



# A Stranger in a Strange Land

A Crash Course on Migration & Immigration

Blackhawk Church — Spring 2026

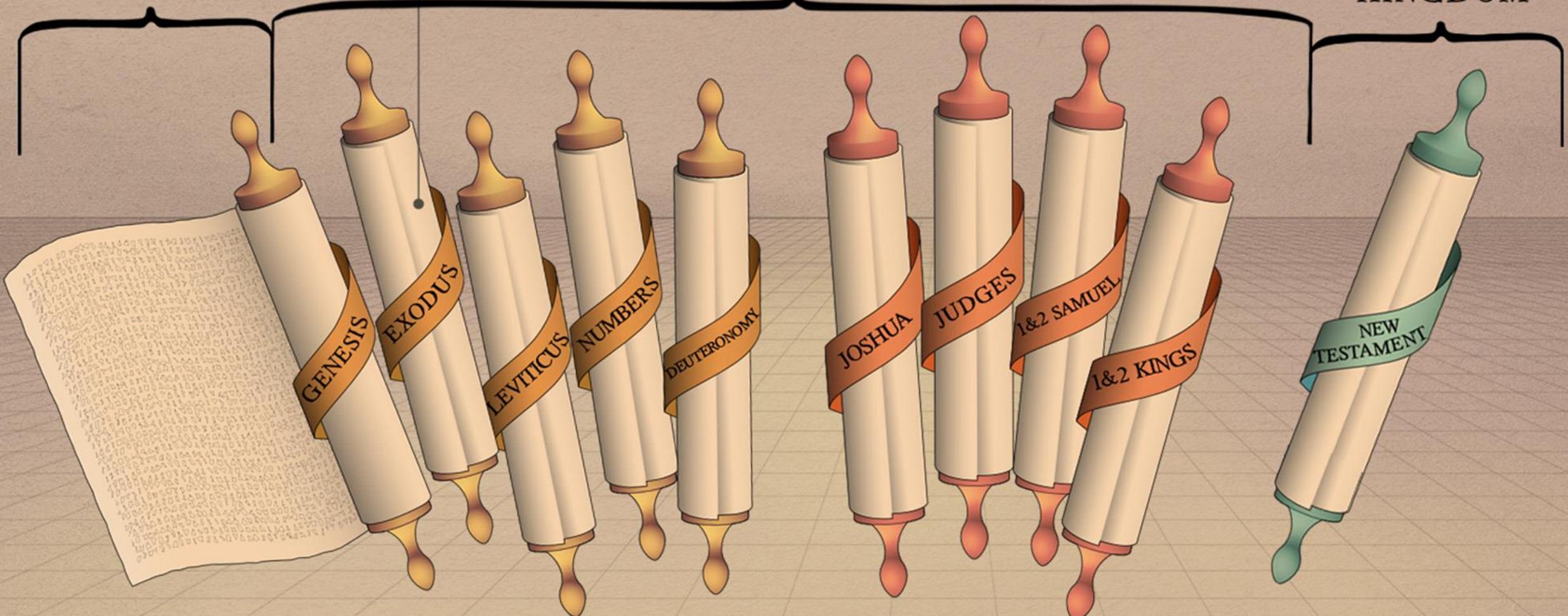
# THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

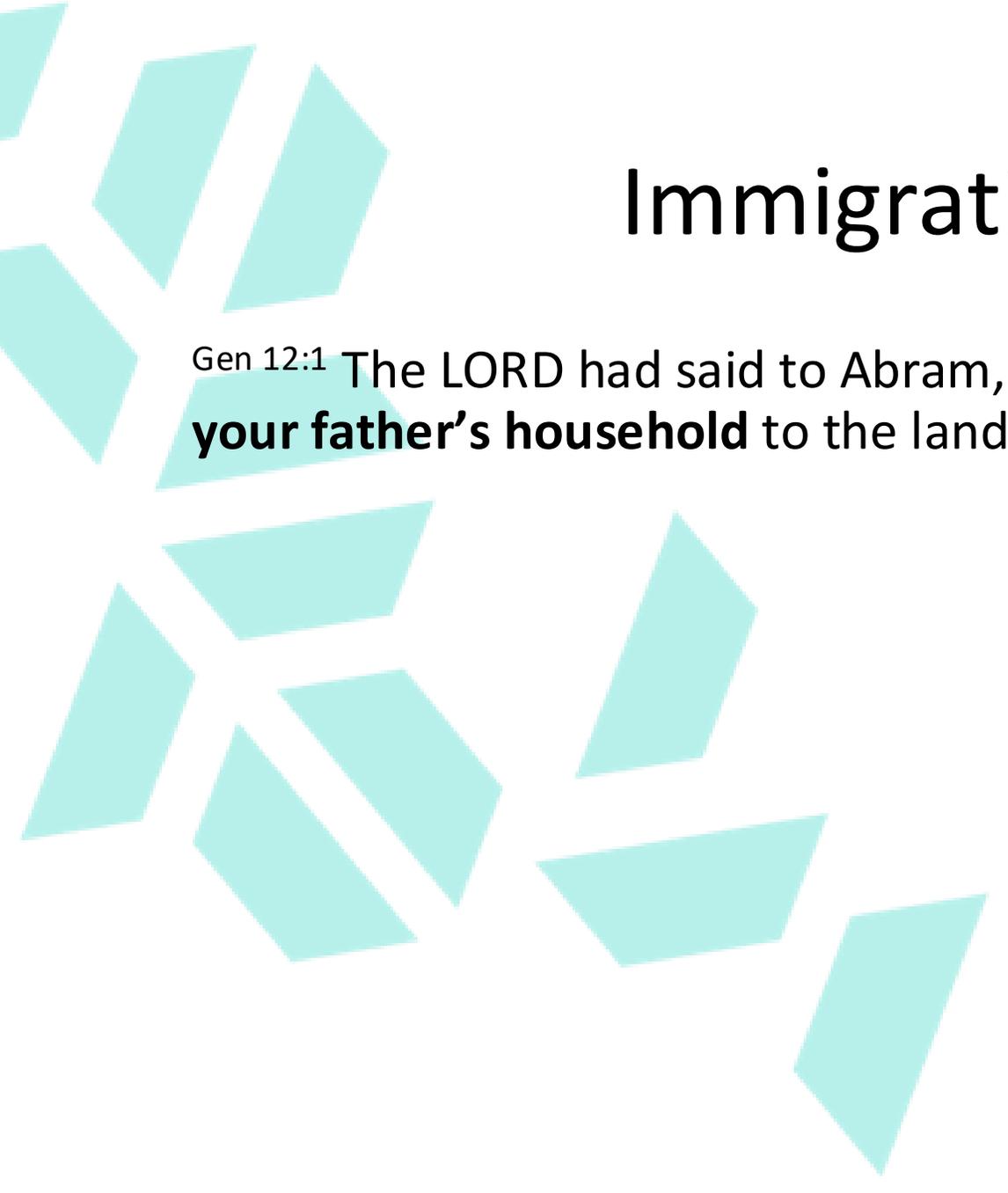
EXODUS

PROLOGUE

RISE & FALL of ANCIENT ISRAEL

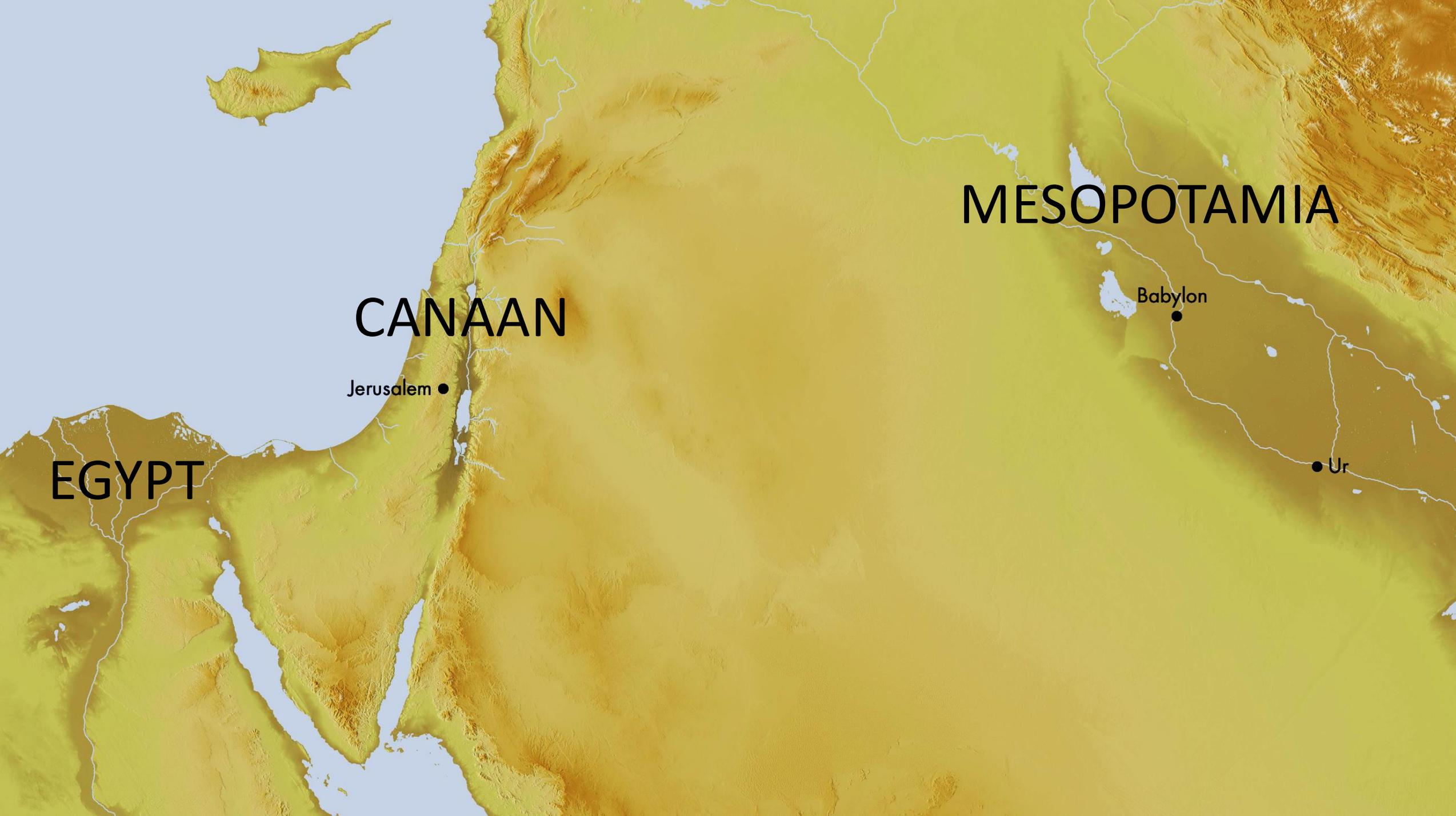
NEW KING  
&  
RENEWED  
KINGDOM





# Immigration in the Bible

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, “**Go from your country, your people and your father’s household** to the land I will show you.”



EGYPT

CANAAN

Jerusalem ●

MESOPOTAMIA

Babylon ●

Ur ●

# Immigration in the Bible

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Gen 14:13 A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the **Hebrew** (*‘ibri’*).

*Habiru* (Akkadian) → *‘ibri’* (Biblical Hebrew)

# Immigration in the Bible

*Ḫabiru* (Akkadian) → *ʿibrî* (Biblical Hebrew)

stateless

displaced

outsiders

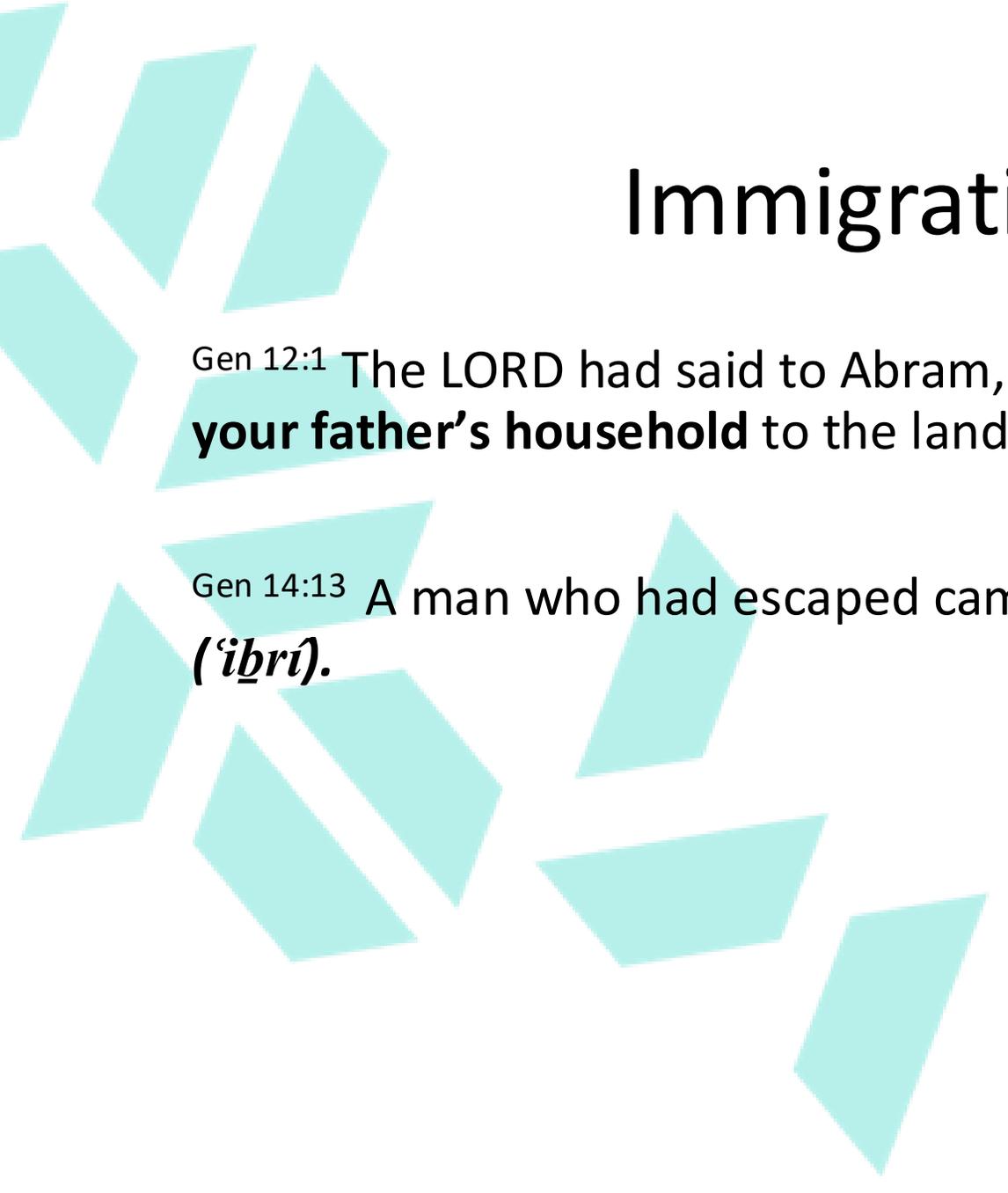
fugitives

mercenaries

bandits

migrant laborers

runaway peasants



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Gen 14:13 A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the **Hebrew** (*‘ibri*).

# Immigration in the Bible

Gen 24:3 I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that **you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites**, among whom I am living, <sup>4</sup> but will **go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac.**”

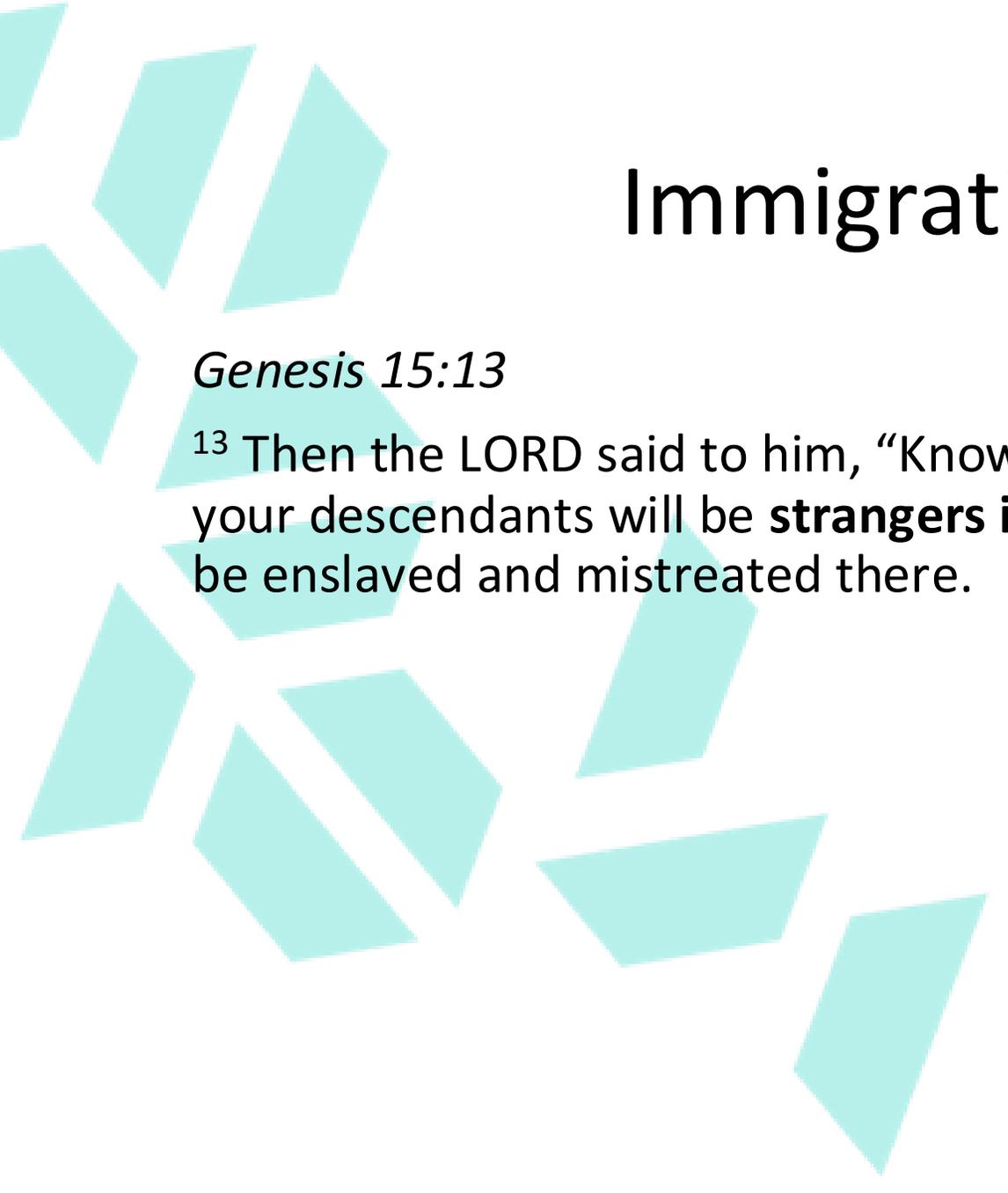
Gen. 28:1 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: “**Do not marry a Canaanite woman.**”

# Immigration in the Bible

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Gen. 28:1 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: “**Do not marry a Canaanite woman.**”

Gen 34:8 But Hamor said to them, “My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. <sup>9</sup> Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. <sup>10</sup> You can settle among us; the land is open to you. Live in it, trade in it, and acquire property in it.”



# Immigration in the Bible

*Genesis 15:13*

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be **strangers in a country not their own** and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

# Immigration in the Old Testament

Moses

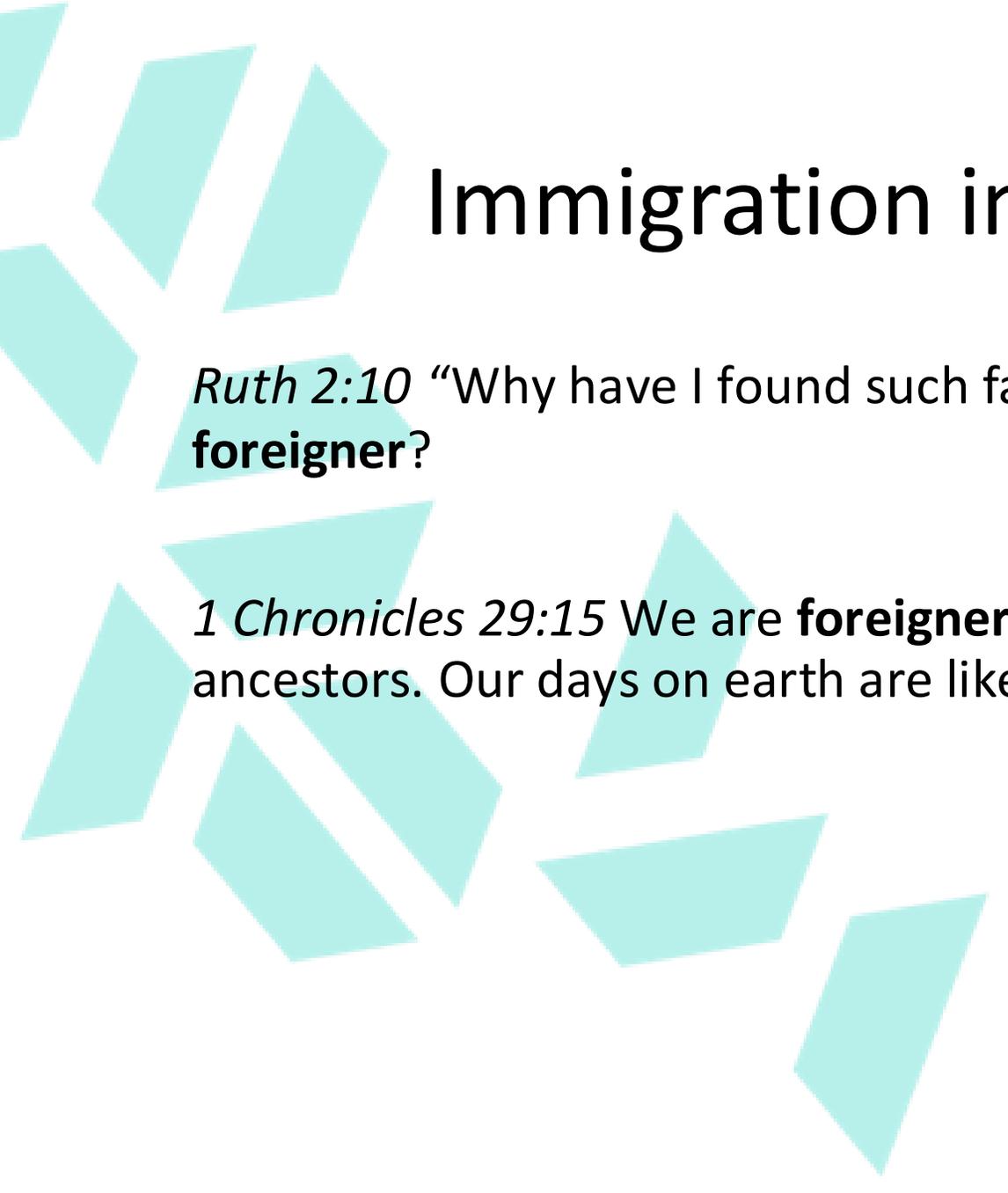
**Hebrew** by birth

Raised as **Egyptian**

Ends up among the **Midanites**

*Exodus 2:22b* ...“I have become a **foreigner** in a foreign land.”

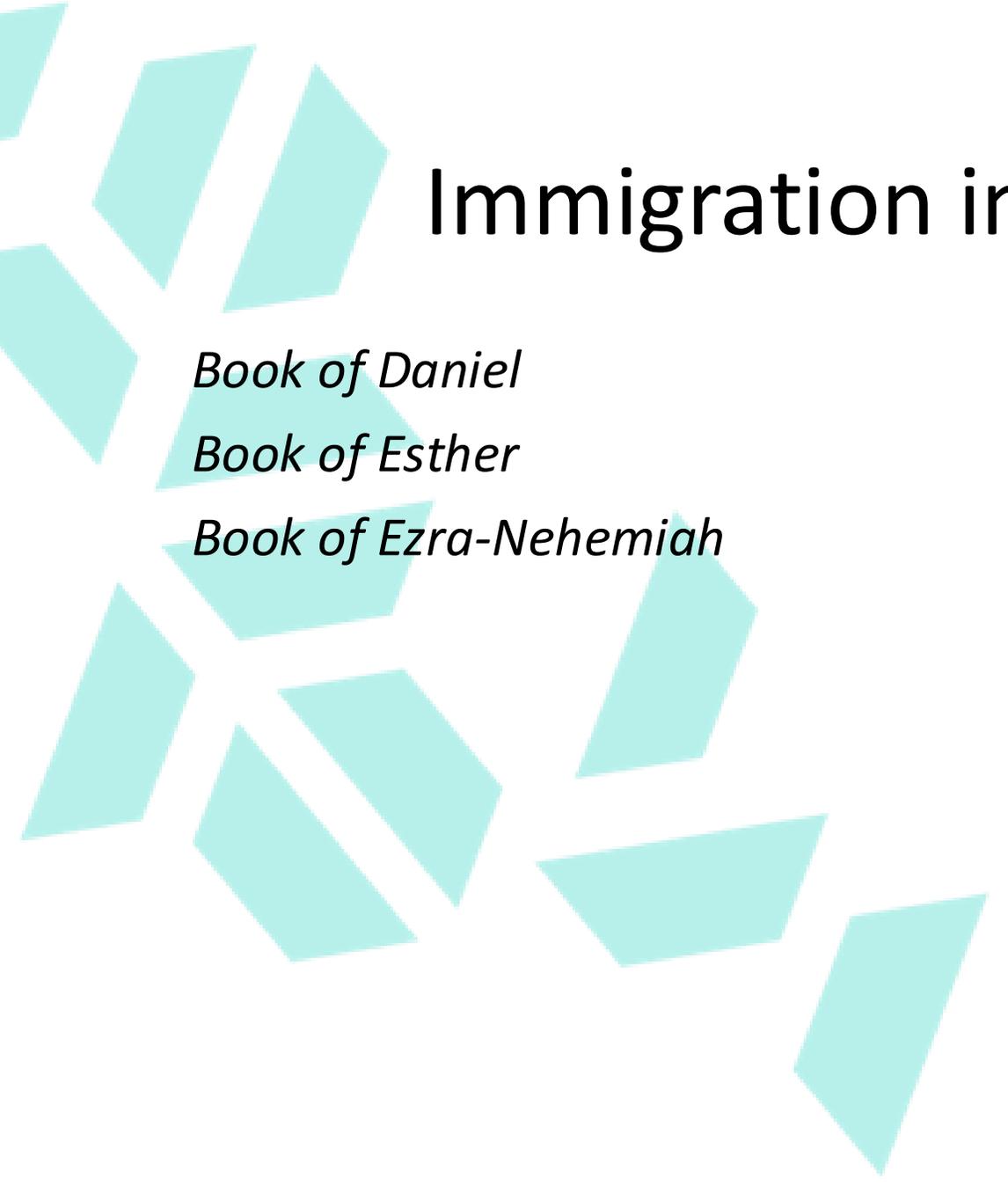
Ex. 2:23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. <sup>24</sup> God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup> So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.



# Immigration in the Old Testament

*Ruth 2:10* “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a **foreigner**?”

*1 Chronicles 29:15* We are **foreigners and strangers** in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.



# Immigration in the Old Testament

*Book of Daniel*

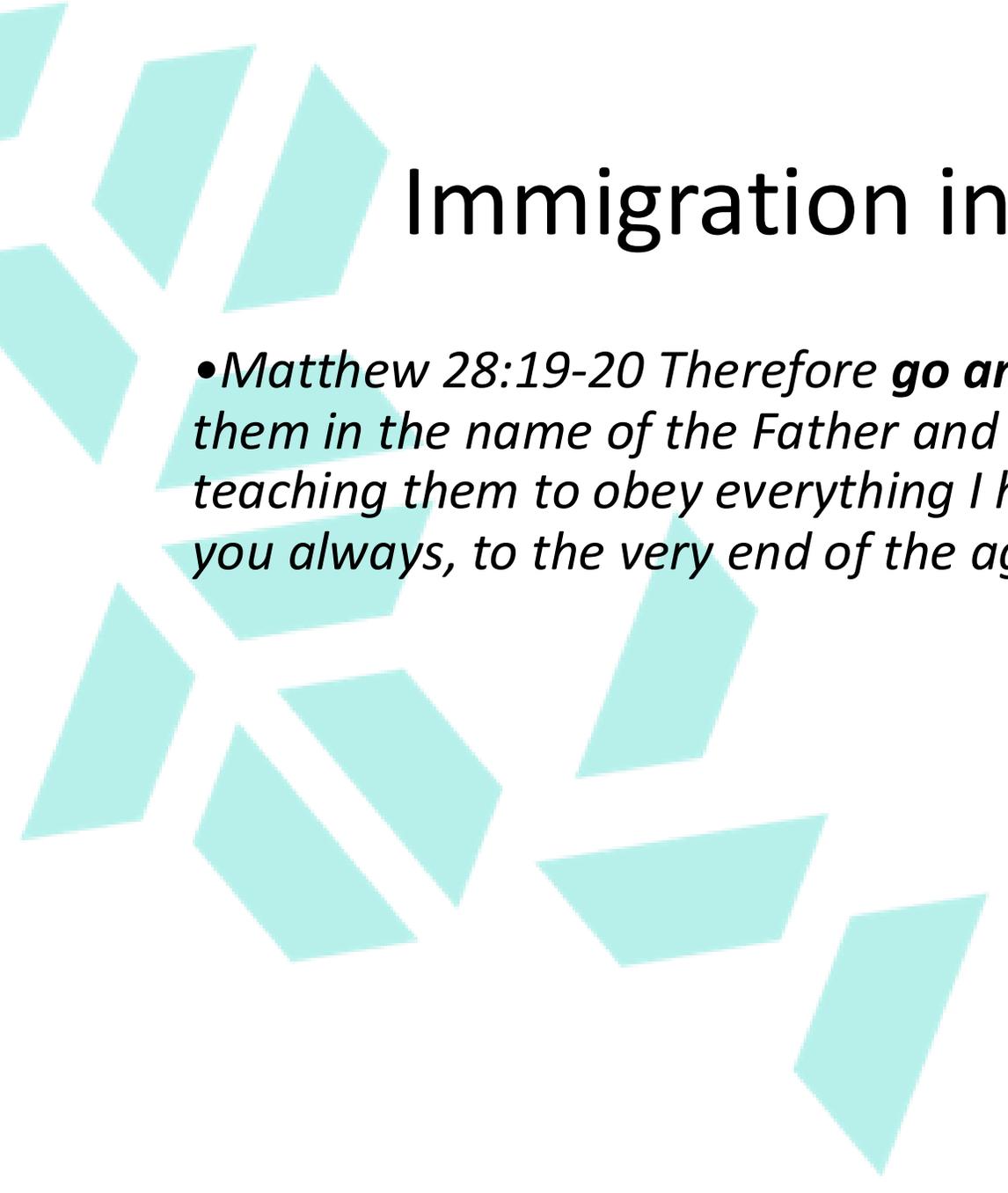
*Book of Esther*

*Book of Ezra-Nehemiah*

# Immigration in the New Testament

- *Jesus as a political refugee*

Matt. 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,<sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”



# Immigration in the New Testament

- *Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

# Immigration in the New Testament

- *Acts 1:6-7* Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to **restore the kingdom to Israel?**” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**”
- *1 Peter 2:11* Dear friends, I urge you, as **foreigners and exiles**, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.



# Biblical Posture on Immigration

- We are called to see ourselves as immigrants, strangers in a strange land. God intentionally wrote this into the DNA of God's people because we are not at home in this world. We are citizens of the kingdom of God in exile in this broken world.

# Treatment of foreigners

*Ex. 23:9* “Do not oppress a **foreigner**; you yourselves know how it feels to be **foreigners**, because you were **foreigners** in Egypt.

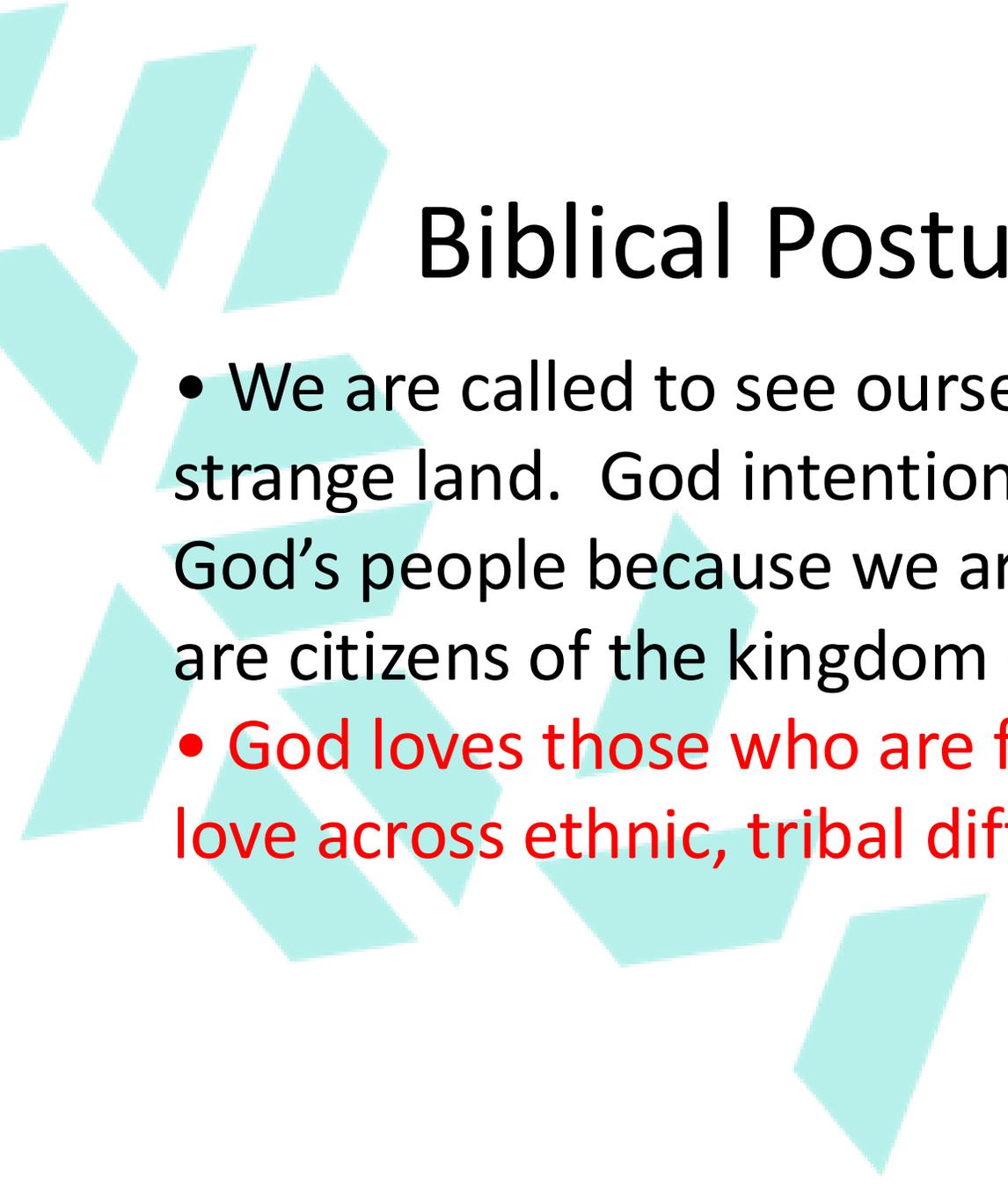
*Lev. 19:33-34* “ ‘When a **foreigner** resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The **foreigner** residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were **foreigners** in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

*Lev. 24:22* You are to have the same law for the **foreigner** and the native-born. I am the LORD your God.’ ”

*Deut. 27:19* “Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the **foreigner**, the fatherless or the widow.”

# Immigration in the Bible

*Deut. 10:17-19* <sup>17</sup> For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. <sup>18</sup> He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and **loves the foreigner residing among you**, giving them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> And **you are to love those who are foreigners**, for you yourselves were **foreigners** in Egypt.

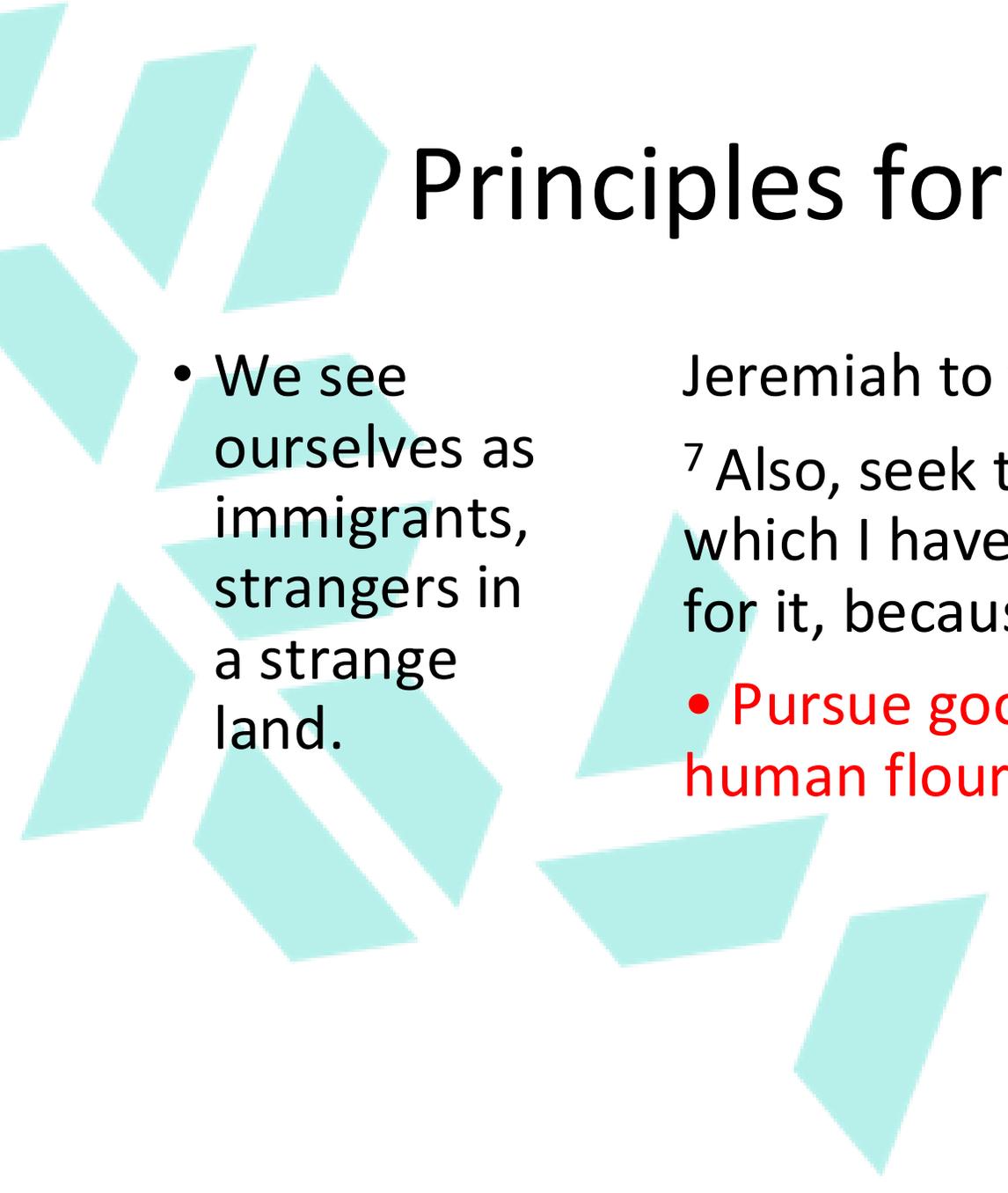


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- We are called to love the foreigners in our midst. Because we are called to image God.



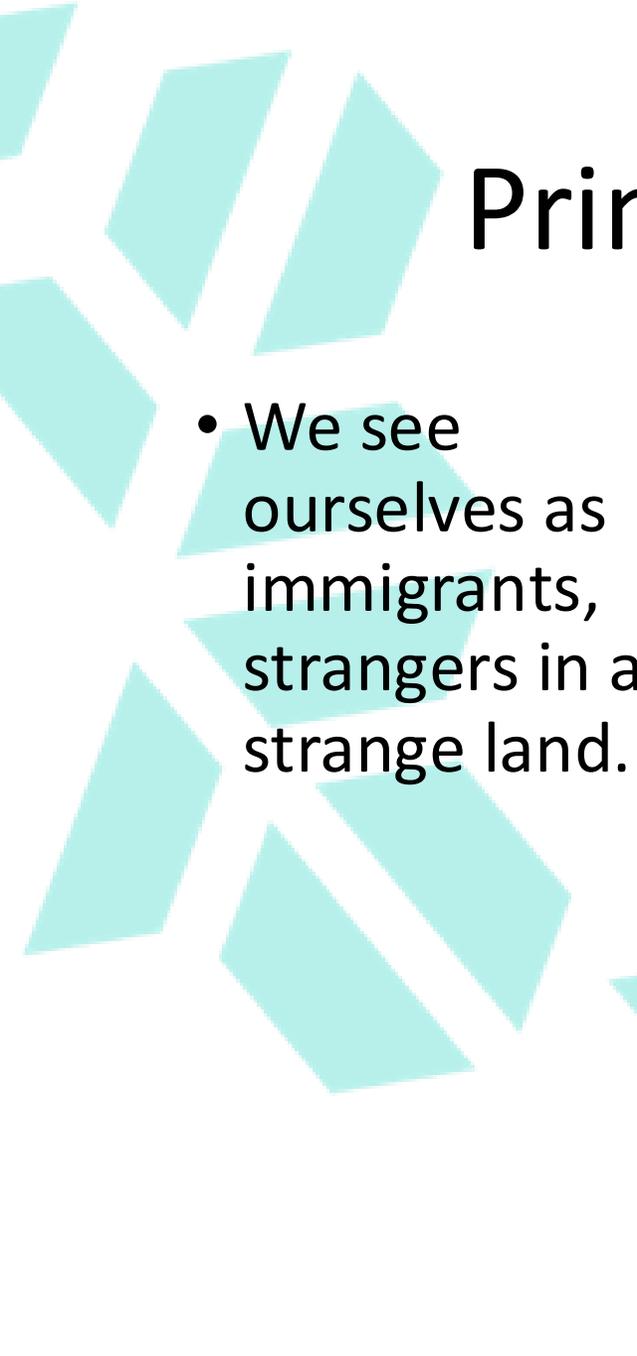
# Principles for Civic Engagement

- We see ourselves as immigrants, strangers in a strange land.

Jeremiah to the exiles in Babylon (Jer 29:7):

<sup>7</sup> Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

- Pursue good laws and good governance for human flourishing



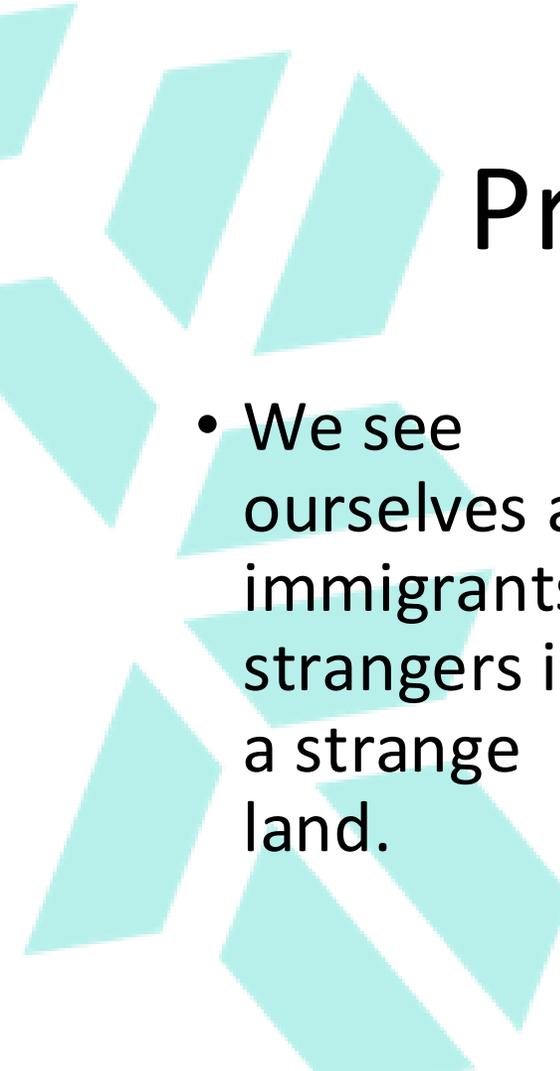
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- **Openness and Humility**

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- **Deportation (Pace and Target)**