

Exodus 21:1-11 **Hebrew Slaves**

1 "Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: 2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. 3 If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. 5 But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6 "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

7 "And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do. 8 If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her. 9 And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. 10 If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights. 11 And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ 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]
- ✧ Male Hebrew slaves must be released with their families after serving six years.
- ✧ The exception is if the master has given the wife to the slave, then she and her children remain.
- ✧ The male slave has the right to choose to forego his release if he loves his wife and children and the master whom he serves.

- ✧ Female slaves and their children remain the property of their master, and become part of his family, she is to be treated as a wife or daughter.
- ✧ She can be redeemed from slavery if she does not please the master, but she cannot be sold.
 - ◇ The reason is that sexual relationships are expected and it would be the same as violating a marriage relationship, and evidence that he has dealt deceitfully with her.
- ✧ She may be betrothed to his son, and she shall be treated as a daughter as he gives her to the son in marriage.
- ✧ She is considered as a wife with all the protections that the position holds, so if he takes another wife, he may not diminish the attention and support he has shown her previously. [Exodus 21:7-10, Deuteronomy 21:14]
 - ◇ You may then go in to her and be her husband, caring for her, cherishing her, as your wife. [Deuteronomy 21:13, Ephesians 5:25-33, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7]
- ✧ If he violates any of these provisions, she goes free without the need of being redeemed.