



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 21:1-24:18
- Matthew 26:36-39; 20:26-28
- Hebrews 12:1-3; 9:16-22
- John 13-17; 4:23-24
- Luke 22:24-30; 24:36-43
- Philippians 2:5-11; 3:20-21
- Acts 1:9-11; 15:18-21
- Romans 8:16-30, 6:3-7
- Ephesians 5:25-32
- Revelation 19:7-8; 21:1-2

BONDAGE & BONDSERVANTS

- For the joy set before Him
- The Ultimate Servant
- Y'shua the Serving Leader
- Law of the Hebrew Servant
- Messiah as a Bondservant
- The Ultimate Choice
- The Bride of Messiah
- The Ultimate Sacrifice
- At the Table
- The Blood of the Covenant

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. **If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out by himself.** But if the

servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master **shall pierce** his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him **forever.**" Exodus 21:2-6

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called **Gethsemane**, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."... He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as You will.** "" (Matthew 26:36, 39) "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a **yoke of bondage.**" (Galatians 5:1) "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as **free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.**" (I Peter 2:15-16)

"Stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1 Yes, we've been set free, and yet Peter, Paul, Timothy, James, and Jude all identified themselves as bondservants of Jesus Christ. How is it possible that one could be both "set free" and a bondservant at the same time?

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The first three chapters of this Torah portion deliver a legal code of laws and commandments that form a nucleus for the Torah's laws. The last chapter tells the story of how the people of Israel consented to keep these laws and entered into a marriage covenant relationship with God through a series of rituals conducted by Moses.
2. **The Law Concerning Hebrew Servants [Slaves]:** Right from the start, this portion reveals one of the most prophetically significant and relevant scriptures for all those who would come to know Y'shua as the Messiah.
3. A Hebrew servant is in bondage for six years and is then permitted to go out for free without cost in the seventh year. But there are some important stipulations:
 - (a) If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself;
 - (b) If he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him;
 - (c) If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, **and he shall go out by himself;**
 - (d) But if the servant loves his master, wife, and children, he can chose to stay a servant **[and keep his wife and children];**

- (e) If the slave makes a decision to stay, **it is a permanent** and it is witnessed by the judges and consummated with a piercing.
 - (f) What and who does this sound like? A hebrew servant has the option to go free, but he chooses instead to stay, so he can keep the bride he was given while in slavery!
 - (g) Because he has chosen to stay, his master shall bring him to the judges. Then he shall bring him for a piercing and he shall serve his master forever.
4. Then we see the laws of a female servant and how they differ from males.
 5. **The Law Concerning Violence:** (violence against another person)
 6. **Animal Control Laws:** (Man vs. Animal, Animal vs. Man, Animal vs. Animal)
 7. **Responsibility for Property:** (Theft, Fire, Neighbor's Crops, Money and goods, Trespassing, Lost things, Borrowed things)
 8. **Moral and Ceremonial Principles:** (Enticing virgins, Sorcery, Relations with animals, Sacrifices to any god but Yahweh, Treatment of strangers, Widows and Orphans, Laws of lending, Interest and Pledges, Cursing Yahweh and Rulers, First Fruits and Firstborns, Meat from animals killed in the wild.)
 9. **Justice for All:** (No false reports, Do not follow a crowd to do evil; Do not testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to

pervert justice; No partiality to a poor man in his dispute; Help for your enemy's animal; Do not pervert the judgment of the poor in his dispute; Keep yourself far from a false matter; Do not kill the innocent and righteous; Take no bribe; Do not oppress a stranger because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.)

10. **The Law of Sabbaths:** (Sabbath rest for the land; Do not gather your crops in the seventh year but let the poor and beasts eat from your land freely that year; Six days of work and on the seventh day you shall rest, even beasts and servants.)
11. Be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth.
12. **Three Annual Feasts:** "Three times [seasons] you shall keep a feast to Me in the year; Three times in the year all your males shall appear before Yahweh [ultimately in Jerusalem]: (1) Passover (with Unleavened Bread and First Fruits), (2) Feast of Weeks (Shavuot or Pentecost—This is why we have this seen in Acts 2, SEE POINT #13), and (3) Feast of Tabernacles.
13. "When the Day of **Pentecost** had fully come, they were all with **one accord in one place.**" Acts 2:1 [They were keeping the command to appear before Yahweh for the feast of Shavuot, and not just Jews but everyone who identified as followers of Yahweh, just like the audience he is speaking to in Exodus, a mixed multitude who came out with Israel (Exodus 12:38)]

*“And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **from every nation [a mixed multitude]** under heaven.” Acts 2:5*

14. **The Angel and the Promises:** Yahweh will send an angel before them to keep them in the way and to bring them into the place which He has prepared. Beware of Yahweh and obey His voice; then He will be an enemy to their enemies and an adversary to their adversaries. He will bless their bread and water. He will take sickness away, miscarriages and barrenness in the land; He will fulfill the number of their days. He will slowly defeat their enemies before their very eyes.
15. He will set their ancient boundaries from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River.
16. Yahweh instructs the people to make no covenant with His enemies, nor with their gods.
17. **Israel Affirms the Covenant (a marriage covenant):** Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the people answered with one voice and said, **“All the words which the Lord has said we will do.”** And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, **“All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.”** And Moses took the **blood**, sprinkled it on the people, and said, **“This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all**

these words." [Key prophetic point; the marriage covenant is a blood covenant. It takes Faith plus Blood. That is why Y'shua shed His blood so we could be his bride forever.]

18. **On the Mountain with God:** Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, **and they saw the God of Israel. And He did not lay His hand on them.** Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them." So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. The cloud covered it six days. **And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.** The sight of the glory of Yahweh was like a **consuming fire** on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
19. **Bonus:** "For **you have not come to the mountain** that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast

touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) **But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,** to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and **church of the firstborn** who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” Hebrews 12:18-24 NKJV

FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

1. **Imagine the Scene**

A. **The Ultimate Servant**

(1) Fix Your Eyes on Y’shua

- (a) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such

opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3

(2) What was the Joy Set Before Him at the Table?

- (a) HE WASHED THEIR FEET! "Now before the Feast of the Passover, **when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.** And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. **After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet,** and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"" **John 13:1-6 NKJV**
- (b) NOT ONLY THE TWELVE "'My prayer is **not for them alone.** I pray also **for [ALL] those who will believe in me through their message,**" John 17:20 NIVUK
- (c) **Luke's Gospel records these words—"I bestow upon you a kingdom":** "Now there was also a dispute among

them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ But not so among you; on the contrary, **he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves**. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the One who serves**. “But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. **And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”” Luke 22:24-30 NKJV**

Y'SHUA'S UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT A SERVANT IS

2. The Law of the The Hebrew Servant

A. **It's all about the ultimate choice—whom will you serve?**

- (1) ““Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: If you buy a **Hebrew servant**, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by

himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. **If his master has given him a wife**, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. **But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'** then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall **pierce** his ear with an awl; and **he shall serve him forever.**" Exodus 21:1-6 NKJV

- (a) A Hebrew servant is in bondage for six years and is then permitted to go out for free without cost in the seventh year. **But there are some important stipulations:**
- 1) If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself;
 - 2) If he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him;
 - 3) If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, **and he shall go out by himself;**
 - 4) But if the servant loves his master, wife, and children, he can chose to stay a servant [**and keep his wife and children**];

- 5) If the slave makes a decision to stay, **it is a permanent** and it is witnessed by the judges and consummated with a piercing.
 - 6) What and who does this sound like? A hebrew servant has the option to go free, but he chooses instead to stay, so he can keep the bride he was given while in slavery!
 - 7) Because he has chosen to stay, his master shall bring him to the judges. Then he shall bring him for a piercing and he shall serve his master forever.
 - 8) The servant can volunteer to be a slave forever because he loves his Master and his bride! A slave who chooses to stay even when he could go Free gets pierced and is called a BONDSERVANT
- (2) As for me and my house—we will serve Yahweh
- (a) “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”” Joshua 24:15 NKJV

B. Messiah as a Bondservant

- (1) Jesus went from freedom to slavery, from Spirit to human form. Will he ever return to spirit form? Only if He chooses that path. But the consequence would be he would have to leave without His Wife.
- (a) “And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 NKJV
- (2) Let this mind of Christ be in you... be a bondservant; volunteer to give your life FOREVER, never again able to go “FREE”!
- (a) “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **who, being in the form of God [*God is Spirit], did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men [****Body**]. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every

tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

- 1) *”But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”” John 4:23-24 NKJV
- 2) **”For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed **to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV

THE ULTIMATE CHOICE

3. Go Free or Stay?

A. Y’shua’s final choice—a slave forever and keep His bride or His FREEDOM?

- (1) Gethsemane (the moment of truth—bondsman and a piercing or freedom?
 - (a) “And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “**Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me;**

nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”” Luke 22:41-42 NKJV [*he shall serve him forever.*” Exodus 21:6]

- (b) He could go free and lose His bride [take this cup from me], or remain captive, be pierced, and KEEP HIS BRIDE FOREVER! The one given to Him during His Slavery! [not my will but yours be done]
- (2) Never a spirit being again!
 - (a) “Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, **and supposed they had seen a spirit.** And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, **for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.**” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. **And He took it and ate** in their presence.” Luke 24:36-43 NKJV
- (3) He went up with that body and he is coming back with that body!

- (a) “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**”” Acts 1:9-11 NKJV
- (b) “So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a **spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall**

also bear the image of the heavenly Man.” I Corinthians
15:42-49 NKJV

(4) So we can be like Him (with a body like His) and with
Him, as His bride!

(a) “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we
are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of
God and **joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with
Him, that we may also be **glorified together**. Romans
8:16-17

(b) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be
conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be
the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He
predestined, these He also called; whom He called,
these He also justified; and whom He justified, these **He
also glorified.**” Romans 8:29-30 NKJV

B. Who is His Bride?

(1) Betrothed

(a) “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. **For I have
betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you
as a chaste virgin to Christ.**” II Corinthians 11:2 NKJV

(2) The Church is the Bride of Christ

(a) “Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the
church and gave himself up for her** to make her holy,

cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no-one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ **This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.**” Ephesians 5:25-32

NIVUK

- (3) Prepared as His bride. Had he chosen to be “freed” from the Cross this would never be!
 - (a) “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8 NKJV
 - (b) “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New

Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Revelation 21:1-2 NKJV

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE!

4. Y’shua’s choice to become a bondservant, to go to the cross (be pierced) was not just a choice to suffer and to sacrifice His life.

A. Yes, He chose his bride over His freedom! But the ultimate sacrifice is that He can never go back His former Spirit-Self (freedom). He will forever inherit a glorified body, the same body we inherit, so we can be His permanent bride!

B. His church [bride] is then called to do the same—to make the choice to become bondservants? (Voluntary slaves)

(1) Want to be great?

(a) “Not so with you. Instead, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave** – just as the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matt. 20:26-28

(2) Peter, Paul, Timothy, James and Jude all identified themselves as voluntary slaves—bondservants

- (a) **Peter**—“**Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ**, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:” II Peter 1:1 NKJV
- (b) “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as **free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.**” I Peter 2:15-16 NKJV
- (c) **Paul**—“Paul, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God” Romans 1:1 NKJV
- (d) **Timothy**—“Paul and Timothy, **bondservants** of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:” Philippians 1:1 NKJV
- (e) **James**— “James, a **bondservant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.” James 1:1 NKJV
- (f) **Jude**—“Jude, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:” Jude 1:1 NKJV

BACK TO THE TABLE

5. What did Y'shua see as He sat at the table for His Last Supper?

A. He knew his time had come (John 13) — READ John 13-17

- (1) Can you imagine that scene again? (The Last Supper)
 - (a) For the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, Hebrews 12:1-2
 - (b) For the joy set before Him—what or who was His Joy?
 - (c) He was about to choose His bride over His freedom
 - (d) NOT ONLY THE TWELVE “My prayer is **not for them alone**. I pray also **for [ALL] those who will believe in me through their message,**” John 17:20 NIVUK
- (2) WHY would He endure the cross? Let's go back to the foot washing scene in John 13...
 - (a) “**When he had finished washing their feet**, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘**Do you understand what I have done for you?**’ he asked them. ‘You call me “Teacher” and “Lord”, and rightly so, for that is what I am. **Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one

who sent him. Now that you know these things, **you will be blessed if you do them.**" John 13:12-17

(3) Do you know what I have done! I have set an example! I am about to choose My bride over My freedom. Now you do the same!

(a) The True Serving Leader—do what He has done for you!

(b) **"The greatest among you will be your servant.** For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Matt. 23:11-12

(c) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Rather, **in humility value others above yourselves...**Philippians 2:3

(d) **"Above all, love each other deeply,** because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of **you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,** as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:8-10 NIVUK

B. Here's how you do it!

(1) Become Bondservants like Jesus [unto death]!

(a) GIVE YOUR LIFE! For even the Son of Man did not come **to be served, but to serve,** and to **give his life** as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

- (b) CARRY YOUR CROSS—BE A DISCIPLE! “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And **whoever does not carry their cross** and follow me **cannot be my disciple.** Luke 14:26-27
- (c) LAY IT DOWN ALL! “**Greater love has no-one than this: to lay down one’s life** for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:13-15 NIVUK
- (d) **LAY DOWN THIS LIFE AND FOLLOW HIM!** “**Anyone who loves their life will lose it**, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.**” John 12:25-26 NIVUK
- (e) CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST—I NO LONGER LIVE! **I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me;** and the life I now live in the

body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

- (f) CRUCIFIED AND BURIED WITH HIM! “Or don’t you know that **all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.** For we know that **our old self was crucified with him** so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because **anyone who has died has been set free from sin.**” Romans 6:3-7 NIVUK
- (2) Do you see the common denominator?
 - (a) DIE TO SELF!
 - (b) As a bondservant (serving leader), choose others over your own freedom and be willing to die for each other!
 - (3) Let’s go back a visit the Hebrew servant
 - (a) “**But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’** then his

master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall **pierce** his ear with an awl; and **he shall serve him forever.**" Exodus 21:1-6 NKJV

- (b) "Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to **present her to himself as a radiant church**, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-32 NIVUK
- (c) **For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross**, Hebrews 12:1-3
- (d) **Benediction for all!** "Let as many **bondservants** as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed." I Timothy 6:1 NKJV

THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

6. Without the shedding of Blood there is no Marriage Covenant

A. Israel Affirms the Covenant (a marriage covenant):

- (1) "So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD

has said we will do.” And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “**All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.**” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”” Exodus 24:3-8 NKJV

- (a) Key prophetic point; the marriage covenant is a blood covenant. It takes Faith plus Blood. That is why Y’shua shed His blood so we could be his bride forever.
- (2) Without shedding of blood there is no remission!
 - (a) “For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. **Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.** For when

Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, **“This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”** Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. **And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”** Hebrews 9:16-22 NKJV

- (b) **“And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’**

Therefore I said to the children of Israel, **‘No one among you shall eat blood,** nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.’” Leviticus 17:10-12 NKJV

- (3) These commands about the Blood are exactly what James is referring to at the Jerusalem counsel in Acts 15 when he made his ruling about Gentiles turning to faith in Y’shua.

(a) ""Known to God from eternity are all His works.

Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, **and from blood**. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."" Acts 15:18-21 NKJV

A NOTE TO ALL: As some of you know, I co-authored an intense devotional series with a beautiful brother of mine, Michael Beiter. We produced this work together many years ago while he was incarcerated in federal prison. The story of his incarceration and the birth of these devotions could fill a book. The entire series can be followed at www.SufferWell.org. I remembered that we wrote one devotion about the topic of this very sermon, so I included it here for your edification.

To this day Michael remains incarcerated. Pray for him and his miracle release.

The Servant's Way

(#044 from Suffer Well Devotional Series©)



If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. If his master gives him a

wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free. But if the servant declares, "I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free," then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.
(Exodus 21:2-6)

He knew what freedom meant. It meant there was only one way in all things, and that was the way of the Father, His Master. There could be no variation; no shadow of turning if He was to complete the task at hand. Everything was perfect; everything was precise, word for word, precept upon precept.

By preferring His bride and children, He knew He would pay a hefty price. As He again contemplated the law of the Hebrew servant, there could be no doubt about what His orders were. A servant, after all, follows orders.

It was the acceptance of the task at hand, long before Gethsemane, when the sweat that flowed like blood began. It first started when the sacrifice was contemplated, when He declared, "I love My Master, My bride, our children. This is why I came. My form was in existence long before the creation of man; but now I have chosen to stay, to become a servant for life. I will no longer be like the wind, but 'taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man' (Philippians 2:7-8). Taking on the form of a man, this is when My piercing began.

When First I Was Pierced

One to be pierced as prescribed by the law,
His Master well pleased to infinity,
In an instant the cup of redemption fulfilled,
All it took... "Hand over Divinity."

Yes, I am He who took on your form,
The true sacrifice that must be heeded.
I never before had these hands or these feet,
These limbs I'd simply not needed.

How can you kill who has always existed?
It's the mystery of faith we concede.
The thought of the death of this One Divine,
You might-as-well ask wind to bleed.

Do not be mistaken with skewed human thinking,
That My hope was for this cup to be taken,
It was for joy set before Me I accepted your stake;
But with that all eternity shaken.

For the rest of My days just as you I will be,
The depth of this sacrifice of Mine,
Something new to embrace, even for Me,
Yet to you I will still be Divine.

Questions & Discussion

1. Y'shua's Last Supper and His Last Sermon:

- B. What was the joy set before him?
- C. How did Y'shua demonstrate perfect servanthood?
- D. Who was He addressing?
- E. What does Luke's Gospel add to the story?

2. The Law of the The Hebrew Servant:

- A. Discuss key stipulations regarding the release of a Hebrew slave in the seventh year.
- B. How does this relate to Y'shua and His bride?

3. What is a Bondservant?

- A. How did Y'shua become a servant?
- B. How did Y'shua become a Bondservant?

4. What was the ultimate choice Y'shua had to make?

- A. What was His greatest sacrifice?
- B. How can you, as the Church, share in that Sacrifice?

5. The Blood of the Covenant:

- A. What are the two key ingredients of a marriage covenant?
- B. What does the blood represent?
- C. What are the restrictions related to blood?
- D. How are those restrictions related to you as a Christian?