



## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN

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## WHO I AM – WHY I AM – WHAT I DO - - Part 5

Therefore, **JESUS WAS BLACK** – Not a blond hair, blue eyed, peace and love promoting prophet...

As I argue that Jesus was Black, I share with you, first, the positions from three First Generation Black Liberation Theologians regarding the blackness of Jesus:

**J. Deotis Roberts’** position is that it is important to see Jesus as Black from a reconciliatory view of Jesus’ reconciling ministry. Robert’s writes, *“The most difficult task for the Black man is to obtain psychological freedom. If he can accept his Blackness, be proud of it and find meaning for his life, he can know true inner freedom. This is where Jesus, as the Black Messiah, comes in. the Black Messiah enables the Black man to stand up to life....It is not difficult to understand why a Black Christ who comes to the Black man in his blackness and identifies with his lot can bring succor and comfort to the Black man.”*

**James Cone’s** position is that in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America, Jesus must be Black as Jesus’ Blackness speaks to Jesus’ existential commitment to and identification with oppressed people. Cone writes, *“Since the black community is an oppressed community because and only because of its blackness, the Christological importance of Jesus Christ must be found in his blackness....Christ is black, therefore, not because of some cultural or psychological need of black people, but because and only because God really enters into the world where the poor, the despised and the oppressed are.”*

**Albert Cleage’s** position is that Jesus was literally Black. Cleage writes, *“When I say that Jesus was black...I am not saying ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if Jesus was black?’ or ‘Let’s pretend that Jesus was black,’ or ‘It’s necessary psychologically for us to believe that Jesus was black.’ I’m saying that Jesus WAS black....We are concerned here with the actual bloodline. Jesus was born to Mary, a Jew of the tribe of Judah, a non-white people; black people in the same sense that the Arabs were black people, in the same sense that the Egyptians were black people. Jesus was a Black Messiah born to a black woman”*

Second, let us consider Jesus’ genealogy found in Matthew Chapter 1. As we do, we acknowledge that Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. It is a Biblical reality that from these three sons, the world was populated. It is also a historical reality that everyone in this era were people of color – that is dark-skinned people. Accordingly, when we consider the descendants of Noah’s three sons, we should view them ethnologically rather than racially because there is only one race – the human race - and they were all dark-skinned people of the same race.

In a general sense, Shem is the father of those primarily of Jewish descent, Ham is the father of those primarily of African descent (and it is an undisputed fact that he was Black) and Japheth is the father of those primarily of European descent. In consideration of Jesus’ genealogy found in Matthew Chapter 1, no one from the bloodline of Japheth is in Jesus’ genealogy. Therefore, there is no European blood in Jesus – not one drop. There is only the blood of Shem (Jewish) and Ham (African). Many are familiar with the phrase popularized in the south during slavery and later with Jim Crow segregation that became known as the “one-drop rule,” meaning that a single drop of “Black blood” makes a person a Black. Since Jesus had more than a drop of Black blood, Jesus is Black. Therefore, the images that see of the blond hair, blue eyed Jesus are only that – images. In actuality, Jesus is Black.

Following are those listed in Jesus' genealogy: **Abraham** (Who is from Ur, which is in South Babylon. Babylon was established by Nimrod, who is Ham's grandson). **Tamar** and **Rahab** were Canaanites (the Canaanites were the descendants of Canaan who is Ham's son). **Bathsheba** was probably a Hittite (Heth) because her husband Uriah was a Hittite (the Hittites are the descendants of Canaan who is Ham's son). Also, the name Bathsheba means daughter of Sheba. Sheba is a descendant of Cush who is Ham's son). According to the genealogical record of Jesus' ancestral bloodline, Jesus is Black.

## WORK FOR THE WEEK

### MARCH MEMORY VERSE

<sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brothers [and sisters], you did *it* to Me.'

**Matthew 25:40**

### MARCH MEDITATION QUOTE

"We have to improve life, not just for those who have the most skills and those who know how to manipulate the system. But also for and with those who often have so much to give but never get the opportunity."

"If the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time"

**Dorothy Height**

### TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Am I giving God my best by giving my best to those who strongly dislike me? \_\_\_\_\_

Will I pass the test of the Good Samaritan? \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR THE YOUTH

How do I handle those who do not like me? \_\_\_\_\_

It is not what I do; it is who I am \_\_\_\_\_