally or illegally and this matter of obeying laws in the land – but having said that: **Yahweh loves the foreign residents** (the Hebrew word would be the equivalent to our *legal, documented* immigrants).

The Hebrew Scriptures have at least 3 words for immigrant, foreigner and stranger – *ger, nakri, zar*. Just be aware of that. I'm aware of it. I am not going to do into exhaustive analysis of exactly how we're to treat each one, but it's something you can study in more detail yourself. There will be plenty presented as it is today.

Jacob was renamed Israel. The clansmen of Israel while under Jacob were all foreigners in Canaan. Then they spent a long time as slaves in Egypt – again, as foreigners. After that, even once they conquered Canaan, the fact is, they lived side by side with many of the Canaanites. They did not eliminate or drive out all the Canaanites. Judges chapters 1-2 make that very clear.

Remember Noah had three sons, including Ham. One of Ham's children was Canaan (**Gen. 10:6**). [Note: in the audio, I said *incorrectly* that Canaan was Ham's *grandson*. Canaan was one of Ham's *sons*, in fact, along with Cush (Ethiopia), Mizraim (Egypt), Put, and Canaan – Gen. 10:6]

In Gen. 10:15-20 we see Canaan's children listed – starting with Sidon and Heth. Heth became the father of the Hittites. Others from Canaan included the people who became the Jebusites, Amorites, Sidonians and others. Anyway, remember Uriah the Hittite? Some of David's own guard was made up of foreign warriors and even Canaanites. Don't forget, David himself was part Moabite through Ruth. In fact, if you go back further, one of his ancestors was Rahab, the Jerichoite, or Canaanite.

Now get this: even **our Messiah – Yeshua the Messiah, Jesus the Christ - - had some Gentile blood in Him.** *I realize the lineage comes through the father*, but just understand that in our Savior's blood line was some Gentile women's blood. In Matthew 1 you can read how two of his ancestral mothers included Ruth the Moabitess and Rahab the Canaanite from Jericho (Matthew 1:5). BOTH of them became a part of Israel and accepted the God of Israel. So I hope this is making you think!

So Israel has always had foreigners in their midst. Yahweh laid down some laws on how they were to be treated, and how they were expected to live and act in the land of Israel. Let's get into it now.

GOD PLAYS NO FAVORITES

I realize ancient Israel were the “chosen people”. But they were chosen to also represent Him. There were responsibilities. Being God's “chosen people” did not preclude the Almighty from demonstrating His profound love for all people, all nations. Nor did it mean He was showing favoritism. “”

God so loved the *world*, not just Israel, that He gave His only Son to die for the whole world, that whomsoever believes in Him – from anywhere in the world -- would be saved (John 3:16), whether Jew or Gentile, male or female (Gal. 3:28).

In fact we are commanded to go into all the world and teach all nations to observe all these things. The true God is not prejudiced against non-Jews, nor is He prejudiced for or against Jews.

For believers, anyone who accepts the Savior and lives a life that reflects that (1 John 2:3-6), are all part of His one Body – without regard to skin color, nationality, accent, or whether Jew or Gentile.

There should not be a racist cell in our bodies. We realize the Creator made every human being. In that way, we are all an equal creation in Yahweh.

In respect to salvation, there is zero partiality or favoritism with God (Romans 2:11; Col. 3:25). Peter acknowledged that to Cornelius, the Roman centurion, in Acts 10.

It sometimes seems to me that some Messianic or Jewish folks want to think they have an “in” with Yahweh that a Russian or Chinese person wouldn’t have. We’ll go into that in depth when we explore Romans 11.

It IS true, that when Moshe (Moses) went to Pharaoh, Moses referred often to the “God of the Hebrews” (Ex. 3:19; 7:16; 9:1, 13; 10:3). Several times, it is true, Yahweh is also called “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” (Ex. 3:6; 4:5; Acts 3:13, etc.).

Does that mean then that He is not the Elohim of all mankind who answer His call? **Galatians 6:16** tells us we are now the “**Israel of God**” – and HE is now looking at this from a spiritual standpoint more than anything else. Father no longer sees any spiritual difference between Jew and Gentile, male or female, bond or free (Gal. 3:28). We are all of one.

I realize Satan is the “god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4). Soon enough, we will hear the blast of the seventh trumpet and the angel announcing “the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ” (Rev. 11:15). That’s the goal.

Isaiah 54:5b

“...and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; ***He is called the God of all the earth.***”

Jeremiah 32:26-27

26 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 27 “Look, I am Yahweh, ***the God of all flesh***. Is anything too difficult for Me?”

For now, I’m just showing that we should start from the basis that among God’s children, there should not be a biased, racist bone in our body. Sadly, that has not always been my experience.

I’m asking you to please pray about this and ask Father to show you if there is any bias in our hearts. Peter and the early apostles had to also learn this.

In Peter’s early sermons, his focus was on the Jews (see Acts 2:36; 5:31). In that day, Jews were not allowed to associate with uncircumcised Gentiles, eat with uncircumcised Gentiles, or be in the same room with uncircumcised Gentiles before this.

Then Yahweh goes and calls an uncircumcised Gentile named Cornelius in Acts 10, a Roman centurion who did good deeds, and considered devout – but he wasn't one of “the chosen people”, from a Jew's point of view. He was in fact, very much a chosen child of God and so Father in heaven had to open Peter's eyes to a new world view.

Once Cornelius and his family received the *Ruach HaKodesh*, God's Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues – or languages they hadn't been taught, Peter – a Jew - says this:

Acts 10:34-36

“Then Peter began to speak: “In truth, *I understand that God doesn't show favoritism*, 35 **but in every nation the person who fears Him and does righteousness is acceptable to Him.** 36 He sent the message to the sons of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ—He is **Lord of all.**”

Did you catch the “Lord of ALL”? Our Savior is Master of any who will fear and obey Him as master of their lives – whether American, Chinese, Bolivian, Mexican or Russian.

Shaul – or Paul-- CERTAINLY taught that Yahweh, the Eternal God, is God both of Jews and of Gentiles (Romans 3:29 is super clear about this), and we're ALL children of God and of Abraham, by faith (Gal. 3:28).

Romans 3:29-30

Or is He the God of the Jews only? **Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,** 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

So I will preach ZERO tolerance for one upmanship over Gentiles, due to claiming some higher claim to God. It may not be obvious to you, but there's certainly that sub-current flowing in some circles.

So what do we see happening? In some circles, believers are trying to look, speak, live and act like Jews. Paul publicly corrected Peter for trying to make Gentiles behave like Jews (Gal. 2:14).

Galatians 2:14

But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, *why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?*"

So as we talk about foreigners, I preach and teach they have equal access to the one true God as anyone does, whom He is calling.

By the way: what “COLOR” is God? First of all, He is the brightest of lights. That is revealed over and over. But when someone was able to see Him in His glory, His arms and spirit body are described as “burnished bronze” (**Daniel 10:6; Revelation 1:15**) – certainly not snow white! So get over these color issues. We get so silly, don't we?

Now let's see what Yahweh says about borders, boundaries and immigrants and visitors.

Yahweh is the One who Establishes Borders

Some people – mostly far left liberals and illegal aliens in the country – want to do away with borders and boundaries. They want one world. What does Scripture have to say about that? Someday, there may be one new world order, but will boundaries and borders ever go away?

Deuteronomy 32:7-8

"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations.

Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you:

8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when HE separated the sons of Adam, HE set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.

Acts 17:24-26

“ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And **He** has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and **has determined their** preappointed times and the **boundaries** of their dwellings...”

So these verses and others I'll share with you, show that the Almighty created boundaries and the concept of boundaries.

THE FIRST BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

OK– for a little bit of fun, I have a question for you: when and where can we read about the first borders and boundaries? Maybe pause, and don't read ahead if you're reading my notes....OK, who sets boundaries and when were the first ones set? Can you think of any? How far back can you go to think of the first limits and boundaries Yahweh made?

I would say the first borders and boundaries we can read about are the angelic assignments before the creation of the earth.

Please be turning to Jude 6. On our website I have an intriguing sermon by Jeff Niccum titled “The Big Picture” and he goes into this in far more detail in a way, but I just want to focus on the fact that Scripture is clear that angels were created before there was any physical creation. They sang for joy upon seeing the physical come into being. And then we think about 1/3 of the angels were placed on the earth under a cherub called, in Hebrew, *Heylel*. You know him as “Lucifer”, which actually is a Latin word, the Latin translation of *Heylel*, which means “bright one”. Lucifer means “light bringer”. The real light of the world is Yeshua (John 8:12; 9:5).

I'll read Jude 6 from the CJB:

Jude 6

And the angels who did not keep within their original authority, **but abandoned their proper sphere**, he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for the Judgment of the Great Day.

KJV – “did not keep their first estate, but left their own habitation...”

NKJV – “did not keep their own domain, but left their proper abode.”

It appears to me that this was the first “boundary” or “border” that God made: He divided His angels into various parts of His universe. Possibly up to one third were placed here on earth. This was their home, their territory, their “country”, if you will. They were allowed to visit other areas, and were allowed to visit heaven when called upon. But rebellion set in and they aspired to knock Yahweh off His throne and were cast back down to earth (forcibly deported?) in a battle that ended with the destruction of the surface of the planet. You can hear more about this in Jeff’s sermon and by reading Isa. 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28.

So how many of you got that as the first boundaries? Maybe you can think of something earlier. Let me know.

The next “boundaries” we can read about, set by God, were the boundaries in Genesis 1 – limits placed on the light and dark, on land and sea (Gen 1:4, 17; Gen. 1:7,9). On your own time, read Job 38:8-11 talking poetically about the limits which Yahweh, the Eternal God, placed on the sea: “This far, and no further”. Also Psalm 104:5-9. These also are a form of boundary and limitations.

Now we’re going to read about borders and boundaries – and glean principles about having a right to protect one’s borders and what happens to those who do not obey the laws of the land.

Then we come to Genesis 2, a fuller description of the 6th day, the creation of man from dirt – and the creation of woman from the flesh of her husband, to depict them being one flesh. Elohim, the Living God, created man in an area called the *Land* of Eden, in which was a Garden, the Garden of Eden. Man was created outside the Garden, and then Elohim put him into the Garden (Gen. 2:7-8, 15).

The Garden of Eden had boundaries. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were both “deported” back to where Adam had come from – the land of Eden *outside* the Garden (Gen. 3:22-23).

Genesis 3:23-24

23 “So the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) *sent him away* from the Garden of Eden [deported them] to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 *He drove man out*, and east of the garden of Eden He stationed cherubim with a flaming, whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.”

What is this, if not a “border guard” or border fence placed there, in the form of winged angelic beings (cherubim is a plural word) wielding a flashing sword to keep them from illegally entering back into the Garden?

Yahweh had borders and He protected and enforced His boundaries and borders.

I suspect humankind could go to the one entrance on the east and see the cherubs. What would they see? If you’re not familiar with what a cherub looks like in its spirit form, you can read **Ezekiel 10** and **Revelation 4**. These were impressive spirit angelic creatures with huge loud wings covered with eyes, and they had the body of a lion, or eagle, or bull – you read it. You would not want to meet one of these in a dark alley! Is it possible that the Sphinx of Egypt- a lioness with a human head-- and the winged bull statues guarding the entrance to Babylon got their genesis from these cherubs?

By the way, the tabernacle, and later the temple, also had just one main entrance originally on the east side as well, just like the garden did. I believe the Garden of Eden may have been a type of the

heavenly throne room, in type, and when man sinned, they lost the right to be in the garden. In the Holy of holies – *the Kodesh Kodeshim*—there also were two cherubim over the mercy seat.

When Cain murdered Abel, he in turn was kicked further out still – into the land of Nod, which means “wandering”, to the east of the land of Eden (**Genesis 4:16**).

So we see boundaries and limits are of the Eternal. In His Torah, the Almighty actually commands us not to move boundary markers (Deut. 19:14) and puts a curse on anyone who does (Deut. 27:17).

Think of what all that can imply! But one thing we know, the *Almighty is all for boundaries!*

Finally, after the Flood, Yahweh wanted mankind to spread out and repopulate the earth, but instead they gathered together into one area, to one city under rebellious Nimrod in Babel. They built a high tower – ostensibly as a place of refuge in the event of another flood according to some sources, so they covered it with pitch to make it waterproof. But pitch is also highly flammable, so the apocryphal book of Jasher says God struck it with lightning and it burned down. Then He confounded their languages and forced them to resettle the earth. They took with them the same basic tenets of the religion from Babel – but with their new language.

“Yahweh (the LORD) scattered them across the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:8), something they didn’t want to do. God did not want mankind congregating into one area.

By the time you come to Israel and the Promised Land, we see that Yahweh – who owns all the earth – had decided to eradicate the Canaanites and their clans because of sin. God had also wiped out all mankind except Noah’s family, also because of sin. Ditto for Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain.

Think of Yahweh as being a great landlord who owns 70 houses (the number of the nations of the earth). He’s decided that one of the tenants is trashing His house – which depicts the land of Canaan. What would you do? You’d evict that tenant and let someone else have that house and land. That’s what the Eternal God did. HE destroyed the Canaanites by using Israel as His sword. God Himself said He would give them their land, their cities, their houses – because Yahweh owns the whole earth. He owns everything. HE gets to decide who lives where and who has to be evicted. He evicted the Canaanites and then gave Israel very specific boundaries.

Genesis 17:8

8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which YOU are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Numbers 34:1-6, 7-12 – we read of BOUNDARIES and BORDERS that God honors.

34 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Command the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance — **the land of Canaan to its boundaries.** 3 **Your southern border** shall be from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom; then your southern border shall extend eastward to the end of the Salt Sea; 4 your border shall turn from the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and be on the south of Kadesh Barnea; then it shall go on to Hazar Addar, and continue to Azmon; 5 the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the Sea.

6 'As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea (Mediterranean) for a border; this shall be your western border.

And then it goes on to talk about northern and eastern borders in verses 7-12. God is all for borders. HE set them.

Also, don't forget that when Israel was marching toward the Promised Land, they were commanded by their **Creator to respect the boundaries of the nations they were passing through** – Moab, Ammon in particular. You can read about this in Deut. 2:7-9, 15-19. Don't forget: the Israelites were descendants of Abraham. Moab and Ammon were the children of Lot, who was Abraham's nephew. They lived in the present area of what is today Jordan, whose capital is still called *Amman*.

So what do we have so far?

- **The Eternal is the God of all his children, regardless of race and color and nationality.** We children of God should not have a biased, racist bone in our bodies.
- **Yahweh is the one who set boundaries and expects mankind to respect boundaries. He is not against visitors, but God expects people to be law-abiding.** He expects mankind to honor the boundaries and not cross boundaries illegally. He evicts troublemakers and those who don't obey the laws of the land they are in and forcibly deports them.

Every nation on earth has boundaries and rules. Look at what happened to three young Americans who stepped into Iran, while hiking. But somehow the whole world thinks America should open its borders to anyone and everyone who just wants to stroll across – even without papers, without permission, without a job.

There was to be ONE Law for Native Born and Alien, with a Few Exceptions

Foreigners in the land were expected to abide by the rules of the land. They were not given a pass to disobey local laws. When I am in a foreign country, I abide by their rules and even their customs as much as I can – as long as I'm not breaking God's higher law.

- When we travel to foreign lands – I've been in 26 I believe – we try to learn to say important phrases in their language, even though English-speakers can be found almost anywhere nowadays. I do that to show them respect. When we lived in the Philippines, I learned Ilocano fluently and could get by in Tagalog. I still remember their pledge of allegiance, which we learned in Tagalog. In Israel we learned basic phrases. In Mexico, I spoke broken Spanish to locals. We're now starting to learn Greek in preparation of our Crete trip.
- When I approached the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, Jews expected me to have my head covered as I approached the wall, so I donned my cap, in respect to their tradition. I wasn't going to pray, I just wanted to see the stones up close. (*I understand what Paul teaches under inspiration, that in the new covenant, a man is to pray with his head uncovered-- 1 Cor. 11:4, 7. A woman's covering is not a hat or veil, but is her long hair – 1 Cor. 11:15*).

Foreigners coming to live in our land should also show respect by learning English, by obeying our laws, all of them. We need immigrants, but we need them to come here openly and legally. There should be no preference given to foreigners, nor should they be treated any differently than locals.

The principle from Scripture was, with just a few exceptions: “there is to be one law for the native Israelite and one for the foreigner among you.”

Let's read a few of the many scriptures on this. *I realize we do not live now in a country governed by God's Torah or law, but surely we can learn some key principles from God's word.* Moshe (Moses) taught that Yahweh says everyone is to keep the same law, His law.

Leviticus 24:22 ASB

“You are to have the same law for the foreign resident and the native, because I am Yahweh your God.”

One approach, one law, for all. Foreigners should not be oppressed and cheated – but neither are they to have an advantage over local citizens.

The Affirmative Action programs now end up with *a reverse discrimination* against white men in our country as they give advantages to minorities and immigrants. That's not “one law for all”. Minorities should not be discriminated against, but neither should they have advantages given them that aren't offered to everyone. That's straight from God's word: **“You are to have the SAME LAW for the foreign resident and the native...” Lev. 24:22.**

Numbers 15:14-16

14 And if a stranger dwells with you, or whoever is among you throughout your generations, and would present an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to Yahweh, just as you do, so shall he do. 15 *One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you*, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before Yahweh (the LORD). 16 ***One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.***”

Deuteronomy 1:16-17

16 "Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and ***judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him.*** 17 ***You shall not show partiality in judgment;*** you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.'

In example after example, Yahweh says – there's to be one uniform law for all. Here are two more:

Leviticus 17:12

Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, *nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.*'

Exodus 12:48-49 (also Num 9:14)

48 If a foreigner resides with you and wants to celebrate the Lord's **Passover**, every male in his household must be circumcised, and *then he may participate*; he will become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat it. 49 ***The same law will apply to both the native and the foreigner who resides among you.***”

God taught us basically this: *tell foreigners they are welcome to come into the country legally and peacefully, but once here, they are expected to obey the laws, learn our culture and ways – or be kicked out.* He says, “Tell them they can expect to be treated fairly, and you Israelites better treat them fairly”. But we know good and well that there are times a foreigner can't expect to be treated the same way as a native born. If that is happening, that is not God's way.

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

"You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge. 18 But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and Yahweh your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this thing.

God did make a few EXCEPTIONS to the “ONE RULE for all” concept

We've already shown the Passover was a bit different. There were others.

The uncircumcised in heart or flesh were not allowed into the temple. But that also was Israel's rule, come to think of it.

Ezekiel 44:8-9

Thus says the Lord GOD: *"No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart or uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter My sanctuary, including any foreigner who is among the children of Israel.*

They could sell meat from an animal that died of itself to Gentiles.

Deuteronomy 14:21

"You shall not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to the alien who is within your gates, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a holy people to Yahweh your Elohim (God)."

The king or ruler of the country was not to be a foreigner but a native born Israelite. Many countries have that rule even today, including the USA.

Deuteronomy 17:14-15

*"When you come to the land which Yahweh your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom Yahweh your Elohim chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; ***you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.****

Israelites were allowed to charge interest to a foreigner but not a brother Israelite.

Deuteronomy 23:20 (also Deut. 15:3)

To a foreigner (Hebrew: Nakri) you may charge interest, but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that Yahweh your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess.

Some other rules given:

- Priests were to marry only virgins of the native born Israelites (Lev. 21:13-14), never foreigners (or even Israelite widows or divorcees for that matter).

- Descendants of Ammon and Moab were not to be allowed in the assembly for 10 generations (Deut 23:2-3), but an Egyptians and others could come assemble by the 3rd generation (v. 7-8). You can read how Nehemiah enforced these rules in Neh. 13:1-3.
- Israelite soldiers *could* marry a captured woman from other nations (Deut 21:10-14), according to Yahweh's own words.

Once a foreigner converted to God's teachings, I don't see a problem in scripture with marrying outside Israel or marrying someone of another race. I do feel it is wisest to marry within your own culture even *more so* than within race or nationality. A black American will have less culture shock marrying a white American than he would marrying a black woman from Kenya or Nigeria, for example.

- Boaz after all, married a Moabitess – but one who had said, “Your God will be my God’.
- Salmon married Rahab (Matthew 1:5), probably a black woman (Canaan was black) who professed faith in the true God according to Hebrews 11.
- Joseph married Asenath, the daughter of Poti-phares, the priest of On in Egypt (Gen. 46:20). Poti-phares means “the gift of the sun god”! Egyptians back then were black. Some want to teach that the priests were white. Scripture does not make that distinction.
- **Moses** married a Midianite named Zipporah. *He apparently also had a black Ethiopian princess wife*, according to other sources, who may have been the “Cushite woman” that Miriam and Aaron were criticizing him for (Num. 12:1).

Do I need to go further? I don't subscribe to the strict anti-racial rules of some, as I don't see that being a Biblical requirement, especially if both parties believed in the same Yahweh. I do think it is wise for people to try to marry within their cultures. Let's move on.

The ETERNAL Promoted Love and Acceptance of FOREIGNERS in our Midst

But all this does not say we should just let illegals stream in without regard to our border!

Yahweh says, “Hey, you of all people, having been slaves and foreigners yourselves for so long, you of all people should know what it feels like to be mistreated as foreigners. You be different. You be kind to foreigners. Treat them fairly. Love them.”

I am not saying we are not to have border security and border guards. Remember that I started this teaching with how the Eternal God Himself put cherubim at the gate of Eden. Talk about border guards! Yahweh Himself deported Adam and Eve out of the Garden. I say again: I am married to an immigrant. I love immigrants, we need immigrants – if they come here legally and start their time in our country by obeying the laws, not by disobeying and just running over the border.

But once they're here, hopefully legally, Father in heaven says we are not to be unkind to anyone, or oppress foreigners, but we are to treat them with kindness.

Exodus 23:9 (also 22:21 which says we are not to mistreat or oppress a stranger)

"Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for *you know the heart of a stranger* (because you were strangers in the land of Egypt)."

Deuteronomy 10:17-20

"For **Yahweh** your Elohim is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. 18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, *and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.* 19 *Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.* 20 You shall fear Yahweh your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name."

That was said in context of not afflicting any widow or orphan and treatment of the poor. *When we have companies or businesses that lure people here and then pay them lower than minimum wages, or "under the table", that is breaking the law and is oppressing them.* When we don't give immigrants, especially those legally here, the same opportunities and treatment we do native born, that is oppressing them. Our God says: "Do not mistreat or oppress the strangers".

Leviticus 19:33-34

"When a foreigner lives with you in your land, you must not oppress him. 34 *You must regard the foreigner who lives with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself.* for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am Yahweh your Elohim."

"*You are to love the foreigner as yourself.*" OK, brothers and sisters. That's what Yahweh says. Are we ready to obey Him even in this?

Righteous men of old, like Boaz, did this very thing. I'm thinking of the way Boaz treated Ruth, not just letting her pick up what was dropped by the reapers, but telling the reapers to drop extra grain for her. This is all in the book of Ruth. Boaz was following the teachings of Torah.

Deuteronomy 24:19-22

19 "When you reap the harvest in your field, and you forget a sheaf in the field, do not go back to get it. **It is to be left for the foreign resident**, the fatherless, and the widow, so that Yahweh your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. 20 When you knock down the fruit from your olive tree, you must not go over the branches again. What remains will be for the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow. 21 When you gather the **grapes** of your vineyard, you must not glean what is left. **What remains will be for the foreign resident**, the fatherless, and the widow. 22 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt. Therefore I am commanding you to do this.

So that's what Ruth, the Moabite widow, did. She gleaned the corners and edges of the barley fields plus picked up whatever was dropped. We can learn a lot from this story. She was a needy foreigner but she worked hard and did not expect any handouts and gimmes.

Ruth 2:5-12

5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' *So she came and has continued from*

morning until now, though she rested a little in the house." [She worked hard! She didn't just expect food stamps]

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

Ruth took advantage of the laws of love and kindness which Yahweh gave Israel – but she was humble about it. She wasn't marching in the streets demanding her rights. But my point is: Boaz treated this foreigner very, very well.

This is not just "Old Covenant" teaching, but very much the new as well. Listen to our King's own words.

Matthew 25:35-36 (read all the way to 40)

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; ***I was a stranger and you took Me in;*** 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

But there are some lessons here which we need to state to give the balance:

- Ruth came in wanting to be **assimilated** as part of her new country. "Your God shall be my God, and your people my people". I want to be considered an Israelite, if possible.
- **The poor widow Ruth did not come to Israel expecting handouts.** She was a dirt-poor widow, a foreigner, but she worked HARD to pick up the available opportunities. No one just gave her food stamps. She had to PICK UP the grain, and work it into flour and cook it, and so on. She took advantage of the loving laws of Yahweh to provide for her, but she went out and did the work.
- **I don't see her expecting to be talked to in the language of Moab.**
- **I don't see her being given preferred housing, schooling, or free medical care.**

I have to also say this: though I can't condone foreigners coming across illegally, when you see how poor much of the world is – and I've seen it and lived it – can we at least be sympathetic? Of course

when they come over trying to sell drugs, or kill people, or join gangs, or raise a foreign flag in our cities and schools, I have zero tolerance for that, and I think I'm basing that on much of what we've just read.

Once they're here, it's our job as children of Yahweh to display the love of God in all we do. They too, are created in the image of God, so we treat each one with dignity, with respect, with love – in obedience to what Yahweh commands. Here are a few more examples:

Foreign workers also got the Sabbath day off – just like everyone else. They rested on Shabbat.

Exodus 23:12

"Six days you shall do your work, and **on the seventh day you shall rest**, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant **and the stranger may be refreshed**.

Exodus 20:8-10

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it (guard it) holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim. **In it you shall do no work: you**, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, **nor your stranger who is within your gates**.

Strangers and poor foreigners were also entitled to financial assistance of the 3rd year tithe:

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

"At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. 29 And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, **and the stranger** and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that Yahweh your Elohim may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."

Have we practiced that? With foreigners? If we love are friends and brethren only, how are we different from heathen? Yeshua asked that.

Conclusion:

We could go on and on. There's more. But I think you got the message.

Foreigners are also God's children. Abba [Aramaic for "dear father"] so loves the world He gave His only Son for every living being. In a future sermon I want to talk about Gentiles "being grafted into the olive tree" – which naturally follows from this sermon.

But Ephesians 2:19-20 says, when we come into a group of believers, we're all one. We don't see Chinese, Filipinos, white Anglo-Saxons, or Africans – we see we're all children of the Highest.

"Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone..."

Persecution coming soon to spiritual pilgrims/foreigners – us!

Right now, sure, we see problems with borders, with immigration laws, with enforcement of our rules, and we can get very upset about that. But don't forget: we too are foreigners in this world, and

we are about to receive the brunt of a vicious campaign against the children of Yahweh when the great Tribulation starts. Why? Because we're foreigners to this world's ways, because we don't fit in, because we're not really like the others around us – we're about to see and feel what it's like to be unwanted foreigners.

Knowing that, and looking to the end from the beginning, let's show the love of God in our speech, our actions, and our mercy - - to everyone we meet. It's not our role to show contempt for anyone, even those here illegally. Now, I have to admit, I don't like seeing illegals march in our streets, riot in our cities, demanding rights they don't have a right to demand. But I know someday God is going to call and convert most of the people around us – US citizens and immigrants as well – those legally here, or illegals or otherwise. Might as well start treating them as brothers in the Messiah now.

If Father loves people from around the world enough to call them into His family, who are we to treat any person with any disdain or contempt? Can we not welcome them also into our family? I'm assuming they're obeying the laws and all the things we've discussed. Whether or not we're happy with immigrants in the community, let's exhibit the traits of a true child of Yahweh to all we meet.

Let's be compassionate, knowing we also are about to be treated with hatred and contempt. Let's be kind to foreigners, recognizing we're also foreigners in the world.

So what we covered today:

- **God loves all people.** He is Elohim, the Eternal God Yahweh, of all people. He sent His Son to die for all people, and pay the penalty of sin for all people. He plays **no favoritism**.
- **God was the one who set boundaries** to nations; He also enforces those borders as He did in Eden and how he told Israel to honor the borders of Moab and Ammon.
- **Yahweh loves the foreigners** and wants us to love them as ourselves. (In many lands, a visitor is the honored guest. Not a bad idea.)
- **He does expect them to obey the same law of the land** that everyone else obeys, without discrimination or advantages. Same law, same advantage and the same justice for all.
- He tells us to *extend opportunities for them to be helped, if they – like Ruth- are willing to work for it.*
- He tells us to include them in our 3rd tithe poor fund if needed, and to welcome them to our feasts.
- Yahweh tells us to be kind to them and treat them the same as a native born.
- In our Savior, there is no longer “foreigner and local”, or “Jew or Gentile” – but we are all one in Messiah. There should not be a racist cell in our bodies, as children of Yahweh, the Living God.

May you be blessed, as you follow the teachings of our loving Father.

Until next time, this is Philip, fellow stranger and sojourner in the world with you, signing off. . .

