

## **BIBLICAL SLAVES AND MASTERS**

We have learned from previous studies in this series that employment is one of five Divine Institutions designed by God and recorded in Genesis (chs.1-11).

Slaves (doulos) and master (despotes) fall under the Divine Institutions of employment and nation.

You might wonder why Jesus and Paul used the terms slave and master rather than employee and employer? This lesson will answer this question and address why we use employee and employer in 21st. century America.

**This lesson will study four aspects of the biblical history of the forced labor of slaves and masters either by warfare and conquest or by slave labor purchases**

### **1. The First biblical record of forced labor by warfare and conquest occurred in Hamitic history with Nimrod (Gen.10:8-12; 11:1-9; Micah 5:6).**

Genesis chapter 10 gives us the table of 70 nations from Noah's three sons.

- Japheth Ch.14
- Ham Ch.30
- Shem Ch.26

In Hebrew, the name Nimrod is derived from the niphal participle. (niphal of marad) [rebellion of the Divine Agency given to the Shemites]. Nimrod describes his rebellious character and role in the Plan of God during the early years of the Postdiluvian civilization (known as the rebellious one). He lived in the third Hamitic generation from flood (Ham, Cush, Nimrod).

He is given the title, Mighty Hunter, because he was a conqueror of land and people and especially Shemite Asshur (Gen.10:22; Luke 1:33; John 18:36; Matt.28:19). His conquests built a kingdom rather than a nation with beautiful architecture and cities in Babylon and Assyria (Gen.10:8-12; Micah 5:5-6).

Many believe Nimrod built his great cities and the famous Tower of Babel with forced slave labor derived from warfare (Mighty Hunter). Historians refer to the Tower of Babel as the first ziggurat [elevated sacred pagan temple] (Gen.11:1-9). His cousins in Egypt will do the same things (Mizraim) (Gen.10:6, 13-14).

### **2. The Second biblical record of forced labor by warfare is recorded Genesis Chapter 14.**

A four-nation coalition army invaded the Valley of Siddim and conquered five nations.

This evil is promoted by Satan in the Angelic Conflict.

(2 Tim.2:26) "And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been held captive to do his will."

After 13 years of subjugation, they rebelled and the coalition army returned and subdued them. They took possessions and people back to their nations for forced slave labor. Lot was taken captive and Abraham went to war against the coalition and won. He returned the possessions and the people.

To the victor, goes the spoils.

King of Sodom and the priest-king of Salem went out to meet with Abraham. Abraham gave the priestly king of Salem 10% of the spoils of warfare. The King of Sodom told Abraham he could keep the possessions if he could have the people. Abraham gave him everything except for the cost of the war.

We are not told how Lot dealt with his captivity, but in Gen.19, when judgment came upon Sodom, he and his wife fell apart (Gen.19:16-26; James 1:2-4).

### 3. **In contrast to Lot we have Joseph, who was sold into slave labor to Potiphar of Egypt by his own brothers (Gen.37:18-36).**

At this time in Egypt and other developing nations, slave labor was an important part of business, much like the industrial revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Gen.39).

Listen to the Lord brag about Joseph through Potiphar:

(Gen.39:3) “Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.”

We see the doctrinal concept of **blessing by association** working in, spiritually mature, Joseph,

(Gen.39:5b) “Thus the Lord’s blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.”

#### **Joseph to his brothers:**

(Gen.50:20) “As for you, **you meant** evil against me, **but God meant** it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (Rom.8:28)

30 years after Joseph’s death, a new Pharaoh put the Israelites into forced slave labor for 400 years (Ex.1:8-14; 12:40-42). In Egypt, Mizraim (Gen.10-11), cousin of Nimrod, did the same things to the ancestry of Shem.

### 4. **After setting the 12 sons of Jacob free from Egypt, God had Moses form them into the Priest-nation of Israel.**

As part of the Leviticus Constitution of the Priest-nation, God established the Five Cycles of Divine Discipline (Lev.26 and Deut.28) (Lev.26:6-13) [God’s part] (Lev.26:14-16) [their part].

The 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Divine Discipline was the invasion by a foreign nation and the captives taken into forced slave labor, just like in Egypt (Lev.26:27-35, 40-46/ 45).

5<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Divine Discipline was executed three times upon the Priest-Nation of Israel (722BC by Assyria); (586BC by Babylon) and (70AD by Rome).

A special prophetic clause was added to the 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Divine Discipline which occurred in 586BC by Jeremiah called the **Curse of Coniah**. (King Jehoiachin) (Jer.22:24-30/ 30).

**The Curse of Coniah:** No Judean king will sit on David’s throne until the Second Coming of Christ. (Luke 1:32-33; Ezek 21:25-27).

Therefore, both Jesus and Paul taught employment by slaves and masters. This was true of Israel and other nations under the Roman Empire. Ruling governments of Israel and Rome must conspire against their laws to fulfill the prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Ps.22:16; Isa.53:5; Zech.12:10; John 19:36-37).