

# *The Pastor's Corner Vol. 48*

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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) *“<sup>25</sup>And 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. <sup>26</sup>But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, ‘Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ <sup>27</sup>And 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.”*

**Acts 17:26** (NIV) *“**From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.**”*

According to Black Muslims (aka “**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**” and/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 (**1Peter 3:15**).

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**” and/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**” (**A.K.A. The Nation of Islam**) 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 first admit the fact that I am not a theologian, nor am I an 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 through 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 (**Genesis 6:14-16**). Therefore, all of humanity after the flood are the descendants of those that survived the flood, 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 were **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 **W.D. McKissic’s** 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 a dark complexion 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. The remainder of his book is based on these assumptions. No matter what conclusion others may come to, the inescapable fact is that all races had to come from Noah and his three sons since they were the only ones who survived the flood that killed all humans. Therefore, we must conclude that the black race and all other races were 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 blacks 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, we know he had to be what we would consider a person of color since in theory whites cannot produce blacks or people of color without other blacks. So whether or not the white racist, the Black Muslim (the Nation of Islam) or others admit the black presence in the bible, their presence is inescapable from a genetic standpoint. On the subject of Adam’s color, **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 had dark complexions (**this is a highly debated subject**).

Ham (who is considered to be a black man) had four sons, “**Cush**,” “**Mizraim**,” “**Phut**” and “**Canaan**” (**Genesis 10:6, KJV**). 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, we can safely assume that 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**.” In fact, the name of Noah’s son “**Mizraim**” is the Hebrew and Aramaic name for “**Egypt**.” 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, “<sup>21</sup>*They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt,* <sup>22</sup>*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, “<sup>26</sup>*He sent Moses his servant and Aaron, whom he had chosen.* <sup>27</sup>*They performed his miraculous signs among them, his wonders in the land of Ham.*” Since Ham was a black man and Egypt is repeatedly referred to as the land of Ham, it’s impossible to conclude the ancient Egyptians were not black people, if not people of color. 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 in my mind irrefutable.

While some scholars will agree that the ancient Egyptians were black, they will argue that the “*Hyksos kings*” not black people, 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 following:

*“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. Other references to Egyptians are: Hagar the Egyptian (**Genesis 16:1**) and Ishmael’s wife the Egyptian (**Genesis 21:21**). Ishmael’s sons, especially Kedar are believed to be black (**Genesis 25:13-15**). The “**Kedarites**” are mentioned many times in **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Nehemiah**. The word “**Kedar**” means “**Blackness,**” “**Very Black**” or “**Dark.**” Therefore, we can safely assume that the “**Kedarites**” were either people of color or black people.

So is the bible the white man’s book that excludes blacks? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!** In addition to the aforementioned info, consider the following facts:

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. Today, it is out of pure ignorance that many suggest that blacks have been excluded from the bible. However, in the past many have excluded blacks from the bible out of pure racism to justify slavery.

For example, years ago, there was a view held by many called the "**Pre-Adamite view.**" This view argues that blacks, particularly the so-called "**Negroes,**" are **not** descendants of Adam (**Paracelsus in 1520, Bruno in 1655 & Vanini in 1619**). Instead of being descendants of Adam, this view suggests that blacks were created before Adam. They claim that it is from these pre-Adamic blacks that the murderer Cain got his wife (**Genesis 4:17**). Cain, by marrying one of these pre-Adamic blacks became the progenitor of all black people. Since blacks didn't come from Adam like whites, but from some pre-Adamic creation, having entered the human race only by intermarriage with Cain, they were considered "**non-humans.**" As non-humans, blacks did not have souls like whites and were to be considered mere beasts like any other beast in the field. And since the bible gave humans (**the white man**) dominion over the beasts, it was concluded that these soulless black creatures exist for the sole purpose of doing work for humans (**the white man**) as slaves.

Despite the twisted thinking of many, I personally believe the reason that God didn't devote a lot of time in the bible to skin color is because it is of no importance to him. It's only mankind, blacks and whites that waste their time debating over skin color. All races should sing the song, "**Red, yellow black and white, they're all precious in his sight.**" Besides, at the end of the day, red, yellow black and white Christians will be spending eternity together, so we all better learn how to get along with each other on this side of heaven!!

**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 and/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/or 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 founder of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, was born in the **fifth century**. Therefore Christianity is much older than Islam.
2. Christianity cannot be forced on anyone by handing them a bible, you only become a Christian by voluntarily putting your trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (**Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9**).
3. The bible is much 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 within its pages Allah *“sent down the Torah and the Gospel”* (**Sura 3:3**). Therefore, the bible is clearly older than the Quran.
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, who were Christians first, 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** that heard those speaking in tongues, speak in their own languages (**Acts 2:10**). Since all of these are in Africa, there is no doubt that at least some of these people were black. It is

unreasonable to assume that they did not go back to Africa and share their Christian faith throughout Africa.

2. On the same day, (the day of Pentecost, **Acts chapter 2**) about 3,000 people were added to the church. Are we to believe that none of them were from **Egypt, Libya or Cyrene** - which are all in Africa, where black people live, were added to the church that day?
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?
5. In **Acts 13:1** we find two (2) black men, "**Simon**" called "**Niger**" ("**Niger**" is Latin for "**black**") and "**Lucius of Cyrene**" (Cyrene is in Africa). Are we to believe that neither of them spread the Gospel in Africa?
6. The Coptic Church was started in **Egypt** about 55AD by John Mark, one of the 72 apostles sent forth by Jesus. This is long before the prophet Muhammad was born. Are we to assume this church did not evangelize?

Unfortunately, "**Black Muslims**" (**the Nation of Islam**) have been successful in persuading many to believe that Christianity is the white mans (European) religion while Islam is the original religion of the black man. However, I respectfully say to anyone that holds the views of the nation of Islam (**Islam is the original religion of the Blackman, Christianity is the white man's religion**) that they have been misled. Furthermore, there is nobody that is familiar with the history of the bible or Christianity that can hold such a view.

Finally, my question to those who are overly concerned with the skin color of Jesus is this: If you were standing before a judge and you were guilty of a crime that was punishable by death, would it matter what color the person was that came forward and said to the judge, "*I'll take the punishment they deserve?*"

Or what if you needed an emergency blood transfusion in order to save your life, would it matter what color the blood donor was?

God Bless,  
Bishop Elect, D. M. Duncan

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