

Scriptures and Quotes-Sunday, February 11, 2018-“*Slaves No More*” – Michael Hidalgo – Uptown-Wash Park

Exodus 6.4

I am sure that you will bear with me while I take another step in this great argument, and show how completely the Bible brings human slavery underneath the sanction of divine authority. - Joseph Wilson, “Mutual Relations of Masters and Slaves as Taught in the Bible”, 1861 Slavery forms a vital element of the Divine Revelation to man ... it is necessary for ministers of the gospel ... to teach slavery from the pulpit, as it was taught by the holy men of old, who spoke as moved by the holy Spirit ... Christianity and Slavery are from heaven; both are blessings to humanity; both are to be perpetuated to the end of time ... - Ebenezer W. Warren, “Scriptural Vindication of Slavery”, February 1861 Slavery is of God, and should continue for the good of the slave, the good of the master, the good of the whole American family. - Rev. Fred A. Ross, Slavery Ordained of God, 1857 Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. - 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

The problem isn't the Bible. The problem is coming to the Bible with expectations it's not set up to bear. If we come to the Bible expecting something like a spiritual owner's manual complete with handy index, a step-by-step field guide to the life of faith, an absolutely sure answer-book to unlock the mystery of God and the meaning of life, then conflict and stress follow right behind and, like a leech, find a place in your heart and soul to latch on ... rather than a rule book the Bible is more a land we get to know by hiking through it and exploring its many paths and terrains. This land is both inviting and inspiring, but also unfamiliar, odd, and at points unsettling – even risky and precarious. - Peter Enns, *The Bible Tells Me So*, p 8, 24 Anyone who beats their male or female slave with a rod must be punished if the slave dies as a direct result, but they are not to be punished if the slave recovers after a day or two, since the slave is their property. - Exodus 21.20,21, © NIV