**The Bible and Sanctuary**

Mark Gravrock, 15 March 2020

With Clara Eickhoff two weeks ago: Lev 19.33-34, Heb 13.2, Matt 25.31-46

Hospitality (Heb 13.2, Lot and Sodom [Gen 18-19], etc) – why??

Asylum

* Cities of refuge (manslaughter vs murder): Exod 21.12-14, Num 35.9-34, Deut 19.1-13
* The horns of the altar: 1 Kgs 1.49-53 vs 2.28-35
* **Runaway slaves: Deut 23.15-16 (cf Philemon)**

Where did Israel come from??

* Exod 22.21 – You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien *(ger)*, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.
* Deut 10.19 – You shall also love the stranger *(ger)*, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
* Lev 19.34 – You shall love the alien *(ger)* as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.
* 1 Peter (John H. Elliott)[[1]](#footnote-1) – aliens *(paroikoi)* and exiles *(parepidemoi)* – 1.1, 1.17, 2.11

The Vulnerable Classes – widows, fatherless, resident aliens (+ others) – why??

* In Israel’s laws
  + Exod **22.21-27**, 23.9, 23.12
  + Lev 19.9-10, 13-14, **33-34**
  + Deut 10.12-22, 14.28-29, **24.17-22**
* In the prophets
  + Jer 7.5-7, 22.3
  + Zech 7.9-10
  + Isa 56.3-8 (foreigner, *nekar)*
* In the psalms
  + 94.1-7
  + 146.5-9
  + **39.12: For I am your guest *(ger)*, an alien *(toshav)* like all my forebears.**

How pervasive this theme is!

* Who is Israel?
* Who is God?
* What sort of community are we formed to be?
* [Vision and imagination, vs. commands and ordinances]

Jesus and “Little Ones” – vulnerable, powerless, marginalized, at risk

Jesus and the “Kingdom of God”

* Mark 1.16 – 3.6: crossing lines, gathering “little ones”
* Mark 4.35 – 8.26: bread for the stranger
* Mark 8.31 – 10.52: the way of the cross, and the new community
  + 8.31 – 9.13: listen to him
  + 9.14 – 10.16: “little ones”
    - 9.14-29 – child #1, “help my unbelief”
    - 9.30-32 – second passion prediction
    - 9.33-37 – child #2, “whoever welcomes one such child”
    - 9.38-41 – an outsider exorcist
    - 9.42-50 – causing little ones to stumble
    - 10.1-12 – divorcees as little ones
    - 10.13-16 – and more children!
  + 10.17-52: seeking to save ourselves
* [Paul: 1 Cor 12.22-26!]

Jesus’ Hell-Talk: What actions or inactions does Jesus consider “hell-worthy”?

* Matt 25.31-46
* Luke 16.19-31
* Mark 9.42-50

Biblical “answers” vs. biblical shaping and biblical imagination

Now I send you empty, no sandals for your feet,

Weaponless and naked, unskilled and incomplete.

Be my arms to hold the broken, be my ears to hear their cries.

Friend, I send you to them empty: Be my eyes.

1. Thank you, Pastor Hallie. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)