

The Bible and Immigration: Foundations for Christian Commitment

1. **Migration is a Metaphor for the Christian Faith** – 1 Peter 1:1; 2:10-11 (Phil. 3:20; Heb. 13:14; cf. Ps. 39:12)

2. **The Breadth of the Biblical Material: The Old Testament**
 - 2.1. The Place to Begin the Discussion: The Image of God and the Immigrant's *Humanity* (Gen. 1:26-28)

 - 2.2. Experiences of God' People: Immigrant *Lives* and *Witness*
 - Abram/Abraham (Gen. 12:10-20; cf. Deut. 26:5-8): the pressures at the border
 - Joseph (Gen. 37, 39-50): assimilated yet maintained cultural identity
 - Foreigners who were significant contributors to Israel's life and history: Rahab, Caleb, Othniel, Uriah, the widow of Zarephath, Ebed-Melech, and others.
 - Naomi and Ruth: the complex process of integration
 - Jeremiah's letter to the Babylonian exiles (Jer. 29:1-7): invest in a new land
 - Daniel, Ezekiel, Esther, Ezra—Nehemiah: different experiences of integration in a foreign land

 - 2.3. Old Testament Legislation—Immigrant *Realities*
 - Egypt (Exod. 1-5): the Egyptian's fear of the numbers → draconian laws

 - The provisions of the Law to meet the vulnerability of outsiders
 - Labor: rest and wages (Exod. 20:10; 23:12; Deut. 5:14; 24:14-15)
 - Justice in the legal system (Deut. 1:16-17; 24:17-18; 27:19)
 - Food (Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 14:28-29; 24:19-22 → Ruth)
 - Inclusion in worship (e.g., Exod. 12:45-49; Lev. 16:29)
 - "Love your neighbor..." → "Love the foreigner..." (Lev. 19:18→33-34)
 - Expectations for the outsider: at the very least, knowledge of the language and of the law (Deut. 31:8-13)

 - The motivations for Israel to obey these laws
 - Historical memory (Exod. 22:21; 23:9; Lv. 19:18, 34; Deut. 24:17-18)
 - The person and commitment of God (**Deut. 10:17-19**; 24:14-15)

3. **The Breadth of the Biblical Material: The New Testament**
 - 3.1. Learning from Jesus: His Life and His Teaching about 'Outsiders'
 - 3.1.1. The life of Jesus: He began his life as a refugee in Egypt (Matt. 2:13-23)
 - 3.1.2. The ministry and teaching of Jesus (**Matt. 25:31-46**; **Lk. 10:25-37**; Jn. 4)

 - 3.2. The early church's strategy: *diaspora* churches (the Book of Acts)
 - 3.3. Charitable Hospitality (Lk. 14:12-14; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; Heb. 13:2)
 - 3.4. The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11-12)

4. **Where Do We Go from Here?**