

# (Exodus) Exodus 21:1-11

by J. Vernon McGee

---

*The sermon explores the social legislation in Exodus 21, highlighting the master and servant relationship and drawing a powerful picture of Jesus Christ's sacrifice and obedience to death.*

**Duration:** 4:11

**Scripture:** Exodus 21:2-6, Psalm 40:6-7, Philipians 2:8, Hebrews 10:5-9

**Topics:** "Expositional"

---

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the social legislation found in chapter 21 of the Bible. He begins by discussing the importance of the master and servant relationship in that time, especially considering the history of slavery in Egypt. The preacher then reads verses 1-6, which outline the rules regarding Hebrew servants. These rules state that a Hebrew servant must serve for six years and then be set free in the seventh year. If the servant is married, their wife and children also go free. However, if the servant chooses to stay with their master because they love their master and family, their ear is pierced as a symbol of their lifelong servitude. The preacher draws a parallel between this passage and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who willingly became a servant and died on the cross to obtain a bride for himself.

---

## Transcript

Now we come to chapter 21, and here we have this social legislation. It's quite interesting, some of the things that are dealt with here, and I begin reading at verse 1, because this has to do with master and servant. And that was a pretty important issue in that day, after all these people had been slaves in Egypt.

Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them. If thou by an Hebrew servant six years he shall serve, and in the seven he shall go out free for nothing. In other words, they could never permanently make one of their brethren a slave.

Now verse 3, if he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself. If he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her masters, and he shall go out by himself.

And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife and my children, I'll not go out free. Then his master shall bring him unto the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or unto the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through and all, and he shall serve him forever.

Now this is a remarkable thing, let's put right here. And here is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, if there ever was one. And it's a beautiful one.

The law is this, if a man is a slave and he can go out in seven years, and if he was married when he became a slave, he take his wife out. But if while he's a slave that he gets a wife, and that means one that's a slave of his master, then he can go out but not his wife. She can't go out free.

And so if he say though, well, I love my wife, and I love my master, I want to stay. And then he takes them all and bores them through. Well, that's a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You say, how in the world can that be a picture of him? Well, I think a very wonderful picture of him. He came to this earth and he took upon himself our humanity, and we were all slaves of sin. He could have gone out free.

He didn't have to die upon the cross, but he came down to this earth, and he became a servant, obedient even unto death. And he died and went through the same gate we did in order that he might get a bride for himself. But he had to be crucified to do it.

And the writer to the Psalms takes that picture and uses it. Over in Psalm 40, verse 6, "...sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire. Mine ears hast thou opened.

Burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required." Then said I, Lo, I come in the volume of the book that's written of me. I delight to do thy will, O God, yea, thy law is within mine heart. And that refers to Christ.

Somebody says, how do you know it refers to Christ? Well, if you would turn over to the 10th chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews, why, we find there that it was fulfilled when our Lord came to this earth. Because in Hebrews 10, 5, it says, "...wherefore, when he cometh into the world," now speaking of Christ, "...he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me." Now, it's not his ears he's digged, but he gave him a body. And Christ took upon himself a body, and he'll have that body throughout eternity.

But he could have left this earth without dying. But he said, I love the church. I love the sinner.

And so he died and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. What a picture this is of Christ right here after giving the Ten Commandments.

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/11/SID11580.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/j-vernon-mcgee/exodus-exodus-211-11/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**