

## **Bible and the Headlines: Missing Kids**

David Bachelor, PhD

March 26, 2025

Anyone who has used the facilities at a Texas rest area knows that “Texans are not for sale.” This anti-human trafficking pronouncement comes from the Texas Attorney General’s Office and is posted prominently in rest areas and other government buildings in the Lone Star State. Recent headlines make it clear that other governments need to be as committed to its citizens as Texas, particularly when those citizens are children.

The Arabic news network Al Jazeera on March 21 posted the op-ed, “Belgium’s Government Abducted Us as Children. They Must Pay.” The writer identified herself as a ‘metis,’ a mixed-race child from the colonial period, who was forcibly taken from her Rwandan mother and given to a foster family in Belgium. Although Belgium offered an apology to Metis children in 2019, the op-ed asserts, “There’s no justification for abducting a child and sending them to live with strangers abroad. It is a crime.”

The African conflict news site, HumAngle, on March 24th featured, “Desperate Families in Borno Crowdfund Millions Across Africa to Free Abducted Loved Ones.” Borno is a state in Nigeria where the rule of law does not exist. Gangs often kidnap the children of this region for ransom. A tribal official stated, “We have turned into daily prey. They pick us, and then they return to pick us again, like a pool of food.” The locals want government protection or permission to protect themselves. The ability to raise the required ransom at a local level is gone.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Cable news channel MSM had the headline, “U.S. Presses Russia to Return Abducted Children.” According to Yale University, the children taken to Russia are from, “. . . vulnerable groups . . . including orphans, children with disabilities, children from low-income families, and children with parents in the military.” There may be over 20,000 children between the ages of 4 to 17 who now reside in Russia.

The term “human trafficking” did not exist when the Bible was written. However, the act of taking children from their parents is found throughout Holy Scriptures. An early example is Joseph, who was sold into captivity by his brothers (Gen 37:27). With God’s favor, Joseph prospered in Egypt, but it was decades before Joseph was re-united with his family (Gen 45:4). Another case is the unnamed servant of the Syrian general Na’aman. Her capture is described, “Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife” (2Ki 5:2). Despite her situation, the girl was crucial in pointing her captor to the God of Israel who healed Naaman from leprosy (2Ki 5:14).

The prophet Daniel started his career as a trafficked kid. His captivity was fulfillment of an earlier prophecy from Isaiah to King Hezekiah, “And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon” (2Ki 20:18; Isa 39:7). Like Joseph and the Israelite girl, with God’s help Daniel overcame his prisoner status and blessed his captors immensely (Dan 2:28).

Although these examples of child abductions show that God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28), the headlines make clear the pain of human trafficking. Let us pray that soon it will not only be Texans who are not for sale and the scourge of child abductions comes to a speedy end .