

Special: What the Bible Teaches About  
Borders, Immigration, and  
Refugees

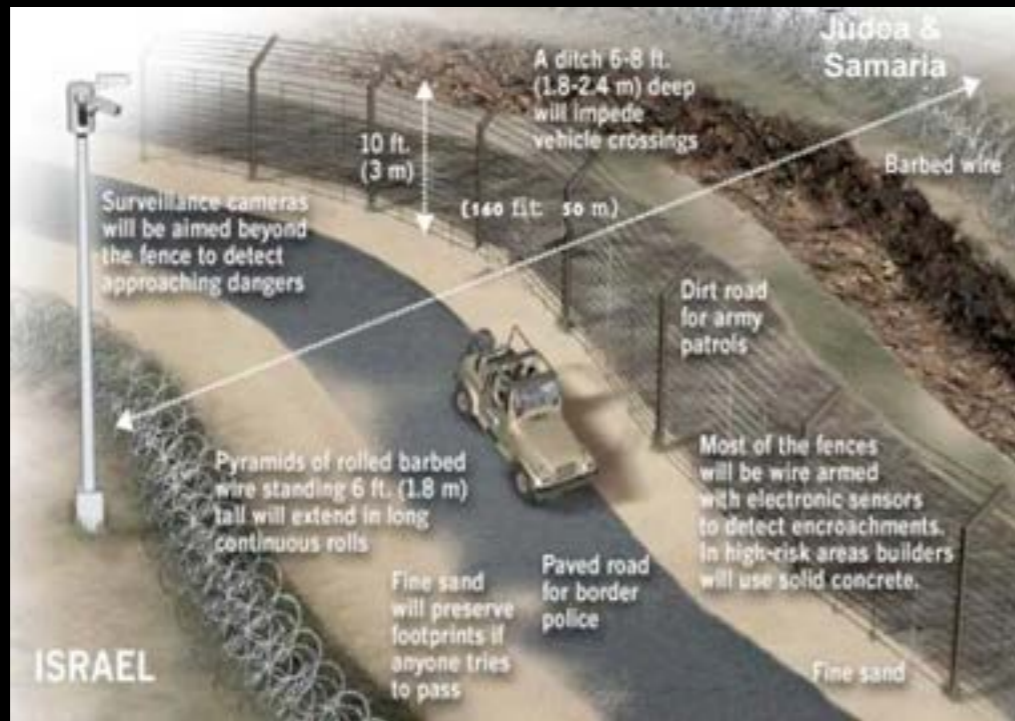
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Dean Bible Ministries  
[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)


Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



# What The Bible Teaches About: Borders, Immigrants, and Refugees





A meme featuring a religious painting of Jesus with a speech bubble asking about immigration and a response about heaven's gate. The background is a painting of Jesus sitting on a rock, surrounded by a crowd of people in a landscape. A yellow speech bubble on the left contains the question, and a white speech bubble at the bottom contains the answer. A small cartoon character is in the bottom left corner.

**BUT JESUS, WHAT  
WOULD YOU DO ABOUT  
IMMIGRATION?**

**REMEMBER EVEN HEAVEN HAS  
A WALL, A GATE AND THERE'S  
EXTREME VETTING TO GET IN**

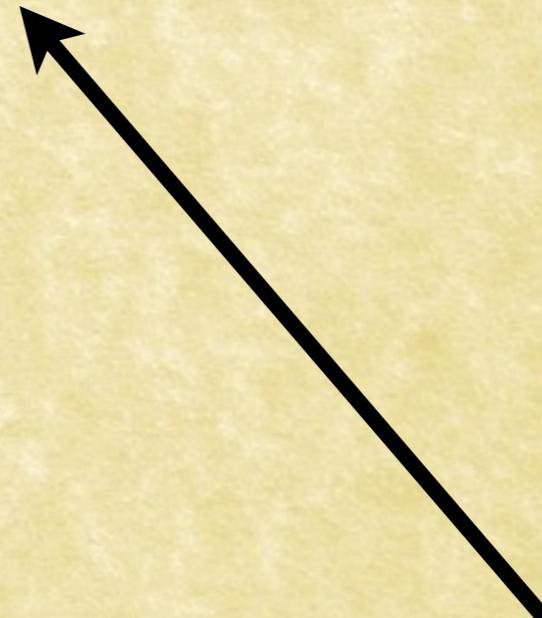
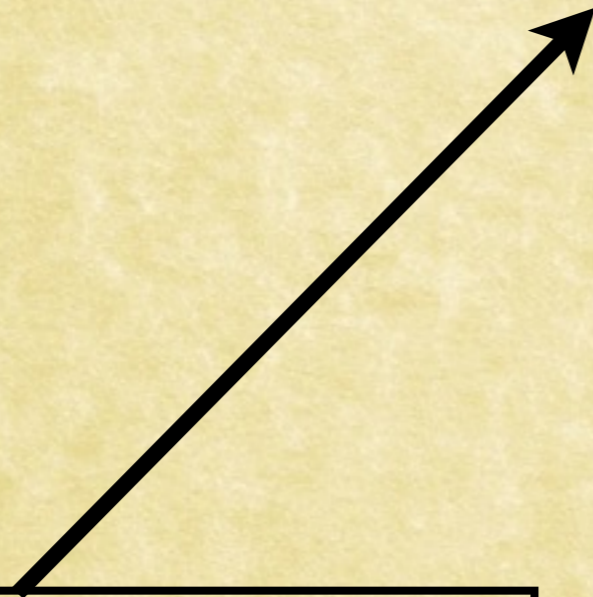
MR EUMCIT  
DON'T GIVE CAKE



**The answers to fundamental issues  
of life, law, morals, thought, and behavior.**

**Human Viewpoint**  
Human reason,  
experience,  
intuition

**Divine Viewpoint**  
The Bible





## **Three key elements for correctly understanding any verse of Scripture:**

- **Understanding the *words*, not simply the *ideas* that are conveyed;**
- **Knowing the broad historical context of a passage;**
- **Recognizing the speaker, recipient, and circumstances for the writing.**



## **Key Questions:**

- 1. From whence did the idea of government derive? And what should be the responsibility of the believer in relation to government regulations, policies, and law?**
- 2. How did the ideas of borders develop, and what is God's view of borders?**
- 3. What was the situation related to migration, immigration, and border control in biblical times?**
- 4. How did the Mosaic Law (the Torah) regulate the Israelites' attitude toward the foreigner?**
- 5. What light does the teaching of Jesus shed on this matter?**
- 6. What does the Bible teach about compassion?**



# Origin of Government

## 1. The Noahic Covenant, Gen. 9:1–9

**Gen. 9:6, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”**



# Origin of Government

## 2. The Tower of Babel, Gen. 11:1–9

**Gen 11:7, “ ‘Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.’**

**Gen 11:8, “So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.**

**Gen 11:9, “Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”**



- 1. From whence did the idea of government derive? And what should be the responsibility of the believer in relation to government regulations, policies, and law?**

**Rom. 13:1, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**

**Rom. 13:2, “Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

**Rom. 13:3, “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.”**



**Rom. 13:5, “Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.**

**Rom. 13:6, “For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing.”**



**1 Pet. 2:13, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,**

**1 Pet. 2:14, “or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.**

**1 Pet. 2:15, “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—”**



- 1. God ordained human government.**
- 2. God mandated human obedience to human government and governors with certain exceptions when those authorities violated God's specific directions.**
- 3. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the believer in Christ to uphold all constitutional laws of the land unless that law violates specific divine commands or prohibitions of Scripture. If the law is not believed to be wise, then appropriate legal means to change the law must be followed. Until the law changes, no Christian has the right to disobey that law.**
- 4. The responsibility of human government is to protect the citizens from enemies within (criminals) and without (hostile forces).**



**Rom. 13:4, “For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”**



**Therefore, the role of the government is not the same as the role of the individual.**

**It is not the role of the individual to execute justice, it is the role of the State to do so.**

**It is not the role of the individual to determine the “righteousness” of the laws, but the role of the duly appointed ministers of the State.**

**The role of the government is to protect citizens, to destroy those who would seek to destroy the government and to provide for economic, legal, social, and spiritual stability within a nation.**

**Within the security provided for a nation, then the citizens can operate with compassion and kindness.**



**1 Tim. 2:1, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,**

**1 Tim. 2:2, “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”**



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**Deut. 32:8,**

**“When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations,**

**When He separated the sons of Adam,**

**He set the boundaries of the peoples**

**According to the number of the children of Israel.”**



**Acts 17:26, “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,”**



**Acts 17:26, “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,”**

**Dan. 4:34, “And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.”**

**Dan. 4:35, “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’ ”**



**Borders, therefore, are divinely appointed, recognized, and are to be respected as part of the function of human government.**

**It is therefore the part of the responsibility of each nation to determine what the regulations should be for securing the borders to provide for the peace and stability of a nation.**



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**Ex. 22:21, “You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”**

**Ex. 23:9, “Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”**



**Gen. 23:4, “I am a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.”**



- 1. The comparison here is between the “stranger” or resident alien in the land of Israel, and Israel’s former position as a “stranger” or resident alien in Egypt.**
  - a. Jacob and his clan were invited by the ruler of Egypt to enter and live in Egypt.**
  - b. As long as Joseph was alive, and he was remembered, the Israelites were honored, though segregated. Segregation was not the problem.**
  - c. When a new king who did not know or honor Joseph arose, then the Egyptians enslaved these legal resident aliens.**
  - d. Their freedom came through divine intervention.**
  - e. These verses have no relation to the modern immigration debate. Rather, they focus on how one treats the legal resident aliens or immigrants who are legally present in the land.**



**Deut. 23:3, “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever,”**



**4. How did the Mosaic Law (the Torah) regulate the Israelites' attitude toward the foreigner?**



**Ex. 22:21, “You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”**

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

**Deut. 10:19, “Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”**

**Ex. 12:49, “One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”**



**Lev. 17:10, “And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.”**

**Lev. 17:12, “Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.**

**Lev. 17:13, “ ‘Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust;’ ”**

**Lev. 17:15, “ ‘And every person who eats what died naturally or what was torn by beasts, whether he is a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean.’ ”**



**“ISIS has threatened to flood Europe with half a million migrants from Libya in a ‘psychological’ attack against the West, it was claimed today. Transcripts of telephone intercepts published in Italy claim to provide evidence that ISIS is threatening to send 500,000 migrants simultaneously out to sea in hundreds of boats in a ‘psychological weapon’ against Europe if there is military intervention against them in Libya.”**

**~Feb. 2015, *Daily Mail* article**



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