



Lesson 7

The First Black King

OBJECTIVE

To explain the importance of the black race living out God's purpose with joy of knowing one's identity.

INTRODUCTION

1. Are you able to name the key people in your family's history?
2. How far can you go back into your family history?

How important do you think it is to know your identity?

How important is it for young people to know their identity?

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Noah's Family had the responsibility after the flood repopulate the earth.

Read Genesis 9:1

What specifically did God say to Noah?

1. _____
2. _____

Noah had a unique assignment

2. Recall Noah's spiritual background

a. **Read** Genesis 5:29

What was Noah's purpose in life? _____

Lamech, Noah's father, identified Noah's purpose in life, which was to be a type of Messiah

b. **Read** Genesis 6:9 & 7:1

How would describe Noah's character? _____

Noah was a very obedient man

APPLICATION: Based on Noah's character, what should our character be towards God?

The life a believer should live before God should be one of pure obedience and righteous intentions in one's behavior, actions, thoughts, and deeds.

TRACING BLACK IDENTITY

The question to be asked is what color was Noah and his sons? We begin by reflecting on the skin color of Adam, a reddish color. Prior to the flood, Adam's descendants which includes Noah and his sons, must have had a reddish skin color as well.

A. Noah's Sons – Genesis 6:6-7:1-3 – They repopulated the earth after the flood.

1. Shem
2. Ham is known as the Father of the Black race.
 - a. Moses documented the land of Egypt as the land of Ham – Psalm 105:23, 27 and 106:22. Ham left a lasting legacy that bore his name and not the names of his brothers.
 - b. Ham is the only son of Noah that has a country named after him.
 - c. Ham, who leaves a lasting legacy as the only one to come out of the Ark, which he helped his father Noah to build, name still survives.
3. Japheth

B. Ham, The Father of the Black Race

- Ham is synonymous with Egypt, Psalm 78:51
- Ham is Egypt in Africa
- Genesis 11:8 – after the tower of Babel and God dispersed the people.
 - o Canaan settled in the land of Canaan, Israel today.
 - o Ham and his son, Mizraim, move further southwest of Canaan to Egypt.
- I Chronicles 4:40 is an enlightening verse; the people of Ham previously lived there in the good land.
- Ham's sons took the best of the land after the Tower of Babel, Gen. 11:6
 - o I Chronicles 4:40
 - o Genesis 13:10
 - o Deuteronomy 11:12
- *Webster's Dictionary* says this of Ham, "a son of Noah held to be the progenitor of the Egyptians, Nubians, and Canaanites."
- Ham had a dominant gene of skin pigmentation, since his firstborn son was named Cush.

C. **Read** Genesis 10:8: Ham's sons were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan

- Cush means black, same word for Ethiopia.
- Cush migrated back to the original place of Adam and Eve, near the garden of Eden which would have been near Ethiopia.
- Cush means burnt faces. The land of Ethiopia is near the equator, which means their red skin would have become darker skin. Thus, the land become the land of burnt faces.

D. Cush is the first descendant of Ham, Gen 10:6 (Cush descendants stand out in scripture)

- Cush's descendants are spoken of in Gen. 10:7-12
- Nimrod was the seventh son of Cush; he is a great black ancestor.
 - o Nimrod was a Mighty Man, a first
 - o Nimrod was a Mighty Hunter, Champion
 - o Nimrod was a Spiritual leader, vs. 9, "before the Lord"
 - o Nimrod was Legendary, great reputation
 - o Nimrod was a King, had a kingdom
- The land of Shinar near the Tigris and Euphrates River, modern day Iraq, Micah 5:6

APPLICATION: How should the African American male view himself if he knew his cultural identity?

E. The Black Race is Not Cursed

Read Genesis 9:20-27

It has been said over the years that Noah's Ham's son was cursed. This would mean that Ham, the father of the Black race, was cursed and therefore, the Black race was cursed.

Upon careful reading of the text, Ham was not cursed. It was his son, Canaan, that was cursed. Noah actually cursed his grandson, who became the father of the Canaanites, not Ham the father of the Black race.