

Mr. Sessions,

As a Professor of New Testament and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, (USA), may I suggest that you have neglected a few Bible verses in your justification of the oppression of asylum seekers. Among these are Exodus 22:21; 23:9; Leviticus 19:33-34; Deuteronomy 10:19; 24:17; Jeremiah 7:5-7; 22:3; and Zechariah 7:9-10. Further, I suggest you continue reading down to Romans 13:9-10. You see, Paul's own argument is this: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Thus, just law, in Paul's argument, is appropriately manifested in loving action toward one's neighbor. And should you seek to ask, "who is my neighbor," to this Jesus himself has a response in the parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10.

But, you are factually correct in this: the Bible does record rulers ripping children out of the hands of their parents. You will find these in Exodus 1:15-17; and in Matthew 2:16-18. To be clear, the Bible holds these up as ruthless and unjust leaders of the people.

Regardless of your policy decisions, which in this case the biblical witness itself condemns, please do not misrepresent the full text of scripture to justify the cruelty that you are imposing upon children of asylum-seeking women and men. They, like the Holy family of Matthew 2, flee oppression. And it is in their favor that the Christian scriptures speak, not yours.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer Oget, Ph. D.