

# Blacks and Christianity




## The Gathering The Black Edition


**Ray of Hope Christian Church**  
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**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**




# Acts 8:26-39




**37. KJV And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.**




**When we talk about the Judeo-Christian heritage, the Bible itself makes clear that Africans, Black people were not just a part of the faith, but the early Jews were Black.**




**It is important for us to talk  
about the involvement of Blacks  
in the Jewish faith; because that  
is where it all began for us as  
Christians.**



**The scriptures have been  
Europeanized to the point that  
Africa, where it all started, is made  
to seem insignificant in the  
grand scheme of things.**



**I remind you that in the ancient  
and classical world Black  
people were known as  
Ethiopians.**



**Ethiopia is the home of the burnt faced people as described by the Greeks. Other names for Ethiopia are Cush in the Hebrew (remember Cush was the son of Ham) and Nubia (the first Black Christians were called Nubians).**





**The Ethiopian Talesha Jews  
who live in Ethiopia and Israel  
claim to be lineal descendants  
of Abraham.**



**Most Ethiopians trace their  
Jewish roots to the Queen of  
Sheba and King Solomon  
through their alleged son  
Menelik.**




**There were other  
connections made.**




**Joseph married an Egyptian  
woman/Ethiopian woman, Asenath,  
daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.**

**Genesis 41:50-52**




# Genesis 46:20; 48:5-20



**Manasseh became the  
founding father of a black  
tribe by the same name.**




# Deuteronomy 3:13-14



**Jethro, an Ethiopian, and the father of  
Moses' Ethiopian wife, because of the  
testimony of Moses became a Jew,  
along with his daughter.**

**Exodus 18:1-12**






**When God made a covenant  
with his chosen people, the  
Israelites, they were forbidden  
to marry the other people of the  
land of Canaan.**




**They were not forbidden to  
marry Cushite/Ethiopians.**

**Exodus 34:11,16**




**Jehudi, which means “Jew”,  
the secretary in the King’s Court  
during the time Jeremiah was a  
descendant of Cush/Ethiopia.**

**Jeremiah 36:11-15**



**Zephaniah, the prophet  
was also called a descendant  
of Cushi.**


**Zephaniah 1:1**



**In the New Testament, there is more than enough evidence to show that Black people were represented in great numbers. Whether Jewish or not, they were God seekers and God fearers.**



**The wise men in Matthew 2:1-2,  
who came from the east to  
Jerusalem looking for the new  
born king of the Jews, are often  
depicted as Black men.**




**Alonzo Holly, who wrote a book  
called God and the Negro,  
lists Simon the Canaanite,  
(in our Bible it refers to him  
as the Zealot) in Matthew 10:4.**




**The Canaanite woman's roots,  
who came seeking Jesus to have  
her daughter delivered and was  
told she had great faith, can be  
traced to Ham.**

**Matthew 15:21-28**





**Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus  
bear his cross in Matthew 27:32,  
was a black man. He was a Jew  
who was in Israel for the Passover.**




**Hamitic countries were represented  
at Pentecost, the birthday,  
the inception of the  
Christian church and faith.**

**Acts 2:9-11**




**Elamites, Egypt, parts of  
Libya near Cyrene, Arabia.**




Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:38**




**In Acts 13:2-3 Simeon called  
Niger and Lucious of Cyrene  
were leaders in the church of  
Antioch of Syria.**



**Apollos – Acts 18:24 - 28 was an  
African Jew from the North  
African city of Alexandria,  
in the lower Nile Delta.**



# Acts 8:26-27




**In this text we find another Black man, an Ethiopian Eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. The title, Candace, was given to the Queen, much like the title Pharoah was given to all African Kings in ancient Egypt.**







**If you seek me, you will  
find me, if you look for me  
with all your heart and  
with all your soul.**



**You know the heart  
of God, concerning  
the lost.**




**God used a man named  
Philip to lead the  
Ethiopian to him.**




**Go south to the road – the  
desert road – that goes down  
from Jerusalem to Gaza.**




# Romans 3:23



**All have sinned and  
fallen short of the glory  
of God.**




**It is the Spirit's anointing that empowers us to witness. The Spirit guides us to the person or group of individuals to whom we are to minister.**




Philip, with tact and loving concern asked the man, “Do you understand what you are reading?” In other words, “how does this speak to you?”







**How can I unless someone  
explains it to me and he  
invited Philip to come up  
and sit with him.**




**When leading someone to  
Christ, we are to be sensitive  
to the Holy Spirit in what to  
say and how to say it.**




**Look here is some water.  
Why shouldn't I  
be baptized?**




**If you believe with all your heart, you may. The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”**



**He stopped the chariot; he and  
Philip went down into the  
water and Philip baptized him.**



**When he took Christianity to Ethiopia, it was there that one of the first and oldest Christian Churches was and remains established to this day.**



**The roots of the oldest Christian  
community on the face of the  
earth was in Ethiopia and can be  
traced to the conversion of the  
Ethiopian Eunuch.**

**At least 9 of the 18 or 20 most prominent leaders in post New Testament Christianity were Africans:**

- **Clement**
- **Origen – born in Alexandria, Egypt, prolific writer, and a powerful priest who was ordained in Palestine around 230 A.D.**
- **Tertullian – born in Carthage, Africa and explained the Trinity and was one of the greatest early church apologists.**
- **Cyprian**



**At least 9 of the 18 or 20 most prominent leaders in post New Testament Christianity were Africans:**

- **Dionysius**
- **Athanasius**
- **Didymus**
- **Augustine – recognized as the father of theology and Bishop of Hippo in the North African Region.**
- **Cyril**

# Discussion:



- 1. Given all that I have shared with you, what do you believe about Jesus, was he Black? Why or why not?**
- 2. How do we get this information out there to others in our community?**
- 3. How do we teach the younger generation about who we are, to walk in royalty and represent what royalty means?**