

BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO REFUGEES

The following passages from the Bible refer to refugees. All quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version.

Genesis 3:22-24 – *Adam and Eve are forced out of the Garden.*

Genesis 7 and 8 – *Noah builds an ark and takes refuge from the flood.*

Genesis 12:1 – *The call of Abram: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”*

Genesis 12:10 – *“Now 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 19 – *Lot takes his family and flees Sodom.*

Genesis 23 – *Abraham is a stranger and an alien in the land of Canaan.*

Genesis 46:1-7 – *Jacob moves his family to Egypt to escape the famine and reunite with Joseph.*

Genesis 47: 1-6 – *Joseph brings his brothers to Pharaoh and they are welcomed and given jobs.*

Exodus 1:8-14 – *Joseph’s generation is gone, and the Egyptians oppress the Israelites. “Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor.”*

Exodus 1:15-2:10 – *Pharaoh orders all the Hebrew boy babies to be killed, but Moses is hidden and is saved by Pharaoh’s daughter.*

Exodus 12:37-39 – *The Israelites were driven out of Egypt so fast they had no time to make provisions and had to bake unleavened cakes of bread.*

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

Exodus 12:21 and 23:9 – *Moses gives God’s law: “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”*

Leviticus 19:9-10 and 23:22 – *Moses gives God’s law: “You shall not strip your vineyards bare...leave them for the poor and the alien.”*

Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22 – *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 in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”*

Leviticus 24:23 – *Moses receives God’s law: “With me you are but aliens and tenants.”*

Numbers 9:14 and 15:15-16 – *“...you shall have one statute for both the resident alien and the native.”*

Numbers 35 and Joshua 20 – *The Lord instructs Moses to give cities of refuge to the Levites so that when the Israelites must flee into Canaan they may have cities of refuge given to them.*

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

Deuteronomy 6:10-13 – *The people of Israel are made aware that the land had come to them as a gift from God and they were to remember that they were once aliens.*

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 – *“For the Lord your God...loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and 26:12-13 – *Tithing was begun, in part, for resident aliens.*

Deuteronomy 24:14 – *“You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land...”*

Deuteronomy 24:17-18 – *“You shall not deprive a resident alien...of justice.”*

Deuteronomy 24:19-22 – *Leave sheaf, olives, grapes for the alien.*

Deuteronomy 26:5 – *A wandering alien was my ancestor...*

Deuteronomy 27:19 – *“Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien...of justice.”*

I Chronicles 22:1-2 – *Aliens were important in building the temple.*

I Chronicles 29:14-15 – *David praises God: “We are aliens and transients before you...”*

II Chronicles 2:17-18 – *Solomon took a census of all the aliens and assigned them work.*

Psalms 105 – *Remembering their sojourn: “When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it, wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people...”*

Psalms 137:1-6 – *“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept...How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?”*

Psalms 146:9 – *“The Lord watches over the strangers...”*

Ecclesiastes 4:1 – *“Look, the tears of the oppressed—with no one to comfort them.”*

Isaiah 16:4 – *Be a refuge to the outcasts of Moab.*

Jeremiah 7:5-7 – *“If you do not oppress the alien...then I will dwell with you in this place...”*

Jeremiah 22:3-5 – *Do no wrong or violence to the alien.*

Ezekiel 47:21-22 – *The aliens shall be to you as citizens, and shall also be allotted an inheritance.*

Zechariah 7:8-10 – *Do no oppress the alien.*

Malachi 3:5 – *The messenger will bear witness against those who thrust aside the alien.*

Matthew 2:13-15 – *Jesus and parents flee Herod’s search for the child.*

Matthew 5:10-11 – *“Blessed are those who are persecuted.”*

Matthew 25:31-46 – *“...I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

Luke 3:11 – *“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none...”*

Luke 4:16-21 – *“...Bring good news to the poor...release to the captives...sight to the blind...let the oppressed go free.”*

Romans 12:13 – *“Mark of the true Christian: “...Extend hospitality to strangers...”*

II Corinthians 8:13-15 – *“It is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need...”*

Ephesians 2:11-22 – *“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.”*

Hebrews 11 – *“By faith Abraham...set out for a place...not knowing where he was going.”*

Hebrews 13:1-2 – *“...show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels...”*

James 2:5 – *“Has not God chosen the poor in the world...”*

James 2:14-17 – *“What good is it...if you say you have faith but do not have works?”*

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

I John 4:7-21 – *“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God...” We love because God first loved us.”*