

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

TABAQA BERHAN

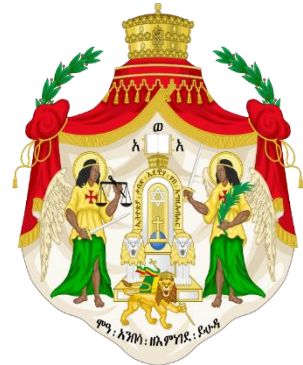
Month of the Tabot

(2nd – 31st March 2021)

Hebrews 11:1-40

Hebrews 9:28

Revelation 3:12



THE ANOINTED BODY OF TESTIMONY



THE TABOT OF GOD

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

JAH! RASTAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!

Majesty Love and Tabaqa Berhan Blessings to one and all Rastafari!

We are now into the new month and first glory of this month that we call **Tabaqa Berhan**, which means **Guardian of the Light**. It is the month that we describe as the **Month of the TABOT**.

In this month of Tabaqa Berhan, Guardian of the Light, we honour the guardians of our Divine Heritage, which was seen by them in faith and proclaimed from of old. These guardians of the faith died not having received the promises but were assured of the coming of the Saviour and His Revelation in glory. These are the promises we have received as RASTAFARI in Covenant with JAH!

To the Enduring Ones of Faith:

*"...And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, **did not receive the promise**, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us." (Hebrews 11:30-40)*

The Promises We Have Received as Rastafari!

As Rastafari we have received the Divine Heritage of full salvation through faith.

Firstly! By becoming temples of God:

*"After our blameless Creator was sent to this world by His Father then **the hearts of all believers became the Temple of God**." (H.I.M. Haile Selassie 1st)*

"But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him...Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's". (1 Corinthians 6:17,19-20)

As His Imperial Majesty said, all believers became the temple of God. Further to that, the Scripture confirms that you are now the temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you and that you are now God's temple. This is true to all who receive Yesus Kristus as Lord, as the King of kings' states.

Secondly! The promises we have received as Rastafari is in the coming of His Imperial Majesty in the name of the **Power of the Holy Trinity** (Haile Selassie 1st).

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

To the ones in faith, we are now, not only the temple of God, but have become covenant partakers of JAH power, in Haile Selassie 1st name.

Our faith in JAH for bestowing upon us His covenant power enables and empowers I n I Rastafari to live the Divine Heritage life of full salvation, the life of victory, the lividity of His Dominion, Victory, Power and Glory.

T.A.B.O.T .

Here we see the word **TABOT** as an acronym **T.A.B.O.T.** which stands for **The Anointed Body of Testimony**. The original Ethiopian word *tabot* means *ark*.

As Rastafari and in covenant with JAH, we are to be like our King **The Anointed Body of Testimony**. That is, anointed and empowered to testify of JAH truth and revelation.

With this empowerment I n I have also become a Tabot, an ark of God, a living, walking testimony that JAH reigns in and through, on earth as He reigns in heaven. Again, a living, walking testimony of God and not just laws written on stone.

TABOTS OF GOD THROUGH THE AGES



The Ark of Noah

Noah's ark became the first Tabot and dwelling place for the salvation of Man, where only eight souls were saved as God destroyed all mankind.

Noah was a Guardian of the Light, declaring the truth and revelation of God to a corrupt world, but they failed to repent:

"For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark...". (St Matthew 24:38)

Scripture confirms that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, a Guardian of the Light (truth of God):

"...and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly". (2 Peter 2:5)

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

Food for Thought

Noah, in faith, built the Tabot for the saving of his family and so **they prepared to dwell in the place of JAH salvation**. They must have endured cruel and sustained mocking but nevertheless they kept the faith.

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith”. (Hebrews 11:7)

Note: Even in the ark they went through the storms and elements of JAH judgement of and upon the world, but they trusted in JAH Most High and in His provision of the Tabot, the dwelling place of JAH salvation, that it would carry them through.

And so, judgement came upon the first unbelievers, those who rejected the way of the Most High, Jah! Rastafari!

“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So, the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So, God looked upon the earth,

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

*and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **Make yourself an ark** of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and outside with pitch". (Genesis 6:1-14)*

"Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation". (Genesis 7:1)

Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, and the chosen creatures entered the Tabot. They had to wait seven days before JAH caused it to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights and after that the waters prevailed on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

Note: The believers inherited a new world while the unbelievers perished, and so JAH blessed those who came out of the Tabot so that they would be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Jah! Rastafari!



The Ark of Moses the Deliverer

Moses, the deliverer of Israel from 430 years of slavery, the friend and prophet of God, the lawgiver, was saved as a child from the decree of Pharaoh, that every son born to a Hebrew woman should be killed (Exodus 1:13-22)

The ark of Moses was the means of escape for the baby Moses. It became the Tabot of his salvation, whereby JAH would save His chosen person from Pharaoh's decree and for the salvation of His covenant people:

"And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. So, the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So, she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So, the maiden went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So, the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So, she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water." (Exodus 2:1-10)

The Scriptural story in Exodus from chapters 1-15 is familiar to most people. JAH delivered His covenant people from 430 years of slavery, by the hand of Moses and He poured out His judgement on their oppressors (Exodus 7:1-12:33) Finally, He destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea (Exodus chapter 14).

Note: All was purposed and achieved by JAH Most High by way of the Tabot of Moses for the saving of JAH covenant people. Jah! Rastafari!



The Ark of the Covenant ~ The Ark of Testimony

The Ark of the Covenant was the symbol of God's presence among His people. It was a gold covered wooden chest which contained:

- The two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:1-6)
- A pot of manna (Exodus 16:31-33)
- Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:1-8)

The cover for the Tabot was called the mercy seat which had two cherubim of gold, one on each end of it facing each other, with their wings outstretched towards each other.

"You [Moses] shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark and in the ark, you shall put the testimony that I will give you.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

And there I will meet with you and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel” (Exodus 25:21-22)

The Ark of the Covenant was a symbol of faith and power that JAH was with His people. When the priest(s) were present in the tabernacle, the Lord hovered over the Tabot. When they were not in the tabernacle, the tablets of the law, the Word of God, represented God’s presence.



The Ark of the Covenant taken to Ethiopia

The Ethiopian book, *Kebre Negast*, *Glory of the Kings*, declares that the Ark of the Covenant was taken from Israel and brought to Ethiopia at the time of Menelik 1st visit to see his father King Solomon of Israel.



Tabots in the Ethiopian Church

Every church in Ethiopia houses a covered Tabot, that symbolically represents the Ark of the Covenant and indicates that the presence of God is with the people.

“The Tabot is the foundation of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and is what sanctifies and consecrates a church building. The Tabot is believed by Ethiopian Christians to be the dwelling place of God on earth, the mercy seat described in the Bible and representation of the Ark of the Covenant.”¹

¹ https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/E_Af1868-1001-21

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

I N I RASTAFARI

The Tabot of God is With Men

With the coming of our Lord, the Tabot of God is with men, specifically, to I n I who would believe and receive. The Spirit of the Most High indwells us for Immanuel God is with us:

"...If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you". (St John 14:14-17)

I n I Rastafari have also been blessed with faith in receiving the revelation of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st, the instrument of God, His herald and power. We have been made "set and ready" to be a living, walking, speaking testimony as Tabots of God, **The Anointed Body of Testimony**, declaring and testifying of the way, truth and the life (St John 14:6)

Therefore, in the grace of the Holy Spirit TAFARI, to the glory of the Holy Trinity, surrender all, heart, soul, mind, strength and understanding, to JAH and His only begotten Son. (St Matthew 22:37 / St Mark 12:28) In this JAH and His only begotten Son will reign in and through our being for His glory, with I n I being Tabots of God, The Anointed Body of Testimony!



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

JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!