YESHUA HAMASHIACH AS THE REDEEMER

The Christological Architecture of the Ethiopian Epic Kebra Nagast

The ***Kebra Nagast*** (*"The Glory of Kings"*), Ethiopia's 14th-century sacred national text, is renowned for detailing the Solomonic dynasty and the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant (*Zion*) to Ethiopia. However, its overarching theological framework centers entirely on **Yeshua HaMashiach** (Jesus Christ). In the text, Christ is defined not merely as a prophet or historical figure, but as the eternal **Redeemer, Universal King, and Divine Savior** who transforms and fulfills God's covenant with humanity.

THE CENTRALITY OF REDEMPTION

> *"The earthly Ark of the Law was but a figure and shadow of the heavenly Zion, and the true Redeemer who was to descend from above to deliver the children of Adam from eternal bondage."*

KEY FACETS OF THE REDEEMER'S DEFINITION

1. FULFILLMENT OF THE COVENANT

Framed through the Council of the 318 Orthodox Fathers at Nicaea, the text teaches that all Old Testament symbols—the Ark, the Law, and the Solomonic throne—prefigured Christ as the ultimate spiritual covenant.

2. COSMIC SOVEREIGN & KING

Christ is defined as *"the Redeemer, the King of us all, Jesus Christ the King of heaven and earth."* He grants true legitimacy to earthly rulers who reign under His divine wisdom.

3. THE SECOND ADAM

Yeshua reverses the corruption of the Fall. By entering creation through the Incarnation and enduring the Cross, He breaks the curse of sin and grants eternal life to Adam's lineage.

4. THE SPIRITUAL ARK & LIVING LAW

In Ethiopian theology, Mary represents the new Ark of the Covenant, and Christ is the true heavenly Manna. Through His Body and Blood, He provides eternal redemption and cleansing.

TYPOLOGICAL CONTRAST: THE PHYSICAL & THE REDEEMER

OLD COVENANT SHADOW	REDEMPTIVE FULFILLMENT	KEBRA NAGAST INTERPRETATION
The Physical Ark	**Virgin Mary / Christ**	The wooden chest contained tablets; Mary contained the Living Word (Christ).
Solomon's Kingdom	**Christ's Eternal Reign**	Solomon's earthly authority points toward the everlasting, spiritual Kingship of Jesus.
Sacrificial Law	**Atonement on the Cross**	Blood sacrifices are superseded by Christ's self-offering as the sinless Redeemer.
First Adam	**Second Adam (Yeshua)**	Where Adam brought mortality and condemnation, Yeshua restored life and righteousness.

THEOLOGICAL PILLARS IN NARRATIVE

REDEMPTION OF THE LINEAGE

The *Kebra Nagast* traces the physical genealogy of Christ through Abraham, David, and Solomon, establishing that the Ethiopian royal line existed to safeguard the sacred faith until the manifestation of the Redeemer in the flesh.

UNIVERSAL SCOPE OF SALVATION

While the text celebrates the spiritual inheritance of Ethiopia (*Habesha*), it explicitly affirms that the redemption wrought by Yeshua HaMashiach is universal—extending salvation to all nation groups who embrace His Gospel.

SUMMARY & SYNTHESIS

Ultimately, the *Kebra Nagast* is fundamentally a Christocentric document. All earthly glory—the wisdom of Solomon, the power of kings, and the majesty of the Ark—is subordinated to and rendered meaningful only through the supreme, redemptive reign of Yeshua HaMashiach.