

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

TABAQA BERHAN

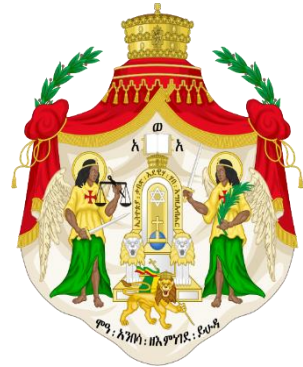
Month of the Tabot

(2nd – 31st March 2021)

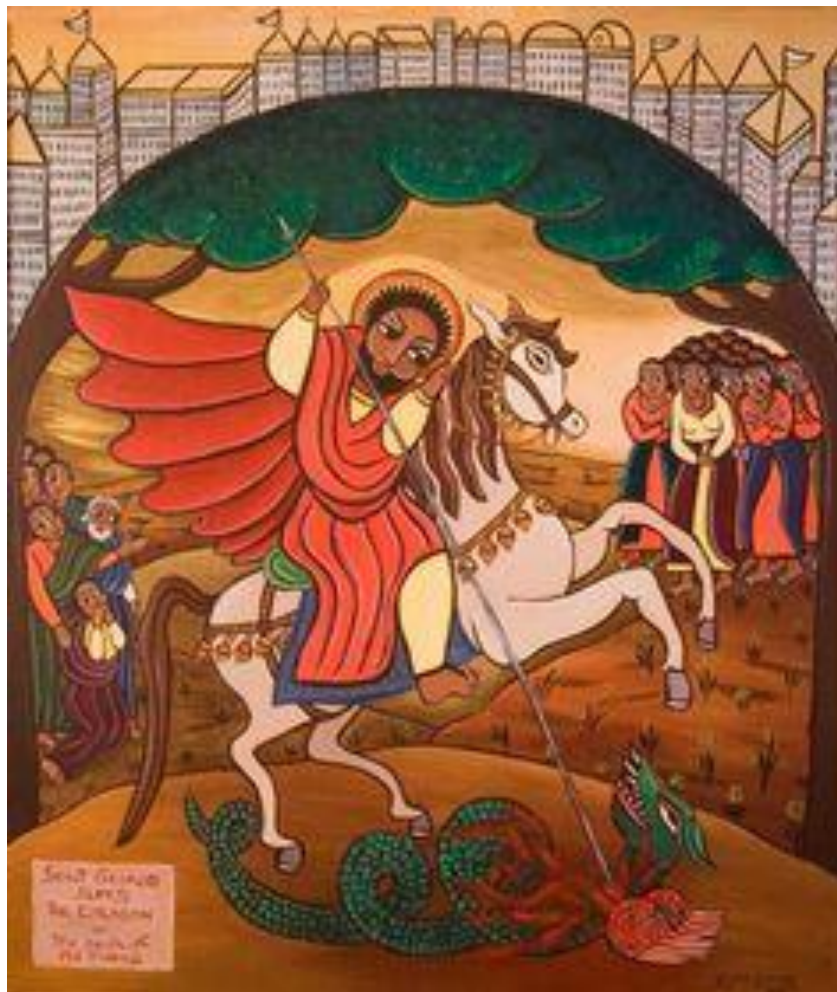
Hebrews 11:1-40

Hebrews 9:28

Revelation 3:12



GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SOVEREIGNS



Part Two

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Jah! Ras Tafari! Haile Selassie !!

Rastafari Love! Tabaqa Berhan blessings to one and all!

Give thanks to our Guardian Shepherd who keeps a watch over I n I Rastafari. Give thanks to Him the Lord JAH Who leads us in the path of righteousness for His name sake, that we might fulfil all righteousness in keeping with Him and following in the way, truth and the life (St John 14:6).

We are here in the 3rd glory of this month of Tabaqa Berhan, Guardian of the light, the Month of the TABOT.

We are moving from glory to glory and from strength to strength in spirit and in truth and that is regardless of the trials, tribulations and self-destruction that the **“gone too far generation”** have put upon mankind and set upon itself.

Jah Family:

“...Don't worry about a thing, cause every little thing gonna be alright...” (Bob Marley)

*“A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.*

*Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.” (Psalm 91:7-11)*

Our Guardians and God-Parents in JAH

We give thanks again for the Guardians of this month, our God-Parents in the Lord. We are reaping the covenant blessings from the work and faith of those who went before us and paved the way for our empowerment in receiving the divine and eternal heritage in You O Jah! Ras Tafari!

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Guardianship of the Sovereigns Part One

Last glory we started the article on Guardianship of the Sovereigns. We started to look at the foundations and glory of our divine heritage which is coming through Ethiopia. As we said last glory, the Ethiopian dynasty of sovereigns are the oldest in the world and are linked directly and in parallel with the oldest family tree in the world, the lineage of Yesus Kristos and His parents, Joseph and Mary (St Matthew 1:1-16 / St Luke 3:23-38; see last article's introduction)

The first Ethiopian dynasty starts with King Ori/Aram the son of Adam, the son of God who reigned for 60 years in the 970 year of the world 4470 BC (see last edition). In the last edition we briefly covered the first four dynasties of rulers with narration on at least one of the main rulers of each dynasty.

In this edition we will briefly cover one significant sovereign from the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th dynasty, namely:

- Queen Garsemet Kandaka – 5th dynasty
- King of kings Ezana – 6th dynasty
- King of kings Kaleb – 7th dynasty
- King of kings Lalibela – 8th dynasty

Two other Ancient Sovereigns

I thought it would be interesting to briefly mention two ancient sovereigns that appear in the King's List.

First, **Elektron**. Elektron was the fifth king of the 2nd dynasty from the Hamitic dynasty and tribe of Kam. Elektron ruled for 30 years in the 3,015 year of the world BC 2485. His name was possibly the inspiration for the words like electricity, electronic and the character, Elektron that appeared in early DC Comics¹

Secondly, **Kasiyope**. Kasiyope was the third ruler and queen of the 3rd dynasty from the Semitic tribe of Yoqtan (Queen Makeda's dynasty). Queen Kasiyope ruled for 19 years in the 3629 year of the world / BC 1890.

One of the star constellations is called Cassiopeia,² named after a beautiful but vain queen in Greek mythology who boasted about her unrivalled beauty. She is said to have married King Cephes of the mythological Phoenician realm of Ethiopia.

¹ [https://dc.fandom.com/wiki/Electron_\(New_Earth\)](https://dc.fandom.com/wiki/Electron_(New_Earth))

² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassiopeia_\(constellation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassiopeia_(constellation))

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5th Dynasty ~ First Fruits of Kristos (Christ)

(Those who reigned after the birth of Kristos)



Queen Garsemet Kandaka VI– Ruled 10 years Year of the World 5540-5550 / AD 50

Amongst the rulers of the 5th dynasty of Ethiopia the one ruler who had a very important Scriptural connection is Queen Garsemet Kandaka VI. Queen Kandaka is recorded in the book of Acts chapter 8 verse 27:

“...And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Can-da’ce, the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship...”

This Scripture verse along with the King’s List and other sources confirm the reign of Queen Kandaka and Ethiopia’s connection with the Judaic faith, through the Ethiopian Solomonic 4th dynasty of Menelik 1st (of the tribe of Israel).

Acts 8:26-39 narrates the Apostle Philip’s baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch thereby making him a first-fruit believer in Kristos (Christ).

His Imperial Majesty declared that this occurred a few months after the Resurrection:

“As you all know, it is centuries past since Our country, Ethiopia, accepted the Gospel of Christ. We learn from the Holy Scriptures that the first Ethiopian who confessed faith in Jesus Christ was baptised only a few months after the death and resurrection of Our Lord”.³

5th Dynasty First Fruits in Kristos

According to the King’s List, this 5th ruling dynasty of Ethiopia had thirty-five sovereigns in all who ruled over a period of 297 years, from the Year of the World 5509-5806 / AD 306.

St Matthew: The records declare that the first few sovereigns of the 5th dynasty were “Christianized” by the Apostle Matthew and writer of the first Gospel. St Matthew was a missionary of the Lord in Ethiopia and he was also martyred there.

³ https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Address_to_the_World_Evangelical_Congress_in_Berlin

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The Ethiopian Eunuch's Influence

The writings connected to the King's List declare that after St Matthew's "Christianising" of the first few sovereigns of the 5th dynasty, that the Ethiopian Eunuch of Queen Kandaka, was also influential in the spreading of the Gospel:

"... After this, Jen Daraba, favourite of the Queen of Ethiopia, Garsemet Kandake, crowned by Gabre Hawriat Kandaka, had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem according to the Law of Orit (the ancient law) and on his return, Philip the Apostle taught him the Gospel, and after he had made him believe the truth, he sent him back, baptising him in the name of the Trinity.

The latter (the Queen's favourite) on his return to his country, taught by word of mouth, the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ and baptised them. Those who were baptised, not having found an Apostle to teach them the Gospel, had been living, offering sacrifices to God according to the ancient prescription and the Jewish law"⁴.

6th Dynasty ~ Sovereigns of the Gospel

(Dynasty of the Posterity of Ezana and Saizana)



Ezana of Axum – Ruled 26 years, Year of the World 5806-5832 / AD 332

Ezana, King of kings of Ethiopia, is known as one of the greatest of ancient rulers of Ethiopia and certainly one of the most important. He consolidated and sealed Ethiopia as a kingdom of Kristus (Christ) in the 4th century AD. The kingdom continued to be so all the way to the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie 1st, Root of David:

⁴ Kings List <http://rastaites.com/list-ethiopian-kings-haile-selassie-i-lineage/>

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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

that I shall teach them

Their sons shall sit upon your throne forevermore..." (Psalm 132:11-12)

During the reign of Emperor Ezana, the Orthodox faith and doctrine of the kings came into being with the founding of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Ezana's tutor Frumentius, a Hellenist Syrian, became its first archbishop:

"...And have made us kings and priests to our God

And we shall reign on the earth..." (Revelation 5:10)

This 6th dynasty of the posterity of Ezana and his brother Saizana who ruled after him produced 31 sovereigns of the eternal faith. They ruled over a period of 187 years, from Year of the World 5806-5993 / AD 493.



Ezana of Aksum

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

Here is a quote from Ezana, inscribed on the Ezana Stone declaring his allegiance to the Lord of Heaven:

“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 reigns as the perfect One for all eternity....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.”



Establishing the Faith

During his reign Ezana had many churches built and had the gospel spread throughout Ethiopia. Ezana and his brother Saizana, (who were baptised with the names Abreha and Atsbeha) are venerated in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and one of the oldest rock-hewn churches, located in Tigray, is named after them.

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7th Dynasty ~ Lineage of Kaleb to Gedajan (of the Posterity of Kaleb)

Emperor Kaleb of Aksum – Ruled 30 years, Year of the World 5993-6023 / AD 523



This 7th dynasty ruled for a total of 427 years starting with Kaleb in 493 AD, until Gedajan, when the dynasty was interrupted by the 40 year reign of the usurper, Gudit (Judith/Yodit). It was restored with the reign of Anbase Wedem. The last king of the great city of the sovereigns, Aksum, was Del Na'ad whose reign ended in 920 AD.

Saint Kaleb

Kaleb became an Ethiopian saint who was also known as St Elesban. He is venerated in the Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches. I n I refer to him as the Defender of the Faithful who protected the people of Kristos and defeated their enemies.

Defender of the Faithful

At the time of Kaleb's reign, Aksum was one of the major superpowers, the others being Byzantium, the successor to the Roman Empire whose founder was Constantine the Great and Persia. The Byzantium emperor contacted Kaleb and told him about a Jewish ruler, Dhu Newas and his activities, particularly in Arabia and Yemen.⁵ Dhu Newas was persecuting the Kristos community and Kaleb went to war against him, defeating his forces and eventually killing Dhu Newas.

After the victory Kaleb appointed a viceroy to oversee and protect that region. A few years later, Kaleb gave up his throne, retired to a monastery and became a priest. He became known as Saint Elesban when his name was added to the Roman Martyrology by Cardinal Caesar Baronis.⁶

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaleb_of_Axum

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaleb_of_Axum

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8th Dynasty ~ Sovereigns of Zagwe

Emperor Lalibela Gabre Maskal (Servant of the Cross) ruled for 40 years, Year of the World 6633-6673 / AD 1173



The great and famous Zagwe Emperor Lalibela is venerated as a saint in the Orthodox Tewahedo Churches. The Zagwe dynasty took over the rule of Ethiopia from the Solomonic dynasty in 920 AD and ruled for 333 years from 920-1253 AD, a total of 11 rulers in all.

Zagwe Dynasty

In I respect the Zagwe Dynasty as anointed Ethiopian Covenant Emperors of Kristos. The first ruler was Mara Tekla Hymanot, whose regal name was Zagwe. One tradition says that the daughter of Del Na'ad, the last Aksumite king became the wife of Mara Tekla Hymanot who overthrew his father in law to found the Zagwe dynasty. It was from the Zagwe posterity that the great emperor Lalibela emerged.

Emperor Lalibela

According to the legends of King Lalibela, he was given the name Lalibela, which, in Old Agaw means '*the bees recognise his sovereignty*'.⁷ This is due to a swarm of bees that, according to his mother, surrounded him at birth and was a sign of her son's great future.

Gabre Maskal Lalibela Churches – One of the Wonders of the World

According to tradition, the Muslim occupation of Jerusalem made it impossible for Ethiopians to go on pilgrimage there. The Emperor Lalibela is said to have seen a vision of building a replica of Jerusalem or building a new Jerusalem. It is recorded that he built the now famous Rock Churches, with the help of angels.

⁷ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela_\(Emperor_of_Ethiopia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalibela_(Emperor_of_Ethiopia))

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Eleven churches in all were built, coincidentally the same number of Zagwe sovereigns. These rock-hewn churches are regarded as one of the Wonders of the World and were declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations in 1978.

I N I RASTAFARI

Praises to our God, thanks to our Redeemer, dominion to the Lion of Judah. It is You Who is the Glory of the kings and Who is I n I Guardian Shepherd, Keeper of the flock and the Root of all truth.

We give thanks to JAH for leading us in the way that we should go and in the knowing of what we should know.

Therefore, Tribe of Judah, Let I n I go forward in faith, conquering and to conquer, being *"...strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."* (Ephesians 6:10)

Forward up with the blessings and favour of our heritage that JAH bestowed upon and round about Queen Kandaka. Let us go forward conquering in the faith strength and authority of Ezana of Aksum. Take up responsibility and like Kaleb protect the family in spirit and truth. Like Lalibela, let I n I Rastafari build JAH eternal heritage in the hearts of those who would receive and embrace Rastafari as the way and heritage of full salvation.



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

JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE II!