

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

ANBASSA

Month of the Revelation

(2nd November – 1st December 2020)

Psalm 72

St Matthew 25:31

Revelation 19:1-9



FIRST KING OF KINGS OF THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST



EZANA OF AKSUM

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Blessed Love Rastafari! Let us forward on and give thanks for the blessings of Anbassa, this month of glory and revelation.

In giving praises, honour, and reverence to the Most High we started in the first glory and edition with the 90th anniversary celebration of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st and Empress Menen's coronation and with Jah blessings and grace of this New Heritage Year of 90HIM.

In the 2nd glory and edition, we looked at the first 'Elect of God', King David of Judah and Israel. Jah says, "I have found My servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him, with whom My hand shall be established... (Psalm 89:20-21)

Jah name and hand were truly established through the seed of David, namely the 'I AM', the Root and Offspring of David..." Yesus Kristus (Revelation 22:16) and HIM, "*I being upon the seat of David...*" (Negus Tafari, 1930), the Lord's Almighty Covenant Person Emperor Haile Selassie 1st, the last ruling king Root of David.

In this 3rd glory and edition, we give thanks to Jah for the first King of kings of Christ, Ezana, King of kings of the 6th dynasty of the Ethiopian empire.

The Emperor sealed the Ethiopian empire as an Eternal Covenant Kingdom of Christ and with this statement to the glory of God he said:

"...May they preserve this throne which I have set up for the Lord of Heaven".

EZANA OF AKSUM ~ KING OF KINGS



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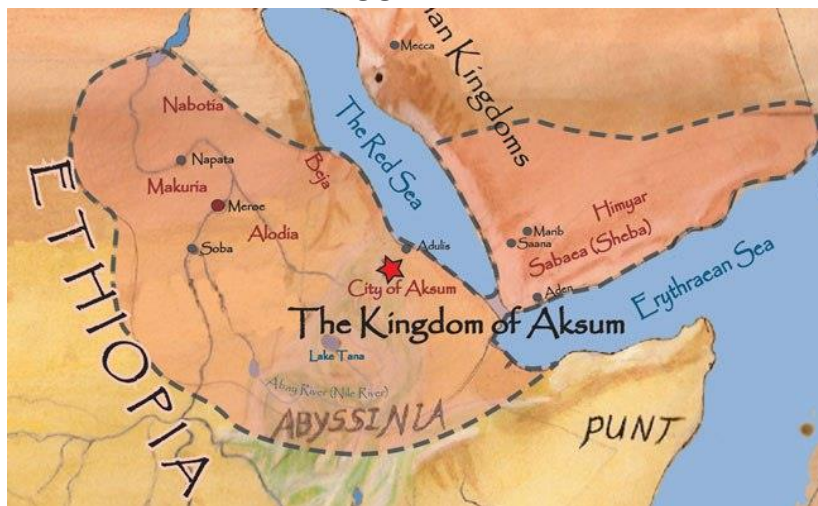
In honour of the most important of the ancient rulers of Ethiopia and in giving glory to God. The Most High raised up King Ezana of Aksum to become the first king of kings and Emperor of the Kingdom of Christ of the 'now' known empire of Ethiopia.

During his reign, the Emperor had dominion over and including the ancient regions and kingdoms of North-East Africa and Southern Arabia, over the peoples and the kingdoms of Kushitic and Semitic descent

Meroe and Noba (Nubia) now in Northern Sudan fell under the mighty hand of the Emperor. Ethiopia and Saba along with other countries and Himyar and Raydan in Southern Arabia came under his control.

According to the 'Kings List', Ezana reigned in Ethiopia from 306-332AD. It is during his reign that Christianity became the state religion as he proclaimed Ethiopia officially 'a nation of Christ'.

THE AKSUMITE EMPIRE



At its zenith, the empire of Aksum covered Northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen, Southern Arabia, Djibouti, and Northern and Southern Sudan, the capital city was Aksum itself. At its height Aksum was one of the four superpowers in the world along



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with Persia, Rome, and China Tradition has Aksum as the home of the Ark of the Covenant and the home of the Queen of Sheba and her son Menelik 1st, Root of David, son of King Solomon of Israel.

Queen of Sheba visiting King Solomon.

Pt 1. EZANA'S CONQUEST AS KING OF KINGS



Ezana's Stele in Aksum

The Aksumite Records

(Taken from the Ethiopian Royal Chronicles, Pankhurst, 1967)

The stone inscriptions of the Aksumite period were erected by Emperors who wished to perpetuate their greatness. Their inscriptions therefore tell the story of successful expeditions and military victories (there are no accounts of defeats).

These are translated extracts from three of the most important of these inscriptions. They were all written on the instructions of the Emperor Ezana.

The first of the inscriptions here quoted was originally written in three languages, Greek, Ge'ez and Sabaean, while the other two texts were in Ge'ez alone. Together they give us a revealing glimpse of the manner in which Ezana made war, how he organised his expeditions and the mercy he showed towards his enemies as well as some of the problems of state with which he was concerned.

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It is not without interest to note that though this Emperor is believed to have become a Christian and undoubtedly issued coins bearing the Cross in the latter period of his reign, he makes no mention of his conversion in any of his inscriptions; though the last of them, thought to have been produced after his adoption of Christianity refers in passing to his allegiance to the 'Lord of Heaven'.

This one example should suffice to indicate that the inscription, though of inestimable historical importance, give only a partial picture of the times they describe.

Though the only Aksumite records of which we have any knowledge were the inscriptions cut in stone, there is reason to suppose that before the end of the Aksumite period the Ethiopians must have learned how to produce manuscripts on parchment and how to write on them in Ge'ez. The first such Ge'ez manuscripts were in all probability translations of the Bible and other religious texts.

Conquest of Ezana ~ "King of Righteousness"

The following accounts are the words of Ezana as he describes his decision to war against the people of Bega:

"Ezana, King of Axum and of Himyar and of Raydan and of Ethiopia and of Saba and of Salhen and of Tseyamo and of Bega and of Kasu, the King of Kings, the son of the invincible god Ares.

As the people of the Bega had rebelled, we sent our brothers Shaizana and Hadeban to make war on them. And having laid down their arms [our brothers] subdued them and brought down to us with their camp followers and 3112 cattle and 6224 sheep and pack animals, giving them cattle and grain to eat and beer wine and water to drink to the full, according to their number.

They brought six tributary kings with their people in number 3,300. They receive each day 22,000 pieces of bread and wine for four months whilst they were bringing them to us. After giving them all kinds of foods as well as clothing we allowed them to depart.

They settled in a district called Matlia which belong to our realm. And we commanded that food should be given to them and we granted to the six kings 25,140 cattle. To obtain the favour of my beggeter the invincible Ares, I have set up to him one statue of gold and one in silver and three in bronze.

Another of Ezana's inscription tell of an expedition against a wild people called the Tsarane who had attacked a merchant caravan and killed all the people in it. The Emperor wishing to punish them sent three armies against them and later himself intervened:

"Ezana the son of Ella Amida of the family of Halen King of Aksum and of Hemer and of Raydan and of Sab and of Salhen and of Tseyamo and Bega and Kasu the son of Mahrem.

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He made war on the Tsarane, whose kingdom is Afan, after they had fought us and killed a merchant caravan. And then we made war upon them, first of all we sent armies, the army of Mahaza, and the army of Dakuen, and the army of Hara and then we ourselves followed and we encamped at the place where the troops were assembled, and we made our soldiers set out from there.

And they killed and made prisoners and despoiled them. And we attacked Sane and Tsawante and Gema, and Zahatan, four peoples, and we took prisoner Alita with his two children.

And slaughter took place of the men of Afan, 503 men and 202 women in all 705. Of his camp followers there were taken prisoner 40 men and 165 women and children in all 205. As booty were caried of 31,967 cattle and 827 baggage animals. And [the king] retuned in safety together with his people.

And he set up a throne here in Shado and Beher and Meder. If there be anyone who would overthrow it and remove it that person and his land and his race, shall be overthrown and removed and be rooted out of his country. And he [the king] offering 100 cattle and 50 prisoners as thanks-offering to Mahrem who had begotten him.”

The last inscription gives an account of an expedition against Noba now part of Sudan as well as the inhabitants of Kasu who also lived in the west.



The Ezana Stone inscribed in Ge'ez, Sabaeen and Greek

“By the power of the Lord of Heaven who is mightier than everything which exists in heaven or on earth Ezana, the son of Ella Amida of the descent of Halen King of Aksum and of Hemer, Raydan, Saba, Salhen, Tseyamo, Bega, and Kasu, King of Kings...and invisible to the enemy. By the might of the Lord of Heaven who has made me lord who reign as the perfect on for all eternity....

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By the might of the Lord of All I made war upon Noba for the people of Noba had rebelled and made a boast of it. The peoples of Noba had said: they (the Aksumites) will not cross the Takaze.

And they were in the habit of attacking the peoples of Mangurto and Khasa and Barya and the blacks and of making war upon the red peoples.

And two or three times they had broken their solemn oath and had killed their neighbour mercilessly and they had stripped bare and stolen the properties of our envoys and messengers which I had sent to them to inquire into their thefts and had stolen from their weapons of defence.

And as I have sent warnings to them and they would not listen to me and refused to stop their evil deeds and heaped insults upon me and then took to flight. I made war upon them. And I rose up in the might of the Lord of the Land and I fought them on the Takaze and at the ford of Kemal. Thereupon they took to flight and would not make a stand. And I followed the fugitives for twenty three days, killing and making prisoners and capturing booty wherever I stopped. My people who marched into the country brought back prisoners and booty.

Meanwhile I burnt their towns both those built of brick and those built of reeds and my soldiers carried off their food as well as copper, iron, and brass; They destroyed the statues in their houses, (i.e., temples) as well as their storehouses for food and their cotton trees, casting them in the river Sida (Nile).

And there were] many men who died in the water, their number being unknown to me. [The soldiers] sank their ships crowded with people, men, and women in the river. And I captured two chieftains who had come as spies riding on female camels... And I captured an Angabenawi nobleman...The chieftains who died were five in number...

And I came to Kasu and fought a battle and made prisoners of its people at the junction of the rivers Sida and Takaze. And the day after I arrived, I sent out the army Mahaza and the army Hara, and Damawa and Falha and Sera to raid the country upstream of Sida and the cities built of brick and those of reeds. The names of the cities built of brick were Alwa and Daro. And they killed and captured prisoners cast people into the water, and they arrived safe and sound having terrified their enemies and conquered them by the might of the Lord of the Land.

After that I sent the army of Halen and the army of Laken and the army of Sabarat and Falha and Sera down the Sida against the towns of Noba which are made of reeds... The towns of brick which the Noba had taken were Tabito and Fertoti. And people arrived at the frontier of the red Noba and they returned safe and sound having captured prisoners and slain the Noba and taken booty from them by the might of the Lord Heaven. And I set up a throne in that country at the place where the rivers Sida and Takaze join, opposite the town with brick houses...

The things which the Lord Heaven has given me are:

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Men captives, 214, women captives 415 total captives 629. Men slain 602, women and children slain 156. Total slain 700. Total prisoners and slain 1,387. Booty 10,560 cattle and 51,050 sheep.

And I set up a throne here in Shado by the might of the Lord of Heaven, who has helped me and given me sovereignty. May the Lord of Heaven make my kingdom strong.

And as He has this day conquered my enemy for me, may He conquer for me wherever I go. And as He has this day conquered for me and overthrown my enemy, I will rule the people with righteousness and justice and will not oppress them.



And may they preserve this throne which I have set up for the Lord of Heaven who has made me King and the land upon which it lies.

And if there shall be anyone who shall remove it, destroy it, or overthrow it, he and his kinfolk shall be rooted out and removed from the land. I have set up this throne by the might of the Lord of Heaven.”

Ezana who also issued coins was one of the greatest and most successful rulers of ancient Ethiopia.

Gold Coin issued by Ezana of Aksum.

Pt 2. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE ETERNAL HERITAGE IN CHRIST

As was stated earlier, Emperor Ezana sealed Ethiopia as an Eternal Covenant Kingdom of Christ and it continued to be so all the way to the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie 1st, Root of David:

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*The Lord has sworn in truth to David;
He will not turn from it:
“I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.
If your sons will keep My covenant
And My testimony which I shall teach them,
Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore.”* (Psalm 132:11-12)

The Orthodox faith and doctrine of the kings came into being and was fulfilled in the time and reign of Emperor Ezana with the founding of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church:

*And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.”* (Revelation 5:10)

THE HISTORY OF THE FAITH

First Fruits of Christ



Two months after the death and resurrection of our Lord “The Ras” Yesus Kristos, the Ethiopian Eunuch, Jen Daraba, of the royal court of Garsemet Kandaka, Queen of Ethiopia, on his return to Ethiopia from Jerusalem was baptised by Philip the Apostle:

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Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. So, he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot. So, Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him....

"...Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So, he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him." (Acts 8: 26-31, 25-38)

It was from this time that the gospel was preached in the royal courts of Ethiopia by Jen Daraba, and so Ethiopians were to be among the fruits of Christ and the faith.

Observations

Judaic Faith

The fact that the Ethiopian Eunuch went to Jerusalem to worship (Acts 8:27) and the fact that he was reading from the book of Isaiah, when Philip approached him, confirms the presence and sealing of the Judaic Old Testament faith among the Ethiopian nobility which came with Menelik 1st of Ethiopia, son of King Solomon of Israel:

*"Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon **concerning the name of the Lord**, she came to test him with hard questions" (1Kings 10:1)*

The Queen of Sheba bore Solomon's son and received the Judaic faith.

Other Deities

After the reign of Queen Kandaka and up to the 4th century AD as with Emperor Ezana, other beliefs had won through. At the beginning of the Emperor's conquests, he was honouring different deities (gods), i.e., Aster – the moon, Beher – the country and Meder – the earth, also the pagan god of war known to the Ethiopians as Mahrem and to the Greeks as Ares. But finally, he gave his allegiance to the Lord of Heaven, for Whom he set up a throne in Shado.

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Ezana's Lineage

On the inscriptions of his conquest, the Emperor declares himself as the son of Ella Amida or Ousanas, the name that was minted on his coins during his reign. Neither Ella Amida nor Ousanas appear on the 'King's List' of Ethiopian rulers but Ezana's mother, Queen Sofya does appear on the list.

Does this mean that from the Aksumite rulers, another tribe of kings from Ethiopia came into force right up to Ella Amida (Ousanas)???

Records show that Ezana's father died while he was young and that because of his young age, his mother Ahywa Sofya, (whose descent was not the same as his father but that of the King's List) acted as Regent for Ezana until he was of age.



Therefore, the reign and covenant lineage of Ezana and his brother Saizana (baptised with the names Abraha and Atsbeha) is sealed as coming from the generation of their mother Queen Sofya.

On the 'King's List' along with Queen Sofya they are the first of the rulers of the 6th dynasty of covenant rulers of Ethiopia.

SEALING OF THE LORD'S FAITH IN ETHIOPIA

St Frumentius of Ethiopia

In the 4th Century AD, Ezana and Saizana were tutored by two Hellenic Syrians who had been taken to Ethiopia as slaves to the King of Aksum after their ship had either capsized or was stopped at one of the harbours of the Red Sea, depending upon whichever account a one may have read.

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The two boys named Frumentius and Edesius grew up in the royal court and soon gained favour with the then reigning monarch. After the King died, they remained at court and assisted the Queen (Sofya) in the education of her sons. They remained in Ethiopia at the royal court and as scholars have said were responsible for converting the royal family to faith in Christ. Ezana went on to become the first king of the 6th Dynasty of Ethiopia and made Christianity the state religion.

Edesius eventually returned to Tyre and was ordained a priest but Frumentius stayed in Ethiopia, eager for the conversion of Ethiopia to the Christian faith.

With the blessing of the Emperor, Frumentius went to Egypt accompanied by his brother as far as Alexandria to request that the church, of the seat of St. Mark the apostle, send a bishop to Ethiopia. Instead, St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria consecrated Frumentius and sent him back to Ethiopia where he became the first Archbishop of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

Accounts records that within a few months of Frumentius' return and through his devotion, thousands of Ethiopians became Christians and received the faith of our Lord,

Ezana and Saizana Baptised



Ezana and Saizana ~ Abreha and Atsbeha

Ezana and Saizana were eventually baptised with the names Abreha and Atsbeha, respectively (these are the names of the two kings recorded in the 'King's List')

Ezana had many churches built and had the gospel spread throughout Ethiopia. Ezana and Saizana (Abreha and Atsbeha) are venerated in the Ethiopian Orthodox

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Tewahedo Church and one of the oldest rock-hewn churches, located in Tigray, is named after them.

St Mark the Apostle



Tradition has it that St Mark visited Ethiopia, teaching the gospel before he went on to Egypt to establish the church in Alexandria. St Mark, also known as John Mark in Holy Scripture (Acts 12:12, 25) was born in Libya and was one of the 70 disciples of Christ (St Luke 10:1-22). According to tradition St Mark is the founder of the church of Alexandria in Egypt and its first bishop.

St Mark is the writer of the second gospel in the Bible although it was the first gospel to be written somewhere between 30 AD and 70 AD (Crossley, 2004) The gospel of St Mark is a collection of writings recorded from the Apostle Peter's sermons and testimony. The city of Venice first honoured St Mark with the symbol of him as a winged lion holding a bible in his paw.



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The Winged Lion of St. Mark in Venice

Out of Ethiopia I n I Prevail.

From the Emperor Ezana, the first King of kings of the eternal Kingdom of Christ, Jah has branched out and deposited in I n I, who would believe and receive, this divine and eternal heritage of His Son 'The Ras' Yesus Kristus, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' (St John 14:6)

As we have been drawn by the Father to the Way, Truth and Life, (St John 6:44) we have entered into the livity of Full Salvation of the Lord's soon coming glory, the livity of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st. Give thanks to Jah Who has drawn us into the glory of Ethiopia, the Head and House of the Mansions of Rastafari.

The Holy Scripture says, "out of Egypt I have called My Son" (St Matthew 2:15). Likewise, out of Egypt and the seat of St Mark, I n I faith in Christ as Rastafari was made manifest through the kings of Ethiopia Hence, out of Ethiopia, through Emperor Ezana, the first King of kings of her kingdom in Christ, I n I Rastafari prevail!

In keeping true like the King of all kings, in all fullness of salvation, in livity to the glory of God, I n I Rastafari prevail! It is done! In Haile Selassie 1st name, for the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed!



The Lion of the Tribe of Judah Has Prevailed!

O JAH! RASTAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE II