

INTRODUCTION: A GLOBAL CALLING TO LOCAL ACTION

- A. DISTINCTION: REFUGEE VS. IMMIGRANT** (involuntary vs. voluntary; fleeing vs. migrating; emergency vs. urgency; greater need→greater duty (Tt.3:14); see sermon on immigration, 17Oct15)
- B. LOCAL LEGACY: FT. ONTARIO EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER** (Safe Haven; 1944-45; note: Heb.11:31; *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom; Raoul Wallenberg, etc.)
- C. GLOBAL EMERGENCY: LOCAL LEGACY LOST**
 - 1. refugees from/to the world (e.g., from Africa, Asia, Middle East, CASA / e.g., to W. Europe)
 - 2. numerous agencies: governmental, non-governmental, faith-based (e.g., UNHCR, Intl. Rescue Comm., Samaritans Purse; InterFaith Works of CNY etc.)
 - 3. generally wretched emergency camps due largely to overwhelming need
 - 4. too much by too few, too little by too many; extreme reactions political left & right (all/nothing)
 - 5. current US: slow, narrowing process of resettlement

I. GOD AS A REFUGE FOR ALL WHO TRUST IN HIM (Mt.11:29; John 6:37; see Ps. 2:12; 5:11; 7:1; 11:1; 14:6; 16:1; 17:7; 18:2,30; 25:20; 31:1,19; 34:8,22; 36:7; 37:40; 46:1; 52:7; 55:8; 57:1; 59:16; 61:3,4; 62:7,8; 64:10; 71:1,7; 73:28; 91:2,4,9; 94:22; 104:18; 118:8,9; 141:8; 142:5; 143:9; 144:2)

- A. REFUGEES FLEEING FROM THE AVENGER** (Nm.35:1f; Jsh.20:1f; see Mt.3:7=Lk.3:7; Acts 2:38f)
- B. JUST AVENGER & JUSTIFYING REFUGE** (Rom.3:26; Joel 3:16; Ps.2:12)
- C. IMAGES: ROCK, FORTRESS, SHIELD, HORN, WINGS** (2Sam.22:2,3,31,47(Ps.18); *rock*, see Dt.32:4; Ps.19:14; 28:1; 31:3; 42:9; 62:2,6; 71:3; 92:15; 144:1; note: “safe space”)
- D. FALSE REFUGES DESTROYED** (Is.28:15f; see Rev.6:16)
- E. REFUGEES FROM THE CITY OF DESTRUCTION** (Ezk.33:21,22; Lk.21:20f; see Mt.11:28; Jn.14:1f; Heb.6:18f; 10:19f; Rev.21:1f; see *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, *Hoomania*, etc.)
- F. SUMMARY: HOW BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM!** (Ps.2:10-12; Mt.11:28; Heb.6:18f)

II. THE CHURCH AS A REFUGE FOR ALL WHO COME TO HER (e.g., Shelter RPC (Vancouver, BC); see Asylum RPC; Rock RPC, etc.)

- A. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF REFUGEES**
 - 1. Adam: fled from the garden into the wilderness (Gen.3:24)
 - 2. Noah: fled from the flood into the ark (Gen.7:15)
 - 3. Jacob: fled from famine into Egypt (Gen.46:1f)
 - 4. Moses: fled from Egypt into the Promised Land (Gen.50:24; Ex.12:25; etc.)
 - 5. David: fled from Saul, Absalom into the wilderness (1S.19:10f; 21:10f; Ps.57:1 /2S.15:1f; Ps.3:1)
 - 6. Exiles: fled from Assyrians, Babylonians into the nations (Ezk.33:21,22; see Lev.26:33)
 - 7. Jesus: fled from Herod into Egypt (Mt.2:13f)
 - 8. Christians: fleeing from sin & death to Christ (Ps.2:1f,12; Mt.3:7; 11:28; Jn.6:37; 1C.10:14; 6:18; Rv.21f)
 - 9. Summary: the people of God are refugees & God Himself is our refuge
- B. BIBLICAL MORAL LOGIC**
 - 1. Nation of priests w/cities of refuge (Ex.19:6; Nm.35:1f; Is.42:6; 49:6; 60:3; 61:9 /1Pt.2:9; Mt.25:34f)
 - 2. Refugees from injustice vs. fugitives from justice (Num.35:11f,22f/16f; Heb.11:31; note: “sanctuary cities”, yet Acts 5:29; Ex.20:1f; e.g., *The Hiding Place*)
 - 3. Summary: give what received (Ex.22:21; 23:9; Lev.19:34; Mt.6:14; 7:12; 25:34f)

III. BE A CITY OF REFUGE!

- A. HOW BLESSED ARE ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM!** (Ps.2:10-12; Mt.11:28; Heb.6:18f)
- B. HOW BLESSED ARE ALL WHO GIVE REFUGE IN HIM!** (Dt.5:14; Mt.6:15; see Mt.25:35,45; see Rom.5:8; Gal.6:10)
- C. IS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT YOUR GIFT & CALL?** (Nm.35:6; 1Pt.4:10,11; 1Th.4,1,10; Tt.3:14)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)