

SLAVES/SERVANTS/BONDSERVANTS FREE MAN

A free man is an individual who by his own free will, does whatever he wishes in his life to provide for himself and his family. One who does so is totally responsible for everything in his life which includes food, clothing, shelter, etc. for both him and his family. He must rely on himself for all his needs and has no other support system. If things work out good in his life and he remains physically strong this can be a big advantage in the eyes of the community. If things don't work out so well it can end up being a complete catastrophe. His daily needs and retirement depend totally on his ability to constantly provide for himself. This is what many would call the perfect scenario. In western culture we would call this man a business man. It is usually either a make or break situation, with little middle ground.

In biblical times a servant could be either a slave or a domestic person. A servant who was a domestic person was paid for his work, but free to leave the job, whereas a slave was under the control of his master. Some servants were also simply volunteers who chose to do someone else's bidding. This is the origin of volunteer work. In the bible these people were also referred to as attendants. Female servants were called maidservants.

Free men are not in charge of anyone else, just themselves, whereas bondservants are working for others, either individuals or the public in general. Servants are part of the community. They are generally so busy looking after themselves they don't have time to look after anyone else. Most free men want to be great and in charge of others but not servants of others. Remember what the definition of witchcraft is? "Witchcraft is the manipulation, domination, or control of anyone by any means other than the Holy Spirit." We must keep that in mind when we talk about free men. Some of these people are using witchcraft to obtain what they are after. Obviously a man who does so cannot be a God fearing person. The simple fact is that in order to be in charge you must be willing to serve.

Exod. 21:5 *"But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,'*

SLAVES AT THE TIME OF THE EXODUS

The slaves of Egypt we read about at the time of the Exodus were not the same as regular type slaves. As you recall the story of Joseph looking after the Pharaohs kingdom, in the end the people sold themselves to the Pharaoh in order to survive the drought. **Ps. 105:17** *"He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. Sometimes young men and women were involuntarily sold into slavery. Joseph was an unwilling person who was sold into slavery by his own brothers.*

The people in bondage in Egypt, just before the Exodus, came from all over the world. They willingly sold themselves to the Pharaoh just so they could survive the drought. The decedents of these people are the original slaves referred to when Moses lead them out of the land of Egypt. These people were so used to being in slavery they could only dream of what freedom would be like. These are the people who cried out to the Almighty for help and He answered their prayers through His servant Moses.

Deut. 5:15 *'You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the*

LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.”

They were not Jews. No Jews existed at that time. They were people forced into hard labor for generations, crying out to a god that would listen to their plea. Then the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob answered their plea. They were like slaves who became slaves when they were overtaken by other nations in various battles of old. It is these slaves and others who were in agreement with their God, that left Egypt and became the original Israelites. Israel/Israelite meaning “those overcome by Yah”, “he who submits to Yah”.

There are many other verses in the Old Testament that talked about slaves and the rights of slaves. Lev. 25:39-55 is an area that talks about this.

Man slaves normally received 40 shekels a year, which was equivalent to four bushels of barley. An average man would eat four bushels of barley a year. Woman slaves received 30 shekels a year.

FREEWILL SLAVES

What is the biblical definition of a slave as written about in our scriptures?

A slave, Jew or Gentile, in biblical times was a single man who willingly gave up his right of free will in order to become completely dependent upon a master. In many cases the slave was someone who owed money to a person and was unable to pay off the debt. That person could be anyone. In many cases the person who owed the money became the slave until the debt was paid off, or after six years service, whichever came first. The person would offer himself up as a slave to his master until the debt was paid off. If he and his master accepted the arrangement the master provided him with all the essentials required to live as long as the slave continued to serve his master appropriately. When a man became a slave it was for a specific period of six years. After six years the slave was set free, and usually the master provided him with whatever he required to start a new life as a free will individual. During that period of time all problems and responsibilities of the slave were put upon the master. The master looked after everything the slave required. If by chance a Jubilee year occurred during the six year term of service, the slave was given the right to freedom without waiting the full six years.

If the slave took on a wife and had children, that wife and the children became property of the master. When this happened the master was responsible for all the needs of that family for six years. He looked after all their food, clothing, and shelter needs and provided them with whatever medical help that was necessary. He provided them with all the things a normal family would require in life.

If the slave wanted to remain with his master after the six year period, the master had the right to take him on as his free will slave for the rest of his life. In the case of a slave who took on a wife and had children, he was considered a free will slave but the wife and children still remained the property and responsibility of the master. It was traditional for the slave to go into a public place with his master, usually the gates of the city, and the master would declare that the slave was no longer a slave, but a free man slave.

SERVANT/BONDSERVANT

It is very significant that the law of the bondservant is the first law (Deut. 5:15) that Moses gave to the Israelite's after he came down from the mountain. He did this just after all the assembled people said to Moses that they would do whatever Yahveh commanded them to do. This is the FIRST WRITTEN LAW from Dad other than the Ten Commandments.

Exod. 21:2-6 *“If you purchase a Hebrew slave, he is to work six years; but in the seventh, he is to be given his freedom without having to pay anything. 3 If he came single, he is to leave single; if he was married when he came, his wife is to go with him when he leaves. 4 But if his master gave him a wife, and she bore him sons or daughters, then the wife and her children will belong to her master, and he will leave by himself. 5 Nevertheless, if the slave declares, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children, so I don’t want to go free,’ 6 then his master is to bring him before God; and **there at the door or doorpost, his master is to pierce his ear with an awl; and the man will be his slave for life.**”*

BONDAGE (05647) "aw-bad"

When we say bondage today it is always a negative connotation. In Hebrew it is contextual (it depends on the context). You can be in bondage to a good thing. The Levitical priests may have been in bondage, but they were in bondage to a good thing, the Almighty.

Bondage in Hebrew, is made up of ayin (eyesight, what you see), bet (house, dwelling place), dalet (poor man or open door). So if you have the wrong insight, if you do not see properly, your house will be in need, this is bondage. When your in bondage it is all bad.

Hasatan knows our weaknesses, the things that we love most. He takes advantage of these hobbies, likes, habits, sports, addictions, and uses them to keep us in bondage so we cannot focus on the weightier things. The enemy entices you in your weakness and gets you in bondage to his government system of addiction. Once he established his ownership in you in that particular area, you can believe all you want, he still controls that part of your life until you get delivered from that bondage. He can prevent the power of Yah working in your life through this bondage. We can have life, but do we have abundant life (John 3:16).

LAW OF THE BONDSERVANT

Have you ever wondered why Yah would put such importance on this law of the bondservant?

Imagine, after all the incredible things that happened at Mt. Sinai the first law Dad reveals to His people is the law of the bondservant. Lets’ have a serious look into its significance.

According to scripture, servants worked for someone else for a period of six years. After that period they received their freedom if they so desired it. The pierced ear was an outward expression of a slave who had been faithful to his master and was accepted into the family of the master, part of the community. Many put earrings in their ears after they

were pierced as outward evidence of the inner commitment of the bondservant. **Deut. 15:12-17** *“If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, then **he shall serve you six years**, but in the seventh year you shall set him free. 13 *“When you set him free, you shall not send him away empty-handed. 14 *“You shall furnish him liberally from your flock and from your threshing floor and from your wine vat; you shall give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you. 15 *“You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today. 16 *“It shall come about if he says to you, ‘I will not go out from you,’ because he loves you and your household, since he fares well with you; 17 **then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever.** Also you shall do likewise to your maidservant.”*****

This spiritual law is called the law of the bondservant. Anyone seeing this man with a pierced ear or earring would immediately know what kind of a man he was dealing with because of this outward expression.

According to scripture a bondservant was a man who of his own choice stayed on after his six year term. He was someone of the highest esteem and one who's word was never to be taken lightly. He acted as an agent and represented his master in everything he did and said. He had the complete authority and power of the master he worked for. An interesting note here is that the word “minister” actually originates from the word servant. When we minister to each other, we become servants for each other. **EXAMPLE:**

One of the most well known servants who became a bondservant in scripture is Eliezar of Damascus, the faithful servant of Abraham, and of course Moses himself. Eliezar started out as a servant of Abraham and after six years became a bondservant of Abraham because he willingly continued to serve Abraham his master in all that he did. He had proven he could be trusted in every way and Abraham in turn entrusted him with much power and authority. He represented Abraham in all that he said and did.

Gen. 15:2 *“Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is **Eliezar** of Damascus?”*

Gen. 24:2 *“Abraham said to **his servant**, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, “Please place your hand under my thigh,”*

Exod. 4:10 *“Then Moses said to the LORD, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”*

In scripture we see Yeshua, Paul, James, John, Peter, Jude, etc. all described as bondservants. There are quite a few examples of bondservants in scripture, the following are a few more.

Rom. 1:1 *“Paul, a **bond-servant** of Messiah Yeshua, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,”*

Phil. 2:7 *“but emptied Himself, taking the form of a **bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men.”*

Titus 1:1 *“Paul, a **bond-servant of God** and an apostle of Messiah Yeshua, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,”*

James 1:1 *“James, a **bond-servant** of God and of Yeshua”*

In our culture today we might call this man a bondable employee, one who has had a serious security check and can be trusted with important equipment, materials, money, information, etc.

RHEMA

Now let's look at the symbolism we can see here in Deut. 5:15. Let's go out into the deep water so to speak and see what the rhema of this speaks out with those who have ears to hear (pun intended). Let's have a look at some beautiful thematic connections here in our scriptures.

Our bible tells us that we are to "hear" the Word of Yah and follow it. One of the most famous scriptures known to man is called the Sh'ma". "Sh'ma Israel, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Ehad". **Deut. 6:4** (Almighty speaking) **"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!** In order to understand and follow the instructions of the Holy One of Israel, whom us "born again" Believers follow, we must first hear the word. What is the Word? The word is the Torah made flesh in the form of the Son of Yahveh, Yeshua. Yeshua is the word made flesh. **John 10:27-28** **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."**

John 8:43 **"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word."**

Deut. 31:12-13 **"Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. 13 "Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess."**

Hearing the word is one of the most basic concepts required to understand the Living Word and to be obedient to it so that we can be blessed. Notice it says; **Deut. 15:17** **then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever.** When you puncture ones ear you are "opening it up to the living word". **Why did they puncture the ear against the door of the house of the master?**

This was done because in order to get into the masters presence you must come in through the door. The man's ear is attached to the doorpost of the "House of Yah". Figuratively, literally, and spiritually speaking, he has been attached to the House of the Almighty forever. He did this because he loved his master. Spiritually speaking, we want to go into the masters house and there is only one proper way to enter, through the door. **John 10:1-3** **"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.** The servant in question, after being released from his own bondage, is saying that he wants to follow his master by doing things His way. By his own free will he is saying he loves his master and doesn't want to try and do things his own way. **"There is a way that seems right to man but the end thereof is destruction"**.

A spiritual bondservant is a God fearing man in the highest regard. A spiritual

bondsman offers himself up as a life long servant of Yah, to work under His authority and to do His will according to His Living Word and the direct orders of the holy spirit. The bondsman is there simply to help others in whatever way he has been guided. He is there to be obedient to his master. That bondsman does not walk into the masters house after becoming his servant and tell the master that he doesn't do certain things. That servant doesn't tell the master that he washes windows only on a particular day, or that he doesn't sweep the floor, or do dishes. That servant doesn't say that the house rules are only for the other servants. Does the servant tell the master what he doesn't do, or does he say he will do what the master has told him to do because he loves him (John 14:15)? The clay doesn't tell the potter what to do does it? He doesn't do things just because he is afraid of his master, he does these things because he loves and respects his master. He does it because he wants to please his master. He knows it is his master who has set him free from his bondage. He is more than happy to show his love for that freedom by, in faith, being obedient to the masters words. **This is why Yah gave this commandment before the others at Mt. Sinai. He made it abundantly clear that if one became a bondsman (bride), he would willingly be obedient to His Word.** They had the choice and all the people, in total agreement, told Moses that they will indeed be His bondsmen of their own free will. **Exod. 19:7-9** *So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which Yahveh had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. 9 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also **believe in you forever.**" Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD."*

Does any of this sound familiar? This is what we see happening in the so-called christian community. This is what has been going on for thousands of years in what is commonly believed to be the religion of the bible. These people are not His bondsmen. These people proclaim to be part of the Kingdom of Yah, these people claim to be His servant, His bride, yet they tell Him they will not do the dishes. They go into the masters house and rip pages out of His instruction book, while claiming to serve Him and their fellow man. They are NOT His people and will never be His people until they submit to Him according to scripture.

When we become bondsmen of Yah we never have to worry about what happens in the future. We know that He will provide us with all we require in His service. We don't have to worry about others attacking us, or our children. We don't have to worry about anything because we know the master will take care of everything.

Who is the greatest example of the perfect bondsman? Yeshua of course. He was a bondsman son. He looked after everything in His Fathers house. Now let's have a look at Psalm 40 written by King David. **Ps. 40:1-8** *I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 **He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.** 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear, And will trust in the LORD. 4 How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood. 5 Many, O LORD my God,*

*are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count. 6 Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; **My ears You have opened;** (pierced) Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 **I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.**"*

Who was brought up out of the pit of destruction? The slaves of Egypt of course. King David was once in bondage too, just as the Israelites were. He was brought out of bondage and his feet were on the rock of our salvation, none other than Yeshua Himself. His ears were opened to the truth of Yah's law, and it was established on his heart. David, the man with the perfect heart, was saying that people were hearing the words but not getting the message. Many people with knowledge and intellect were hearing the words but not getting the spirit of the message. Yah opened up David's ears and he indeed got the message.

When the Israelites miscalculated at Mt. Sinai and ended up making the golden calf image, they blew it big time. They may have intended to do something great for their master, but instead they ended up honoring the beast. This is what is happening in the so-called christian churches today. They appear to be honoring the Master, but they are indeed honoring the image of the beast. They are not in the blessings, they are in the curses. They are not following the Holy One of Israel, but are following the counterfeit. The torah is not on their heart. Their hearts are still of stone as the bible says (Ezek. 9:19).

Let's have a look at **John 8:28** So Yeshua said, "*When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, **but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.***" Here we see Yeshua speaking as a servant of His Father Yahveh. He is speaking to a group of Jewish believers that believe in Him. He is telling them that IF they really believe Him they will follow His torah, not just talk about His torah. If they follow His torah they will be set free from the bondage of the *world*. **John 8:31-32, 34-36** So Yeshua was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "***If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.***" Then He goes on to say, verse **34-36** Yeshua answered them, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 "***So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.***"* Those who are lawless are slaves of sin/lawlessness (1John 3:4). Transgression of the law is sin. They are in fact of the devil, for the devil is the one who promotes lawlessness (1John 3:8). That is taken out of the Renewed Testament. Yeshua says the servant does not abide in the house forever, but the son of the master does. The Rabbi here is pointing out to us that when we become His servants of our own free will, after six years, are part of the house of the Master. When that servant had his ear pierced against the doorpost of the house, he was beginning the process of becoming a son of the master. As to many as receive Him, He gave them the power to become sons of God. **1John 3:1** "*See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that **we would be called children of God;** and such we are."* **Rom. 8:14-17** *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15*

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that **we are children of God**, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

Gal. 4:6-7 "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 **Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.**"

"If you really want to be free, you have to give up your freedom". If you really want to be one of His servants/sons/bride, you must give up your freedom and do it His way. **"Real freedom is moving easily within a harness"**. The Living Word (Torah) is our harness." You must enter in through the door of the son and follow the house rules. Then and only then can you be set free from the bondage of life. *"Who the son sets free is free indeed"*. The ones that follow the masters rules are truly His family.

Yeshua came along and did a slightly different teaching on the subject of servanthood. He made it clear that a born again servant of Yah must publicly declare his love for his family, friends and his master, but that he must also love the brothers and sisters of this new heavenly family. When we keep His commandments we are outwardly showing the world that He is our master and that we are His spiritual family, as stated clearly in John 14:15. In order to be a servant of the most high we must LOVE others as Abba loves us. That is what is meant by; "love others as you love yourself". Love is the answer. Love is the result of torah obedience. That is why many call the bible the "Greatest Love Story Ever Written". Love is the outward expression of the inner change.

Some other examples of bondservants can be found in the following verses: Gal. 1:10, Col. 1:7, 4:7, 2Pet. 1:1, Jude 1, Rev. 1:1, 15:3, Matt. 12:18, 1Cor. 6:20, Rom. 6:16-22, Psa. 78:70-72,

SUMMARY

So what it all comes down to is choices. We can choose to be a part of the family of Yah and be obedient to His Living Word, guaranteeing a great retirement package, or we can do it all on our own and throw the dice. We can choose to be part of the torah community and do everything for the greater good of humanity, or we can look after ourselves first and somehow provide our own salvation. We have the ability to choose and no one can take that away from us. Our choices today determine our rewards tomorrow.

In today's world we call a hired man an employee. If that employee continues to work satisfactorily for the boss he is provided with enough money to provide for his family, his wages are raised according to various things including his productivity. If the employee wants to quit and work for someone else he is often given a severance package that includes a financial reward for his past services, according to his contribution to the business. When you work for somebody you are their servant. People who work for the government, police, fireman, teachers, politicians, bureaucrats, etc. are supposed to be servants of the people.

Society needs both those who can go out on their own and create things for themselves and those who create for the community as a whole. These are the two choices that man had back then and still has to this day.

In the same manner Yah gives us these two choices. We can serve Him and never worry about being in need of anything spiritually, or we can serve ourselves and depend on ourselves to look after our own retirement. Yah gives us this opportunity to serve Him because He loves us and wants us to have a good life, in the now and thereafter. It's all about love and concern for His people. In the same way the slave went in public and had his ear pierced to proclaim publicly that he was a slave, Yah requires us to publicly proclaim we are one of His servants. We do this when we are born again and baptized. We show outwardly that we are one of His people by following His instructions given to us in the form of the bible, especially the Torah. After we declare ourselves a servant of the Holy One of Israel we no longer have the right to act like a free man anymore. It is a free will decision that once made, must be stood upon. Our children wife, etc. all depend on which decision a man makes for his family.

One of the biggest problems with being a free will man is that he has no retirement plan unless he has been very successful. Even then worldly security is only temporary, spiritual security is eternal. The security of the eternal life in Heaven of a born again child of Yahveh is not comparable to anything a free will type person has. No retirement income or severance pay can give one the peace of Yah's retirement plan for His faithful servants.

Spiritually speaking, once we accept El Gibor as our master all the other commandments are quite insignificant because all the other commandments have to do with "free men". Once we accept Him as our master we are not free men, so keeping the other parts of the torah are easy. You simply do as the master says. If you forget what He said all you do is look it up in your instruction manual called the torah. Yah paid a price for us, His servants, and we are no longer free men. He is our master, our manager, and we are His servants. We act as agents on His behalf and He is the one who disciplines or blesses us according to our representation of Him in the world and in our torah community.

With this said, what happens to us in our daily lives, whatever is maybe said about us in our spiritual walk, is not our responsibility anymore. That's why the Good Book says "vengeance belongs to our Father, Yah". If someone comes along and offends us or causes us problems it is not us he is offending, but our MASTER, and our master will deal with that person or situation accordingly. If our master feels we have been treated unfairly, He will deal with the situation, we don't need to concern ourselves with it. It's really not our problem. That is what Yeshua was revealing when he said in Matt. 5:39 to turn the other cheek. The hidden message there was that if you want to really hit me, then do it right, slap Me on both sides, enjoy yourself in the moment because my master will deal with you later. If the same scenario occurs with a free man, the free man must take the case to court, get a lawyer and trust the secular system that no longer has anything to do with justice.

If one is a servant of Dad, you know how He is committed to the people as a whole. We should be more than happy to join in any given situation and do the work of our master. We don't have to worry so much about whether or not something is fair or unfair,

that is the job of our master. It is our job to do as His written Word says to show His love for His people. It is our master who rewards us for doing things right, it's not those we serve that reward us. Our retirement package is literally "out of this world".

Working for Yah is the best job in the world. It is being part of the greatest family of people. It is being part of something, not a fad or something temporary, but something permanent forever and ever and ever. I have the best job in the world! My mentor is the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). That job offer is available to every person in the world should they decide to choose it. Real peace (shalom shalom) comes from that job ONLY! Dwelling in the house of Yah is quite a benefit. His is the King of the Universe. His palace is like nothing anywhere on earth. Who in their right mind wouldn't want to serve a King that loves him?

For all those skeptics who think the slaves and bondservants of the bible were treated severely, I hope this teaching has made you think twice about which master you will serve. Joshua said it well when he said ***"as for me and my house, we shall serve Yah"*** (Josh. 24:15).

(Mar 23/16) Jerry Hennig