



Turning Point
Bible Fellowship

Turning People Towards Christ

TURNINGPOINTBFC.ORG — 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

HOLY BIBLE

Black -n- History

Growing in fellowship and discipleship while studying God's impact through Blacks in History



Black in History

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
(Genesis 1:26-28 NASB95)



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Black -n- History

HOLY BIBLE

God gave ...

Dignity - Identity - Significance

... to Blacks in History



Black -n- History

Leaving for another ...

1. Why do black people leave the church?
2. Where do black people go?
3. What's the truth?



Origins

The Nation of Islam was founded in 1930 by Wallace D. Fard, whom NOI followers refer to as “the Master” and believed to be the second coming of Jesus Christ. “His mission was to teach the downtrodden and defenseless Black people a thorough Knowledge of God and of themselves, and to put them on the road to Self-Independence with a superior culture and higher civilization than they had previously experienced.”⁵⁵

The honorable Elijah Muhammed was his successor and led the movement from 1934–1975. It is a sect within the Muslim faith.



Common Reasons for Rejecting Christianity

American Christianity’s association with slavery, racism, and structures of oppression. They believe Christianity is like a whip in a white man’s hand to keep the black man in check because of passages like, “slaves obey your masters” or “submit to governing authorities” because they have been placed there by God (Col. 3:22; Rom. 13:1–2).



Sacred and/or Important Text

They believe in the Quran and the truth of the Bible but believe “it has been tampered with and must be reinterpreted so that mankind will not be snared by the falsehoods that have been added to it.”⁵⁶ When they say they believe in the truth of the Bible, they are not saying they believe the Bible is factually true. Instead, they are saying they believe the Bible has truth, in a general sense, to offer. Elijah Muhammad’s book, *A Message to the Blackman in America*, can be likened to a systematic theology book that lays out the primary beliefs of the Nation of Islam on God, humanity, salvation, the afterlife, and justice.



Doctrine of God

1. They believe that God, who they refer to as Allah, is a black man. They believe Fard was Allah in physical form.⁵⁷
2. They deny the deity of Christ and the triune nature of God as Father, Son, and Spirit. They believe that Jesus was historically a Muslim and not Jewish.



Doctrine of Humanity

1. They believe black people are superior to all other ethnicities, particularly the white race, because the black man was the original man and all other races were created from him.⁵⁸
2. They believe the white man is the devil.⁵⁹
3. They believe in justice and equality for all humans regardless of their ethnicity.⁶⁰



Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

They believe black people are the fulfillment of God’s promise to deliver Abraham’s people from slavery.⁶¹

They believe black people are “the people of God’s choice, as it has been written, that God would choose the rejected and the despised,” and that they will receive the resurrection of the righteous because of their ethnicity and their suffering.⁶²



Doctrine of the After Life

They believe in the mental—not the physical—resurrection of the dead, and believe that because they are the most in need of a mental resurrection, black people will be resurrected first.

They believe that Jesus was a Muslim and not a Jew, and that in the final judgement the white race and Christianity will be destroyed.⁶³



Doctrine of Justice

They believe in justice and equality for all humans regardless of their ethnicity.⁶⁴

58. Ibid, 52.

59. Ibid, 241.

60. What Muslims Want, Retrieved July 5, 2019 from <https://www.noi.org/muslim-program/>

61. Tynetta Muhammad, Brief History of the Origin of the Nation of Islam, Retrieved July 5th, 2019 from <https://www.noi.org/noi-history/>

62. Ibid.

63. Muhammad, 22.

64. What Muslims Want, Retrieved July 5, 2019 from <https://www.noi.org/muslim-program/>

55. Tynetta Muhammad, Brief History of the Origin of the Nation of Islam, Retrieved July 5th, 2019 from <https://www.noi.org/noi-history/>

56. Elijah Muhammad, *Message to the Blackman in America* (Irving, TX: Secretarius MEMPS Publication, 1965 and 1975) 163.

57. Ibid, 5.



Origins

The Hebrew Israelites trace their origins back to the Pre-Civil War Era. Their primary leaders were Frank Cherry and William Saunders Crowdy, who both believed they were commissioned as prophets by God to reveal to black people that they were the true descendants of the Hebrews spoke of in the Bible.⁶⁵ There are currently a variety of different branches of Hebrew Israelites across the country.



Common Reasons for Rejecting Christianity

Some have likened today's rise of Hebrew Israelites to that of the Nation of Islam during the Civil Rights movement, given that both of these groups are passionate about addressing the horrors of racism in America.⁶⁶ However, Hebrew Israelites don't outright reject Christianity. Instead, they have reshaped the narrative of Scripture in a way that lifts up their blackness and suffering as "*the way*" to God and excludes those who are not black or who haven't shared in the suffering of black folks from accessing eternal life.



Sacred and/or Important Text

Many believe that the King James Version of the Bible is the only authentic version, while also affirming the Apocrypha.



Doctrine of God

1. They believe God's true name is *Yah*, and that in order to be saved a person must call on the true name of Jesus in Hebrew, which is *Yahshuah Ben Yah*.
2. Many adherents reject the triune nature of God, that God is the only Supreme Being, and that Jesus was just a man.⁶⁷



Doctrine of Humanity

They believe "Black people are the true Israelites from the tribe of Judah" and this truth was lost as a result of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.¹



Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

"The Black Hebrew Israelites typically believe that the Trans-Atlantic slave trade is a biblical prophecy fulfilled in our American context."²



Doctrine of the After Life

Many do not believe in a literal hell, but instead view the present as the white man's heaven and the black man's hell. When Jesus returns, he will gather all of Israel (black people) back to the Promised Land.³

65. J. David Bleich, *Black Jews: A Halakhic Perspective*, Retrieved July 12, 2019 from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23258489>

66. Jamal Hopkins, "Hebrew Israelites, KJV, & Black Identity" [Audio Podcast] Retrieved from <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/jude-3-project/id978012810?i=1000430326874> (January 2019)

67. Joe Carter, 9 Things You Should Know About Black Hebrew Israelites, Retrieved July 12, 2019 from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-black-hebrew-israelites/>

1. Ryan Turner, *Black Hebrew Israelites*, Retrieved July 20, 2019 from https://carm.org/black-hebrew-israelites#footnote4_z4rqeh3

2. Cam Triggs, 10 Things to Study Before Engaging Hebrew Israelites, Retrieved July 15, 2019 from <http://www.jude3project.com/blog/10thingstostudybhi>

3. Ryan Turner, *Black Hebrew Israelites*, Retrieved July 20, 2019 from https://carm.org/black-hebrew-israelites#footnote4_z4rqeh3

Kemeticism



Origins

Kemeticism was revived in the late 1980s by Rev. Tamara L. Siuda, who kemets refer to as Hemet (an ancient Egyptian word translated either as “majesty” or “sacred incarnation”). It’s important to note, due to its peculiarity, that Rev. Siuda is a white woman. The kemets believe she was hand-picked by the Netjer (their supreme diety) to “revive Kemet’s long-forgotten ways . . . to a modern world sorely in need of it.”¹



Common Reasons for Rejecting Christianity

Believe that Christianity is an appropriation of Egyptian religions, and that it has stolen the religious legacy of people of African descent. This idea of appropriation is ever so appealing to people of African descent, given the plethora of modern examples in which white people have used certain elements of black culture for profit (i.e., Hip Hop, cornrows, big hips and lips).



Sacred and/or Important Text

There is no sacred text associated with Kemeticism. Instead they believe in a “fluid understanding of balance, truth, and justice.”



Doctrine of God

Kemeticism is polytheistic, which means they believe in many gods and goddesses. However, they do believe these deities can work together as one divine source, whom they refer to as Netjer.²

Pan-Africanism



Origins

The ideals of Pan-Africanism were formed in the 1850s and grew into a social and political movement that sought to reconnect African-Americans with their African roots. Though these ideals were constructed by several individuals, W. E. B. DuBois has been named the father of Pan-Africanism.⁶⁸ Today, Dr. Umar Johnson is one of the main figures of Pan-Africanism, and is affectionately referred to as “Popa” — “the prince of Pan-Africanism.”⁶⁹



Common Reasons for Rejecting Christianity

Pan-Africanism isn’t so much of a rejection of Christianity, but a celebration of everything black! It is possible for a person to be both a Christian and someone who hold to ideals of Pan-Africanism. The danger is when these ideals are presented either apart from or in elevation over a biblical worldview. Several people are drawn to this ideology because it deeply affirms their blackness in a world that rarely does. If anything they would reject Christianity because historically it has demeaned, devalued, abused, and misinterpreted blackness.

1. Rev. Tamara Siuda, Retrieved July 20, 2019 from <http://www.kemet.org/nisut-biography>

2. What is Kemetic Othodoxy?, Retrieved July 20, 2019 from <http://www.kemet.org/about>

68. Peter Kuryla, Pan-Africanism, Retrieved July 15, 2019 from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pan-Africanism>

69. Jerome Gay, “The Theology of Umar Johnson” [Audio Podcast] Retrieved from <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-fr752-64a238> (November 2016).



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Black -n- History

Leaving for another ...

What themes of identity, dignity and significance do you see in the other religions and cults?



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Black -n- History

Leaving for another ...

What identity, dignity and
significance is offered in the bible?

Christianity



ORIGINS

Christianity, which was originally referred to as “The Way,” was founded by Jesus Christ between 1–4 B.C (Acts 9:2, 19:9). Jesus was a descendent of David according to the flesh, and was proclaimed to be the Son of God through His resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:1–3). It can even be argued that Christianity started centuries prior to Jesus’ resurrection given that Jesus was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Adam and Eve that they would have a descendent, who would crush the head of their enemy, death and God’s promise to Abraham to bless all the nations through his descendants.



PRIMARY BELIEFS

- 1** We believe in God the Father, who is the creator of heaven and earth and Lord over all creation.
- 2** We believe God the Son, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, was both fully human and divine.
- 3** We believe in His substitutionary death for all of those who would put their trust in His sacrifice on the cross for their salvation. We believe in His bodily resurrection and expect Him to return to execute justice.
- 4** We believe that Jesus is the only way to God based on His profession that He alone is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one will come to the Father except through Him.
- 5** We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who was present at creation, participated in the resurrection, and now lives in God’s people, enabling them to live the Christian life and proclaim the good news to those far from Him.
- 6** We believe that the Old and New Testaments together are the inspired Word of God, that it is infallible in matter of life and practice, and inerrant in its original form.
- 7** We believe Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, not a particular ethnic group.
- 8** We believe in a heaven and hell, and that those who put their faith in Jesus Christ prior to their death or His second coming will experience eternal life with Christ in heaven forever, while those who don’t will spend eternity in hell apart from God.
- 9** We believe God has commissioned every believer to be an ambassador for Him and has empowered each of them to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the uttermost parts of the world.