

# Session 20 - Does the Bible condone slavery? Christianity and the Black Community

## Context

The Bible doesn't condone slavery, the bible deals with slavery as a reality and it's economic structure.

## What does the Bible say about slavery?

- 1) 1st mention (Genesis 9)
  - a) The curse of Canaan.
- 2) Exodus 20:2
  - a) God's declaration of supremacy and reign over the reality of slavery
- 3) Israel's unjust and harsh slavery conditions (Exodus 1:8-14)
  - a) The Israelites were working the land in Egypt and becoming fruitful and multiplying as Genesis 1:28, 9:1 suggested. Pharaoh's unsubstantiated fear created slave conditions.
- 4) Covenant Code regarding Hebrew Slaves.
  - a) Slaves were to be treated with rights and afford basic (Exodus chapters 21-23)
  - b) Humane treatment was expected and resulted in the slave being set free. (Exodus 21:26-27)
  - c) Conditions of slavery
    - i) Chattel: Owned as legal property of another  
(1) Committing a crime and not being able to pay restitutions would result in one being ordered by the Judge into .
    - ii) Debt Slave
    - iii) Captive of War
    - iv) Exodus 21:2-11 are verses that lay out the protections and of slaves.
  - d) Conditions of release
    - i) When a Hebrew slave was purchased, they were to be released after (Exodus 21:2)  
(1) Israelites were never to be sold into slavery; God is the only master of the (Leviticus 25:42)
    - ii) Year of (Leviticus 25:39-40)  
(a) Every 50 years the Book of Leviticus instructs all property be returned back to their original owners. Slaves who sold themselves into slavery were able to (Deuteronomy 15:12) Israelites would also become slaves to one another through debt or poverty.
  - e) Changes to the covenant code

- i) Deuteronomic change/revision – (Deuteronomy 15)
  - (1) After serving for \_\_\_\_\_ the Hebrew man is to be released with a portion of the earnings the master had earned. This done so that the man doesn't immediately find himself back in debt but gives a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) Female slaves are to be released as well in the seventh year.
- ii) Holiness Code- Leviticus
  - (1) Land to be sold back to the original owner at Jubilee if the original owner can't regain the property before Jubilee.
- f) Slavery from a was not intended to break the family apart. Scripture clearly states that if the \_\_\_\_\_ are sold into slavery with the male they are to be returned to the male and \_\_\_\_\_ for the master. (Exodus 21:3-4)