

INTRO:

Family came to America in 1963.

1984 applied for citizenship – could not get aerospace work.

I read the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights.

America is the greatest country on earth.

I am proud to be an American. I am proud of our...

– Military

– Voluntary

– Government

Cambodia - Khmer Rouge

Vietnam

China

– Prosperity

– Freedom

Vote, speech, religion, etc...

Thematic Study - Slavery and Freedom in the Bible.

I) SLAVERY AND FREEDOM IN THE O.T.

A) ISRAEL WAS ENSLAVED IN EGYPT

GENESIS 15:13 (NASB) God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years".

Slavery was intense labor in Egypt.

i) Typologies

Egypt – a type of sin.

Moses – a type of Christ.

The Promised Land – a type of heaven.

Purpose of freedom – To serve The Lord.

B) SLAVERY AMONGST THE HEBREWS

• Conditions that led to slavery –

Could not pay debts.

Theft.

A slave could be redeemed by a relative.

• A slave was not a bondservant but a hired servant

• Slaves were Protected –

Slaves were not to be treated cruelly.

They were to observe the Sabbath rest, feasts days, reading of the law.

LEVITICUS 25:43 (NIV) Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.

- Laws concerning slavery –
7th year freedom, 50th Year of jubilee

DEUTERONOMY 15:12 (NASB) If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, then he shall serve you six years, but in the seventh year you shall set him free.

A slave could choose not to be freed the 7th year. An awl was put through his earlobe.

- Purpose –
To remind them that God set them free from slavery.

C) SLAVERY UNDER ISRAEL’S ENEMIES

- They forgot the Lord and served idols.
- Slavery was not God’s will, it was His judgment.

2 CHRONICLES 36:20 (NASB) Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

II) SLAVERY AND FREEDOM IN THE N.T.

A) JESUS’ MINISTRY OF LIBERATION

Liberty describes salvation.

Foretold in Isaiah, fulfilled in Luke 4:18

ISAIAH 61:1 (NASB) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;

i) THE JEWS WERE SLAVES TO SIN

He proclaimed freedom to the Jews.

JOHN 8:31-36 (NASB) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free?'" // Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

“One can hardly imagine a more powerful critique of misconceived ideas about freedom.”

He confronts their idea of freedom and shows what true freedom is.

- We are Abraham’s descendants.
- And have never been enslaved to anyone – Roman Government owned them.
- Jesus offers them true freedom.

B) PAUL'S TEACHING ON FREEDOM

A) FREEDOM FROM THE LAW AS A SYSTEM OF SALVATION

- Judaizers taught that faith and circumcision were needed for justification.
- Paul argued that Christ's atonement alone was sufficient.
- To add anything nullified the atonement.

We were not set free from slavery to sin to be a slave to the law.

Galatians 5:1(NASB) It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

ἐλευθερία

Strong's G1657 – *eleutheria*

Noun – freedom or liberty

ἐλευθερώω

Strong's G1659 – *eleutheroō*

Verb – free

Aorist tense – an action starting at a point in time and never ending.

“The combination of the noun with the verb stresses the completeness of the act, the aorist tense indicating both its momentary and comprehensive character; it was done once for all.”

Vine's Concise Dictionary of the Bible

-- HISTORICAL SETTING --

When a Greek freed a slave, that slave was purchased by a god.

“...as the slave could not provide the money, the master paid into the temple treasury in the presence of the slave, a document being drawn up containing the words “for freedom”. No one could enslave him again, as he was property of the god.”

- Paul refers to believers as slaves or bond-servants of Christ.

Romans 1:1(NASB) Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 7:22 (NASB) For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.

Romans 6:18, 20 (NIV) You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

Romans were cruel to slaves, unlike the Hebrews.

Camden Cobern, *The New Archaeological Discoveries and Their Bearing Upon the New Testament*, P. 595.

“Augustus Ceasar had 30,000 slaves crucified during his reign.”

A slave that stole may have “C.F., cave furem” branded on his face – beware of thief.

A slave that ran away may get branded, given heavier labor, or be put to death.

If a friend of the master intercedes then the slave may be spared.

The slave, Onesimus ran away from his master Philemon.

B) CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

What is Christian Liberty? – License to do what I want?

- e.g. - I don't drink.
- I don't want to stumble others.

What does it mean to cause your brother to stumble?

To offend? No – to do something against their conscience.

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

C) THE RIGHT USE OF LIBERTY

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NASB) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Freedom is not to serve one's own self.

True freedom is the freedom to obey God and serve others.

Galatians 5:13 (NIV) You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

CONC:

As you celebrate today remember:

We are set free from slavery to sin.

We are not slaves to the law.

We are to serve one another and serve God.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT FREEDOM?

Glenn Robinson
July 4, 2010

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The resources used in this study can be found at:
<http://questculvercity.org/resources.html>