

# 7 AFRICAN FIGURES IN THE BIBLE

They Never Taught You About



ROOTS OF FAITH ACADEMY

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# INTRODUCTION

**For generations, believers have been taught a version of biblical history that left out a major truth:**

**Africa is woven into the Bible from Genesis to the early church.**

**Not as a side note.**

**Not as a footnote.**

**But as an integral part of God's story.**

**Many of the people, places, and nations in Scripture were African — yet this reality is rarely discussed in churches or Bible studies. When we understand Africa's presence in the Bible, something powerful happens:**

- **Scripture becomes clearer**
- **history becomes richer**
- **identity becomes stronger**
- **and faith becomes deeper**

**This guide highlights 7 African figures in the Bible who played significant roles in God's plan — but are almost never mentioned.**

**Let's rediscover the truth that was always there.**

# **THE 7 AFRICAN FIGURES**

## **1. Hagar — The Egyptian Matriarch**

**Hagar, an Egyptian woman, is the only person in Scripture to give God a name:**

**“The God who sees me” (El Roi) — Genesis 16:13.**

**She is blessed, protected, and becomes the mother of a great nation.**

**Why it matters:**

**God saw, heard, and honored an African woman in her suffering.**

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## **2. Zipporah — Moses’ Midianite (African) Wife**

**Midian was located in the region connected to ancient northeast Africa/Arabia. Zipporah saves Moses’ life (Exodus 4:24–26) and becomes part of Israel’s foundational story.**

**Why it matters:**

**An African woman played a key role in the survival of Israel’s greatest leader.**

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## **3. Jethro — The Priest of Midian**

**Moses’ African father-in-law was a spiritual leader who taught Moses how to structure leadership (Exodus 18).**

**Why it matters:**

**The governmental and leadership structure of Israel came from an African priest.**

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#### **4. The Ethiopian Eunuch — The First Recorded African Christian**

**In Acts 8, an Ethiopian official becomes one of the earliest documented believers after Philip explains the gospel.**

**Why it matters:**

**Christianity reached Africa before Europe.**

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#### **5. Simon of Cyrene — The African Who Carried Jesus' Cross**

**Simon was from Cyrene (in modern-day Libya, North Africa). The Romans forced him to help Jesus carry the cross (Mark 15:21).**

**Why it matters:**

**An African man literally carried the cross alongside Christ.**

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## **6. Ebed-Melech — The Ethiopian Who Saved Jeremiah**

**This Ethiopian official rescued the prophet Jeremiah from death (Jeremiah 38). God later sends a personal promise to bless and protect him.**

**Why it matters:**

**God honored and protected this African man for his righteousness.**

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## **7. The Queen of Sheba — A Wise African Monarch**

**The Queen of Sheba (from Ethiopia/Yemen region) visited King Solomon with great wisdom and wealth (1 Kings 10).**

**Jesus references her honor and discernment in the New Testament.**

**Why it matters:**

**An African queen is upheld as a symbol of wisdom even by Christ Himself.**

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# **WHY THIS MATTERS**

**For centuries, many churches have unintentionally presented a version of Christian history that ignored or minimized Africa's role.**

**But Scripture tells a different story:**

- ✓ **God used African people**
- ✓ **God spoke to and through African nations**
- ✓ **Early Christianity took root on African soil**
- ✓ **The faith has always been global — not European**
- ✓ **Believers of African descent have always been part of God's plan**

**Understanding this truth strengthens:**

### **Faith Identity**

**Believers can see themselves in Scripture — not as outsiders, but as participants in God's story.**

### **Biblical Understanding**

**Recognizing Africa's presence clarifies context, geography, and cultural background.**

### **Spiritual Confidence**

**Restoring what was forgotten helps believers walk boldly in the fullness of their heritage.**

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## **Want to Go Deeper?**

**Watch for an email from Roots of Faith Academy with more free resources, teachings, and updates on our upcoming ebook:**



## **“The African Foundations of Early Christianity”**

**You’re on a journey of rediscovering truth — and we’re honored to walk with you.**

