

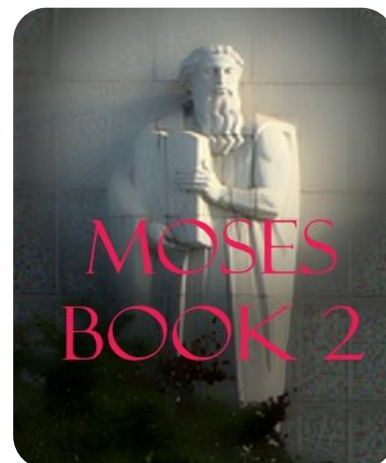
# EXODUS 21 vs 1

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Servants or slaves: same word in the Bible, the terms: **service** and **servant** are used in one of two senses: **servitude** and **ministry**. Slavery, bondage, forced service is from earliest times. In Egypt under Joseph, the people gladly served Pharaoh during the famine. Slave labor was chiefly used by wealthy families, and in royal building projects. Work agreements between two parties were common, specifying a period of time to complete the work. Hired servant were expected to be treated fairly and handled with kindness.

Why those became a slave servant of their brethren in Israel, vary: **poverty**, the inability to sustain oneself and one's family; was regarded as a sale, when the person sold the right to his labor to his relative in return for provision for himself and his family; **exorbitant interest rates** on loans, although prohibited, often brought a man to ruin and slavery; **restitution** for theft required returning at least double the amount stolen; if a thief did not fulfill his required restitution, he was sold for his theft and he compensated with his work. Limits were set under the Mosaic law; besides granting freedom in the year of jubilee (every 50th year) a relative may purchase the slave; yet, if not purchased, the slave received freedom after six years, together with a gift from his master.



## Laws concerning Servants and Slaves

**<sup>1</sup> Now these are the judgments which you will set before them.**

**<sup>2</sup> If you buy a Hebrew servant, six years he will serve: and in the seventh, he will go out free and pay nothing** / this verse speaks about a contracted salary, for one looking for a fulltime job.

**<sup>3</sup> If by himself he comes in, by himself he will go out: if he was husband of a wife, then his wife will go out with him.**

**<sup>4</sup> If his master gave him a wife, and she begets him sons or daughters; the wife and her children will be her master's, and he will go out by himself.**

**<sup>5</sup> And if plainly the servant says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not depart free:**

**<sup>6</sup> then his master will bring him to the judges; also he will bring him to the door, or to the doorpost; and his master will pierce his ear with an awl; and he will serve him forever.**

**<sup>7</sup> And if a man sells his daughter to be a maidservant, she will not go out as do the men-servants.**

**<sup>8</sup> If she is bad in the eyes of her master, who himself has betrothed her, then he will let her be redeemed; but to a foreign people he has no right to sell her, since he acted unfairly with her.**

**<sup>9</sup> And if to his son, he has betrothed her, after the custom of daughters he will deal with her.**

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<sup>10</sup> If he takes another wife; her **food**, her **clothing**, and her **marriage rights** will not diminish.

<sup>11</sup> And if these three he does not do to her, then she will depart free, without money.

## Laws concerning Personal Injury

<sup>12</sup> He who strikes a man, so that he dies, will surely be put to death.

<sup>13</sup> And if a man does not lie in wait, but God delivers him into his hand; then I will appoint you a place where he may flee.

<sup>14</sup> But if boiling (or cooking up a matter) a man comes against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery; / for the willful murderer, whether a sudden passion, or in premeditated malice, no two-tiered justice could be expected, even from the highest office; it is felonious to think God would shelter them, from My altar, you can seize him that he may die.

<sup>15</sup> And he who strikes his father, or his mother, surely is to die.

<sup>16</sup> And he who steals a man, and sells him, or if he is in his possession, surely is to die / human traffickers; including child traffickers – surely he is to die.

<sup>17</sup> And he who curses his father, or his mother, surely is to die / anyone want to argue with the Lord?

<sup>18</sup> And if men contend together, and one strikes another with a stone, or with his fist, and he does not die, but is confined to bed:

<sup>19</sup> if he rises again, and walks about outside with his cane, then he who struck him will be acquitted: only for his lost time he will pay, and will thoroughly cause him to be healed.

<sup>20</sup> And if a man strikes his male or female servant, with a rod, and he dies under his hand; he will surely be punished,

<sup>21</sup> indeed, if in a day or two he stands up, he will not be punished: for he is his money.

<sup>22</sup> If men strive, and hurt a pregnant woman, so prematurely gives birth, and yet no harm follows: he will surely be punished, according as the husband of the woman imposes on him; and he will pay as the judges determine,

<sup>23</sup> but if any harm follows, then you will give life for life,

<sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

<sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

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<sup>26</sup> And if a man strikes the eye of his male servant, or the eye of his female servant, that it is destroyed; he will send away free for the sake of his eye;

<sup>27</sup> and if the tooth of his male servant, or the tooth of his female servant; he knocks out; he will send away free for the sake of his tooth.

<sup>28</sup> And if an ox gores a man or a woman, that they die: surely then the ox will be stoned, and its flesh will not be eaten; but the owner of the ox will be acquitted.

<sup>29</sup> But if the ox was previously in the habit of goring, and it repeatedly testified to its owner, and he has **not kept** it in, so that it killed a man or a woman; the ox will be stoned, and its owner also will be put to death.

<sup>30</sup> If there is imposed on him a sum of money, then he will pay to redeem his life whatever is imposed on him.

<sup>31</sup> If it gored a son, or gored a daughter, according to this judgment, he is to be dealt with.

<sup>32</sup> If the ox gored a male servant or a female servant; thirty shekels of silver he will give to their master, and the ox will be stoned.

<sup>33</sup> And if a man uncovers a pit, or if a man digs a pit, and does **not** cover it, and an ox or an ass falls in it;

<sup>34</sup> the owner of the pit, to make peace, will give money to the owner of them; and the dead animal will be his.

<sup>35</sup> And if the ox of one man hurts that of another, so it dies; then they will sell the live ox, and divide its money; also the dead ox they will divide.

<sup>36</sup> Or if it was known that the ox was previously in the habit of goring, and its owner has **not kept** it in; he will surely pay ox for ox; and the dead will be his own.



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**We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.**