



Thank you for downloading
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.net.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Did God Ever Sanction Slavery?

Exodus 21:16: (NASB) *He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death.*



If we look back throughout all of the recorded history of mankind, there are a number of themes that seem to continually reoccur. One of those themes is the rulership of some men over others. That theme in many cultures took a downward spiral and over time ended up as one of the greatest travesties in the history of the human race - slavery. Today, we look at such a practice and shake our heads in sorrow and disbelief at the inhumanity with which we have treated one another. In the midst of this, there looms a very important question - the Bible gives us a recorded history of ruler-ship, domination and slavery - the question is; did God or does God EVER sanction slavery - that inhuman treatment of another human being? Stay with us as we look at the Bible and history and search for the answer!

Our only question for consideration:

Did God EVER Sanction Slavery?

Slave: Strongs #5650 `ebed (eh'-bed); a servant **Authorized Version:** Translated "servant" 744 times

Genesis 26:19 Genesis 26:24

Abraham is described with the same word as those working for Isaac.

Slave (female): Strongs #519 'amah (aw-maw'); a maid-servant or female slave

Genesis 21:10 1 Samuel 1:11: Notice both words refer to human servitude to other humans as well as to God. The female version is shown as women serving men and women serving God.



Benign Beginnings, Slavery - Lucas Films

- Usually not a lifetime sentence, you paid off your debt;
- Not inherited;
- Usually prisoners of war.



Observations regarding Patriarchal Servitude:

- Slaves/Servants were of two types - they were born or bought into the household;
- Those "bought" were voluntarily "selling" their service for compensation;
- Slaves/Servants were treated as part of Abraham's household;
- Slaves/Servants were taught to worship God like other family members;
- Slaves/Servants had great responsibility and trust;
- Slaves/Servants could be in line for inheritance;
- Slave/Servant ownership was not equated with physical riches, but with household greatness and power.

Slavery in Egypt: Notice the progression in the following verses. It starts with oppression and degrades to outright cruelty.

Exodus 1:8-11: The first step in securing the Egyptian supremacy was the appointment of "masters" to "browbeat" the people.

Exodus 1:12: In spite of these measures, Israel's strength increased!

Exodus 1:8-13-14: Now the lordship turned to severity, cruelty and harshness, to keep their superior position, they of necessity had to abuse and break this mighty people!

This was a far cry from what we had seen so far!

Exodus 3:7



Greek Transformation (387BC), Slavery - Lucas Films

- Plato the Philosopher travels from Athens to Sicily to give Dionysius advice on government;
- Plato's advice causes him to become a slave;
- The Greeks created the world's first true "slave society";
- They transformed a short term condition into a life sentence for slaves and their descendants.



Compare with Hebrew servitude:

(Source: *Cyclopedia of Biblical Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Rev. John McClintock and James Strong) Hebrew Slaves. The circumstances under which a Hebrew might be reduced to servitude were (a) poverty; (b) the commission of theft; and (c) the exercise of paternal authority. In the first case, a man who had mortgaged his property, and was unable to support his family, might sell himself to another Hebrew, with a view both to obtain maintenance and perchance a surplus sufficient to redeem his property...

There is a huge difference between the escalation of slavery by the Greeks compared to the Biblical concept of servitude.

Deuteronomy 5:14-15: Even servants didn't work on the Sabbath. Servants were cared for.

Aristotle's Conclusion, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- It is clear that some men by nature are free, and others are slaves;
- These are "natural" slaves - therefore slavery is both expedient and right;
- All would acknowledge that the inferior class should be slaves of the superior;
- The Greeks could now justify enslaving those were "less human" or less deserving of freedom.

There is nothing close to this philosophy in the Bible.

Rules regarding slaves: Leviticus 25:39-43 **The release of slaves:** Deuteronomy 15:12-18

God's rules were made so that servitude would not be abused.

Leviticus 25:44-46: Aha! Here is a marked difference in the "rules" of servitude regarding the alien - but does this mean that they have a God given right to do anything they want with them? We'll get back to this shortly.

Roman Escalation, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- Rome takes slavery to unprecedented levels of brutality;
- Citizens were surrounded and outnumbered by slaves;
- Rome's tradition demanded that all slaves be killed if one slave murders their master.

Did the Romans get this idea from the Jews? No! The Jewish Law was just!

Leviticus 24:17, 22

The Law had SPECIFIC provisions AGAINST cruelty on behalf of slaves: Exodus 21:26-27

Slaves were considered by a conscientious master as entitled to justice and honorable treatment: Job 31:13-15

Slaves were given the ability to partake of the Jewish feasts - another indication of respectful treatment: Exodus 12:43-44

Pope Gregory 596AD, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- The Holy Roman Empire is still a slave-based society;
- Pope Gregory's Christianity did not deter him from pursuing slaves.

Christianity Embraces Slavery, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- Gregory embraced Aristotle's philosophy;
- Gregory sets the new rules for the philosophy - only non-Christians deserve to be slaves;
- Gregory went out and bought pagan slaves and established slavery under "Christian" rule.

According to Jewish Law, to kidnap any man was punishable by death - this was put in place right after the Ten Commandments were given: Exodus 21:16: Long before all of the degradations of slavery were introduced, there was the Jewish Law. It outlined the respectful treatment of those human beings who by reason of their debts, their crimes, their being prisoners of war or their impoverished state, were to be in servitude. The Law made it clear that there was to be no human trafficking, no severe beatings, no overworking, and no tyranny when dealing with these people, for they were just that - people. Israel was not to forget the horror and humiliation of their own enslavement in Egypt.



Greek and Roman Basis for American Slavery, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- The American south looked to Greece and Rome as a template for life;
- Greece and Rome were noble, cultured, classical, sophisticated and slave-based;
- There is a direct line from Aristotle straight through to the beginnings of slavery in the new world.

The New Testament view on slavery: (Remember, this is in the context of the Roman style of slavery, not the Hebrew style under the Law.) Ephesians 6:5-9: Just as there was a constant reminder of Israel's deliverance from bondage and cruelty to focus the Jews on the respectful care of those in their service, so we have a New Testament constant reminder of our accountability to God for our actions, even if we are in a situation that is unjust.

Our accountability spreads through all aspects of our life: Titus 3:1-2

Noah's Curse Justifies Slavery, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- Aristotle never drew a race-based slave picture - his was a life-position picture; (certain people, regardless of race, were destined to be slaves)
- Pope Gregory altered the slave picture to be religion-based; (non-Christians could be slaves, Christians could not)
- Bible believing slave owners needed to justify their position;
- Noah's curse targeted Canaan;
- It was said that Ham's descendants were the father of the African race - therefore appointed to slavery.

Noah's words: Genesis 9:25-27

(Source: "After the Flood," Albert O. Hudson) The gist of the prophecy was that Canaan - in his descendants - was to occupy a position of servitude to his half-brothers, in their descendants. The people destined to spring from Japheth were to be 'enlarged', spread abroad in far distant lands, while those from Shem would have God dwelling among them. The true meaning of vs.27 is "God shall dwell in the tents of Shem." Shem, represented now chiefly by Jews and Arabs, has long been recognized to be the most spiritually perceptive and receptive of the three great races.... The Sons of Japheth, the Aryans, have spread all over the world and dominated. Those of Ham, at first the most intellectual and artistic, founders of the first civilizations, have progressively changed as they migrated into the tropical and sub-tropical regions.... The descendants of Canaan, a heterogeneous assembly of tribes collectively known as Canaanites, have ceased to be representative of their forefather. Noah's forecast of the future came to pass...

(Source: Biblical scholar Jim Parkinson) Canaan was the only completely non-African "son" of Ham. From the time of the Sumerians (including Ur-Nammu, king of Sumer, in Genesis 14), the Canaanites were temporarily subjected by Cushites (from Ham) until Abram, Semites (from Assyria to neo-Babylon) and Japhethites (from Medes and Persians to Ottomans and Great Britain, with interruptions by Arab Semites), until Israel became independent.

While Ham's sons were actually the progenitors of the African Race, Canaan had absolutely nothing to do with it! The prophecy came true.

All in Christ were equal - no matter what their status was otherwise: 1 Corinthians 12:13

Galatians 3:28 Colossians 3:11: The Apostle Paul recognized that some of the brethren were under very difficult circumstances, and that it didn't matter where they were physically, only spiritually. The Apostle Paul wasn't encouraging a rebellion to free the slaves. Just because someone is in that servitude doesn't mean they can't honor and love God.

John Newton's Own History, *Movie - Amazing Grace*

The Apostle Paul's letter to Philemon was all about a slave: Philemon excerpts: Paul is drawing clear attention to the fact that freedom in Christ (which he ironically calls being a prisoner) is greater than any earthly bondage, even if that bondage remains throughout one's entire lifetime.

The Great American Awakening, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- In the early 1800's, American Protestants begin to stand against slavery.



Observations about slavery:



- There are widely varied degrees of servitude, some very civil and some utterly cruel;
- God NEVER sanctioned any abuse of, or cruelty to, any servant at any time;
- Men, in an effort to justify their own hard-heartedness, found ways to use the Bible to defend their position.



The South's Resistance, Jeff Davis, *Slavery - Lucas Films*

- Slaves were worth three times all the nation's railroads, manufacturing and industry combined;
- Southern fear was that without slaves the economy would collapse.

Fortunately, our God is a God of deliverance and NOT a god of bondage!

Jesus was sent to release all captives of sin: Isaiah 61:1-2



"Amazing Grace - My Chains Are Gone," Chris Tomlin

As a result of Jesus' sacrifice, all will be saved: John 3:16-17: (KJV) There is a promise of salvation that is all-encompassing, covering not only the landowner, but also the one in servitude.

Slavery versus Servitude: The Old Testament gave very clear instruction for servitude. God sanctioned servitude within specific guidelines. God's view had a respect built in for man. Greek and Roman philosophy and influence added a factor of cruelty and inhumane treatment.

And all will be judged with righteous judgment: Jeremiah 31:29-34: There is a great promise of salvation because God is a God of deliverance.



Why do we use the term "servitude" to describe the Old Testament concept of slavery? Do you love music? But do you love all music? Just as there is a broad range of what constitutes "music," there were different concepts of slavery. In the scriptures, the treatment of one man under the thumb of another was done in accordance with Jewish law. If the master brutalized that person, the servant went free. Killing the servant would result in the death of the master.

God is a God of love, deliverance, and a plan. Slavery has no part in that plan. We must live higher than the world around us and live according to Godly standards to the best of our imperfect abilities.

***So did God ever sanction slavery?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***