

## Slaves of God Exodus Chapter 21 Verses 1-6

**Ex 21:1 ¶ "Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them."**

In the previous chapter God gave the Ten Commandments in the hearing of Israel. Israel removed afar off, for hearing the voice of God struck fear in their hearts, and they were afraid they would die from hearing the voice of God. Wherefore, we believe that God is now conversing directly with Moses, and Israel is not hearing the voice of God in person, although they have promised to believe it when Moses repeats it to them.

We point out; the Ten Commandments were direct commands of God to Israel, his chosen nation of people. We would call them judicial laws today. These laws, if properly applied to our lives, are like the different pieces of armor we are commanded to put on in the New Testament. ***Eph 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*** Why do you say this? Just like the armor of God that the Christian is to wear each day, which protects us from yielding ourselves servant to Satan: if we obey the Ten Commandments, we will be protected from turning away from God, and from yielding to satanic and sinful practices, and from mistreating our fellow Christians.

We remember that in the New Testament; Christ summed all the Ten Commandments into two, seen in: ***Mt 22:37-40; 37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*** This demonstrates to us; if all our devotion is to God in heaven first, and to the love of our brethren secondly, we will be exercising fully in the grace and mercy of God, and in the fulness of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

As we begin this chapter, we see and understand these laws are preset judgments of God, which are to be applied as governmental, or civil, laws. God presets these laws and the judgments that go with them. They are not to be changed by Israel. They are laws of God for God's chosen nation of people, and any strangers who choose to live with Israel, and become part of the nation of Israel. They were given directly to Moses, who was the God appointed leader of Israel, and from whom judgments would be forthcoming as their leader. Moses would teach these laws to the judges, and leaders, of the different tribes, as well as to Israel in general.

**2 "If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. 3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. 5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: 6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever."**

It is interesting to note that God addresses slavery first., in these civil, or governmental, laws. The word servant, defined as slave, is in the Old Testament seven hundred fourteen times, and seventy-seven times in the New Testament. There are four exceptions in the New Testament in which servant means a Christian teacher, pastor, minister, or deacon, who are servants, or slaves, of the church. The words manservant, maidservant, bondservant, and servant are often used interchangeably. The actual word slave is only used one time in the bible in the Old Testament, where it tells us that Israel is a slave to God.

We see that God is giving commandment concerning Hebrew, or Israelite, servants, which does not include people of other nations, who may have been slaves to Israelites. If an Israelite sold themselves as a servant to another Israelite, they could only be kept for a period of six years. In the seventh year the servant was to be freed unless he voluntarily chose to remain a servant to his owner.

When the Israelite sold himself to slavery, he was to go free after six years of servitude, just as he came to the buyer. There was no cost to the servant to go free. If he were alone, then he alone would go free. If he had a wife, she would be freed with him. If the owner gave him a wife and they had children, only the man went free, and the wife and children remained the property of the owner, who gave the servant a wife that he already owned.

In the seventh year, if the servant said he loved his master, his wife, and his children, he would pledge himself to be servant for the rest of his life to his owner. To make this transaction legal, the man would bring the

slave before the judges, and the man would declare to them what he has already declared to his owner. The owner would then bore a hole in his ear with an aul, which demonstrated to others that this man had chosen to be slave to a particular owner, and he could not be sold or bought by others.

If an Israelite bought a slave from another nation of people, the law of release did not apply to them. This law is specific to the Hebrews.

What does slavery have to do with us today? Understand that if we are children of God, we are slaves (manservants, maidservants, bondservants, and/or servants) to God. A slave is bought with a price to serve the one who paid the price. For the Christian, we are slaves to God, because we have been purchased to God through the death of Christ, seen in: ***1Co 6:19-20; 19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*** Some will say: my body is my own to do with as I please; to which we answer: God told us in this text that our body is not ours, it belongs to God, if we are a Child of God. If we are not a Child of God, Satan possesses our body.

So, forget this notion; my body is my own, and I can do what I want to with it. That is nothing but the leading of Satan, who is deceiving you into his servitude. Further proof of this is found in: ***1Th 5:23 ¶ "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*** There it is, in black and white, spoken by God who cannot lie.

Remember, you are either servant, slave, to Satan; or you are servant, slave, to God. There are no other kinds of people in the world. What do you mean? We are told plainly of this in: ***Mt 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***" Mammon means avarice, which means lying and deceit, and who is the father of all lies? Scripture tells us it is Satan, seen in: ***Joh 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.***"

There are two forces in the world that have power greater than man: one is Satan, and the other is God. Scripture tells us plainly in: ***Ro 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"*** Wherefore, no matter your status in life, as men measure to be great or small, you are slave to one of these two forces that are greater than man. Wherefore, if you are not obeying God, you have sold yourself to serve Satan. If you are serving God, you are not obeying Satan, and therefore you are servant to God.

We see that a man could remain a slave only by free choice, and he made this known by declaring his love for his master, his wife, and his children. Herein is a prophetic picture of Christ. How? He came to earth as servant to the Father. His Father gave him a bride, God's chosen children to save. His love for them made Him willing to serve His Father for them forever. Christ was bored through his ear, figuratively, when he hung on the cross, shed his blood, and gave his life for the sheep. Remember Jesus said in: ***Joh 10:7-9; 7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.***"

Not only did he say he was the door: even Old Testament scripture tells us that he was coming to earth to do the will of the Father, seen in: ***Ps 40:6-8; 6 "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."***"

New Testament scripture repeats this in: ***Heb 10:5-7 5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."***"

Some will say, Jesus was not a slave because he was God in the flesh. Wherefore, I ask you that doubt he was a slave, a servant, why was he fulfilling the will of the Father. That alone demonstrates that Jesus positionally placed God the Father to have authority over him, for he yielded himself to his will. We are further told in: ***Heb 5:8-10; 8 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 ¶ Called of***

***God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.***" Jesus the mortal man, even though he was God in the flesh, "***learned obedience***" to God the Father, through the things he suffered, to accomplish the will of God the Father.

Now, do you see? Christ Jesus bought God's people, (mind, body, and soul) who are to be his wife in eternity. Jesus paid for them in full, removing all sinfulness from them by the shedding of his blood on the cross. When the end of time comes, Jesus will return to resurrect their dead bodies, or if alive to change their bodies, into sinless, glorified, bodies, which shall arise to meet him in the air, and be carried away to the place Jesus has gone to prepare for them. Jesus will consummate the betrothal in the eternal heaven and earth, at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Hallelujah! Amen!