

## EGYPT

Mizraim, which is another name for Egypt, was the second son of Ham. This makes him an African by blood. Mizraim, Cush, and Phut travelled and began to settle in the upper parts of Africa. Egypt occupied what was known as the Lower Egypt and the Upper Egypt. Following this dispersal, Egypt became a very strong Empire with a vast army that protected its borders and a high culture that marked it to be superior to its neighbouring nations. It had its own system of rulership made up mainly of the Pharaohs. Great Pharaohs rose; Pharaohs like Amose, Mennis, Kofo Amenomorphis, Amenhotep and Rameses II.

When Herodotus, the Greek historian, visited Egypt in 450 B.C. he described the nation southwest of Egypt to be Ethiopian and said, "Here gold is found in great abundance." We must establish again that when the Scripture refers to Ethiopia it is more than a nation; it is a people and in this case in the light of the fact that Egypt, Mizraim was a Black person, so was Cush, an Ethiopian. These two names refer to a people who occupied a region of the world later known as Africa, not just two nations. While the word *Egypt* is not certain in its origin, *Ethiopia* is the Greek word or term for "burnt faced people" or Black people.

Egypt was a land of advanced architecture, the world's oldest stone structures are found in ancient Egypt. The great pyramids, which constitute one of the Seven Wonders of the World, were built by the Egyptians. They were built with such perfect symmetry, emanating from the engineering skills of the early Egyptians. One of these pyramids, known as the Great Pyramid, is said to be large enough to adequately contain St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Basilica of Rome, the cathedrals of Florence, and Milan all together.

They built the Great Sphinx, and at that time it was the marvel of the world. The Egyptians also built the temple of Amon that stands 338 feet wide and 1,200 feet long. The largest ever of its kind built by human hands. The Egyptians did not only master architecture, they gave the world what has become modern calculus.

Early Africa was blessed with all kinds of minerals. In his book *The Civilization of Ancient Egypt* Paul Johnson writes, "They did manufacture and were large quantities of fine jewel-

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lery, rings diadems, earrings, anklets, bangles and girdles. Featuring gold, silver and electron and felspar, cornelium amethyst, jasper, lapis-lazuli, garnets and haemorites.”

The Egyptians excelled in making jewels, this establishes the fact that Africa has always been the land of abundance of minerals. The Egyptians were the first ones to tame wild horses, breeding them and bring forth the finest horses on earth. We read in Second Chronicles 1:16-17 how Solomon bought horses from the Egyptians.

*And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt and linen yarn: the kings merchants received the linen yarn at a price. And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means (2 Chronicles 1:16-17).*

Egypt's dominance and power started 3,300 years before Christianity with an initial amalgamation of the Lower and the Upper Egypt. They were both separate kingdoms until brought together, that is why great Pharaohs would wear a crown that had both the sign of a serpent and a hawk.

The snake stood for the Lower Egypt, while the hawk for the Upper. It became a powerful government and built empires that extended in all directions having dominion over its brother, the Canaanites and Palestine for a longer period. Remember again that these were the Africans, the Black Egyptians; they were proficient in mathematics, medicine, engineering and agriculture. They surveyed the land upon which they lived. It is believed that Pythagoras learned mathematics from them. It was Black Arabs who started algebra from the Arabic *aljabr*. It was the same Moors or Black Arabs who conquered Spain and Portugal and carried algebra into Europe.

The spread of the Black race and its influence on world civilization is further captured in Herbert Wendt's book, *It Began in Babel*, where he states that, "Crete was the dominant power during and up to the second century BC and European civilization went forth from Crete." Crete in itself was founded by Blacks. Egypt as it relates to the whole of Africa is very important to the argument in this book as to why Blacks have found themselves in

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several economic, spiritual, and physical predicaments, hence the dedication of much material to it.

In its heyday Egypt was the fashion capital. The Bible talks of the fine flax or linen of Egypt.

*Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded (Isaiah 19:9).*

*I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt (Proverbs 7:16).*

Egypt was also the first country in history to develop what might be called great artistry and culture. This counters the impression of many in the West who think that they brought civilization and culture to Black people. Egyptians, i.e., the Blacks, were the first civilization to emerge as a nation as opposed to a city culture. In ancient times you could have a city culture, but Egypt was the first to emerge as a nation as opposed to a city culture. Its arts and crafts dominated the Nile and eventually the World. The Greeks came to learn culture from the Egyptians who were advanced into it from 2900 B.C. to 600 B.C. when Egypt began to fall apart.

Egypt's advancement in education was known around the world. We are told in Scripture that Moses was taught in all of the wisdom of the Egyptians.

*And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds (Acts 7:22).*

The wisdom of Solomon was compared to the wisdom of Egypt.

*And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt (1 Kings 4:30).*

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By 2900 B.C. mathematics was a formal subject to be studied in Egyptian universities. This wisdom and knowledge was to become one of the things that destroyed Egypt, as it became its source of arrogance and its draw into idolatry.

*And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards (Isaiah 19:3).*

Its capital, Noph, was a formidable city of incredible beauty; but great sculptures and unfortunately idols lined the streets like street lights from end to end. It was the seat of government, the center of worship of Ptah and Egyptian god of creation, known today as Memphis. It was a city God sent a word to, which we shall see later, because of the idolatry of Egypt.

*The word that the Lord spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come and smite the land of Egypt. Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee. Why are thy valiant men swept away? They stood not, because the Lord did drive them. He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword.*

*They did cry there, Pharaoh king of Egypt is but a noise; he hath passed the time appointed. As I live, saith the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts, surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come (Jeremiah 46:13-18).*

God predicted that Memphis would fall and there would be a lot of wailing and crying. Several Pharaohs ruled there until the city was conquered in 569 B.C. by Ahmose II – a name whom we will see later as the Black Pharaoh who enslaved the Israelites; and succeeded by his son Psamtik III in 525 B.C., who was later conquered by Cambeses, the king of Persia.

Egypt the great became a mere province of Persia. The final blow was struck against Egypt and particularly Memphis by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. The fall of Memphis

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and its desolation was with the advent of Christianity, when Christian zealots attacked the city about the fifth century A.D. and dismantled it.

With the rise of Islam also, there was an invasion of Egypt in A.D. 640, this began the “Arabization” of Egypt with a gradual reduction of Black presence. Prior to this, historians like Herodotus alluded to Egyptians being “black and curly-haired.” This is coming from a person more used to seeing Mediterranean brunettes. In another passage concerning the fable of the Dodonian Oracle, Herodotus said the Egyptians were swarthy in color.

One of the early Greek playwrights, Aeschylus, mentioned a boat seen from the shores, and declares that the crew was Egyptian because of their black complexion.

Today Memphis, the former capital, is a desolate place called Mennuf with no one living there but only statues and idols standing, thus fulfilling the Scripture in Jeremiah.

*O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant (Jeremiah 46:19).*

## ETHIOPIA

*And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. Hew was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Neneveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city (Genesis 10:8-12).*

Though we have looked at Mizraim (Egypt), Cush (Ethiopia) was the first-born of Ham. Ethiopia, again as we have said earlier, is not a nation but a people, a people of Black color. Cush had six sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, Sabtecha, And Nimrod. Their original place of settlement was in the Mesopotamian Valley, as you would observe from the names of the towns they built. Nimrod in particular was said to have built Babel. Babel is a short form of Babylon in modern-day Iraq. His reign and establishment extended as far as China, India, and Afghanistan.

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Josephus, Jewish historian and contemporary of the Lord Jesus Christ, gives an account of the nation of Cush, who is the grandson of Noah. He said "For of the sons of Ham, time has not at all hurt the name of Cush, for the Ethiopians, over whom he reigned, are even at this day, both by themselves and by all men in Asia, called Chusites."

The locality of the domain of the Cushites has been questioned, with some believing it referred to countries south of the Israelites while others think it refers to parts of Africa such as Ethiopia.

Scholars like Johann Michaelis and Johann Christian Rosenmuller, in have proposed That the name Cush was applied to tracts of country on both sides of the Red Sea. The fifth century A.D. Himyarites in the south of Arabia, were called Cushans and Ethiopians by Syrian writers.

Babylonian inscriptions mention the Kassites, and it was once held that it signified a possible explanation of Cush, the ancestor of Nimrod in Genesis chapter 8.

Ethiopia controlled China, India, and Afghanistan for ages. In the words of J Johnson, "To this every day dwellers of those lands retain the old Ethiopian symbols, fine art and concepts of science, medicine and then engineering. The original architectural structures and municipalities were modified and sometimes mutilated but never destroyed.

Ethiopia was known to be the brother of Egypt and often did things together, albeit, they also fought wars against each other. Ethiopians were known to have engaged Persians, Hebrews, Assyrians, Arabians, and Greeks in wars. Alexander the Great conquered Egypt easily, but when he decided to devastate and destroy Ethiopia, he suffered grief and aggravation because he was forced to retreat back to Egypt by Ethiopia in 332 B.C. Augustus Caesar also fought Ethiopia but was defeated by Ethiopia in 25 B.C. Ethiopia was known to be ferocious in its warfare.

*Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth'; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield' and the Lydians, that handle and bend the bow (Jeremiah 46:9).*

As a result of this defeat of Augustus Caesar, the Roman Empire was contained at the borders of Ethiopia. The present nation that bears the name Ethiopia goes on record as the one nation in Africa that was never colonized. It is also on record as the only nation that had had 3,000 years of monarchy up to the reign of Haile Selassie. Ethiopia's combined effort with Egypt, his brother, made them formidable allies who made an impact on other nations in the field of mathematics, engineering, medicine, and agriculture.

Ethiopia in particular kept a winning edge in matters of the powers of government, war and conquest. It was the habit of the great Greek historian Herodotus to describe beauty as it relates to the Ethiopian.

### ENDNOTES

Paul Johnson, *The Civilization of Ancient Egypt* (New York: Harper Collins, 1978)

Herbert Wendt, *It Began in Babel*, (New York: Dell Publishing Company, 1964), 89.

Harry H Johnston, *Colonization of Africa* Negro Princes in India (Cooper Square Publishers, 1905), 92.

M Ilin, *Men and Mountains*, (JB Lippincott Co., 1935), 135. Tells of seeing Afghans who were as Black as Negroes.

Ladipo Solanki United West Africa at the Family of Nations (1906, Part 1, page 18) says, "Imperial Ethiopia was the central seat of civilization before Rome was seen on the map."

Gertrude Emerson, *Agent of India's History*, (David McKay, 1948), 152. The author states, "The Cushan Empire included Northern India as well as Afghanistan and Bactria."

Dr John L Johnson, *The Black Biblical Heritage*, (Chicago: Lushena Books, 1999), 23.