

Doctrine of Africa and the Bible

1. In Biblical language a part of Africa is often referred to as *Ethiopia* which in the Hebrew is *kush*).
2. The specific area mentioned in the *Scriptures* indicates land S of Egypt, corresponding to what is now called the Sudan (*i.e.*, “*the country of the blacks*”).
 - *Isaiah 18:1 Woe [lit. “ho”] to the land shadowing with wings [protecting], which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia:*
3. This area began at Syene (a city of Egypt today called Aswan) on the First Cataract, and extended to beyond the merging of the White and Blue Nile.
 - *Ezekiel 29:10 Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia (kush).*
 - *Ezekiel 30:4 And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. 5 Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. 6 Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD.*
4. During Biblical days the Hebrews conducted commercial trade in Africa.
 - *Isaiah 45:14 Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.*
4. In Psalms 68:31 and probably Zephaniah 3:10, the calling of Ethiopia to the service of the true God is foretold.
 - *Psalms 68:31 Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.*
 - *Zephaniah 3:10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.*
4. The conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:27-39 indicates the spread of the gospel in Africa.

- *Acts 8:27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,*

5. Other Biblical passages which mention Africa may be found.

- *2 Kings 19:9 And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying,*
- *Esther 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces :)*
- *Esther 8:9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.*
- *Job 28:19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.*
- *Psalms 87:4 I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there.*
- *Isaiah 20:3 And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;*
- *Isaiah 20:5 And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory.*
- *Isaiah 37:9 And he heard say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, He is come forth to make war with thee. And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,*
- *Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.*
- *Ezekiel 38:5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:*
- *Nahum 3:9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.*