

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

RAS

Month of the Light of the World

(1st – 30th Ras 90 / 31st January - 1st March 2021)

St Luke 4:18-19

St Luke 10:19

Isaiah 10:27



HEADSHIP AND FOLLOWING OF THE FAITHFUL



EMPEROR MENELIK AT THE BATTLE OF ADOWA

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

HEADSHIP AND FOLLOWING OF THE FAITHFUL

Jah! Ras Tafari! Haile Selassie I!

Majesty Love and Ras Blessings to one and all! Rastafari!

We are now into the 5th glory of the month of RAS and coming to the end of this month that we describe as Month of the Light of the World in this heritage year 90HIM.

Again, we give thanks to JAH for the knowledge, blessings and revelation of the month and the term RAS.

We have seen the responsibility of being a Ras, from the Headship of JAH Almighty all the way through to I n I Rastafari, as heirs of JAH Headship.

Rastafari is an empowerment and anointing for the fulfilling of all JAH righteousness and revelation. Therefore, we carry forward the legacy of Headship, or as I n I would say, Ras-ship, Amen!

Battle of Adowa ~ Victory Celebrations

On the 30th Ras/1st March, we celebrate Ethiopia's victory over the enemy at the Battle of Adowa on 1st March 1896. Ethiopia's victory preserved and maintained her position and title as ***Unconquered Abyssinia***, and so it is to this day.

The Article

This article of the Battle of Adowa was published in an earlier edition. We usually publish four editions each month of heritage teachings but as this important event occurred on the last day of the month of RAS, it would be fitting to revisit its highlights.

Headship ~ Ras-ship

Among many things, what we will see in the article is the headship of the great Emperor Menelik II, along with the Ras generals of that time and the patriots, who in faith and with courage embodied that RAS responsibility, in preserving their nation's independence, heritage and legend for their people, to the glory of God, confirming that:

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Root of David Has Prevailed!

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THE BATTLE OF ADOWA

The European “Age of Discovery, which took place between the 15th and the 17th century, contributed to the increased interactions and confrontations between Europeans and Africans. ¹ The Portuguese came to Africa, probing along the west African coast and by 1444, a cargo of 235 Africans had been bought as slaves and brought to Lagos in Portugal. This is said to be the beginning of African slavery by the Europeans. The Portuguese were followed by the Dutch, the Spanish, the French, and the English in buying Africans as slaves.

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade lasted from the 15th to the 19th century, over 400 years, during which millions upon millions of our forefathers were taken from the Motherland and shipped across the Atlantic.

Many died fighting and refusing to be taken from the continent; millions perished along the way in what was called ‘The Middle Passage’. Africans were stacked like sardines and chained in pairs below deck, where sickness, disease, abuse, and untold conditions would prevail, in a trip that could take up to six or seven months in the earlier centuries. Millions of our ancestors ended up in the Americas, West Indies, and Europe to be slaves from generation to generation for 400 years.

Slavery by the Europeans as a whole ended by 1890 but now instead of the enslavement of Africans, the European powers had their eyes on the land of Africa and sought to gain dominion over her indigenous population. And so, came ‘The Scramble for Africa’, also known as the ‘Partition of Africa’ and the ‘Conquest of Africa’. This pursuit would eventually bring the judgement of God JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE I upon the nations of Europe and the world.

The scramble for Africa was the invasion, occupation, division, colonisation, and annexation of African territories by the European powers during the period called ‘New Imperialism’. This new world order of the European powers established their empires in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. All this happened between 1881 and 1914, a span of 33 years.

The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 was a meeting between European nations to create rules on how to peacefully divide Africa among themselves. In 1870 only 10% of Africa was under European control but by 1914 it had increased to 90% of the continent. Many parts of Africa were renamed by the European colonisers, for example French West Africa, French Somaliland, French Equatorial Africa, British Somaliland, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, British East Africa, German East Africa, German West Africa, Belgian Congo, Italian Somaliland and, what is now known as Zimbabwe and Zambia, were called Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia, named after a British business man and imperialist.

¹ Age of Discovery (Wikipedia, 2020)

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All in all, Africa was divided up amongst Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

In West Africa, there was the small independent state of Liberia, which was founded in 1822 by the American Colonization Society to settle freed American slaves. As for their motives, they were questionable because they believed that the races were incompatible, that black and white people were incapable of coexisting. (Brenton, 2008)

But concerning Africa having an independent indigenous nation on the continent, there was one, indeed there was, and the Lord JAH had her ready for such a time as this. The Europeans called her 'Unconquered Abyssinia'.²

We know her as Ethiopia the legendary land of the kings, the oldest dynasty of rulers in the world, coming from King Ori also known as Aram, who was one of the sons of Adam.

The offspring of King Solomon of Israel and Queen Makeda of Ethiopia (2 Kings 10:1-9), who was the last ruler of the 3rd dynasty, have ruled Ethiopia for 3,000 years, right up to the time of the partition of Africa. It is during this time that the invaders came against Ethiopia and her Solomonic dynasty, Root of David.

Psalm 2:1-5 reminds us of the protection of King David and his seed and how faithful God is to His Anointed and their seed:

*Why do the nations rage?
And the people plot a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,
"Let us break Their bonds in pieces,
And cast away Their cords from us."
He who sits in the heavens shall laugh.
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure...*

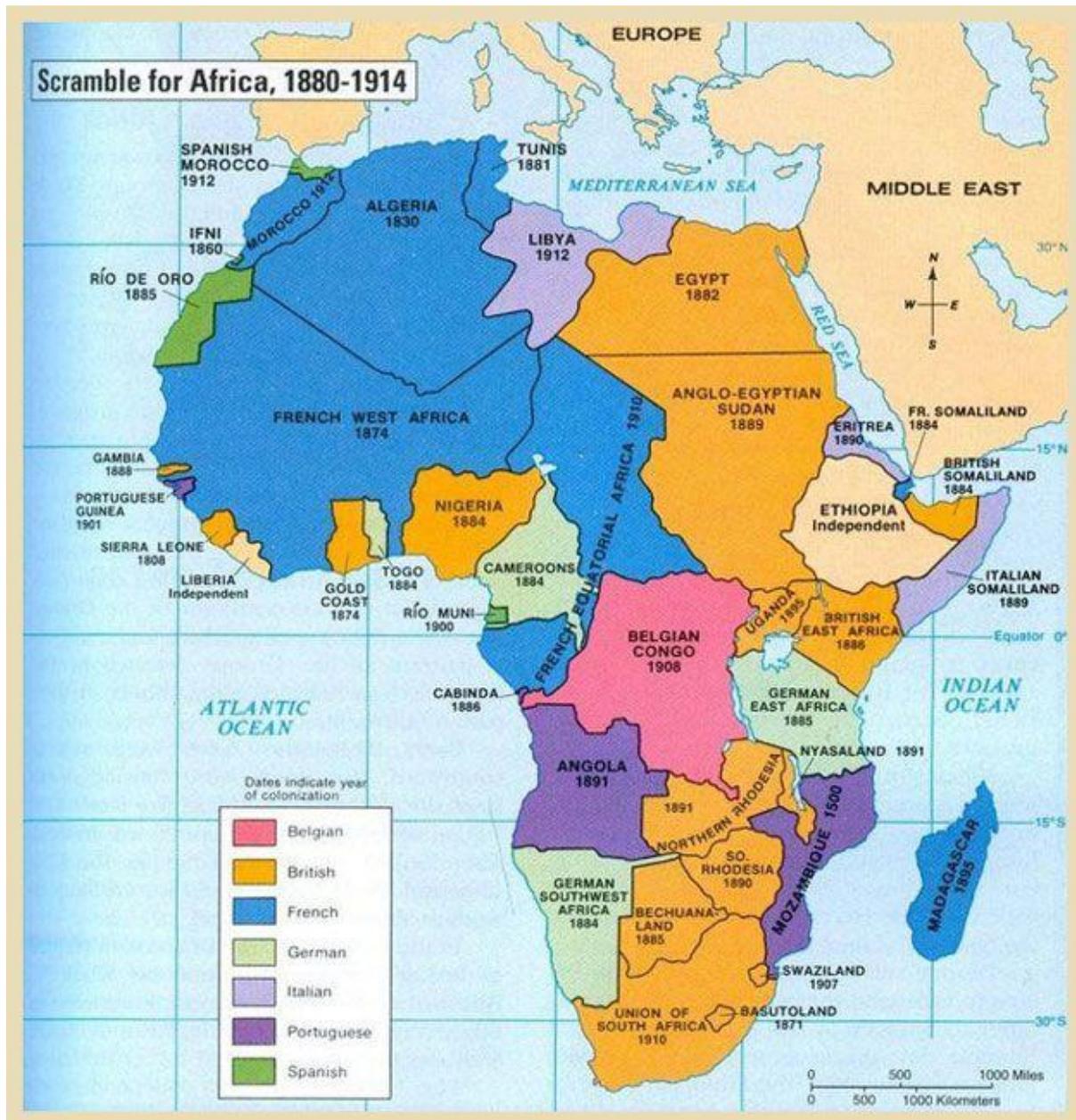
² Unconquered Abyssinia As It Is Today (Rey, 1923)

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And so, a fight against David and his kingdom, is a fight against the LORD and His Christ to Whom He has committed all judgement (St John 5:22). A fight against Ethiopia, is a fight against the kingdom of David, the LORD and His Christ. We are reminded of the words of His Imperial Majesty,

“...With faith, courage and a just cause, David will still beat Goliath.”³

By 1889 the African nations around Ethiopia were occupied as seen in this map below:



³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wIH_9a16uo

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The British were in control of Egypt, Sudan and Kenya and they had territory in Somaliland; The French were on the east coast of Africa, Italy had territory in Somaliland and by 1890 they controlled Eritrea.

In 1889 Ethiopia, through King Menelik, formed a treaty with Italy called the Treaty of Uccialli. ⁴

The Ethiopian Royal Chronicles ⁵ takes up the narrative:

The Confrontation with Italy and the Treaty of Uccialli

The Treaty of Uccialli was the Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Friendship which had been signed between the two countries on May 2nd, 1889, This agreement was written in two languages, Amharic, and Italian, which though otherwise identical in meaning, differed significantly in Article 27.

The Amharic text of the article stated that Menelik should have the power to use the services of the Italian authorities for any communication which he might wish to have forwarded to other governments. The Italian text on the other hand made it compulsory for the Emperor to conduct all his transactions with other powers through the Italian government .

The Italian claim that this latter provision meant that they had established a protectorate but tells only of the manner in which the invader expanded into Ethiopian territory...

...The Italians subsequently expanded from the coast and advanced inland from the port of Massawa to the town of Asmara.

Menelik learning that the Italians were at Asmara asked them, “Were we not once friends? Why then have you taken a country that does not belong to you? What has brought you to this land which is mine and not yours? Leave my country!”

The Italians then replied “Massawa is too hot a town; our merchants cannot live there”.

It was not long however before they advanced still further inland and occupied parts of Tigre.

The Italians, crossing the frontiers which had been given to them, dug the land, built forts and bit by bit invaded the country... Later, after a rapid march, they advanced as far as the town of Adowa, pillaging it...Ras Mangasha (the ruler of Tigre) then cried: “Now that my town of Adowa has been pillaged, shall I do nothing?” And he marched against them. He fought, and, as we are told, was beaten.

⁴ Article 17 of the Treaty of Uccialli (Giglio and Caulk, 1965)

⁵ The Ethiopian Royal Chronicles (Pankhurst, 1965)

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These were difficult times for Emperor Menelik. For three years on end, famine ravaged the country. It was for that reason that Menelik, not wishing that his army should suffer, had postponed his expedition.

Russian and French assistance for Ethiopia

...Not long afterwards, a Russian embassy arrived. It was the first such diplomatic mission since that of the Italians led by Antonelli. Menelik gave it a very warm reception...

...Before they left it was arranged for an Ethiopian embassy to go back with them to Russia. It likewise received a fine welcome on arriving at its destination.

The envoys of Emperor Menelik on their arrival in Russia were received with the greatest honours. Such diplomatic exchanges were important because Menelik was at this time actively engaged in importing large quantities of firearms. Many of these weapons were obtained in Russia but even larger supplies came from France. Before going to war with the Italians he was thus able to arm his men with 40 cannons and well over 100,000 rifles.

The Italians meanwhile were continuing to advance into northern Ethiopia and Menelik saw that he had no alternative but to fight.



Menelik and Ethiopia's Faith in God that they would prevail.

Emperor Menelik, having learned that the Italians had arrived at Dabra Haila and that they had seized it by surprise, issued the proclamation: "Assemble the army, beat the drums!" To these words he added the following:

"God by His goodness in striking down my enemies and in extending my empire has preserved me until this time. Up to now I have reigned by the grace of God. If my death is at hand, I am not afraid, for death is the fate of us all.

But so far God has never humiliated me, and I am confident that he will not humiliate me in the future.

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An enemy has arrived who ruins the country, changes the religion, and has crossed the sea which God has given us as a frontier. Considering that the livestock had perished and that the people were worn out [by the famine] I did not want to take action until now. But these enemies have begun to advance and to dig into the country like moles. With the aid of God, I will not deliver my country to them. Men of my country, up to this day I do not believe I have been guilty towards you, and you have never given me cause for pain.

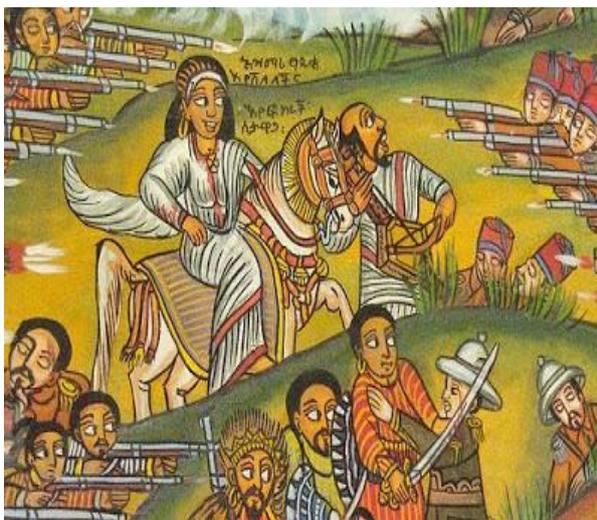
Today you who are strong, help me according to your strength and you who are weak, help me with your prayers and in thinking of your children, your wife, and your faith! But if because of your negligence you fail to follow me, take care! You will hate me because I will not fail to punish you! I swear to you by Mary that I will not accept any prayer for your pardon! I leave in [the month of] Teqemt. Men of Shoa wait for me at Wara Ilu and be ready, all of you, in the middle of the month!"

He later gave orders for the men of Gojam, Dambea, Qwara, Begemder and all that part of the country to rally near Lake Ashange, and for those of Semien, Walqayt and Tegedi to make their way to Maqale. Ras Makonnen's forces from Harar and those of Fitawrari Takle of Wallaga received orders to move northwards, while the Emperor's uncle, Ras Darge, was instructed to guard Addis Ababa .

Menelik's great army, one of the largest ever seen in Ethiopia , made its way northwards to Tigre and forced the Italians to withdraw first to Maqale and then to Adowa where a decisive battle was fought on March the 1st, 1896...

It has been recorded that Ethiopia's army was between 80,000 and as high as 120,000 and more.

...The chronicler reports:



EMPERESS TAITU

Towards 11:00 o'clock at night the Italian army arrived and threw itself on the 500 rifleman of Ras Mangasha who were on the mountain pass...

When the King arrived on the battlefield, Abuna Matewos and the clergy arrived behind him with the tabot of Mariam. The people of Axum who had arrived on the Saturday night to ask Emperor Menelik to treat them as they had been treated for centuries, accompanied the army on the following day and carried a picture of Mary as well as their banner. They stood in front of Empress Taitu.

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The trumpet blowers of Zion played in front of the Empress. The clergy of Axum, having come to ask for confirmation of their secular privileges, understood that Our Lady was bringing help to Emperor Menelik.

...Rifle shooting, which had begun at the 11th hour of the night, did not cease until the 4th hour of the day. Its sound was like that of the rain of Hamle which falls without stopping... As the cannons fired, smoke rose as from a burning house. The smoke produced by the shooting on both sides was for the combatants like the shade which a tree gives to someone under its branches .

Later on, the chronicler records that the Ethiopian army had no other desire than to uphold the throne and no one looked backwards.

...The Ethiopian soldiers continued their advance as far as the Mareb River, and helped by the people of the country, exterminated the enemy... Ethiopia was victorious.

...The Italians abandoned their claim to any protectorate over the country and foreign embassies arrived in Addis Ababa from Britain, France, Italy, and Russia as well as, later, several other powers including Germany and the United States.

On his return to Addis Ababa after the battle, Menelik received an enthusiastic welcome from the people who had remained behind.

Ethiopia trusted in God and their King. She rejoiced in the ever fulfilling prophecy and faith that stirred her on to victory that,

“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed!” (Revelation 5:5)



RASTAFARI IN COVENANT I N I RASTAFARI

“Giving thanks to the Father Who has qualified us to be partakers off the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:12-13)

Christ overcame death and rose in victory having power over the enemy “the power of darkness”.

The beneficiaries are those of faith who JAH has translated in spirit and truth into the kingdom and eternal heritage of the Son.

Likewise, I n I Rastafari are beneficiaries of the victory of Menelik II and the faithful and courageous.

In Haile Selassie 1st name, we have inherited the faith and heritage in spirit and truth, as the tribe of Judah (praise) of the King, having overcome the enemy, the power of darkness. The ever-fulfilling prophecy is with I n I Rastafari for both now and forever, for it is I n I who will declare to the glory of God, for both now and forever that:



The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Root of David has Prevailed!

JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!