

A Few Scripture Quotes Related to Refugees

We find numerous verses in both the Old and New Testaments reminding us that God is our refuge in times of trouble, and that we are called to offer refuge to others who are oppressed. The Jewish people were refugees fleeing oppression at various times in their history. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were refugees in Egypt, when they fled destruction by Herod. As God is merciful to us, we are called to share his mercy with our brothers and sisters. The following are a few relevant bible verses to be considered:

Exodus 12:37-39 - *Departure from Egypt*

The Israelites set out from Rameses for Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, not counting the children.

A crowd of mixed ancestry also went up with them, with livestock in great abundance, both flocks and herds.

The dough they had brought out of Egypt they baked into unleavened loaves. It was not leavened, because they had been driven out of Egypt and could not wait. They did not even prepare food for the journey.

Deuteronomy 23:15-16

You shall not hand over to their master any slaves who have taken refuge with you from their master.

Let them live among you in any place they choose, in any one of your communities* that seems good to them. Do not oppress them.

Matthew 2:13-15

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophets might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,