

Overarching Biblical Argument

Slavery is *not* part
of the created design.

1

All humans are created in the image of God and called to fulfill His purposes.

Gen 1:26-28

2

The humanity of all is the basis of just treatment of all.

Job 31:13-15



3

Those who engage in enslaving other people are specifically categorized as sinners.

Exod 21:16; 1 Tim 1:8-11

Slavery in the Old Testament



The Old Testament does *not* advocate for slavery.



“Slavery” laws under the Mosaic Law were intended to protect the servant from poverty and abuse.

“Slavery” under the Mosaic Law is generally to be a temporary state of contracted indentured servitude.

Deut 15:1-18; Jer 34:12-22

Obey Your Earthly Masters with a Sincere Heart – Part 2: Understanding Slavery in the Old Testament

Ephesians 6:5-9

Seeing the Biblical Pattern

See the biblical pattern
that we are to treat all justly and
kindly and to treat the people of
God with even greater affection.

Love the stranger/sojourner
as yourself.

Exod 22:21; Lev 19:33-34;
Deut 10:12-13, 17-19

Those in a position of power
must be careful to not take
advantage of the vulnerable.

You love the sojourner because
you are a sojourner.

Deut 10:19; Heb 11:13; 1 Pet 2:11

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Lev 19:33-34; Heb 13:1-2

The biblical pattern is to treat the stranger/sojourner justly and kindly.

Strangers, Aliens, Sojourners and Foreigners

Mosaic Law treats those who follow Yahweh more generously than those who do not.

Num 9:14; Deut 23:19-20

This pattern of God favoring His people (those who follow Him) continues in the New Testament.

Rom 8:28

This is manifested in how the people of God treat each other.

Gal 3:27-29

Treat all justly and kindly and
the people of God with even
greater affection.
