

[On Monday evening last, Mr. P. A. Bell lectured in the A. M. E. Church, Powell st. The subject was, "Hebrew Slavery in contrast with American Slavery."

The following positions were maintained and abundantly proven by scriptural and other historical authorities: First, That all the systems of slavery mentioned in the Bible, to wit: Patriarchal or Abrahamic slavery, the Egyptian bondage of the Hebrews, slavery under the Mosaic dispensation or Levitical law, and the slavery of the Canaanitish tribes, were of a milder form than American slavery. Second, that the slavery of the Negro race in America is not in consequence of the curse pronounced against Canaan, for they were the descendants of Cush, not of Canaan. Third, that the slave-trade, and all sale, transfer, or dealing in slaves was not practised under any system of Hebrew slavery, but was made penal; and Fourth, that the American system of Negro slavery exceeds in barbarity and cruelty all systems of human bondage, either ancient or modern. The Lecture evinced deep research into the history of the Jews, and the lecturer propounded a new computation of the time in which the Hebrew race were held in bondage in Egypt. The usually accepted chronology he held to be incorrect. Instead over 400 years he computes it to be but 115, and says—]

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The period of bondage of the Israelites in Egypt is not very definitely given. Authorities differ as to the exact length of time. The Bible, from which we take our data, and by which we are willing to be governed, gives the following as the result of a close calculation. The Israelites dwelt in Egypt from the immigration of Jacob and his family, in the time of the great famine, B. C. 1716, until their exodus, B. C. 1491, a period of 215 years. From the immigration until the death of Jacob, B. C. 1633, is 71 years; from that time until the oppression begun, 29 years. Thus we see that the whole period of Egyptian bondage was 115 years.

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