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Introduction

This essay will be presented in four thinking points to testify that as a Christian nation, the Liberation of Slaves in the U.S. conforms the Commandants of the Old Testament and the New Testament, and to respond the southern slave-holders' arguments.

Since southern slave-holders' arguments involved Old Testament and New Testament, history, the U.S. Constitution and etc., this essay would stand in the perspective of U.S. Constitution first to start this topic and then to line up this topic with the Old Testament and the New Testament to see God's love and mercy and grace flow from nation of Israel in ancient time to America.

The key code in the U.S. Constitution Article VII states the U.S. true identity

In the past decades, America has confused our nation's foundation, the root of the U.S. Constitution is shaking. The reason for discovering the U.S. true identity or our nation's attribute in this essay as first step is to link Biblical principle with the U.S. Constitution and to respond southern slave-holders' arguments constitutionally and Truth-centered. Here, I am going to present my first point by a quotation from my newly published book¹:

In the U.S. Constitution, Article VII, it indicated: "Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and

¹ Ling Ling Shi, *Deliver the Urgent Messages for America: The Urgency for U.S. Economic System Reform* (Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2014), 7,8

eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth in witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names,”²

Including U.S. President George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, 41 U.S. founding fathers signed the U.S. Constitution Unanimously.

From this most important moment in America’s history, from the Article VII, the U.S. Constitution gave us a Key Code: “the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven”, a key code that tells Americans from generations to generations, to remember who America belongs to and who we are in Christ Jesus.

The key code opens our eyes to see the fact and truth that the United States of America was established in the Foundation of Christianity, the United States of America is a Christian nation, and Jesus Christ is our nation’s Lord. From the key code, we should know that Christianity is not only the Faith of pilgrims, but also the Faith of the U.S. founding fathers. The key code is our nation’s DNA. It enables U.S. leaders and Americans to walk out from political and religion’s confusion and to know this nation’s true identity. The key code seems like an endorsement on the U.S. birth certificate-U.S. Constitution from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for this nation’s birth and establishment.

Christianity-the U.S. founding Faith has secured the freedom - the gift from God to human beings in this amazing land. From religious freedom to other human rights, we experience the good characters of America’s nature and practice them in every aspect of our lives. If we look around the world, we can realize that America is the nation it values freedom in most. As it is written in 2 Corinthian 3:17 “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”³, the Spirit of Christianity initiated and established the dream of freedom in America; the Spirit of Christianity enables America to stand in the world as a freedom warrior and defender.

² The National Archives, *The United States Constitution and other American Documents* (New York, NY: Fall River Press, 2009), 22

³ Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version (Colorado Springs, Co: International Bible Society, 1997).

The U.S. Constitution's foundation and ultimate guidance of U.S. legislation

From the light of the U.S. Constitution text, we can see clearly that the foundation of the original U.S. Constitution is the Holy Bible-the Old Testament and the New Testament. From U.S. Constitution preamble: "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."⁴ , we can see the dream of the U.S. Constitution and divine blue print for America.

As a Christian nation, the U.S. Supreme Law's ultimate guidance should be the Biblical principle and the other related laws in U.S. should also line up with God's Law. According to the key code of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. true identity which I presented in first point, to follow the commands from our Lord Jesus should be always considered constitutional. If there is anything cannot be explained by the U.S. Constitution itself, U.S. government or law makers should stand in God's Law to find solution for our nation, such as the solution of slavery in U.S. Namely, even before Thirteenth Amendment be ratified, God's Word could direct America's steps. Standing in the Truth, it is not too hard to respond southern slave-holders arguments.

⁴ The National Archives, *The United States Constitution and other American Documents* (New York, NY: Fall River Press, 2009), 3

So, let me move on to next point to share profound revelation from the laws of slaves in the Old Testament and Lord Jesus' earthly mission to realize why the slavery in U.S. must be terminated.

Understanding laws of slaves in the Old Testament and its profound revelation

God created human beings by His Love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31) are God's two greatest Commandments to His creation.

God created human beings in His image and in His likeness and to work for the kingdom of God on the earth and to live in a blessing life with God's care and love. He didn't create certain people in the image of slave or be slaves. From worldwide history of slavery, it is not too hard to realize that the slavery is against God's original creation, either ancient type of slavery or modern type were created by human beings' sins. Under the oppression and bondages, slaves lost dignity as God's creation, basic human right-the freedom given by God, and the right of pursuing happiness.

Before Genesis 2:25, all creations in the Genesis were beautiful and full of God's Light, just as God said in Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that he had made, and it was every good". However, from Genesis 3, we can see a radical change happened in mankind as well as the earthly environments due to Adam and Eve's sins against God. The world became more and more evil, separated with Holy God. The slavery was one of outcome of human beings sins.

God gives human beings free will to choose right or wrong, to choose life or death, but, 3400 years ago, God gave His only chosen nation Israel, a nation to be called as God's holy nation, commandments and laws to guild Israelites to do Godly things and to live in Godly life by obeying God's Law in order to fulfill God's ultimate plan of Salvation for all human beings through one nation.

“God is Light, in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). Why in the Old Testament Law, God didn't abolish man-created slavery or prohibit His chosen people to practice slavery, instead, God made laws of slaves for the community of Israelites?

Now, I am going to discover the light and hidden revelation in the laws of slaves for Israel to see God's saving grace for those unfortunate and involuntary peoples, and realize that God's work of Salvation on the earth is progressive with patience.

The man-created slavery was sinful system against God's Will on the creation of mankind. When I think the laws of slaves in the Old Testament with regional background of ancient Canaan, I can see God's amazing rescuing and protecting plans for those unfortunate and involuntary peoples, such as slaves in the region of Canaan. Instead of abolishing slavery practiced in all pagan nations in newly established nation Israel, God made new ways and laws to Israel to rescue and protect those enslaved poor peoples. He deal with this issue with loving Father's mercy and compassion and grace.

The regional background of ancient Canaan was full of idolatries, violence and wickedness. All the nations in the Canaan areas were wicked and to destruction.

Israel was a new nation established and chosen by God to set apart from all other nations. No matter how terribly Israelites were short glory of God and broken God's laws constantly, Israelites were still the only people holding Godly moral standard; the community of Israel was totally different with all other nations in Canaan and surrounding region; the community of Israel was best living environment for human beings in that time. So, God's indirect rescuing and saving grace to primitive slaves were hidden in the laws of slaves to Israel. Now, let's take look the Old Testament Law regarding slaves:

Basically, there were two kinds of slave and servant in the community of Israel, one was Israelite, the other non-Israelite. The laws were different between these two. Let's see God's love and caring to slaves hidden in the text through several key verses:

In Exodus 21: 2 "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything.", Leviticus 25: 44-53 "Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country and they will become your property. You can will them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly." Exodus 21:7 "If a man sells his daughter as a servant, she is not to go free as menservants do,---If he selects her for his son, he must grant her the rights of a daughter."

First, I want to share why God made laws differently between Israelites and non-Israelites. I think that when the servants (slaves) who were Israelites get free from bond after six years, they will still live in the community of Israel and under the wings of Lord's protection and caring. However, from God's laws, for the slaves bought from other pagan nations, what I see is

that God preferred those enslaved persons to stay in the community of Israel forever, “can make them slaves for life”. I think that it is because the outside of Israel was very wicked nations and evil world, if such slaves bought from other nations walked out from the community of Israel, they would be destroyed in the evil societies and nations. Staying in Israelites’ families as slave was much safe and good to those poor peoples. Over the time, slaves may emulate Israelites and become sons or daughters of the Lord same as Israelites. Our loving Father wants slaves to be under His Wings and be protected by Him through His chosen peoples.

Second, I want to share why God treated female slaves differently than male? I think that female slaves were weaker vessels than male, they needed more protection. From modern human trafficking, we can understand this fact. From laws, I can see our loving Father’s tender heart and His merciful intention upon those poor women.

In Leviticus 25:42-43, God exhorted Israelites “Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God”. From this verse, I can see that God detests slavery and God’s rescuing mission and loving Father’s heart display in the laws of slaves for the poor.

The Old Testament Law was made by God the Father and God the Son-Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit, it links with what Lord Jesus said in the New Testament. Lord Jesus declared in Luke 4: 18-21 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”. The Word of God tells us the fulfillment of Salvation is upon this world and the slavery system, both

physical and spiritual, will come down and every stronghold shall be broken by the Power of God.

As a Christian nation, our Lord's new command in John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" gives Americans answer to do what is right, and God's Word in the New Testament has clearly told Americans that our nation's moral standards are much higher than what Pharisees or Israelites had and practiced before the Truth and Grace came to this world.

Responding southern slave-holders arguments

Joseph's story ⁵, Exodus and laws of slaves in Old Testament ⁶ tell us that God can turn bad things to good in His perfect time, just as Joseph said to his brothers who betrayed him and sold him to Egypt as a slave in Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives". Those stories are the shadow and prophecy of the Liberation of Slaves in America. America, a Christian nation, a land of freedom and brave and dream, has become an amazing land to know God and to embrace God's Salvation for the people come from different nations and through different ways. For millions of Africa slaves, America is the destiny to be set free in God's perfect time. The hope of Liberation of Slaves in U.S. has been given to America through entire Holy Bible.

I am going to list key arguments from southern slave-holders according to the U.S. history website's introduction and respond them accordingly:

⁵ Genesis 37, 39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49, and 50

⁶ Exodus 21:2-11, Leviticus 25:6, 8-10, 39-55, Deuteronomy 5:14-15, 15:12-18

“Defenders of slavery argued that slavery had existed throughout history and was the natural state of mankind. The Greeks had slaves, the Romans had slaves, and the English had slavery until very recently.”⁷

I think if they had chance to realize our nation’s true identity, to study the world history of destruction, to meditate the U.S. Constitution preamble in the Truth of God and with heart of Christ-center, they might withdraw this argument.

“Defenders of slavery noted that in the Bible, Abraham had slaves. They point to the Ten Commandments, noting that "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, ... nor his manservant, nor his maidservant." In the New Testament, Paul returned a runaway slave, Philemon, to his master, and, although slavery was widespread throughout the Roman world, Jesus never spoke out against it”⁸

I think if they could discover the hidden loving treasure from Scripture in the Old Testament as what I shared, and if they really understood what Lord Jesus said in four Gospels, they might withdrew this argument.

“Defenders of slavery turned to the courts, who had ruled, with the Dred Scott Decision, that all blacks — not just slaves — had no legal standing as persons in our courts — they were property, and the Constitution protected slave-holders' rights to their property.”⁹

I think if they could understand the Genesis 1, 2 and what Jesus said in Luke 6:31 “Do to others as you would have them do to you”, they would know how precious the freedom and dignity given by the Creator of the Universe for all human beings are, they would say how good it is to know life and life value that much beyond property, they would consider that all the slaves are their brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, they might withdrew this argument.

⁷ U.S. history, “*The southern argument for slavery*,” April 15, 2015, <http://www.ushistory.org/us/27f.asp>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

“Defenders of slavery argued that the institution was divine, and that it brought Christianity to the heathen from across the ocean. Slavery was, according to this argument, a good thing for the enslaved.”¹⁰

I think that if they knew well about Lord Jesus Christ earthly mission is to set all people free, free from sins and all kinds of bondages, the only hope and greatest good thing for all human beings on the earth is the Salvation of Cross of Jesus Christ, they might withdrew this argument.

Conclusion:

To understand and handle God’s Word correctly is important. It can effect whole nation’s destiny. American Civil War and the moral destruction in U.S. give Americans serious lessons and urgency of spiritual awakening. If the U.S. Constitution could be correctly handled, if the Holy Bible could be respected, if the Unity in Christ Jesus in Christian nation can achieve, if the two greatest love commandments could become our nation’s motto, our nation’s life will shine in the world and America will become the true light of the world and salt of the earth, the modern “southern slave-holders” will become saints and love ambassadors. God’s Word has life transforming power, may the time “for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the water cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9) come soon.

I believe that to completely terminate modern slavery from physical realm to spiritual realm is modern Exodus for all Christians. God will set His Children free and free indeed to embrace His goodness and blessing, bring His children back to the time before Genesis 2:25, for the Salvation belongs to our God the Father, God the Son-Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit!

¹⁰ U.S. history, “*The southern argument for slavery*,” April 15, 2015, <http://www.ushistory.org/us/27f.asp>

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[1] Ling Ling Shi, *Deliver the Urgent Messages for America: The Urgency for U.S. Economic System Reform* (Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2014)

[2] The National Archives, *The United States Constitution and other American Documents* (New York, NY: Fall River Press, 2009)