

Bible Applications Concerning Nations, Borders, and Immigration

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1. The Origin of Nations

- a. Human government was instituted by God as a means to restrain evil on the earth. Genesis 9:5-7.
- b. Nations were instituted by God, with specific borders. Genesis 10:1-5. Note in verse 5 “languages” and “families” (ethnic homogeneity), the latter being applied in the USA in a great experiment of shared values and standards.
- c. By definition, borders are inviolable, or else the nation ceases to be a nation. Proverbs 22:28, 23:10. Concerning Israel as a nation, these are divinely established for OT days and the Messianic Kingdom (Genesis 15:18-21; Joshua 12-19; Ezekiel 47-48).

2. The Building of Walls

- a. Nearly all ancient cities built walls. Jerusalem and Jericho are two examples of walled cities in the Bible (Nehemiah 3; Joshua 6).
- b. The Heavenly City has walls. Revelation 21:14-17. So to say that walls in and of themselves are immoral or unjust is to call God unjust. In God’s city, ‘The Eternal Commonwealth of Zion’, who is able to enter is strictly regulated. Revelation 21:27.

3. Legal Immigration

- a. It is at the discretion of the sovereign nation, as steward of its territory and over its citizens, whether and which immigrants should be allowed in the ranks, and what status they should have. In the case of Israel in the days of the Exodus, there was a mixed multitude permitted among them. Numbers 11:4. But they were not numbered among them in the census. This implies they had some other status.
- b. We ought to be welcoming and compassionate to those strangers and aliens among us. Leviticus 19:33-34, Matthew 25:35, and elsewhere.

4. Illegal Immigration

- a. This is sin, being a clear violation of Romans 13:1-7. 100% of illegal immigrants to the US are criminals. Some have broken more than one law, but all have broken at least one. Illegally entering a nation invites both divine judgment and human consequences.
- b. Just because some may feel that immigration laws are unjust does not give allowance to ignore them. Christians who aid and abet them through NGO’s and church ‘ministries’ are sinning. Condoning

lawbreaking in order to do good is not biblical. Romans 1:32 is the principle (working off the broader principle of the chapter and Romans 6:23a). If the government and its citizens think the laws are unjust, they ought to change the laws.

- c. Allowance of illegal immigration undermines national sovereignty and authority. Ibid. 1b-c.
- d. Allowance of illegal immigration is immoral, and is completely lacking in compassion towards immigrant and citizen alike. It encourages criminal elements which prey on vulnerable women and traffic drugs. We see the principle of how one crime (in this case, illegal immigration), when allowed, will lead to other crimes.
- e. There is a human cost both to illegal immigrants and their families, and to those who are either directly or indirectly harmed by them. Can anyone say “Laken Riley?” Galatians 6:7 is the principle.
- f. Illegal Immigration was a foreign concept in Bible times. One would either have the means and the connection to enter another nation. Or he would have to sell himself and his family into servitude in a foreign nation, which nobody would voluntarily do, as a general rule (excepting times of famine). He and his family could not simply collect social service benefits; they did not exist.

5. Invasion

- a. When a border is determined to have been violated, the nation whose borders have been violated without permission (illegally) can legitimately wage war to secure and reinforce that border, and expel those who have invaded it.
- b. Throughout human history, assimilation of foreign populations into a nation was done by an outside conquering power. A Bible example of this is 2 Kings 17:23-24. Large scale illegal immigration can therefore be legitimately equated to an invasion. It is against this backdrop that President Trump has made such statements as that illegal immigrants are “ruining the fabric” of our nation.

6. Deportation

- a. Is it worth the price? Enforcing law and order is always worth the price. Not to do so to large degree, even retroactively, sends the message, “If you sin, you’re in.” Deportation orders must be enforced, or else they are a joke, and the world will not respect a country that will not even protect its own borders. A country has the right to do this, enforcing it’s own laws is a divinely granted right of nations (Romans 13:1-7).

- b. What about the break up of families that results from this?
 - i. Two wrongs do not make a right. This strong appeal to human compassion is similar to the one that the abortionists use concerning relatively rare situations in which a woman is impregnated by rape or incest. It is not right to then kill the baby to remedy the situation. Why add to the wrong of the illegal immigration by rewarding it even more? All that does is continues the cycle. Proverbs 19:19. If the cycle is not stopped, reversed, and prevented from recurring, its effects will continue to fester.
 - ii. Break up of families is not the fault of the country which was violated. It is the fault of the criminals who entered it illegally. If a man breaks into a house, we do not relieve him of his jail time just because he has a wife and kids at home. Notwithstanding, there ought to be a compassionate effort not to break up families when doing deportation. This means, whenever possible, making a good faith effort to deport all members of a family here illegally at the same time to the same place. If some members have a legal status, they could be given an option to renounce their status so that they could be deported along with their families. As a taxpayer, I would support any additional cost of this for moral reasons.
- c. What if the countries of origin refuse to take them back? There are recourses the US government has, the greatest of which is withholding all financial aid to these countries until they agree to this.
- d. Can there be grace here? It is up to the government and its citizens which path to citizenship may be available to which, and how many, lawbreakers. But again, we must be careful not to do anything which encourages more criminal entry into the United States. Ibid. 6bi.