

## **SERMON: THE HALF HAS NEVER BEEN TOLD. SO LET'S TELL IT!**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 10:6-7**

**(6) And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. (7) Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.**

### **Introduction**

Several points are important when we study the journey of people of African descent in America. First, race was not an issue until the slave trade in the Americas began. Before the conquering of what is now called the Americas, people were classed by their nationality, not by their outward physical features. One was an Ethiopian, an Englishman or a French lady. They were identified by nationality only. Slavery has always existed in every culture. Before slavery came to North and South America, the slave and the master had the same physical features. Both were identified by their nationality.

Secondly, if we use the same standard to determine race that has been used historically in the United States, everybody in the Bible would be considered Black. The criterion was the "one drop rule." Any person with any Black or African ancestors, no matter how recent or no matter how far removed, was considered Black. The long-standing rule was actually codified into law in 1911 in Arkansas with Act 320. This rule decided who had privilege and who was relegated to second class citizenship. The rule was in effect long before it was codified. It assured that the children produced by the slave masters, by raping the Black women, would have no rights, and would not become his legal heirs, and could nor inherit his property. I say again, if we used the same standard to determine race that has been used historically in the United States, then everyone in the Bible would be considered Black.

Third, since nationality was the identifying factor, many early Black accomplishments were over looked and even later suppressed. What is obvious to one generation may be totally obscure to the next generation. One generation may see no need to emphasize something because it is so well known to them. This produces a "cultural void" because the succeeding generations are not aware of it. It is lost until, if ever, it is rediscovered.

We discuss whether or not an election was stolen; let us not forget entire continents were stolen. We talk about fake news; what about fake history. This fake history down plays the accomplishments of women and people of color.

Fourthly, when we study Black history every conceivable emotion springs forth: anger, resentment, desire for revenge, celebration of emancipation, jubilation of Juneteenth, pride in accomplishments, appreciation of upward mobility, celebration of breaking barriers, and resentment of the people who put the barriers there in the first place. Questions pop up. How could people be that cruel and call themselves Christians? How could our ancestors have allowed others to treat them so badly?

We have to remember the children of Israel rejoiced when they crossed the Red Sea. They were not thinking about retaliation. We have to rejoice when we see people seeking racial harmony. True Christian principles of love and forgiveness must in the end prevail. We must always celebrate what God has done for us personally. We must redeem the time by adhering to true, uncontaminated Christian principles.

In our text, when the queen of Sheba met with Solomon she was so impressed and taken aback. What she had heard about Solomon paled in comparison with her in-person visit to his court. She said, "The half had not been told." When we look at Black history we can also say, "The half has not been told." Only half of the positive and the half of the negative have been told. The accomplishments have been denied or distorted and the cruelty has been minimized or rationalized by bad theology and unjust laws.

To deal with these emotions hovering around Black history and to answer these nagging questions we have to tell the missing halves. In order to tell that missing halves we have to go back-way back. So let's begin. Remember, we are telling the truth in love.

## **Exposition**

### **1. The Pinnacle And The Pride.**

(Initially, Africans Invented Just About Everything.)  
 (They Came To South America Long Before The Europeans.)  
 (They Gave The Incas And Aztecs Their Number System.)  
 (They Taught Them How To Build Pyramids.)  
 (Aliens did not teach them this as some would suggest.)

### **2. The Perversion of Principles.**

(A Bad Marriage: The Church and Rome.)  
 (Constantine and Corruption.)  
 (He Stopped Persecuting Christians, But Increased The Persecution Of Everybody Else.)  
 (He Militarized Christianity.)  
 (He Conquered Under The Cross.)  
 (He Did Not Evangelize Under The Cross.)  
 (The Doctrine Of Discovery.)

### **3. The Plunder and The Pilfering.**

(The Invention Of Fire Arms.)  
 (Initially, Africans Invented Everything But The Gun.)  
 (The Gun Was The Game Changer.)  
 (The Gun Gave The Europeans The Edge.)

### **4. The Prevarication And Prejudice.**

(The Truths Of History Were Distorted.)  
 (The Truths Of History Were Omitted.)  
 (America Became Independent To Keep Slaves.)  
 (The English Wanted Them To Free Their Slaves.)  
 (Texas Seceded From Mexico To Keep Slaves.)  
 (The Battle Of The Alamo Was To Keep Slaves.)  
 (Texas Gave Up Some Of Its Land To Keep Slaves.)  
 (The Land Given Up Became The Oklahoma Pan Handle.)

### **5. The Paradox And The Promise.**

(A War Was Fought To End Slavery.)  
 (The Right Side Won-Praise The Lord.)  
 (Our Ancestors Would Not Let Their Spirits Be Broken.)  
 (We Can See The Progress Made.)  
 (We Can Look Back And See How Far God Has Brought Us.)  
 (We Sang The Lord's Song in a Strange Land.)  
 (We Also Sang A New Type Of Song - The Spiritual.)

### **Closing Thoughts**

Our survival and in many cases our thriving in spite of barriers, proves that nothing can separate us from the love of God. God's love is stronger than racism. God's love is stronger than hate. God's love is stronger than evil. God's love is stronger than despair. We must have the faith of our fore-parents. They knew God was in control and they sang, "He's got the whole world in His hands." They sang, "You can't make me doubt Him; I know too much about Him." Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

### **Related Scripture**

**1<sup>st</sup> Kings 10:1-29**

### **End Notes Including Time Line (Chronology)**

1. The Doctrine of Discovery gave credence to the European conquest of other geographical locations which they previously did not know existed. It was a misappropriation of Scripture. It was erroneously based on the conquering of the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. In essence, it advocated that it was ok to invade the non-Christians and seize their land and even destroy them. It was not

theft. It was discovery. Three popes promulgated bulls making it legitimate. Several great theologians' works were taken out of context to validate it. Under this doctrine military invasion was more important and thus, preceded the evangelization of the "heathens." It was "conquer first and Christianize later."

## **2. An Abridged Chronology of Slavery.**

I started this little time line so I could connect all of the historical dots. I guess now is a good time to share it. Please use this for future study and research. As you read it please let the love of Jesus shine through. It is an attempt to tell the truth in love.

312- Constantine's Vision.

After which he militarized Christianity.

313- The Edict of Milan which stopped the persecution of Christians.

Circa 1300 The invention of fire arms, as we know them, by the Europeans. Monks mixed the gun powder.

1444 The Portuguese began the African slave trade.

1452 The papal bull, *Dun Diversas*, of Nicholas V was promulgated.  
(Giving authority to the doctrine of discovery.)

1455 The papal bull, *Roman Pontifex*, of Nicholas V was promulgated.  
(Giving more authority to the doctrine of discovery.)

1456 The papal bull, *Inter Caetera*, of Calistus III was promulgated.  
(Giving even more credence to the doctrine of discovery.)

1492 Columbus arrived in territory which would later be called America.

1502 The first African slaves were put ashore in Cuba.

1520 Africans (Moors) participated in Spanish expeditions in the "New World" that lasted several decades.

1607 The English colony of Jamestown (Virginia) was founded.

1619 Some twenty Africans were disembarked at Jamestown.

1620 The Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower.

- 1641 Massachusetts became the first English colony to legalize slavery. Connecticut followed in 1650; Virginia in 1661; Maryland in 1663; New York and New Jersey in 1664; South Carolina in 1882; Rhode Island and Pennsylvania in 1700; North Carolina in 1715; Georgia in 1750.
- 1688 The Quaker of Germantown (Pennsylvania) made the first protest against slavery in the Western world.
- 1701 The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Lands was founded by Thomas Bray.
- 1702 Slaves revolted in New York.
- 1740 The Great Awakening Began.
- 1770 The Boston Massacre occurred, in which Crispus Attucks, free mulatto, became the first martyr of the American Revolution.
- 1774 The first independent Black church was founded at Silver Bluff, South Carolina.
- 1776 The Declaration of Independence was ratified.
- 1777 Vermont became the first state to abolish slavery. It was followed by Massachusetts in 1780, by New Hampshire in 1783, and by Connecticut and Rhode Island in 1784.
- 1787 Richard Allen and Absalom Jones founded the Free African Society of Philadelphia.
- 1793 Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin.
- 1794 Absalom Jones founded the African Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. In the same city Richard Allen inaugurated the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Bethel.
- 1800 Gabriel Prosser led a slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia.
- 1808 The importation of African slaves was officially banned.
- 1820 The Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to enter the union as a slave state and Maine to enter as a free state.
- 1822 Denmark Vesey led a slave revolt in Charleston, South Carolina.

- 1829 The abolitionist pamphlet, *The Call*, by David Walker, was published.
- 1831 Nat Turner led a rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia.
- 1836 The Battle of the Alamo was waged, which was part of the War for Texas to gain independence from Mexico. Mexico was a colony of Spain and the Spanish government wanted slavery to be abolished in its colonies. Texas sought independence to have the “right” to keep slaves.
- 1845 Texas became 28<sup>th</sup> state to join the union. In compliance with the Missouri Compromise, Texas had to give up its land North of the 30<sup>th</sup> parallel. This land eventually became part of the Oklahoma panhandle.
- 1852 *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was published.
- 1853 James Augustine Healy, the first African American Catholic priest, was ordained in Paris.
- 1857 The Dred Scott decision was handed down from the US Supreme Court, declaring that no Black person, free or slave, had rights that a White person must respect.
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States.
- 1861 The Civil War began.
- 1862 The Homestead Act was passed, giving 160 acres of federal land to any White person who agreed to farm or develop the land. Millions of acres of land were distributed.
- 1863 The Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1.
- 1865 The Civil War ends. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and informed the Blacks in Texas they were free and the Juneteenth celebration was begun. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery. The Ku Klux Klan was established.
- 1884 The Berlin Conference (Congo Conference) convened, carving up the African continent for fourteen European nations to colonize and exploit.
- 1889 The Oklahoma Land Rush occurred when “The Indian Territory” was available through the implementation of the 1862

Homestead Act. Blacks were not allowed to participate.

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