

“Forced labor” in the Bible

Genesis 49.15	[Zebulun] saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant; so he bowed his shoulder to the burden and became a slave at forced labor .
Exodus 1.11	Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor . <u>They built storage cities</u> , Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.
Deuteronomy 20.10-11	When you draw near to a town to fight against it, offer it terms of peace. If it accepts your terms of peace and surrenders to you, then all the people in it shall serve you at forced labor .
Joshua 16.10; 17.13	They did not, however, drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer: so the Canaanites have lived within Ephraim to this day but have been made to do forced labor But when the Israelites grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor , but did not utterly drive them out.
Judges 1.28-35	When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor but did not in fact drive them out. And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer; but the Canaanites lived among them in Gezer. Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor . Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob; but the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them. The Amorites pressed the Danites back into the hill country; they did not allow them to come down to the plain. The Amorites continued to live in Har-heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph rested heavily on them, and they became subject to forced labor .
2 Samuel 20.24	Adoram was in charge of the forced labor ; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;
1 Kings 4.6	Adoniram son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor .
1 Kings 5.13-14	King Solomon conscripted forced labor out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men. He sent them to the Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts; they would be a month in the Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor .
1 Kings 9.15, 19-21 [= 2 Chronicles 8.9]	This YHWH account of the forced labor that King Solomon conscripted to build the house of YHWH and his own house, the Millo and the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer...as well as all of <u>Solomon's storage cities, the cities for his chariots, the cities for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build, in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion</u> . All the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of the people of Israel--their descendants who were still left in the land, whom the Israelites were unable to destroy completely--these Solomon conscripted for slave labor, and so they are to this day.
1 Kings 11.28	The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.
1 Kings 12.18 [= 2 Chronicles 10.18]	When King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor , all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam then hurriedly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.
Isaiah 31.8	"Then the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of mortals; and a sword, not of humans, shall devour him; he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be put to forced labor .
Proverbs 12.24	The hand of the diligent will rule, while the lazy will be put to forced labor .