

~History Message~

An Igbo Origins Hypothesis: Hebraic Migration to Southeast Nigeria

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The Igbo claim patrilineal descent through a patriarch named Eri. This Eri according Igbo history is the son of Gad recorded in the Bible: Genesis 46:16 "And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli." (KJV) Thus making the Igbo of Israelite origin specifically through the tribe of Gad. Some Igbo scholars believe their migration from Northeast Africa (Near East or Middle East) to West Africa & specifically Southeast Nigeria; took place prior to the Exodus circa 1600 BC. Other scholars believe it to have taken place sometime after the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel circa 750 BC. In this journal article, we will show how the first hypothesis is not Biblically sound. The second hypothesis will be expounded upon to show its plausibility.

The name Eri in Hebrew means "watchful or Guardian" and can be found listed under Strong's H6179. Like most non-western cultures, the Igbo have two stories of origins. One based in the supernatural and the other in reality. The mystical one involves Eri coming down from the sky, human sacrifice, and yams. For the purposes of this article, we are not interested in that story. The second one can be summarized from this section of the CNN article entitled *Nigeria's Igbo Jews: 'Lost tribe' of Israel?* by Chika Oduah:

The Igbo are one of Nigeria's largest ethnic groups with population estimates ranging from 20 to 50 million. Abor is convinced that the Igbo's ancestors were Jews. "The son of Yaakov, Jacob, [was] Gad and I learned that he was among those people who went out of Israel to exile," Abor says. "So from there he had a son called Eri and a son gave birth to a son called Aguleri and that's how the Igbo race began." From generation to generation, some Igbo have passed down various versions of a migration story framed around Jacob, a patriarch of Judaism. A popular version of the narrative holds that Gad, the seventh son of Jacob, had three sons who settled in present-day southeastern Nigeria, which is predominantly inhabited by the Igbo. Those sons, Eri, Arodi and Areli (as mentioned in the book of Genesis), are said to have fathered clans, established kingdoms and founded towns still in existence in southeastern Nigeria today, including Owerri, Umuleri, Arochukwu and Aguleri. [1]

This migration could not have taken place prior to the Exodus. The Torah says that all the Children of Israel were present at the Exodus and Eri is listed among them in the wilderness. Exodus 12:41 "And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt." Numbers 26:3-4_15-16 "3 And Moses and Eleazar the priest spake with them in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying, 4 Take the sum of the people, from twenty years old and upward; as the Lord commanded Moses and the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt. 15 The children of Gad after their families: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites: of Haggi, the family of the Haggites: of Shuni, the family of the Shunites: 16 Of Ozni, the family of the Oznites: of Eri, the family of the Erites:" (KJV)

Circa 700 BC, the Ammonites supplanted the Igbo out of their allotment in Gad: Jeremiah 49:1 "Concerning the Ammonites, thus saith the Lord; Hath Israel no sons? hath he no heir? why then doth their king inherit Gad, and his people dwell in his cities?" (KJV) This in conjunction with the Assyrian

conquest/captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel caused many Gadites to migrate into the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Circa 600 BC they migrated out of Judah, went into Upper Egypt (Southern Egypt), and from there generations later went into Meroe (Cush). 2 Kings 25:26 “26 And all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose, and came to Egypt: for they were afraid of the Chaldees.” Jeremiah 43:5-7 “5 But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, that were returned from all nations, whither they had been driven, to dwell in the land of Judah; 6 Even men, and women, and children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah. 7 So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the Lord: thus came they even to Tahpanhes.”

Following the subsequent fall of Meroe circa 350 AD and the gradual Sunday Christianization of the area over the course of a few hundred years, the Igbo left for West Africa permanently establishing themselves in Southeast Nigeria around 800-900 AD. The New Testament even records that Israelites were living in mass around Meroe (Cush). Acts 8:27 “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,” (KJV) This migration is confirmed by the Igbo pyramids in Nsude, Nigeria. The Israelite sojourn in Egypt took place in Lower Egypt during the Second Intermediate period. The capital during this time was at Avaris. Amorites ruled Lower Egypt during this period (see Church lesson on 400/430 years) and they did not build pyramids. The original founders of Kemet and not the Hyksos/Amorite invaders of the Second Intermediate Period built the Egyptian pyramids. The Kemetic pyramids date from the 3rd dynasty circa 2600 BC to 13th dynasty circa 1750 BC, and then skips to the 18th dynasty circa 1550 BC when the last pyramid was built. Pharaoh Ahmose I who also happens to be the Pharaoh during the Exodus commissioned the last pyramid. This pyramid would have been the last major construction project the Hebrews worked on as slaves in Egypt. Thus, the Hebrews took with them into the promise land a knowledge of pyramid building. Around the time, Israelites began migrating in mass to Upper Egypt near the border with Meroe (Cush) circa 600 BC; is when Meroe began building pyramids. This was no coincidence. As more Kemetic & Hebraic people migrated into Meroe they brought with them the knowledge of pyramid building. The Cushite pyramids date from circa 720–300 BC at the South Cemetery and circa 300 BC to about 350 AD at the North Cemetery. Giving us roughly about 800 years between the last Kemetic pyramid and the first Cushitic one. The Igbo pyramids were; more than likely constructed circa 900 AD. The Igbo brought this ancient knowledge with them into Southeastern Nigeria.



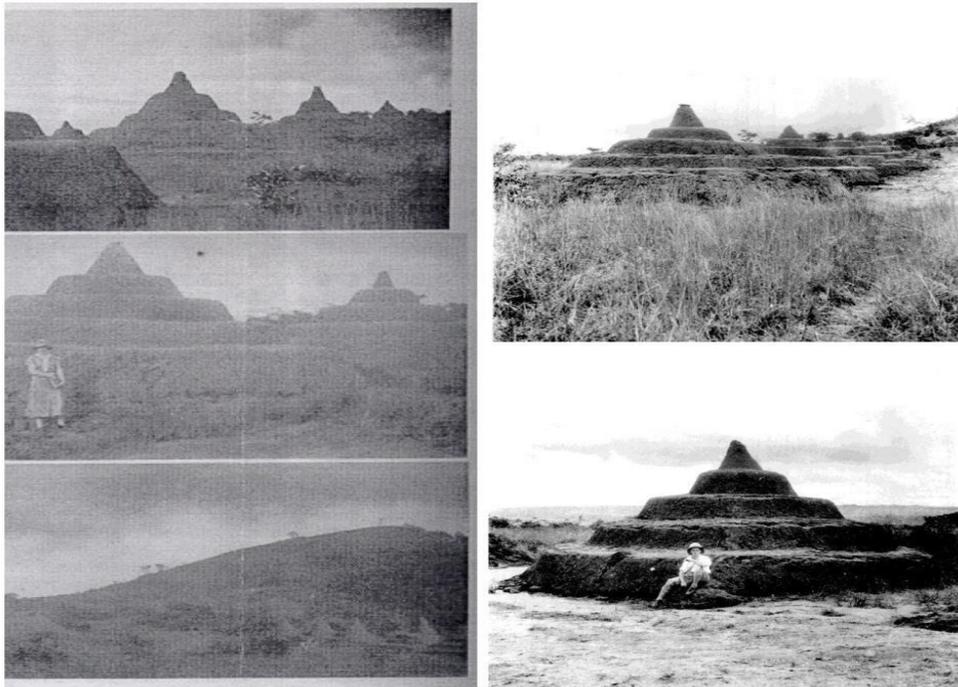
3RD DYNASTY PYRAMID KEMET (EGYPT)



CUSHITIC MEROE (SUDAN) PYRAMIDS



CUSHITIC MEROE (SUDAN) PYRAMIDS



IGBO PYRAMIDS AT NSUDE, NIGERIA



IGBO PYRAMIDS AT NSUDE, NIGERIA

Kemet (Egypt) according to the Torah was founded by Mizraim one of the sons of Ham. Upper Egypt (Southern Egypt) being populated by his son Pathrusim. Meroe of the Kingdom of Cush was founded by Cush's son Seba while Aksum was founded by his son Sheba. The land controlled and or under the influence of these two entities in the ancient world; stretched from Southern Arabia, across the Red Sea, to the Horn of Africa, and across the sahel (Bilad al-Sudan, Guinea, Negroland etc...) into West Africa. This is evidenced by Aksum and even modern day Ethiopians claiming descent from the Queen of Sheba mentioned in the Bible; as well as the Yoruba in Southwest Nigeria claiming she is buried among them. Sungbo's Eredo is a system of defensive walls and ditches that is located to the southwest of the Yoruba town of Ijebu Ode in Ogun State, southwest Nigeria (6.78700°N 3.87488°E). It was built in 800-1000 AD in honour of the Ijebu noblewoman Oloye Bilikisu Sungbo. The location is on Nigeria's tentative list of potential UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Legends of the contemporary Ijebu clan link the Eredo to a fabled wealthy and childless widow named Bilikisu Sungbo. According to them, the monument was built as her personal memorial. In addition to this, her grave is believed to be located in Oke-Eiri, a town in a Muslim area just north of the Eredo. Pilgrims of Christian, Muslim and traditional African religions annually trek to this holy site in tribute to her. Some have connected Bilikisu Sungbo with the legend of the Queen of Sheba, a figure who is mentioned in both the Bible and Quran. In the Hebrew Bible, she is described as having sent a caravan of gold, ivory and other goods from her kingdom to Solomon. In the Quran she is an Ethiopian sun-worshiper involved in the incense trade who converts to Islam; commentators added that her name was "Bilqis". The Ijebu are a clan of Jebusites among the Israelitish Yoruba.



IGBO MIGRATION FROM ISRAEL CIRCA 600 BC TO SOUTHEASTERN NIGERIA CIRCA 800-900 AD

MEROE (KUSH/NUBIA): Was an Ancient Kingdom in modern day Northern Sudan that existed as a state from the 2000's BC to circa 350 AD when it was sacked by the Aksumite Kingdom in modern day Ethiopia. From 350 AD to about 500 AD it existed as a weaker disintegrated state. Also massive land use and explosive population growth as it received more and more refugees after the Egypto-Assyrian defeat by the Babylonians (Chaldeans) circa 600 BC caused rapid desertification of the land. These refugees were primarily ancient Assyrians, Arameans, Phoenicians (Canaanites), Philistines, Israelites, Moabites, and Ammonites. These migrants first settled in various regions of upper Egypt (near the border with Meroe) causing the original Kemetic stock to begin migrating west (establishing Nok) and south to modern

day South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda etc... Establishing Nilotic people. Subsequently the Medo-Persians and Greeks would station more Israelites, Phoenicians (Canaanites), Moabites, Ammonites, and Arameans in Upper Egypt as laborers and at military garrisons. As the Greco-Roman era began to take place and culminating with the Fall of Jerusalem 70 AD; many of these groups migrated in mass to Meroe.

(2)(3)(4)(Ahikar) As Meroe continued to disintegrated during the late 4th and early 5th century AD after being sacked by Christian Aksum many of the Israelite/Canaanite or Hebraic-Phoenician groups began migrating into West Africa. This was caused by the influence Aksum had on the region and their insistence on establishing Eastern Christianity on its subjects. Meroe (Kush) at the time offered religious freedom with the cult of Isis being predominate at the time; but you also had other pagan groups, and practicing Jews. Not wanting to convert to Eastern Christianity in conjunction with poor economic

conditions, desertification, and drought/famine caused this migration. It finally culminated circa 500 AD with the establishment of three Christian Kingdoms in the area Makuria, Nobatia, and Alodia. Circa 700 AD the Sunday Christian Kingdom of Makura was able to repel an Islamic invasion from the north in Egypt. As a result a treaty was signed requiring roughly 400 slaves a year be sent to the Muslims Arabs up north. So the threat of enslavement also played a role in the Igbo's migration into West Africa.

Sources:

1. Nigeria's Igbo Jews: 'Lost tribe' of Israel? By Chika Oduah, for CNN Updated 6:00 AM ET, Mon February 4, 2013
2. Thompson, D. (1988). Memphis under the Ptolemies. Princeton (N.J.): Princeton University Press, pp.85-86.
3. Omer, I. (2018). Ancient Sudan~ Nubia: Investigating the Origin of the Ancient Jewish Community at Elephantine: A Review. [online] Ancientsudan.org.
4. "Origin of the Yoruba and the 'Lost Tribes of Israel ", Anthropos 106, 1 (2011), 579-595 by Lange, Dierk

~Important Dates~**2020 Feast Days**

*All times listed below are Pacific Standard Time**

The New Moon to Start the New Year Appears on **March 24, 2020 at 11:29 AM** Jerusalem Time

04/06/2020 Passover 7:00 PM PST

The Passover will Begin **Monday, April 6, 2020** at Sundown.

If anyone miss the Passover for the reasons listed Numbers 9:10 – 11
2nd Month Passover begins on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at Sundown

04/08/2020 1st Day of The Feast of Unleavened Bread 12:00 PM PST

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at Sundown. Service time: **Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at Noon**

04/14/2020 The Day of The Feast of Unleavened Bread 12:00 PM PST

Monday, April 13, 2020 at Sundown. Service time: **Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at Noon**

05/31/2020 The Day of Pentecost 12:00 PM PST

Saturday, May 30, 2020 at Sundown. Service time: **Sunday, May 31, 2020 at Noon**

09/18/2020 The Memorial of Blowing of Trumpets 12:00 PM PST

The New Moon of the Seventh Month appears on **Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 2:01 PM** Jerusalem Time

Service time: **Friday, September 18, 2020 at Noon**

09/27/2020 The Day of Atonement 12:00 PM PST

Saturday, September 26, 2020 at Sundown. Service time: **Sunday, September 27 2020 at Noon**

10/02/2020 The Feast of Tabernacles 12:00 PM PST

Thursday, October 1, 2020 at Sundown. Service time: **Friday, October 2, 2020 at Noon**

10/09/2020 8th Day Feast of Tabernacles 12:00 PM PST

Thursday, October 8, 2020 at Sundown. Service time: **Friday, October 9, 2020 at Noon**



Saturday, May 30, 2020 after Sabbath Service at the Beach

Upcoming New Moon Dates

Sebat 11th month Sundown 1/25/20 to Sundown 1/26/20

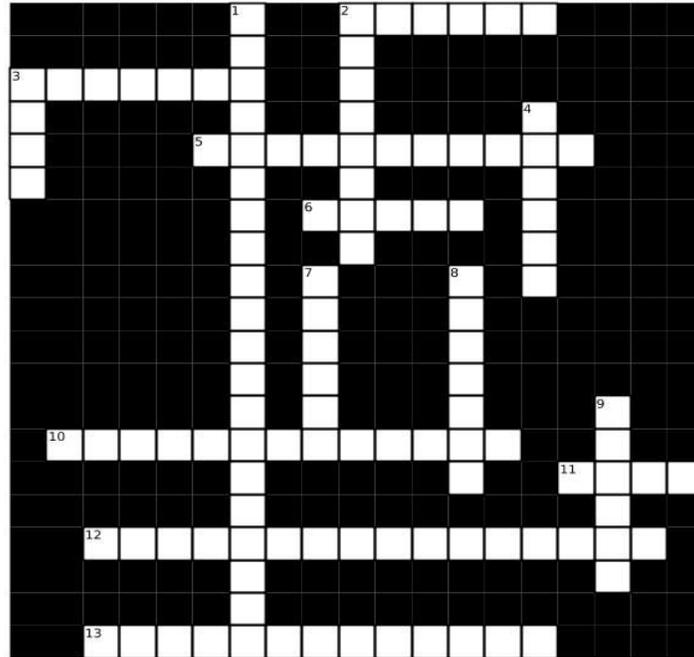
Adar 12th month Sundown 2/23/20 to Sundown 2/24/20

Abib 1st month Sundown 3/24/20 to Sundown 3/25/20 This is the Hebrew New Year.

Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

Deuteronomy 16:1 KJV

~Just for Fun~



- Across
- 2 Which Apostle took the Gospel to the city of Samaria?
 - 3 What is the common name given to the first four books of the New Testament?
 - 5 What did God tell Noah to use to build the ark?
 - 6 Who did God call out of Ur to move to Canaan?
 - 10 Matthew was a _____.
 - 11 What instrument did David play?
 - 12 Who were Noah's three sons?
 - 13 We should rejoice in our sufferings because we know that it produces...

- Down
- 1 What did King Solomon ask God to give him?
 - 2 In which book of the Bible is this verse found: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."
 - 3 Thou shalt have no other _____ before me.
 - 4 Who did the sun and moon stand still before?
 - 7 Where did Elijah meet with the prophets of Baal to prove that God is the one true god?
 - 8 After Noah got off the boat, what sign did God give to showed his promise to never flood the world again?
 - 9 John would prepare the way of the Lord, according to which prophet?