

AN INTRO TO

Quick Christian Facts Vol.1

“The Bible” 2Tim. 2:15

[Study to Know] Pet. 3:15

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CHAPTER ONE

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The Black Hebrew Israelite

10 Things You Must Know

As Christian apologists, we are called to defend the hope we have within us (1 Peter 3:15). However, we must do this strategically and not ignorantly. Many times, well-meaning believers seek out maleficent arguments or renegade crusades without adequately preparing themselves through study.

This is tragic because God calls us to be prepared and well-studied for the proclamation of His Word (2 Timothy 2:15). One particular cult Christian apologist should certainly be prepared to engage are the Black Hebrew Israelites (BHI).

Without preparation, a believer can walk away discouraged, deflated, and even dejected because of the strenuous effort of persuading this unique cult. Black Hebrew Israelites are often well studied in the Bible, equipped with historical trivia, and familiar with frequent objections.

They are often very passionate and depending on the individual or cult, can be very condescending. Therefore, a soldier in the faith should be equipped, prepared, and bold to share the Gospel.

Below are ten questions Christian apologists should understand, and be able to answer thoroughly, before engaging Black Hebrew Israelites.

1. Do You Know How and Why Christ Has Fulfilled The Law?

This is a huge point that cannot be overlooked. Many Christians are fuzzy, at best, when it comes to declaring how the New Covenant and Old Covenant are related. Specifically, many Christians have accepted the “Americanized Jesus” and can no longer see the sunburnt Yeshua, who is the quintessential Jew.

Redemptive History demonstrates Jesus as the coming Messiah who fulfilled the law and kept the commandments so sinners could have his imputed righteousness while he took the guilt, shame, and curse of our sin on the cross.

It is the life, death, and resurrection of Christ that institutes a New Covenant and then calls both Jew and Gentile into the Law of Christ (Romans 10:14). As Christians, we need to be able to prove, from scripture, that the law cannot save us.

Instead, we should be able to prove that faith in the person and work of Jesus saves us. After which, we are called to follow Him.

Helpful Scriptures:

Romans 3:20 KJV; Galatians 3:24-25 KJV; Ephesians 2:15 KJV

Helpful Books:

Law and the Gospel by: Ernest C. Reisner

40 Questions about Christians and Biblical Law by: Thomas R. Schreiner

The End of The Law by: Jason Meyer

2. Do you know how we translate the Bible?

Christians should know how we received the Bible and how we translate it into modern day Language. Many in the Black Hebrew Israelite camp believe that the King James Version is the only authentic version, while also affirming the Apocrypha.

A Christian should be able to articulate the formation, reception, and preservation of the Biblical text, the process of textual criticism, and refute texts not in the Biblical Canon.

Helpful Scriptures:

2Timothy 3:16 (KJV)

2Peter 1:21 (KJV)

Helpful Books:

From God to Us by: *Norman Geisler*

The King James Only Controversy by: *James White*

3. Do you know the history of the Jewish People?

A central claim in much of the Black Hebrew Israelite ideology is the belief that Africans affected by the Transatlantic Slave Trade are indeed the lost tribes of Israel. This discussion could lead to many debates and rabbit holes, but the apologist should be aware of the formation of Israel in the Bible and some historical facts on the current Nation of Israel.

Helpful Scriptures:

Zechariah 2:11 (KJV)

Exodus 12:37-38 (KJV)

Romans 2:28-29 (NKJV)

Helpful Books:

Kingdom of Priest/ Israel & the Nation: A History of Old Testament

Israel by: *Eugene H. Merrill*

The Israel from the Exodus to the Fall of the Second Temple by: F.F. Bruce

4. Do you know God's redemptive plan to save all people and nations?

Different camps will disagree on this point. However, it is important to know the intention of God to save people from different tribes, tongues, and nations when engaged with a camp that believes that only Israelites will be saved.

Helpful Scriptures:

Isaiah 45:22 (KJV)

1Timothy 2:4 (KJV)

Helpful Books:

Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations

by: *Walter C. Kaiser, Jr*

From Every People and Nation: A Biblical Theology of Race

(New Studies in Biblical Theology) by: *J. Daniel Hays*

The High Definition Leader: Building Multiethnic Churches in a Multiethnic World by: *Derwin L. Gray*

5. Are you competent enough to have a discussion about the Hebrew Language?

In your dialogue with Black Hebrew Israelites, many tips will eventually touch on the meaning of a word in Hebrew. Having a firm grasp or even a general understanding of how Biblical languages work would be a huge benefit for a believer trying to defend the faith.

Helpful Books:

Hebrew for the Rest of Us Using Hebrew Tools without Mastering Biblical Hebrew *by: Lee M. Fields.*

Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors

by: Douglas Stuart

A History of the Hebrew Language *by: Angel Sa'enz-Badillos*

6. Are you competent enough to have a discussion about racism and racial reconciliation?

Much of Black Hebrew Israelite mythology evolves around the idea that “Edomites”, or white people in America, are deceiving and pacifying people of color with a whitewashed Christianity. In some cases, this does happen. However, it

is not a good representation of Global Christianity or strong activism and Biblical Worldview of the historic black church. The heresy often leads to racism and

xenophobia amongst certain camps. Edomites are often seen as condemned and not part of God’s redemptive plan.

Helpful Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 23:7 (NKJV)

John 10:16 (NKJV)

Helpful Books:

Oneness Embraced: Reconciliation, The Kingdom, and How We are Stronger Together *by: Tony Evans*

Defending Black Faith: Answers to Tough Questions About African American Christianity *by: Craig S. Keener*

7. Do you have an accurate account of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade?

The Black Hebrew Israelite typically believe that the Trans Atlantic slave trade is a biblical prophecy fulfilled in our American context. Admirably, they have an

amazing knowledge of the horrific evils that took place in the slave trade. Sadly, much exegesis is imposed on the Biblical text that is not a byproduct of helpful hermeneutics.

Helpful Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 7:21 (NKJV)

Helpful Books:

The Birth of African-American Culture: An Anthropological
Perspective by: *Sidney Wilfred Mintz*

Slavery and Ethics in the Americas: Restoring the Links by:
Gwendolyn Midlo Hall

8. Have you consulted the best commentaries on Deuteronomy?

Referring back to point 7, much of the exegesis / biblical explanations and misapplication of scripture is from the book of Deuteronomy, particular chapter 28. Many camps in the BHI cult believe that the curses found in the chapter apply to the people of color displaced by the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Reading exegetical articles will help you discern context and the meaning of these passages.

Helpful Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 28:64 (KJV)

Deuteronomy 28:68 (NKJV)

Helpful Books:

Deuteronomy (Evangelical Press Study Commentary)

EPSC Commentary Series by: *John D. Currid*

Deuteronomy (Apollos Old Testament Commentary) by: *J. G. McConville*

9. Are you aware of the black presence in the Bible & Church History?

A great portion of BHI's are well trained to see the kaleidoscope of color in the Bible. If you read the Bible through a colorblind lens, you will miss the riches of God's redemptive plan and appear to be brainwashed by this cult. Knowing the black presence in the Bible creates a common ground and enhances mutual

dialogues, especially when one must challenge other points in interpretation. More ground can be gained in quoting sources if one is aware of the many Church Fathers who were indeed African.

Helpful scriptures:

Genesis 2:13, 10:6 *The Sons of Ham* Genesis 10:8 *Nimrod*
Genesis 15:19 / Joshua 14:6 *Caleb* Judges 1:16 *Jethro*

Matthew 1:1-16 *The mixed ancestry of Jesus; Hamitic Descent from Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, and Ruth*

Helpful Books:

The Black presence in the Bible by: *Walter Arthur McCray*

How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity by: *Thomas C. Oden*

10. Do you know the camp you reaching?

Last but not least, it is helpful to know which camp of the Black Hebrew Israelites you are talking with. Many have different beliefs, and it would be helpful to ask questions about the specific camp, instead of assuming.

Helpful Scriptures:

James 1:19 (NKJV)

Romans 12:18 (NKJV)

Proverbs: 18:13 (NKJV)

Helpful Books:

Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Hebrew Religions
by: *Jacob S. Dorman*

Barack Obama vs the Black Hebrew Israelites: Introduction to the History
& Beliefs of 1West Hebrew Israelism by *Vocal Malone*

Chapter 2

The Heresy of Inclusion

Heresy: belief or opinion contrary to orthodox doctrine

Anathema: a formal curse by a pope or council of the church, excommunicating a person or denouncing a doctrine

As ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Priest in The Lords Church, we have been called to preach the gospel go God's Grace and no other gospel. Why Grace? Grace can only save those who trust in it (Eph. 2:8). The Gospel is true whether you believe it or not but it won't benefit you unless you believe it.

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. (Heb. 4:2)

Grace comes to us through faith. Consequently, if you wanted to make the word grace unfruitful, there are two ways you could do it.

1. Undermine grace-put tags on it, make people work for it.

2. Discourage faith tell the hungry they are full and discourage them from eating the bread of life.

Inclusion is a “**Pop-Theology**” that celebrates grace but discourages faith. The doctrine of inclusion is the idea that the human race was included in Christ's death and resurrection. Consequently, every one of us, right down to the most perverse, God hating pedophile, is now seated at the right hand of God with Jesus Christ.

The Heresy of Inclusion

I wouldn't waste your time with this but inclusionism has become something of a hot topic among those who love grace. For many money, grace, is inclusive - all are welcome at the Lord's Table - but inclusionism is not grace. It is the nightmare of a God who forces his will on us and won't take no for an answer.

"Al Cleveland, that's a bit over the top. Don't we all really want to come home in the long run?" I have no doubt that the desired end is beautiful. Those who preach inclusionism want to see everyone saved, just as I do. But the ends do not justify an ugly means. Love must be freely chosen or it's not love. The God portrayed by inclusionism is not a God of love.

As I said previously, **inclusionism damages faith**. It does this by distorting the revelation of grace given by Jesus and the New Testament writers. Allow me to illustrate this in 12 ways:

The Heresy of Inclusion

12 ways inclusionism misleads

1) What is inclusionism says: “Everybody is saved!”

Jesus said: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

2) Inclusionism: “Since all are in Christ, no unbeliever is under condemnation.”

Jesus said: “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he had not believed in the name of God’s one and only son.” (John 3:18)

3) Inclusionism: “Faith is not a prerequisite for salvation, but rather a fruit of salvation. Faith is the response of a person who sees that they are already saved.”

Jesus said: “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” (Luke 7:50)

Paul said: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31)

4) Inclusionism: “Jesus is the federal head of humanity. What happened to him happened to all.”

James said: “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners....” (James 4:8)

Peter said: “What is going to happen to the ungodly?” (2Peter 2:6)

12 ways inclusionism misleads

5) Inclusionism: “Unbelievers are justified.”

Paul: “For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified....” (Romans 10:10) **6) Inclusionism:** “Unbelievers are righteous.”

Paul: “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Romans 3:22) / Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone that believes.” (Romans 10:4)

7) Inclusionism: “Unbelievers have Christ living in them.”

Paul: “You are not in the flesh but in the spirit , if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his.” (Romans 8:9)

8) Inclusionism: “Unbelievers have the Holy Spirit already.”

Jesus: “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” (Luke 11:13) / “The Ephesians didn’t receive the Holy Spirit until Paul placed his hands on them.” (Acts 19:6)

9) Inclusionism: “Unbelievers are non-participating members of the Body of Christ.”

New Testament writers response: “Unbelievers are ungodly

(1Tim. 1:9; 1Pet. 4:18) and have no fellowship with Christ.”

(2 Cor. 6:14; 1John 1:3)

12 ways inclusionism misleads

10) Inclusionism: “Unbelievers are reconciled to God.”

Paul: “We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God (2Cor. 5:20)

11) Inclusionism: “Unbelievers have new Life.”

Jesus: “He who believes has everlasting life.” (John 6:47; see also John 5:24;40, also 1John 5:12)

12) Inclusionism paints a picture of God and humanity that is fundamentally different from the revelation given by Jesus and the New Testament writers. Consequently, you cannot be an inclusionist unless you rewrite the New Testament and change the words of Jesus.

Some may say, Al Cleveland, you’re cherry-picking scriptures here. By saying we must respond to grace you are elevating first Adam over last Adam.”

Actually, I don’t think I am but I appreciate why some may feel this way. They hold to what I call the two-Adam argument, which is this: Since first Adam took all of us down when he sinned, last Adam (Jesus) has to save all of us or his is a lesser work.

It is a good argument, but the conclusion is a false as the premise on which it is based.

Chapter 3

The Book of The Psalms

Understanding The 5 Divisions of Psalms

What Are the 5 Different Types of Psalms?

The Hebrew word for **psalm**, mizmôr, means “melody.” You won’t find this word anywhere else in the Bible—only in the titles of the Psalms. Later when the psalms were translated into Greek, the word psalmos was used for mizmôr. Psalmos means originally, “plucking of strings, or “songs for harp.”

The book of **Psalms** is the longest book of the Bible, with 150 “chapters”— called “psalms” or “songs.” Psalms is divided into five books:

What Are the 5 Different Types of Psalms?

No one knows why the book of psalms is divided into these five categories. Some sources suggest the division is based on the five books of the Torah (Genesis to Deuteronomy). These categories are not based on authorship nor chronology as some would guess.

They have been written by **several different authors** including **King David**, **Solomon**, **Asaph**, and the **sons of Korah**. These beautiful words where we find comfort and victory were written over a 1,000 year period. There are five main categories of psalms with an additional category that is considered a “mixed type” or smaller genre: **Thanksgiving**, **Praise**, **Royal**, **Lament**, and **Hymns**.

I Division of the Book of The Psalms

Psalms 1-41 I Division Psalms

(1-41) Didactic: Instructional Example: Ps.1:1-3

(1) Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

(2) But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

(3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doth shall prosper.

II Division of the Book of The Psalms

Psalms 42-72

II Psalms Messianic : Prophecy relating to the Messiah

The second book consists of Psalms 42 through 72.

Here attention is given to how God goes *before* us.

David confesses his sin in Psalm 51 and pleads with the Lord to wash away his transgression and to create in him a clean heart.

Book Two closes with this expression of praise found in **Psalm 72:19**

*Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and Amen!*

III Division of the Book of The Psalms

Psalms 73-89

III Psalms Imprecatory: pleas to God for the punishment of the wicked.

The third book (Psalms 73–89) reminds us that God is all *around* us.

Asaph recounts the history of God's people in Psalm

78, showing us that God has been at work the whole time. He admonishes the children of Israel to tell the next generation, even the children yet to be born, the great and mighty deeds of the Lord.

Book Three closes with this simple doxology in Psalm 89:52

Doxa/ doxology (to radiate, shine forth, illuminate, cast "The Light" of Christ)
Outside of the 4 walls of your worship facility.

IV Division of the Book of The Psalms

Psalms 90-106

IV Psalms 90-106: Penitential / expresses a repentant heart and cry for a Divine Cleansing

The fourth book (Psalms 90–106) focuses on how God is *above* us.

Psalms 90 is the one psalm credited to Moses. In it, he speaks of how our lives on this earth are brief, so we need to number our days aright. God, on the other hand, is eternal, and He will reign forever and ever.

Book Four closes with these words in
Psalms 106:48

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say, “Amen!”
Praise the Lord!

V Division of the Book of The Psalms

Psalms 107-150

In the fifth and final book (Psalms 107–150), the spotlight is on how the God is *among* us. Psalm 128 paints a beautiful picture of a man who fears God. He is happy and blessed. His wife is like a fruitful vine within the home, and his children are like olive plants around the table. And he shall see peace and prosperity in his nation.

Book Five closes with the doxology found in the **Psalm 150:1–6:**

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

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A.A. Cleveland, II is a husband, Father, Pastor, Teacher, Motivational Speaker, Evangelist, Businessman, and an anointed vessel of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Cleveland established his itinerate ministry in 2007 and began to minister to thousands across America and abroad. In 2014 he founded the ACLTA / Al Cleveland Leadership Training Academy which emphasizes the importance of the study and practical application of Hermeneutics, Homiletics, and Apologetics
2 Tim. 2:15. Salt & Light Ministries was established to equip The People of God with the tools needed for success in the Market Place as representatives and ambassadors of Jesus Christ. 1Peter 3:15

Rev. Cleveland has served in various capacities of ministry for over 45 years. Serving as a musician, Minister of Music, Adjutant, Praise & Worship Leader, Ministerial Council Chairperson, and Associate Pastor. He accepted his call into ministry in 1989 under the leadership of the late Bishop G. E. Patterson / Temple of Deliverance the Cathedral of Bountiful Blessings in Memphis, Tn.

Upon relocating to Chicago, IL Rev. Cleveland submitted his gifts for 17 years under the leadership of Apostle Donald Alford / Progressive Life Giving Word Cathedral / Maywood, IL. In 1995 he was ordained as an Elder and subsequently elevated to the office of Associate Pastor in 2001. Rev. Cleveland is currently serving as an Associate Pastor of the New Life Covenant South East Church / Chicago, IL Under the leadership of Pastor John Hannah with a membership of 30,000. Rev. Cleveland is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Systematic Theology.

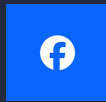
Rev. Cleveland is the husband of 35 years to Lori and the father of three beautiful multi-talented children Alfonzo III (Cara), Joseph, Lorin, and one grandson Alfonzo IV, with many spiritual sons and daughters in The Gospel.



Salt & Light Ministries



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