



Guest

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Jewish Sacred Texts on Immigration and Refugees

Genesis 12:1

Adonai said to Abram, “Go forth from your land, your birthplace, your father’s house, to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and it shall be a blessing.

Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (11th century French commentator on the Torah)

(AND I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION) – Since travelling is the cause of three things – it decreases family life, it reduces one’s wealth and lessens one’s renown – he therefore needed these three blessings: that God should promise him children, wealth and a great name.

Exodus 23:9

You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:34

The stranger that sojourns with you shall be to you as the homeborn among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am Adonai your God.

Numbers 15:14-15

And when, throughout the ages, a stranger who has taken up residence with you or one who lives among you... There shall be one law for you and for the stranger; it shall be a law for all time throughout the ages. You and the stranger shall be alike before Adonai.

Deuteronomy 23:16

You shall not turn over to his master a slave who seeks refuge with you from his master.

Numbers 35:11-12

You shall provide yourselves with places to serve you, cities of refuge to which a manslayer who has killed a person unintentionally may flee. The cities shall serve you as a refuge from the avenger, so that the manslayer may not die unless he has stood trial before the assembly.

Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Bava Batra 21b

Rav Huna the son of Rav Yehoshua said: it is quite clear to me that the residents of one town can prevent the resident of another town [from setting up in competition in this town], but not, however, if he pays taxes to that town.