

MODERN SLAVERY

A Pesach Resource



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Jewish texts

There is a lot of repetition throughout the Five Books of Moses (the Torah). Not only do we have 2 stories of Creation in the Book of Genesis, but the majority of the Mitzvot (Commandments) are retold in the Book of Deuteronomy.

Interestingly, during this retelling in Deuteronomy, some of the words and phrases are changed. This can often lead to a new interpretation on an older Commandment. Below you will find quotes on slaves from Exodus beside quotes in Deuteronomy.

 Are there discernible differences between the Books? Which should be followed? Why do you think these changes were made?

Exodus 21 on slavery

Exodus 21:2-4

When you acquire a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years; in the seventh year he shall go free, without payment. If he came single, he shall leave single; if he had a wife, his wife shall leave with him. If his master gave him a wife, and she has borne him children, the wife and her children shall belong to the master, and he shall leave alone.

Exodus 21:5-6

But if the slave declares, 'I love my master, and my wife and children: I do not wish to go free,' his master shall take him before G-d. He shall be brought to the door or the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall then remain his slave for life.

Deuteronomy 15 on slavery

Deuteronomy 15:12-15

If a fellow Hebrew, man or woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall set him free. When you set him free, do not let him go empty-handed: Furnish him out of the flock, threshing floor, and vat, with which the L-rd your G-d has blessed you. Bear in mind that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and the L-rd your G-d redeemed you; therefore I enjoin this commandment upon you today.

Deuteronomy 15:16-18

But should he say to you, 'I do not want to leave you' for he loves you and your household and is happy with you-you shall take an awl and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall become your slave in perpetuity. When you do set him free, do not feel aggrieved; for in the six years he has given you double the service of a hired man. Moreover, the L-rd and your G-d will bless you in all you do.

(Source: www.myjewishlearning.com/texts/Bible/Torah/Deuteronomy/Biblical_Slavery.shtml)

Education Director Tzedek, Jewish Social Action Hub, 152 West End Lane, London. NW6 1SD

Please get in touch with us with your thoughts and ideas, and do call if you have any questions.
Contact us by phone on: 0207 443 5121 or by email at: education@tzedek.org.uk

Interesting websites

www.slaverymap.org

scroll over the UK and find stories of modern slavery that people have written in

www.notforsalecampaign.org

www.antislavery.org

www.amnesty.org.uk

Videos

www.free2work.org/knowledge/173/Lets_End_Human_Slavery_in_Our_Lifetime
Short clip about slavery - American-focused, but well made

<http://www.documentarystream.com/the-dark-side-of-chocolate/>
Documentary about child labour in the chocolate industry

Peulot resources

http://www.tzedek.org.uk/file/Pesach%20pack%20KS3&4_18a.pdf
Though written for KS 3 & 4, this resource has lots of relevant information and activities

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10679>
A great source of educational materials

www.stophetraffic.org/downloads/stt-quiz.pdf
Quiz and answers

<http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/action/>
Resource

www.stophetraffic.org/downloads/flexicard_download.pdf
Resource