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Black Presence in the Bible



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Black Presence in the Bible

Genesis 9:1 (NAS) *“And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.”*

Genesis 9:19 (NIV) *“These were three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.”*

Numbers 12:1 (NAS) *“Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the **Cushite** woman whom he had married.”*

Mark 15:21 (NAS) *“And they pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, **Simon of Cyrene** (the father of Alexander and Rufus) to bear his cross.”*

Acts 11:20 (NAS) *“But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and **Cyrene**, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, **preaching the Lord Jesus.**”*

Acts 13:1 (NAS) *“Now they were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon who as called Niger, Lucius of **Cyrene**, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul.”*

Acts 8:25-27 (NAS) *“²⁵And so, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. ²⁶But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, ‘Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ ²⁷And he arose and went; and behold, there was an **Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians**, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship.”*

According to black Muslims (A.K.A., “**The Nation of Islam**”, not to be confused with orthodox Islam or Muslims, they are very different) Black people were first introduced to Christianity in America by the white man as a means of making their black slaves docile. According to the Black Muslims, the original religion of the black man is Islam, not the white man’s Christianity.

In addition, black Muslims and other so-called “**enlightened**” or “**spiritual**” blacks believe that the bible is the white man’s book that excludes blacks in both old and new testaments. However, as a child of the most high God and senior Pastor, I feel that it is my duty to respond to those who hold the aforementioned views with gentleness and respect.

To be clear, the purpose of this volume is twofold:

1. To point out the black presence in the bible from Noah to the New Testament church, thereby exposing the error of “**The Nation of Islam**” and the “**enlightened**” or “**spiritual**” blacks who believe the bible is the white man’s book that excludes blacks.
2. To show the presence of Christianity in Africa long before Islam’s founder, the prophet Muhammad was even born. Thereby arming Christians to either defend their faith or to share the Gospel with black Muslims and the so-called “**enlightened**” and/or “**spiritual**” blacks that reject Christianity and the bible because they believe they are from the white man.

To begin, I must admit the fact that I am not a theologian or expert on the subject of blacks in the bible. That said, to trace the black presence in the bible from Noah forward, I have consulted the works of William Dwight McKissic Sr. (His book entitled, “*Beyond Roots: in search of blacks in the bible*”) and Dr. John L. Johnson (His Book entitled, “*500 questions and answers on the black presence in the bible*”), coupled with the word of God, the bible.

The bible and Noah – in Genesis chapters 6 thru 9, the story of Noah, his wife, his three sons, their three wives and a catastrophic flood that destroyed all human life is recorded. The only survivors were all who entered into the ark that God instructed Noah to build. Therefore, all of humanity after the flood are descendants of those that survived, which was Noah, his three sons and their wives. In **Genesis 9:19**(NIV) we read, “*These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.*”

According to **Genesis 6:10**, the names of Noah’s three sons was **Shem, Ham and Japheth**. According to W.D. McKissic Sr., the names of Noah’s sons have meanings. He said:

Shem – Means “*Dusky or Olive colored*”

Ham – Means “*Dark or Black*”

Japheth – Means “*Bright or fair*”

According to Dr. Hanson M.D., who is quoted in the book, it is possible for a man to father three children with three different complexions. Dr. Hanson says that in order for this to take place, either the man or his wife had to be dark complexioned or both of them could have been dark.

Mr. McKissic also notes the fact that biblical scholars and at least one prominent anthropologist, consider “**Ham**” to be the ancestral father of negroes, mongoloids and Indians; “**Shem**” is considered to be the ancestral father of Semites (Arabic and Jewish); and “**Japheth**” is considered to be the ancestral father of Caucasians, to which he agrees and bases the remainder of the book. No matter what conclusion others may come to, the fact is, all races had to come from Noah and his three sons since they were the only ones who survived the flood. Therefore, we must conclude that the black race and all other races was preserved through the survivors of the flood. Our focus right now is on “**Ham**”, who is considered by many to be black. While some will disagree with the meaning of Ham’s name (“**Dark or Black**”), it’s impossible to exclude black and/or people of color from those who survived the flood.

In fact, it is a widely accepted theory that black is a dominate gene. Meaning, color comes up through black. Which means that Black to black can produce any color, and that you can’t get black from white, but you can get white from black. That said, even if blacks are not specifically mentioned in the Genesis account, they had to be present to produce the other races since in theory, other races cannot produce blacks without having a person of color involved.

If we go back even further to Adam, although we can’t say for sure what color he was, but we know he had to be what we would consider a person of color since in theory whites cannot produce blacks without other blacks. So whether or not the white racist or others admit the black presence in the bible, their presence is inescapable from a genetic standpoint. To solidify his point, Mr. McKissic points out the fact that secular anthropologists and respected scientists whose findings were published in “*Newsweek*” and “*National Geographic*” have concluded that “**Adam**” and “**Eve**” were African (dark). He points out the fact that on the front cover of “*Newsweek*” dated **January 11, 1988**, Adam and Eve are pictured as black people. Finally, he notes that based on scientific data and research, a respected segment of the academic community believe that Adam and Eve were dark complexioned people.

Ham, who is considered to be a black man had three sons, “**Cush**”, “**Mizraim**”, “**Phut**” and “**Canaan**”. Cush is believed to be the progenitor of the Ethiopian people. The word “**Cush**” is a Hebrew word that means “**Black**”. “**Ethiopia**” is a Greek word that means, “*a man with sun burned or black face*”. In the bible, **Cush** and **Ethiopia** are used interchangeably.

Therefore, based on what we have just covered, any references found in the bible to “**Ham**” or “**Hamitic**” people, “**Cush**” or “**Cushites**”, “**Ethiopia**” or “**Ethiopians**” is a reference to black people. Another reference to black people in the bible is “**Egyptians**”. While many people have

their own opinions as to the race of the ancient Egyptians, I base my conclusion on what the bible teaches. For example, **Psalm 106:21-22** (NIV) says, “*They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the red sea.*” **Psalm 105:23** (NIV) says, “*Then Israel entered Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham*” **Psalm 78:51**(NIV) says, “*He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.*” **Psalm 105:26-27**(NIV) says, “*He sent Moses his servant and Aaron, whom he had chosen. (v27) They performed his miraculous signs among them, his wonders in the land of Ham.*” Furthermore, one need only look at the “**Sphinx**” in Egypt which depicts, I believe, Egyptian ethnicity as well as those in power in Egypt at the time. Obviously the “**sphinx**” represents a black man, a fact that is irrefutable.

While many scholars will agree that the ancient Egyptians were black, they will argue that the “**Hyksos kings**” ruled Egypt during the period of biblical history recorded in the psalms. The “**Hyksos kings**” were said to be Semites from Asia. However, Dr. Charles Finch had this to say about the origin and identity of the Hyksos kings:

“it has been assumed as a matter of course that the Hyksos were Asiatic invaders from outside Egyptian territory, but the one Egyptian authority who had access to the Egyptian archives informs us only that the usurpers were of ‘ignoble birth’ and they came ‘out of the eastern parts’”

Nowhere does he say they were Asiatics or that they came out of Asia. The reference to “**eastern parts**” and not Asia could logically mean that he was referring to the shepherds or nomads of Egypt’s eastern desert, given that the name “**Hyksos**” is usually translated as “**Shepard kings**”

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois suggests:

“The domination of Hyksos kings who may have been Negroids from asia lasted for five hundred years. That Negroids largely dominated in the early history of western asia is proven by the monuments.”

Therefore, I’m of the opinion that the Egyptians were black during the time the Psalms were written. To be honest, some white Christians have used passages of scripture out of their context to justify the evils of slavery, segregation and black inferiority. However, a careful study of the scriptures will reveal the fact that they teach no such things.

So is the bible the white man’s book that excludes blacks? Consider the following:

1. The word “**Rome**”, where whites typically reside and its derivations are mentioned only twenty times in the bible and not once in the Old Testament.
2. The word “**Greece**” where whites typically reside and its derivations are mentioned twenty six times in the bible and four times in the New Testament.

Now let's compare these to the number of times "**Hamitic**" countries or cities where blacks reside are mentioned in the bible.

1. The Hamitic city of **Sidon (Genesis 10:15)** and the Sidonians are mentioned at least seventeen times
2. **Ethiopia** is mentioned at least forty times
3. The **Hamitic Canaanites** are mentioned at least one hundred fifty three times (Canaan was Ham's son, **Genesis 10:6**)
4. The **Hamitic Egyptians** are mentioned at least seven hundred twenty seven times.

There are over nine hundred references in the bible to the land of blacks and/or people of color. There are only forty six references to the land of whites. Therefore we can definitely say the bible is not a book that excludes blacks and/or people of color. It is out of pure ignorance that many suggest that blacks have been excluded from the bible. I believe the reason that God didn't devote a lot of time to skin color is because it is of no importance to him, it's only mankind, blacks and whites that waste time debating over skin color. We should all sing the song, "*Red, yellow black and white, they're all precious in his sight*"

Christianity in Africa before Islam – for far too long I've heard black people who are either "**Muslims**", part of "**The Nation of Islam**", the so-called "**enlightened**" blacks or the "**spiritual blacks**" declare that the white man brought blacks to America as slaves and forced their white Christianity on them to keep docile and ignorant. The Muslims and the Nation of Islam members that take this position also believe that Islam was the original religion of the Blackman, not Christianity.

In response to this, I submit the following facts:

Common sense info:

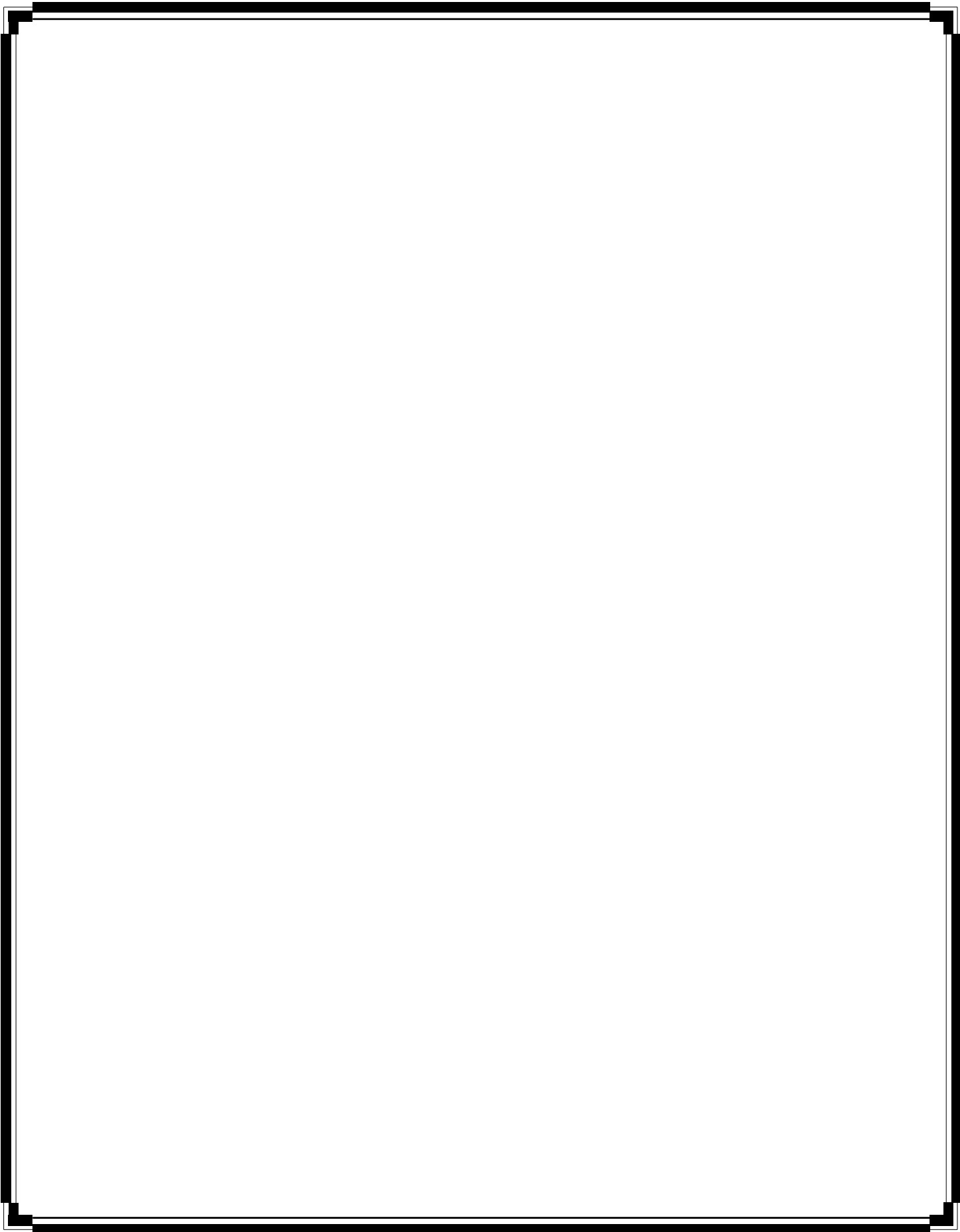
1. Jesus was born in the first century, the prophet Muhammad was born in the fifth century
2. Christianity cannot be forced on anyone, you only become a Christian thru putting your trust in Jesus Christ as lord and savior (**Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9**)
3. The bible is older than the Quran, Islam acknowledges the fact that the prophet Muhammad borrowed a portion of the Quran from the bible.
4. The Quran says Allah "*sent down the Torah and the Gospel*" (**Sura 3:3**)
5. Unbeknownst to many is the fact that the spread of Islam throughout Asia and Africa was both political and spiritual. When Islam spread to Asia and Africa, it became economically and vocationally feasible for all persons in these areas to convert to Islam since the political and economic systems became inextricably combined with Islam. Consequently, most of Asia and much of Africa converted to Islam as a result of the Arab Muslim conquest. Dr. Du Bois says that Nubians (Ethiopians) who had converted to Christianity, literally engaged in warfare against the predominately Arab Muslims to stop the spread of Islam.

It should be noted that the Arab Muslims enslaved blacks and were the first to target blacks exclusively for slavery. It is believed that Europeans adopted the practice of enslaving blacks from the Arab Muslims. Dr. Du Bois informs us that when black slaves converted to Islam, they won the respect in Arab countries. Therefore, it is a safe assumption that many blacks converted to Islam to receive favorable treatment from Arab Muslim ruled countries and not because Christianity was in any way flawed.

6. **Lamin Sanneh**, an assistant professor at Harvard University and Yale, documents in his book, "*West African Christianity*" that Christianity had reached West Africa prior to West Africans coming to America as slaves.

Biblical facts supporting Mr. Lamin Sanneh:

1. On the day of Pentecost, there were people from **Egypt** and **Libya**, near **Cyrene** there that heard those speaking in tongues speak in their own languages (**Acts 2:10**).
2. On the same day, (the day of Pentecost) there was added to the church about 3,000 people. Are we to believe that none of them were from **Egypt, Libya or Cyrene**, which are all in Africa?
3. Some of the men from **Cyrene** that had become Christians went to Antioch to tell the Greeks the good news of the gospel (**Acts 11:20**). **Cyrene** is in Africa, are we to assume that these men spread the gospel in Antioch only, neglecting Africa?
4. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts chapter 8 had come to Jerusalem with Candice, queen of the **Ethiopians**. He met Phillip and got saved and baptized. Are we to believe he didn't take his new faith back to **Ethiopia** and spread it?



God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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