

The Black Heritage Bible Lessons Volume 1

"Teaching the History of the African Race directly from the Bible."

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The numbers in bracket at the end of each question represents the page number in the Original African Heritage Bible where the scriptural passages can be found.

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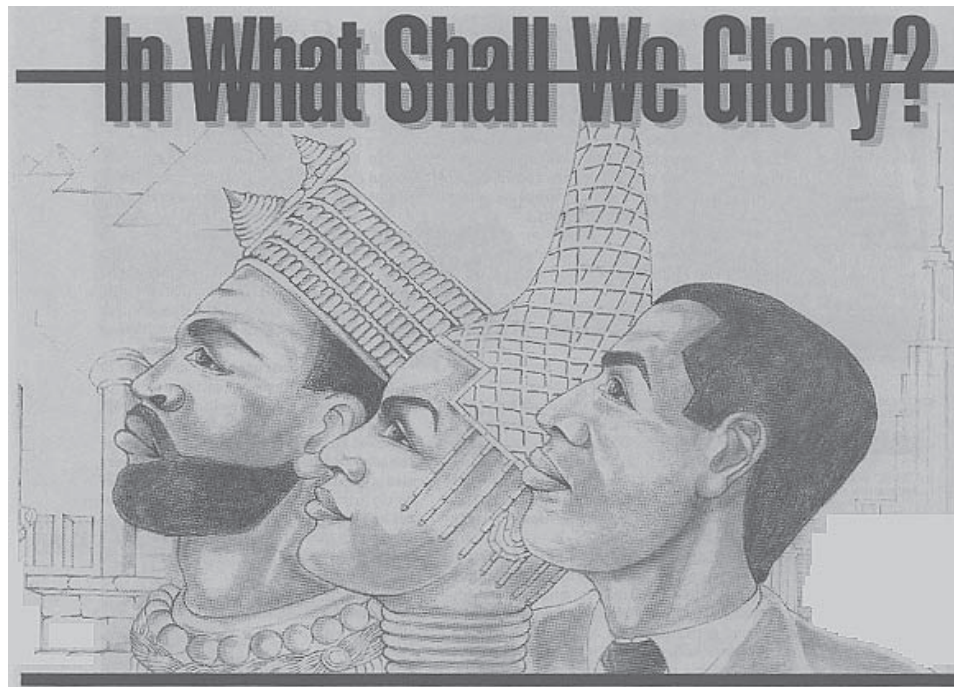
The Black Heritage Bible Lessons
“14 Powerful Lessons teaching the History of the African race directly from the Bible.”

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New Edition

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From the dusty beds of Africa, comes a story more exciting than fiction. Civilizations long dead now speak with thunderous tones to this generation, saying in the words of Marcus Garvey: “Stand up, you mighty people, you can accomplish what you will.” We ruled the world, built centers of learning, understood the stars, left our bones and our gold in hidden caves and decorated pyramids with drawings and writings that still tell of our accomplishments. We gloried in our golden empires, our wealth, and our fame. Things Europeans now claim as their own. Nevertheless, the sons of Africa create new history every day.

In their determination and ability to succeed against all odds our ancestors forged new paths across time, forcing some to wonder how in the world they did it. The massive pyramids of Meroe and Egypt send their voices ringing from the distant past, telling the story of ancient Africans who tried to defy death by building structures that defied time and embalming their bodies with ointments that defied aging. Men of color, Africans

of the highest order who sat in the seats of greatness, now lie beneath sand and massive stones, breath returned to the God who gave them life. Yet the ancient empires of Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Ethiopia, Egypt, and the Ashanti nation bear evidence to this generation that here on the continent where civilizations originated lived a people who feared no one but God and whose greatness is now abated because they thought themselves gods.

Long before we were conceived, Yahweh had declared, “Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,” but we would not heed (see Genesis 3:19). God sent us word through the prophet Jeremiah, who lived and died on the continent of Africa. His message: “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23,24, KJV)

God knew there would eventually be a point where Africans would acknowledge Him. “Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God” (Psalm 68:31, KJV). Even Zephaniah, the prophet, saw them drawing closer to God: “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering” (Zephaniah 3:10, KJV). In fact, Ethiopia, called the land of the gods, became a center of Christianity, where churches flourished in magnificence and beauty. It was Cyriacus, king of kings, as he was called in Africa, who marched against Islamic-ruled Egypt with 100,000 soldiers and commanded that the Muslims refrain from destroying churches and persecuting Christians.

One who considers the American slave experience will soon discover that most slave rebellions took place around 1840, during a time of great religious awakening. It was as if

Black Americans sensed that it was a time of judgment and that liberation was imminent. In fact, Leonne Bennett, in his book *Before the Mayflower*, states that during this time there were people on the plantation telling their slave masters that they would no longer work, because the Lord was coming soon. Slaves could not read the prophecy of Daniel 8:14, but a divine hand must have directed them in understanding that the time of liberation from slavery was at hand. Thus Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey, and others took on the role of a modern day Moses who sought to free God's children. Even when the Emancipation Proclamation was made, it was only God who helped the ex-slaves. Here they were liberated from slavery with no jobs, no homes, no money, and ex-slave masters roaming the streets looking to kill any Black person they could find. The slaves never for one moment imagined that the United States of America would set them free without some sort of remuneration— at least a piece of land to cultivate.

One thing is very clear. No people could have survived, through the historical events that took place, as the people originally from Africa have, unless a supernatural force had continuously been with them. There is no doubt God's divine providence ensured our forebears' survival.

In my mind's eye I see the diaspora of African people not as they are, but as God would make them in heaven. I see them dressed in their royal robes, wearing crowns of glory, sitting on their braided hair. I see their kente cloth and dashikis blowing in the wind, as they follow Jesus from world to world. I see them in the great number which no man could number, drawn from every nation on earth. African mothers who cried at night over their children will cry no more. African fathers who died in the lynchings, riots, and slave rebellions will be remade by the Potter's hand. I see them working on the earth made new, again building their pyramids, not for the body of death, but a place of eternal life, a place from which their legacy will never be re-

moved.

Therefore let not the Ethiopians glory in their knowledge.

Let not the Egyptians glory in their pyramids.

Let not the Ghanaian glory in their golden empire.

Let not the Ashanti nation glory in their mighty warriors.

Neither let the sons of Songhai glory in their great universities. But let all Africans and their descendants glory in this—that they know and understand Yahweh, that He is Lord, who exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness. In this shall the sons of Africa glory.

Let us now turn our attention to fourteen powerful lessons designed to teach the history of the African Race directly from the Bible.

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Table of Contents

Lesson 1 Africa, “Home of the Blacks”	9
Lesson 2 Babylon, “The Gate of God”	15
Poem “Where is the African”	20
Lesson 3 Hammurabi “The Law Giver”	21
Lesson 4 Canaan “<i>Land of Promise</i>”	27
Lesson 5 Egypt & Ethiopia	33
Lesson 6 Black Music	39
Lesson 7 Sabbath “<i>Sign of Liberation</i>”	45
Lesson 8 Simon of Cyrene “<i>The answering of Prayer</i>” ..	51
Lesson 9 The Ethiopian Eunuch	57
Lesson 10 Soul Food	65
Lesson 11 Jewelry “<i>Objects of Personal Adornment</i>”	71
Lesson 12 Who Is Jesus?	77
Lesson 13 White Robe, Black Justice	83
Lesson 14 Melchizedek	89
Bibliography	95

Dedicated to my wife Cellierose, with love!!

LESSON 1

AFRICA

"Home of the Blacks"



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Africa is a continent stretching for some 12 million square miles, comprising 22 % of the world's land mass and 16% of the world's population. "It is a land of amazing contrast; arid desert, dense tropical forest, swamps and floating islands. It has vast stretches of savanna land, meadow lands, mountains ranges, great rivers, lakes as large as seas, elephant grass and even snow near the Equator, on the peak of mount Kilimanjaro."¹ It was called by the Greeks "Ethiopia," which means 'Home of the Blacks,' and by the Arabs, "Billad of Sudan."

On the continent of Africa the oldest remains of civilization were found along with the evidence that these people knew not the meaning of failure. It is clear that whenever adversities came and powerful armies were introduced, unlike any other nation on earth the Africans showed a remarkable ability to pick up the pieces of their lives, and start another great kingdom in some other location. When Egypt fell, Nubia then Meroe became the center of black power. Then there was Ethiopia or Axum center of Christianity, this nation was called the "Land of the Gods"—here Christian churches flourished in magnificence and beauty. In the Empire of Ghana the Africans were traders with the world while Songhi specialized in scholarship. In Songhi it was reported that men made more money selling books than gold. It was in Songhi that the famous University of Timbuktu was organized with the greatest library in the world where men came from Greece, Europe, Arabia, Spain and Palestine to study at the feet of the great African scholars. If there is any continent that deserved attention, surely it is this great continent of Africa. Let us therefore examine some of the things the Bible has to say about this continent and its people.

Teaching the history of the African Race directly from the Bible

1. What two African countries are mentioned most often in the Bible? Genesis 2:13, & Psalm 105:23 [OT 2, 471]

A.

** Ethiopia is known in the Bible as Cush —Egypt is known as Mizraim.*

2. Who Inhabited the countries of Egypt and Ethiopia? Genesis 10:6 [OT 7]

A.

** The continent of Africa was inhabited by two sons of Ham called Mizraim and Cush. Mizraim is translated Egypt, and Cush Ethiopia.*

3. What does the Bible have to say about the Ethiopians? Jeremiah 46:9 [OT 596]

A.

4. Who came to the rescue of Hezekiah King of Israel, when the Assyrians besieged Jerusalem? Isaiah 37:9. [OT 538]

A.

5. Which prophet of Israel was born to an Ethiopian? Zephaniah 1:1 [OT 692]

A.

** The word Cushite is another name for an Ethiopian or people who were black. Cush was one of the sons of Ham.*

The Black Heritage Bible Lessons

6. Name two popular Africans who were leaders in Israel? Exodus 2:10, Numbers 27:18 [OT 45, OT 136]

A.

B.

** The Nile is a river of the continent of Africa, and both Moses and Joshua were born to Israelite parents while Israel was enslaved in Egypt. Joshua was born of the tribe of Ephraim which was of African descent and Moses looked like an Egyptian (Exodus 2:15-19), which means both were black men.*

7. Who did Moses marry? Numbers 12:1 [OT 121]

A.

** Since the Bible also calls her a Midianites, it appears the black Midianites who lived in Horeb were also considered Ethiopians.*

8. Who did Joseph marry? Genesis 41:45 [OT 35]

A.

** Asenath was an indigenous African Egyptian who would later be the mother of two of the tribes of Israel.*

9. What two tribes of Israel were of African descent? Genesis. 41:50-52 [OT 36]

A.

B.

10. In what African country, did Jesus spend the early years of His life? Matthew 2:13 & 14 [NT 2]

A.

11. A queen of what country later sent her Eunuch to find out about Jesus? Acts 8:27 [NT 107]

**Teaching the history of the African Race directly
from the Bible**

A.

**12. What would eventually happen to the Africans?
Psalm 68:31 [OT 456]**

A.

**13. What is God's plan for the Africans along with
others who remain faithful to Him? Isaiah 11:11 [OT
522]**

A.

** The word Cush is translated Ethiopia.*

**14. Is there any difference between the Jews and the
Africans as far as God is concerned? Amos 9:7 [OT
680]**

A.

**15. What Does the Psalmist say about the Black na-
tions of Babylon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Philistine and Tyre?
Psalm 87:4-6 [OT 464]**

A.

** The Nations of Babylon, Ethiopia and Egypt were
started by the sons of Ham Nimrod, Cush and Mizraim
while Philistia was begun by Ham's grandson. The Bible
says they will be numbered among the people of God in
Zion.*

**Is it your desire to be in the New Jerusalem with all the
other sons and daughters of Ham?**

Yes No

ANSWER SHEET QUIZ 1.

1. A. Ethiopia B. Egypt.
2. The Sons of Ham.
3. They were mighty men.
4. Tarhaka, King of Ethiopia.
5. Zephaniah.
6. A. Moses B. Joshua
7. Ziporah the Ethiopian.
8. Asenath.
9. Ephraim and Manasseh.
10. Egypt.
11. Ethiopia.
12. They would turn to God
13. To recover them from the Islands of the Sea.
14. Before God they are the same.
15. They will be in Zion as God's people.

¹ Shinnie, Margret.: Ancient African Kingdoms, New York, St. Martins Press, 1965. P. 13.

LESSON 2

BABYLON

“The Gate of God”



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