



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

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Mt Hebron Baptist Church

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# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Introduction
  - Should women Preach, Teach & Pastor over men in the church?
  - What does the bible say? Is it relevant today?
  - What about other edicts against women are they still relevant today?
  - If not why not?
  - Does the Bible Approve of Slavery?
  - Is there really a valid case for biblically sanctioned slavery?
  - Is slavery relevant today?
  - If not why not?
  - Biblical comparison between Women and Slavery

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- **Introduction**

- **What the bible reads – what the bible says – what the bible means**
- **Interpretation – who's right, who's wrong?**
- **The scripture is God's Word, the problem lies in those who interpret and the methods they use.**
- **Do we have guidelines for interpretation?**
  - **Are there varying guidelines?**
  - **Are the guidelines congruent or disparate?**
- **Our guidelines**

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- **Interpretation**
  - **Instead of superimposing a meaning on the biblical text, one should seek to discover the author's intended meaning (the only true meaning).**
  - **One must recognize that what a passage means is fixed by the author and not subject to alteration by readers.**
  - **"Meaning" is determined by the author; it is discovered by readers.**
  - **Our goal must be exegesis (drawing the meaning out of the text) and not eisogesis (superimposing a meaning onto the text).**
  - **Only objective methodology we bridge the gap between our minds and the minds of the biblical writers.**

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- **Interpretation**
  - Our method of interpreting Scripture is valid or invalid to the extent that it really unfolds the meaning a statement had for the author and the first hearers or readers.
  - When two interpretations are claimed for a passage, the one most in agreement with all the facts of the case should be adopted.
  - To lessen the errors that come in our interpretations, we need to look at some basic biblical interpretive methods.
  - Let's review the following principles as guidelines for examining a passage.

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## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- **1) The rule of DEFINITION:** What does the word mean?
  - Any study of Scripture must begin with a study of words.
  - Define your terms and then keep to the terms defined.
  - One should make sure that the sense of the English translation is understood.
  - A couple of good examples of this are the Greek words "allos" and "heteros".
  - Both are usually translated as "another" in English - yet "allos" literally means "**another of the same type**" and "heteros" means "**another of a different type.**"

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## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- **2) The rule of USAGE:** The Old Testament was written originally by, to and for Jews.
  - The words and idioms must have been intelligible to them - just as the words of Christ when talking to them must have been.
  - The majority of the New Testament likewise was written in Greco-Roman culture
  - It is important to not impose our modern usage into our interpretation.
  - It is not worth much to interpret a great many phrases and histories if one's interpretations are **shaded by pre-conceived notions** and **cultural biases**, thereby rendering an inaccurate and ineffectual understanding.

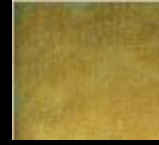
# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **3) The rule of CONTEXT:** The meaning must be gathered from the context.
  - Every word you read must be understood in the light of the words that come before and after it.
  - Every word in the Bible is part of a verse, and every verse is part of a paragraph, and every paragraph is part of a book, and every book is part of the whole of Scripture.
  - No verse of Scripture can be divorced from the verses around it. Interpreting a verse apart from its context is like trying to analyze a Rembrandt painting by looking at only a single square inch of the painting. The context is absolutely critical to properly interpreting Bible verses.



**Interpret  
this famous  
painting,  
who is it?**



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Interpreting a verse apart from its context is like trying to analyze a **Rembrandt** painting by looking at only a single square inch of the painting.

Interpreting a verse apart from its context is like trying to analyze a **Rembrandt** painting by looking at only a single square inch of the painting.

Now you all know it's painting of the "Mona Lisa"  
By?



**It's not a  
Rembrandt!  
It's a  
"Leonardo  
da Vinci"**



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- **3) The rule of CONTEXT:** The meaning must be gathered from the context.
- It is not worth much to interpret a great many phrases and histories if one's interpretations are **shaded by pre-conceived notions** and **cultural biases**, thereby rendering an inaccurate and ineffectual understanding. **REMBRANDT!**
- The context is absolutely critical to properly interpreting Bible verses.



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **3) The rule of CONTEXT:** The meaning must be gathered from the context.
  - In interpreting Scripture, there is both an immediate context and a broader context.
  - The immediate context of a verse is the paragraph (or paragraphs) of the biblical book in question. The immediate context should always be consulted in interpreting Bible verses.
  - The broader context is the whole of Scripture. The entire Holy Scripture is the context and guide for understanding the particular passages of Scripture.

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **3) The rule of CONTEXT:** The meaning must be gathered from the context.
  - We must keep in mind that the interpretation of a specific passage must not contradict the total teaching of Scripture on a point.
  - Individual verses do not exist as isolated fragments, but as parts of a whole.
  - The exposition of these verses, therefore, must involve exhibiting them in right relation both to the whole and to each other.
  - Scripture interprets Scripture.

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## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **4) The rule of HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** The interpreter must have some awareness of the life and society of the times in which the Scripture was written.
  - The spiritual principle often can't be properly appreciated without some knowledge of the background.
  - If the interpreter can have in his mind what the writer had in his mind when he wrote - without adding any excess baggage from the interpreter's own culture or society - then the true thought of the Scripture can be captured resulting in an accurate interpretation.

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## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- **4) The rule of HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

- Historical considerations are especially important in properly interpreting the Word of God.

- The Christian faith is based on historical fact.

- Christianity rests on the foundation of the historical Jesus whose earthly life represents God's full and objective self-communication to humankind (John 1:18).

- Jesus was seen and heard by human beings as God's ultimate revelation (1 John 1:1-3).

- This is why He could claim "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also" (John 14:7).

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## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **4) The rule of HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** History, in two ways, plays a very large part in Bible interpretation
  - First you must have at least some familiarity with the Jewish language, beliefs, and practices at the time of the biblical writing. Otherwise many terms, phrases, and sayings in the Scriptures will make little to no sense to us today.
  - Secondly, we must also look to the original Bible text languages of the time (Greek and Hebrew) as they were understood, meant and intended at the time, to those being addressed.
  - We cannot take our modern language understanding and try to force first-century Greek into it.

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## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **5) The rule of LOGIC:** Interpretation is merely logical reasoning.
  - When interpreting Scripture, the use of reason is everywhere to be assumed.
  - Does the interpretation make sense?
  - The Bible was given to us in the form of human language and therefore appeals to human reason - it invites investigation.
  - It is to be interpreted as we would any other volume: applying the laws of language and grammatical analysis.

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **6) The rule of INFERENCE:** An inference is a fact reasonably implied from another fact.
  - It is a logical consequence.
  - It derives a conclusion from a given fact or premise.
  - It is the deduction of one proposition from another proposition.
  - Such inferential facts or propositions are sufficiently binding when their truth is established by competent and satisfactory evidence.
    - Competent evidence means such evidence as the nature of the thing to be proved admits.
    - Satisfactory evidence means that amount of proof which would ordinarily satisfy an unprejudiced mind beyond a reasonable doubt.

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- **7) The rule of GENRE JUDGMENT:** A "literal" approach to Scripture recognizes that the Bible contains a variety of literary genres, each of which has certain peculiar characteristics that must be recognized in order to interpret the text properly.
  - **The Old testament:** The first 5 books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch, which is Hebrew for the number 5 (Genesis - Deuteronomy). The next 5 books are historical books (Joshua - 2 Samuel). The next 12 books are poetic (1 Kings - Solomon). The next 5 books are major prophets (Isaiah - Daniel). The next 12 books are minor prophets (Hosea - Malachi).
  - **The New Testament:** The first 4 books are the gospels (Matthew - John). The next one is Historic (Acts). The next 14 books are the epistles (Romans - Hebrews), which are letters addressing specific problems. The next 7 books are general epistles (James - Jude). And the last book is prophetic (Revelation).



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation
  - **7) The rule of GENRE JUDGMENT:** Obviously, an incorrect genre judgment will lead one far astray in interpreting Scripture.
  - A parable should not be treated as history, nor should poetry or prophecy (both of which contain many symbols) be treated as straightforward narrative.
  - Even though the Bible contains a variety of literary genres and many figures of speech, the biblical authors most often employed literal statements to convey their ideas.
  - A literal method of interpreting Scripture gives to each word in the text the same basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary, customary usage - whether employed in writing, speaking, or thinking. Without such a method, communication between God and man is impossible.

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- **8) The rule of dependence upon the HOLY SPIRIT:** Scripture tells us that we are to rely on the Holy Spirit's illumination to gain insights into the meaning and application of Scripture (John 16:12-15, 1 Corinthians 2:9-11).

- It is the Holy Spirit's work to throw light upon the Word of God so that the believer can assent to the meaning intended and act on it.

- The Holy Spirit, as the "Spirit of truth" (John 16:13), guides us so that "we may understand what God has freely given us" (1 Corinthians 2:12).

- This is quite logical: full comprehension of the Word of God is impossible without prayerful dependence on the Spirit of God, for He who inspired the Word (2 Peter 1:21) is also its supreme interpreter.

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation

- 1) The rule of DEFINITION
- 2) The rule of USAGE
- 3) The rule of CONTEXT
- 4) The rule of HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
- 5) The rule of LOGIC
- 6) The rule of INFERENCE
- 7) The rule of GENRE JUDGMENT
- 8) The rule of dependence upon the HOLY SPIRIT

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- How do we as Christians today obtain reliable information and perspective from the witness and experience of the Christ whose name we bear?
- How do we test our lives and words against the life and witness of our Predecessor and Lord?
- The problem is that Christians sometimes arrive at very different understandings from these writings. The problem is not new.
- At one point in his growing conflict with the scholars and interpreters of his day, Jesus exclaimed, 'You study the scriptures diligently,...and yet “-to put it in a contemporary paraphrase—you miss the whole point!”(John 5:39-40)

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** Slavery was divinely sanctioned among the patriarchs.
- **Thesis 2:** Slavery was incorporated into Israel's national constitution.
- **Thesis 3:** Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles.
- **Thesis 4:** Slavery is a merciful institution.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- **Thesis 2:** God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt shows, once and for all, that God hates and condemns slavery.
- **Thesis 3:** Hebrew servitude in the time of Moses was voluntary, merciful, and of benefit to the servant; it was not slavery.
- **Thesis 4:** Israel's history and the prophetic oracles confirm that oppressive slavery did not exist in Israel; God would have roundly condemned it, had it existed.
- **Thesis 5:** Neither Jesus nor the apostles approved of or condoned slavery.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1: Slavery was divinely sanctioned among the patriarchs**
- First, consider Noah's curse upon Canaan (Gen. 9:24-27).
- The "first appearance of slavery in the Bible" **is, as Hopkins says,** "the wonderful prediction of the patriarch Noah."
- **Stringfellow comments similarly.** "May It not be said In truth, that God decreed this Institution before It existed."
- Noah's curse upon Canaan prophesied the black African's destiny. **As S. A Cartwright said in his 1843 essays,** when Japheth became enlarged by the discovery of America (foretold 3, 800 years before), Canaan appeared on the African beach to get passage to America, "drawn thither by an impulse of his nature to fulfill his destiny of becoming Japheth's servant."

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1: Slavery was divinely sanctioned among the patriarchs.**
- Second, Abraham is our godly example.
- Abraham—champion of faith for all Christians—received, possessed, and willed slaves to his children as property. Slavery is not like divorce. It cannot be said that before Moses the situation was different.
- No, Abraham was a great slaveowner: he brought slaves from Haran (Gen. 12:5), owned 318 slaves born in his own house (Gen. 14:14), included them in his property list (Gen. 12:16; 24:35-36), received slaves as a gift from Abimelech (Gen. 20:14), and willed them as part of his estate to his son Isaac (Gen. 26:13-14).
- The Scripture says that the Lord blessed Abraham by multiplying his slaves (Gen. 24:35).
- And did not the angel command the slave Hagar to return to her mistress (Gen. 16:1-9)? This clearly supports the fugitive slave law.



# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1: Slavery was divinely sanctioned among the patriarchs.**
- Third, In the time of Joseph, God approved slavery.
- How did Joseph save many Egyptians from famine?
- God commanded that Joseph buy the people and the land, making them slaves to Pharaoh (Gen. 47:15-25).

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 2: Slavery was incorporated into Israel's national constitution.**
- God authorized two types of slavery for Israel's national life:
- (1) Israel was allowed to take foreigners as slaves. God commanded the Israelites to "go into the slave markets of the surrounding nations" to buy slaves, to hold them as property, and to will them to their descendants as an inheritance In perpetuity (Lev. 25:44-46).'
- Based on this text, **Stringfellow says**, "God engrafted hereditary slavery upon the constitution of government."
- After quoting this text. **Bledsoe says**. "Now these words are so perfectly explicit that there is no getting around them."

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 2: Slavery was incorporated into Israel's national constitution.**
- (2) God provided that the Hebrews might “sell themselves and their families for limited periods, with the privilege of extending the time at the end of the sixth year to the fiftieth year or jubilee, If they prefer(red) bondage to freedom.”
- This practice is described In detail in both Exodus 21 and Leviticus 25. For this second type of slavery, two specific regulations merit our attention:
  - (1) In Exodus 21 certain “conduct is punishable by death, when done to a freeman, which is not punishable at all, when done by a master to a slave, for the express reason, that the slave Is the master's money” (verses 20-21. 26-27);21
  - (2) the institution of slavery takes priority over the Institution of marriage (Ex. 21:2-4). If a slave leaves his master after seven years, having married the master's daughter, both wife and children stay with the master. The slave Is required to leave his family and go out alone. **As Stringfellow has said**, “The preference is given of God to enslaving the father rather than freeing the mother and children.”

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 3: Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles.**
- Jesus and the apostles saw the cruel slavery practices of the Roman empire but never said one word against them.
- The apostles, who represent Jesus Christ, fully agree with Jesus, even appealing to his words on this subject (1 Tim. 6:1-6).
- **As Governor Hammond of South Carolina** has put it: It is vain to look to Christ or any of his Apostles to justify such blasphemous perversions of the word of God.
- Although Slavery in its most revolting form was everywhere visible around them, no visionary notions of piety or philanthropy ever tempted them to gainsay the LAW, even to mitigate the cruel severity of the existing system.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 3: Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles.**
- Regarding Slavery as an established, as well as an Inevitable human condition of human society, they never hinted at such a thing as Its termination on earth, any more than that “the poor may cease out of the land,” which God affirms to Moses shall never be.
- It Is Impossible, therefore, to suppose that Slavery Is contrary to the will of God. It Is equally absurd to say that American Slavery differs In form or principle from that of the chosen people.
- We accept the Bible terms as the definition of our Slavery, and Its precepts as the guide of our conduct. **Hopkins** comments similarly: ...while Jesus rebukes the sins of all around him, and speaks with divine authority,...he lived In the midst of slavery,...and uttered not one word against It! The apostolic writings teach us seven points on slavery:
  - 1. The apostles approved of slavery but disapproved of Its abuses (Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-25; 4:1; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; Tit. 2:9-10; 1 Pet 2:18-19.)

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 3: Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles.**
- 2. The apostles teach that the church has no authority to interfere with slavery as a political system: the church's task does not interfere with the political and economic systems.
- **Professor Dew says** of both Jesus and the apostles: When we turn to the New Testament we find not one single passage at all calculated to disturb the conscience of an honest slaveholder.
- No one can read It without seeing and admiring that the meek and humble Savior of the world In no instance meddled with the established institutions of mankind; he came to save the fallen world, and not to excite the black passions of men.
- 3. The distinctions made between master and slave are not an Impediment to faith and are thus insignificant (Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 3:11). **Whether he be slave or master, a man can be equally good as a Christian.**

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 3: Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles.**
- Master and slave are, alike, the creatures of God, the objects of his care, the subjects of his government: and, alike, responsible to him for the discharge of the duties to their several stations.
- Paul treats the distinctions which slavery creates as matters of very little Importance In so far as the Interests of the Christian life are concerned.
- 4. Slaveholders were accepted and affirmed not only as church members, but also as church leaders. **Bledsoe says:** As nothing can be plainer than that slaveholders admitted to the Christian church by the inspired apostles, the advocates of this doctrine are brought Into direct collision with the Scriptures.
- This leads to one of the most dangerous evils connected with the whole system, viz., a disregard of the authority of the word of God, a setting up a different and higher standard of truth and duty, and a proud and confident wresting of Scripture to suit their own purposes

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 3: Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles.**
- Finally, and most Important, Paul's own example Indicates that the biblical apostolic writings fully support slavery. **As Armstrong puts it:** Paul sent back a fugitive slave, after the slave's hopeful conversion, to his Christian master again, and assigns as his reason for so doing that master's right to the services of his slave.
- **Hopkins concurs:** He (Paul) finds a fugitive slave, and converts him to the Gospel, and then sends him back again to his old home with a letter of kind recommendation.
- Why does St. Paul act thus? Why does he not counsel the fugitive to claim his right to freedom, and defend that right " "?
- The answer is very plain. St. Paul was Inspired, and knew the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, and was only intent on obeying It. And who are we, that In our modern wisdom presume to set aside the Word of God...



# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE PRO-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 4: Slavery is a merciful institution.**
- Through the practice of slavery prisoners taken in war through the centuries have been spared death, and through slavery “millions of Ham’s descendants” who otherwise “would have sunk down to eternal ruin” have been “brought within the range of the gospel influence.”
- The role of biblical morality is to ameliorate the conditions of slavery; any attempt to meddle with the Institution may lead to the extermination of the race.
- To conclude our case that the Bible is for slavery.
- **Professor Hodge says:** If the present course of abolitionists is right, then the course of Christ and the apostles were wrong. For the circumstances of the two cases are....in all essential particulars, the same.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- **Thesis 2:** God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt shows, once and for all, that God hates and condemns slavery.
- **Thesis 3:** Hebrew servitude in the time of Moses was voluntary, merciful, and of benefit to the servant; it was not slavery.
- **Thesis 4:** Israel's history and the prophetic oracles confirm that oppressive slavery did not exist in Israel; God would have roundly condemned it, had it existed.
- **Thesis 5:** Neither Jesus nor the apostles approved of or condoned slavery.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Position in Brief** - A fire burns within our bones.
- **We declare:**
  - (1) slavery is man- stealing, a lawless, godless criminal sin (Ex. 21:16: 1 Tim. 1:8-10);
  - (2) slavery is an institution of oppression, which is roundly condemned by the Old Testament prophets; and
  - (3) the injustices and cruelties of slavery fly squarely in the face of Jesus' command to love others as yourself.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Position in Brief** - A fire burns within our bones.
- We denounce slavery because
  - (1) slavery reduces human life to property, mere property; people are bought and sold as things, mere things—a practice which denies human beings their God—given rights, liberties, and intelligence;
  - (2) the cruel and unjust evils of slavery cannot be countenanced as in any way compatible with Christian moral teaching and conduct.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- Position in Brief - A fire burns within our bones.
- Further, in our biblical and evangelical opposition to slavery we hold that
  - (1) slavery violates the eighth and tenth commandments-don't steal and don't covet;
  - (2) Hebrew servitude was voluntary, altogether different from American slavery; and
  - (3) the beastly conditions and brutal treatment of slaves cannot be reconciled with the biblical, Christian ethic of love

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Position in Brief** - A fire burns within our bones.
- Before we pursue the biblical defense of the anti-slavery position, we remind you “why the appeal on the subject of slavery should be made to the Bible.”
- The Bible is the acknowledged standard of morals in this nation.
- The subject of slavery is one on which the Bible has legislated, and there is, therefore, a propriety that we should ascertain its decisions.
- The question whether slavery is right or wrong can only be settled by an appeal to the Scriptures.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- 1. Regarding the curse on Canaan (Gen. 9:25), Weld rightly says:
  - (1) prediction of crime does not justify it;
  - (2) national subjection, not individual bondage, is prophesied;
  - (3) Africans are not Canaan's descendants, whose boundaries are clearly designated in Genesis 10:15-19; nowhere do we learn that descendants of Canaan moved into Africa If Canaan Includes all of Ham's posterity, then Assyrians, some Persians, and all Grecians and Romans should be slaves.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- 1. Regarding the curse on Canaan (Gen. 9:25), Weld rightly says:
  - **Boume has also pointed out that**
  - (1) “Canaan’s posterity was to become subject to those of Shem—the Jews” (Americans, descendants of Japheth, therefore, have no claim whatsoever granted by this text),
  - (2) the prophecy was fulfilled in Canaan’s subjection to Israel (Deut. 20:10-18, etc.).



# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- **Wayland's comments** also merit our consideration:
  - (1) Noah, not God, uttered these words;
  - (2) the words are not prophecy, for Noah is nowhere designated a prophet;
  - (3) this malediction was “uttered by a man Just awaking out of a drunken sleep. The Holy Spirit in no other case has made use of a mind in this condition for the purpose of revealing to us the will of God.”

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- 2. Regarding the patriarchs' so—called holding of slaves, the servitude of the patriarchal period under Abraham was not slavish.
  - It was a condition of privilege, including circumcision and the benefits of the community, both religious and social. Hagar's dismissal meant denial of privilege.
  - **As Boume has pointed out**, the Hebrew word “kana” means that Abraham “acquired” or “got” servants, but they were not slaves, as you pro—slavery writers argue; otherwise Abraham's wife, Sarah, and his nephew Lot were also his slaves, since the property lists in Genesis 13 mention them also. Further, all wives were therefore slaves (see Ex. 20:17, 21).

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 1:** The so-called slavery of the patriarchs in no way Justifies the system of slavery In the USA.
- No, Abraham did not own slaves.
- Abraham was a man of great godly virtue; it is unthinkable to regard him as a slaveholder.
- Against the claim that the patriarchs were slaveholders, it must be noted, as **Barnes has argued**, that **kana** does not necessarily mean “to buy”; nor does **ebed** necessarily mean “slave” in the sense used today.
- Barnes word, **ebed**, similar to the Greek **doulos**, can designate a variety of types of service. It is “never rendered slaves, but commonly servants, and serve” (KJV)

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 2:** God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt shows, once and for all, that God hates and condemns slavery.
- You ask, what was God's attitude toward the Egyptian enslavement of Israel?
- **Barnes'** argument: has recognized some nonessential differences between Egypt's enslavement of Israel and the United States' enslavement of the Negro, most of which show Israel's condition in Egypt as better (they had their own community, their own land, permanent dwellings, cattle, etc.).

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 2:** God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt shows, once and for all, that God hates and condemns slavery.
- **Barnes'** argument: six essential similarities with the Negro:
  - (1) one people enslaves a foreign race;
  - (2) slavery originated in kidnapping and was involuntary;
  - (3) slave labor is unrequited;
  - (4) harsh & oppressive rules and punishments are employed;
  - (5) effort is put forth to retard the growth of the slave population, lest they become too powerful:
  - (6) the number of slaves is between 2.5 to 3 million.

# THE BIBLE AND SLAVERY

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY CASE

- **Thesis 2:** God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt shows, once and for all, that God hates and condemns slavery.
  - In view of these striking similarities and the many ways in which the Hebrew's bondage was more humane and merciful than the Negro's bondage, God's decisive action to deliver the Hebrews, including plagues against animals and people, shows God's unequivocal judgment upon all slavery
  - The Lord who heard the cry of the oppressed and delivered them "with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness" (Deut. 26:6-8), certainly deplores and hates the oppression and slavery of the Negro today