

*Faith and Politics  
Immigrants and Israel*

Good morning and welcome to CHC. My name is Bobby, and I am thrilled that you are here today.

Our invitation to each of you today is to experience Jesus. That's our prayer for our time together this morning.

Our teams work really really hard to make this church feel like your church. Can we just give a little encouragement to all of our volunteer teams here at CHC. So many behind the scenes people to make this thing go.

*Two quick notes:*

Baptism on Nov. 3

The Loop – During 2<sup>nd</sup> service on 1-2-3 Sunday of the month.

If you are new or haven't gone through it yet...let me encourage you to check out The Loop. This is our way of getting you connected to CHC. If you want to make CHC your home church and make that commitment, get to the loop.

As many of you know we kicked off a new series a couple of weeks ago called **Faith and Politics**.

If the Bible mentions it, we (the church) should talk about it. Even if it gets a little uncomfortable. There are a lot of news outlets that are trying to inform you, but we want to be informed by what Gods Word says.

The Bible tells us to seek wisdom. Get wisdom! That's what this series has been about.

The theme throughout the series... **My faith filter must come before my political filter.**

This week we are wrapping up the series and we are going to look at 2 different topics *Immigrants and Israel*.

Obviously, there is a lot of discussion that can come from just these topics and there is no way to cover them all....so I'm just going to highlight a few that we have been hearing the most about.

**1. Immigrants**

**What does the Bible say about immigrants?**

It actually talks about this group of people a lot.

The Bible uses a few words to describe what we know as immigrants. It uses words like “stranger, sojourner, foreigner, or alien” somewhat interchangeably.

**Exodus 22.21 | <sup>21</sup> “You must not exploit a resident alien or oppress him, since you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt.**

**Leviticus 19.33-34 | <sup>33</sup> “When an alien resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. <sup>34</sup> You will regard the alien who resides with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.**

**Deuteronomy 10.18-19 | <sup>18</sup> He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> You are also to love the resident alien, since you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt**

Not only does the Bible mention them...but there are several prominent people in the Bible who are actually immigrants.

Often referred to as the "father of faith," Abraham is a significant biblical figure who left his homeland, Ur of the Chaldeans, and became an immigrant in the land of Canaan. God made a covenant with Abraham, promising to give his descendants the land they were dwelling in.

Moses spent a significant part of his life as an immigrant in Midian after fleeing from Egypt. It was during this time that he encountered God at the burning bush and received his call to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

The same would be true of David seeking asylum with the Philistines.

Throughout Scripture God was reminding His people how to treat immigrants and reminding them where they come from.

What does that mean for the Church? Here is the Biblical command...**As Christians, we are called to love immigrants.**

We can debate laws within our nation when it comes to the receiving of immigrants, how to handle asylum-seekers, and whether or not to provide refuge as a nation.

But the Scriptures call us to a certain response as individuals engaging flesh and blood immigrants. We must have compassion and empathy.

The Great Commission calls us to think missionally about this question of immigration. This commission underscores the global scope of the Gospel message and the importance of reaching out to people from every background

If you are an immigrant, we love you!

We should welcome legal immigrants. It's a long, hard, expensive process. (*Share Shiras Story*)

*Sidenote:* Not all illegal immigrants are evil people. We cannot demonize all. That's not fair.

Regardless of your political opinions on this issue, we know that we are to show the love of Christ to immigrants in our area. That is not up for debate.

**Sharing the love of Christ is never optional.**

The apostle Paul reminds the Church...**Galatians 3.28** | <sup>28</sup> **There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female, since you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

We get some pretty clear marching orders from God on this, but notice this as well...

We are called to love but that doesn't mean we just open all borders. It's important to note...**God is not opposed to borders.**

**Acts 17.26** | <sup>26</sup> **From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.**

When God gave the land allotments to the 12 tribes of Israel, He gave them according to and with boundaries and borders.

He led His people in the O.T to build a wall to protect themselves.

Borders and boundaries are needed and necessary and lawful.

Intentionally violating immigration laws is considered sin.

**1 Peter 2.13-14** | <sup>13</sup> **Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority** <sup>14</sup> **or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good.**

**The leaders of a nation are called to uphold the law.**

We should not have an unregulated and unchecked border. That just doesn't make sense.

God is not against borders; therefore, we shouldn't be either.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, there are currently between 10-20 million illegal immigrants in the USA.

425,000 convicted criminals | 13,000 convicted murders | 16,000 convicted rapists

Because we are looking at multiple topics this week, I can't go into detail on the candidates. Here is the main question I think should be asked regarding this topic... **Which candidate will best protect our national security?**

## ***2. Israel***

We are currently seeing and hearing a lot of news out of this region of the world. Israel is involved in what seems many battles right now.

Because of an attack on OCT 7...for the first time in 50 years Israel has declared war.

The threat against Israel is great today. Hamas, Hezbollah, the proxies of Iran, etc.

We are hearing all of this and maybe we know the Bible says something about all of this but what's it all really mean?

Anytime we see actions or war against Israel we should wake up and take notice. We should jump to our Bibles to get wisdom and understanding.

### **What does the Bible say about Israel?**

The Bible is a book about Israel. It records its history and gives prophetic happenings in the coming days. The fact that God has an eternal future for Israel is evident in that five sixths of the Bible bears directly or indirectly upon them.

God calls Israel and the Jews His chosen people.

**Deuteronomy 7.6 | <sup>6</sup> For you are a holy people belonging to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.**

The ultimate goal of God's choice of the Jews as His chosen people was to produce the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would be the Savior of the world. Jesus had to come from some nation or people, and God chose Israel.

God gave us Jesus...born in Israel, died in Israel, rose again in Israel, and is coming again to Israel.

God granted Israel its land...

**Genesis 15.18 | <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I give this land to your offspring, from the Brook of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River:**

**Deuteronomy 1.8 | <sup>8</sup> See, I have set the land before you. Enter and take possession of the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their future descendants.'**

There is so much that has happened through history since God granted this land, but the facts show that the land Israel occupies now is not even close to the size God had originally intended.

They are not colonizers. They are the indigenous people of the land. They did not take anything that wasn't theirs.

The land is at the center of some of the warfare we are seeing right now. 1200 people were killed Oct 7, 2023. (29 Americans killed)

We are seeing people protesting in America against Jews and against Israel. Why?

**Satan hates what God loves.**

This is a big deal and here is why...God told Abraham...**Genesis 12.3 | I will bless those who bless you, (Israel) I will curse anyone who treats you (Israel) with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**

One reason why God has blessed America is because we have always stood by Israel.

As a country we do not support or agree with every single act that Israel takes. We don't even support our own actions...but they must always remain an ally to us.

God will bless those who bless and curse those who curse Israel. Our nation, and every other for that fact, should support Israel.

This is all pretty crazy...what do we do?

Don't be troubled. **Matthew 24.6 | <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**

King David encourages his readers...**Psalm 122.6 | Pray for the well-being (or peace) of Jerusalem...Pray for peace in Israel.**

The Bible has a lot more to say. Even surrounding the end times and Israel. Let me encourage you to read **Ezekial 37-39.**

Again, because we are looking at multiple topics this week, I don't have the time to discuss the candidates. But here is the main question I think should be asked regarding this topic...**Which candidate will best stand behind Israel?**

*Conclusion:*

For these topics we have covered today and for this entire F&P series...how do we respond?

### **1. Remember, God is still in control.**

We can be tempted to look at everything around us and say where is God.

Daniel 2 reminds us that It is God is sovereign over the political affairs of humanity because he removes kings, and he established kings.

A clear understanding of this truth will help us to see that politics is merely a method God uses to accomplish His will.

Sure, politicians and leaders will use their power and influence for bad...always have...but God is in control.

**Romans 8.28 I And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.**

His will and plan supersede everything we see going on down here.

### **2. The Churches mission doesn't change**

**Our mission lies not in changing the nation through political reform, but in changing hearts through the Word of God.**

Today, perhaps more than ever, we have the privilege of loving others and offering them Gods truth.

Once we experience God's forgiveness, grace, and hope...we are responsible to share that good news of freedom with everyone around us.

Put your faith where your fear is and exercise a faith that works through love

**“The Churches kingdom-vocation is not only what it says to the world but is also what the Church does within and for the sake of the world.” -NT Wright**

### **3. Use every day to strengthen your foundation**

Everyday your beliefs are being challenged. Everyday there are things competing for your allegiance.

Every day you are bombarded with lies of the enemy trying to convince you of anything he can that Gods way is not the way.

Church we must wake up every day and fight back. Strengthen your walk with Christ. Strengthen your walk with you spouse. Strengthen your walk with your kids. Every day.

When we do this...our worldview changes. We don't ride the roller-coaster of emotions that hit with every new political interview or soundbite.

When our foundation is solid and built on Christ alone, we truly understand...

Government is not our hope. Red or Blue is not our hope. Choosing Donkey or Elephant is not going to promise you a better life.

I believe we can still make a difference, Church. I believe the world is searching for hope, and we have it!