

# A Pro-Slavery Catechism

[JD Thomas](#)



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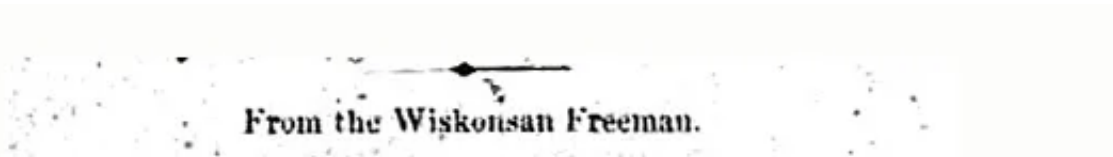
The 1847 Prospectus for The National Era stated, "...While due attention will be paid to Current Events, Congressional Proceedings, General Politics and Literature, the great aim of the paper will be a complete discussion of the Question of Slavery, and an exhibition of the Duties of the Citizen in relation to it; especially will it explain and advocate the leading Principles and Measures of the Liberty Party, seeking to do this, not in the spirit of the Party, but in the love of Truth—not for the triumph of Party, but for the establishment of Truth..."

## A Pro-Slavery Catechism

- **Who was the first negro?** *Cain.*
- **How did he become so?** *The Lord set a black mark upon him.*
- **Did the Southern slave come from him?** *Yes.*
- **How did they get through the flood?** *O, no! they didn't come from him; they came from Ham.*
- **How do you know that?** *Because Ham means black.*
- **Upon whom did Noah pronounce a curse?** *Upon Ham.*
- **Does the Bible say so?** *No, it says Canaan, but then it means Ham.*
- **Does that curse make it right that the blacks should be enslaved?** *Yes.*
- **Why?** *Because they should be.*
- **Don't the Bible say that Christ should be crucified?** *Yes.*
- **Well, did that make it right?** *No; but the cases are not parallel.*
- **From what country did the slave come?** *From Africa.*
- **Did the descendants of Canaan people Africa?** *No; but that makes no difference.*
- **Who were the happiest men that ever lived?** *The Patriarchs.*
- **Why?** *Because they didn't have to work.*
- **Who was the first Patriarch?** *Abraham.*
- **Why were not Methusaleh, Enoch, and Noah, Patriarchs?** *Because they didn't hold slaves.*
- **How do you know that Abraham's servants were slaves?** *Because he whipped Hagar.*
- **How do you know that?** *Because she ran away.*
- **How do you know that it is right to flog slaves?** *Because God sent Hagar back.*
- **When Abraham took three hundred and eighteen slaves, and pursued the kings, why did they not run away, as slaves now do?** *Either because Abraham had his hounds along, or because God had taught them better.*

- **Were the Israelites allowed to hold slaves?** *Yes.*
- **Whom might they hold?** *The heathen round about.*
- **How long?** *Forever.*
- **Whom else might hold them?** *Their children after them.*
- **Who are those children?** *Southern slaveholders.*
- **How does that appear?** *The Jews were cut off, and the Gentiles grafted in, in their place.*
- **But are not the slaves Gentiles, too?** *Yes, but they are heathen*
- **Who ere the heathen whom the Jews might hold?** *The Canaanites.*
- **How does that make it right to hold negroes, then?** *O, because they come from Ham.*
- **Have the negroes been sold as slaves in all ages of the world?** *Yes.*
- **Were the Roman slaves negroes?** *Yes.*
- **How do you know?** *Because it is impossible to make anybody else slaves but negroes.*
- **Did Christ and his apostles approve of Roman slavery?** *Yes.*
- **How do you know?** *They didn't say anything against it. (No; but the Bible does; for it says, "the merciful man spareth his beast.")*
- **Was Paul a good man?** *Yes, he was a holy saint.*
- **What did he do?** *He sent back a runaway slave.*
- **What was his advice, and that of the other apostle, to the slave?** *To abide in their calling, and be obedient to their masters.*

This item, and others like it, can be found in Accessible Archive's [African American Newspapers Collection](#). This enormous collection of African American newspapers contains a wealth of information about cultural life and history during the 1800s and is rich with first-hand reports of the major events and issues of the day.



**PRO-SLAVERY CATECHISM.**

Who was the first negro? Cain.

How did he become so? The Lord set a black mark upon him.

Did the Southern slave come from him? Yes.

How did they get through the flood? O, no! they *didn't* come from him; they came from Ham.

How do you know that? Because Ham means black.

Upon whom did Noah pronounce a curse? Upon Ham.

Does the Bible *say so*? No; it says Canaan; but then it means Ham.

Does that curse make it right that the blacks should be enslaved? Yes.

Why? Because they *should be*.

Don't the Bible say that Christ should be crucified? Yes.

Well, did that make it right? No; but the cases are not parallel.

From what country did the slaves come? From Africa.

Did the descendants of Canaan people Africa? No; but that makes no difference.

Who were the happiest men that ever lived? The Patriarchs.

Why? Because they didn't have to work.

Who was the first Patriarch? Abraham.

Why were not Methusaleh, Enoch, and Noah, Patriarchs? Because they didn't hold slaves.

How do you know that Abraham's servants were slaves? Because he whipped Hagar.

How do you know that? Because she ran away.

How do you know that it is right to flog slaves? Because God sent Hagar back.

When Abraham took three hundred and eighteen slaves, and pursued the kings, why did they not run away, as slaves now do? Either because Abraham had his hounds along, or because God had taught them better.

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about.

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Whom else might hold them? Their children after them.

Who are those children? Southern slaveholders.

How does that appear? The Jews were cut off, and the Gentiles grafted in, in their place.

But are not the slaves Gentiles, too? Yes, but they are heathen.

Who were the heathen whom the Jews might hold? The Canaanites.

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Were the Roman slaves negroes? Yes.

How do you know? Because it is impossible to make anybody else slaves *but* negroes.

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No; but the *Bible* does; for it says, "the merciful man spareth his beast."

Was Paul a good man? Yes; he was a holy saint.

What did he do? He sent back a runaway slave.

What was his advice, and that of the other apostle, to the slave? To abide in their calling, and be obedient to their masters.

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