

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

NEGEST

Month of the Prosperous

The Victorious Family Month

(1st – 30th Negest / 31st May – 29th June 2021)

Revelation 19:7-9

Revelation 21:9-11

Revelation 22: 1-5, 17



NEGEST

COMPARABLE HELPERS OF SOVEREIGNS



EMPRESS TAITU and EMPRESS MENEN

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!

Majesty love and Negest blessings to one and all.

Here we are in this new month and season of Negest meaning 'Queen'. This is the month that we describe as the Month of the Prosperous.

And so let us give thanks to the Almighty Who brings to us the prosperity of an eternal life and heritage. We thank You JAH that it is in You and the kingdom of Your Son, that we live and move and have our being and have been empowered with all Your covenant blessings, that we may live the life forevermore and joyfully proclaiming Your loving kindness and great glory.

Foundation of the Month

This month of Negest is founded on the coronation of Her Imperial Majesty Empress Menen on November 2nd 1930 as she shared in the glory and revelation of her husband His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st. In times past the procedure for the enthronement of the Empress Consort was very different. In those times, it was the emperor who placed the crown upon her head in a separate ceremony outside of the church which occurred on the third day after the coronation of the Emperor. On this occasion, Empress Menen was crowned by the Archbishop of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church on the same day as the Emperor in a joint ceremony. This was a new work of God. Together, they mirrored the soon coming glory of our Lord and His Wife, New Jerusalem.

The Victorious Family Month

This month we honour the covenant faithful who have kept the truth and way of the Almighty, have flown the flag, stayed in the strength of Jah and have received the reward and eternal blessings bestowed upon them as the victorious family and spiritual offspring of God Almighty.

We are talking about all who have surrendered in faith and have acknowledged the Father and His Son and Who in the grace of the Holy Spirit are set for glory.

For the creation was made manifest so that God, JAH the Father would present to His Son 'The RAS, His eternal bride and holy city, New Jerusalem, which will be populated, through the grace of the Holy Spirit TAFARI, with the souls and lives of His spiritual offspring:

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“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away’. Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’” (Revelation 21:1-5).

In This Edition

Comparable Helpers of Sovereigns

In the beginning JAH created the man, Adam, and set him in covenant with the woman, Eve, who came from the man

“...now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh...” (Genesis 2:23).

JAH created Eve to be a help comparable to Adam. Adam called Eve, the mother of all living. (Genesis 1:18 / 3:20).

In like manner, as a comparable helper of our Lord, the coming city and Negest, Queen Mother of us all, New Jerusalem is where the eternal generation will be fed and nourished forever. (Galatians 4:26 / Revelation 22:1-5).

In this edition we focus on two examples of Negest, the Queen mothers and wives, Empress Taitu and Empress Menen. Both women were helpers **comparable** to their husbands (Genesis 1:18) and both were active with their husbands in building up the victorious family in terms of their own individual families and the families of their nation.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT NEGEST ~ COMPARABLE HELPERS OF SOVEREIGNS



Empress Taitu

Taitu Betul was born in Debra tabor, Ethiopia in 1851. Her father was Ras Betul Haile Maryam, of Yeju and Gondar and her mother was Yewibdar of Gojjam – a northern province in Ethiopia. She was baptised with the name Wallatta Mikael on the 12th day after her birth.

She became the wife of Emperor Menelik II, ruling with him as Empress from 1889 to 1913. She was a formidable queen and empress of Ethiopia.

Determined to resist the Italian's imperialist designs on her country, she increasingly opposed any negotiations with them that would result in the loss of Ethiopian territory. When diplomacy failed, leading to the Battle of Adowa, Empress Taitu was an active participant at the head of her army:

*“...Throughout all this time, the Etege [Empress Taitu] kneeling with her face to the ground held a stone on her back and prayed with anxiety and fervour. Shells, meanwhile, fell like rain behind the soldiers who were near the King of kings and formed a wall around him. At this moment, the Etege, a black umbrella held above her head and her face half veiled, advanced on foot...Seeing that the rear ranks of the soldiers were beginning to hesitate, Woizero Taitu cried to them with all her force: **‘Courage! What are you doing? Victory is ours! Strike!***

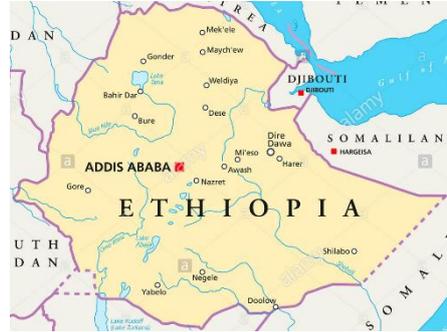
The soldiers, hearing these words and seeing the Etege, were fortified because man cannot flee when woman encourages him. Woizero Taitu, having that day placed her riflemen on her right and her left, ceased to have the nature of a woman and appeared as a valiant warrior and went into battle. The cannoneers of the Etege, who were on her right, fired so well that they broke the centre of the enemy's army.

It was at this hour that the Italians began to take flight....Despite the inevitable sadness caused by the deaths of the chiefs and the soldiers who had fallen at the Battle of Adowa, the entire people trembled with joy to see the kingdom strengthened and Atse Menelik and Etege Taitu return safe and sound.

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Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa, was given its name by Empress Taitu. The Ethiopian Chronicle records:

"...Atse Menelik and Woizero Taitu had gone down to Filwoha to take the baths. It was then that Woizero Taitu, admiring the beauty of the countryside from the door of her tent and noting the mildness of the climate, asked the King to give her a place to build a house in that area. The King replied: 'Begin by building the house and after that I will give you a piece of land. Where shall I build my house? she asked. Here is the place, he replied, which my ancestor Sahle Selassie surrounded with a fence go there and begin to build your house there. Once upon a time, he continued, in this very spot, King Sahle Selassie. Like the prophet Mikias [Micah] made the following prophecy...The day will come when my grandson builds his house here and make of you a town.



Empress Menen

Menen Asfaw was born on 3rd April 1891 in Ambassel. She was the daughter of Asfaw, Jantirar of Ambassel and Woizero Sehin Michael. Her mother was the daughter of Negus Mikael of Wollo, and her uncle was Lij Iyasu.

Menen was introduced to Dejazmatch Tafari Makonnen while he was governor in Harar, and they were married on July 31st 1911. Together they had six children; Princess Tenagne Work, Crown Prince Asfa Wossen, Princess Zenebe Work, Princess Tsehay Work, Prince Makonnen Duke of Harar and Prince Sahle Selassie.



On November 2nd 1930 Menen was crowned as Empress alongside her husband Emperor Haile Selassie 1st. Her crowning was unusual in that the prevailing custom was for the empress to be crowned by her husband in a separate ceremony three days later. However, on this occasion, His Imperial Majesty requested that Empress Menen be crowned by the Abuna in the same ceremony.

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Empress Menen's life is characterised by devoted service to God, to her family and her country. She was a generous supporter of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. She built, renovated and made endowments to many churches both in Ethiopia and in Israel. Most notable among these are St Raguel Church, Addis Ababa, Kidane Mehret (Our Lady Covenant of Mercy) Church on Mount Entoto and the Holy Trinity Monastery on the banks of the River Jordan in Israel. She also gave generously from her personal funds towards the building of the St Mary of Zion Cathedral in Aksum.

Like her husband, Empress Menen placed a high priority on education. In 1923, she established a school for girls near to the Genete Leul Palace. This enabled girls to receive equal educational opportunities with boys. Through this school many obtained scholarships to continue their studies abroad.

During the reign of Empress Menen and Emperor Haile Selassie I, Italy invaded Ethiopia a second time. The Emperor mobilised the people to fight to maintain their independence. But Italy decided to use poison gas against Ethiopia, knowing that they would not be able to defeat Ethiopia in conventional warfare. The devastating effect of this caused His Imperial Majesty to appeal to the League of Nations, of which Ethiopia was a member, but when no help was given, the Imperial Family reluctantly, left Ethiopia and began, what would be a five year exile in Great Britain.

As a woman of deep faith Empress Menen made a pledge to the Virgin Mary at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, promising to give her crown to the church if Ethiopia were liberated from occupation. She also actively advocated against war. In a speech she delivered to Women Unite Against War Association she said the following:



“War is distress and trouble of mankind...War is a destruction of the family... war is good for nothing. Therefore, all women found in the world should prevent the war before it brings trouble and distress. They should collaborate their voice and request to avoid the war before bloodshed comes on both sides...”

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The Empress made numerous pilgrimages to Holy Sites in then British-ruled Palestine, in Syria and in Lebanon, during her exile to pray for her occupied homeland. Following the return of the Imperial Family to Ethiopia in 1941, a replica of the crown was made for future Empresses, but the original crown that Empress Menen was crowned with at her husband's side in 1930 was sent to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Empress Menen, although often seen wearing a tiara at public events that called for it, would never again wear a full crown.

Empress Menen was the perfect Empress-consort. In her public role she combined religious piety, concern for social causes, and support for development schemes with the majesty of her Imperial status. She was a dutiful wife, visiting schools, churches, exhibitions and model farms, attending public and state events at her husband's side or by herself.

She took no public stand on political or policy issues. Behind the scenes however, she was the Emperor's most trusted advisor, quietly offering advice on a whole range of issues.

I N I RASTAFARI

From the examples of Empress Taitu and Empress Menen, I n I Rastafari must also operate as helpers of our Lord of King. We are members of His body, helping to build up and establish the eternal heritage in preparation for His soon coming glory.

"For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body." (Ephesians 5:23)

"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones." (Ephesians 5:30)



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

The Power of the Holy Trinity has Conquered!

JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE II!