

which as the Bible stands was given in the next year as the law book for the priests. In Leviticus 25:39-42 we read:

And if thy brother who dwelleth by thee hath become poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a slave; but as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubilee. And then shall he depart from thee, both he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return. For they are my servants, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt. They shall not be sold as slaves.

This is Leviticus from the priestly law. Do we find a direct contradiction between this and the law given a year before in Exodus 21:1-6? Are the two dealing with exactly the same thing, and do the statements contradict each other? You notice that Carpenter says the first one permits the Hebrew after six years service to contract for life-long services, and he says that the second one says that no Israelite shall sell himself to another. Temporary slavery may indeed last until the Jubilee. You notice the difference. The first is on slavery. The second one says he may not sell himself to another. In the second one temporary slavery may last to the Jubilee. So you notice how much more advanced, progressive, and moderate the conditions are in this law than the other. Because, after all, this is the P document, the last one according to the critics, and the others are first. But do you notice the first one says that if a Hebrew slave is sold unto you, it does not say where he comes from, does it? “But if you buy a Hebrew servant, six years shall he serve.” It does not say where he comes from. The other one says, “If your brother by you be waxen poor and be sold unto him.” Is a Hebrew identical with an Israelite? You see, one says, “if your brother that dwells by you is waxen poor and is sold to you,” while the other one says, “if you buy a Hebrew servant...” Is a Hebrew the same as an Israelite? Was anyone ever called a Hebrew who was not a descendent of Israel?

Student: I thought I heard that there was a race who were known as Hebrews before Abraham and his descendants settled in Canaan.