

B I B L E   S T U D Y   S E R I E S

# URBAN APOLOGETICS

*A Practical Guide to Defending the Faith  
in a Culture That's Asking Hard Questions*

Built on the framework of Dr. Eric Mason's

**URBAN APOLOGETICS: RESTORING BLACK DIGNITY WITH THE GOSPEL**

*"Always be ready to give a  
defense"*

1 PETER 3:15

ZION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

# What Is Urban Apologetics?

*Defending the faith where the streets ask the loudest questions.*

## DEFINITION

Urban apologetics is the work of defending the Christian faith against the cultural, historical, and ethnic objections raised in the Black community and urban context — restoring dignity, identity, and truth through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

— *Dr. Eric Mason*

## THE THREE GATEWAYS

### SIGNIFICANCE

*Why am I here? What's my purpose?*

### DIGNITY

*What is my value? Am I seen?*

### IDENTITY

*Who am I — really?*

# Why This Conversation Can't Wait

THE INTERNET

# IS URBAN.

*Urban is no longer a zip code. TikTok, YouTube, and IG have made urban thought global. Every believer — country or city — now meets these questions.*

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## Dignity Destruction

1

Centuries of racism left scars Western Christianity didn't always name or heal.

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## Disinterested Youth

2

Many young Black adults are walking away — not from God, but from a faith they feel was handed down by their oppressors.

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## Bootleg Truth

3

Revisionist history, half-truths, and conspiracy theology spread faster than Sunday sermons.

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## Identity Hunger

4

When the church won't speak to who you are, somebody else will.

Source: [Key Life — Why We Need Urban Apologetics](#), [ChurchLeaders — Eric Mason interview](#)

# The Believer's Mandate

1 PETER 3:15

*"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."*

**READY**

JUDE 1:3

*"Beloved... I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."*

**RESOLUTE**

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

*"Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."*

**RELENTLESS**

# GROUP ACTIVITY

# 01

"WHO SAID WHAT?"

## The Belief Sort

TIME

15 MIN

GROUPS OF

3 - 4

NEEDED

Index cards, pen

### THE SETUP

Try and list 8 statements you have heard from opponents of Christianity.

### THE CHALLENGE

Sort each statement under the worldview you think it belongs to. Then — find one verse that responds to each.

### THE DEBRIEF

*Was anything harder to place than you expected? Where does truth get borrowed and bent? Read Acts 17:22-28 together — Paul's playbook in Athens.*

# Meet the Mindsets at the Table

*Six contemporary voices challenging the faith — none of them small, none of them silent.*

<b>BRIC</b>	<b>BRIC</b>	<b>MYSTIC</b>
<b>Nation of Islam</b>  <i>"Christianity is the white man's religion."</i>	<b>Hebrew Israelites</b>  <i>"Black people are the true biblical Israel."</i>	<b>Kemeticism</b>  <i>"Christianity stole from ancient Egypt."</i>
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>	<b>WORLDVIEW</b>	<b>CULTURE</b>
<b>Black Liberation Theology</b>  <i>"God is Black, on the side of the oppressed only."</i>	<b>Black Atheism / Deconstruction</b>  <i>"Faith is a relic of slavery; reason replaces it."</i>	<b>Prosperity Gospel</b>  <i>"Faith is a transaction — God owes you wealth."</i>

# Nation of Islam

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THE CLAIM

*"The white man is the devil. Christianity is slavemaster religion. W.D. Fard was God in person, Elijah Muhammad his messenger."*

THE PRACTICAL RESPONSE

## Three Pillars • Painted with Truth

### P PERSON

Jesus is not a prophet pointing forward to Fard — He is God in flesh, raised from death. (John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9)

### P PEDIGREE

Christianity was in Africa before it was in Europe — Alexandria, Ethiopia, Nubia. It is not the slavemaster's religion. (Acts 8:26-39)

### P POWER

Real liberation isn't ethnic separation — it's the Spirit who frees every nation, tongue and tribe. (Galatians 3:28; Revelation 7:9)

Source: [Zondervan Academic](#) — [Urban Apologetics](#), [On My Walk](#) review

# Hebrew Israelites

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THE CLAIM

*"African Americans are the real Israel. The 'white Jesus' is a counterfeit. Salvation is by keeping the Law — and only for us."*

THE PRACTICAL RESPONSE

## Genealogy • Grace • Globalness

### GENEALOGY

Scripture traces Israel through Shem, not Ham. (Gen. 10:1-26; 1 Chron. 1:17-27) The story is bigger than skin tone.

### GRACE

Salvation has never been earned by law-keeping — Abraham was justified by faith before the Law existed. (Romans 4:1-5; Galatians 3:11)

### GLOBALNESS

The true Israel of God is everyone in Christ — Jew and Gentile, every shade, one family. (Galatians 6:16; Ephesians 2:14-16)

Source: [Jude 3 Project](#) — Engaging BHJ