

~FORCED LABOR (169)

[Hebrew, *mas*]

- The use of forced labor Hebrew, *mas*, was evidently quite common in Bible times, with conquered peoples frequently being constituted slaves.
- And it must occur that if it gives a peaceful answer to you and it has opened up to you, it must even occur that all the people found in it should become yours for **forced labor**, and they must serve you. (Deuteronomy 20:11)
- And they did not drive away the Canaanites who were dwelling in Gezer, and the Canaanites continue dwelling in among Ephraim down to this day and came to be subject to slavish **forced labor**. (Joshua 16:10)
- And it turned out that when the sons of Israel had grown strong, they went putting the Canaanites at **forced labor**, and they did not dispossess them entirely. (Joshua 17:13)
- And King Ahasuerus proceeded to lay **forced labor** upon the land and the isles of the sea. (Esther 10:1)
- And the Assyrian must fall by the sword, not that of a man, and a sword, not that of earthling man, will devour him. And he must flee because of the sword, and his own young men will come to be for **forced labor** itself. (Isaiah 31:8)
- O how she has come to sit solitary, the city that was abundant with people! How she has become like a widow, she that was populous among the nations! How she that was a princess among the jurisdictional districts has come to be for **forced labor**! (Lamentations 1:1)
- As slavish **forced laborers**, the Israelites, under the immediate oversight of Egyptian chiefs who tyrannized over them, engaged in building the storage places of Pithom and Raamses.
- So they set over them chiefs of **forced labor** for the purpose of oppressing them in their burden-bearing, and they went building cities as storage places for Pharaoh, namely, Pithom and

Raamses. (**Exodus 1:11**)

- But the more they would oppress them, the more they would multiply and the more they kept spreading abroad, so that they felt a sickening dread as a result of the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 1:12**)
- Consequently the Egyptians made the sons of Israel **slave under tyranny**. (**Exodus 1:13**)
- And they kept making their life bitter with hard slavery at clay mortar and bricks and with every form of slavery in the field, yes, every form of slavery of theirs in which they used them as **slaves under tyranny**. (**Exodus 1:14**)
- Then, upon entering the Promised Land, instead of following through on Yehowah's command to drive out all the Canaanite inhabitants of the land and devote them to destruction, the Israelites **forced** them into **task work, slavish labor**. This had the bad effect of luring Israel into the worship of false gods.
- And they did not drive away the Canaanites who were dwelling in Gezer, and the Canaanites continue dwelling in among Ephraim down to this day and came to be subject to **slavish forced labor**. (**Joshua 16:10**)
- And it came about that Israel grew strong and proceeded to set the Canaanites to **forced labor**, and they did not drive them out completely. (**Judges 1:28**)
- So I, in turn, have said; I shall not drive them away from before you, and they must become snares to you, and their gods will serve as a lure to you. (**Judges 2:3**)
- And the sons of Israel fell to doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah and serving the Baals. (**Judges 2:11**)
- Thus they abandoned Yehowah the God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and went following other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and they began bowing down to them, so that they offended Yehowah. (**Judges 2:12**)

- King Solomon continued levying the descendants of these Canaanites, that is, of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, for slavish **forced labor**.
- As for all the people remaining over from the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were no part of the sons of Israel. (**1 Kings 9:20**)
- Their sons who had been left over after them in the land whom the sons of Israel had been unable to devote to destruction, Solomon kept levying them for slavish **forced labor** until this day. (**1 Kings 9:21**)
- At times, Israelite workers were drafted to meet an emergency or to complete a special project that could not be delayed indefinitely. Issachar, according to the words of his dying father Jacob, was to be subjected as a tribe to this type of **forced labor**.
- And he will see that the resting-place is good and that the land is pleasant, and he will bend down his shoulder to bear burdens and he will become subject to slavish **forced labor**. (**Genesis 49:15**)
- Solomon conscripted 30,000 men of Israel for his temple-building operations. Nevertheless, these were not constituted slaves, for they served in shifts of 10,000 a month in Lebanon and thus were able to spend two months at home and a month at the work.
- But it appears that considerable resentment built up against the conscripting of Israelites for **forced labor**.
- When Rehoboam did not agree to lighten the heavy yoke Israel bore under the rulership of Solomon and subsequently sent Adoram, Hadoram, Adoniram, to them, the Israelites stoned Adoram, who must have been quite advanced in years then, since in David's time he had begun to serve as overseer of those **conscripted for work**.
- And Adoram was over those conscripted for **forced labor**, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder. (**2 Samuel 20:24**)
- And Ahishar was over the household, and Adoniram the son of Abda, over those conscripted for **forced labor**. (**1 Kings 4:6**)

- And King Solomon kept bringing up those conscripted for **forced labor** out of all Israel, and those conscripted for **forced labor** amounted to thirty thousand men. (**1 Kings 5:13**)
- And he would send them to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month. For a month they would continue in Lebanon, for two months at their homes, and Adoniram was over those conscripted for **forced labor**. (**1 Kings 5:14**)
- And he went on to speak to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying; My father, for his part, made your yoke heavy, but I, for my part, shall add to your yoke. My father, for his part, chastised you with whips, but I, for my part, shall chastise you with scourges. (**1 Kings 12:14**)
- Subsequently King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over those conscripted for **forced labor**, but all Israel pelted him with stones, so that he died. And King Rehoboam himself managed to get up into the chariot to flee to Jerusalem. (**1 Kings 12:18**)
- Subsequently King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was over those conscripted for **forced labor**, but the sons of Israel pelted him with stones, so that he died. And King Rehoboam himself managed to get up into his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 10:18**)
- Laziness could easily get an Israelite into debt and in time force him to sell his inheritance and also himself into slavery. Hence the proverb; The slack hand will come to be for **forced labor**.
- The hand of the diligent ones is the one that will rule, but the slack hand will come to be for **forced labor**. (**Proverbs 12:24**)

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