

Deuteronomy 15:12-18 **Slavery of Hebrews**

12 "If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. 13 And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; 14 you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD has blessed you with, you shall give to him. 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

16 And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you, 17 then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your maidservant you shall do likewise.

18 It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Hebrew Slaves [Exodus 21:1-6, Deuteronomy 15:12-18]

- ✧ A Hebrew male or female slave may only be retained for six years.
- ✧ The seventh year they must be released to go home.
- ✧ When released, you must share with them liberally in the abundance Yehowah has blessed you with, that they may not return home empty handed.
- ✧ Your slavery in the land of Egypt must be a lesson of kindness to you, as you remember that Yehowah Eloheyk redeemed you from that terrible bondage, and now He commands you to do this thing today.
- ✧ God does not condemn slavery, but rather uses the bondage of the Children of Israel in Egypt as an example to teach us to be merciful and righteous in our treatment of others, in keeping with the laws of God. [Exodus 21:1-6, Deuteronomy 15:12-15, 16:9-12, 24:17-18, 24:19-22]

The slave may desire to stay because of your kindness and his prosperity

- ✧ If it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you.
 - ◇ Then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever.
 - ◇ Also to your maidservant you shall do likewise. [Deuteronomy 15:17, Exodus 21:7-11]

In [Exodus 21:7-11], the reason the maidservant does not go out the seventh year, is because she was betrothed to her master or to his son, and as a wife the release does not apply, but other laws become applicable.

The Hebrew slave has been well worth his price

- ✧ It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you.
 - ◇ For he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years.
- ✧ Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.
 - ◇ This becomes a double blessing, not only did the servant do well, but it brought additional blessing from Yehowah Eloheyk (the Lord your God).