

Lesson 3

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Online Bible Study

6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

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Instructor

I. WELCOME TO NEW ATTENDEES. WELCOME BACK TO THOSE WHO WERE WITH US LAST WEEK.

II. QUICK RECAPITULATION - WHY THIS SUBJECT AND FOCUS?

1. The maintenance of black history in America is under assault. There are focused and intentional attempts to erase it. These attempts are largely political, but there are (and have always been) religious, theological, and spiritual attempts to do so.
2. We must continue to combat biblical ignorance about the ethnicity of the people in the Bible.
3. Keeping the church relevant.
4. Be clear what this study is about: Investigating biblical ethnicity and establishing correct biblical history.
 - a. Using the words of the Bible to do it.

III. REVIEWING SOME OF THE WORKBOOK AND END-OF-CHAPTER QUESTIONS SHARED LAST WEEK.

1. How and when did the biblical story move from Africa to Persia?
2. Why is Noah a key figure in the origin of the races?
3. Shem is Noah's oldest son. What does his name mean and why is it significant?
4. Japheth is Noah's middle son. Though neither he nor his offspring appear to be important in the biblical story, why is Japheth significant in human history?
5. Ham is Noah's youngest son. Why is he relevant in biblical and secular history?
6. Who is Canaan and why is he a central figure in the biblical story?
7. Who did Noah curse and why? What does the curse imply?

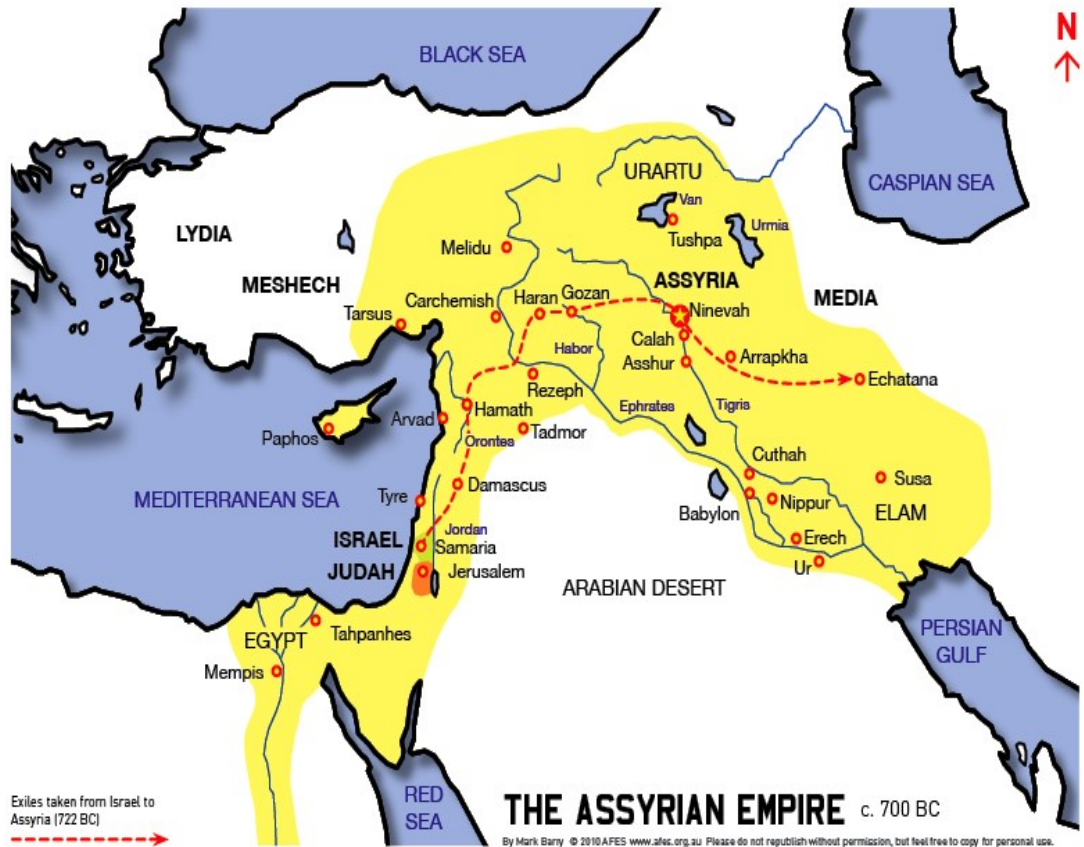
IV. LESSON 3 – THE ISRAELITES' MIGRATIONS TO AFRICA

1. Three major migrations

- a. Two in the Old Testament

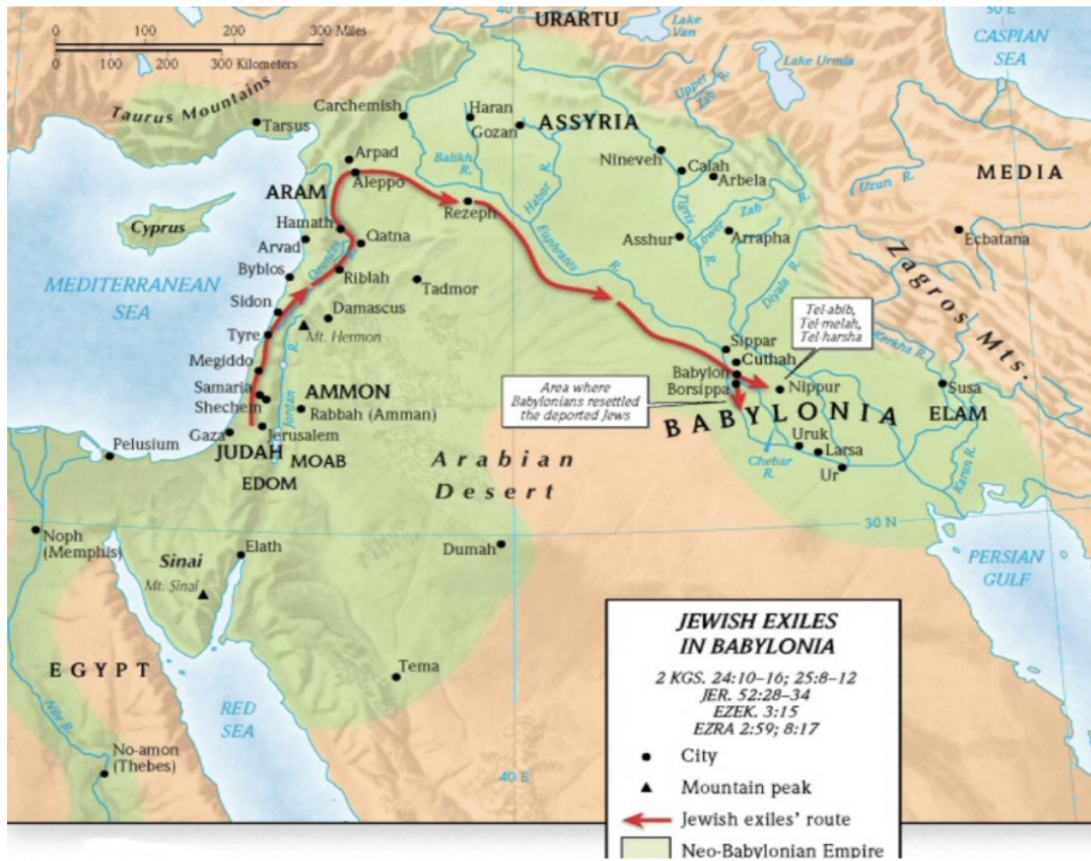
b. One after the close of the New Testament

2. The 2 biblical migrations are deportations



a. The 1st deportation was around 740 B.C.

- i. 2 Kings 15:29 and 1 Chronicles 5:26
- ii. Took 18 years to complete
- iii. Displaced 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel: Asher, Dan, Ephraim, Gad, Issachar, Manasseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun. Known as The Lost Tribes of Israel, some of whom it is said went to Igbo, Nigeria.
 1. The Igbo people claim to be the oldest known Hebrew people in the world.
 2. Some sold into slavery and ended up in Virginia and Maryland. Some A.A. claim to be descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel. Deuteronomy 28 resembles the African slave trade.



b. The 2nd deportation was around 607 - 587 B.C. and lasted 70 years

- i. Known as the Babylonian Captivity. God used Babylon to judge Israel for their sins of idolatry and rebellion against Him. There were different times during this period when the Jews were taken captive by Babylon.
- ii. 2 Chronicles 36: 17-21
- iii. 1st phase - After three years of serving Nebuchadnezzar, Jehoiakim of Judah rebelled against Babylonian rule and once again turned to Egypt for support. 2 Kings 24: 8-16; Jeremiah 52:28. King Nebuchadnezzar took the most prominent citizen: including Daniel, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abednego), professionals, priests, artists, and the rich. Lamentations 1:1-3. Depressive life for those left behind due to the brain drain.
- iv. 2nd phase- (2 Kings 24-25). Nebuchadnezzar appointed King Zedekiah to rule as his representative over Judah, but after nine years Zedekiah led Judah in rebellion against Babylon one last time. (Jeremiah 27:1-3) Listening to false prophets and ignoring Jeremiah's warnings, Zedekiah joined forces

with Edom, Moab, Ammon, and Phoenicia in rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar. This caused Nebuchadnezzar to again lay siege to Jerusalem. Jerusalem fell in July 587 or 586 BC, and Zedekiah was taken captive to Babylon after seeing his sons killed before him and then having his eyes plucked out (2 Kings 25). At this time Jerusalem was laid to waste, the temple destroyed and all the houses burned. The majority of the Jewish people were taken captive, **but, again,** Nebuchadnezzar left a remnant of poor people to serve as farmers and vinedressers (2 Kings 25:12).

- v. Persia took over Babylon the people returned to Jerusalem in 539 B.C. Jeremiah was one of the prophets during the time leading up to the fall of Jerusalem and the exile, and Ezekiel and Daniel were written while the Jews were in exile. Ezra deals with the return of the Jews.

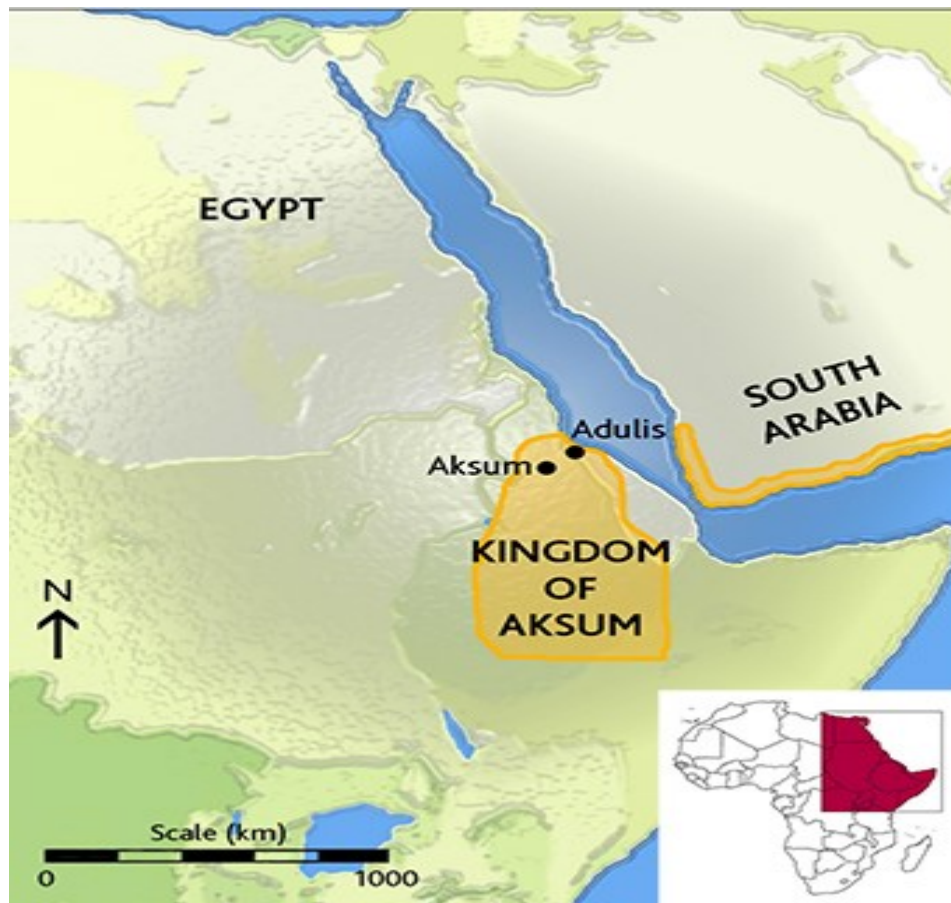
3. The 3rd migration not recorded in the Bible – 70 A.D.

- a. Jesus prophesied that the Romans would violently invade Jerusalem and the Jews would flee for their lives. Matthew 23: 38 and 24: 1-2; Luke 21:6.
- b. Recorded in “The Jewish wars” by Flavius Josephus. The Roman general Titus (son of Emperor Vespasian) destroyed the temple, killed over 1 million people and took 97,000 into captivity. According to DNA reports 30,000 Jews were deported to Carthage (Tunisia)
- c. Those who survived fled deeper into Africa where they could not be recognized. Early Christians and Orthodox Jews fled to Ethiopia (home of the world’s oldest church) and other African countries.

4. Other Hebrew Migrations to Africa

- a. Jimmy Dunn
 - i. Jewish refugees fled to Egypt during the deportation by Nebuchadnezzars.
 - ii. 301-198 B.C the Ptolemy I dynasty ruled over Judah and Jerusalem and removed about 100,000 Jews to Egypt.
- b. During King Solomon’s reign - 1 Kings

- i. Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia visited and became pregnant by Solomon. Their son's name was Menelik, who as an adult went to stay with Solomon for 3 years. According to legend the leaders of Israel asked Solomon to send his son back to Ethiopia because they looked too much alike. Solomon agreed provided that the priest would send their oldest son and 1000 people from each of the tribes of Israel (accounting for the genetic mixture of Ethiopians and the Israelites). Menelik stole the Ark of the Covenant in agreement with Azariah (son of Zadok, the high priest). Solomon did not recover the ark, and the Ethiopians claim that they have it heavily guarded at the St. Mary of Zion church in Axum.



Axum is located at the La'ilay Maychew district of Ethiopia. According to the Ethiopian Church and Ethiopian tradition, the Ark still exists in Axum.

- c. The continent of Africa has the most Hebrew descendants in the world.

- i. Lemba tribe of Zimbabwe, descendants of Aaron.
- ii. Sephardic and Mizrahi communities: Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Ghana, Mali.

V. Homework: Study Questions for next week.

1. To where were the Hebrews deported and to where did they migrate?
2. Do you think the Lost Tribes of Israel could have migrated from Assyria to Igbo Land, Nigeria? Explain.
3. Do you think the legend of Menelik is probable? Explain
4. Why do you think there are no biblical accounts and very sketchy historical reports of a Hebrew migration to Europe?