

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye and nose. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights, creating a somber and intense expression. The person's skin is dark, and their features are sharply defined.

# **CONTRA BLACK ISRAELITES**

A look at the History of the Israelites. Who are the true Israelites.

Vincent Smith

**REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS RESOURCE**

# CONTRA BLACK ISRAELITES

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### REASON & FAITH APOLOGETICS

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## CHAPTER 1

### NATIONALITIES

#### **Difference between Judaism, Jews, Judah, Hebrews and Israelites**

Hebrews were brought from the Chaldeans by Abraham to Canaan. Jacob's Hebrew name was changed from Jacob to Israel.

Israel was divided between 10 and 2 tribes (the latter being Judah & Benjamin). The Judeans were also called Jews for short. All Jews were Israelite but not all Israelites are Jews. Judaism is the religion of the Jew. Judah became a nation. Being a Jew is a

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national of Judah. Today, Judaism can be thought of as being simultaneously a religion, a nationality and a culture.

### Origin & Mixing of the Hebrews:

Referring to the term ‘Hebrew’ in Genesis 14:13, this word **‘Hebrew’ could also be translated ‘Eberite’** (Hebrew: עִבְרִי ‘Ibri, cf. עֵבֶר ‘Ēber) and the Eberites were Shem’s descendants. Abraham came from Ur in the Chaldeans which is maybe where the Hebrew people originated (from Eber his 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather). He and the Hebrews came to Canaan to live; thus, Abraham’s descendants are *technically*

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Hebrews/Eberites also. Sarah and Abraham's grand children from Isaac would be considered **Hebrews**. This also includes children from **his son (from the Egyptian mother Ishmael)** (**Genesis 16:15**) (figure 1), who in turn took an Egyptian wife (**Genesis 21:21**) and had many sons that settled to the east (**Genesis 25:12–18**). But this line **also includes Abraham's six sons** who he had with his concubine, Keturah, These people also settled to the east, and in the account of Joseph, the three tribes Israel, Midian and Ishmael are discussed almost interchangeably (**Genesis 37:25–28**.) The **Ishmaelites (Hebrews)**, who came through

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Sarah's Egyptian servant Hagar (Genesis 16:1), and the **Midianites (Hebrews)**, who came through Keturah (**Genesis 25:1–6**). As time went on, Isaac's son Esau married two **Canaanites** (a Hittite and a Hivite) and an **Ishmaelite (Genesis 10:6,15; 26:34; 28:9; 36:1–3)**. Esau's children became the **Edomite nation** east of the Dead Sea (**Genesis 33:16, Genesis 36**). Lot was Abraham's nephew, the son of Abraham's (deceased) brother Haran (**Hebrew**). The two tribes that lived east of the Jordan, **Ammon**, and **Moab** (Genesis 19:36–38), were descended from Lot. All these were Hebrews who mixed with others and caused

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a significant **diffusion of 'Hebrew' genes** out into the surrounding nations, right from the start. We can also expect a **reverse flow of genes from the surrounding peoples into Hebrews.**

### **Origin & Mixing of the Israelites:**

The Israelites were descendants of Jacob (renamed Israel) whose children became the patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Jews were people from the tribe of Judah and not the other 11 tribes. The Israelites were of all 12 tribes and none of the tribes at any time were identified in the Bible by their skin colour but they were identified by their patriarchs and their nationality (country of

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parent's birth). The people of Israel and Judah were of mixed nationalities.

### *Diversity in Israel*

The act of outbreeding (with non-Israelites) created diversity. We know that Jacob's first two wives were his cousins from Abraham's brother Nahor's grandson Laban (his great nephew), and so Jacob's children were from family inbreeding, but we don't know about his other wives who were maids to his two wives. These maids bore him 4 of his 12 sons.

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### *The circumcised people of Abraham:*

#### *Gen 17:12*

Abraham had a servant from Egypt who was not a relative, named Eliezer of Damascus (who would have been his heir if Isaac was not born). When Abraham rescued Lot, he had 318 trained men “born in his house” and take note that the household was numerically dominated by people not descended from childless Abraham.

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### DIASPORA

### Were Jews in Africa? Yes. Were all African Jews blood descendants of Abraham? No.

A Jew may be born a Jew i.e. a descendant of the house of Judah or a non-descendant converted to Judaism.

The **first diaspora** of Abraham's children were the Ishmaelites they moved to Edom.

The **second diaspora** of Abraham's descendants were the children of Keturah, i.e. the Midianites et al.

The **third diaspora** of Abraham's descendants were the Israelites / Jacobites

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they moved into Egypt for over 400 years. Then they moved back to Canaan. Some may have stayed.

After that the **fifth diaspora** of the Hebrews (Israelites) occurred when Assyria scattered the Israelites across north middle and western Mesopotamia. Many assimilated into the surrounding nations.

Many of them were returned and settled in the land of Samaria.

The **sixth diaspora** (Judeans /Jews) happened when the Babylonians took them to Babylon, Chaldeans and Arabia/ Iran.

Many of them returned to Canaan.

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**Acts 2:8-11** *On the day of Pentecost it tells us where many of the Abraham's descendants lived at that time - <sup>9</sup> Parthians [IRAQ], Medes [IRAQ], Elamites [IRAQ], and residents of Mesopotamia [IRAQ], Judea and Cappadocia [EAST ASIA], Pontus [EAST ASIA] and the province of Asia [ASIA], <sup>10</sup> Phrygia [ASIA] and Pamphylia [ASIA], Egypt [NORTH AFRICA], and the parts of Libya near Cyrene [NORTH AFRICA], and visitors from Rome [ROME], <sup>11</sup> both Jews and **proselytes**, Cretans and Arabs [IRAN]—*

A key word here is proselyte, this is a gentile who converted to Judaism but not born a Jew.

**Acts 8:27** An Ethiopian who worshipped at the Jewish temple lived in **Ethiopia**

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[AFRICA] *under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure* Maybe Jews live in Ethiopia also. It doesn't say if he was a Jew by birth or a gentile African convert to Judaism.

About 30 years after Jesus' death, many scattered during the Roman -Jewish wars and especially after **Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD.**

In **115 AD Kitos 2<sup>nd</sup> revolt.** Jewish Diaspora living in Cyrenaica, Cyprus and **Egypt** attacked Romans who were left behind while Romans fought Trajan's battle against Parthians/Persia.-----

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In **131-136 Bar Kokhba lead a Jewish revolt** against Rome. It was after this that Rome decided to ban Jews from Jerusalem / Judah.

In **136 AD**, Emperor Hadrian renamed Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina and constructed a Temple of Jupiter on the site of the former Jewish temple or near it. **Jews were banned from Jerusalem** and Roman Judaea was renamed **Syria Palaestina**, from which derived "Palestine" in English and "Filistin" in Arabic.

Between **200-300 many Jews migrated to Iran** (400 yrs before the Muslims converted

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to Islam) to avoid the hardships due to the invasions into Rome and Roman wars.

Between 300-400 AD following the conversion of Emperor Constantine the city was Christianised and it was renamed Jerusalem.

In 325 when Ethiopia became Christianised the **Ethiopian Jews** revolted and formed their independent state called **Beta Israel**.

As Christians we are considered children of Abraham by having faith like him. So we are his faith children or spiritually circumcised children not fleshly circumcised children. Paul said it's the persons

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circumcised in their heart that are children of Abraham. We don't look for the biological lineage of Abraham, but those descendants born of faith like him not those who carry his blood lineage. God was laying the foundation of a spiritual kingdom not physical kingdom. The black Israelites believe that black Jews moved to different nations and remained pure meaning they did not intermarry. This is wishful thinking and a lie. Abraham's descendants were intermarrying for 100s of years. Also, gentiles converted to Judaism and became Jews which allowed people of different colours and nations to intermarry with Jews.

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“If you are referring to a nation in the sense of race, Judaism is not a nation. People are free to convert into Judaism; once converted, they are considered the same as if they were born Jewish. This is not true for a race.” [jewishvirtuallibrary.org]

**Did the Black Jews in Africa today come after the destruction of the temple AD 70?**

### **Judaism in Africa**

The dispersing of Jews after the 70 AD destruction of the Jerusalem temple was not the first time Judaism was in Africa.

Judaism was in Africa before **250 B.C.**

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when the Jews in Alexandria (Egypt) translated the Hebrew scriptures to the Greek Septuagint.

Between 34 and about **40 A.D.**, the Eunuch of Ethiopia (acts 8:30-38) was a Jew and later became a Christian.

### **Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Bible prophecy**

Black Israelites theorise that the destruction of Tyre is futuristic and is a punishment upon those who enslaved the black Africans who are supposed to be the Israelite diaspora. They submit the following prophecy.

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### **Joel 3:4-6** Prophecy Tyre & Sidon

**says:**

*Why are you doing these things to me, Tyre and Sidon? Are you trying to get even with me, land of Philistia? If you are, I will very quickly repay you for what you have done!*

**Joel 3:5** *For you took my silver and my gold and brought my precious valuables to your own palaces. Joel 3:6* *You sold Judeans and Jerusalemites to the Greeks, removing them far from their own country.*

The Black Israelites say **3:6** is referring to the slave trade and the Greeks are the Europeans. But God repaid the cities of Tyre and Sidon for what they *did* ‘past Reason & Faith Apologetics. Vincent Smith

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tense' to Jerusalem, **332 BC** years before Jesus' birth. God used the Greeks (Alexander the Great) to destroy Tyre and the entire city and the Persian king Artaxerxes later conquered Sidon. Thus, these two cities were never a threat to Jerusalem again. So, the selling to the Greeks happened in the Old Testament, not in the AD period 1500s or even 500 years ago. Jesus confirms God's past judgment on them in *Matt 11:21*; "*Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*"

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Between the 1400s and 1800s AD, the black African slaves were sold to Portugal, Spain & England, not the Greeks.

**There are three problems with the Black Israelite theory:**

- 1) There is no salvation through the **law**,
- 2) being **Jew/Israelite** (nationality or religion) or,
- 3) by the **colour** of one's skin.

According to scripture, **Gal 3:27** *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal 3:28* *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye*

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*are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Your nationality, sex, slave or free, nothing prevents you from inheriting the promises God made to Abraham. There is no more a special group of people, e.g. Jews or Israelites that will be saved and you don't have to become a Jew to get in. Everyone now has the same opportunity to be saved. Salvation is open to all without restriction. How is this possible for non-Jews to receive Abraham's blessings?

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Circumcision did not save the Israelites or Jew, yet the uncircumcised Greeks were saved.

Keeping the law did not and cannot save the Jew, yet the unlawful Greeks were saved.

**vs 27** begins to explain, Jews had to be **baptised into Jesus**, just like you did.

Jews had to **put on Jesus** like you,

**vs 28** you became **equal with the Jew** now that you are both in Jesus,

**vs 29** **you are now the same as a Jew** or the Jew is the same as you and I.

**Vs 2** **How** did you receive the Holy Spirit, by keeping the law or by having faith?

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So, what saved you? Faith. Everyone has faith. Faith is what makes us all equal at the time of repentance and conversion. Faith also makes us equal in Christ.

In fact, there is neither Jew nor Greek in Jesus. There is no one more special than the other. No one can boast.

The Jews are not special because they keep the law.

Men can't boast that they got into the kingdom because they are male, mothers can't boast over fathers, black people can't boast over whites.

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Vs 29 also says, if you are in Jesus then you are children of faith, if you are children of faith you are children of Abraham, and as Abraham's children you receive the promises God made to Abraham's children. If we are in Jesus because of our faith and have put on Christ the son of God and are one body and partakers of the son's body then we are son's or children of God also. And if children of God, He is our Father.as His children we get his inheritance. Now as children of God our FATHER, you are children of Abraham like the Jews. As children of Abraham our FATHER, you get the same blessing the Jews were to get.

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We inherit what our FATHER, promised us.