

Connecting to FRANK III

“Connecting to a stranger”

Much of the Bible is written about strangers.

Strangers were internationals, foreigners, and migrants, people moving from place to place.

Migrants in the time of the Bible, internationals, foreigners, and strangers were often abused and mistreated.

God let Abraham know from the beginning that he would be a stranger for 400 years in a foreign land, so he could remember what it felt like to be a stranger.

☐ God not only wanted Abram to feel what it was like to be a stranger, but to love, feed, and clothe the stranger.

KJV Genesis 15:12-14 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon **Abram**; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ And he said unto **Abram**, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a **stranger** in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them **four hundred years**; ¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall **they come out with great substance**.

I

How are we to treat the stranger, immigrants, and foreigners?

KJV Deuteronomy 10:17-20 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: ¹⁸ He doth execute the judgment of the **fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger**, in giving him food and raiment. ¹⁹ Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

The fatherless, orphans, the widow and the stranger, the foreigner, the migrant, and the international were a focus of God’s love. **Vs 18**

NKJ Deuteronomy 10:18 He administers **justice** for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.

□ God ministers justice on behalf of the orphan, fatherless, widow and stranger, the immigrant, migrant, and foreigner.

II

God loves people, including **explicitly** the fatherless, the widow, and the stranger.

God ensures their **protection** by commandment.

KJV Exodus 22:21 Thou shalt **neither vex a stranger**, nor oppress him: for ye were **strangers** in the land of Egypt.

God gave the community of Israel, a command, followed by a consequence for disobedience of the command.

They were not to mistreat, the stranger, foreigner, international, migrant, or **sojourner**.

They were not to mistreat, the widow or the orphan, the fatherless without severe **penalty**.

NKJV Exodus 22:21-24 You shall **neither mistreat a stranger** nor oppress him, for you were **strangers** in the land of Egypt. ²² “You **shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child**. ²³ If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴ and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

□ Let’s connect to the stranger, international, migrant, and foreigner.

III

One of the final judgments of nations is how the nation connects with, **cares** for and shows compassion to the stranger.

NKJV Matthew 25:43-46 **I was** a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ ⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, **when did we see** You hungry or thirsty or a

stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of **the least of these, you did not do it to Me.**’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the but the righteous into **eternal life.**”

Jesus is not only Emmanuel God with us, in *Matthew 25* He is God as us.

☐ This is ***incarnational*** truth.

☐ He is the word made flesh.

The word made flesh dwelling among us full of grace and full of truth.

Jesus ***experienced*** humanity in its fullest and complete form.

Jesus is a servant, brother James writes to the migrants, and Jewish believers scattered abroad throughout the nations.

☐ The Book of James and the Book of Hebrews are two books written to migrants, believers who were scattered abroad, and immigrants in foreign lands.

Even after the resurrection, James writes to strangers in foreign lands on how to continue their faith and treat one another and fellow migrants.

KJV James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are **scattered abroad**, greeting.

☐ Here’s the final exhortation and encouragement for this week.

KJV Hebrews 13:1-3 Let brotherly love continue. ² **Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:** for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ **Remember them that are in bonds**, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

ESV Hebrews 13:1-3 Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to **show hospitality to strangers**, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ **Remember** those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

☐ Connect to strangers, internationals, foreigners, migrants, and immigrants.

☐ Connect because you were also a stranger, and you understand, the lack of care, concern, and compassion.

☐ Connect because they're **inherent** judgments for mistreatment of the stranger, and these judgments are severe and multigenerational.

☐ Let's be a welcoming community to the international, the stranger, the foreigner, and the migrant this week and as a **lifestyle**!

Connect to the stranger!

The Lord is watching!

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, August 3 & 4, 2024
9:30 a.m.*