

Africa, the Bible and the Neo-Paganism of the West

By

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Introduction:

Africa at a Cultural and Spiritual Crossroads

“And you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:1-2).

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand “(Eph. 6:12-13).

Cosmic forces (“principalities and powers in high places”) have locked horns. There is an upheaval in the global moral spiritual sphere. Humanity is teetering on the brink of a moral abyss. The above scriptures speak deeply to this truth.

We have reached a point in our ‘social evolution’ where personal choice without regard for accepted moral values or social norms has become the only legitimate view of life. Traditional and spiritual values no longer apply universally.

The West which continues to lead the world by the nose – as a carry-over from its imperialistic past when it stomped the earth, conquering and creating colonies – has come far in this respect. It has given official approval to behaviours and lifestyles long held to be deviant and abnormal in both the Bible and society in general. Through laws passed by their legislative assemblies

(parliament) and rulings handed down by judges, Western governments have legalized ‘same-sex marriage as well as given recognition to transgenders (among other ‘trans’ groups) all in the name of human and civil rights. In the process, the lines between perversity and decency have been blurred. The standard view of morality in the West today is that each individual is entitled to his own chosen way of life, even if it borders on the animalistic!

Everyone is a ‘god’ to himself where each person draws up his own moral rules. In this sense, the Bible is deemed an archaic book of fables; it can no longer dictate to anyone how to live their life.

Paganism is re-emerging from the shadows in a Western world that has forgotten God and turned its back on the truths of the Christian faith. Full-sized 3D-printed versions of the *Arch of Baal* (an ancient Canaanite sun-god) have adorned the skylines of New York City, London, Dubai and Washington D.C. in recent months—with plans to erect replicas of the arch in many other locations around the world. Not to be upstaged, The Satanic Temple of the U.S.A on 16th August, 2018 displayed, for a few hours, a statue of the goat-headed demon *Baphomet* at the Arkansas State Capitol Building at Little Rock.

Where does Africa stand in all of this? Where do we fit in the global moral cultural war?

For some ‘enlightened’ Africans who are in all probability agnostic (unsure of the existence of God), we ought to do away with the ‘restrictive’ religio-cultural rules of the Bible. After all, they argue, these were imposed on us in the colonial era by the West which has of late been pressurizing our governments to remove them from our national laws.

On the other hand, traditional African religionists assert that the direction should be backward – not forward. To move forward in the direction of Western liberalism is to subject ourselves perennially to the cultural imperialism of the West. So backward we should go – go back for the beliefs and practices of traditional African religion bordering on idolatry.

In between these two diametrically opposed views of the moral cultural spiritual direction Africa should take stands the Bible-believing African Christian. While we will not accept the now godless, loose morality of the West, we will also not side with the African traditionalists. We represent an entirely different civilization, not of this world but of heaven.

But curiously, I believe in going back, going further and further back to where it all began. It is a command of scripture to obey:

“Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask about the ancient paths, ‘Which one is the good way?’ Take it, and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘we will not take it’” (Yirmeyahu [Jer.] 6:16 CJB).

As we go back using the guide-posts of history, scripture and culture, we will uncover a truth uncomfortable to both camps earlier mentioned – the pro-West African liberals and agnostics and the pro-animist African traditionalists.

Christianity is not a foreign cultural imposition but very indigenous to Africa. Its vital and elevating life principles resonate with our collective cultural consciousness on many levels.

A missionary Dr. H. Ph. Junod wrote of his experiences in many parts of Africa:

“‘Wherever I went I found that my Master had been there before me’. This is true also for the history of Christianity in Ghana. Christ was there before the arrival of the missionaries” (Hans W. Debrunner, *A History of Christianity in Ghana*, 1967, p.1).

That’s a wonderful observation. The Saviour, God’s Messiah, was already here in Africa in the moral and cultural life of our peoples before the European missionaries rebranded Him in their own image for us. Yes, Christ was here before the advent of European Christianity in Africa. But where is Africa headed as the Western-led world drifts away from the grand old truths of the scriptures?

The time has come to retrace our steps to the ancient paths of truths.

The Black African presence in the Bible is as old as the creation story of the Bible itself. This is where everything comes full circle; this is where the search begins and the search ends. The African moral and spiritual perspective of life is largely shaped by the values of the Hebrew God of the Bible. He is the I AM, and the I AM in Akan idiom is likened to the thumb without which no knot can be tied. Simply put, it’s impossible to eliminate God from the African psyche. The reality of His being is too deeply ingrained in our self-consciousness to deny it without upsetting our sense of reality!

Africa's God is alive – the same universal God of creation Western society has largely turned their backs on.

But then, everyone should know which direction they are going. To their roots and to our true roots – in the scriptures of truth.

Welcome on board this adventure of truth discovery about Africa's place in the Biblical history of redemption as well as the right response to the spiritual darkness settling across Western civilization.

Yeshua (Jesus) is the Light of the world. Whoever follows Him not walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12). Amen.

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Edenic Africa

The land mass called 'Africa' played host to great Biblical personalities long before Europe had any 'formal' encounter with the true and living God.

Africa formed an integral part of the famous Garden of Eden God made for mankind, earning 'Ethiopia' an early mention in the Bible along with the rivers Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia. We read in Genesis Chapter Two:

¹⁰ “And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

¹¹ “The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

¹² “And the gold of that land is good; there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

¹³ “And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

¹⁴“And the name of the third river is Hiddekel [or Tigris]: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates” (vv. 10-14).

Scripture delineates the boundaries of Eden as stretching from Ethiopia to Mesopotamia, which is located “east” of Israel (see Gen. 2:8).

The God of the scriptures is not alien to Africa. Indeed, it was on a strip of this land that He declared, “Let there be light and there was light”, which among other acts of creation culminated in a world of life and beauty.

So although the light of His truth might go out elsewhere, it will not happen in this land or in adjoining Israel which is, properly speaking, located in *north-east Africa*. The prophetic call of destiny cannot fail:

“Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God” (Ps 68:31).

The Princes of Africa are allied with the great King who rules from Jerusalem, the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Ps 68:29). Our upraised hands of prayer and praise will not go unheeded.

Africa is destined for greatness and glory, despite all the exploitation and deception and manipulation by dark evil forces. Africa’s light will break through the walls of darkness!

Biblical Personalities were Dark-skinned People

It might come as a surprise to many, but the great personalities of the scriptures were all black in colour, not pale or white. And these were not persons who were mentioned later on in the chronicles of salvation history.

It began at the beginning – with Adam himself. His very name “Adam” (Hebrew *Awdam*) gives him away as dark in skin colour.

Adam means “red earth” in Hebrew, for that was the colour of his skin from the red soil he was made from. That would also make ‘Chavvah’ (meaning ‘life-giver’ transliterated as ‘Eve’) of the same colour.

Since humans pass on their genetic traits to their offspring, it can safely be deduced that the earliest human populations centred around the early Bible world of Kush (Ethiopia), Israel and Mesopotamia were all dark-skinned peoples.

These are the Afro-Asiatic, Semitic-Hamitic nations that would come to dominate much of Bible history. They were literally ‘Adamites, since in Hebrew the word ‘Adam’ (Strong’s #119, #120) may also refer to “any human being or genetically the human race”, apart from referring to the first man or a male person (*Strong’s Complete Word Study Concordance*, p. 1805, AMG 2004).

No wonder, Moses was revealed to be a dark-skinned person when, as a sign from God, his hands turned leprous white like snow (similar to vitiligo disease) in contrast to the rest of his skin (Ex. 4:6). Otherwise, how is it possible for white to show on white?

It was the same with Miriyam when Yah punished her with the same vitiligo-like leprosy (Num. 12:10) as well as with Gehazi, Prophet Elisha’s greedy servant (2 Kings 5:25-27).

Interestingly, David was said to be “ruddy” (a word which shares the same Hebrew root word with ‘adam’) as an uncommon characteristic which contrasted with the dark skin tones of the general Israelite population of ancient times.

In its entry on the word “ruddy”, the *New Compact Bible Dictionary* states:

“Ruddy, a word used to refer to a red or fair complexion, in contrast to the dark skin of the Hebrews (1 Sam. 16:12, 17:42; S. of Sol.5:10)” (p. 510, Zondervan 1967).

Fast-forward to our present time, and a recent archaeological discovery in Israel has shed light on the physical appearance of Yeshua (Jesus) when He walked the earth. Under the headline “‘Jesus was Black’ Reveal Newly found Manuscript”, the Israeli-Jewish news site *Jews News* reported in an August 30, 2015 post that newly discovered documents, believed to have been written and left behind by first-century Jewish group the Essenes, “describe the son of Mary as of a ‘darker color’ of skin than her [sic] parents”. A fragment of the scrolls goes on to say that “the infant was of the color of the night”. To which another adds: “In the dark of the night, nothing could be seen of the infant except of the white of his eyes.” According to the website, the groundbreaking documents were uncovered by a team of archaeologists from the University of Tel Aviv led by Prof. Hans

Schummer (<https://www.jewnews.co.il/2015/08/03/jesus-was-black-reveal-newly-found-manuscript.html>).

However, the researchers came far behind the Holy Spirit, and their work has only been to confirm what scripture has already revealed about the appearance of Jesus:

“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

“His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;

“And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters” (Rev. 1:13-15).

Christ’s woolly hair, fiery reddish eyes and a bronze skin tone which looked as though burned in a furnace will only produce an Afro-Hebrew black man, not the pale white Europeanized Jesus sporting long flowing hair!.

As recently as November 2018, that popularized Europeanized image of Jesus has again been disproved by yet another archaeological find in Israel. The discovery made in Israel’s Negev desert (southern Israel) on the site of an ancient church is a painting of Christ’s face which depicts Him as “a short-haired youth”. Touching on the significance of the find, archaeological experts from Israel’s University of Haifa explained that “Christ’s face in this painting is an important discovery in itself. It belongs to the iconographic scheme of a short-haired Christ, which was especially widespread in Egypt and Syro-Palestine, but gone from later Byzantine art” (www.foxnews.com/science/jesus-the-Israeli-desert.amp).

In other words, the painting predates the now familiar iconographic image of Jesus as a white European.

The truth has come out. The Messiah is a short-haired black man by the three-fold testimony of scripture, history and archaeology. (See Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1). If so, it is only fitting that we give due recognition to the Afro-Hebrew cultural context in which He lived, taught and worked.

In fact, that is the larger setting for the entire Bible story.

Biblical Customs are African

If there is any land with which Israel is intimately connected geographically, culturally and, yes, ethnically to a considerable degree, it must be one land – Africa.

Israel is not in heaven; it is on earth, and it is joined to Africa at the continent's north-east extremity. Before the construction of the Suez Canal, which was completed in 1869, one could walk overland from Egypt to Israel. Indeed, if not for the plan of the God to keep Israel from hostile armies along the way, the Israelites could have taken something like two weeks to travel en masse from Egypt to Canaan (Ex.13:17-18).

But the relationship goes beyond geographical proximity. The Biblical customs of Israel are widely acknowledged and practised in numerous African communities – from the Akans in West Africa to the Lemba in southern Africa – because those African communities are mostly peopled by descendants of ancient Israelites who fled from war and persecution back home in the land of Israel.

While Israel and Hamitic African nations as close neighbours must have routinely interacted resulting in a fair interpenetration of ideas and genes (Ex. 12:37-38; Lev.24:10; Num. 12:1; Jer.38:7-10), the mass influx of Israelite refugees into mainland Africa only peaked around 70 AD and 135 AD. These are significant, epoch-making dates in Jewish history that changed the course of Israel's national life.

70 AD was the year in which Roman troops, who had laid siege to Jerusalem (Luke 21:20), breached the walls of the city, put the population to the edge of the sword and burnt down the temple. Captured survivors were then sold into slavery, while many fled southwards into Africa and elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

The years 132 AD to 135 AD saw another Roman-Jewish war – with more devastating results! In the year 132 AD, a man named Bar Kochba, a false Messiah, launched an attack on the Romans with the intention of freeing Judea from Roman rule and establishing an independent Jewish kingdom. The determined army of Jews fought bravely, but they were no match for the imperial power of Rome. The Roman army brutally crushed the rebellion, whereupon Emperor Hadrian

expelled Jews from the land, renamed Judea *Palestina* (having merged it with the Syria-Palestina Roman province) and Jerusalem *Aelia Capitolina*.

That was the end of Jewish nationhood in her own homeland. The unpalatable results of the war and the resultant draconian policies of Rome set a second mass wave of Jewish refugees fleeing into Africa. From east and north Africa, notably Egypt, where there was already a thriving Jewish community (Jer. 44; Acts 18:24), some of the Hebrews began pushing westward into the Western Sudan (or Western Africa) around 300 AD, where they founded great empires like the old Ghana Empire. Author Rudolph R. Windsor writes in his book *From Babylon to Timbuktu*:

“The Arabs, Moors, and Sudanic writers attribute to ancient black African Hebrews the establishment of the first empires, ‘the erection of the first public buildings in the country, the construction of the first canals and irrigation systems, and the institution of a social economic regime which still survives in all Saharan communities’.

“...The Jews imported into the Western part of Africa a superior material, educational and moral culture soon after 300 AD. ... The Jews made use of every opportunity; they were industrious and skillful people. In the Jewish Ghanaian states were found kings, princes, governors, generals, secretaries, treasurers, revenue agents, judges, architects, engineers, doctors, historians, language interpreters, mathematicians, jewelers, sculptors, masons, carpenters, painters of art, goldsmiths, leather-workers, porters, armorers, saddlers, blacksmiths, agriculturalists, et cetera” (pp. 87-91).

The African-Hebrew Ghana Empire would flourish for some seven hundred years until the year 1076 AD when it fell under the blow of Almoravid (Arab) forces led by Abu Bekr; it was the culmination of a 40-year campaign of attacks by Arab invaders (particularly intense between 1020-1040 AD)!

“The victory of Abu Bekr and his Almoravid forces in 1076 was a high-water mark in West African history. It resulted in the southward march of several tribes, including the Akan group – the Ashantis, Fantis, Akims, Akwawapims, Akwamus,

and Gyamans. The Akans live roughly 1,000 miles south-west of their original home.

“The Ashantis settled in the middle of the Gold Coast; the Akims (or Akyems) and Akwapims settled in the south-eastern regions of the country, and the Fantis in the middle and coastal region.Techiman in Ashanti (or Brong) was the first town, and was built by the combined efforts of the Akan group of tribes” (J.C. deGraft-Johnson, *African Glory*, Black Classic Press 1986, p.83).

Today, the African Israelites of the old Ghana Empire are known as Ghanaians, Ivorians, Togolese, etc. While they have lost their original Hebrew language, except for a few choice words, they have preserved in the face of modernity their Hebraic customs and traditions in the traditional palaces and other aspects traditional everyday life. (For more on the subject, request our free booklet *Africans, the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel*).

A few of the Hebraic customs have been listed below:

- The seventh-day Sabbath – the universal badge of Jewish identity throughout history – is traditionally acknowledged as the special day of *tweadeampong Kwame* (Saturday-born God Almighty) set aside for rest and worship (Ex. 31:16-17; Luke 4:16, 31; Heb. 4:9).
- Statues of lions are erected in front of traditional palaces as an identifying symbol linking traditional African kingdoms to the Davidic-Solomonic dynasty of Israel, for it was not so done in any other kingdom (1 Kings 10:18-20).
- The royal palanquin used to carry traditional African chiefs dates back to the days of King Solomon (Shlomo) who made a palanquin for himself (Songs 3:9).
- Traditional African queen-mothers don't put on earrings, since from the scriptural and cultural point of view, earrings are a token of slavery (Ex.21:6/Deut. 15:12-17; 1 Pet. 3:3-5).
- African kings sit in state surrounded by their elders echoing the Royal Court of 24 Elders in heaven (Rev 4:3-4).
- The 24-hour period of a “day” is reckoned from sunset to sunset (Gen. 1:5), instead of from 12-midnight to 12-midnight, a change effected by the antichrists of Europe (Dan. 7:25).

- Traditional chiefs rest their feet on a footstool, an image the scriptures employ in presenting the earth as God’s footstool (Isa. 66:1; 1 Chron. 28:2; Ps 99:5).
- The Royal Sceptre of Yehuda (Judah) is in the hands of traditional African rulers (Gen. 49:10; Matt 19:27-28; Rev. 21:24), whereas in Europe kingship is a quaint fading institution – and that to be found in only a few countries.
- The Hebrew word for money *Shekel* has perpetuated itself in the Twi and Ga dialects of Ghana, where the words for money are ‘sika’ and ‘shika’ respectively.
- Traditional linguists punctuate the Asantehene’s (King of Asante’s) speech with interjections of ‘Tziyon’, ‘Tziyon’ (i.e. Zion, Zion), unwittingly recalling the kingdom’s connection with the royal city of David, “the stronghold of Zion” (2 Sam. 5:7; Ps. 137:1).
- The 7 rams’ horns (*shofars*) first blown by the priests of Israel under Joshua are still blown at traditional gatherings of the Asantehene and other traditional chiefs (Josh. 6:1-5; Rev. 8:1-2).

And this is only a truncated list of Israelite customs still observed in Africa as a testament to our Hebrew heritage.

We have already seen why we ended up in West Africa. The 70 AD and 135 AD invasions and massacres of the people of Judah forced our ancestors to flee into continental Africa, even though some were sold into slavery in Europe, where already significant numbers of Diaspora Jews lived (see James 1:1; Acts 2:5-11, 6:1; 18:1-2).

African Israelites and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Scripture attributes the calamity which befell first-century Judea to one overarching factor: the national rejection of Yeshua Messiah together with disobedience to God. Accordingly, the Messiah warned them:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

“For I say unto you, Ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matt. 23:37-39).

In Luke 21:22-24, He spoke in a plainer prophetic language about the disaster about to befall the Jewish nation:

“For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

“But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”.

The “captivity” mentioned in the text meant more than dispersion into all nations as prisoners of war. It also applied to a specific prophecy earlier given in the scriptures about how Israelite slaves would be transported by sea to Egypt to be sold again.

As part of a number of curses that would happen to the descendants of the Israelites for their disobedience, Yahweh forewarned through Moses:

“And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shall see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you” (Deut. 28:68).

It needs no special knowledge to conclude that this prophesied enslavement, which is actually a slave trade, is not a reference to the post-Joseph historical enslavement in Egypt. First, they had just left Egypt only some years back after 430 years in bondage (Ex. 12:40). Second, travelling from Israel (Canaan) to Egypt did not require the use of ships as the two countries shared a common land boundary one could easily cross on foot. And, in fact, Jacob and his household journeyed into Egypt at the time of the famine on horse-drawn carts (Gen. 45:27; 46:5-6).

So this must mean a different “Egypt”, but with the same or similar conditions of oppression and enslavement as the original. The time of fulfilment must also be different – set in a prophetic period known as “the days of vengeance” which were destined to come upon the disobedient Israelites.

Now, when the time was ripe for the prophecy of the systematic trade in captured Israelites to be fulfilled, it was fulfilled nowhere but in West Africa – among descendants of Israelites who had fled the Holy Land in 70 AD and 135 AD escaping the sword and captivity of Rome and, much later, of the Almoravid invaders!.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was carried out by European powers against African Hebrews from 1434 to 1834, a period of 400 years. It was an untold human tragedy involving indescribable cruelty, torture, deaths and suffering, right from the forced marches in chains from the interior to the hellish dungeons of the slave castles dotting the West African coastline. From here, the slaves were closely packed like sardines between the decks of ships (often chained in pairs) and transported across the Atlantic Ocean to the slave auction markets in the Americas.

Little did our fathers realize that they were fulfilling a divine prophecy. It shows the high cost of disobedience – so much so that the end of slavery has not brought to an end the suffering of the African Israelite, who is still ignorant of his true identity. (See Deut. 28:43-44, 46). Poverty, disease, war, suffering and deprivation continue to plague the continent of Africa. But the wonder is that, despite all the unfavourable circumstances Africans find themselves in, Africans' spirituality is high.

As a matter of fact, Christianity is booming in sub-Saharan Africa – the good, the bad and the ugly all lumped together. A spark from the past refuses to go out!

African Christianity Draws on an Ancient Heritage

Whatever we may make of Africans' spirituality – that it's born of ignorance or driven by a search for the good life in the miracle promises of the new breed of home-grown African prophets, or that it's misplaced faith in spiritual solutions where education or critical thinking should be the answer – there is no doubt that Africans' spirituality is something innate, something spontaneous and natural; not a fake feeling.

It runs in our blood, passed on from our forefathers. But that spirituality is not a mere affinity for religion, but one rooted in a relationship with the living God of Israel. This is because we have proven from scripture, history and our cultural practices that we are the descendants of the ancient Israelites with whom God established a covenant relationship (Ex. 19:4-6; Deut. 11:26-28).

And wherever we have been in Africa – since our forefathers fled the Holy Land – we have carried in one form or another the torch of divine light in our hearts, memories and culture, however faint the glow has been! Whether 'borrowed' pagan rites have been superimposed on it, or we have carried on with corrupted forms of Israelite customs, the fact remains that we have remained God conscious.

Regard for the Creator God and indispensable His role in the affairs of mankind pervades our cultural beliefs and practices. This (Akan) world view is summed up in the Akan saying, ‘*Obi nkyere akwadaa Nyame*’. Namely, no one need show God to a child. That is to say, knowledge of God is an inborn quality of man, an imprint of the human spirit on the consciousness. (See Romans. 1:19-21; Job 12:7-11).

And so life itself will grind to a halt without a conscious and formal relationship with *boadee Nyankopon* (the Creator God).

To date, this has been a distinguishing feature of Israelite-descended communities on the continent. The first Jewish communities in Africa, pre and post 70 AD, were first formed in North Africa, a place frequented for thousands of years by biblical figures from Abraham to Moses and the Israelites to the infant Yeshua and His human parents. True to character, those communities quickly rose to prominence as a bastion of the Biblical faith, impacting the wider world far into the future.

In his book *How Africa shaped the Christian Mind*, Prof. Thomas C. Oden wrote:

“The Diaspora Jews residing in the Nile Delta were a very large community. The great Cappadocian writers [who lived in the province of Cappadocia, Acts 2:9, located in present-day Turkey] ... relied especially on the Jewish and Jewish-Christian communities who had for generations been thoroughly indigenized in Africa.

“Many Jews had lived multiple generations in Africa, especially in the great international city of Alexandria [in Egypt] for two or three centuries before the coming of Christianity. This is evident from their extraordinarily influential translation into Greek of the Old Testament, the Septuagint. At its apex the brilliant Jewish intellectual tradition of Africa produced Philo with his approach to biblical events and metaphors. This Jewish community became a seedbed of preparation for the gospel that would echo throughout world Christianity” (p.47).

A world-famous centre of theological learning (which also had the unappalled Library of Alexandria), some of the African theological giants North African Christianity produced during the early centuries of the post-apostolic era included Athanasius, Arius, Cyprian, Tertullian,

Origen and Augustine. While we cannot vouch for their theological ideas on all points, it certainly speaks volumes about the ecclesiastical leadership role North Africa played in early Christian history.

The Modern Catholic Encyclopedia has this to say:

“... In its first centuries of existence, the early church was an African church with martyrs, bishops, and popes in and from north and east Africa” (1994, pp. 97-98).

Today, nearly all North Africa is Arabized and Islamized. So, what happened to the pulsating Jewish-Christian culture that thrived there for centuries? Where did it end up?

Islamic Conquest of North Africa and the Flight across the Sahara (and Further Down South)

Pushing irresistibly from Arabia, Islam, founded in 622 AD, arrived in Egypt in 639 AD on a mission of conquest. In three short years, Egypt fell to the sword of the Islamic warriors, with Pelusium falling in 639, old Cairo falling in 641, and Alexandria in 642 with the concomitant destruction of its famous library.

From this point on, the Arab-Islamic expansionist campaign of conquest in North Africa proceeded rather rapidly: Cyrenaica, Tripoli, Sabratha, Eastern Fezzan – all in present-day Libya – fell in 643-656; Alexandria’s Cathedral of St. Mark was burnt in 646; portions of the Maghreb (presently comprising the North African countries of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauretania) were conquered in 647; Byzacena captured in 669; and Carthage captured in 695-698 (both in present-day Tunisia/Tunis).

By 708 AD, the Arab conquest of North Africa was complete. In Egypt, higher taxes were imposed on the “Dhimmi” (non-Muslim subjects of an Islamic state). By the 780s, Arabic was the only recognized language in Egypt resulting in the Arabization of Coptic, the native tongue. Coptic (Christian) martyrdoms soon followed (789-808).

What befell the Jewish tribes of Arabia when the 10,000 Jews of Medina refused to convert would now befall their Jewish (and Christian) compatriots domiciled in the northern stretch of Africa. The prophet had them either annihilated or deported uprooting them from the Arabian Peninsula.

In the wake of the Islamic push into Africa, a similar displacement of non-Muslims occurred across North Africa. Only Christian Ethiopia remained unconquered. The Christians of Nubia (located between present-day northern Sudan and southern Egypt) also staved off the Islamists. Not because the Arabs suddenly lost interest in further expansion, but because diplomacy prevailed. After several failed invasions by the Arabs, Christian Nubians and the ruling Arabs in Egypt agreed in the year 652 that the city of Aswan on the Nile should mark the southern limit of Arab expansion. The treaty held for centuries until much later when Nubian Christianity collapsed in the 16th century through a combination of attacks and cultural infiltration by Arab invaders and religionists. The long and short of it is that North African Christianity, in the aftermath of the Muslim conquest, had been effectively uprooted.

To the south, the bulk of the Christian-Jewish population fled across the Sahara for refuge in the then still flourishing Afro-Jewish kingdoms of the Western Sudan enriching the Hebrew culture there even further. Regrettably, though, the Library of Alexandria had been burnt down destroying its literary traditions and texts which they could have brought over – assuming that was possible in a war situation.

And this was about the second mass flight of African Jews within the borders of the continent. The first was what we discussed earlier: the flight to the western part of the Sudan in the face of Roman persecution:

“Driven from Egypt by Roman conquerors they [the Jews in Africa] escaped to the south, to Nubia and the Sudan. And when the Muslims extended hegemony over all the northern part of Africa, except Ethiopia, they migrated further south into sub-Saharan Africa” (Charles E. Bradford, *Sabbath Roots The African Connection*, p.126).

This two-tiered mass flight of Black Jews from North Africa – separated by a gap of 500 years, not counting the numerous Black migrations as noted in Chancellor Williams’ classic, *The Destruction of Black Civilization* – created “a confluence or crossroad in west Africa, where men could exchange their culture, ideas, and merchandise. These Jewish migrations went on with great frequency about 300 A.D and they continued with the utmost regularity for twelve hundred years” (*From Babylon to Timbuktu*, p. 86-87).

Indeed, historical accounts suggest that Africa to the south of the Sahara, especially the fertile enclave between Senegal and the Niger rivers, was literally swarming with Jews and Jewish ways and states mixed up with cultural influences from pagan and Islamic societies.

However, as we noted earlier, this region would not be the final home of the rootless Black Jews of Africa. The Almoravids sent them packing once again in a southward direction, and that is where the oral history of the Akans of Ghana picks up the story:

“...Research by Historians like Dr. J.B Dankwa reveal that the Asante nation was among the group of people called the Akans. These Akan people migrated from the old Ghana Empire to the present Ghana. Some oral traditions even go further to state that the Akan migrated from Mesopotamia to Africa. They continue to state that the Akans either shared the same boundaries with the Israelites or were of the same stock as the Israelites before they migrated to Africa. According to them, they formed part of the old Ghana Empire. They moved southwards in search of arable land to farm. Other factors which hurried their southward movement were wars and desire for religious freedom” (Osei Kwadwo, *An Outline of Asante History Part 1* Second Edition 2000, p.1).

Even with the passage of time, the Akan collective memory maintains a consensus that their forefathers were not previously inhabitants of present-day Ghana (and parts of Cote D’Ivoire) but that they “inhabited the open country beyond the forest belt and farther north than Salaga. A northern and lighter-skinned people, which is commonly supposed to have been the Fulanis, commenced to encroach on their territory, and being stronger than they, sized their cattle and young women and made many of the others slaves. After a time, the Akans began to migrate in small parties into the forest, where they built villages and lived in hiding. ... The people continued to increase and gradually extended farther south until they had populated the forest belt and eventually reached the coast” (William Walton Claridge, *A History of the Gold Coast and Ashanti from the Earliest Times to the Commencement of the Twentieth Century*, London 1915, pp. 4-5).

“Farther north than Salaga” must well be close to the southern edge of the Sahara where the great Afro-Jewish Empire of Ghana, and her successor empires of Mali and Songhai, once flourished.

If so, is it surprising that the once vibrant Biblical faith and culture confined to North Africa has now found a home in sub-Saharan Africa, where the descendants of the Afro-Hebrew kingdoms now live?

Africa's Christian Belt Moves from North to Sub-Saharan Africa

Statistics suggest that the Christian population of sub-Saharan Africa is on an exponential growth path. By contrast, the Christian population of Europe is shrinking to its inevitable death, while America's is becoming anemic.

Of the total African population of 1,301, 576, 166 (1.3 billion), nearly 49% or 631 million are Christians, according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (U.S.A). By this latest figure, Africa has overtaken Latin America as the region with the highest Christian population (<https://aleteia.org/2018/07/24/africa-overtakes-latin-america-for-the-highest-christian-population>).

The future of global Christianity lies to the south of the equator, the southern hemisphere, which embraces both sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

As far as Africa is concerned, this is a future rooted in the past, a future which re-embraces, under new conditions and dynamics, the past Judeo-Christian heritage of Africa – nurtured north and south of the Sahara!

Yes, beyond Ethiopia and North Africa, Christian communities existed in parts of the Sudan and even further to the west.

From the vantage point of contemporary history, therefore, we have reached another full circle of a sorts. As it was in the first millennium of the Christian era when the major Christian population centres were concentrated in North Africa, so it is in sub-Saharan Africa in the second millennium of the Christian era. There has only been a geographical shift from the north to the south. And the one fascinating, but rarely acknowledged, reason is that the populations who imbibed the Judeo-Christian faith up north migrated down south following Muslim expansionist incursions, only to rediscover their lost heritage via the European missionaries, although adulterated with their European pagan traditions and imperialist agenda.

Christianity did not originate in Europe but in Africa (Israel); it then made a detour through Europe during the centuries of persecution and war against the African saints and finally found its way back battered and bastardized (corrupted)!

The good news is that no matter how, and in whatever form, our people received Christianity, the scriptures are there to guide and help us retrace our steps to the Biblical “faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3).

The Gospel Penetrates the Darkness of Europe

In contrast to Africa’s glorious past as a stronghold of Biblical civilization, what can be said of Europe’s pre-Christian religious past?

We enter a world steeped in the dark culture of paganism. Europe was never classified in the Old Testament among the Afro-Asiatic nations who were neighbours with Israel and had shared experiences with. Instead, it was almost dismissively classified as “the isles of the Gentiles”, being descendants of Japheth (Gen. 10:2-5).

Only in New Testament times did Europe, in accordance with God’s purposes to have the Gospel preached in all nations, get any mention in scripture at some length.

Before then, the ‘intertestamental period – the “years of silence” between Malachi and the N.T. era (broken only by the piercing prophetic voice of the harbinger of Christ, John the Baptist) – had begun to see the sphere of the Bible world expanding to include European powers like the Greek and Roman Empires, which came to fill the void left by the Persian Empire, the last Afro-Asiatic (or ‘Middle Eastern’) world empire.

By the time of Christ’s birth, Rome had replaced Greece as a world empire and strutted the world stage as the conqueror of all, crushing and bringing nations under her rule (see Dan. 7:23-24).

However, the light of salvation remained in Judea (John 4:22; Rom. 3:1-2), a Roman territory since 63 B.C when the Roman general Pompey marched his troops into Jerusalem.

After His resurrection, and just before His ascension, the Messiah charged His disciples to preach the good news of His salvation in all nations – starting from Jerusalem, “even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NASB). The ‘isles of the Gentiles’ are clearly in view – Europe and regions further afield.

It turned out the “remotest part” meant more than a geographical distance. It entailed bridging the spiritual distance between Yah and the nations. Accordingly, it took pioneer missionaries like Paul to expose Europeans to the knowledge of the true God (see Acts 17:22-31; 14:6-18). The pioneer Jewish-Christian missionaries had to cut through a thick wall – nay a labyrinth – of pagan thinking and ingrained cultural practices to reach out to them with the truths of the scriptures. The cultural and spiritual gulf was huge, but God’s grace in the Messiah they preached produced converts among the Gentiles.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:11–13.)

“Without God”, “aliens from the commonwealth of Israel” never meant the Euro-Gentiles were irreligious. The opposite, in fact, was the case, for they were *polytheists* who worshiped multiple gods. Indeed, it was the practice of the Romans and the Greeks to add more gods to their pantheon (nationally recognized gods) as the gods of other peoples were discovered. These deities regulated the moral life of the people by their rituals and practices which were often indecent (licentious), conditioning the people to a life of immorality and vile pleasures – just as the deities and their ‘lover gods and goddesses’ were depicted in the cults and mythologies (folk stories and traditions).

In addition, the Romans had a bizarre, almost bestial, taste for blood-curling games of gore. Rome was noted for the bloody games of the *gladiators* who were trained fighters who fought each other with swords until one was killed or fought with a wild animal until man or beast was killed. (Compare 1 Cor. 15:32). These bloody games were a popular form of entertainment not only in Rome, but also in the provinces. Overtime, it drained the milk of human kindness out of the people, whetting their appetite for sick entertainment and wild pleasures.

The result was a Euro-Gentile lifestyle characterized by immorality, sadistic and perverse pleasures, all of them largely shaped by the rites and myths of the different pagan gods worshipped by the people. (See Acts 17:16; Thess. 1:9).

Into this spiritual and moral darkness the pioneer missionaries thrust the light of the gospel of Christ Jesus.

The Apostle Paul for one (the acclaimed “apostle of the Gentiles” Rom. 11:13, 15:16) made the Gentile believers aware of the spiritual journey they had made from the pagan world of darkness to the heavenly life of righteousness on coming to faith in Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah. Therefore, they were to unlearn the Gentile way of life so that they might live the godly culture of life in God through the Messiah.

In Ephesians 4:17-24 he wrote:

¹⁷“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

¹⁸“having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

¹⁹“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰“But ye have not so learned Christ;

²¹“If so be that ye have heard Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

²²“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

²⁴“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”

The life in Christ is at variance with the ungodly, lust-driven, vain life of Gentiles – “for ye have not so learned Christ”. Therefore, you need to shed your old Gentile life (“the old man”) and be spiritually and mentally regenerated so as to put on “the new man” which is created after the nature of God to be righteous and holy.

In its entry on the passage under discussion, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary (New Testament)* states:

“Greek writers often developed their moral exhortation by contrasting points, as Paul does here. Literature from this period demonstrates that most Jewish people would have described non-Jews in language similar to that which Paul uses (cf. also Lev.18:3, 24-30; 20:23-24; Deut. 26:16-19).

“What is significant is that Paul refuses to call ethnically Gentile Christians Gentiles any longer; they may be ethnically Gentile, but they are to be ETHICALLY JEWISH. Premarital Sex, homosexual intercourse and idolatry were typically Gentile sins from which nearly all Jews abstained. By contrast, pagans were raised this way, many Greek boys were ushered into “manhood” by an older man’s molestation” (Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary N.T.* 1993, p. 548. Emphasis mine).

The commentary similarly gives background insight into 1Thess. 4:1-8, where the Apostle Paul exhorts the Gentile believers to live a life of sexual purity:

“The issue throughout this passage is adultery (4:6). Paul may have heard of a specific instance in the congregation, or he may still be concerned because of the known sexual looseness of pagans, reinforced during his stay in proverbially immoral Corinth. Unmarried Greek men (i.e. Greek men below the age of thirty) commonly indulged in intercourse with prostitutes, slaves and other males; GREEK RELIGION AND CULTURE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY DISINCENTIVE FOR DOING SO.

“... [Thus] Jewish people viewed nearly all Gentiles as sexually immoral (later rabbis argued that one could not assume the virginity of a Gentile woman over three years and one day old); most Gentile men were immoral. Although many of Paul’s readers are ethnically Gentile, he expects them to recognize that they are spiritually non-Gentiles by virtue of their conversion to the biblical faith (cf. Rom. 2:29)” (ibid. pp. 590-591. Emphasis mine)

In Romans 1:22ff, the Apostle Paul expands on the corrupt Gentile life Gentile believers were to keep away from with details of its sordid misdeeds, even though those who indulged in them considered themselves to be “wise”.

The *IVP Bible Background Commentary* remarks thus:

“Pagan gods acted immorally in the popular myths; one who worshipped them (1:23) would end up acting the same way. Paul argues that distorting one’s view about God’s character perverts one’s sexual treatment of other people; ancient Jewish people recognized that both idolatry and sexual immorality characterized Gentiles.

“... Greek men were commonly bisexual; not only was homosexual behaviour approved (some writers, like speakers in Plato’s *Symposium*, preferred it to heterosexual behaviour), but elements of the culture socialized boys in this direction. Men and women were segregated growing up, and male bonds became close. Apparently due to a deficiency in the number of women (which many attribute to female infanticide), marriages were often made between thirty-year-old men and fourteen-year-old women, whom the men saw as children. Men had access to only three forms of sexual release until such late marriages: slaves, prostitutes and other men. (Introducing boys to homoerotic pleasure was a favorite pastime of Greek men in this period)” (ibid. pp.416- 417. Emphasis mine).

The commentary features pretty new terms which appear quite frequently in the media nowadays (because there’s obviously a comeback): “bisexual”, “homoerotic”, “[child] molestation” and the implied term pedophilia (sexual relations with a child). These are new words describing old sexual habits and vices typical of Gentile Europeans at the time the gospel got to Europe, and even long before that time – which they were told to repent of!

Interestingly, this was not the first time the Gospel had been preached to a foreigner.

But what a contrast! What a contrast when the gospel came to the man from Ethiopia. He was the first non-Judean convert to the Messianic (or Christian) faith. It was not Cornelius, although I concede that he was the first Gentile convert.

But truly, the first non-Judean convert to the Messianic faith, who was not, from a geographical, cultural point of view, strictly ‘Gentile’ but of Hamitic-Shemitic stock, was the Ethiopian eunuch, whom Philip encountered as he returned from worship in Jerusalem on his way back to his country

(Acts 8:26-39). He was not so ‘far off’ as the Euro-Gentiles. That was why there was no dispute in the Jerusalem Jewish Church over Philip’s engagement with him.

Yet there was contention in the church over Peter’s socializing with the Italian Cornelius and his household (Acts 11). Some might say the difference was that the Ethiopian was a proselyte (a convert to Judaism). But so too was Cornelius (to a large extent). He was a Gentile God-fearer (Acts 10:2; 13:16) – just a step to full proselyte status.

Even so, the Jewish brethren did not take kindly to Peter’s socializing with Cornelius and his people until he explained matters to them by citing the vision of the vessel of unclean meats representing ‘unclean’ Gentile nations whom God was now accepting into fellowship!

Notice! No such vision came in the case of the Ethiopian eunuch, for he was ‘nearer’ and needed only to be enlightened about the Messiah and His sacrifice for sin foretold in the prophetic scroll of Isaiah.

The West Headed back to its Pagan Roots

Centuries have passed since the light of the Gospel penetrated Europe, made true converts and disciples there, before a corrupted form of Christianity – a Europeanized paganized church – took root and drove the true believers underground. Then came the (medieval) Dark Ages, followed by the Renaissance (renewed interest in learning and of the Greek classics), on to the years of the Protestant Reformation, through the Enlightenment period (which insisted on putting reason, not God, at the centre of human progress), then on to our modern and post-modern times of technological innovations and digitization.

The West (and by extension the westernized world) has gone through various changes and transitions – moral, spiritual, socio-political and technological – and is headed back to where it once was spiritually and morally: paganism and its twin – formalized immorality!

The parallels with the past are striking! Take same-sex relations. It’s now accorded recognition in the Euro-Gentile societies of the West as it obtained in the past. Only that the legalization of ‘same-sex marriage’ has opened the floodgates for more deviant lifestyles to be accepted in mainstream society such as transgender, transage, transspecies, gender-neutral, gender-fluid, polyamory (an open relationship of multiple partners), etc. This is a list which keeps expanding as people discover

their ‘self-identities’ and ever evolving forms of human expression. Soon, and it has already begun, zoophilia (i.e. bestiality) and pedophilia (with pedophiles pushing to be called ‘minor attracted persons’) will come knocking on the door of human rights (what about animal rights?) to be let in!

Ironically, as the leading military and geopolitical powers of the time as of now, they considered themselves to be wise or enlightened, but their deeds exposed them to be unwise in so far as they promoted a way of life built around unnatural pleasures and affections which they normalized and legalized just as is being done today!

The Euro-Gentiles once enlightened by the pioneer missionaries are returning to their roots – the true pre-Christian pagan roots, while Christianity is taking a firmer hold in sub-Saharan Africa.

The current moral and cultural revolution taking place in the West is a sure indication that the Judeo-Christian civilization which shaped Western thought and ideas of moral conduct and nation building is in reverse gear.

Prophetically, this phenomenon is part of the “falling away” set to occur in the last days leading up to the Second Coming of Christ. And the West falls away to embrace neo-paganism (a new or modern form of paganism) where godly discipline and the moral precepts of the Bible, which act as a restraint on immoral impulses and behaviour, have been thrown overboard.

In other words, the falling away, which will reach its climax with the worldwide rule of the Antichrist, is a falling away from all scriptural values of moral decency and righteous living towards the pagan culture of self-serving pleasures and lusts without restraint! (Please read 2 Thess. 2:1-4, 8-12).

This is the kind of amoral pleasure-seeking Gentile life that Paul and other pioneers took time to draw Gentile Christians away from, in his preaching and letters, but which have come back with a vengeance!

The higher ethics offered by the God of the Bible have been rejected officially through judicial rulings, decrees and laws passed by parliament (Ps 119:126; Ps 94:20).

A quick scan of contemporary media headlines provides a good index of the current moral and spiritual direction of the West which is literally on a slippery slope to hell:

“Between 6,000 and 10,000 churches in the U.S. are dying each year” – and that means that over 100 will die this week (November 27, 2018 by [Michael T. Snyder](#) <http://themostimportantnews.com/archives/between-6000-and-10000-churches-in-the-u-s-are-dying-each-year-and-that-means-that-over-100-will-die-this-week>)

Atheist Minister Keeps Position After Confidential Settlement With United Church of Canada (By [Stoyan Zaimov](#), Christian Post Reporter | Monday, November 12, 2018 (<https://www.christianpost.com/news/atheist-minister-keeps-position-confidential-settlement-united-church-of-canada-228480/?fbclid=IwAR1XRPiVvzyMc5scBi19POxyMKiUbfnu51N80OlxfjYATqA3gexY4g0t3EY>))

Progressive ministers say sexual chastity is 'unreasonable': 'Don't judge' people for random hookups (By [Brandon Showalter](#), CP Reporter | Sunday, December 02, 2018 <https://www.christianpost.com/news/progressive-ministers-say-sexual-chastity-is-unreasonable-dont-judge-people-for-random-hookups.html?fbclid=IwAR0UyD-dYhquPKGIRP1Hi98Nhq6I6DB-QaKsuzvyvSZCGihuYw8dvJhhCE8>)

Evangelical College Azusa Pacific Agrees to Allow LGBT Relationships; Conservatives Slam 'Surrender' (By [Stoyan Zaimov](#), Christian Post Reporter | Monday, September 24, 2018 <https://www.christianpost.com/news/evangelical-college-azusa-pacific-agrees-allow-lgbt-relationships-conservatives-slam-surrender.html?fbclid=IwAR3FFCjei5OQN1uwYOiXjSceSAzJ8os4lolUFw70-NeWKIEBjwi0K6XB3ts>)

Catholic Archbishop Says Pedophilia Is ‘Spiritual Encounter With G-d’ (By [Jews Newsaccess](#) [time](#) 9 months ago <https://www.jewsnews.co.il/2018/03/08/catholic-archbishop-says-pedophilia-is-spiritual-encounter-with-g-d.html?fbclid=IwAR0ul7Nio32vKMcQ-b2WOLi1jdPXqLztTgMY1C8aIFBOW4kc5G0zN-Qz3Lc>)

Friday, November 9, 2018

The United Methodist Church Plan to Accept Homosexuality and Divide the Denomination (https://pastorgabehughes.blogspot.com/2018/11/the-united-methodist-church-plan-to.html?fbclid=IwAR0dSBR7i8RpO3Tv5IXosn7TtbWN_W0xSbdj4ghT-oEMCyGDInbad_UvYLQ)

Church of England to Host Public Ceremonies to Affirm Transgender Worshipers (<https://www.charismanews.com/world/74409-church-of-england-to-host-public-ceremonies-to-affirm-transgender-worshippers>)

‘Churches’ Celebrate Halloween With Zombies, Dancing Skeletons, ‘Haunted Hayrides’ and ‘Spooktaculars’ (By [Heather Clark](#) on October 30, 2018 <https://christiannews.net/2018/10/30/churches-celebrate-halloween-with-zombies-dancing-skeletons-haunted-hayrides-and-spooktaculars/>)

Apostate Laodicean ‘Faith Leaders’ To Hold Service Asking God To Bless Planned Parenthood Baby Murder Mill In Ohio Next Month

(https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/apostate-laodicean-faith-leaders-to-hold-service-ask-god-bless-planned-parenthood-baby-murder-mill-ohio-november/?fbclid=IwAR2J5cJ1SewshjMDUYwy00bQi5Um-0ml_K69RPT7JJvA3grXpcVFi4x7W_E)

Most Evangelicals Believe God Accepts Worship of All Religions, Study Shows (By Leonardo Blair, Christian Post Reporter | Tuesday, October 16, 2018

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/most-evangelicals-believe-god-accepts-worship-of-all-religions-study-shows-227980/>)

Christian Witch Claims Christ Followers Can Practice Witchcraft, Despite Biblical Warnings (By Leonardo Blair, Christian Post Reporter | Friday, October 19, 2018

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-witch-claims-christ-followers-can-practice-witchcraft-despite-biblical-warnings-228038/>)

Bishop urges Christians to stop calling God a 'He' (Dan Satherley 9/17/2018

<https://www.msn.com/en-ph/kids/other/bishop-urges-christians-to-stop-calling-god-a-he/ar-BBNs3IV?li=BBR8Mkn>)

Witches Outnumber Presbyterians in the US; Wicca, Paganism Growing 'Astronomically' (By Brandon Showalter, CP Reporter | Wednesday, October 10, 2018

https://www.christianpost.com/news/witches-outnumber-presbyterians-in-the-us-wicca-paganism-growing-astronomically.html?fbclid=IwAR3YmG_ltXaLdTLrmEvp8j2rmeq5sMablihnBQBPh0S0mG2IFBOLuhh8S2l)

Teacher Faces Backlash After Children Recite Classroom Bible Verse (By Todd

Starnes November 28, 2018 <https://www.toddstarnes.com/campus/teacher-faces-backlash-after-children-recite-classroom-bible-verse/>)

Father Says 6-Year-Old Son Refuses Mom's Demand to Dress Like a Girl – Now He's Being Charged with 'Child Abuse' 11-27-2018 Emily Jones

(<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2018/november/father-refuses-to-allow-6-year-old-son-to-dress-like-a-girl-ndash-now-hes-been-charged-with-child-abuse>)

Satan Club Holds First Meeting at Washington Elementary School (By Michael Gryboski,

Christian Post Reporter | Wednesday, December 21, 2016 https://www.christianpost.com/news/satan-club-holds-first-meeting-at-washington-elementary-school.html?fbclid=IwAR2m25w151sPj-4EXAzPeADCgEhQK-ouyPamzRo_R9gagHHkFZK7Y7szYqk)

Malta's Government Publicly Condemns Singer for Saying He is No Longer Gay,

Found Jesus (cbn.com Oct 31, 2018 2:28 PM http://news-af.op-mobile.opera.com/news/detail/b99dcdc930027ac9c2aecab610f6ecad_gh?share=1&country=gh&language=en&fbclid=IwAR3yu-V_4RPLk55WS0H70zCuztk3PjciLByaAFehkDTyFXcEx0tV0vNbo-4)

Disney shows gay kiss in a children's cartoon for first time (March 2, 2017

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/disney-shows-same-sex-kissing-in-a-childrens-animated-series-for-the-first>)

Scotland Becomes First Country to Require Schools to Teach LGBT Curriculum

(By Samuel Smith, CP Reporter | Saturday, November 10, 2018

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/scotland-first-country-require-schools-teach-lgbt-curriculum-228473/>)

UK School Teaches 6-Y-O Kids to Write Gay 'Love Letter' for Same-Sex Marriage Assignment (By Samuel Smith, CP Reporter | Wednesday, October 03, 2018

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/uk-school-teaches-6-year-old-kids-write-gay-love-letter-same-sex-marriage-assignment-227746/>

4,000% Explosion in Kids Identifying as Transgender, Docs Perform Double Mastectomies on Healthy Teen Girls (09-19-2018 [Charlene Aaron](#)

<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2018/september/4-000-explosion-in-kids-identifying-as-transgender-docs-perform-double-mastectomies-on-healthy-teen-girls>)

Mon Nov 19, 2018 - 12:32 pm EST

Gay activists are coming after Christian churches next...and it's already happening

(<https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/gay-activists-are-coming-after-christian-churches-next...and-its-already->)

Satanic Temple Demands Christian Bakers Make Cakes 'for Satan' (By [Stoyan Zaimov](#), Christian Post Reporter | Friday, September 29, 2017

https://www.christianpost.com/news/satanic-temple-demands-christian-bakers-make-cakes-for-satan.html?fbclid=IwAR1dbSggnjXrkFja-tScXDTnYAKZwWugZLjOatYXz6O9lh4aHzo_-lEx5Q)

Pro-LGBTQ Jesuit Priest Promotes Catholic 'Rainbow Rosary' With Prayers Asking For 'Full Acceptance' Of Same-Sex-Couples

(<https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/pro-lgbtq-jesuit-priest-promotes-catholic-rainbow-rosary-full-acceptance-same-sex-couples/?fbclid=IwAR1YaiTQQaCIIAmDMfor5bUhGpN0fq-AQDBqKOGyzW3ne6pBy8C-ey65REM>)

Florida school board rams through transgender guidelines despite parental outrage

(<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/florida-school-board-rams-through-transgender-guidelines-despite-parental-o>)

German Government Approves Third Gender Option for People with

'Indeterminate Gender' (<https://www.faithwire.com/2018/12/14/german-government-approves-third-gender-option-for-people-with-indeterminate-gender/>)

A 69-year-old man asks to be declared 49, claiming age is as fluid as gender

(https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2018/11/08/year-old-man-asks-be-declared-claiming-age-is-fluid-gender/?fbclid=IwAR27fG9KTqSTF9TUwzvvcxa01BRwq6bftWsGZMO-iiQ-Q8jG8xpseng5Fmw&noredirect=on&utm_term=.7851194a89be)

REGRET!! 60 Year Old Man Wants To Change Back To A WOMAN 15 Years After Transforming To MAN (gqbuzz.com Nov 5, 2018 12:28 AM

http://news.af.op-mobile.opera.com/news/detail/48f7b7ed63b90145ed04cc43e3c94a80_gh?share=1&country=gh&language=en&fbclid=IwAR1MYINWAKVGPqJdJ9XVlcEnPL9oU3t1E2otUEy7a9sbFxnKqKILW-vgE)

University Faculty Union Rebukes Belief in Two Binary Sexes

(https://www.faithwire.com/2018/12/06/university-faculty-union-rebukes-belief-in-two-binary-sexes/?fbclid=IwAR3YvoDmq3Amn2qLT7H7acEOflKlIb2a5N_OwoYa8A1oPzoAjDLo_fkLecrU)

Children's hospital drops gender markers from patient wristbands (By [Nicole](#)

[Darrah, | Fox News https://www.foxnews.com/health/childrens-hospital-drops-gender-markers-from-patient-wristbands](https://www.foxnews.com/health/childrens-hospital-drops-gender-markers-from-patient-wristbands))

CHRISTIANS OUTRAGED: Ontario Passes Law Allowing Gov't to Seize Children From Parents Who Oppose Gender Transition (By [Jews News](#) *access_time* 1 year ago
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State Tells Christian Filmmakers: Make Same-Sex Marriage Films or Spend 90 Days in Jail (10-15-2018 [Steve Warren](#)
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Christians Will Become 'Enemies of the People' Over Opposition to LGBT Movement, English Preacher Warns (By [Michael Gryboski](#), Christian Post Reporter |

Wednesday, October 03, 2018 <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-will-become-enemies-of-the-people-over-opposition-to-lgbt-movement-english-preacher-warns-227735/>

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The end of GOD? Claims humans will ‘worship AI Messiah’ (By [Rachel O'Donoghue](#) / Published 3rd November 2018 https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/weird-news/740301/god-artificial-intelligence-ai-messiah-dan-rown-da-vinci-code?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

The news headlines are pretty self-explanatory, giving us an idea of how far the West is backing away, and set to further back away, from the time-honoured values and truths of the Bible.

But where is Africa headed? In what direction is the Church in Africa and our governments going?

What we need to realize as Africans is that the West is not merely mediating a global cultural revolution whose time has come. Instead, it is pursuing a key phase of their *New World Order* agenda to re-order and re-mould the world in their polytheistic framework of equal recognition for all shades of human behaviour and identities and body forms, none of which is to be considered ‘evil’, or ‘deviant’, or ‘perverse’, or ‘abnormal’, or ‘forbidden’, or even censured (criticized) in any shape or form!

They seek to de-Christianize world culture and values; they seek to overthrow the authority of the Bible over the lives of people. They seek an amoral world of paganism where immorality is normalized in the name of diversity and human rights.

Professor Peter Jones writes in his eye-opening book *Pagans in the Pews*:

“The new world order is not satisfied with international trade agreements, arms reduction and innovative planetary politics. Such an order must develop a new global ethic, a syncretistic religion with a new god on the throne” (Art. “A New God for a New World Order; p. 127).

This is an agenda the West has set in motion with warnings and threats to ‘Third World’ countries to fall in line or be penalized with aid cuts! At high-level international fora (such as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April 2018), leaders of Western

nations have found it worthwhile to press leaders of developing countries (especially those in Africa) to decriminalize same-sex relations in their supposed ‘sovereign’ home countries, in return for continued aid and other forms of ‘donor support’.

The West (working through the UN and other global institutions) imposes on the world a new global ethic; a new spiritual cultural order which supposedly meets the broadening scope of human and civil rights – *as defined by the West* – but which in reality has paganism underlying it.

Let’s not make the mistake of assuming that the West is promoting universal values. They are not. They are promoting their own parochial neo-pagan values which they seek to universalize. As Africans, we should stand our ground and insist on our own cultural values, most of which align with the scriptures of truth.

The Spiritual Realm is Astir: A Clash of Cultures

In the light of African Hebrew values, the so-called ‘non-traditional’ lifestyles been promoted by the West worldwide are ‘taboos’ or ‘abominations’ as the Bible would term it. In the African communal setting, the usual punishment meted out to people who committed such abominable acts as sodomy, incest, bestiality (now sanitized as zoophilia), etc., was banishment from the community. The person who broke the taboo was not fit to be accepted as a worthy member of the community. The understanding was that his evil conduct was certain to invite curses on the community.

In Biblical times, in Israelite communities, the offender was to be “cut off” from the community (Lev.20:13; 18:6-21, 22-23, 27-30; cp. Rom. 1:32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). This is what traditional African societies of Hebrew background commuted to banishment. But the effect is pretty much the same: what was formerly exclusion by capital punishment (death) was now exclusion by expulsion. In the Church, it’s similarly expulsion from the community of faith (for life under Satan) (1 Cor. 5:1-7, 11-13).

The severe punishment shows the serious view both scripture and African culture take of the taboos, now styled ‘alternative lifestyles’ by the West! They are not to be entertained at all.

But now, there's a stir in the spiritual realm. A dark power is reasserting itself aggressively, trying to dominate all human thinking and life choices and somehow quite outlaw righteousness and godly values.

Time is not on his side (Rev. 12:12; 1 Pet. 5:8). The struggle between good and evil is screeching to a climax. The world is in the throes of a cultural spiritual war on an unprecedented global scale because the days of the Gentile pagan kingdoms are up. The armies of heaven are battle-ready (Rev. 19:11-16) for takeover:

“Then said he, knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come” (Dan 10:20).

The transition from one world power, Persia, to another, Greece, involved a spiritual war which was then actualized in armed conflict (Dan. 11:2-3).

So it is today. The raging culture wars between the northern hemisphere (of the ‘developed West’) and the southern hemisphere (of the ‘developing countries’ of Africa and elsewhere) are rooted in an ideological spiritual war, whereby the successor Gentile nations of the old Roman Empire are set to regain world political power (at both the geopolitical and socio-cultural levels) over all nations (Rev. 13:4-7, 14-17; 17:3-5, 9) – just before the Lord of glory returns to claim the world as its rightful ruler:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

“In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel dwell safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Jer. 23:5-6).

Take a Stand

Now is the time for Africans, especially African Christians, to discover afresh their true roots based on diligent research into history, the scriptures, our cultural practices and oral traditions.

We can't continue to be puppets in the hands of the Western powers to whom we have ceded almost all our rights to self-determination, including the right to control our own means of wealth

and chart an economic course which jealously promotes the national interest. And now, are we ceding to them the right to our own cultural expression grounded in our beliefs, moral convictions and faith persuasions?

Already, we have taken a stand of some sorts. Apart from South Africa which has legalized ‘same-sex marriage’, no African country or government has given official sanction to same-sex relations in the face of Western threats of aid cuts among other threatened sanctions.

The current Ghanaian government of the NPP has made it clear it’s in no mood to legalize same-sex relations. The Speaker of Parliament, Prof. Mike Oquaye, has been vociferous in this regard, warning perceived gay lobbyists to back off, since no pro-gay legislation will be passed by the national assembly under his watch.

Others like Lawyer Moses Foh Amoaning have also kick-started social activism and public education (and/or consciousness-raising) against the foreign-sponsored ideology of ‘gayism’ in Ghana with his National Coalition for Proper Human Sexual Rights and Family Values.

But how long can we hold out against the encroaching tide of the worldwide gay movement which is set to contaminate the whole world, except a holy remnant? (Isa. 1:9). Can we stand the inevitable repercussions, if things come to a head and the West activates their threats of aid cuts among other sanctions? Will we sell our souls to the devil for a pittance in aid?

Our current President, Nana Akufo-Addo, promises as a “Ghana Beyond Aid”. May God help him – and all of us!

And what will our churches with denominational ties to the liberalized, paganized churches of the West (some of which no longer even consider Christ to be central to salvation) do? Will they put denominational loyalty above loyalty to scriptural truth?

Where will Africa stand? Will we stand for the sanctity of our cultural values and faith-based beliefs or capitulate to western cultural imperialism?

Let’s let the words of the prophet encourage our hearts and guide our decisions:

“Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon” (Zech. 2:7).

We are at a major intersection of history, no doubt. But we must be in no dilemma which direction to take. By now, we should know what the Gentile western world represents: the new

face of paganism, and what we ought to represent: a bastion of Biblical Hebrew culture and the timeless truths of the scriptures.

History testifies that nations that have taken a path of confrontation against the true living God of Israel have failed again and again to dethrone Him. They have rather disappeared into the sands of time as either extinct or subdued civilizations. But generation after generation, praises from joyful lips have gone up from the earth and dedicated lives have sanctified His name among men.

Only let us not pay lip-service to our faith in Yahweh, our God. Instead, let's walk in the path of truth, hard work and honesty, while avoiding the false prophets defrauding masses in the name of Jesus. Above all, let us dedicate ourselves to obeying the commandments of God and thereby embrace the culture of life flowing from Him through the righteousness of faith that is in *Yeshua Messiah*, His Son!

Africa will rise again! The African voices of faith and praise will not be silenced! Our God lives, and as surely as He lives, His word concerning us remains steadfast:

“From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My suppliants, even the daughter of My dispersed, shall bring My offering” (Zeph. 3:10).

From where He sits, His gaze scans Africa. “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia”, He sees and hears in the distance a charged troupe of worshippers singing and praising His name. They come, no doubt, from the direction of sub-Saharan Africa. We were made for His praise and worship. “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15). “Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God”. Halleluiah. Amen!

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