

Eved Ivri - Eligibility

Ref: *Sefer Kinyan, Hilchot Avadim, Chapter 1*

📖 | *Eved Ivri* Law¹

Eved Ivri refers to a Jew who has had to go into slavery for the following reasons.

- Court has compelled him due to being a thief and cannot afford to repay.
- Person sells himself willingly due to extreme poverty. (I.e. has no property, not even clothing) – He needs the money just to keep himself alive.

	Eligibility to be sold	Allowed to acquire an <i>eved Ivri</i>	Eligibility to acquire <i>eved Cnaani</i>
<i>Ishah</i> (woman)	×	×	×
<i>Ger</i> (convert)	×	✓	✓
Jewish man	✓ (but not to a Gentile, not even to a <i>ger toshav</i>)	✓	✓
Gentile	✓ (as <i>eved Cnaani</i>)	×	✓ (to a degree)
<i>Ger toshav</i> (resident alien)	×	×	✓ (to a degree)

📖 Reminder:

Ger (Proselyte) and *Ger Toshav* (Resident Alien). Ref: *Sefer Kedushah, Hilchot Issurei Biah*, Chapter 13, 14.



📖 | *Eved Ivri* should not be sold as other slaves.²

The *eved Ivri* should not be sold in public as with other slaves. It should be done in a private and honourable manner.

📖 | Not to make him perform excruciating labour.³

Not to allow a *ger toshav* to make him perform excruciating labour.⁴

Excruciating labour is work with no foreseeable end or no purpose. E.g. dig until I come and tell you to stop. Or if you tell him to do a task which is not needed.

📖 | Not to make him perform servile tasks.⁵

Servile tasks are example to remove the shoes of the master. However it is permitted say to cut the masters hair or launder his clothes.

A master has to treat his Hebrew servant as his equal i.e. he should give him the same food that he eats, give him the same bedding etc.

Hebrew servants and maidservants only apply in the time when the *yovel* (jubilee) is observed.

📖 Reminder:

Pack on *Eretz Yisrael*

