

~HIRED LABORER (222)

- One who, in contrast with a slave, received a **wage** for his work.
- The Law required that such **laborers** be paid at the end of the workday.
- You must not defraud your fellow, and you must not rob. The wages of a **hired laborer** should not stay all night with you until morning. (**Leviticus 19:13**)
- You must not defraud a **hired laborer** who is in trouble and poor, whether of your brothers or of your alien residents who are in your land, within your gates. (**Deuteronomy 24:14**)
- In his day you should give him his wages, and the sun should not set upon them, because he is in trouble and is lifting up his soul to his wages, that he may not cry out to Yehowah against you, and it must become sin on your part. (**Deuteronomy 24:15**)
- At least by the **First Century C.E.**, it appears that the **wages** were agreed upon before the **laborers** ever began their work, that the workday was 12 hours long, from about six in the morning to six in the evening, and that the customary days wage for vineyard workers was evidently a denarius, currently 74 cents.
- For the kingdom of the heavens is like a man, a householder, who went out early in the morning to **hire workers** for his vineyard. (**Matthew 20:1**)
- When he had agreed with the workers for **a denarius a day**, he sent them forth into his vineyard. (**Matthew 20:2**)
- Going out also about the third hour, he saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. (**Matthew 20:3**)
- And to those he said; You also, go into the vineyard, and whatever is just I will give you. (**Matthew 20:4**)
- So off they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did likewise. (**Matthew 20:5**)

- Finally, about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing, and he said to them; Why have you been standing here all day unemployed? (**Matthew 20:6**)
- They said to him; Because nobody has **hired** us. He said to them; You too go into the vineyard. (**Matthew 20:7**)
- When it became evening, the master of the vineyard said to his man in charge; Call the workers and pay them their wages, proceeding from the last to the first. (**Matthew 20:8**)
- When the eleventh-hour men came, they each received a denarius. (**Matthew 20:9**)
- So, when the first came, they concluded they would receive more, but they also **received pay** at the **rate of a denarius**. (**Matthew 20:10**)
- On receiving it they began to murmur against the householder (**Matthew 20:11**)
- And said; These last put in one hours work, still you made them equal to us who bore the burden of the day and the burning heat! (**Matthew 20:12**)
- But in reply to one of them he said; Fellow, I do you no wrong. You agreed with me for a denarius, did you not? (**Matthew 20:13**)
- The Scriptural reference to years of a **hired laborer** seems to indicate that the duration of the work agreement, or contract, was also fixed.
- And now Yehowah has spoken, saying; Within three years, according to the years of a **hired laborer**, the glory of Moab must also be disgraced with much commotion of every sort, and those who remain over will be a trifling few, not mighty. (**Isaiah 16:14**)
- For this is what Yehowah has said to me; Within yet a year, according to the years of a **hired laborer**, all the glory of Kedar must even come to its end. (**Isaiah 21:16**)
- Evidently in Israel many of the **hired laborers** were uncircumcised, for the Law prescribed that they not partake of the

Passover, although circumcised slaves could do so, being viewed as members of an Israelite family.

- **Likewise, while the hired **laborers** of a priest could not eat of the holy things, no such prohibition rested on circumcised slaves, as these were also actually members of the priests household.**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Moses and Aaron; This is the statute of the Passover. No foreigner may eat of it. (**Exodus 12:43**)**
- **But where there is any slave man purchased with money, you must circumcise him. Then first he may share in eating it. (**Exodus 12:44**)**
- **A settler and a **hired laborer** may not eat of it. (**Exodus 12:45**)**
- **And no stranger at all may eat anything holy. No settler with a priest nor a **hired laborer** may eat anything holy. (**Leviticus 22:10**)**
- **But in case a priest should purchase a soul, as a purchase with his money, he as such may share in eating it. As for slaves born in his house, they as such may share in eating his bread. (**Leviticus 22:11**)**
- **An Israelite who, because of financial reverses, had to sell himself into slavery to a fellow Israelite, or to an alien resident, a settler, or a member of the alien residents family, was to be treated, not tyrannically, but with due consideration like a **hired laborer**.**
- **Then, if in his case it had not been possible to take advantage of the right of repurchase, he was to be set free from servitude either in the seventh year of his servitude or in the Jubilee year, depending upon which came first.**
- **In case you should buy a Hebrew slave, he will be a slave six years, but in the seventh he will go out as one set free without charge. (**Exodus 21:2**)**
- **And in case your brother grows poor alongside you and he has to sell himself to you, you must not use him as a **worker** in slavish service. (**Leviticus 25:39**)**

- He should prove to be with you like a **hired laborer**, like a settler. He should serve with you till the Jubilee year. (**Leviticus 25:40**)
- But in case the hand of the alien resident or the settler with you becomes wealthy, and your brother has become poor alongside him and must sell himself to the alien resident or the settler with you, or to a member of the family of the alien resident. (**Leviticus 25:47**)
- After he has sold himself, the right of repurchase will continue in his case. One of his brothers may buy him back. (**Leviticus 25:48**)
- Or his uncle or the son of his uncle may buy him back, or any blood relative of his flesh, one of his family, may buy him back. Or if his own hand has become wealthy, he must also buy himself back. (**Leviticus 25:49**)
- He should continue with him like a **hired laborer** from year to year. He may not tread him down with tyranny before your eyes. (**Leviticus 25:53**)
- In case there should be sold to you your brother, a Hebrew or a Hebrewess, and he has served you six years, then in the seventh year you should send him out from you as one set free. (**Deuteronomy 15:12**)

See Also SLAVE

- At times **hired laborers** were subjected to abuses from their employers. Through his prophet Malachi, Yehowah warned that He would become a speedy witness against those acting fraudulently with the wages of a **wage worker**.
- And I will come near to you people for the judgment, and I will become a speedy witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against those swearing falsely, and against those acting fraudulently with the wages of a wage worker, with the widow and with the fatherless boy, and those turning away the alien resident, while they have not feared me, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 3:5**)
- Look! The **wages** due the workers who harvested your fields but which are held up by you, keep crying out, and the calls for help

on the part of the reapers have entered into the ears of Yehowah of armies. ([James 5:4](#))

See Also HIRE, WAGES

- The **hired laborer** generally was anxious to see the close of the workday and to receive his wages.
- Is there not a compulsory labor for mortal man on earth, and are not his days like the days of a **hired laborer**? ([Job 7:1](#))
- Like a slave he pants for the shadow, and like a **hired laborer** he waits for his wages. ([Job 7:2](#))
- He often did not properly have the interests of his employer fully at heart, as is evident from Jesus Christ's statement that, unlike the **hired man** who flees in the case of danger, he, as the Fine Shepherd, would surrender his soul in behalf of the sheep.
- I am the fine shepherd, the fine shepherd surrenders his soul in behalf of the sheep. ([John 10:11](#))
- The **hired man**, who is no shepherd and to whom the sheep do not belong as his own, beholds the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ([John 10:12](#))
- Because he is a **hired** man and does not care for the sheep. ([John 10:13](#))
- I am the fine shepherd, and I know my sheep and my sheep know me. ([John 10:14](#))
- Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I surrender my soul in behalf of the sheep. ([John 10:15](#))
- Furthermore, her **hired** soldiers in the midst of her are like fattened calves. But they themselves also have given way, they have fled together. They have not made a stand. For the very day of their disaster has come in upon them, the time of their being given attention. ([Jeremiah 46:21](#))