

DNA Part 3 - Who We Are Culturally

Although no one knows exactly when Christianity was first introduced to Ethiopia, Ethiopia (Cush) is considered to be the oldest Christian country now in existence

- **Remember:** Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)

John H Shaw, an American, in his book, *Ethiopia*, declares that “five hundred years before William the Conqueror set foot in England, a thousand years before Columbus started on his voyage to discover a new world, Ethiopia had established Christian Church.

Note: Christianity was not established for simply one nation, but Christ dies for the salvation of all nations

Psalm 68:28-33

28 Summon your power, God; show us your strength, our God, as you have done before. 29 Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring you gifts. 30 Rebuke the beast among the reeds, the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations. Humbled, may the beast bring bars of silver. Scatter the nations who delight in war. **31 Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God.** 32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, 33 to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens, who thunders with mighty voice.

Zechariah 2:10-13

10 “Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. **11 “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.** 12 The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. 13 Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”

Acts 1:8 (Jesus commissions His disciples)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, **and to the ends of the earth.**”

John 10:14-16

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16 I**

have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Acts 2:5-12

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Heroes of the faith past: we discussed earlier

- Zipporah – Moses’ wife
- Jethro – Moses’ father-in-law (assisted with the first of structuring government)
- Rahab of Jericho – Canaanite - Assisted the Israelites in taking Jericho
- Queen of Sheba – Woman ruler - Met with King Solomon
- Simon of Cyrene – Carried cross

Heroes of the faith modern day: you’ve read about and may know

Modern day children of the Ethiopians in America are continuing to fulfill the Davidic prophecy that Ethiopia would stretch out her hand to God (Psalms 68:31). Some examples of the men and women who championed the cause of Christ modern day:

Men -

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an **American Christian minister and activist** who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.
- **George Washington Carver** (1860s– January 5, 1943) was an **American agricultural scientist and inventor** who promoted alternative crops to cotton and methods to prevent soil depletion. He was the most prominent black scientist of the early 20th century.

- **Pastor Fred Price** and the Crenshaw Christian Center have erected a 10,000-seat sanctuary in Los Angeles, California – The Faith Dome which at the time (1981) was the largest domed church in the United States

Women –

- **Harriet Tubman** (born March 1822 – March 10, 1913) was an **American abolitionist and political activist**. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. During the American Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the Union Army. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the movement for women's suffrage.
 - Methodist upbringing,
 - became devoutly religious.
- **Mary Jane McLeod Bethune** (born Mary Jane McLeod; July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955[1]) was an **American educator, stateswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian**, and civil rights activist. Bethune founded the National Council for Negro Women in 1935, established the organization's flagship journal *African American Women's Journal*, and resided as president or leader for myriad African American women's organizations including the National Association for Colored Women and the National Youth Administration's Negro Division.
 - Presbyterian Church
 - she started the school that would become Bethune-Cookman University.

Organization/Events

- **Azuza Street revival** The Azusa Street Revival was a historic Pentecostal revival meeting that took place in Los Angeles, California and is the origin of the Pentecostal movement. It was led by **William J. Seymour, an African American preacher**. It began with a meeting on April 14, 1906 and continued until roughly 1915. The revival was characterized by ecstatic spiritual experiences accompanied by miracles, dramatic worship services, speaking in tongues, and inter-racial mingling.
- **The National Baptist Convention**, under the leadership of Dr. T.J. Jemison, has constructed a mega-modern \$12 million headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee.