

Slavery in the TORAH

Hebrew Words for Slave

Pronunciation note: all “a” sounds are “ah.” There are no “a” as in “sat” sounds in Hebrew.

עֶבֶד H5650 eved (From the root word H5647 **עָבַד** avad, “to work.”) *slave, servant, bondman, worshipper* [servant](#) (744x), [manservant](#) (23x), [bondman](#) (21x), [bondage](#) (10x), [bondservant](#) (1x), [on all sides](#) (1x). It is used many times to indicate a servant of the Lord, eg. the Lord’s servant, Moses.

שָׂכִיר H7916 sah-kheer (From the root verb sah-khar, to hire, to earn wages) *hired, hireling, hired labor* [hired servant](#) (8x), [hireling](#) (6x), [hired](#) (2x), [hired man](#) (1x).

שָׂרָת H8334 shah-raht *to minister, serve, minister to* [Strong’s: *to attend as a menial or worshipper, minister (unto), serve, ... wait on.*] [minister \(v\)](#) (62x), [minister \(n\)](#) (17x), [serve](#) (8x), [servant](#) (5x), [service](#) (3x), [servitor](#) (1x), [waited](#) (1x). Joshua was this to Moses (Ex. 33:11)

אָמָה H519 amah *maid-servant, female slave, maid, handmaid, concubine, of humility* [handmaid](#) (22x), [maidservant](#) (19x), [maid](#) (8x), [bondwoman](#) (4x), [bondmaids](#) (2x) Hagar was called this by Sarah when Sarah was upset (Gen. 21:10).

שִׁפְחָה H8198 sheef-khah *maid, maid-servant, slavegirl* [handmaid](#) (29x), [maid](#) (12x), [maidservant](#) (8x), [bondwomen](#) (3x), [maiden](#) (3x), [womenservants](#) (3x), [handmaidens](#) (2x), [bondmaid](#) (1x), [servant](#) (1x), [wench](#) (1x). Hagar was this to Abraham and Sarah.

שָׂמַשׁ H8120 sh’ mash *to minister, serve* [ministered](#) (1x) Dan. 7:10 *A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered ^{H8120} unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him:* [שָׂמַשׁ] pronounce shah-mash, means the noun: *minister, servant.*]

Similar to root: [שָׁמַשׁ \(H8121\)](#) shemesh sun. So this kind of servant shines brilliantly!!

It seems that Hebrew does not have a word that means exclusively “slave.” The following word means “forced labor” which might sound like slavery, but though the labor is forced, it doesn’t mean it is unpaid.

מַס H4522 mahs *gang or body of forced labourers, task-workers, labour band or gang, forced service, task-work, serfdom, tributary, tribute, levy, taskmasters, discomfited, A. labour-band, labour-gang, slave gang, B. gang-overseers, C. forced service, serfdom, tribute, enforced payment* [Strong’s: *a burden (as causing to faint) i.e. a tax in the form of forced labor*] [From root: **מָסַס** (H4549) mah-sahss *to dissolve, melt, waste away, ... faint, grow fearful, wasted, worthless.* Strong’s: *to waste (with disease) to faint (with fatigue, fear or grief)...*] [tribute](#) (12x), [tributary](#) (5x), [levy](#) (4x), [discomfited](#) (1x), [taskmasters](#) (1x).

Exodus 1:11 Therefore they [Egyptians] did set over them [Israelites] taskmasters ^{H4522}

I Kings 5:13 And king Solomon raised a levy ^{H4522} out of all Israel; and the levy ^{H4522} was thirty thousand men

שָׁבִי H7628 shevy *captivity, captives* [captivity](#) (35x), [captive](#) (10x), [prisoners](#) (2x), [taken away](#) (1x), [taken](#) (1x). From **שָׁבוּ** H7618 shevu *precious stone*. The same letters also mean the measurement of an omar. **שָׁבָה** H7617 shevah *take captive*.

Freedom is **הַחֲפֵשׁ** H2668 khofeshah. Free is **כַּפְשֵׁי** H2666 khafash or **חֲפֵשִׁי** H2670 Khofeshy

Liberty is **דְּרוֹר** H1865 d’rohr *a flowing, free run, liberty, flowing (of myrrh), pure* [liberty](#) (7x), [pure](#) (1x).

Obtaining slaves

If the Israelites wanted slaves they were instructed to buy them from the nations around them or from the foreigners who lived among them. [Thus they could be involved in slave trade, although the only mention in the Torah about selling slaves is in Lev. 25:42 where it says that Hebrew slaves are not to be “sold as slaves are sold” and in Exodus 21:20 where it says the slave is the persons money.] These foreign slaves were their possession and could be inherited by their children.

Lev. 25:44-46 KJV *Both thy bondmen, ^{H5650} and thy bondmaids, ^{H519} which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen ^{H1471} (CJB: nations) that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen ^{H5650} and bondmaids. ^{H519} 45 Moreover of the children of the strangers ^{H8453} (CJB: foreigners) that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. 46 And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen ^{H5647} for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour ^{H6531} (NRSV: harshness, CJB: harshly).*

Deut. 20:10-18 *When you draw near to a town to fight against it, offer it terms of peace. 11 If it accepts your terms of peace and surrenders to you, **then all the people in it shall serve you at forced labor.** ^{H4522} 12 If it does not submit to you peacefully, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it; 13 and when the Lord your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword. 14 You may, however, take as your booty the women, the children, livestock, and everything else in the town, all its spoil. You may enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the Lord your God has given you. 15 Thus you shall treat all the towns that are very far from you, which are not towns of the nations here. 16 But as for the towns of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, you must not let anything that breathes remain alive. 17 You shall annihilate them ... 18 so that they may not teach you to do all the abhorrent things that they do for their gods, and you thus sin against the Lord your God.*

Did they ever take foreign slaves this way?

They took captive people they shouldn't have. They were going to bring disease and sin with them.

Numbers 31:7,9-10, 14, 15-19 *They did battle against Midian, as the Lord had commanded Moses, and killed every male.... 9 The Israelites took the women of Midian and their little ones captive; ^{H7628} and they took all their cattle, their flocks, and all their goods as booty. 10 All their towns where they had settled, and all their encampments, they burned 14 Moses became angry with the officers of the army 15 Moses said to them, "Have you allowed all the women to live? 16 These women here, on Balaam's advice, made the Israelites act treacherously against the Lord in the affair of Peor, so that the plague came among the congregation of the Lord. 17 Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man by sleeping with him. 18 But all the young girls who have not known a man by sleeping with him, keep alive for yourselves. 19 Camp outside the camp seven days; ... purify yourselves and your captives on the third and on the seventh day. 20 You shall purify every garment, every article of skin, everything....*

They made slaves of the people they were supposed to destroy

Joshua 17:12-13; 17-18 and Judges 1:27-28 *the Manassites could not take possession of those towns; but the Canaanites continued to live in that land. But when the Israelites grew strong, they put the Canaanites to **forced labor**, ^{H4522} but did not utterly drive them out....17 Then Joshua said to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh, "You are indeed a numerous people, and have great*

power; you shall not have one lot only, 18 but the hill country shall be yours, for though it is a forest, you shall clear it and possess it to its farthest borders; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong."

Judges 1:29-34 *And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer; but the Canaanites lived among them in Gezer. 30 Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites lived among them, and became subject to **forced labor**.*

[H4522](#) 31 *Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob; 32 but the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. 33 Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to **forced labor** [H4522](#) for them. 34 The Amorites pressed the Danites back into the hill country; they did not allow them to come down to the plain. 35 The Amorites continued to live in Har-heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph rested heavily on them, and they became subject to **forced labor**.* [H4522](#)

2 Samuel 8:2 *He also defeated the Moabites and, making them lie down on the ground, measured them off with a cord; he measured two lengths of cord for those who were to be put to death, and one length for those who were to be spared. And the Moabites became servants [H5650](#) to David and brought tribute.* [H4503](#)

2 Samuel 8:6,14 *Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus; and the Arameans became servants [H5650](#) to David and brought tribute. The Lord gave victory to David wherever he went. ... throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. [H5650](#) And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went.*

2 Samuel 10:19 *When all the kings who were servants [H5650](#) of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel, and became subject [H5647](#) to them.*

2 Samuel 12:31 *He brought out the people who were in it, and set them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, or sent them to the brickworks. Thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.*

2 Samuel 20:24 *Adoram was in charge of the **forced labor**;* [H4522](#)

King Solomon made slaves of both Israelites and foreigners dwelling among them.

I Kings 5:13-15 *King Solomon conscripted **forced labor** [H4522](#) out of **all Israel**; the levy numbered thirty thousand men. 14 He sent them to the Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts; they would be a month in the Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the **forced labor**.* [H4522](#) 15 *Solomon also had seventy thousand laborers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hill country, 16 besides Solomon's three thousand three hundred supervisors who were over the work, having charge of the people who did the work.*

I Kings 9:15-21 *This is the account [KJV: the reason] of the **forced labor** [H4522](#) that King Solomon conscripted to build the house of the Lord and his own house, the Millo and the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer ... 19 as well as all of Solomon's storage cities, the cities for his chariots, the cities for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build, in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion. 20 All the people ... who were not of the people of Israel— 21 their descendants who were still left in the land, whom the **Israelites were unable to destroy completely—these Solomon conscripted** [H5647](#) **for slave labor**, and so they are to this day. [2 Chron. 8:8 says the same thing.]*

The people obviously did not like being forced laborers.

I Kings 12:18 *When King Rehoboam [Solomon's son] sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, ^{H4522} all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam then hurriedly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.*

King Asa also conscripted all the people.

I Kings 15:22 *Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah, none was exempt: they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building; with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah.*

Foreign slaves had to be circumcised to partake of festivals

Exodus 12:44-45, 48-49 *but any slave ^{H5650} who has been purchased may eat of it after he has been circumcised; 45 no bound (actually says "foreigner" ^{H8453}) or hired servant ^{H7916} may eat of it. ... 48 If an alien who resides with you wants to celebrate the passover to the Lord, all his males shall be circumcised; then he may draw near to celebrate it; **he shall be regarded as a native of the land.** But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it; 49 there shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you.*

Female foreign captive slaves

Deut. 21:10-14 *When you go out to war against your enemies, and the Lord your God hands them over to you and you take them captive, ^{H7628} 11 suppose you see among the captives ^{H7628} a beautiful woman whom you desire and want to marry, 12 and so you bring her home to your house: she shall shave her head, pare her nails, 13 discard her captive's ^{H7628} garb, and shall remain in your house a full month, mourning for her father and mother; after that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife. 14 But if you are not satisfied with her, you shall let her go free and not sell her for money. You must not treat her as a slave, ^{H6014} [KJV: merchandise H6014 amar (same letters as omar – counting of the omar)] since you have dishonored her.*

Male Hebrew slaves serve for only seven years

Exodus 21:2-6 *When you buy a male Hebrew slave, ^{H5650} he shall serve six years, but in the seventh he shall go out a free ^{H2670} person, without debt. 3 If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's and he shall go out alone. 5 But if the slave ^{H5650} declares, "I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out a free person," 6 then his master shall bring him before God. He shall be brought to the door or the doorpost; and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him for life.*

It is interesting to note that if a slave wishes to remain with his wife and family he must submit to his master for life. It sounds barbaric, but it wouldn't be if the master was a benevolent man who treats his slaves kindly and generously, providing and caring for them as kin. Life might be easier for them living under their rich master's care than having to fend for themselves out in the harsh world. This is a wonderful analogy of us committing our lives to the Lord as our Master, realizing that our family belongs to Him, and choosing to remain in His care, under His loving authority and protection.

Male Hebrew slaves when set free get a severance package

Deuteronomy 15:12-15 *If a member of your community, whether a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and works for you six years, in the seventh year you shall set that person free.* [H2670](#) 13 *And when you send a male slave out from you a free [H2670](#) person, you shall not send him out empty-handed. 14 Provide liberally out of your flock, your threshing floor, and your wine press, thus giving to him some of the bounty with which the Lord your God has blessed you. 15 Remember that you were a slave [H5650](#) in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; for this reason I lay this command upon you today.*

Female Hebrew slaves

Parents could sell their daughters into slavery! Female Hebrew slaves were to be treated differently from males. They are considered as wives of the owner.

Exodus 21:7-11 *When a man sells his daughter as a slave, [H519](#) she shall not go out as the male slaves do. 8 If she does not please her master, who designated (KJV: betrothed) her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed; he shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt unfairly with her. 9 If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her as with a daughter. 10 If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish the food, clothing, or marital rights of the first wife. 11 And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out without debt, without payment of money.*

Mistreating Slaves

Beating slaves was allowable, but under the following limitations:

Ex 21:26 *When a slaveowner strikes the **eye** of a male or female slave, [H5650](#) destroying it, the owner shall let the slave go, a free person, to compensate for the eye. 27 If the owner knocks out a **tooth** of a male or female slave, the slave shall be let go, a free [H2670](#) person, to compensate for the tooth.*

Ex 21:20 *When a slaveowner strikes a male or female slave [H5650](#) with a rod and the slave dies immediately, the owner shall be punished. 21 But if the slave survives a day or two, there is no punishment; for the slave is the owner's property (the word used here is “kesset” which actually means “silver” or “money.”)*

Slaves who Escaped

This is very important. This would have avoided a lot of the terror for the slaves in southern America.

Deut. 23:15 *Slaves [H5650](#) who have escaped to you from their owners shall not be given back to them. 16 They shall reside with you, in your midst, in any place they choose in any one of your towns, wherever they please; you shall not oppress them.*

They would most likely be escaping because they are being mistreated, but it doesn't give a reason. They could be escaping simply because they want to be free.

Israelites can sell themselves as slaves

But they can be redeemed. If not redeemed, they are freed in the year of Jubilee.

Lev. 25:47-49,53-55 *If resident aliens among you prosper, and if any of your kin fall into difficulty with one of them and sell themselves to an alien, or to a branch of the alien's family, 48 after they have sold themselves they shall have the right of redemption; one of their brothers may redeem them, 49 or their uncle or their uncle's son may redeem them, or anyone of their family who is of their own flesh may redeem them; or if they prosper they may redeem themselves. ... 53 As a laborer hired by the year they shall be under the alien's authority, **who shall not, however, rule with harshness over them in your sight.** 54 And if they have not been redeemed in any of these ways, **they and their children with them shall go free in the jubilee year.** 55 For to me the people of Israel are servants; ^{H5650} they are my servants^{H5650} whom I brought out from the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*

If they sell themselves to an Israelite kinsman, they are not to be treated as slaves.

Lev. 25:39-43 *If any who are dependent on you become so impoverished that they sell themselves to you, you shall not make them serve as slaves. ^{H5650} 40 **They shall remain with you as hired or bound laborers.** ^{H8453} **They shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee.** 41 **Then they and their children with them shall be free from your authority;** they shall go back to their own family and return to their ancestral property. 42 For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; **they shall not be sold as slaves are sold.** 43 You shall not rule over them with harshness, but shall fear your God.*

A King reprimanded for taking Judeans as slaves

2 Chron. 28:8-15 *The people of Israel took captive ^{H7617} two hundred thousand of their kin, women, sons, and daughters; they also took much booty from them and brought the booty to Samaria. 9 But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded; he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria, and said to them, "Because the Lord, the God of your ancestors, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. 10 Now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. But what have you except sins against the Lord your God? 11 Now hear me, and send back the captives whom you have taken from your kindred, for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you." 12 Moreover, certain chiefs of the Ephraimites, Azariah son of Johanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai, stood up against those who were coming from the war, 13 and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring on us guilt against the Lord in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel." 14 So the warriors left the captives and the booty before the officials and all the assembly. 15 Then those who were mentioned by name got up and took the captives, and with the booty they clothed all that were naked among them; they clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them; and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kindred at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.*

A King's proclamation to free slaves

Jeremiah 34:8-9 *King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty ^{H1865} to them— 9 that all should set free their Hebrew slaves, ^{H5650} male and female, so that no one should hold another Judean in slavery.*

Slavery in the New Covenant

Yeshua told many parables about slaves and talked as if it was common to have slaves. But He told us we are to be like slaves to Him and we are not to “lord it over” others. Yeshua let’s the indwelling of the Spirit gently teach us that enslaving others is not pleasing to Him.

Luke 17:7-10 *Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? 8 Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? 9 Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10 **So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"***

Slavery in the New Covenant (cont.)

Matt. 20:25-28 *But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 26 It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; 28 **just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.**"*

Mark 10:42 *So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and **whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.** 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

I Cor. 9:19 (Paul followed this directive.) *For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.*

Luke 12:35-38 *Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.*

Matt. 6:24 *No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*

Matt. 10:24-25 *A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!*

In these two passages, Yeshua is implying that, as His slaves, beating those under us is wrong.

Matt. 24:45-50 *Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put that one in*

charge of all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' 49 and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know.

Luke 12:36-37,41-48 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ... 41 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" 42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? 43 Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. 44 Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. 45 But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. 47 That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. 48 But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

Luke 19:17 "Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities."

Matt. 25:21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Apostle Paul does give advice for believing slaves and also tells how believers as slave owners should treat the slaves they own. He says that in Messiah, we are all on the same level.

Ephesians 6:5-8 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; 6 not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7 Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, 8 knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.

Col. 3:22-25 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only while being watched and in order to please them, but wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, 24 since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality.

I Timothy 6:1 Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be blasphemed.

I Cor. 7:20-24 Let each of you remain in the condition in which you were called. 21 Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. Even if you can gain your freedom, make use of your present condition now more than ever. 22 For whoever was called in the Lord as a slave is a

freed person belonging to the Lord, just as whoever was free when called is a slave of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; **do not become slaves of human masters.** 24 In whatever condition you were called, brothers and sisters, there remain with God.

Galatians 3:26-28 For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer **slave or free**, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Believers as slaves whose master is also a Believer are told:

1 Timothy 6:2 Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful to them on the ground that they are members of the church; rather they must serve them all the more, since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these duties.

There are instructions for believing slave owners to treat their slaves well.

Eph 6:9 And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality. (See also Ephesians 6:7-8 above.)

Col. 4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, for you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

See your slaves as brothers in Messiah:

Philemon 10-16 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. 12 I am sending him, that is, **my own heart**, back to you. 13 I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, 16 **no longer as a slave** but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Slave traders are categorized with murderers, homosexuals, liars, etc.

I Timothy 1:9-10 This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, 10 fornicators, sodomites, **slave traders**, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching.

Slave trader G405 a slave-dealer, kidnapper, man-stealer [used only once in I Tim 1:10(above)]

1. of one who unjustly reduces free men to slavery
2. of one who steals the slaves of others and sells them

Liberty

דָּרוֹר H1865 d'rohr *a flowing, free run, liberty, flowing (of myrrh), pure liberty (7x), pure (1x)*. Strong's: From and unused root (mean *to move rapidly*); freedom; hence *spontaneity* of outflow, and so *clear*.

Liberty is flowing free, the spontaneity of innocence, and the joy of purity!! We can appreciate liberty so much more after seeing what slavery is and how bad it can get. In modern Hebrew, this word also means sparrow or swallow, so it has the connotations of flying free!

It is so awesome that liberty in Hebrew is connected to myrrh, a spice that cleanses and purifies and cures from infectious diseases. It has strong antimicrobial properties. It is the liquid spice that Esther soaked in for six months to prepare herself for the king. This kind of deep cleansing (from our filthiness of sin) leads to true liberty—and royalty!

Esther 2:12 (NKJV) *Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.*

This life-changing, freedom-giving liquid overflows to us from our Beloved Messiah, Savior

Song of Solomon 5:3-5, ... *Listen! my beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; ... 5 I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, upon the handles of the bolt. ... 10 My beloved is all radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand. ... His lips are lilies, distilling liquid myrrh.*

Song of Solomon 1:2 *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.*

Myrrh is also one of the main spices in the holy, sacred anointing oil used to anoint the cohen (priests) and kings. This sets them apart for their special, sacred high calling, ministering to the Lord and to people.

Exodus 30:23 (KJV) *Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure ^{H1865} myrrh... 25 and you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.*

This is the word דָּרוֹר d'rohr used in proclaiming the year of Jubilee.

Lev. 25:10 *And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty ^{H1865} throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family.*

Isaiah 61:1 *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has **anointed me**; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty ^{H1865} to the captives, ^{H7617} and release to the prisoners; 2 to **proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.***

John 8:34 ... *I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a **slave to sin.***

Rom. 6:6 *We know that our old self was crucified with him so that ... we might **no longer be enslaved to sin.***

Rom. 6: 18 *And that you, having been **set free from sin**, have become **slaves of righteousness.***

Yeshua brings LIBERTY!

He sets us free! He releases us from our horrible, burdensome captivity and bondage to sin. Submitting to Him and being His slave is FREEDOM!! He is a gentle, loving, caring, nurturing, serving Master. His yoke is easy and His burden is light! In His slavery, there is rest.

Matt. 11:28-30 *"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Yeshua is a tender loving father, caring husband, intimate friend, mentoring teacher, protecting and providing King, and benevolent, gentle Master to us. He is all that and much more all rolled up in one.

May we be thoroughly cleansed and purified, then anointed with the oil of liberty to become cohen (priests) and kings for our King of Kings in His Kingdom!

May we become שָׂמַשׁ shamash (servants/ministers) to Him—the kind of servants and ministers that shine brilliantly from His brightness in us, brighter than the שֶׁמֶשׁ shemesh (sun), that we may bless Him and make Him smile as on a beautiful sunny day.