

Epiphany 4, January 28, 2017. Following Presidential Executive Orders banning Aliens and Immigrants from 27 countries.

And God said to Abram: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you....[for] there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land.” Genesis 12:1; 12:10

“...the angels urged Lot, saying, ‘Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here..... ‘Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed.’” Genesis 19:15.

“....Abraham rose up from beside his dead, and said to the Hittites [of Canaan], ‘I am a stranger and an alien residing among you; give me property among you for a burying-place, so that I may bury my dead out of my sight.’ The Hittites answered Abraham, ‘Hear us, my lord; ....bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places; none of us will withhold from you any burial ground for burying your dead.’” Genesis 23:3-8

“[And Joseph’s family] said to Pharaoh, ‘We have come to reside as aliens in the land; for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, we ask you, let your servants settle in the land of [Egypt].’ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph.....‘The land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land...’” Genesis 47:4, 6

“There shall be one [and the same] law for the native and for the alien who resides among you.” Exodus 12:49 and Leviticus 24:22

Through Moses, God said: “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; my wrath will burn [toward you]..... Exodus 22:21-24a

Through Moses, God said “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: [remember, it is I who] am the Lord your God [who commands this]. Leviticus 19:9-10 and 23:22

“When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens [once]: [remember, it is I who] am the Lord your God [who commands this]” Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22

“As for the assembly, there shall be for both you and the resident alien a single statute, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you and the alien shall be alike before the Lord. You and the alien who resides with you shall have the same law and the same ordinance.” Numbers 15:15-16

“Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien.” Deuteronomy 1:16

“For the Lord your God...loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers [once].” Deuteronomy 10:18-19

“You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land...You shall not deprive a resident alien...of justice.” “Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice.’ All the people shall say, ‘Amen!’” Deuteronomy 24: 14, 17-18; 27:19

“Do no wrong or violence to the alien.” Jeremiah 22:3b

“You shall allot [the land given to you] as an inheritance for yourselves **and** for the aliens who reside among you – They shall be to you as citizens...” Ezekiel 47:22

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgements, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.” Zechariah 7:9-10

“Now after the[ wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.” Matthew 2:13-15a

Blessed are those who are persecuted.” Matthew 5:10

Jesus said: “You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:43-44

““Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:37-40

In the Nazareth synagogue on the Sabbath day Jesus read this from the prophet Isaiah:  
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me, to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.....Go and do likewise.” Luke 4:17-19; 10:37

“Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers..... “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all..... [I]f your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink...” Romans 12:9-18; 20a

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.” Hebrews 13:1-3

“Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” I John 3:18

“ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. I John 4:7-8

“what does the Lord require of you[?].....[T]o do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God....” Micah 6:8

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus

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