



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

Topic: 3rd Lesson - Black and African Presence
In The Bible
Chapters: Topical July 13th, 2022

1. Refute the Curse of Ham

Throughout history, man has taken God's word and made it a weapon in attempts to destroy the self-worth of people of Black and African ancestry. One of the biggest darts is the lie that "Noah cursed Ham."

Even Dr. Tony Evans notes, "I knew that something did not sound right about the curse of Ham theory when I first heard it as a teenager. A white minister was giving me the biblical reason," (the curse of Ham theory), that my people and I had to endure the humiliation of American racism. Because I couldn't prove otherwise and because my favorite Bible, the famous Old Scofield Reference Bible, which had become the official version of American fundamentalism, (protestant Christianity), "endorsed the curse of Ham theory. I had little recourse other than to accept it." (Evans, Tony, **Oneworld Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together**. Moody Publishers, 2015, page 121)

Read: Genesis 9:20-27

Canaan is identified as a place in Palestine, and represents the land that God promised to the Israelites. According to the history of the Israelites as told in God's word, God would fight for the Israelites, descendants of Shem, as they obeyed him in taking possession of Canaan, the Promised Land.

As identified in the word of God throughout the Old Testament, **many Canaanites didn't worship God, but instead worshiped false idols, so God cursed them instead of Ham, which God worked the idolatry of the Canaanites together for good for His people Israel, since they would go on to conquer this land.** It's important to know, however, that many Canaanites wound up finding favor with God. **Further, "God says that curses based on disobedience only extend to three or four generations at most and are reversed when people repent and turn again to obedience (Exodus 20:5-6)."** (Evans, Tony. **Oneworld Embraced: Reconciliation, the Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together**. Moody Publishers, 2015, pg. 119)

Read: Exodus 20:5-6

John 3:18-19 says "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

"Noah's curse was correctly and verifiably confined to Canaan." (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 23) People of black and African descent can rest knowing that Noah only cursed Canaan, and they can lean on the word of God in **Genesis 9:1**, which says "God blessed Noah and his sons," which includes Ham, so worshippers of God are blessed and what God blesses no man can undo through false interpretation.

Question for Dialogue: The bible's authority was perverted in the past to perpetuate hate, but now that we know the truth of God's word and his care for all people, including people of Black and African ancestry, what are some effective ways that we can share this truth with others?

2. God's Call of Abraham and His Desire to Bless "All Nations" Through Him

Genesis 12:1-4, NKJV, 1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram **departed** as the Lord had spoken to him,.....

Matthew 1:1, NKJV, 1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Question for Dialogue: From the very beginning, when God called Abraham and his descendents into a special relationship with Him, He knew that they would be the vehicle through whom all nations would receive and have access to salvation. **How does knowing God's comprehensive plan from the Old Testament to the New Testament make you feel about your faith in Him?**

3. God's New Jerusalem and Heavenly Kingdom on Earth with "All Nations":

Revelation 7:9-14, Revelation 21:1-3,24

Revelation 7:9-14, NKJV, 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, **of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation** belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who **come out of the great tribulation**, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:1-3, NKJV, 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **He will dwell with them**, and **they shall be His people**. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Revelation 21:24, NKJV, 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Question for Dialogue: The New Earth, God's Heavenly Kingdom on earth, will be a place for us to dwell eternally with our Father God and Savior Jesus Christ along with people from every nation. **How should we live today in light of the fact that we're going to dwell with every ethnicity/race and nation for eternity in Heaven?**

4. Biblical Prophecy Regarding People of Black and African Descent

The biblical prophecy regarding people of Black and African ancestry is an amazing revelation of God to where we've been and where we're going. Although people of Black and African ancestry led many early civilizations, many of them, **but not all**, got away from worship of God and ***began to worship themselves along with the things they created.***

Every nation and people over the course of history has times of a **rise and a fall**. Consider the fall of Rome and Greece. "The Roman legions, the strongest army on earth, were once feared," but they fell, and consider "the dominance of Greece in world affairs" led Alexander the Great, which also plummeted to an end. (Freeman, Joel A., and Don B. Griffin. **Return to Glory: the Powerful Stirring of the Black Race**. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Pub, 2003, page 29.)

The Decline of Blacks in Africa

The Rise and Fall of People of Black and African Ancestry in America

Although many Black and African nations began to decline, people of Black and African descent still called on the name of the Lord, which we've seen in our review of **Black and African Biblical People And Their Impact** in the last two lessons. In spite of the achievements and demonstration of excellence in leading early civilizations, **some people and nations** of Black and African descent disconnected themselves from God, which is documented in scripture, but praise God that although there were periods of decline for people of Black and African ancestry, God gave a positive prophecy concerning them. This gives people of Black and African descent ***encouragement for the future, and guidance and direction for how to live in the present.***

A few prophecies regarding people of **Black and African descent** are found in **Zephaniah 3:10, Isaiah 18:7, and Psalm 68:31**. Anytime we want answers regarding a matter of life, the only reliable source and place to go and get all of our answers is the infallible word of God.

The prophet **Zephaniah**, a prophet of Black and African descent, in **Zephaniah 3:10** notes, "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering". This prophecy in **Zephaniah 3:10** tells that God's "worshipers," which includes black folk "who have Jewish blood in them" will come from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia. Cushite Sudanese Africa, to bring God an offering. (Freeman, Joel A., and Don B. Griffin. **Return to Glory: the Powerful Stirring of the Black Race**. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Pub, 2003, page 36.)

People of **Black and African ancestry** in Africa had interethnic relations and intermarried with the Israelites while they were enslaved in Egypt, Africa. **Genesis 46:27** says "All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt," located in Africa, "were seventy" and after 430 years **Exodus 12:38** says "A mixed multitude went up with them also," which means there were people of Black and African ancestry, who had Jewish blood in them, among the Israelites when they were delivered from Egypt. This is important to know because ***through interethnic relations and intermarrying, the covenant of God*** covered those people of Black and African ancestry with Jewish blood within them as well. The Babylonians would eventually destroy Jerusalem in 586 B.C., but in 538 B.C. God's "dispersed ones" would return. ***Returning to the Lord with "an offering" is the direction of the prophecy,*** which when applied to our day and age the ***"offering" is our life completely submitted to Jesus.***

Luke 12:48 Jesus says,*“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask more.”*

The way to rise after a fall is captured in the next prophecy found in Isaiah 18:7.

Isaiah 18:7, NIV, 7 At that time *gifts will be brought to the Lord Almighty from a people tall and smooth-skinned*, from a people **feared far and wide**, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers— **the gifts** will be brought to **Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the Lord Almighty**.

This prophecy foretells that *“a present will be brought to the LORD of host”* (NKJV) from Ethiopia, people of Black and African ancestry. The NIV version notes that *“gifts will be brought to the LORD Almighty”* from Ethiopia. The NKJV says from “a people **terrible** from their beginning onward,” but the NIV captures the **proper interpretation** that its “from a people **feared far and wide**,” so the word terrible in the NKJV context points to the fear or terror the nation of Ethiopia caused other people. (Use the Hebrew/Greek Lexicon to **verify terrible = feared**)

Isaiah 18:7 also notes that *“gifts will be brought to Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the Lord Almighty.”* This prophecy explains that people of Black and African ancestry will **return to the Lord before the end of the age as long as they bring gifts to the Lord Almighty. Mount Zion was the highest place of worship**, so the gifts described here are lifestyles dedicated to worship of God.

Taharqa, a Cushite: _____

The Next Prophecy is Psalm 68:31

Isaiah 68:31, NKJV, 31 Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.

The prophecy in Psalm 68:31 makes this type of worship of the prior prophecy clear as it relates to bringing ourselves as a “**gift to God**” when it says, *“Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.”* **Stretching out your hands to God is a posture of worship**, which symbolizes **complete surrender** and **humility** and it’s **this offering that God requires from people of Black and African ethnicity along with men of all nations** if we’re going to be **restored** from the **depths of our decline**. This symbolic posture can be seen in African American churches each week as worshippers stretch up and out their hands to God. This type of worship of God prophesied about in scripture continued throughout the ages into the present age, and will continue throughout the future **as long as people return to God, and offer their lives as gifts of obedience & worship.**

Ethiopia certainly did “stretch out her hands to God” because in the first century A.D. Christ began to be preached and accepted in numbers, which allowed for the establishment of Black and African Christian Churches. **There is no doubt that the Ethiopian Eunuch who was converted just after Pentecost** had a lot to do with this. “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.) This is significant because it further demonstrates that our Black ancestors embraced God and Jesus Christ well before being enslaved in America.

How does this prophecy apply to us personally? Many of us have experienced a decline, but bounced back. *Just because we started off slaves to the sin-nature, doesn’t mean we have to continue in it.*

Romans 12:1 declares, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God **this is your true and proper worship.**” *As a result, the key to deliverance for people of black and African ethnicity is to give God our true and proper worship.*