IMMIGRATION REFORM: SOME ANSWERS TO AN ANCIENT AND REOCCURRING PROBLEM

Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, **Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace**. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. **Ruth 2:3** And she went, and came, and **gleaned** in the field after the reapers: a**nd her hap was to light (**נִיְקָר מִקְרֶהָ**) on** a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.
Ruth 2:8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? **Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: Ruth 2:9** Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men **that they shall not touch thee?** and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.
Ruth 2:15 And when she was risen up to glean, **Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: Ruth 2:16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her**, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her **not**. **Ruth 2:17** So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. **Ruth 2:18** And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. **Ruth 2:19** And her mother in law said unto her, **Where hast thou gleaned to day?** and **where wroughtest thou?** blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, **The man's (**הָאִישׁ**) name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz (**בֹּעַז**).**

Immigration – an obvious problem and issue in the USA. Yet as Americans we act as if this is the first group of immigrants! And this from a nation where everyone is an immigrant, including the Native Americans, and living in a world with a history of immigration!
Christians seem to be unaware the Scripture repeatedly addresses this issue in no uncertain terms!

Boaz wasn't merely being kind → he was obeying / implementing the Scripture
This does not answer all questions, since I / we are prisoners to Scripture / texts. The other issues must be dealt with applying other Christian and natural law principles (citizenship, borders…).
3 of the following 4 must be promoted as a national agenda.

I. Safety from any and all oppression

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.
Judges 18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel….
Judges 19:1 And it came to pass **in those days, when there was no king in Israel….**
Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

Judges 19:11-15 And when they were by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said unto his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn in **into this city of the Jebusites**, and lodge in it. And his master said unto him, **We will not turn aside hither into the city of a stranger, that is not of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah.** And he said unto his servant, **Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Gibeah, or in Ramah.** And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them when they were **by Gibeah, which belongeth to Benjamin.** And they turned aside thither, to go in and to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: **for there was no man that took them into his house to lodging.**

Any person travelling abroad will immediately think: **Am I safe?**

Ruth 2:4 And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.
Ruth 2:5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, **Whose damsel is this?**

Ruth 2:6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, **It is the Moabitish damsel** that came back with Naomi **out of the country of Moab:**
Ruth 2:7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.
Ruth 2:8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:
Ruth 2:9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them**: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee?** and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.
Ruth 2:10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, **Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?**
Ruth 2:19 And her mother in law said unto her, **Where hast thou gleaned to day?** and **where wroughtest thou?** blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is **Boaz**.
Ruth 2:20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, **Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead.** And Naomi said unto her, **The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.**
Ruth 2:21 And **Ruth the Moabitess** said, **He** said unto me also, **Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.**
Ruth 2:22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, **It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.**
Ruth 2:23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

Exodus 22:21 Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.
Exodus 23:9 Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:33 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.

Deuteronomy 24:14 Thou shalt **not** oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, **or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates:**
Deuteronomy 24:17 Thou shalt not pervert the judgment of the stranger, nor of the fatherless; nor take a widow's raiment to pledge:
Deuteronomy 27:19 Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

President G. W. Bush made proposals for immigration reform:
Liberals hated it: there wasn't enough binding the immigrants to the nanny state and the Democratic party!
Conservatives hated it: Amnesty! Amnesty! Amnesty!

So we did nothing…well not exactly nothing! We allowed the same criminal underground systems to continue to operate and to continue to oppress people!
Our inactivity is really activity!

Vexing: The smaller indignities such as name-calling, fear, intimidation…
Oppression: violence, theft, rape, extortion, bribes….

As Christians we never vex / oppress or allow others to do so.

II. Equality before the law

Leviticus 18:26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, **nor any stranger that sojourneth among you:**
Leviticus 20:2 Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, **Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel,** that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones.
Leviticus 24:16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: **as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land,** when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.
Leviticus 24:22 Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 15:29 Ye shall have **one law** for him that sinneth through ignorance, **both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.**
Numbers 15:30 But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, **whether he be born in the land, or a stranger,** the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Numbers 15:15 One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.
Numbers 15:16 One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you.

Equality before the law assumes:

- **There are laws (and not merely lawyers)**
- **No one is above / outside the law**
- **Law is king (*Lex Rex* not *Rex Lex*)**
- **Law will be enforced**

This concept resonates with Americans and with Christians but only because of millennia of Scripture! This is not the case in most other cultures!

Examples from the ancient and modern world:

The greatest law code of the ancient world was the Code of Hammurabi 1792-1750 BC

- Old Babylonian dynasty
- Found in > 50 MSS / Stela
- Diorite stela – found not in Babylon but in Susa
- The original is in the Louvre

According to Hammurabi: There are 3 classes in society with 3 sets of rules / laws:

- **Amelu: freemen**
- **Mushkenu / Mushkenum: dependants**
- **Wardu / wardum: slaves**

The distinctions were built into the Law but not in the

Islamic Sharia Law & Dhimmi laws:

- **2nd class citizen for Christians (head tax)**
- **"protected people" → if they pay a poll tax**
- **Highly limited in location and in dress**
- **Restricted rights**
- **Highly diminished religious rights**

Ruth 2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.
Ruth 2:2 And **Ruth the Moabitess** said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.
Ruth 2:5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, **Whose damsel is this?**
Ruth 2:6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, **It is the Moabitish damsel** that came back with Naomi **out of the country of Moab:**
Ruth 2:13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, **though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.**
Ruth 2:21 And **Ruth the Moabitess** said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

Who are the 3 most vulnerable groups in most every society?

- **Widows**
- **Orphans / fatherless**
- **Strangers / foreigners**

Jeremiah 7:6 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Jeremiah 22:3 Thus saith the LORD; **Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.**

Ezekiel 22:6 Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood. Ezekiel 22:7 In thee have they set light by father and mother: **in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.**

Ezekiel 22:29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

Zechariah 7:9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: Zechariah 7:10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.**

Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, **and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right,** and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

III. Opportunity to work

What did Ruth do? Why?

What did Boaz allow? Why?