



11am Bible Study: Pastor Will Lloyd, IV, M.T.S.

Topic: 2nd Lesson - Black and African Presence
In The Bible
Chapters: Topical **June 29th, 2022**

1. Black and African Biblical People and Their Impact - Preliminary Info.

As a reminder from last week's study: When discovering the Black and African Presence in The Bible - we can point to people of Black and African Descent using two main criteria.

#1 Physical traits African-American people share with them "namely skin color."

#2 Ancestral Link of Ham's Ancestral line as described in Genesis 10:6, which states "The sons of Ham were Cush (Ethiopia, Africa), Mizraim (Egypt, Africa), Put (Libya, Africa), and Canaan (Palestine/Israel just North of African land mass)."

Physical Traits

"The color black is used in the Bible to refer to the skin tone of any dark-complexioned people from African or hamitic descent. Such a descriptive use of color can be found in the actual names of persons, people groups, and places, particularly in the Old Testament world." (Evans, Tony. *Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together*. Moody Publishers, 2015. page115.)

Just as a General Example: God and Jesus, commonly used Descriptive Names throughout the Bible.

Abram - _____ Simon - _____

"Names also referred to the actual skin tone of dark-complexioned people. For example, kedar means "to be dark," thus, Kedarites are a dark-skinned people (Genesis 25:13; Psalm 120:5)." (Evans, Tony. *Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together*. Moody Publishers, 2015. page115.)

"Phinehas means "the Negro" or "Nubian," who were a dark-skinned people (Exodus 6:25; 1 Chronicles 9:20). (Evans, Tony. *Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together*. Moody Publishers, 2015. page115.)

Ancestral Link

So that is a couple of examples of descriptions of dark skin being used to describe people of Black and African Ancestry in the Bible, **yet connecting the Ancestral Link of Ham** to identify people of Black and African Ancestry in the Bible is just as critical and necessary.

Keep in mind that the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, don't solely represent three races, or three ethnicities. Rather they represent the progenitors of several races and ethnicities, which are too many to count, **so in addition to people of Black and African Ethnicity, other ethnicities depending on their DNA can also point to Ham as a progenitor.**

Why are there so many ethnicities? Well, because over the thousands of years of the earth's existence, people from various ethnicities have had **interethnic** and **interracial relations**, as well as have **intermarried** since the beginning of time.

So when you look at the Canaanites, they're in the Ancestral Line of people of Black and African ethnicity, but they're not purely a Black and African people. (No Race/ethnicity is "Purely" Black/White, etc. - Ancestry.com DNA example)

So it's the same way with **Egypt, Ethiopia, and Put** for discovering the **Black and African Presence in the Bible.** **Not all** of the **Biblical People** we're going to describe today have been **Biblically described** as having dark skin, **but they all** have been **Biblically described** as having an **Ancestral Link to Noah's Son Ham,** and therefore an **Ancestral Link to people of Black and African Ethnicity.**

Question for Dialogue: If all ethnicities and races accepted God's revelation that we're all really one race, the human race, and that we all have shared beginnings and a brotherhood as a result of Adam and Noah, **how would that impact race relations and service of all mankind?**

Black and African Biblical People and Their Impact

Sources Utilized for this Section: The Bible, (Evans, Tony. **Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together**. Moody Publishers, 2015.), (Sr., William Knight McKissic, and Anthony T. Evans. **Beyond Roots II: If Anybody Ask You Who I Am (a Deeper Look at Blacks in the Bible)**. publication place: Renaissance Productions, 1994.), (Walter Arthur McCray, **The Black Presence in the Bible Discovering THE BLACK and African identity of Biblical persons and nations**. (Chicago, Ill.: Black Light Fellowship, 1990)),

Prehistory

1.Ham - Noah walked with God and is considered a just man (Gen. 6:9), so you know he taught his son Ham. Also, the word of God says in Genesis 9:1 that God blessed Noah and his sons, so Ham was blessed. However, he sinned as well, which caused his son Canaan to be cursed.

2.Canaan - Was cursed; this is the land the Israelites would be promised by God. However, many Canaanite people were blessed by God and acknowledged God, example Rahab, the prostitute.

3.Cush(Ethiopia, Africa), Mizraim(Egypt, Africa), Put (Libya, Africa) - Gen 9:8-9 God spoke to Noah and Ham saying I will establish my covenant with you and your "descendants after you," so Ethiopia, Egypt, and Put, being descendants of Ham and Noah, would have been covered by this covenant with God.

4.Nimrod, son of Cush/Ethiopia - a Black Biblical ancestor, who is noteworthy, because not only did He worship God, since **Genesis 10:9** says *"he was a mighty hunter before the LORD,"* but **he also built the first civilization known to man from Babylon to Assyria and everything in between (Genesis 10:10-12)**. Yet, like every other man, he also sinned. He was treated in the table of nations with more scriptures than everyone else, so I will spend more time here covering his impact.

- **Passover Psalm 116:9**, David declared "I will walk **before the Lord** In the land of the living."

"Their contribution to human civilization insofar as it has to do with technology has been absolutely unsurpassed." (Arthur C Custance, Noah's Three Sons: Human History in Three Dimensions [the Doorway Papers: Volume 1] (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979), page6.)

He was Strong - Genesis 10:8, NKJV, 8 Cush begot **Nimrod**; he began to be **a mighty one on the earth**.

Great reputation - Genesis 10:9b, NKJV, 9b...therefore it is said, *"Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord."*

He and His Kingdom Rebelled Against God - Read Genesis 11:1-9

- **Genesis 1:28**.. "Be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth** and subdue it.., Genesis 9:1, Genesis 9:7

Although the Biblical Record doesn't have Nimrod finishing well, we can look to the example of how he started, as one that must be maintained.

Question for Dialogue: People drift away from or fall off in their relationship with God from time to time due to the sin-nature's pull. The truth is many of us participating in this bible study have drifted at times as well, but as long as we have breath in our bodies, we can return to God with repentant hearts. **What does this say about the love of Jesus, and our responsibility to stay close to Him?**

Patriarchal Period 2100 - 1730 B.C.

1.Hagar - Abram & Sarai's **Egyptian** Servant (Ancestral Link) (Genesis 16:1) found favor with God. Genesis 16:11&13 God saw her affliction & she called him **"You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees!"**

2.Asenath - Joseph's **Egyptian** wife (Ancestral Link) - most likely converted to Joseph's faith in God and Joseph's sons by this Egyptian wife, **Manasseh & Ephraim** Gen 41:45,51-52 became blessed by Jacob, and became founders of the tribes of Israel. ("Probably Asenath also became a worshiper of the LORD." The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 80.)

The Enslavement Exodus Conquest Period 1730 - 1370 B.C.

1.Jethro - A Midianite (Ancestral Link), priest of God came to worship the true and living God. In Exodus 18:11 he said, "now I know that The Lord is Greater than all gods." He gave Moses his Ethiopian daughter Zipporah to marry (Numbers 12:1 - Some believe this could have been a second wife/though most believe she's the same woman/but we won't know until we get to Heaven/ I along with Dr. Evans side with her being the same woman). He's called a Kenite in Judges 1:16, which Genesis 15:19 covers is a "**Canaanite tribe**" and a descendant of Ham. (Evans, Tony. Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together. Moody Publishers, 2015.pg.119)

2.Phinehas - means *the Nubian or the negro*, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, was zealous for his God and made atonement for Israel by killing Zimri and Cozbi for idol worship against God.(Walter Arthur McCray, The Black Presence in the Bible Discovering THE BLACK and African identity of Biblical persons and nations. (Chicago, Ill.: Black Light Fellowship, 1990), page 20.) When God saw what he did, in **Numbers 25:11** God said Phinehas "has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal." People of Black and African ancestry were having a wonderful impact on the lives of their family.

3.Caleb - "Caleb (Ancestral Link) was the son of Jephunneh the Kennizzite; the Kennizzites were part of the Canaanite tribes (Genesi 15:19) and **descendants of Ham**. Caleb also came from the tribe of Judah (Joshua 14:6, 14). Judah, the progenitor of the tribe, fathered twin sons by Tamar, a Hamitic woman (Genesis 38)." (Evans, Tony. Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together. Moody Publishers, 2015. pg.119)

- He was also one of the courageous spies in Numbers 13:30

Question for Dialogue: When giants are in between us, and what God has promised us, and our opposition looks strong and unsurmountable, **what are some things we can do to move forward by faith?**

The Judges Period 1370 - 1050 B.C.

1.Rahab - the canannite prostitute, who Joshua 2:11 declared, "The Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath." She showed the spies of God kindness.

No one should condemn this prostitute, who showed faith in God, because in Luke 5:31-32 Jesus said "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

2.Jephthah - son of a prostitute, who was born to Gilead from the tribe of Mannaseh, a tribe of Black and African ancestry since it was a tribe established from Mannaseh, the child Joseph had with Asenath, an Egyptian woman. Jephthah spoke to God in reverence and "made a vow to the Lord" in **Judges 11:30**. Showing faith in God in **Judges 11:32** "Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the Lord delivered them into his hands."

The United Monarchy Period 1050 - 930 B.C.

1.Uriah - meaning "*the Lord is Light or Flame of The Lord*" the Hittite descendant of Canaan, (Ancestral Link) Ham's son. (Walter Arthur McCray, **The Black Presence in the Bible Discovering THE BLACK and African identity of Biblical persons and nations.** (Chicago, Ill.: Black Light Fellowship, 1990), page 20.) He was a convert to Israel's faith by choice and faithfully served David and God. (**The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version** (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 524.) In **2 Samuel 11:11** Uriah tells David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

2.David – (Ancestral Link) “King David is known not only as a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14) but as one of the greatest kings in Israel’s history. David’s great-great grandmother was a **Canaanite** woman, Rahab, who is also listed in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11:31). David’s great-grandmother was Ruth, a **Moabite**, from a people who were **Canaanites** as well. David, one of the heroes of the faith, hailed from mixed Jewish and **Hamitic** ancestry and stands as a leader of whom Blacks can be proud to call our own.” (Evans, Tony. **Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together.** Moody Publishers, 2015.pg.119)

3.Solomon – (Ancestral Link) “Solomon was David’s son with Bathsheba, a **Hamitic** woman. Bathsheba literally means the daughter of Sheba. The Table of Nations identifies **Sheba in the line of Ham**, making Sheba a descendant from an African nation (Genesis 10:7). Solomon was not only the wisest man to rule a nation, but he also brought about the greatest extension of Israel’s reach as a kingdom (1 Kings 3:3-14). Solomon’s great-great-grandmother, great-grandmother, and mother gave him roots within the Black race, and place him as an example Black achievement.” (Evans, Tony. **Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together.** Moody Publishers, 2015.pg.119)

- Solomon, similar to Nimrod, started well, ***but he didn’t finish well.*** *Solomon had an issue with women.*

In **1 Kings 11:2-3, NKJV**, we learn that Solomon took wives “2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, ***“You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.”*** ***Solomon clung to these in love.*** 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and ***his wives turned away his heart.***

Question for Dialogue: In addition to our sin-nature’s daily attempts to turn our hearts away from God, other people will try to turn our hearts away from God as well. **What are some things we can do to make sure that other people don’t turn our hearts away from God?**

4.The Queen of Sheba - a Black and African extremely wealthy descendant of Cush. She’s also mentioned in Shem's line, which is another example of an “interconnection between Hamitic and Semetic peoples. (McCray, Walter Arthur. **The Black Presence in the Bible and the Table of Nations, Genesis 10:1-32: with Emphasis On the Hamitic Genealogical Line from a Black Perspective.** Chicago, Ill.: Black Light Fellowship, 1995 page 84.)

Somewhere between 970 B.C. - 930 B.C., after she saw Solomon's wisdom and believed all that she had heard, she was "breathless and overwhelmed," and said in **1 Kings 10:9** "Blessed be The Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because The Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

She was extremely wealthy and gave the king, gold, spices, and precious stones *in great quantity.* **1 Kings 10:10** says "there never again came such abundance of spices as the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon," which is another early account that ***people of Black and African descent come from kings and queens.*** **1 Kings 10:13**, 13 Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to *her own country*, she ***and her servants.***

The Divided Kingdom Period 930 - 722 B.C.

1. "People of Ethiopia to Me" - in Amos 9:7 God says to Israel "7 "Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me. O children of Israel?" says the Lord. "Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, And the Syrians from Kir?" God demonstrates his love to Israel by using *Ethiopia as an object of his affection and Love* as well! God says of the people and place where people of Black and African ancestry can trace their lineage to, that he cares for them, just like he does all people. "*God's rhetorical question in Amos 9:7 told Israel that they were not the only recipients of God's attention and care.*" (The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 1488.)

Amos 9:7 reveals God's deliverance of Israel, from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir, which is God's way of leaving us a legacy that says I care about all people, including people of **Black and African ancestry!**

The Judah Kingdom Period 722 - 586 B.C.

1. **Ebedmelech** - the Ethiopian, Jeremiah 38:7-13 "cared more for the prophet Jeremiah than did the king and princes of Jeremiah's own people." (The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 1294.) He took care to notify Zedekiah that Jeremiah was in a dungeon and would most likely die of starvation. Also, when the king gave orders to pull him from the dungeon of the prison to the regular courts of the prison, *Ebedmelech took great care* to get old clothes and rags, so that Jeremiah could protect his armpits from cuts by placing the rags between the ropes and his armpits when they lifted him out of the dungeon. **This act was driven out of a love for God**, by looking out for the Prophet of God, even when those in leadership didn't care.

2. **Zephaniah** - *The book of Zephaniah* covers the prophet's warning around 627 B.C. of God's anger against Israel and surrounding nations for turning against Him. **Zephaniah** not only speaks prophetically about God's wrath, which could have left the people feeling hopeless if that was his only message, but he also prophetically speaks about restoration, offering hope to Israel. *Zephaniah was of Black and African descent since his father's name was Cushite, which means black.* **Zephaniah**, whose name means "Hidden in the Lord," was the only person of **Black and African Ancestry** to write a book in the bible. He was a relative of King Josiah, a Godly King that "led an important revival in all Judah" and "delayed God's judgment, the invasion by Babylon." (The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 1525.)

Zephaniah, was also a great-great-grandson to King Hezekiah, so people of **Black and African ancestry** are not only products of ungodly kings of Egyptian Dynasties, but we are also descendants of Godly Kings of Israel. Zephaniah's book also has an important prophecy about people of Black and African ancestry.

The prophecy in Zephaniah 3:10 "From beyond the rivers of *Ethiopia My worshipers*, The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering" tells that God's "worshipers," which includes people of **Black and African ancestry**, who are "God Fearers," in other words those who walk with God, will come from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, Cushite Africa, to bring God an offering.

New Testament Black and African Biblical People

1. **At least one of the Wise Men has Black and African Roots** - In **Matt 2:1-12**, they saw Jesus' star in the east, which could indicate that they were coming from the west. In *Beyond Roots* Reverend William Dwight McKissic note that Dr. Arthur C. Custance and many authors "universally" agree that at least one wise man was **Black** since one of the gifts was

gold and gold typically **came from Africa or Saudi Arabia.** (William Dwight McKissic Sr, Beyond Roots: in Search of Blacks in the Bible (publication place: Renaissance Productions, 1990), page 43.)

Also, prophecy in Psalm 72:10,15 by King David said that **Gold would be brought to Jesus from Sheba, an ancestor of Ham** and location in African or Saudi Arabia, which is why it's most likely universally agreed upon that at least one wise man was Black. Joy and **legitimate pride** should well up in our soul to know that a person of Black and African ancestry was there **to bring gifts and worship** our **Savior Jesus** just shortly after He was born.

2.Simon of Cyrene - Mark 15:21, was a black man from **Libya**, a African country which is where Cyrene is located, in the line of Ham. (Ancestral Link) He played an amazing role as he was there to bear the cross of Jesus at the "impressment," right of an army to demand labor, by the Roman soldiers. (The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 1631.) The Nelson study bible commentary goes on to say that "Simon must have been or later became a Christian, since it is unlikely that he would have been referred to by name by the Christian community."

3.The Canaanite Woman - (Ancestral Link)in Matt 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30, was from the Tyre and Sidon, territories of descendants of Ham. She loved her family and was a believer since she called Jesus Lord and recognized her need for mercy. In addition to recognizing that she needed mercy from Jesus, she worshiped Him while making her request to save and heal her child. She even had enough intelligence to humble herself before Jesus. It's critical that we worship the Lord and humble ourselves prior to asking him for something. Jesus doesn't want us focusing on the blessing, without first worshiping the one who blesses.

4.The Man of Ethiopia - recorded in Acts 8:26-40, was a **Black "God Fearer" from Ethiopia**, who became a Christian once Philip was sent to him. This Ethiopian eunuch, eunuch in this case meaning a high ranking official not necessarily a castrated man due to the context of his leader, had great authority and was in "charge of all the treasury for **Queen Candace of Ethiopia**," who was also **Black. He had come to Jerusalem to Worship the Lord.** While on his way home in his Chariot, Phillip, who was divinely sent south by an Angel of the Lord no doubt for this encounter, heard the Ethiopian Eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah. Phillip explained the scriptures to him and preached Jesus to Him and the Ethiopian Eunuch in his excitement wanted to immediately be baptized and receive Christ.

*Based on the Nelson Study Bible commentary, "Irenaeus, an early church father who lived between 130 - 202 A.D. wrote that the **Eunuch returned to Ethiopia and became a missionary to his own people.**" (The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.) page 1834.)*

*"He set **Ethiopia aflame** with the new faith he had found and **Ethiopia received the gospel long before the gospel reached Europe.**" (William Dwight McKissic Sr, **Beyond Roots: in Search of Blacks in the Bible** (publication place: Renaissance Productions, 1990), page 44.)*

*"It is believed that he returned to the regions of Ethiopia and there he founded the Coptic Church. A National Geographic television documentary Fact Sheet stated: **Christianity took root in Ethiopia, 1,400 years before missionaries first arrived in Africa.**" (Sr., William Knight McKissic, and Anthony T. Evans. **Beyond Roots II: If Anybody Ask You Who i Am (a Deeper Look at Blacks in the Bible).** publication place: Renaissance Productions, 1994, page 35.)*

5.Simeon & Lucius - Simeon who was called **Niger**, meaning *dark colored*, and **Lucius of Cyrene**, a city in **Libya**, in **the lineage of Ham**, were according to **Acts 13:1** “prophets and teachers.” In **Acts 13:1-3**, they were with Barnabas and Saul, “ministering to The Lord” in the early New Testament church. The Black and African Heritage in early Christianity is rich and full of examples of our predecessors serving Jesus. In **Acts 13:3**, we learn that these **Black and African men of God**, at God’s leading, were among those **who ordained the Apostle Paul for ministry**.

- What captured me about this text in **Acts 13:2** is that it said that they “**ministered to the Lord.**”
- In **Matt 15:40** Jesus said “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, **you did it to Me.**”

6.Black nations were represented at Pentecost among the nations in Acts 2 - After the Holy Spirit was given in Acts 2 the nations spoke praises to God in languages of other nations. Among those nations listed that had a Black presence were the “Elamites,” “Egypt, and parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene.” (Walter Arthur McCray, **The Black Presence in the Bible Discovering THE BLACK and African identity of Biblical persons and nations**. (Chicago, Ill.: Black Light Fellowship, 1990), page 119.) Dr. Tony Evans notes, according to Acts 2:10 some “African-Jewish proselytes were converted at Pentecost.” (Evans, Tony. **Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together**. Moody Publishers, 2015.pg.121)

This is further evidence that people of Black and African descent have been surrendering to the Lord since the early New Testament Christian church. **This refutes all lies that we didn’t come to know Jesus until we were slaves in America.** As explained above, Christianity was thriving in Ethiopia *thousands of years before it reached Europe, so you know it was also thriving in Ethiopia before it reached America.*

7.People of Black and African Ancestry in the Lineage of Christ - “Jesus was a **mestizo** - a person of mixed ancestry. Of the five women mentioned in Matthew’s genealogy (Matthew 1:1-16), four are of Hamitic descent - Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, and Ruth. So the point here is not that Jesus was Black.” The point is that all people “can find a place of historical, cultural, and racial identity in Him. As Savior of all mankind, He can relate to all people, in every situation.” (Evans, Tony. **Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together**. Moody Publishers, 2015.pg.122)

Hebrews 4:15-16, NKJV, 15 For we do not have a High Priest **who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.** **16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

- **Call on Jesus. He’s the only one, who can solidify our identity,** and give us the strength needed to fulfill His purpose for our lives!