

*Holey, Heauxly, Wholly:*  
Redeeming the "Bad Girls" of the Bible

*Virtual*  
**BIBLE STUDY**

*Holey, Heauxly, Wholly:*  
Redeeming the "Bad Girls" of the Bible



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Stephen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

433 E. Highway 79 P.O. Box 142, Gause Texas 77857

[www.stephenchapelamecgtx.org](http://www.stephenchapelamecgtx.org)

# Hello and Welcome!

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This is just the beginning of a long-pursued intention to offer healing and nurturing to women of color who are or have been victims and/or survivors of marginalization, manipulation and devastation as an involuntary or voluntary worker in the sex industry, partner in a domestically violent relationship, or a kidnapped and trafficked object for whatever unjust, vile reason.

As a survivor myself, I hope that upon seeing yourself in these presumed 'bad girls' of the Bible, you'll also see that God has never hated you to supposedly 'punish' you, but has only sorrowed for you and with you in your suffering and is so looking forward to your wholly coming back home to Him, with new insight about your true worth in HIS genuinely, unconditionally redeeming eyes.

*Rev. Constance Coleman-Fletcher*

*Pastor, Stephen Chapel AMEC, Gause, TX*

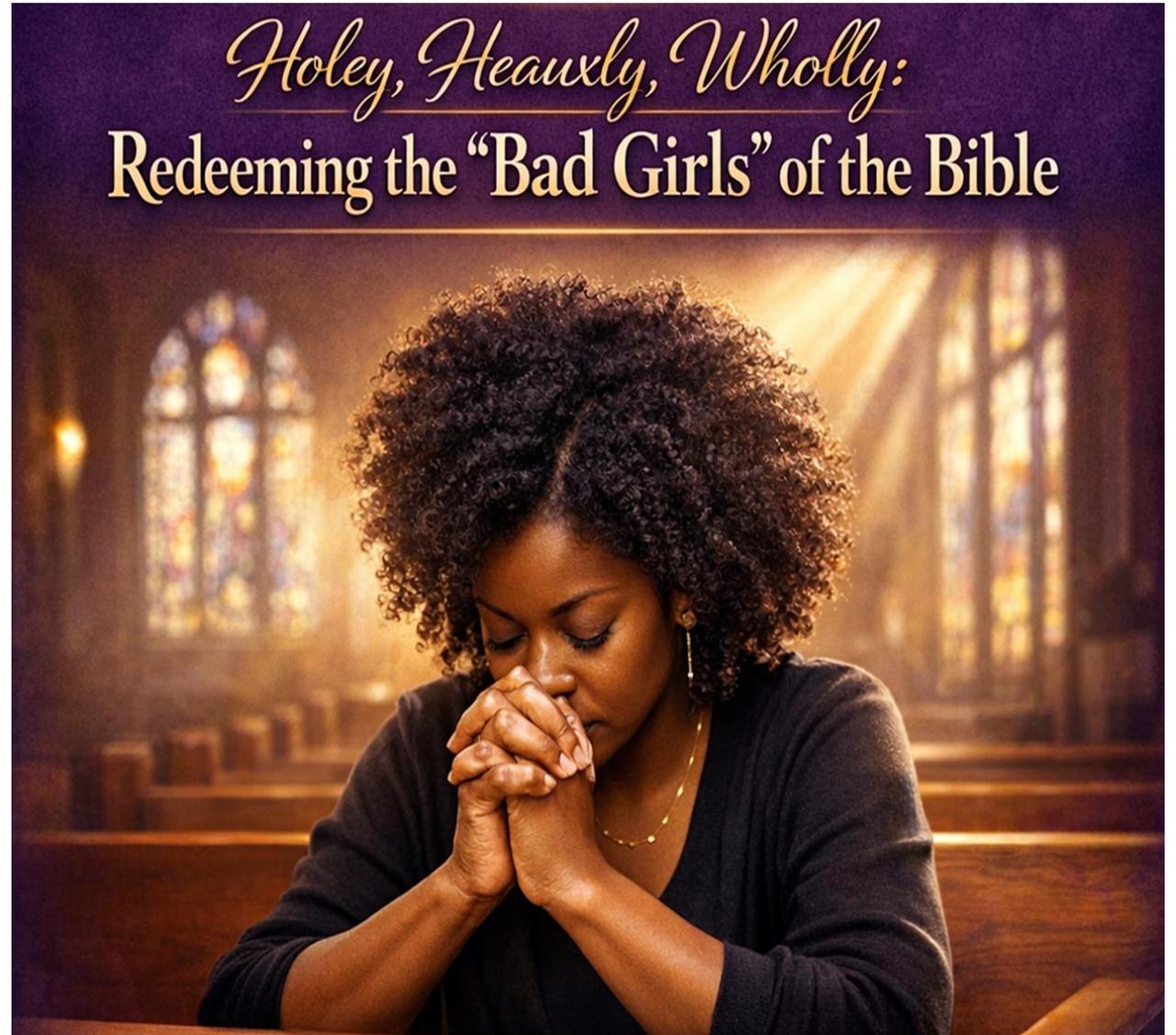
*Founder & Director, The New Covenant Coalition  
(Incorporated), Harker Heights, TX*

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**This Study's  
Glances & Goals for:  
February 24<sup>th</sup> &  
March 10<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ ***PART 1: The Need for This Study***
- ❖ ***PART 2: Are There Actually Any “Black” or “White” people in the Bible?: The Spiritual Perils of “Blanket Blackening” One’s Christian Faith***
- ❖ ***PART 3: “The Mother of All Living”: Eve***





*#RacialWealthDivide*

# The Road to Zero Wealth

How the Racial Wealth Divide is Hollowing Out America's Middle Class

By: Chuck Collins, Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Josh Hoxie, Emanuel Nieves

*September 11, 2017*

***<https://ips-dc.org/help-spread-the-word-racialwealthdivide/>***



SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

# Report: The Road to Zero Wealth

How the Racial Wealth Divide is Hollowing Out America's Middle Class

By [Chuck Collins](#), [Dedrick Asante-Muhammad](#), [Josh Hoxie](#), [Emanuel Nieves](#)

# Is Anything Wrong? Most Definitely!

In this report, we look at the racial wealth divide at the median over the next four and eight years, as well as to 2043, when the country's population is predicted to become majority non-white. We also look to wealth rather than income to reconsider what it means to be middle class. In finding an ever-accelerating gap, we consider what it means for the American middle class and we explore what policy interventions could reverse the trends we see today. We find that without a serious change in course, the country is heading towards a racial and economic apartheid state.

September 2017

# THE ROAD TO ZERO WEALTH

HOW THE RACIAL WEALTH DIVIDE IS HOLLOWING OUT AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS



PROSPERITY  
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Institute for  
Policy Studies

# **KEY FINDINGS**

## **Key Finding #1:**

While households of color are projected to reach majority status by 2043, if the racial wealth divide is left unaddressed, median Black household wealth is on a path to hit zero by 2053 and median Latino household wealth is projected to hit zero twenty years later. In sharp contrast, median White household wealth would climb to \$137,000 by 2053.



IF THE RACIAL  
WEALTH DIVIDE IS  
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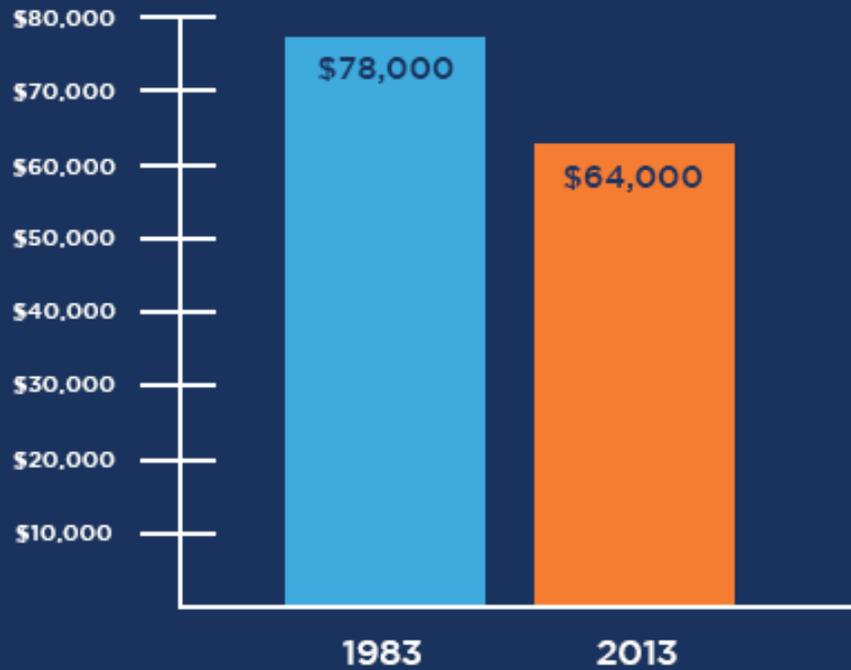
## **Key Finding #2:**

If current trends continue, by 2020 median Black and Latino households stand to lose nearly 18% and 12% of the wealth they held in 2013, respectively, while median White household wealth increases 3%. At that point—just three years from now—non-White households are projected to own 86 times more wealth than Black households and 68 times more wealth than Latino households.

## **Key Finding #3:**

The declining wealth of households of color is already taking a significant toll on the broader economy. The nation's overall median wealth decreased nearly 20% from 1983 to 2013 (\$78,000 to \$64,000—a period when Black and Latino median wealth went down and White wealth slowly went up.

THE NATION'S OVERALL  
MEDIAN WEALTH **DECREASED**  
**NEARLY 20%** FROM 1983 TO  
2013 (\$78,000 TO \$64,000)



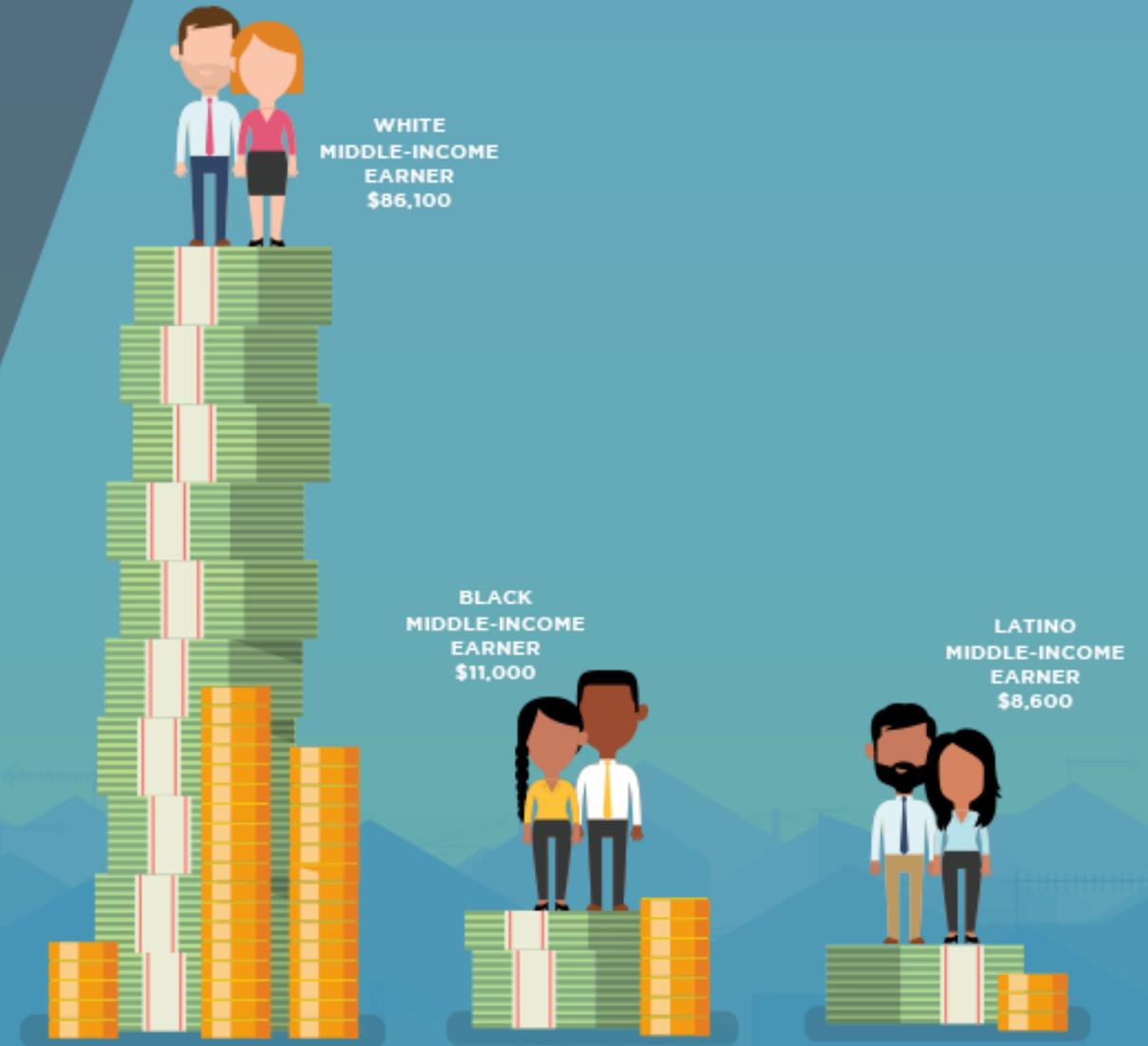
A PERIOD WHEN **BLACK AND  
LATINO MEDIAN WEALTH WENT  
DOWN** AND **WHITE WEALTH  
SLOWLY WENT UP.**



## **Key Finding #4:**

Even earning a middle-class income does not guarantee a family middle-class economic security, according to the report. White households in the middle income quintile—those earning \$37,201-61,328 annually—own nearly eight times as much wealth (\$86,100) as Black middle-income earners (\$11,000) and ten times that of their Latino counterparts (\$8,600).

**WHITE HOUSEHOLDS IN THE MIDDLE-INCOME QUINTILE (THOSE EARNING \$37,201-61,328 ANNUALLY) OWN NEARLY EIGHT TIMES AS MUCH WEALTH (\$86,100) AS MIDDLE-INCOME BLACK EARNERS (\$11,000) AND TEN TIMES AS MUCH WEALTH AS MIDDLE-INCOME LATINO EARNERS (\$8,600).**



## **Key Finding #5:**

This disconnect in income and wealth is visible across every socioeconomic level. The report found that on average, only Black and Latino households with an advanced degree have middle-class wealth or higher, while White households, on average, need only a high school diploma to attain that same level of wealth.

**BLACK AND LATINO HOUSEHOLDS** NEED AN **ADVANCED DEGREE** TO OBTAIN MIDDLE-CLASS WEALTH OR HIGHER, WHILE **WHITE HOUSEHOLDS**, ON AVERAGE, NEED ONLY A **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA** TO ATTAIN THAT SAME LEVEL OF WEALTH.



<https://ips-dc.org/help-spread-the-word-racialwealthdivide/>

# ***And so, in light of these findings:***

The report calls on the Trump administration and Congress to consider a range of policy options to help close the racial wealth divide. They include:

- ❖ *Changing our tax code to stop subsidizing those who are already wealthy and start investing in opportunities for low-wealth families to build wealth. Specifically, the report recommends reforming the mortgage interest deduction and other tax expenditures, bolstering and expanding the federal estate tax, and creating a net-worth tax on multi-million-dollar fortunes.*

*And so, in light of these findings - continued:*

- ❖ *Protecting low-wealth families from wealth-stripping practices by strengthening the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and closing the offshore tax shelters currently enabling the ultra-wealthy to hide their assets.*
- ❖ *Investing in bold new programs like Children's Savings Accounts, automatic-enrollment retirement accounts, federal jobs guarantees, and a racial wealth divide audit of government policies.*

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# REFERENCES - 1

## Twitter:

- New report finds that the #RacialWealthDivide is taking a significant toll on the middle class and broader economy <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/>
- What will 2053 bring for Black wealth in America? An average of \$0 according to @IPS\_DC @prosperitynow new report <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/> #RacialWealthDivide
- The road ahead looks like zero wealth for 21st century Black America. Read more here <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/> #RacialWealthDivide
- White high school dropouts' wealth > Black & Latino college graduates' wealth. It's not choice, it's the #RacialWealthDivide <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/>
- Policymakers must reassess federal policies that leave families of color behind: <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/> #RacialWealthDivide
- In 2043, minorities will be the majority and if #RacialWealthDivide is unaddressed, Black wealth is on a path to hit zero by 2053 <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/>
- New report by @IPS\_DC and @prosperitynow shows #RacialWealthDivide will never close if we don't take action now: <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/>

**Forbes**

LEADERSHIP > FORBESWOMEN

# The Economic Slump and DEI Backlash Are Hitting Black Women Hardest

By: Sophia A. Nelson, Contributor

Sophia A. Nelson covers Law, Politics, American Lifestyle & Culture.

*Nov 30, 2025, 01:58pm EST Nov 30, 2025*

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/sophianelson/2025/11/30/the-current-economic-slump--dei-backlash-are-devastating-black-women/>

# “The Economic Slump And DEI Backlash Are Hitting Black Women Hardest”

A cooling economy combined with an aggressive retreat from diversity and inclusion is pushing Black women out of the workforce at rates not seen in decades.

The U.S. economy has been cooling for months. Inflation on essential goods remains stubborn, interest rates are still high, wages have flattened, and working families across America feel the pressure. But while the slowdown affects nearly every demographic, no group is being hit harder—or with more lasting consequence—than Black women.

In 2024, Black women reached a historic high in labor-force participation, buoyed by strong demand in education, public service, health care, and service-sector employment. They were earning degrees at record rates, starting small businesses faster than any other demographic, and maintaining some of the highest work-participation levels among all women. For a moment, it seemed like progress was not only possible, but durable.

That is not the case today.

# A Sharp Labor-Force Exit

Since January, Black women have been leaving the workforce at levels that economists describe as “alarming” and “unprecedented in recent years.” Hundreds of thousands have exited the labor market or lost employment, a trend outpacing every other demographic group. Unemployment for Black women has risen steadily—higher and faster than for men, white women, or Latina workers. And the sectors where Black women have historically been overrepresented—public education, federal and state employment, health care support, childcare, retail, and hospitality—are either cutting back, reorganizing, or freezing hiring.

## *A Sharp Labor-Force Exit - continued*

In other words: the floor has dropped out from under the very workers who have long held up the American workforce.

There is a straightforward economic story here about slowing job growth and declining consumer demand. But there is also a deeper story—one with structural and political roots—that is making the burden on Black women uniquely heavy.

# The DEI Rollback Is a Workforce Issue

As the economy contracts, the federal government and many state institutions are simultaneously retreating from decades of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. From universities being threatened with funding cuts if they openly engage in DEI efforts to Fortune 500 corporations, everyone is running scared.

This is not the 2020 post-George Floyd push for more diversity and equality, which was at the top of every corporate and university agenda. Fast forward to 2025, multiple agencies have removed DEI guidance from their websites, paused hiring initiatives meant to recruit underrepresented groups, or dismantled internal structures that once ensured equitable review of personnel decisions.

## *The DEI Rollback Is a Workforce Issue - continued*

A recent independent analysis found that the current federal administration is the **least diverse in the 21st century**, with roughly nine out of ten confirmed appointees being white and only a fraction being women. For Black women—who have long relied on public-sector jobs as pathways to stable, middle-class livelihoods—this shift is not abstract. It is foundational.

When federal leadership becomes less diverse, the ripple effects extend far beyond symbolism. Public-sector hiring trends change. Enforcement of workplace discrimination rules shifts. Contracting priorities get redirected. The networks that help women of color enter and advance inside government agencies thin out or disappear. And in a period of economic fragility, those institutional changes amplify the instability already facing Black women in the broader labor market.

# A Perfect Storm of Economic Pressures

Part of why Black women are being disproportionately affected is simple: they remain overrepresented in industries that experience early contractions during economic downturns. Public-service institutions tighten budgets. School districts cut staff. Hospitals reduce support roles. Retail and hospitality slow their hiring. When these pressures hit simultaneously, Black women—who make up significant portions of these workforces—absorb the brunt of the losses.

Worse, the US Department of Education announced last week that Nursing will no longer be considered a profession that qualifies for federal loans above a certain amount. This move is likely to hurt opportunities to recruit nurses of color, from working-class backgrounds, who still make up less than 10% of Nurses in the United States.

## *A Perfect Storm of Economic Pressures – continued*

Layered on top are longstanding structural inequities. Black women still earn significantly less, on average, than white men for the same work. They hold far less household wealth, meaning they have smaller financial buffers to weather periods of unemployment. They are more likely to head households alone and more likely to carry caregiving responsibilities for children, aging parents, or extended family.

This combination—high work participation, lower wages, limited savings, and heavy household responsibility—creates what many economists now call the “triple economic tax” on Black women:

*A Perfect Storm of Economic Pressures – continued*

**The Pay Tax** – earning less for the same work.

**The Care Tax** – shouldering disproportionate family responsibilities.

**The Safety Tax** – facing higher risks of housing instability, healthcare gaps, and economic insecurity during downturns.

When the economy softens, those overlapping burdens become crushing.

# Backlash Meets Reality

The backlash against DEI does not exist in a vacuum. It exists in an economy where the gains of 2020–2022 have evaporated, and where Black women—despite being among the most educated and entrepreneurial groups in the country—are experiencing declining opportunity.

What's often lost in the debate is that DEI is fundamentally a workforce strategy. It ensures that hiring, advancement, and retention are not shaped by bias. It helps place talented workers of color into leadership pipelines. It supports equitable contracting and procurement practices. It encourages inclusive work environments that reduce turnover. It strengthens the middle class.

## *Backlash Meets Reality - continued*

When DEI is stripped away during a downturn, the impact is multiplied. Economic contraction worsens. Mobility stalls. Entire sectors become less representative of the public they serve.

And for Black women—already navigating an economic landscape filled with headwinds—its absence is felt immediately.

# Why This Matters for America's Economic Future

Black women are not a marginal demographic. They are a cornerstone of America's workforce, a stabilizing presence in volatile labor markets, and a driving force in entrepreneurship and higher education. Their economic well-being is not just a matter of equity; it is a matter of national economic health.

When Black women leave the workforce, families lose income. Communities lose stability. Small businesses lose customers. Employers lose talent. States lose tax revenue. And the national economy loses one of its most reliable pillars of labor, productivity, and consumer spending.

## *Why This Matters for America's Economic Future - continued*

Ignoring this trend is not just shortsighted—it is economically costly. If the United States hopes to navigate an era of technological disruption, demographic change, and geopolitical uncertainty, it cannot afford to sideline the very workers who have consistently shored up its economic resilience.

# The Path Forward

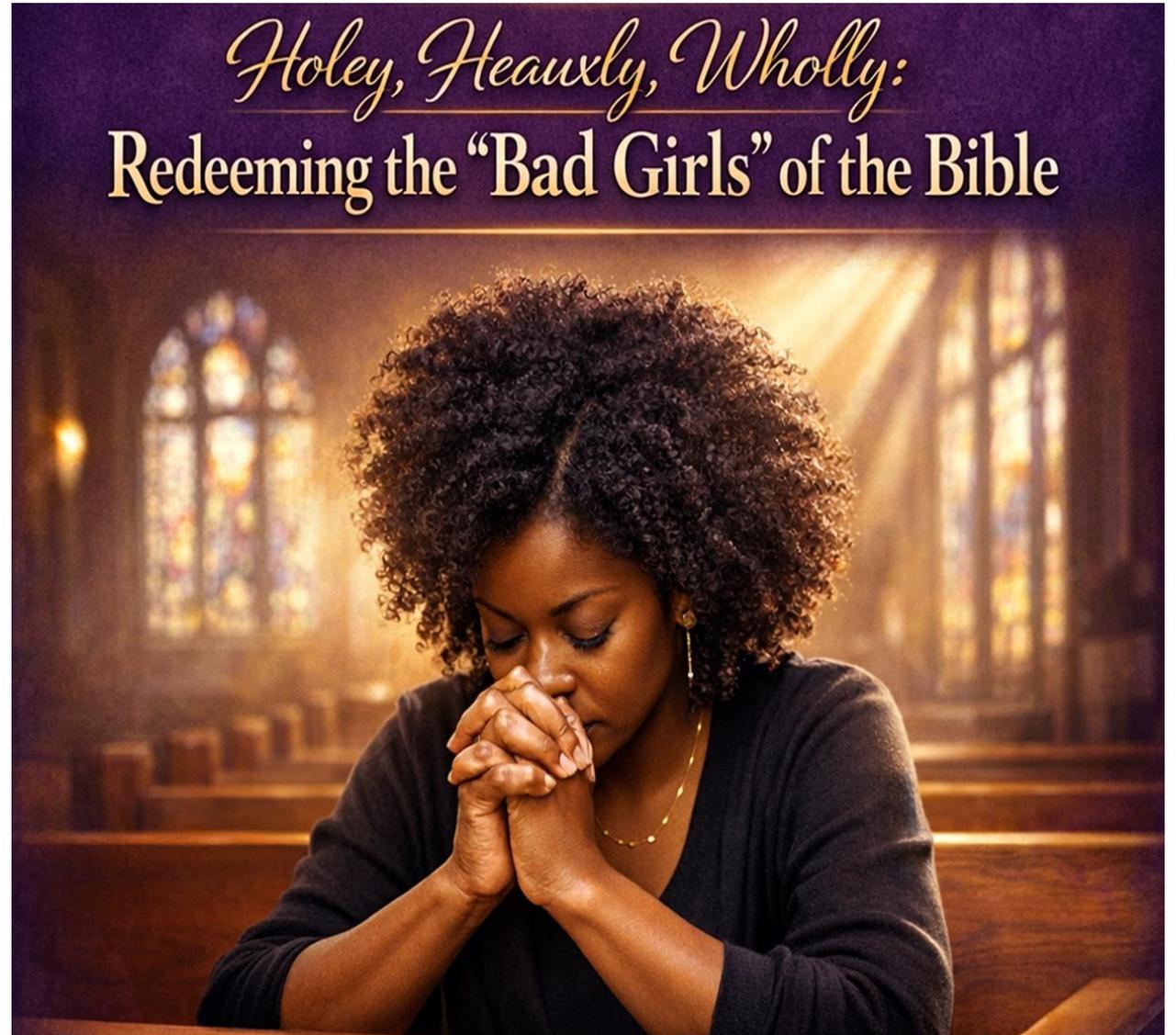
Strengthening childcare access, protecting public-sector jobs, restoring DEI infrastructure, expanding small-business capital pipelines, and raising wages in caregiving and education are not “nice-to-have” policies. They are economic imperatives.

If the economy is going to recover in a way that is broad, durable, and fair, Black women must be at the center of that recovery, not its casualties.

America has weathered downturns before. But we have never recovered by leaving our most essential workers behind.

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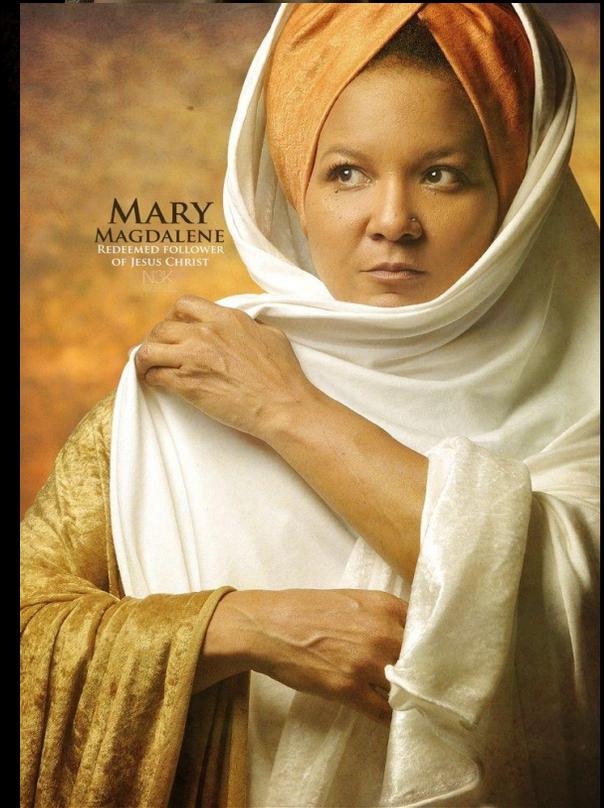
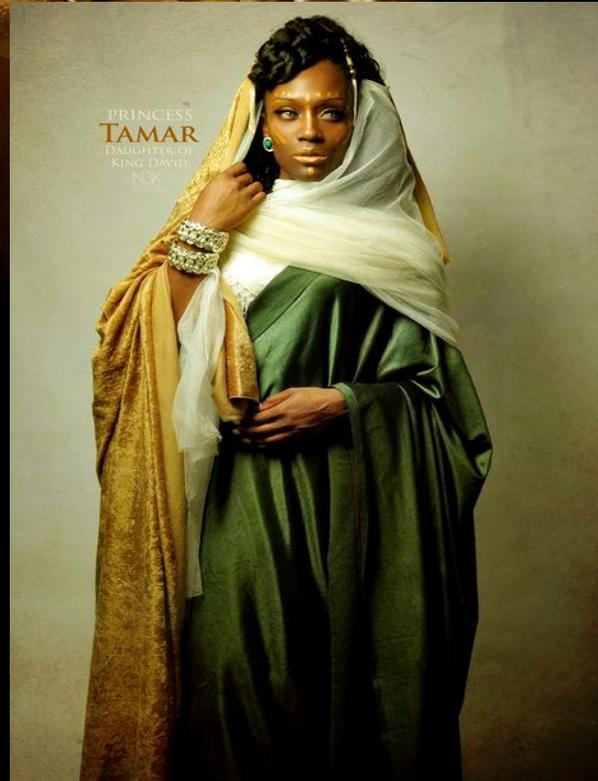
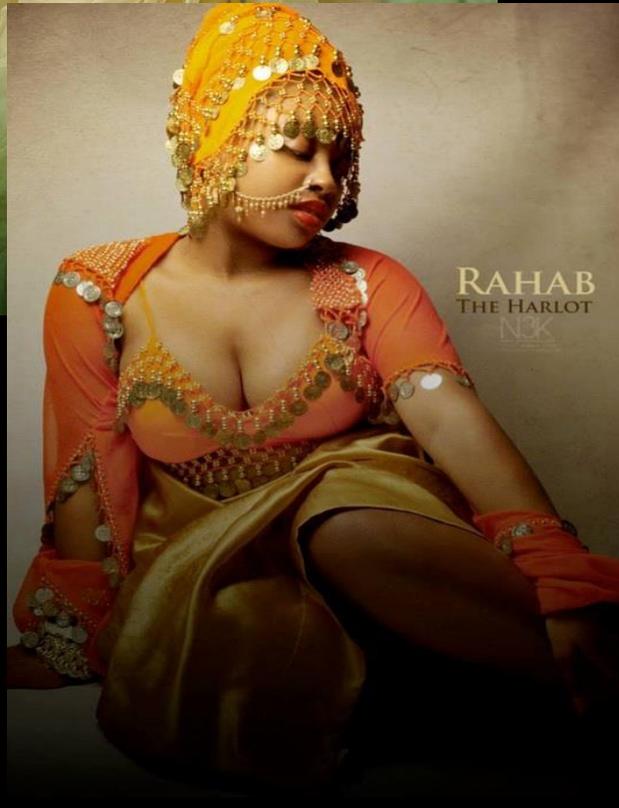
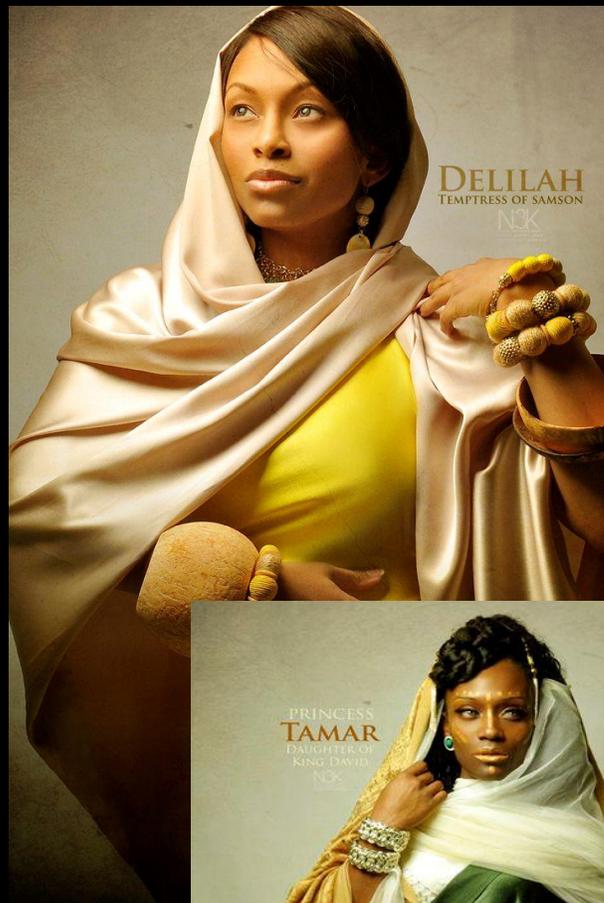
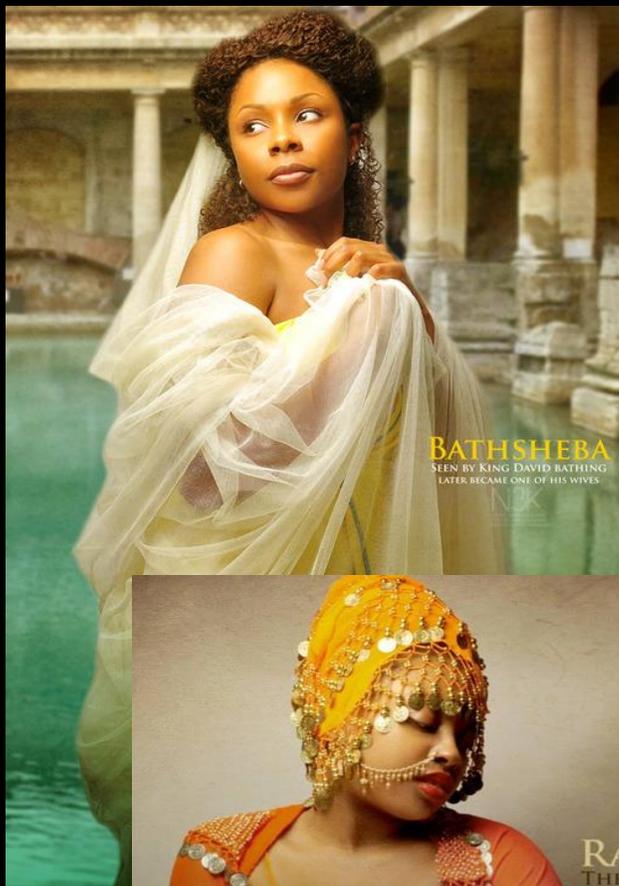


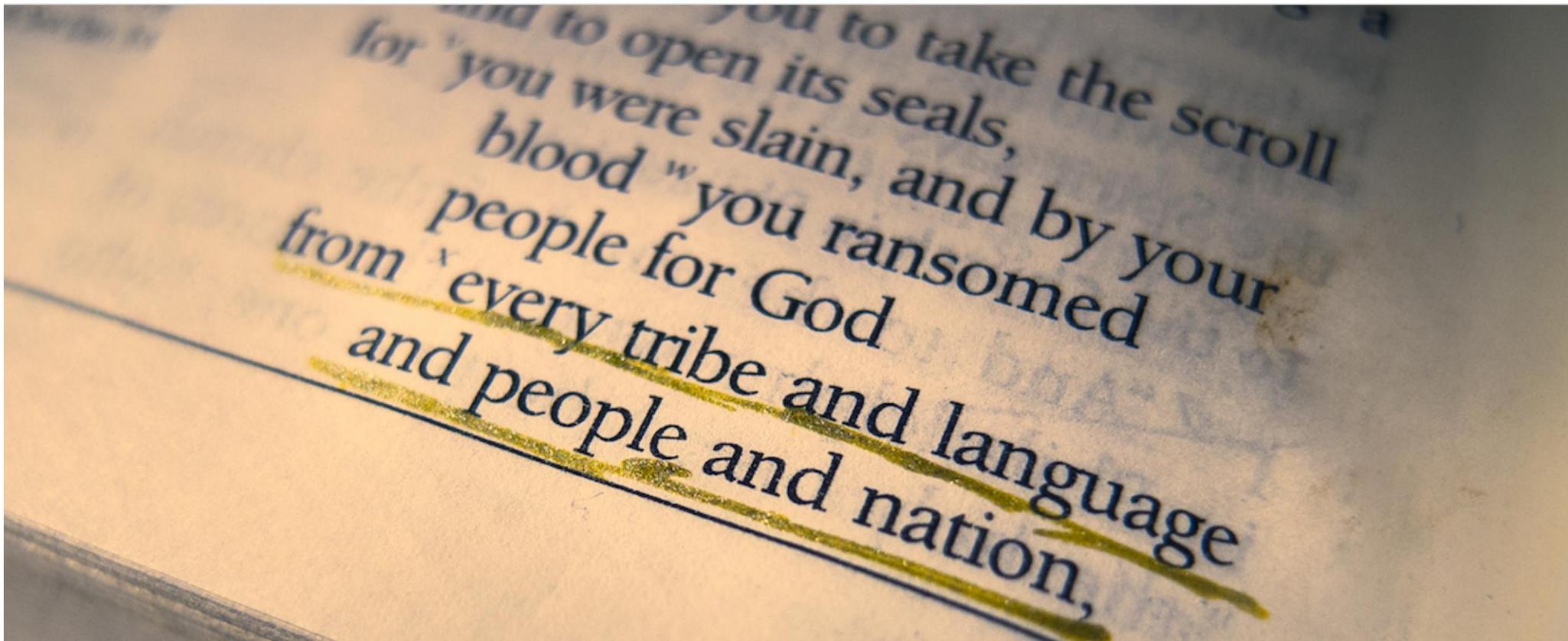


# Are There Actually Any “Black” or “White” People in the Bible?

*The Spiritual Perils of “Blanket Blackening” One’s Christian Faith*  
(with list: Biblical Cultures, Ethnicities and Nations)

<https://mybiblebento.com/biblical-names-list/nations-people-groups-bible-list/>





And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation**, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:8-10

<https://influencemagazine.com/Theory/Twelve-Bible-Verses-About-Race-and-Ethnicity>

The nation of Israel holds a central place in the biblical narrative. God chose Israel as His covenant people, beginning with His call to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 : "Then the LORD said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your kindred, and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'" Israel's identity as a nation is intricately linked to its covenant relationship with God, its laws, and its land.



The Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians are among the many nationalities mentioned. These nations often served as instruments of God's judgment or blessing, as seen in the Exodus from Egypt and the Babylonian Exile.

## Amalekites

Original (Hebrew): אֲמָלֵקִי Amālēqî)

Meaning: Possibly “dweller in the valley”

First Appearance: Genesis 14:7

Description: A nomadic people who attacked the Israelites in the wilderness after the Exodus from Egypt. They were descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau. God commanded Saul to completely destroy them (1 Samuel 15) because of their unprovoked attack on Israel when they were vulnerable. Their ongoing hostility toward Israel made them symbolic enemies in biblical history.

## Ammonites

Original (Hebrew): אַמּוֹנִי Ammônî)

Meaning: Descendants of Ben-Ammi (“son of my people”)

First Appearance: Genesis 19:38

Description: A people who lived east of the Jordan River, descended from Ben-Ammi, the son of Lot through his younger daughter. They were often in conflict with the Israelites. Their capital city was Rabbah (modern Amman, Jordan). The Ammonites worshipped the god Molech, which involved a brutal form of sacrifice condemned in the Bible. Judges records their oppression of Israel, and they were later defeated by King David.

## Amorites

Original (Hebrew): ) אַמֹּרִי (Āmōrî)

Meaning: Possibly “highlander” or “the prominent ones”

First Appearance: [Genesis 10:16](#)

Description: One of the most powerful ancient Canaanite peoples who lived in the hill country of Palestine. They had kingdoms on both sides of the Jordan River before Israel’s conquest. Sihon and Og were Amorite kings defeated by Moses. They were often used as a general term for all the inhabitants of Canaan. Abraham interacted with Amorites in Genesis, and they were among the nations Israel was commanded to drive out of the Promised Land.

## Arameans

Original (Hebrew): ) אַרְמִי (Ārammî)

Meaning: People of Aram (“high” or “exalted”)

First Appearance: Genesis 25:20 (as Aram)

Description: People who inhabited various kingdoms in Syria and upper Mesopotamia. Jacob is called “a wandering Aramean” in Deuteronomy 26:5. David fought against the Arameans of Damascus. Naaman the Aramean was healed of leprosy by Elisha. They spoke Aramaic, which later became the common language of the Near East and parts of the Bible. Their main city was Damascus, and they frequently warred with Israel during the divided kingdom period.

## Asherites

Original (Hebrew): אֲשֵׁרִי (Āšērî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Asher (“happy” or “blessed”)

First Appearance: Numbers 1:40-41

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Asher, Jacob’s son through Zilpah. Their territory was in western Galilee along the Mediterranean coast. Jacob blessed them saying their “food would be rich” and they would “yield royal delicacies.” The prophetess Anna, who recognized the infant Jesus in the temple, was from the tribe of Asher.

## Assyrians

Original (Hebrew): אַשּׁוּרִי (Aššûrî)

Meaning: People of Ashur (their national deity)

First Appearance: Genesis 10:11

Description: A powerful empire centered in northern Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). They conquered the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC and deported its population. Sennacherib’s Assyrian army besieged Jerusalem but was miraculously defeated during Hezekiah’s reign. The prophet [Jonah](#) was sent to their capital, Nineveh. The Assyrians were known for their military might, cruelty to conquered peoples, and advanced administrative systems. Prophets like Isaiah and Nahum spoke extensively about them.

# Babylonians

Original (Akkadian): Bābilāyu

Meaning: People of “the gate of god”

First Appearance: 2 Kings 20:12 (as Babylon)

Description: Inhabitants of the ancient city of Babylon and its empire in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). First mentioned in Genesis 10:10 as part of Nimrod’s kingdom, Babylon became a dominant empire under Nebuchadnezzar, conquering Jerusalem in 586 BC, destroying Solomon’s Temple, and exiling the Jews. This exile, lasting about 70 years, fulfilled Jeremiah’s prophecy (Jeremiah 25:11-12). Daniel served in the Babylonian court under Nebuchadnezzar. Babylon symbolizes idolatry, pride, and opposition to God throughout the Bible, from the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) to its prophetic destruction in Revelation (Revelation 17-18).

# Benjamites

Original (Hebrew): בְּנֵי־מִינִי Binyāmînî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Benjamin (“son of the right hand”)

First Appearance: Judges 3:15

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Benjamin, Jacob’s youngest son. Their territory included Jerusalem. They nearly faced extinction after a civil war (Judges 19-21). The tribe produced Israel’s first king, Saul, and later the apostle Paul identified himself as a Benjamite. Despite being small, they were known for their fierce warriors described as left-handed and skilled with slings.

## Buzites

Original (Hebrew): ) בּוּזִי Bûzî)

Meaning: Descendants of Buz

First Appearance: Genesis 22:21 (as Buz)

Description: People descended from [Buz](#), the son of Nahor (Abraham's brother). Elihu, one of Job's friends, is identified as "the son of Barachel the Buzite" (Job 32:2). They were likely a smaller Arabian tribe related to the Israelites through Abraham's family.

## Canaanites

Original (Hebrew): ) כְּנַעֲנִי Kena'anî)

Meaning: Possibly "merchant" or "lowlander"

First Appearance: Genesis 10:18-19

Description: The original inhabitants of Canaan before the Israelite conquest. They were descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham. The Canaanites were not a single nation but a collection of city-states with advanced economies, trade networks, and fortified cities. They practiced idolatry, often including an evil form of sacrifice. God promised their land to Abraham's descendants through Isaac. Despite their conquest by Israel, their religious influence remained a stumbling block throughout biblical history.

## Chaldeans

Original (Hebrew): ) כַּשְׁדִּיִּם Kaśdîm)

Meaning: People of Chaldea, southern Babylonia

First Appearance: Genesis 11:28

Description: A people group from southern Mesopotamia who rose to power and established the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Abraham originated from “Ur of the Chaldeans.” They were known for their knowledge of astronomy, astrology, and mathematics. Under Nebuchadnezzar II, they conquered Jerusalem. In Daniel, “Chaldeans” often refers specifically to learned men or wise men who interpreted dreams and omens in the Babylonian court.

## Cherethites

Original (Hebrew): ) כְּרֵתִי Kəreṯî)

Meaning: Possibly related to Crete

First Appearance: 1 Samuel 30:14

Description: A group often mentioned alongside the Pelethites as King David’s personal bodyguards and elite military forces. They were likely Philistine mercenaries, as the term is sometimes used interchangeably with Philistines. Ezekiel prophesied against them along with the Philistines (Ezekiel 25:16). They remained loyal to David, even during Absalom’s rebellion.

# Cushites

Original (Hebrew): ) יִשְׁכַּחֲשִׁי Kûšî)

Meaning: People of Cush (Ethiopia)

First Appearance: Genesis 10:6

Description: Inhabitants of the ancient region of Cush, which included parts of modern Sudan, Ethiopia, and possibly Eritrea. They were descendants of Cush, son of Ham. Moses married a Cushite woman (Numbers 12:1). They were known for their dark skin (Jeremiah 13:23). The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 was a high-ranking official of the Cushite kingdom. Cushites were sometimes allies and sometimes enemies of Egypt. Isaiah prophesied they would bring gifts to Jerusalem (Isaiah 18:7), and Zephaniah spoke of worshippers from beyond the rivers of Cush (Zephaniah 3:10).

# Damascenes

Original (Greek): Δαμασκηνός (Damaskēnos)

Meaning: People of Damascus

First Appearance: 2 Corinthians 11:32

Description: The inhabitants of Damascus, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities.

Damascus was the capital of Aram (Syria) and often engaged in conflict with Israel. Elisha prophesied that Hazael would become king of Damascus. It features prominently in Paul's conversion story, where he encountered Jesus on the [road to Damascus](#) and later escaped the city when the governor under King Aretas sought to arrest him.

## Danites

Original (Hebrew): ) דָּנִי Dānî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Dan (“judge”)

First Appearance: Numbers 1:38-39

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah. Originally allocated coastal territory, they later migrated north due to pressure from the Philistines. They were known for their craftsmanship and artisans. Samson was a famous Danite judge. The tribe unfortunately became associated with idolatry after setting up a graven image in their northern territory (Judges 18).

## Dedanites

Original (Hebrew): ) דְּדָנִיִּם Dəḏānîm)

Meaning: Descendants of Dedan

First Appearance: Genesis 10:7 (as Dedan)

Description: An Arabian tribe descended from Dedan, grandson of Cush. They were traders associated with Sheba and were known for their caravans. Isaiah and Ezekiel mention them in prophecies. They lived in northwestern Arabia and were involved in the incense trade routes.

## Edomites

Original (Hebrew): ) םִדְמוֹיĔdômî)

Meaning: “Red ones” (associated with Esau’s ruddy complexion)

First Appearance: Genesis 36:9

Description: Descendants of Esau, Jacob’s twin brother, who settled in the mountainous region south of the Dead Sea. They refused to let the Israelites pass through their territory during the Exodus. Though related to Israelites, they maintained hostile relations throughout much of biblical history. King Herod the Great had Edomite ancestry. The prophet Obadiah specifically addressed God’s judgment against Edom for their violence against their “brother Jacob.”

## Egyptians

Original (Hebrew): ) מִצְרַיִםMiṣrî)

Meaning: People of Egypt (possibly “land of the soul of Ptah”)

First Appearance: Genesis 12:12

Description: The inhabitants of ancient Egypt along the Nile River. Egypt plays a crucial role in biblical history as the place where the Israelites were enslaved for 430 years before the Exodus. Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and even Jesus (as a child) all spent time in Egypt. The nation symbolized both worldly power and refuge in different biblical contexts. Despite their history of oppression, God instructed Israelites not to abhor Egyptians (Deuteronomy 23:7).

## Ekronites

Original (Hebrew): עֲקֵרוֹנִי (Eqrônî)

Meaning: People of Ekron

First Appearance: Joshua 13:3

Description: Inhabitants of Ekron, one of the five major Philistine cities. When the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, it was brought to Ekron, causing plagues among the people. The city was known for its worship of Baal-Zebub, whom King Ahaziah consulted when he was ill, prompting Elijah's rebuke.

## Elamites

Original (Hebrew): עֵלְאָמִי (Êlāmî)

Meaning: People of Elam

First Appearance: Genesis 10:22 (as Elam)

Description: Inhabitants of ancient Elam, a region east of Mesopotamia in what is now southwestern Iran. They are listed among Noah's descendants. An Elamite king, Chedorlaomer, was part of the coalition Abraham defeated. They were present in Jerusalem at Pentecost (Acts 2:9). The prophet Jeremiah predicted their defeat, but also their eventual restoration.

# Ephraimites

Original (Hebrew): אֶפְרַיִמִי Eḫrayimî

Meaning: People of the tribe of Ephraim (“fruitful”)

First Appearance: Judges 12:5

Description: Members of one of the largest tribes of Israel, descended from Ephraim, Joseph’s son. They occupied the central hill country of Canaan. After the kingdom divided, Ephraim became the dominant tribe of the northern kingdom, so much so that “Ephraim” often refers to the entire northern kingdom in prophetic literature. They were known for their pride and jealousy. They couldn’t pronounce “Shibboleth” correctly, which led to their identification and defeat by Jephthah.

# Gadites

Original (Hebrew): גָּדִי Gādî

Meaning: People of the tribe of Gad (“fortune”)

First Appearance: Numbers 1:24-25

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Gad, Jacob’s son through Zilpah. They settled east of the Jordan River and were known as skilled warriors. Moses described them as “a lion’s cub, tearing arm and scalp” (Deuteronomy 33:20). They, along with Reuben and half of Manasseh, requested land east of the Jordan but promised to help conquer Canaan before settling there.

# Galatians

Original (Greek): Γαλάται (Galatai)

Meaning: People of Galatia

First Appearance: Acts 16:6

Description: Inhabitants of Galatia, a region in central Asia Minor (modern Turkey). They were Celtic people who migrated there in the 3rd century BC. Paul established churches in Galatia during his missionary journeys and later wrote the epistle to the Galatians, addressing their tendency to abandon grace for legalism. The churches of Galatia participated in Paul's collection for the Jerusalem church.

# Galileans

Original (Greek): Γαλιλαῖος (Galilaios)

Meaning: People from Galilee ("circle" or "region")

First Appearance: Matthew 26:69

Description: Inhabitants of the northern region of Israel where Jesus spent most of His ministry. Galileans had a distinctive accent that identified Peter as a follower of Jesus. They were often looked down upon by Judeans as less sophisticated and more influenced by Gentile culture. However, Jesus chose His disciples primarily from this region, and after His resurrection, He instructed them to meet Him in Galilee. The area was fertile and densely populated with many fishing villages around the Sea of Galilee.

## Gazites

Original (Hebrew): אַזַּאֲטִי Azzāṭî

Meaning: People of Gaza

First Appearance: Joshua 13:3

Description: Inhabitants of Gaza, the southernmost of the five major Philistine cities. Samson carried off the gates of Gaza and later was imprisoned and died there. The city was an important trade center on the route between Egypt and Mesopotamia. The prophets often included Gaza in judgments against Philistia.

## Gergesenes/Gadarenes

Original (Greek): Γεργεσηνοί (Gergesēnoi)/Γαδαρηνοί (Gadarēnoi)

Meaning: People of Gergesa/Gadara

First Appearance: Matthew 8:28

Description: Inhabitants of the region around Gadara or Gergesa, cities on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus cast demons out of one or two men in their territory, sending the demons into a herd of pigs that rushed into the lake. Afterward, the people asked Jesus to leave their region.

## Gibeonites

Original (Hebrew): ) גִּבְעוֹנִי Gib'ōnî)

Meaning: People of Gibeon

First Appearance: Joshua 9:3-27

Description: Inhabitants of a Hivite city who tricked Joshua with worn clothes and stale bread, pretending to be from a distant land to secure a peace treaty. When their deception was discovered, they were made woodcutters and water carriers for the Israelites. Later, Saul broke this covenant by killing some Gibeonites, resulting in a three-year famine during David's reign until restitution was made.

## Gileadites

Original (Hebrew): ) גִּלְעָדִי Gil'ādî)

Meaning: People of Gilead

First Appearance: Judges 10:3

Description: Inhabitants of Gilead, a mountainous region east of the Jordan River. Jephthah was a Gileadite judge who made a tragic vow regarding his daughter. They used the pronunciation of "Shibboleth" to identify and kill fleeing Ephraimites who couldn't pronounce it correctly. The region was known for its balm, a medicinal resin.

## Girgashites

Original (Hebrew): ) גִּרְגָּשִׁי (Girgāšî)

Meaning: Unknown

First Appearance: Genesis 10:16

Description: One of the seven nations that inhabited Canaan before the Israelite conquest. They are consistently listed among the peoples God promised to drive out before Israel. Little specific information is given about them in Scripture beyond their inclusion in these lists, suggesting they were a smaller or less prominent Canaanite group.

## Gittites

Original (Hebrew): ) גִּתִּי (Gittî)

Meaning: People of Gath

First Appearance: Joshua 13:3

Description: Inhabitants of Gath, one of the five major Philistine cities. Goliath was a famous Gittite warrior. Interestingly, David had loyal Gittite followers, including Ittai who led 600 men in support of David during Absalom's rebellion. David also spent time in Gath when fleeing from Saul.

# Greeks

Original (Greek): Ἕλληνες (Hellēnes)

Meaning: People of Greece/Hellas

First Appearance: Joel 3:6 (as “sons of the Greeks”)

Description: People of Greek ethnicity and culture who became prominent in the biblical world after Alexander the Great’s conquests. In New Testament times, “Greek” often referred to any Gentile influenced by Greek culture. Paul preached to both Jews and Greeks, and adapted his approach when speaking to the philosophers in Athens. The New Testament was written in Greek, the common language of the eastern Mediterranean in the first century.

# Hebrews

Original (Hebrew): עִבְרִי (ʿĪbrî)

Meaning: Possibly “one from beyond” or descendants of Eber

First Appearance: Genesis 14:13

Description: The ethnic designation for the Israelites, especially used when distinguishing them from other peoples or when non-Israelites referred to them. Abraham was first called “a Hebrew.” The term was prominent during the Egyptian captivity and Exodus. The Hebrew language was the original language of most of the Old Testament. Paul identified himself as “a Hebrew of Hebrews” (Philippians 3:5), emphasizing his pure Jewish lineage and cultural identity.

## Hittites

Original (Hebrew): ) יַתִּי Hittî)

Meaning: Descendants of Heth

First Appearance: Genesis 15:20

Description: A powerful ancient people who established an empire centered in Anatolia (modern Turkey). In the Bible, they were one of the Canaanite peoples living in the Promised Land. Abraham purchased the cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite. Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, was a Hittite. Solomon engaged in trade with Hittite kings. They were known for their advanced military technology and innovative peace treaties, which may have influenced biblical covenant language.

## Hivites

Original (Hebrew): ) יַיִו Hivwî)

Meaning: Possibly “villagers”

First Appearance: Genesis 10:17

Description: One of the Canaanite peoples living in the central hill country and Lebanon. The Gibeonites who deceived Joshua were Hivites. Hamor, father of Shechem who defiled Dinah, was a Hivite. They were among the nations the Israelites failed to drive out completely, and with whom they intermarried despite divine prohibitions.

## Horites

Original (Hebrew): ) חֹרִי (Hōrî)

Meaning: Possibly “cave-dwellers”

First Appearance: Genesis 14:6

Description: The original inhabitants of Seir (Edom) before being displaced by the descendants of Esau. They are mentioned in the list of nations Abraham’s allies defeated. Some scholars identify them with the Hurrians known from ancient Near Eastern records. They may be related to the Hivites.

## Ishmaelites

Original (Hebrew): ) יִשְׁמָעֵלִי (Yiśmā‘ēlî)

Meaning: Descendants of Ishmael, “God hears”

First Appearance: Genesis 37:25

Description: Descendants of Ishmael, Abraham’s son through Hagar. God promised Ishmael would become a “great nation” with twelve princes. They lived in the desert regions from Egypt to northern Arabia. Joseph was sold to Ishmaelite traders who took him to Egypt. They were known as nomadic traders and later became associated with Arab peoples. Despite not being the covenant line, God blessed them with numerous descendants as He had promised Abraham.

## Israelites

Original (Hebrew): ) יִשְׂרָאֵל Yisrā'ēlî)

Meaning: Descendants of Israel (Jacob), “one who struggles with God”

First Appearance: Exodus 9:7

Description: The covenant people descended from Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel), organized into twelve tribes. They were enslaved in Egypt, delivered through Moses, and given the Promised Land under Joshua. Their history includes the period of judges, the united monarchy under Saul, David, and Solomon, and the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The term encompasses the entire Jewish nation as God’s chosen people with whom He established His covenant.

## Issacharites

Original (Hebrew): ) יִשַׁשַׁר Yisśākārî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Issachar (“reward” or “man of hire”)

First Appearance: Numbers 1:28-29

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Issachar, Jacob’s son through Leah. Their territory was in the fertile Jezreel Valley. They were characterized in Jacob’s blessing as “a strong donkey” and in Moses’ blessing as “rejoicing in tents.” In Chronicles, they were praised as men who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”

## Ituraeans

Original (Greek): Ἰτουραῖος (Itouraios)

Meaning: People of Ituraea

First Appearance: Luke 3:1

Description: Inhabitants of a region northeast of Galilee in what is now Syria. They are mentioned once in the Bible, where Luke states that Philip was tetrarch of Ituraea during the ministry of John the Baptist. They were originally an Arab tribe that settled in the area during the Hellenistic period.

## Jebusites

Original (Hebrew): ) יְבוּסִי Yəbûsî)

Meaning: Possibly “thresher”

First Appearance: Genesis 10:16

Description: A Canaanite tribe that inhabited Jerusalem (originally called Jebus) before David conquered it. They successfully resisted Israelite attempts to capture their stronghold during Joshua’s conquest and the period of Judges. King David eventually captured their city, making it his capital. Araunah the Jebusite sold David the threshing floor that later became the site of Solomon’s Temple.

# Jews

Original (Hebrew): ) יהוּדִי Yəhûdî), Greek: Ἰουδαῖος (Ioudaios)

Meaning: Originally “people of Judah,” later all Israelites

First Appearance: 2 Kings 16:6 (Hebrew), Esther 2:5 (as ethnic identity)

Description: Originally referring to people from the kingdom of Judah, but after the Babylonian exile, it came to designate all Israelites regardless of tribal origin. In the New Testament, “Jews” distinguishes God’s covenant people from Gentiles. Jesus was a Jew, as were all the apostles. Paul wrestled with the relationship between Jewish and Gentile believers in his epistles, especially Romans and Galatians.

# Judahites

Original (Hebrew): ) יהוּדִי Yəhûdî)

Meaning: People of Judah (“praised”)

First Appearance: 2 Kings 16:6

Description: Members of the tribe of Judah, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Jacob’s son Judah. Their territory included Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The tribe produced the royal Davidic line from which the Messiah would come. After the division of the kingdom, they formed the southern kingdom of Judah, which survived longer than the northern kingdom of Israel. The term “Jew” eventually derived from “Judahite.”

## Kadmonites

Original (Hebrew): ) קַדְמוֹנִי Qadmōnî)

Meaning: “Easterners” or “ancient ones”

First Appearance: Genesis 15:19

Description: One of the peoples whose land was promised to Abraham’s descendants. Little specific information is given about them in Scripture. Their name suggests they lived east of Canaan, possibly in the Syrian or Arabian desert. They are only mentioned once in the Bible, in the list of nations whose land God promised to Abraham.

## Kenites

Original (Hebrew): ) קֵינִי Qênî)

Meaning: Possibly “smiths” or “metalworkers”

First Appearance: Genesis 15:19

Description: A nomadic tribe associated with the region of Midian. Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, was a Kenite priest. They were skilled metalworkers and lived in the Negev and Sinai regions. Despite being non-Israelites, they maintained friendly relations with Israel. Jael, who killed Sisera (Judges 4), was the wife of Heber the Kenite. King Saul warned the Kenites to separate from the Amalekites before his attack because of their historic friendship with Israel.

## Kenizzites

Original (Hebrew): ) קְנִיזִי Qənizzî)

Meaning: Possibly “hunter”

First Appearance: Genesis 15:19

Description: One of the peoples whose land was promised to Abraham’s descendants. Caleb, who faithfully spied out the Promised Land, is called “the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite,” suggesting some connection with this group. They may have been an Edomite clan that was later incorporated into the tribe of Judah, as Kenaz was a grandson of Esau.

## Korahites

Original (Hebrew): ) קָרָהִי Qārəḥî)

Meaning: Descendants of Korah

First Appearance: Exodus 6:24 (as sons of Korah)

Description: Descendants of Korah, a Levite who rebelled against Moses and was punished by God (Numbers 16). Despite this, his descendants survived and became important temple musicians and gatekeepers. They are credited with writing several psalms (42-49, 84-85, 87-88). Their continued service in the temple demonstrates God’s grace extending beyond the sins of ancestors.

## Levites

Original (Hebrew): ) לְוִי Lēwî)

Meaning: Descendants of Levi (“attached”)

First Appearance: Exodus 6:25

Description: Members of the tribe of Levi, set apart for religious service in Israel. They did not receive tribal territory but were given 48 cities throughout Israel. The Levites served as assistants to the priests (who were also Levites, descended specifically from Aaron). Their duties included maintaining the tabernacle/temple, teaching the law, and providing music. Moses and Aaron were Levites. The tribe remained faithful during the golden calf incident, leading to their sacred duties.

## Lubim

Original (Hebrew): ) לוּבִים Lûbîm)

Meaning: People of Libya

First Appearance: 2 Chronicles 12:3

Description: North African people associated with ancient Libya (west of Egypt). They are listed among the military forces of Shishak, king of Egypt, who attacked Jerusalem during Rehoboam’s reign. They also appear in Nahum’s prophecy as allies of Thebes (No-Amon). They were likely Berber peoples of North Africa.

# Lydians

Original (Hebrew): ) לִיּוּדִים Lûḏîm)

Meaning: Descendants of Lud

First Appearance: Genesis 10:13 (as Ludim)

Description: People associated with ancient Lydia in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey). They appear in prophetic passages, particularly in Ezekiel and Jeremiah, often listed among foreign mercenary soldiers. They were known for their wealth and were credited with inventing coinage. The Lydian kingdom was powerful in the 7th and 6th centuries BC before falling to the Persians.

# Macedonians

Original (Greek): Μακεδών (Makedōn)

Meaning: People of Macedonia

First Appearance: Acts 16:9

Description: Inhabitants of the northern Greek region of Macedonia. Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man asking for help, leading to his mission in Europe. Key Macedonian believers included Lydia, the Philippian jailer, and the generous churches that supported Paul's work despite their poverty. Cities like Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea were in Macedonia.

## Manassites

Original (Hebrew): ) מְנַשֵּׁי Mənaššî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Manasseh (“causing to forget”)

First Appearance: Deuteronomy 29:8

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Manasseh, Joseph’s elder son. They were unique in having territory on both sides of the Jordan River—half the tribe settled east of the Jordan, and half settled in central Canaan. Gideon was a famous Manassite judge. The eastern half-tribe was among the first to be taken into Assyrian captivity.

## Medanites

Original (Hebrew): ) מְדָנִים Məḏānîm)

Meaning: Descendants of Medan

First Appearance: Genesis 25:2 (as Medan)

Description: An Arabian tribe descended from Medan, Abraham’s son through Keturah. They were related to the Midianites and likely lived in northwestern Arabia. They appear to have been traders, as some translations identify them as the merchants who bought Joseph.

# Medes

Original (Hebrew): ) מַדַּי Mādāy)

Meaning: People of Media

First Appearance: Genesis 10:2 (as Madai)

Description: Inhabitants of ancient Media, a region in northwestern Iran. They joined with the Persians to conquer Babylon in 539 BC, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. Daniel served in the "kingdom of the Medes and Persians." The "law of the Medes and Persians" could not be changed once decreed. Jews from Media were present at Pentecost. They were known for their horsemanship and archery.

# Midianites

Original (Hebrew): ) מִדְיָנִי Midyānî)

Meaning: Descendants of Midian ("strife")

First Appearance: Genesis 37:28

Description: A nomadic people descended from Abraham's son Midian through Keturah. They lived primarily in the northwestern Arabian Peninsula. Moses lived among them after fleeing Egypt and married Zipporah, daughter of a Midianite priest. Later, they became enemies of Israel, oppressing them until Gideon's victory. Midianite traders purchased Joseph from his brothers. They were known for their camels, gold earrings, and trading activities.

## Moabites

Original (Hebrew): ) מוֹאָבִי Mō'ābî)

Meaning: Descendants of Moab (“from father”)

First Appearance: Genesis 19:37

Description: People descended from Moab, the son of Lot through his elder daughter. They lived east of the Dead Sea. Despite being relatives of the Israelites, relations were often hostile, though Ruth the Moabite became an ancestor of David and Jesus. The Moabites worshipped the god Chemosh. Balak, king of Moab, hired Balaam to curse Israel. Moab was frequently denounced by the prophets for its pride and hostility toward Israel.

## Nabateans

Original (Greek): Ναβαταῖος (Nabataios)

Meaning: People of Nabataea

First Appearance: 2 Maccabees 5:8 (deuterocanonical)

Description: Although not mentioned by name in the Protestant canon, King Aretas IV mentioned in 2 Corinthians 11:32 was a Nabatean king. The Nabateans were an Arab people who built a trading empire centered at Petra, controlling trade routes throughout the region. They spoke an Aramaic dialect and developed sophisticated water collection systems in their desert environment.

## Naphtali

Original (Hebrew): נַפְתָּלִי (Naḫtālî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Naphtali (“my struggle”)

First Appearance: Numbers 1:42-43

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Naphtali, Jacob’s son through Bilhah. Their territory was in northern Galilee, including the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The tribe was known for its eloquence and poetic expression. The region was first to suffer Assyrian invasion (Isaiah 9:1) but was also promised restoration as the place where the Messiah would shine His light (fulfilled in Jesus’ ministry in Galilee).

## Nazarenes

Original (Greek): Ναζωραῖος (Nazōraios)

Meaning: People from Nazareth or followers of Jesus

First Appearance: Matthew 2:23

Description: Originally referring to people from Nazareth in Galilee, including Jesus who was called “Jesus of Nazareth” or “the Nazarene.” Later, it became an early name for Christians (Acts 24:5). The term fulfilled prophecy that the Messiah would be called a Nazarene, possibly connecting to the Hebrew “netzer” (branch) in Isaiah’s messianic prophecies.

## Nicolaitans

Original (Greek): Νικολαϊτῶν (Nikolaitōn)

Meaning: Followers of Nicolas (possibly)

First Appearance: Revelation 2:6

Description: A heretical group mentioned in Revelation as active in the churches of Ephesus and Pergamum. Their practices were condemned by Jesus in His messages to these churches. They apparently promoted compromise with pagan practices and sexual immorality. Some Church Fathers connected them to Nicolas, one of the seven chosen in Acts 6, but this is uncertain.

## Ninevites

Original (Hebrew): נִנְוֵי (nîṇəwēh)

Meaning: People of Nineveh

First Appearance: Genesis 10:11-12 (as Nineveh)

Description: Inhabitants of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire. The prophet Jonah was sent to preach to them, and they repented at his message, averting God's judgment temporarily. Jesus cited their repentance as a rebuke to the unbelieving people of His day. Nineveh was eventually destroyed in 612 BC as prophesied by Nahum. The city was known for its cruelty, size, and splendor as one of the greatest cities of the ancient world.

# Ophir

Original (Hebrew): אֹפִיר (Ôpîr)

Meaning: Uncertain

First Appearance: Genesis 10:29

Description: While primarily a place rather than a people group, Ophir was a land known for its fine gold. Solomon's ships traveled to Ophir, returning with gold, precious stones, and exotic woods. The journey took three years, suggesting it was distant. Various locations have been proposed, including southern Arabia, East Africa, or India. The term "gold of Ophir" became proverbial for the finest quality gold in the ancient world.

# Parthians

Original (Greek): Πάρθοι (Parthoi)

Meaning: People of Parthia

First Appearance: Acts 2:9

Description: Inhabitants of the Parthian Empire, which controlled Persia and neighboring regions, rivaling Rome for power in the ancient world. Jews from Parthia were present in Jerusalem at Pentecost. The Parthians were known for their mounted archers who could shoot while retreating (the "Parthian shot"). Their empire controlled the eastern portions of the former Persian Empire during New Testament times.

## Pelethites

Original (Hebrew): ) פְּלִתִי Pəlēṭî)

Meaning: Unknown

First Appearance: 2 Samuel 8:18

Description: A group that, along with the Cherethites, formed David's personal bodyguard and elite military forces. They were likely Philistine mercenaries who had pledged loyalty to David. They remained loyal to David during Absalom's rebellion and to Solomon during Adonijah's attempted coup. They may have been from Gaza or another Philistine city.

## Perizzites

Original (Hebrew): ) פְּרִזִּי Pərizzî)

Meaning: Possibly "villagers" or "rural dwellers"

First Appearance: Genesis 13:7

Description: One of the Canaanite peoples living in the Promised Land before the Israelite conquest. They dwelt in the hill country of central Palestine. Unlike some other groups, they may represent a social class (rural villagers) rather than an ethnic group. Abraham encountered them when he first entered Canaan. They were among the nations God promised to drive out before Israel, and Joshua later confirmed they were still present during the conquest.

# Persians

Original (Hebrew): ) סַרְסַר Pāras)

Meaning: People of Persia (Iran)

First Appearance: 2 Chronicles 36:20

Description: People of the Persian Empire, which conquered Babylon in 539 BC. Under Cyrus the Great, they allowed the Jews to return from exile and rebuild the Temple. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Haggai, and Zechariah all take place partly during Persian rule. King Darius helped fund the rebuilding of the Temple. Persian kings mentioned in the Bible include Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes (Ahasuerus), and Artaxerxes.

# Pharisees

Original (Greek): Φαρισαῖοι (Pharisaioi)

Meaning: Possibly “separated ones”

First Appearance: Matthew 3:7

Description: A prominent Jewish sect during the Second Temple period known for their strict interpretation of the Law and adherence to oral traditions. They emphasized proper observance of purity laws, tithing, and Sabbath regulations. While Jesus criticized their legalism and hypocrisy, they shared theological beliefs with early Christianity including the resurrection, angels, and afterlife. Some Pharisees became Christians, including Paul. They were respected by common people and, unlike the Sadducees, survived the destruction of the Temple.

## Philistines

Original (Hebrew): פְּלִשְׁתִּים (Pəlištîm)

Meaning: Possibly “migrants” or “invaders”

First Appearance: Genesis 10:14

Description: A non-Semitic seafaring people who settled along the Mediterranean coast of Canaan. They were Israel’s persistent enemies throughout the period of the Judges and early monarchy. The name “Palestine” derives from them. They had five major cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath. Famous conflicts include Samson’s battles, Samuel’s victory at Mizpah, and David’s defeat of Goliath. They were known for their military technology, including iron weapons.

## Phoenicians

Original (Greek): Φοίνικες (Phoinikes)

Meaning: Possibly “purple people” (for their purple dye industry)

First Appearance: Acts 11:19 (as Phoenicia)

Description: Maritime trading people who lived along the coast of modern Lebanon and northern Israel. Though not named directly in the Old Testament, they are the “Sidonians” or people of “Tyre and Sidon.” King Hiram of Tyre supplied materials and craftsmen for Solomon’s Temple. They were known for their seafaring skills, alphabet (basis of Greek and Latin alphabets), and purple dye industry. The Bible mentions their gods Baal and Asherah, which became snares for Israel.

# Phrygians

Original (Greek): Φρύγες (Phryges)

Meaning: People of Phrygia

First Appearance: Acts 2:10

Description: Inhabitants of Phrygia, a region in central Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Jews from Phrygia were present at Pentecost. Paul traveled through the region during his missionary journeys. The churches addressed in Colossians were in or near Phrygian territory. The region was known for its textiles and distinctive musical mode.

# Qedarites

Original (Hebrew): ) קֶדָר Qēdār

Meaning: “Dark” or “powerful”

First Appearance: Genesis 25:13

Description: An Arab tribe descended from Kedar, the second son of Ishmael. They were nomadic shepherds who lived in the northern Arabian desert. Solomon mentions the “tents of Kedar” as black tents made of goat hair. Isaiah prophesied both judgment against them and their eventual inclusion in praising God. They were known for their skill as archers and their trade in livestock, particularly sheep and goats.

## Rephaim

Original (Hebrew): ( רֶפָאִים Rəpā'îm )

Meaning: Possibly “terrible ones” or “giants”

First Appearance: Genesis 14:5

Description: An ancient people of unusual height who lived in Canaan and Transjordan before the Israelite conquest. Og, king of Bashan, was described as the last of the Rephaim, with a bed nine cubits long. The Valley of Rephaim near Jerusalem was named after them. Various tribes like the Emim and Zamzummim were described as being like the Rephaim. They were among the peoples defeated by Chedorlaomer and his allies.

## Reubenites

Original (Hebrew): ( רֵאֵוִן Rə'ûbēnî )

Meaning: People of the tribe of Reuben (“behold, a son”)

First Appearance: Numbers 26:7

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn son through Leah. Despite being the firstborn, Reuben lost his birthright due to his sin with his father’s concubine. The tribe settled east of the Jordan River and was known for raising livestock. They, along with Gad and half of Manasseh, were the first tribes taken into captivity by the Assyrians. Moses blessed them saying, “Let Reuben live and not die, nor his men be few.”

# Romans

Original (Greek): Ῥωμαῖος (Rhōmaios)

Meaning: Citizens of Rome

First Appearance: John 11:48

Description: The dominant world power during New Testament times. They controlled Judea through appointed governors like Pontius Pilate. Paul was a Roman citizen by birth, which gave him certain legal protections. Roman soldiers crucified Jesus, and later the Roman Empire became the context for the spread of early Christianity. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD as Jesus had prophesied. Paul's letter to the Romans addresses the Christian community in the empire's capital.

# Sabeans

Original (Hebrew): ) אַבְשָׁיִם (Šəḇā'îm)

Meaning: People of Sheba

First Appearance: Job 1:15

Description: People from Sheba, a kingdom in southwestern Arabia (Yemen). The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon, impressed by his wisdom and wealth. They were known for their trade in spices, gold, and precious stones. In Job, Sabeans raided Job's oxen and donkeys, killing his servants. Isaiah prophesied they would bring tribute to Israel. They controlled important trade routes between Africa, Arabia, and Mesopotamia.

# Sadducees

Original (Greek): Σαδδουκαῖοι (Saddoukaioi)

Meaning: Possibly followers of Zadok

First Appearance: Matthew 3:7

Description: A Jewish sect active during the Second Temple period, mainly composed of aristocratic priests who controlled the Temple. They accepted only the written Torah as authoritative, rejecting the oral traditions upheld by the Pharisees. They denied the resurrection, angels, and spirits (Acts 23:8). They often opposed Jesus and later the apostles. They disappeared after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.

# Samaritans

Original (Hebrew): ) שְׁמֶרֹנִי Šōmərōnî)

Meaning: People of Samaria

First Appearance: 2 Kings 17:29

Description: People of mixed Israelite and foreign ancestry who lived in the central region of Palestine. They originated when the Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and resettled the area with foreigners who intermarried with remaining Israelites. They practiced a modified form of Judaism, accepting only the Pentateuch and worshipping at Mount Gerizim instead of Jerusalem. Jews typically avoided contact with them. Jesus broke these barriers in His conversation with the Samaritan woman and in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

## Scythians

Original (Greek): Σκύθης (Skythēs)

Meaning: People from Scythia

First Appearance: Colossians 3:11

Description: Nomadic people from the steppes north of the Black Sea, known for their horsemanship and ferocity. Paul mentions them in Colossians as an example of extreme barbarians, contrasting with civilized peoples. Archaeological evidence shows they had contact with Greek and Persian cultures. In the Old Testament, they may be connected to the invasions from the north mentioned by Jeremiah and Ezekiel (as Gog and Magog).

## Shuhites

Original (Hebrew): ) יְהוּשׁוּׁי (Šûḥî)

Meaning: Descendants of Shuah

First Appearance: Genesis 25:2 (as Shuah)

Description: An Arabian tribe descended from Shuah, Abraham's son through Keturah. Bildad the Shuhite was one of Job's friends who came to comfort him but ended up accusing him of secret sin. They likely lived somewhere in the Arabian desert.

## Sidonians

Original (Hebrew): ) צִדְוֹנִי (šîḏōnî)

Meaning: People of Sidon

First Appearance: Judges 3:3

Description: Inhabitants of the ancient Phoenician city of Sidon on the Mediterranean coast (in modern Lebanon). They were skilled sailors, traders, and craftsmen. King Hiram of Tyre, who helped Solomon build the Temple, is sometimes called Sidonian because Tyre and Sidon were the principal Phoenician cities. Solomon was influenced by Sidonian worship through his foreign wives. Jezebel, who married King Ahab and promoted Baal worship in Israel, was the daughter of the king of Sidon.

## Simeonites

Original (Hebrew): ) שִׁמְעוֹנִי (šimʿōnî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Simeon (“hearing”)

First Appearance: Numbers 1:22-23

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Simeon, Jacob’s son through Leah. Their territory was within the borders of Judah in the Negev region. The tribe diminished in size and importance over time, perhaps due to Jacob’s curse on Simeon’s violence. Many Simeonites were absorbed into the tribe of Judah, though they maintained some distinct identity, as seen in their participation in Hezekiah’s Passover celebration.

## Tarshish

Original (Hebrew): ( ) תַּרְשִׁישׁ Taršîš)

Meaning: Uncertain

First Appearance: Genesis 10:4

Description: While primarily a place rather than a people group, Tarshish was a distant maritime trading center that symbolized the far reaches of the known world. Jonah attempted to flee to Tarshish to escape God’s call. Solomon had a “fleet of Tarshish” that brought exotic goods. Its actual location is debated—possibilities include Spain, Sardinia, or Carthage. The “ships of Tarshish” became proverbial for large, seagoing vessels capable of long journeys.

## Tishbites

Original (Hebrew): ( ) תִּשְׁבִּי Tišbî)

Meaning: Person from Tishbe

First Appearance: 1 Kings 17:1

Description: While primarily used to describe the prophet Elijah (“Elijah the Tishbite”), it refers to someone from Tishbe, a town in Gilead east of the Jordan River. Little is known about this location beyond its connection to one of Israel’s greatest prophets. Elijah confronted King Ahab, challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and was taken to heaven in a whirlwind.

# Tyrians

Original (Hebrew): ) צָרִי (Sōrî)

Meaning: People of Tyre

First Appearance: 1 Chronicles 22:4

Description: Inhabitants of the ancient Phoenician city of Tyre, located on the Mediterranean coast (in modern Lebanon). Tyre was both a mainland city and an island fortress. They were renowned for their purple dye, cedar wood, and maritime trade. King Hiram of Tyre supplied cedar and craftsmen for both David's palace and Solomon's Temple. The prophets often addressed Tyre, with Ezekiel giving an extended prophecy about its pride and eventual fall.

# Urartians

Original (Hebrew): ' ) אֲרָרַט (Ārarat)

Meaning: People of Urartu/Ararat

First Appearance: Genesis 8:4 (as "mountains of Ararat")

Description: Ancient kingdom centered around Lake Van in eastern Turkey, also known as the Kingdom of Ararat in the Bible. Noah's ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat. In 2 Kings and Isaiah, Ararat is mentioned as a place where the sons of Sennacherib fled after assassinating their father. They were skilled in metalworking, architecture, and irrigation. Their kingdom was a significant power in the ancient Near East during the 9th-6th centuries BC.

## Zamzummim

Original (Hebrew): זַמְזֻמִּים (Zamzummîm)

Meaning: Possibly “murmurers” or “powerful people”

First Appearance: Deuteronomy 2:20

Description: A giant race who formerly inhabited the land of Ammon before being displaced by the Ammonites. They are described as being like the Rephaim in stature. The Ammonites called them Zamzummim, though they may be the same people the Moabites called Emim. They were among the ancient peoples of unusual height mentioned in early biblical history.

## Zebulunites

Original (Hebrew): זְבֻלֻנִי (Zəḇûlunî)

Meaning: People of the tribe of Zebulun (“dwelling”)

First Appearance: Numbers 26:27

Description: Members of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descended from Zebulun, Jacob’s son through Leah. Their territory was in the fertile lowlands of Galilee, stretching from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean. Jacob prophesied that Zebulun would “dwell at the haven of the sea.” The tribe was praised for providing officers during Deborah and Barak’s campaign. Isaiah prophesied that this region would see a great light—fulfilled when Jesus conducted much of His ministry there.

## Zidonians

Original (Hebrew): ) זִדְוֹנִי Šîḏōnî)

Meaning: People of Sidon (alternate spelling)

First Appearance: Judges 3:3

Description: Alternative spelling of “Sidonians” in some Bible translations. See entry under “Sidonians.”

## Ziphites

Original (Hebrew): ) זִפְיִי Zîpî)

Meaning: People of Ziph

First Appearance: 1 Samuel 23:19

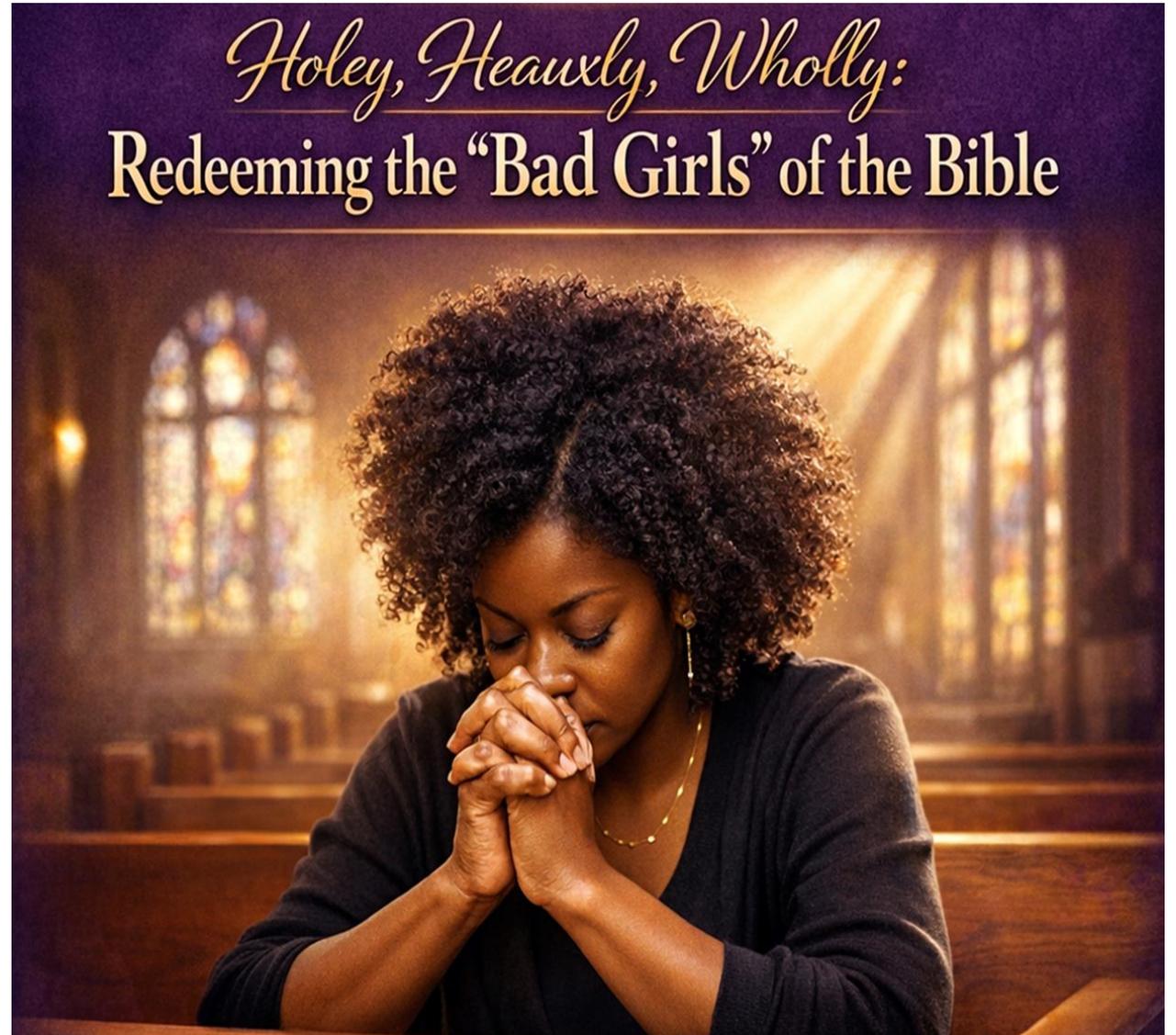
Description: Inhabitants of Ziph, a town in the hill country of Judah. They betrayed David’s location to King Saul twice when David was hiding from Saul in their territory. Psalm 54 is identified as a composition by David when the Ziphites informed Saul of his presence.



<https://mybiblebento.com/biblical-names-list/nations-people-groups-bible-list/>

**This Study's  
Glances & Goals for:  
February 24<sup>th</sup> &  
March 10<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ *PART 1: The Need for This Study*
- ❖ *PART 2: Are There Actually Any “Black” or “White” people in the Bible?: The Spiritual Perils of “Blanket Blackening” One’s Christian Faith*
- ❖ ***PART 3: “The Mother of All Living”: Eve***



# *Virtual* **BIBLE STUDY**

*Holey, Heauxly, Wholly:*  
Redeeming the “Bad Girls” of the Bible



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Stephen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

433 E. Highway 79 P.O. Box 142, Gause Texas 77857

[www.stephenchapelamecgtx.org](http://www.stephenchapelamecgtx.org)

**“The Mother of All Living”:**  
*Eve*

*Book of Genesis:  
Chapters 2 & 3*



What Was The Purpose of Eve  
Being Created in the First  
Place?



Question 1

# **Let's Start with Jesus:** *Jesus' Human Origins Go Back to Adam and Eve*

***Matthew 1:1-17***  
***Priestly-Focused***

***Luke 3:23-38***  
***Divinity-Focused***

Begins with Jesus' origins in Abraham.

Begins with Jesus' origins in Adam.

And, Abraham's origins go back to Noah.

Ends with Adam's origins in God.

Then, Noah's origins go back to Adam.

Ends with Adam's origins in God.

***Eve's origins begin with Adam. She was created as a suitable 'help mate' for Adam to lessen his loneliness. In essence, God has done for Adam, what He was already doing for Himself – creating another and others to meet, not match, the depths of His spirituality and diminish the solitude of His sovereignty.***

What Purpose and Responsibility  
Did Adam Have That Eve Didn't  
Have, If Any?



Question 2

**“What Do You See?”**

*The Similarities Aren't  
Perfectly Clear,  
But Neither Are The  
Purposes*

**Genesis 2:21-22**

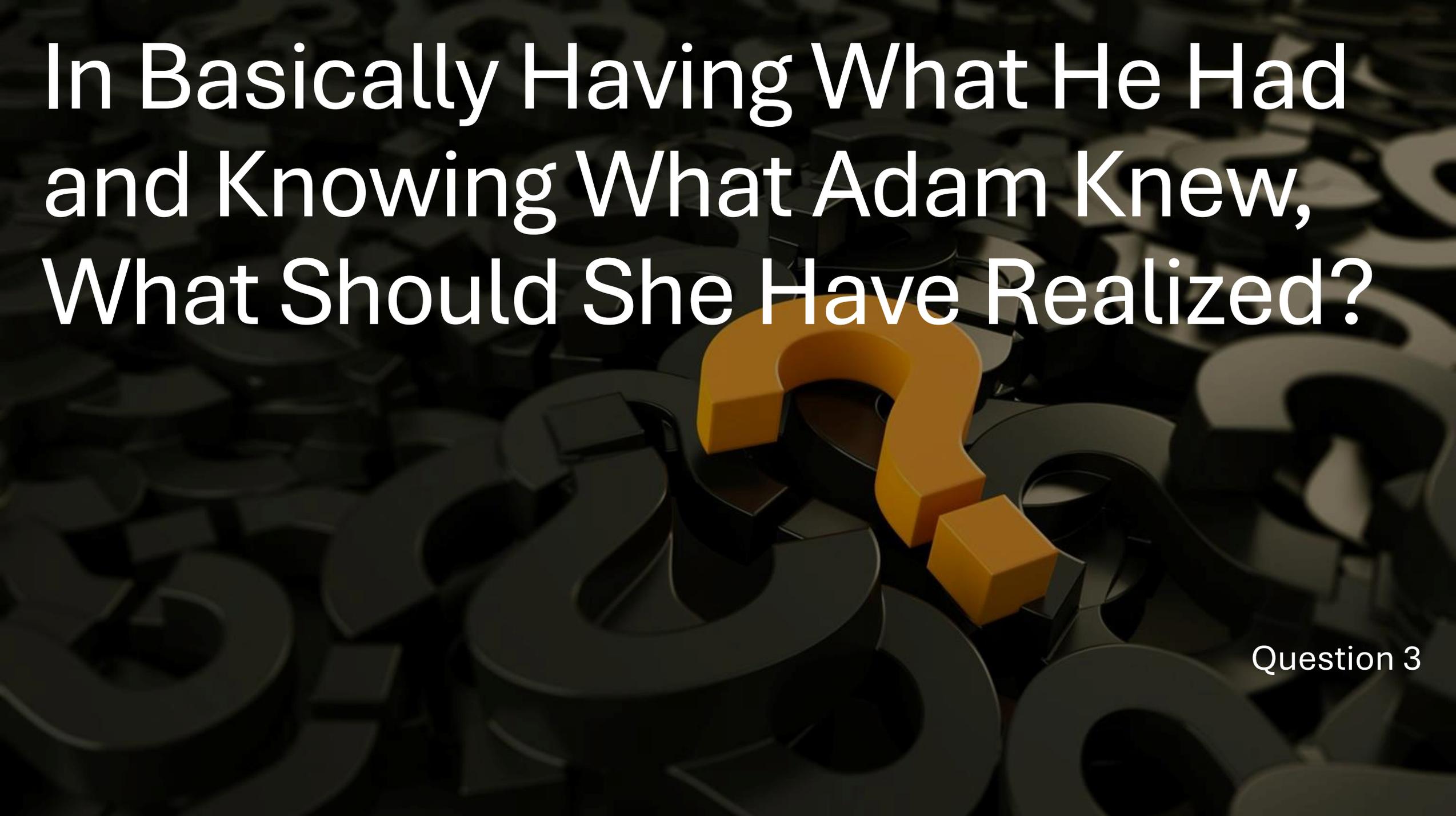
**“tzela”**

***Often translated as ‘rib’.***

***However, some scholars disagree because in translation, the true meaning of the word ‘tzela’ being in the Bible roughly 40 times always means ‘side’.***

***Should her being created from Adam’s side, have deterred or lessened her consequences for disobeying God? Why or why not?*** \_\_\_\_\_

In Basically Having What He Had  
and Knowing What Adam Knew,  
What Should She Have Realized?



Question 3

# ***Here's my thoughts!***

In the celestial realm, there is no designation of 'male' or 'female', She being in essence, a direct "descendant" of Almighty God, should have considered and inherently realized that having the same God DNA that Adam had, and knowing the same instructions, that any disobedience of God, is disobedience period, regardless of the 'who'. Perhaps she overthought her designation as a 'help mate' and heard the serpent's words as a way to be closer and more useful to God, by God. Sadly however, from God's viewpoint as an eternal sovereign who knows all facets of why certain things must be, she had followed a path similar to Lucifer's. And we all know what happened to him. Banishment.

***What are yours?***

Despite Her Transgression/Sin,  
Did God Erase Her From  
His Book?



Question 4

***Mmmmm...***

**NO!**

***Why not?***

*Our God is not just the God of righteous judgment,  
but of righteous justice.*

**Old Testament: Genesis 3:14 -15**

**New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_**

***(Find as many NT scriptures you can to show that Genesis 13:14-15 was fulfilled  
through His ONLY Begotten Son and Our Savior)***

***Praise  
God from  
whom  
ALL  
blessings  
flow!***



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*Thank you for joining this study and discussion! This is a labor of love in pursuit of grace and mercy for our girls and women who have been deceived into believing less of themselves. Nevertheless, I am grateful for all financial support which enables us to offer emergency life provisions whenever possible to girls and women in trouble. I hope to have you participate again and remember, you've NEVER been an afterthought or a mistake, but always intentional, from the very beginning. – Reverend Constance Coleman-Fletcher (“Thee Reverend Cee: she/her/hers/me”)*

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