

~ We Write the Narrative ~**Hidden Figures – The African Presence in the Bible****READING FOR WORSHIP GUIDE: Exodus 4: 21-26**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>2/26</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 26; Exodus 4: 18-31</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>2/27</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 27; Numbers 12: 1-16</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>2/28</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 28 Judges 4: 1-23</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>3/1</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 1; I Kings 10: 1-29</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>3/2</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 2; Acts 8: 26-40</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>3/3</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 3; Acts 13: 1-2; Acts 11: 19-26</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>3/4</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 4; Mark 15:21-23; Romans 16:13</i>

**WE WRITE THE NARRATIVE – THE AFRICAN PRESENCE
IN THE BIBLE****1. Zipporah, the Cushite wife of Moses - Race Wasn't the Issue**

- a. Numbers 12:1-2 – Miriam^(A) and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife,^(B) for he had married a Cushite. ²“Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn't he also spoken through us?”^(C) And the Lord heard this.
- b. Exodus 4: 24-26 – ²⁴At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses^[b] and was about to kill^(AI) him. ²⁵But Zipporah^(AJ) took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin^(AK) and touched Moses' feet with it.^[c] “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said. ²⁶So the Lord let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood,” referring to circumcision.)
 - i. Zipporah not only knew the Lord but she stood in the gap between God and Moses, saving Moses' life.
 - ii. She fulfilled the act of circumcision on Moses' and her son and applied the blood to Moses that the Lord would not take Moses' life.

iii. This was a forerunner to the Passover where blood was shed to save the first born, and a forerunner to Jesus Christ whose blood was shed to save all of humanity.

2. **Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite (Cushite)** – Judges 4: 11-24

- a. Judges 4: 9 – “...the Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman.”
 - i. The woman was not Deborah the prophet who spoke those words to Barak.
 - ii. The woman was Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite – a Cushite woman!
- b. Judges 4: 21 – “...She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he [Sisera] died.”
 - i. Jael confronted the enemy and drove a peg through his head.
 - ii. Black women taking up the fight where we, men are either missing the point like Heber or late arriving like Barak.

3. **The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon**

- a. **1 Kings 10:1** When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions.
- b. **1 Kings 10:10** And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.
 - i. 120 talents (75 lbs. per talent) X 16oz/lbs. X \$1242.10/oz = \$178,862,400
 - ii. This was almost 20% of all the gold Solomon received annually. (v. 14)
 - iii. She was one of the richest persons on Earth.
 - iv. She approached Solomon as an equal.
- c. **1 Kings 10:13** King Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what

he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.

- i. According to the Ethiopian narrative, the *Kebrä Negest*, the Queen of Sheba slept with King Solomon, resulting in a child, Emperor Menelik I.
 - ii. When he was of age, 22 years old, Menelik returned to Israel to see his father, Solomon.
 - iii. Solomon sent Menelik back to Ethiopia with the son of Zadok (the priest), other priests, and a replica of the Ark of the Covenant.
 - i. This makes it impossible for Agathangelos to have been an eyewitness in 301.
2. Luke 11: 31 – ³¹The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here.
- a. She was a stranger to the commonwealth of Israel
 - b. She readily gave credit to the report she heard of the glories of a king of Israel
 - c. She came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear his wisdom
 - i. Not only to satisfy her curiosity, but to inform her mind, especially in the knowledge of the true God and his worship
 - ii. This is on record, to her honor;

Ethiopia: The First Christian Nation? Brendan Pringle

3. Before the Ethiopian king Ezana (whose kingdom was then called Aksum) embraced Christianity for himself and decreed it for his kingdom (c. 330 A.D.), his nation had already constituted a large number of Christians.
- a. The Acts of the Apostles describe the baptism of an Ethiopian Finance Minister shortly after the death of Christ.

- b. Eusebius of Caesaria, the first church historian, in his "Ecclesiastical History," further tells of how the Finance Minister returned to diffuse the Christian teachings in his native land shortly after the Resurrection.
- c. Rome declared Christianity the state religion in 380 A.D.
- d. Armenia declared Christianity the state religion in 301 A.D.???
 - i. Armenia's claim on this title is primarily based upon the fifth-century work of Agathangelos titled "The History of the Armenians."
 - 1. In it, he says as an eyewitness that the Armenian King Trdat III decreed Christianity was the state religion.
 - 2. But, recent studies date "The History of the Armenians" to c. 450 A.D.,