

~ETHIOPIA (224)

(E-thi-o'pi-a) [Greek, *Ai-thi-o-pi'a*, Region of Burnt Faces, Ethiopian, E-thi-o'pi-an]

.. In What Sense Was The Ethiopian Phillip Preached To A Eunuch
.. Ethiopian Language

- **Ethiopia** was the name applied by the ancient Greeks to the region of Africa South of Egypt. It thus corresponded generally with the Hebrew Cush, which embraced primarily the present Sudan and the northern part of modern **Ethiopia**.
- In Egyptian texts this region was likewise known by the name **Keesh**. When the **Septuagint** translation was made, the translators used the Greek **Ethiopia** to render the Hebrew Cush in all but three passages.
- And the sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan. (**Genesis 10:6**)
- And the sons of Cush were Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca. And the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. (**Genesis 10:7**)
- And Cush became father to Nimrod. He made the start in becoming a mighty one in the earth. (**Genesis 10:8**)
- The sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim, Put and Canaan. (**1 Chronicles 1:8**)
- And the sons of Cush were Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca. And the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. (**1 Chronicles 1:9**)
- And Cush himself became father to Nimrod. He it was that made the start in becoming a mighty one in the earth. (**1 Chronicles 1:10**)
- **Ethiopia** and Put and Lud and all the mixed company and Chub and the sons of the land of the covenant, with them they will fall by the very sword. (**Ezekiel 30:5**)
- The **King James Version** follows this rendering in all cases except;

- And it must occur in that day that Yehowah will again offer his hand, a second time, to acquire the remnant of his people who will remain over from Assyria and from Egypt and from Pathros and from Cush and from Elam and from Shinar and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. (**Isaiah 11:11**)
- Where it uses Cush instead of **Ethiopia**, the **Revised Standard Version** likewise follows the **Septuagint** except at
- And the name of the second river is Gihon, it is the one encircling the entire land of Cush. (**Genesis 2:13**)
- Persia, **Ethiopia** and Put with them, all of them with buckler and helmet. (**Ezekiel 38:5**)
- Some translations, **NW, JB**, prefer Cush in yet other texts where the identification with ancient **Ethiopia** is not made certain by the context. The name Cush can also apply to peoples of Arabia.

See Also CUSH 2
See Also CUSHITE

- The area originally designated by the name **Ethiopia** now consists of semiarid plains in the North, savannas and plateau land in the central region, and tropical rain forest toward the South. Onetime capitals of ancient **Ethiopia** were Napata and Meroë.
- Meroë was the seat of a kingdom in which the right of kingship was carried through the female line rather than the male. The queen mother was thus the one from whom her kingly son derived his right to the throne, and at times she may have been the virtual ruler of the land.
- The name Candace is mentioned by Greek and Latin writers as a title used by several such **Ethiopian** queens, evidently including the one referred to at
- With that he rose and went, and, look! An **Ethiopian** eunuch, a man in power under Candace queen of the **Ethiopians**, and who was over all her treasure. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. (**Acts of Apostles 8:27**)

.. In What Sense Was The Ethiopian Phillip Preached To A Eunuch

- The **Ethiopian** eunuch who was over the treasures of Queen Candace, and to whom Philip preached, was obviously a circumcised Jewish proselyte.
- With that he rose and went, and, look! An **Ethiopian** eunuch, a man in power under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, and who was over all her treasure. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. (**Acts of Apostles 8:27**)
- But he was returning and was sitting in his chariot and reading aloud the prophet Isaiah. (**Acts of Apostles 8:28**)
- So the spirit said to Philip; Approach and join yourself to this chariot. (**Acts of Apostles 8:29**)
- Philip ran alongside and heard him reading aloud Isaiah the prophet, and he said; Do you actually know what you are reading? (**Acts of Apostles 8:30**)
- He said; Really, how could I ever do so, unless someone guided me? And he entreated Philip to get on and sit down with him. (**Acts of Apostles 8:31**)
- Now the passage of Scripture that he was reading aloud was this; As a sheep he was brought to the slaughter, and as a lamb that is voiceless before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. (**Acts of Apostles 8:32**)
- During his humiliation the judgment was taken away from him. Who will tell the details of his generation? Because his life is taken away from the earth. (**Acts of Apostles 8:33**)
- In answer the eunuch said to Philip; I beg you, about whom does the prophet say this? About himself or about some other man? (**Acts of Apostles 8:34**)
- Philip opened his mouth and, starting with this Scripture, he declared to him the Good News about Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 8:35**)
- Now as they were going over the road, they came to a certain body of water, and the eunuch said; Look! A body of water, what prevents me from getting baptized? (**Acts of Apostles 8:36**)

- With that he commanded the chariot to halt, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ([Acts of Apostles 8:38](#))
- When they had come up out of the water, Yehowah's spirit quickly led Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him anymore, for he kept going on his way rejoicing. ([Acts of Apostles 8:39](#))
- He was thus not viewed as a Gentile and hence did not precede Cornelius as the first uncircumcised Gentile convert to Christianity. ([Acts of Apostles 10](#))
- For the **Ethiopian** to engage in worship at the temple in Jerusalem he must have been converted to the Jewish religion and circumcised.
- And in case an alien resident resides as an alien with you and he will actually celebrate the Passover to Yehowah, let there be a circumcising of every male of his. First then he may come near to celebrate it, and he must become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised man may eat of it. ([Exodus 12:48](#))
- One Law is to exist for the native and for the alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst. ([Exodus 12:49](#))
- One judicial decision should hold good for you. The alien resident should prove to be the same as the native, because I am Yehowah your God. ([Leviticus 24:22](#))
- In view of the Mosaic Law, which forbade the entry of castrated persons into the congregation of Israel
- No man castrated by crushing the testicles or having his male member cut off may come into the congregation of Yehowah. ([Deuteronomy 23:1](#))
- It is evident that the **Ethiopian** was not a eunuch in a fleshly sense. The [Hebrew](#) word for eunuch, *sa-ris'*, in a broad or special sense also meant an officer, as at;
- As for Joseph, he was brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard, an Egyptian, got to buy him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had

brought him down there. (**Genesis 39:1**)

- Where an officer of Pharaoh, Potiphar, a married man, is called a *sa-ris'*. Had the **Ethiopian** officer been an actual eunuch, he would not have been a proselyte, and if not a proselyte, Philip would not have baptized him, since the Good News had not yet begun to be extended to the uncircumcised Gentiles.
- **Ethiopia** or Cush is one of the lands among which the Jewish exiles were scattered after the Babylonian conquest of Judah.
- And it must occur in that day that Yehowah will again offer his hand, a second time, to acquire the remnant of his people who will remain over from Assyria and from Egypt and from Pathros and from Cush and from Elam and from Shinar and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. (**Isaiah 11:11**)
- Hence, this **Ethiopian** official may have had association with Jewish persons in his area or perhaps in Egypt, where many Jews resided. His copy of the scroll of Isaiah was likely a copy of the **Greek Septuagint**, originally made in Alexandria, Egypt.
- Since the **Ethiopian** kingdom had become partly Hellenized from the time of Ptolemy II, **308-246 B.C.E.**, this officials being able to read the Greek language would not be unusual. His becoming a Jewish proselyte and his subsequent conversion to Christianity were in fulfillment of;
- Bronzeware things will come out of Egypt, Cush itself will quickly stretch out its hands with gifts to God. (**Psalms 68:31**)

•• **Ethiopian Language**

- The original language of **Ethiopia** is undetermined, by the close of the **Eighth Century B.C.E.** Egyptian hieroglyphic writing was being used for official **Ethiopian** inscriptions.
- A native language and script called Meroitic is known from the century prior to the start of the Common Era and for some centuries thereafter. The language called **Ethiopic** was the vernacular language during the **Common Era** up until the **14th century**. It is of Semitic origin as is the present-day language of modern **Ethiopia** called Amharic.

