

Deuteronomy 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Analysis

Love ye therefore the stranger—The Hebrew ahav (love) is commanded toward the ger (sojourner), extending covenant loyalty beyond ethnic Israel. **For ye were strangers in the land of Egypt** grounds the command in Israel's collective memory: they experienced oppression as foreigners and must not replicate Egypt's cruelty. This is applied theology—doctrine (God's character, v. 17-18) produces ethics (love the stranger).

Jesus radicalizes this in the Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10:25-37), making a despised foreigner the hero who fulfills 'love your neighbor.' Ephesians 2:19 reverses the metaphor: Gentile believers are 'no more strangers and foreigners' because Christ abolished ethnic barriers. The church becomes the community where former 'strangers' (Gentiles and Jews) unite through the cross. Hospitality to outsiders reflects God's gracious inclusion of us.

Historical Context

Israel's 430-year sojourn in Egypt (Exodus 12:40-41) included both favorable treatment under Joseph and brutal enslavement under later Pharaohs. Moses appeals to this memory to cultivate compassion for vulnerable foreigners residing among them in Canaan.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your past experience of God's grace (when you were spiritually 'strangers,' Ephesians 2:12) motivate present compassion?
2. In what practical ways can you 'love the stranger' in a culture increasingly hostile to immigrants and refugees?

Interlinear Text

וְאַהֲבָתָם	אֶת	גֵּר יִם	כִּי	גֵּר יִם	הָיִיתָ
Love	H853	for ye were strangers	H3588	for ye were strangers	H1961
H157		H1616		H1616	
בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם:				
in the land	of Egypt				
H776	H4714				

Additional Cross-References

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

Luke 17:18 (Parallel theme): There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Galatians 6:10 (Parallel theme): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.