

Pre-Slavery Christianity

So... you've probably heard that the Bible is "the white man's religion", well... that's not exactly true. It's a blatantly false statement that has been embraced by uninformed people of all colors for far too long. The Bible is in fact an Afrocentric book and belief system, and I dare you to prove me wrong. This guide was created specifically to address the following false beliefs circulating about Christianity:

- Europeans introduced Christianity to black people (False).
- The Bible is a European invention (false).
- Christians worship a white God (false).

I challenge anyone of any color to read this book in its entirety, check every verse, check every reference, analyze the information **HONESTLY** and **OBJECTIVELY**, and then tell me that the Bible is of European origin. If you can't do it, all I ask is that you leave a 5 star review for this book.

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” – John 8:32

We can't talk about pre-slavery Christianity without first talking about the origins of the Bible. It is upon the Hebrew foundation that Christianity was built. So we're going to take our time and work our way through what scripture tells us about the Hebrews and the origin of scripture.

Abraham Lived Among Cushites

While many people are familiar with the Tower of Babel, they often fail to notice the small details. Babel was founded by Nimrod (Nimrod: The First Cushite World Leader), the son of Cush, the son of Ham. Bible scholars unanimously agree that Ham was the father of the African nations.

Cush was the father of the Cushites... a black nation. Nimrod was a Cushite, who founded Babylon, which means that Babylon was a Cushite empire. Abraham was called out of Ur, which was located within the Cushite empire known as Babylon. Chances are that Abraham was a person of color.



Fresco from the Via Latina Catacomb, Rome (cubiculum C), painted about 320 A.D. Abraham raises his sword to slay his son Isaac.

The Birth of A Hebrew Nation

Even if you ignore Abraham's black grandson Kedar, what cannot be denied are the three confirmed half African tribes of Israel mentioned in the Bible.

1. **Judah:** Had twin sons with the Canaanite Tamar (Genesis 38).
2. **Ephraim:** The son of Joseph and the Egyptian woman Asenath (Genesis 46:20).

3. **Manasseh:** The son of Joseph and the Egyptian woman Asenath (Genesis 46:20).

These people are important because they are the founders of their line. Everything began with them. So if they are half African, it means that African blood was passed down to their children, and into any of the tribes those children married into.

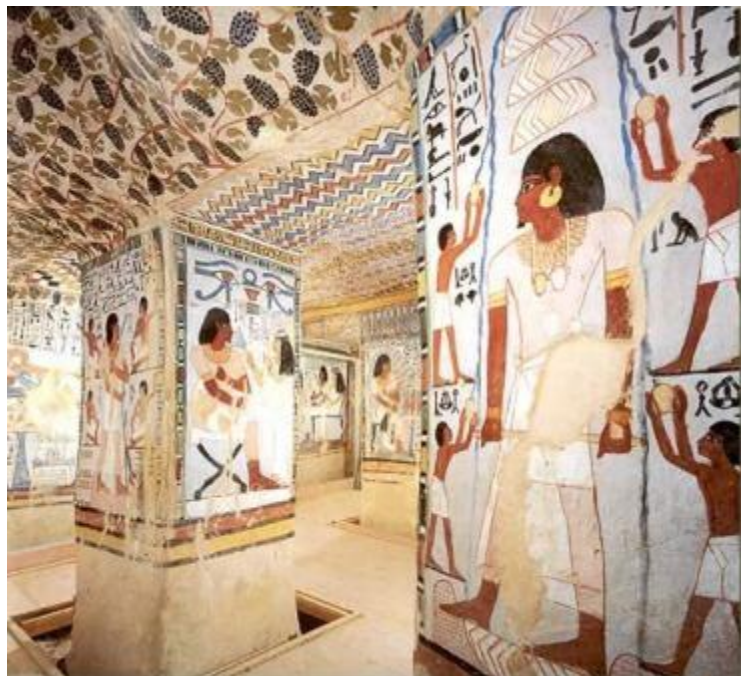
As we progress, you'll see that there were other Hebrews that married African women, such as Moses, David, and Solomon. In fact, the Bible tells us that marriage between Hebrews and Africans was a common occurrence, whereas Hebrews very rarely interacted with Europeans other than through war.

Only 70 Hebrews Entered Africa

But scholars believe that over 1,000,000 came out during the Exodus. Here is an Egyptian born black man speaking on the truth about his home country... Egypt... the very place where Hebrews spent 400 years intermarrying Egyptians and Cushites.

Moses Was Raised As An Egyptian

I assume that we're all in agreement that Egypt is located in Africa, and was full of brown people. If not, the following picture shows the color of skin the Egyptians depicted themselves with:



Egyptian Tomb Art

Moses was mistaken for one of the above people, after helping Jethro's daughters water their flock.

“And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew *water* enough for us, and watered the flock.” – Exodus 2:19

The name Moses was given to him by Pharaoh's daughter, which makes it an African name. Moses was raised as an Egyptian, but knew that he was Hebrew. The Bible also says the following about Moses:

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.” – Acts 7:22

This is important because the first five books of the Bible (Genesis – Deuteronomy) were written by a man of color, raised by people of color, in Africa. Because he was learned in all the wisdom of the

Egyptians, Moses would've been familiar with African gods, goddesses, and religious practices. If Moses had been a character created by Europeans, he would've been familiar with European gods, goddesses, and religious practices.

Another very important event takes place between God, Moses, Miriam, and Aaron after Moses marries an Ethiopian (Cushite) woman. Cushites were known for their black skin:

“And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.” – Numbers 12:1



Dura-Europos synagogue painting: Moses and the Hebrews crossing the Red Sea, pursued by Pharaoh: 303 B.C. - 256 A.D.

Direct References To Skin Color

One of the biggest myths about the Bible is that it doesn't say anything about skin color, and that is absolutely false. The Bible absolutely mentions skin color a lot. In fact, you can do your own search and see for yourself by going to [Blue Letter Bible](#) and searching for the following phrases:

- White Skin (11)
- Black Skin (2)
- I Am Black (2)

- I Am White (0)

After you search for these phrases, feel free to try some of your own. The more you search, the more you'll begin to see a pattern emerge. White skin tends to be only mentioned in association with leprosy (Leviticus 13), and in one instance as a curse on an entire lineage of people.

“The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper *as white* as snow.” – 2 Kings 5:27

There are scholars that believe that some of the references to leprosy in the Bible refer to Vitiligo or Albinism.



Black Woman With Vitiligo



Black People With Albinism

Ethnic Countries Mentioned

For those that hold the belief that the Bible is the white man's religion, it is hard to explain why there are so many references to nations established by people of color, and so few references to European nations.

Ethnic Nations

- Canaan/Israel (2,657)
- Egypt/Land of Ham (731)
- Babylon/Babel (288)
- Ethiopia/Ethiopian (41)
- Cush/Cushite (8)
- Pathros (5)

European Nations

- Greece/Greeks (32)
- Rome/Romans (20)
- Gog (11)
- Meshech (8)
- Tubal (8)
- Magog (5)

As we can see, countries filled with people of color are mentioned vastly more than European nations. Again, if the Bible was a European creation, the number of references to European countries would reflect it.

The First Believers

One of the biggest myths about black Christianity is that it didn't exist until after American slavery. Once again, this proves to be false when we look at history. For the purpose of the following list, Christians are defined as those who believed that Christ was the son of God:

1. Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:22)
2. Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:27)
3. Paul (Acts 21:38)

In addition to the above people of color being believers in “The Way”, which would later be called Christianity in Antioch, some of the early church “fathers” also originated in Africa.

1. Tertullian of Carthage (155 AD – 240 AD)
2. Origen of Alexandria, Egypt (184 AD – 254 AD)
3. Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt (296 AD – 373 AD)

Black Christians In The New Testament

In my opinion, the reason people believe that African people are missing from the Bible or did not believe in Christ prior to slavery, is because the references are often overlooked and under studied.

1) Simeon – The Dark Skinned Prophet and Teacher

In the book of Acts we are told that Simeon was called “Niger”, which literally means “dark skin”. He is also called a prophet and a teacher, and he was one of the early Christians that helped spread the gospel.

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.” – Acts 13:1

For more information on Simeon and the other black apostles, please see my article, From Niger to Nigger: Simeon and The other Black Apostles.

2) Lucius of Cyrene – The African Prophet and Teacher

This prophet and teacher is listed along with Simeon, and according to Acts he was from Cyrene. In order for that to mean anything, we have to look at a map. Cyrene is located in Libya, which is in Africa.



3) The Ethiopian Eunuch – Baptized In Christ

This particular baptism is interesting because when The Ethiopian Eunuch is introduced, he is a very important and wealthy man, already familiar with the Hebrew scriptures, and hoping to have his questions about the Messiah answered. In fact, he had come to Jerusalem to worship.

“And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,” – Acts 8:27

If you are unfamiliar with Ethiopia’s link to Judaism, many of the stories trace it back to The Queen of Sheba’s visit with Solomon. The fact that this eunuch came to Jerusalem to worship means that there was already a belief in Judaism in Africa, and a belief in the coming Messiah.

“And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 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. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” – Acts 8:36-38

4) Simon – He Bore The Cross of Christ

When Christ is forced to carry his cross to the place where he would be crucified, he was helped by Simon when he could no longer carry it himself. Simon was from Cyrene, Libya (Africa).

“And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.” – Matthew 27:32

Unfortunately, we are never told if Simon was a believer or not, but we do know that he had to be “compelled” to carry the cross, which means he probably wasn’t a believer at the time, or at least not openly. With that said, Simon does have two sons that are definitely referred to as believers (Mark 15:21).

- Alexander
- Rufus

“Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.” – Romans 16:13

5) Apollos – African Born Jew

Apollos was an apostle that was born in Alexandria, Egypt and baptized under the name of John (the baptist). The disciples found him preaching the gospel before he even knew who Christ was.

After teaching him more of the gospel, he became foundational in establishing early Christian Churches.

“And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.” – Acts 18:24

Not Allowed To Preach To Gentiles

There’s a very good reason that Africa and Arabia received the Gospel before Europe and Asia. Christ told the disciples not to preach to the Gentiles or the Samaritans.

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” – Matthew 10:5-6

Israel was scattered all over Africa and Arabia, but not all over Europe and Asia. It wasn’t until several years later that the disciples would receive the news from Simeon (Niger), that the Gospel was being preached to the Gentiles. Paul would later preach the Gospel to the Gentiles as well (discussed below).

Bonus #1: Paul Mistaken For An Egyptian

While it is not often talked about, Paul was indeed mistaken for an Egyptian. The lighter Egyptians that we see in the modern day are what they look like after thousands of years of mixing with other races, but Egyptians were a lot darker in the past.

“Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers? But Paul said, I am a man *which am* a Jew of Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.” – Acts 21:38-39

Paul wasn't dressed like an Egyptian, which means the mistaken identity had to be based on something else, such as skin tone or facial features. A very similar case of mistaken identity happens to Moses after he saves a group of Midianite girls (Exodus 2:19).

Bonus #2: The Gospel Preached In African Languages

In Acts 2:10, we find that when the men were preaching, they preached in multiple languages, and some of those were African languages.

- Egyptian
- Libyan
- Cyrene

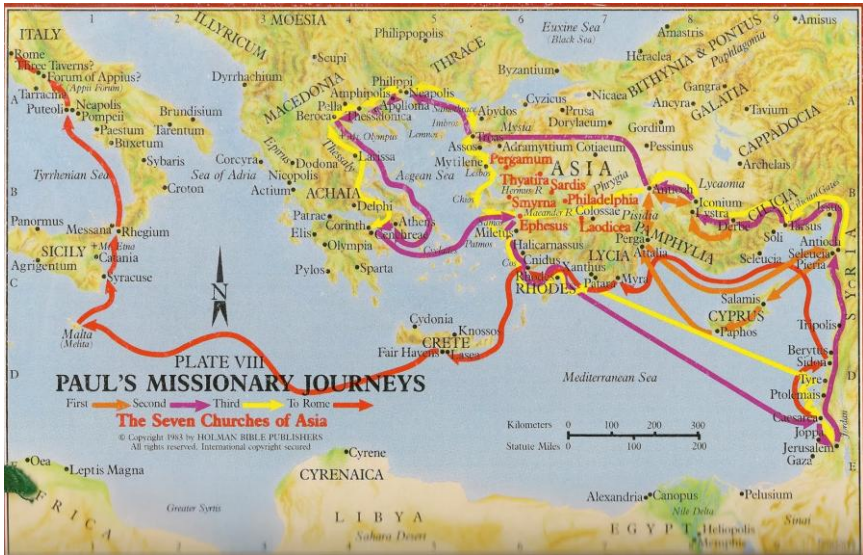
It's not only that the Gospel was preached in African languages, but that they were among the first to receive the Gospel. Scripture tells us that the Gospel came to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16). Europe and Asia received the Gospel after Africa and Arabia.

Black Hebrews Took The Gospel To Asia and Europe

Above, there is mention of the fact that Simeon was called Niger (black skin), and it was this same Simeon that first reported to the congregation that the Gentiles had received the Gospel and accepted Christ. After Simeon reported back, Paul, who was mistaken for an Egyptian, began his journey as an apostle to the Gentile, which explains why his journeys took him into Turkey, Rome, and other parts of Asia and Europe.

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;” – Ephesians 3:8

All we have to do is look at a map of Paul's journey and the direction he went to preach among the Gentiles. If we are intellectually honest, we can see who the Bible consistently refers to as Gentiles:



Paul's Journey To Preach To The Gentiles

Nowhere in Paul's journey does he ever preach in Africa or Arabia. He was only called to preach to the Gentiles, which according to the path he took, lived in Europe and Asia.

Two other black apostles were Rufus and Alexander, the sons of Simon of Cyrene (Romans 16:13). If scripture was of European origin, men of color would never have been the ones to bring the Gospel to Europe and Asia. It would've been the other way around.

European Nations Are Listed As Gentiles

If the Bible was a European creation, they would be listed as Hebrews, but that isn't the case. In Genesis 10, the lineage of Japheth includes European nations, and no nations of color. In Genesis 10, we find the following verse, but pay close attention to the last sentence:

“The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the

sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. **By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands;** every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.” – Genesis 10:2-5

Feel free to research these nations and see which European countries Bible scholars link them to. In the New Testament, the Romans are referred to as Gentiles:

“And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again.” – Matthew 20:19

We know from reading the Gospels that it was the Romans that crucified Christ. Therefore, this verse can only be referring to Romans as Gentiles. The logical conclusion is that Europeans and Asians were not the “chosen people” in scripture.

African Early Church Fathers

Not only are Africans mentioned in the New Testament, but there are several Africans that were considered to be “Church Fathers”, which means they were instrumental in the development of the early Christian church.

1) Tertullian of Carthage (155 AD – 240 AD)

Tertullian has been called “the father of Latin Christianity” and “the founder of Western theology.” He is perhaps most famous for being the oldest extant Latin writer to use the term *Trinity* (source).

2) Origen of Alexandria, Egypt (184 AD – 254 AD)

He was considered by many to be a Christian theologian, but had many beliefs that contradicted both scripture and the early church.

3) Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt (296 AD – 373 AD)

He was also called Athanasius the Great, Athanasius the Confessor or, primarily in the Coptic Orthodox Church, Athanasius the Apostolic, was the twentieth bishop of Alexandria (as Athanasius I). His episcopate lasted 45 years (c. 8 June 328 – 2 May 373), of which over 17 were spent in five exiles ordered by four different Roman emperors. Athanasius is a renowned Christian theologian, a Church Father, the chief defender of Trinitarianism against Arianism, and a noted Egyptian leader of the fourth century (source).

Early Christian Churches In Africa

Another nail in the coffin of the misconception that Christianity is the “white man’s religion”, is due to the fact that most Christians in general are not aware that Christian churches were established in Africa almost immediately following Pentecost.

1) Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria (42 AD)

According to legend, this church was founded by Mark (the gospel writer) in 42 A.D. It is currently the largest Christian church in Egypt and the Middle East. It is estimated that 10% of Egypt’s population belongs to this one church.

2) Ethiopian Orthodox Church (333 AD)

It is believed that Matthew began preaching in Ethiopian almost immediately after Pentecost. Ethiopian tradition teaches that Bartholomew accompanied Matthew on a three month mission to convert Ethiopians to Christianity. This church was established just 8 years before Christianity became the official religion of Ethiopia.

3) Ethiopia Makes Christianity The Official Religion (341 AD)

Under the reign of King Ezana, Ethiopia adopted Christianity as it's official religion. This occurred 59 years before Rome declared Christianity it's official religion.

The Breakdown

Once we begin to put together the pieces of the puzzle, it becomes clear that the Bible was never of European origin. The facts are that the Bible was written by people of color and for people of color, until the Israelites rejected Christ, thus leading to the rest of the world having a chance at redemption.

www.BlackHistoryInTheBible.com

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