



Exodus and Emancipation: Biblical and African-American Slavery

By *Kenneth Chelst*

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Kenneth Chelst

Presenting a new perspective on the saga of the enslavement of the Jewish people and their departure from Egypt, this study compares the Jewish experience with that of African-American slaves in the United States, as well as the latter group's subsequent fight for dignity and equality. This consideration dives deeply into the biblical narrative, using classical and modern commentaries to explore the social, psychological, religious, and philosophical dimensions of the slave experience and mentality. It draws on slave narratives, published letters, eyewitness accounts, and recorded interviews with former slaves, together with historical, sociological, economic, and political analyses of this era. The book explores the five major needs of every long-term victim and journeys through these five stages with the Israelite and the African-American slaves on their historical path toward physical and psychological freedom. This rich, multi-dimensional collage of parallel and contrasting experiences is designed to enrich readers' understanding of the plight of these two groups.

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Editorial Review

Review

Dr. Kenneth Chelst, a distinguished academic, and a wide-ranging and profound scholar of Jewish thought has produced a compelling and utterly original study comparing the biblical account of the enslaved Israelites with the experience of African-American slavery. Dr. Chelst, it would seem, has read and considered everything of consequence that has been written on both subjects, and *Exodus and Emancipation* is filled with page after page of stunning and illuminating insights. --Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of *Jewish Literacy* and *A Code of Jewish Ethics: You Shall be Holy*

About the Author

Kenneth Chelst is a professor of operations research in the department of industrial and manufacturing engineering, as well as the director of the engineering management masters program, at Wayne State University. He received rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University, and is the author of *Kaddish: The Unanswered Cry*. He lives in the Detroit area.

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