

You notice how he is here taking the idea of the Bible as it stands. And on the basis of that he is trying to show that it is absurd. Actually his idea would be that you have the first one in Exodus 21:1-6 and the second stage in Deuteronomy 15:12, and then the third stage in Leviticus 25:39-42, with development between the three. Now let us look at them beginning with the first one, Exodus 21:1-6. Notice what it says:

Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them. If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. 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 has given him a wife, and she has born him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's and he shall go out by himself. And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children, I will not go out free; then his master shall bring him unto the judges [It says "the judges" in the Authorized Version, but the Hebrew word is *Elohim*, simply God] then his master shall bring him unto the door post and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl and he shall serve him forever.

That is the commandment given in Exodus 21. But Carpenter says of it, "The first commandment permits a Hebrew after six years of service to contract for life-long servitude and places the ceremony of formal enslavement under religious sanction. Before Israel has left Sinai, however, in the next year, this arrangement is abrogated. In Leviticus 25:39-42, it is laid down that no Israelite shall sell himself to another. Temporary slavery may indeed last until the Jubilee. But the poor brother is entitled then to liberty for himself and his family on the express ground that their freedom will be a divine gift and could not be alienated by slavery for life. And he has impressed there...[unclear], but in Exodus 21, the wife and children remain in possession of the master."

Next let us read this third account according to his arrangement,