

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



OFFSPRING OF THEIR MAJESTIES

THE ROYAL GRANDSON



HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ERMIAS SAHLE SELASSIE

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

JAH! RASTAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!

Majesty Love Rastafari Family! Negest blessings to one and all!

May our Sovereign Lord bless us always and in every way for His glorious name's sake. Rastafari!

To our God and Lord O Majesty on High, Whose mercies endure forever and Whose grace has brought I n I eternal favour, we give You all thanks and praises.

We thank You JAH for Your love in translating us into the victory of Yesus Kristos, the Way, the Truth and the Life and into His kingdom way of being and doing.

As Rastafari in covenant, I n I will go from glory to glory making this truth of the way known, as it is known in the name, life, power and testimony of Emperor Haile Selassie 1st. O JAH! RASTAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!

IN THIS EDITION



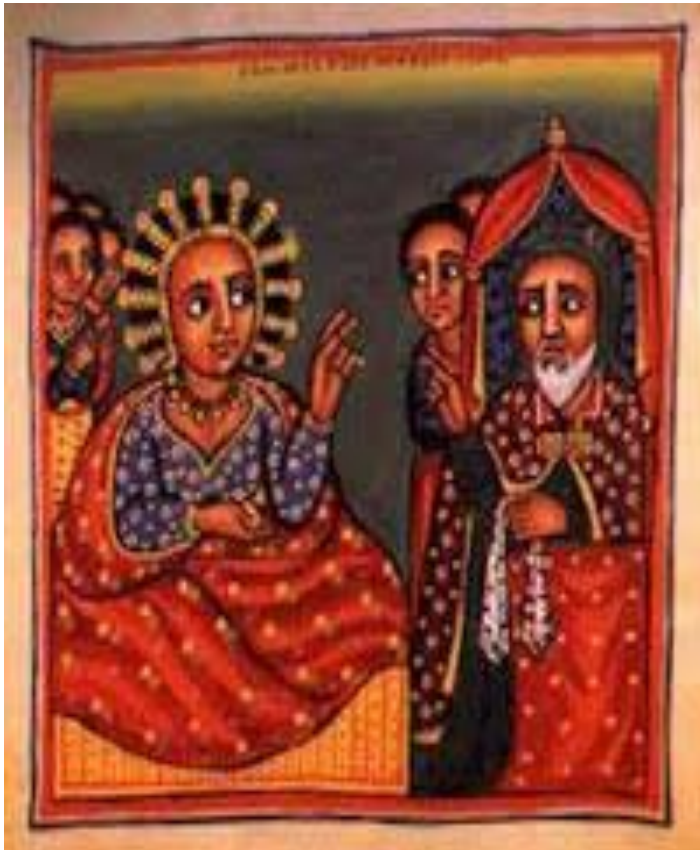
In this edition, we look into a presentation delivered by the grandson, His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie, son of His Imperial Majesty's last son, His Imperial Highness Prince Sahle Selassie.

In his presentation, he gives I n I insight into the heritage of the kings from the royal and orthodox perspective. The Prince briefly touches on the Kebra Negast, Ethiopia and the New Testament, the Kingdom of Axum, the Three Zions, the Rastafari Movement and the Lion as an iconic symbol.

We also feature the Prince's visit to Jamaica in 2016, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the visit of his grandfather, His Imperial Majesty, on April 21st 1966.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

PRESENTATION OF HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ERMIAS SAHLE SELASSIE AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON D.C. U.S.A., 2010



Queen of Sheba visits King Solomon

The Kebra Negast

As the Old Testament is to the Hebrews, or the Quran is to Islam, the Kebra Negast or the Book of the Glory of Kings of Ethiopia is the ancient repository of our country's millennia old national and religious history as well as our constitution.

More than 700 years old in its present and written form, the Kebra Negast derived from Ethiopia's millennia old oral tradition and details the history and origin of the Solomonic line of Ethiopian kings. It is also regarded to be the definitive authority on the history of the conversion of Ethiopia to Christianity.

The Solomonic dynasty of Ethiopia is surnamed by the virtue of the dynastic descent from the union of the venerable Jewish messiah, King Solomon of Israel, and the Queen of Sheba more than 900 years BC. By Ethiopian dynastic tradition, all monarchs must trace their lineage back to Menelik 1st who is the offspring of King Solomon and Queen of Sheba.

In 1930, my grandfather took the title His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie 1st, King of kings, Conquering Lion of the tribe of Judah and Elect of God. These titles had been traditionally given to Ethiopian kings to recognise the Old Testament emphasis of Ethiopia's Christianity and to declare the regents sacred duty and subservience to God. That is why frequently Ethiopian monarchs refer to the Psalmist quote, "Princes shall come out of Egypt and Ethiopia shall stretch her hands unto God".

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

In Ethiopian tradition Menelik had returned as a young man to visit his father Solomon in Jerusalem and was regally received. When Menelik departed to Ethiopia, King Solomon who was very pleased by the regal manner and demeanour of his royal offspring, ordered the chief priests and advisors of the kingdom to send their first sons with him for the benefit of the Ethiopian crown which Menelik would eventually inherit.

Among these was Zadok the High Priest who it is claimed took the Ark of the covenant with him. The theft was concealed from Menelik who did not learn about it until the party had returned to Ethiopia.

The symbolism of the Ark is particularly important in Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Every single church must contain a replica of the Ark before it can be consecrated. One of the most important festivals in the calendar of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is Timkat during which the Ark or replica thereof is wrapped in a shroud and carried in great processional reverence.



The Kebre Negast relates this marvellous story of the how the Ark of the Covenant came to Ethiopia, where it is believed to be enshrined in the special treasury at the Chapel of the Tablet constructed next to the church of St Mary of Zion in Axum, It is reported that the Ark was moved to St Mary's into the Chapel because the divine heat from the tablets had cracked the stones of its previous sanctum. Indeed, my grandmother, Empress Menen had paid part of the construction cost of the new chapel.

Ethiopia and The New Testament

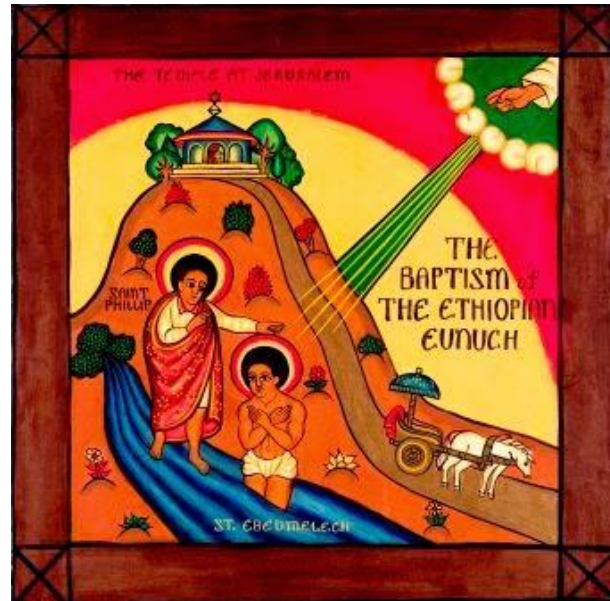


The original St Mary of Zion built during the reign of Ezana of Axum in the 4th Century

The church of St Mary of Zion in Axum is a venerable icon of the Ethiopian religious belief and legend. It is also the most important church in Ethiopia. St Mary is dedicated to the Holy Mother Mary who in the Christian tradition is the Vessel of Christ and thus the fulfilment of religious prophecy. Adherents believe that when Mary was exiled in Egypt, that she had also visited Ethiopia. The original St Mary of Zion was built in the 4th Century AD and has been destroyed and rebuilt again.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

Ethiopia was a respected and sophisticated empire in the time of the New Testament. In fact, the Ethiopian Eunuch in the 8th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem is the first Ethiopian to be baptised by the Apostle Philip. We learn that he is the keeper of all the treasure of the Queen who is named Kandaka, her regal name, thus the Eunuch is actually identified as the Queens Treasurer, a position of supreme confidence in the royal household. It is likely that the Queen was told of this unusual and religious encounter when her bajerond returned and thus the news of the Christian gospel had reached Ethiopia long before the official adoption of Christianity as the religion of Rome and the Ethiopian crown in the 4th Century.



Kingdom of Axum

Written records from about 800 BC to the 1st century BC are confined to the names of kings found on carvings. However, the Axumite period is relatively well documented. The Axumite kingdom represents a significant peak of Ethiopian civilisation which spans the era of conversion of the ruling dynasty to Christianity in

the 4th Century AD It was also considered a very advanced civilisation by the Roman empire. In fact, the Roman Emperor Constantine had declared that citizens of Axum were to be considered equal with the citizens of Rome. Constantine and Ezana the Ethiopian King of kings made Christianity their respective religion in their kingdoms.

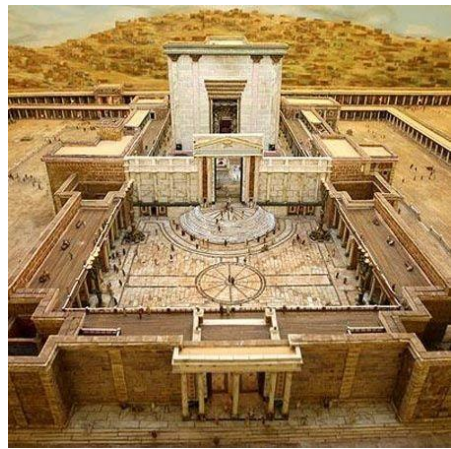
RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

The Three Zions

In the ancient and revered tradition of the Ethiopian Orthodox Christians there had been three traditional symbols of demonstration and manifestation of humanities intimate relationship and connection with the divine and that these are called the Three Zions.

The First Zion

The first Zion is the temple of Solomon in Israel which according to the Bible is the first temple in Jerusalem and it is thought to have been constructed around 832 BC. During its history it was repeatedly attacked and sacked and according to Jewish religious traditions before its final destruction by Rome in 70 AD. The temple had, in Solomon's time, been the repository for the fabled Ark of the Covenant.



Subsequently Jewish scriptures say that the Ark would remain hidden until God gathers His people together again. The Jewish faith today believes that the temple of Solomon will and must be rebuilt before the coming of the anti-Christ. Indeed, contemporary Orthodox Jews pray three times a day for the restoration of Solomon's temple. Adherents of the Orthodox faith in Ethiopia there believe that according to prophesy when the temple is rebuilt again one door is reserved for the Lion of Judah for Christ to open it up again.



New St Mary of Zion, Axum

The Second Zion

The second Zion which I have already discussed in some detail is Mary the mother of Christ and the church at St Mary of Zion in Axum.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

The Third Zion

The Third Zion is the Lion of Judah who represents the return of Jesus Christ in the fulfilment and biblical prophecy of His coming to rule again. Since the 4th Century AD all Ethiopian sovereigns have given their crown to the church of St Mary of Zion in traditional adherence and submission to this belief. In fact, the Ethiopian imperial crest depicts an empty throne waiting in expectation for the return of Christ and the rule of the right and justice.



The Rastafari Movement

The Rastafarian Movement is a contemporary monotheistic political religious movement which had evolved in the slums of Kingston, Jamaica from fundamentally Christian roots and culture. In Trenchtown's mean and other weaning environments, poverty, depression, racism and class discrimination, the Rastafarian

message of black pride, freedom from oppression and hope of the return to the African homeland had found fertile soil and within this millennia and the 1930's onward the Rastafari movement developed its own distinctive style of language, hair style, art, and music.

Although popularly believed to have originated on November 2nd 1930 with the investiture of the Emperor Haile Selassie, Rastafari has actually been inspired in the 1920's nationalist movement founded by Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican publicist, organiser and black nationalist, considered by his followers as a prophet and the second John the Baptist.

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

Though there is a significant variation within the Rasta Movement, there is certainly no formal one singular organisation. Undeniably some Rastafarians see Rastafarian as a way of life more than a religion. Rastas do not claim sects or denominations but encourage one another to seek faith and inspiration within themselves.

The central and uniting theme however of this highly diverse movement is the enduring belief in the divinity and Messiahship of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and the influence of Jamaican culture, resistance to oppression and pride in this African heritage. For Rastafarians Haile Selassie is considered to be Jah or God and is seen in both the incarnation of Christ and the Lion mentioned in the Bible's book of Revelation. He is therefore referred to as the Lion of Judah.



The Lion as an Iconic Symbol

Beyond biblical allegory and metaphor Rasta also see the lion as being the symbolic symbolism of strength against oppression that they have endured over time. Thus, for the Rastafarians the Lion is both symbolic and iconic. The Lion can be found on the Rastafarian flag and many other items associated with the Rastafarian faith. Their name Rastafari itself derives from the pre-regnal title given to the Emperor Haile

Selassie literally meaning head or leader Tafari before he took the name Emperor Haile Selassie.

Adapting from the heraldic line symbol of the biblical Lion of Judah from which the Ethiopian Solomonic dynasty is descended, Rastafarians believe that the Lion represents Emperor Haile Selassie as the King of Kings and reveals the unbroken lineage of the Emperor from the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

The most famous Rastafari Bob Marley through his unique Rasta perspective and music style painted compelling utopian pictures of how life should be lived and how the world could one day become.



RASTAFARI IN COVENANT



The late CS Lewis, the famous atheist who subsequently became a renowned convert to Anglican Christianity was an accomplished, contemporary author. Lewis had made marvellous and inspired use of the traditional religious symbols and allegories to produce his iconic seven book and movie series written between 1949 and 1954, the Chronicles of Narnia. Lewis has said that the entire Narnia story is about Jesus Christ and that he had offered the Lion Aslam as an answer to the

question what would Christ the Son of God be like had he been born in the Land of Narnia instead of being born in Bethlehem.

Visit of H.I.H. Prince Ermias Commemorative Visit to Jamaica

On 21st April 2016, Prince Ermias visited Jamaica to commemorate the 50th anniversary of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st visit in 1966. This visit was an affirmation of the honour that His Imperial Majesty paid in particular, to the Rastafari of Jamaica, thus empowering them to go forward in hope and faith.



What follows is an extract from a speech that Prince Ermias gave during his visit:

“This 50 year celebration is a real reflection in so many ways. For me, it has been a personal journey and I see many of you who welcomed me at the airport. It shows you that in the 50 years, that love and support and the affection in which, especially the Rastafarian community held His Imperial Majesty continues today.

50 years ago, who would have thought, what his actions, what his gestures of goodwill to the Rastafarians, would be in God’s own way, giving it back to him?

Because when people tried to destroy his legacy, his history and his accomplishments, it was the Rastafarians who defended, preserved, promoted and disseminated it around the world so that it would never be forgotten and would always be held in the highest esteem.”

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

I N I RASTAFARI

We give thanks once again and forever Mighty God. As the Tribe of Judah, we lift up I n I hearts and voices and declare that:

We truly have a strong city, where we stand strong, firm footed and stable, and resting in the truth of JAH Word. Give thanks for the heritage and blessing of New Jerusalem life and livity and for keeping I n I in the way of full salvation, that we might forward up in the victorious "way, truth and life. (St John 14:6)

"...And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' and let him who hears say, 'Come!" (Revelation 22:17)



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

The Power of the Holy Trinity has Conquered!

JAH! RASTAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!