

- the FOREIGNER / ALIEN: living in Israel, but not belonging to Israel

Ex. 12:48, “... no uncircumcised person shall eat...”

Deut. 23:3-4,7-8

(see also Ezra 2:59)

- * Israel’s borders were permeable to **people**, but not to **values** *
- Althusius: “Differing from citizens, however, are foreigners, outsiders, aliens, and strangers whose duty it is to mind their own business, make no strange inquiries, not even to be curious in a foreign commonwealth, but to adapt themselves, as far as good conscience permits, to the customs of the place and city where they live in order that they may not be a scandal to others.”
- Inhospitable? Or wise?

Reflection and apologetic: who does it better?

Serving the national interest...
dealing with other nations and powers...
& relating to outsiders coming in:

- a Christian nation?
- a godless nation?

NEXT week = what holds a nation together:

... Culture and multiculturalism.
... Christian Nationalism

Nations – serving the national interest

Exodus 20:8-10, Acts 17:26-27

While waiting to begin

- Discuss this statement: “Britain should serve the national interest.”
- What does it mean? Is it true? What would be the alternative?

Introduction

Last week = What are “nations” and why do they matter?

Today = How should nations “work”?

Acknowledgement: David Thomas

1. The “national interest”

- **really?!**
- **** the duty of self-preservation ****
 - nations (like individuals) are moral entities
 - one application: a nation – once formed – should seek to preserve its life by all legitimate means
- **Learning from church history**
 - Emmerich De Vattel, *The law of nations* (1758)
“The entire nation is then obliged to maintain that association; and as their preservation depends on its continuance, it thence follows that every nation is obliged to perform the duty of self-preservation.”

2. Implications

(a) what about trans-national bodies?

- Every nation has a supreme or universal power of rule
- Johannes Althusius, *Politica* (1614)
“the universal power of ruling is called that which recognizes no ally, nor any superior or equal to itself. And this supreme right of universal jurisdiction is the form and substantial essence of sovereignty or, as we have called it, of a major state. When this right is taken away sovereignty perishes. ...”
- legitimate: a nation retains self-government, but...
 - o seeks protection from a stronger nation in return for duties
 - o unites with other nations in alliance, treaty or confederation
 - o works with others in a republic, restraining some self-government to work together
- but: a nation under the dominion of another state or body is no longer a nation
 - o by conquest / invasion:
e.g. Roman Empire
 - o by more mutual consent:
e.g. the European Union
 - takes super-national authority
 - removes sovereignty from member states
- national interest → one nation shouldn't tell another nation what to do... a nation once formed, isn't to seek to renounce its sovereignty.

(b) What about national borders and immigration?

- borders for *any* community are inherent and essential
YES: “this is us... that is not us”
NO: “you are bad... we are good”
 - = tribal
 - = imperial
- examples: “borders” in the family and the church
- God's plan for nations: He is sovereign over borders
Acts 17:26, “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place”
- Old Testament pattern: 2 kinds of outsiders lived with God's people
 - o the SOJOURNER: became a resident, under the Law and God of Israel

Ex. 22:21, “You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.”

Ex. 12:48, “If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it.”

Ex. 20:8-10, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.”