

# Getting to the Promised Land: Contemporary Challenges in U.S. Immigration Law

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NO LAWFUL STATUS

TEMPORARY LAWFUL  
STATUS

LAWFUL PERMANENT  
RESIDENCE

USC

# Ways to immigrate to the U.S.

- Family
- Money
- Work/Education
- Fear

# Common obstacles to admission

- Lying
- Criminal history
- Terrorism
- Persecutor bar

# How long is the wait, really?

	All	China	India	Mexico	Philippines
Child over 21 of USC	8 years	8 years	8 years	22 years	10 years
Child/Spouse of LPR	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
Child over 21 of LPR	7 years	7 years	7 years	21 years	11 years
Married child of USC	14 years	14 years	14 years	25 years	20 years
Sibling of USC	15 years	15 years	17 years	22 years	20 years

# How did we get here?

- Page Act of 1875
- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
- Emergency Quota Act of 1921
- Immigration Act of 1924
- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952
- Immigration and Reform Control Act of 1986
- Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996
- Other piecemeal legislation, regulations, executive actions, and policies

# Recent changes in immigration law

- Executive Orders – birthright citizenship, expedited removal
- Parole Programs
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA/Dreamers)
- Public charge rules
- Deportation/removal priorities

# What should you do now?

- Know your rights
  - Right to a hearing before an Immigration Judge
  - Right to speak with an attorney
  - Right to remain silent
- At home, in public, at church
- Speak with an immigration attorney
- Talk with your family and make a plan
- Power of attorney



# Thinking Biblically

- Abraham – pursued the Canaan dream
- Moses – son of Pharaoh
- Jesus – carpenter/religious worker
- Paul – refugee/asylee

# Thinking Biblically

- Leviticus 19:33-34
- Psalm 82:3-4
- Micah 6:8
- Matthew 22:35-40
- Romans 13:1-7
- *Welcoming the Stranger* by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Hwang

Q & A