

The Church in Babylon

Study Notes

Session Six

“Islam, Immigration, and the Church: Balancing Compassion and Security”

A. Introduction

1. The Dangers of Having Unsecure Borders: An Islamic Perspective

- a. **Islamic Immigration:** It’s totally unfair to say that all Islamic immigrants arrive in America with the same agenda. The majority of Muslims have traveled to the U.S. for a better way or life, to enjoy more freedom, to be educated, or to leave hostile nations – and they pose no threat at all. However, Radical Muslims (minority) come to dominate our nation and enforce Islamic teaching and theology on our way of life – and they see immigration as a means of fulfilling the will of Allah.
 - **Migration as a Means:** The Islamic calendar doesn’t begin with the birth or death of Muhammad, but with the date of his migration, which illustrates the importance of spreading Islam by moving from one geographical place to another. The goal is not to assimilate into a new host nation, but to colonize and transform it. According to the Quran, *“Those who believe, and adopt exile, and fight for the Faith in the cause of Allah.... for them is the forgiveness of sins and a provision most generous”* (Surah 8:74). Also, once a Muslim migrates to a new nation, the Quran prescribes **“Jihad”** (holy war) as a means for taking over the new land, which is often violent and extreme.
 - **Terrorism is Not the Main Goal:** While many Muslims extremists are viewed as terrorists, the main threat isn’t terrorism but transforming a nation to follow Islamic laws and morals (Sharia Law).
 - **Muslim Brotherhood:** In 2003, the FBI uncovered the MB’s multifaceted plan to dominate America through immigration, intimidation, education, community centers, mosques, political legitimacy, and establishing ‘interfaith dialogue’ centers in our universities and colleges. Along with this was a “twelve-point strategy” to establish Islamic government on earth that is brought about by a flexible, long-term *“cultural invasion.”* The top of this strategy is immigration. Such a strategy transformed Indonesia from a Buddhist and Hindu country to the largest Muslim-dominated country in the world. The hope of the Muslim Brotherhood is that people in the West will be so focused on terrorism that they’ll turn a blind eye to the inner transformation of America that’s happening away from the headlines.
 - **Quote:** *“Islam isn’t in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Koran should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on earth.”* – Omar Ahmad, Council on American-Islamic Relations

- b. **Question:** Why are we talking about this? Well, while immigration is thoroughly American, it can also be Un-American when it becomes a threat to our safety and freedom – and that puts us as believers in a difficult position: how do we balance compassion for fellow humans with long-term national security – both being something the Bible supports?

B. The Role of the State and the Church

1. The Role of the State

- a. **Problem:** Dr. Lutzer noted that he heard a Christian pastor say that “restrictive immigration is contrary to the gospel.” In other words, God would not want our nation to enforce border security because people from all over the world should be allowed to come in, regardless of what threat they might pose. Maintaining “open borders” is the most “loving” thing to do.
- b. **Scripture:** According to the Bible, the state’s overarching role is to protect its citizens in both the present and future generations.
- **Romans 13:1-4** – *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad....he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.”*
- c. **Example:** From 1885 to 1954, more than 21 million immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island in New York. All arrivals were asked twenty-nine questions, one of which was how money they had so that they could support themselves for a time (equivalent of \$600 in today’s funds). Doctors examined people as they disembarked ships, and those with visible health problems or diseases were sent back on the next vessel. Some unskilled workers were turned away because they were feared to become “a public charge.” In all, about two percent (120,000) were sent home. In the past, the U.S. had a high bar for entry.
- d. **Point:** The state should always be compassionate where it can, but it’s first obligation is to protect its citizens, preserve order, and mete out punishment to those who do harm.
- **Quote:** *“I agree, our present legal immigration system is broken; the process needs to be streamlined rather than fraught with red tape, fraud, delays, unacceptable costs, and inconsistencies. Untold numbers of people are suffering because of our government’s gridlock and political alliances. But securing our borders must be the government’s first priority.”* – Erwin Lutzer

2. The Role of the Church

- a. **Problem:** When American Christians see what's taking place (or not taking place) at the border, there is a temptation for us to become angry and resentful, even to the point of not being kind and loving to those who make their way across.
- b. **Providence:** Could it be that God takes what people did for evil (illegal entry) and use it for what is good? Could God be allowed migrants from other nations to arrive in a country where Christian ministry and the gospel is more plentiful than anywhere in the world?
- c. **Parable of the Good Samaritan:** Jesus tells us that our neighbor is anyone who is in trouble, anyone we could help. When we encounter someone bleeding on the side of the road, we don't ask how they got there, or what religion they belong to, or if they're legal – we are called to stop and help that person sacrificially.
- d. **Quote:** *“As a pastor, I have found that congregations find it easier to send missionaries to foreign countries than meeting their Muslim neighbors face-to-face.”* – Erwin Lutzer
- e. **Example:** A Muslim man was befriended by Christians in a U.S. city and became a follower of Christ. He said, *“Here I was convinced I had the right religion, but my religion taught me only to hate and to seek revenge. These people had the wrong religion and all they did was now me love.”*
- f. **Actions:** We must be committed to praying for foreign nationals, especially those fleeing from Muslim nations. We must be willing to engage and develop friendships with these people, hoping that our influence and love will open the door for the gospel.
- g. **Quote:** *“If we respond to Muslims with love and respect, we have a remarkable opportunity to point them to Jesus. To the contrary, if we demonize or shun them, we not only risk falling into the sin of slander, we also minimize the chance that they would ever consider following Jesus, and we play into the plans of Muslim extremist groups that want to marginalize Muslims to view Christians as their enemy.”* – **Seeking Refuge: On the Shores of the Global Relief Crisis**
- h. **John 13:20** – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”*