

The Immigration Crisis: What God Has to Say

Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt. Exodus 23:9

Thirty days ago, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed a law instructing local law enforcement to identify illegal aliens. As a result, a firestorm has erupted. The President has condemned it. Protestors cry "Racism!" But 60% of Americans and 70% of Arizonans support it (the governor's popularity has skyrocketed!)--and ten other states are now considering doing the same thing. What does God say? Here are 10 principles from the Bible about immigration:

1. God cares about immigrants. Gen 12 Hebrews 11:8-10,13-16
2. Countries have the right to establish secure borders, and foreigners do not have a right to demand residence.
Numbers 20:16-21 Judges 11:16-20 Gen 23 Deut 27:17
Genesis 45:16-20 47:1-6
3. The Bible clearly distinguishes the legal immigrant (*ger* "alien") from the illegal one (*zar, nekhar* "foreigner").
Exodus 12:43,48-49
4. Nations that receive aliens must not turn against them and mistreat them. Exodus 1 Deuteronomy 26:5-6
5. Legal immigrants must receive equal justice. Num 15:15-16
* *sanctuary* for innocents, not illegals. Ex 21:12
6. Legal immigrants must receive social welfare benefits.
a. "gleaning" Deut 24:19-22 b. "tithe" 26:12-13
7. Everyone--citizen, alien, foreigner--must obey the law.
Romans 13:1
8. Employers must not discriminate against (legal) aliens, nor disobey by hiring (illegal) foreigners. Deut 24:14-15
9. At the same time, the believer must treat even illegals with compassion as fellow "image-bearers." Job 31:15-19
10. The believer should extend special love and care to (legal) aliens, especially in the church. Lev 16:29-20 22:17-19
Matt 25:35-40 Gal 6:10 Eph 2:19