

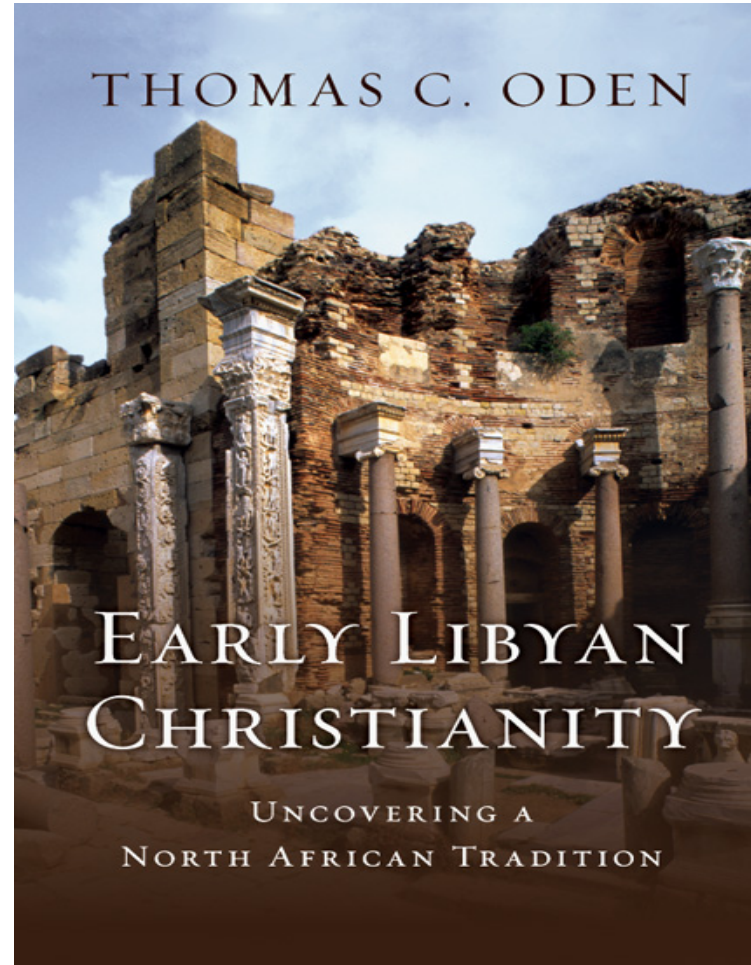
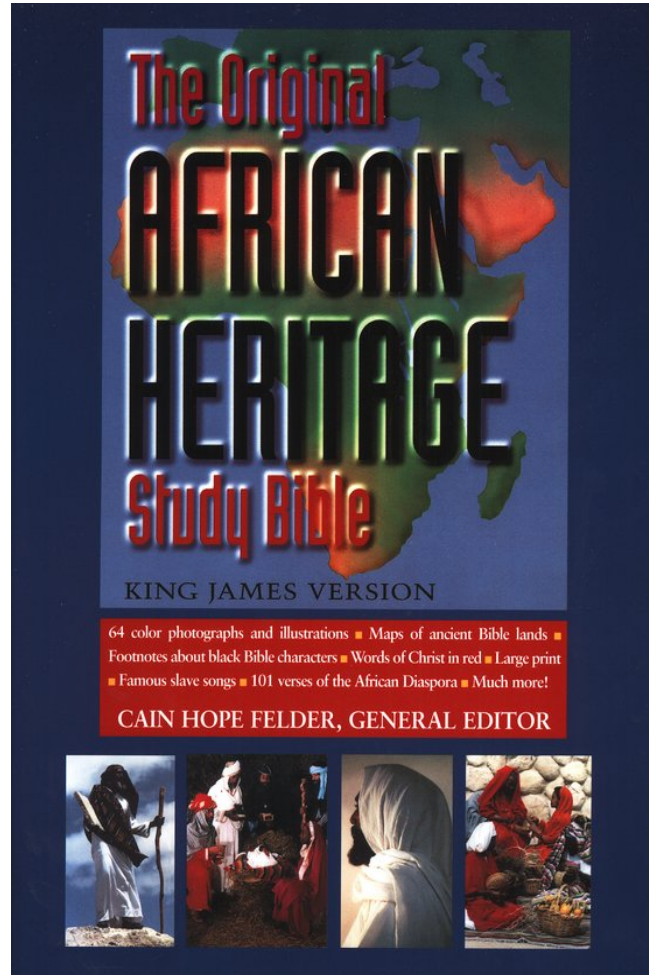
The African Presence in the Bible



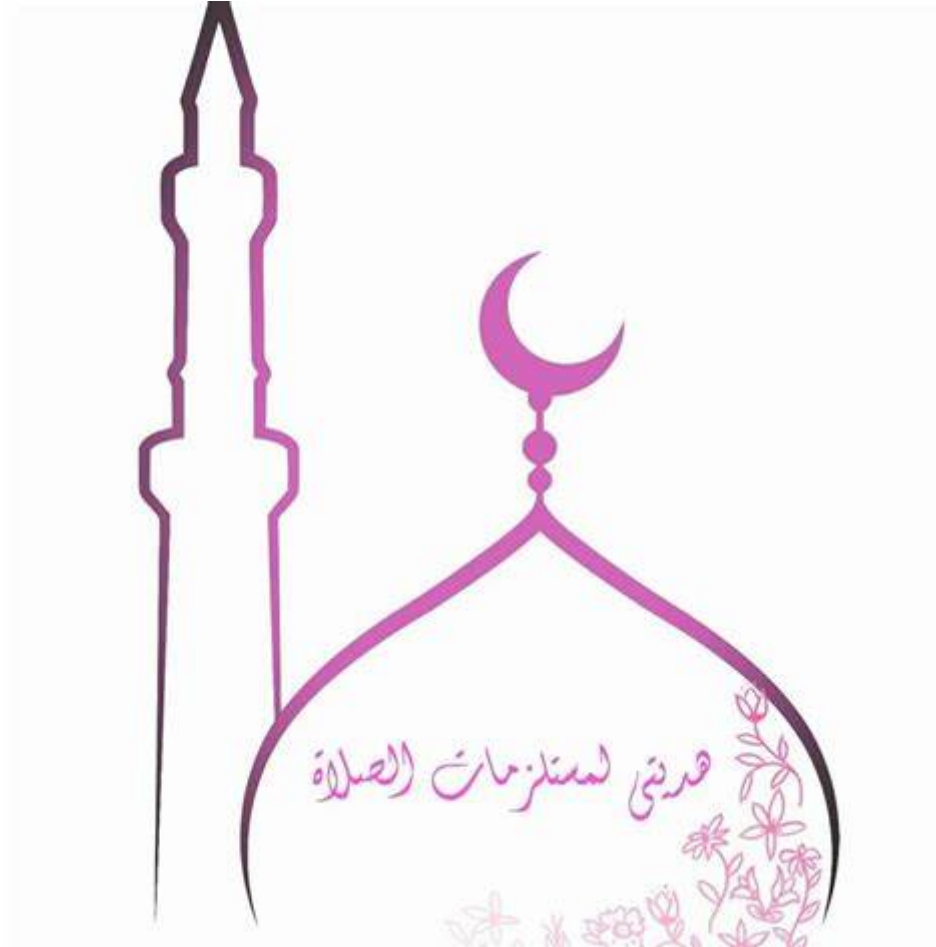


- ▶ Black History Month
 - ▶ Tonight's Topic
 - ▶ "Libya"

The Sources for Tonight's Lesson are:



Why you hear the name “Libya”, what names or images come to mind?

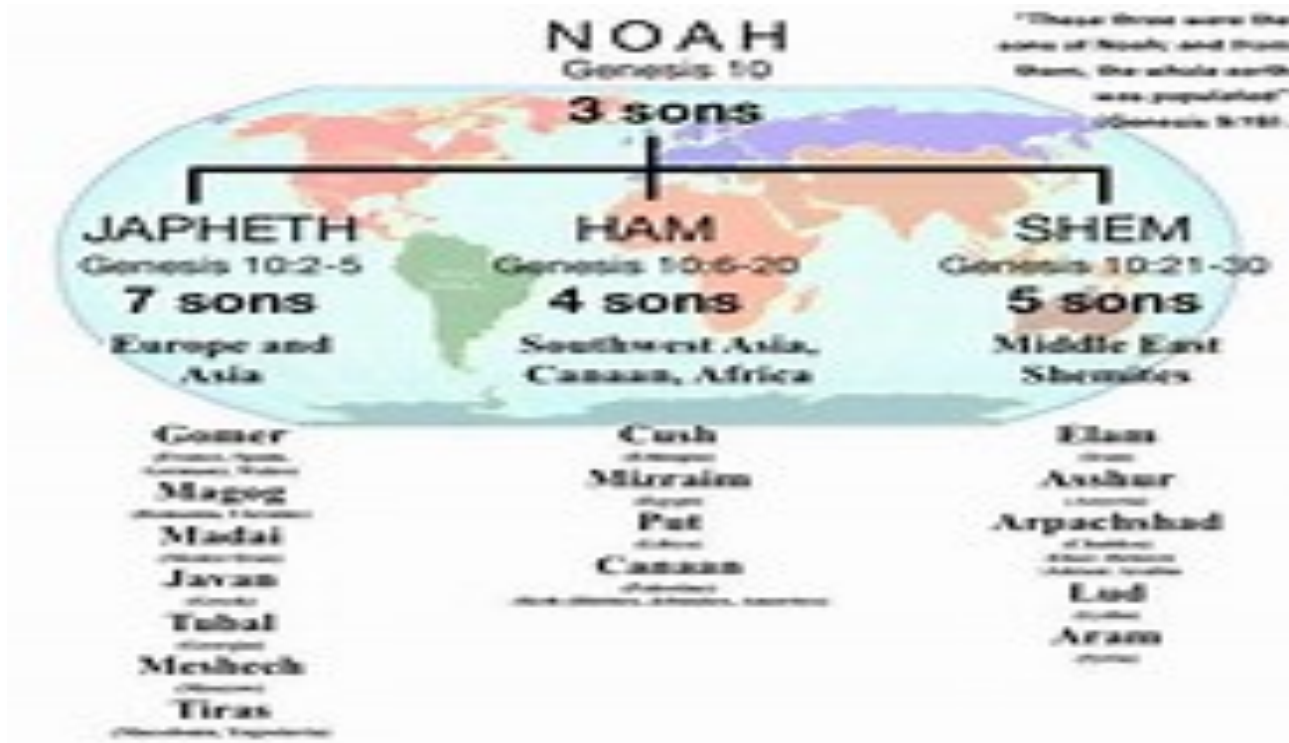


Where exactly is the country “Libya” on a map?



Let's Begin with the Old Testament Genesis 10:6 & 1 Chron. 1:8 (KJV)

And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.



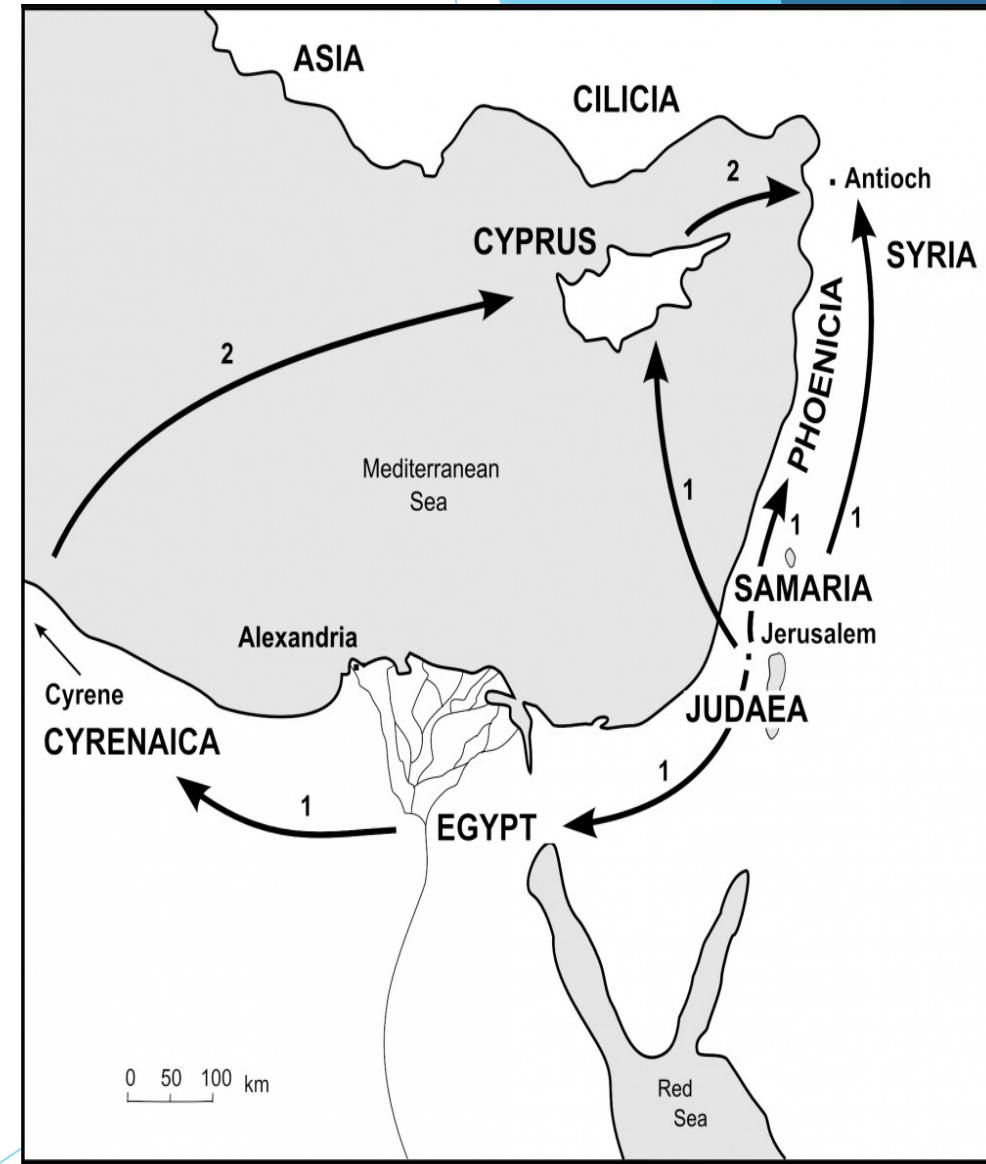
Background on Libya's Rich History in the Bible.

- ▶ Libyans are referred to in the bible as “Put” or “Phut”.
- ▶ And the name “Libya” also appears in the Old Testament.

2 Chronicles 12:3 (NIV) With twelve hundred chariots and sixty thousand horsemen and the innumerable troops of Libyans, Sukkite and Cushites that came with him from Egypt,

- ▶ Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Nahum all make reference to Put.

Nahum 3:9 (KJV) Cush and Egypt were her boundless strength; Put and Libya were among her allies.



More Old Testament Scriptures (Libya)

Ezekiel 27:10 King James Version (KJV)

- ▶ ¹⁰ They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.

Ezekiel 30:5 King James Version (KJV)

- ▶ ⁵ Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

Ezekiel 38:5 King James Version (KJV)

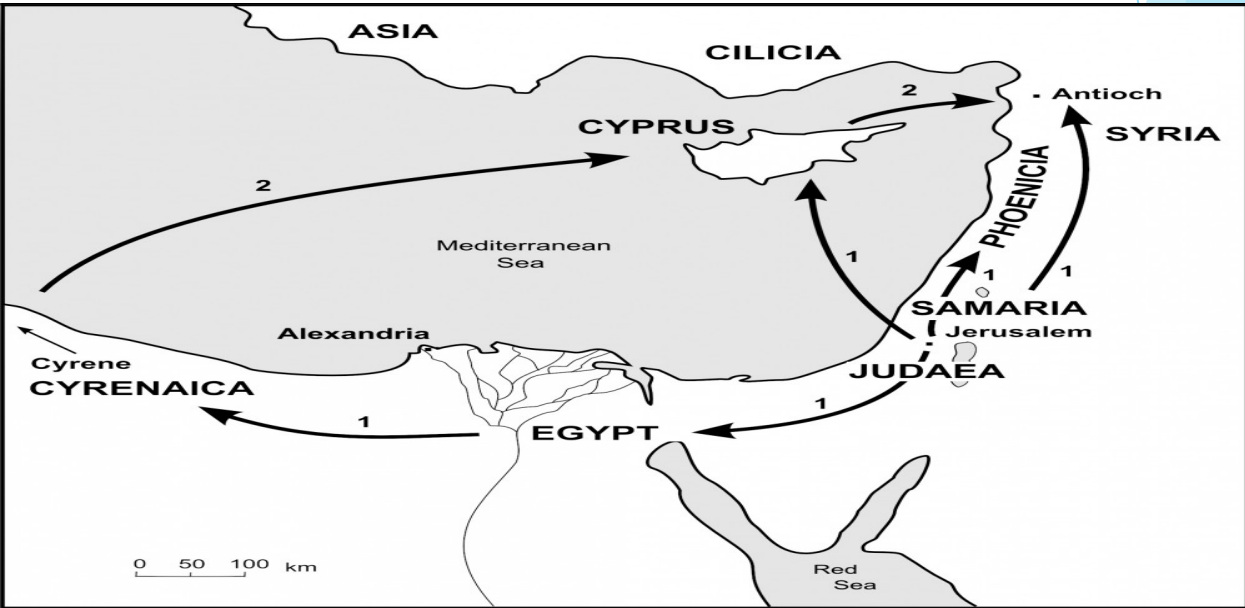
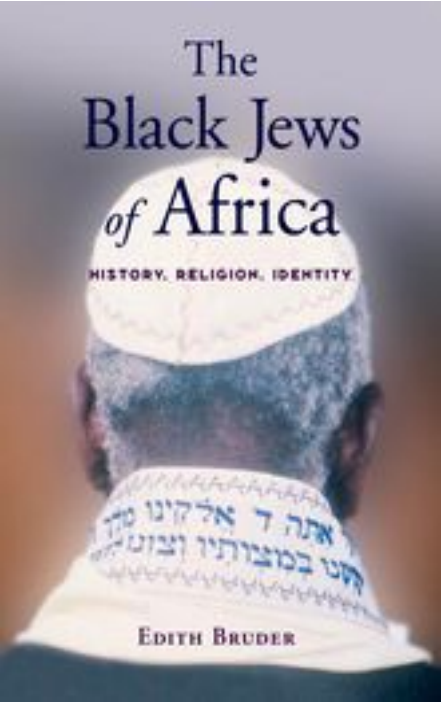
- ▶ ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

Jeremiah 46:9 King James Version (KJV)

- ▶ ⁹ Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle and bend the bow.



Jews in Africa



"Every so often a documentary comes along and changes the way you view the world. RE-EMERGING is just such a movie."
 -The Jewish Advocate

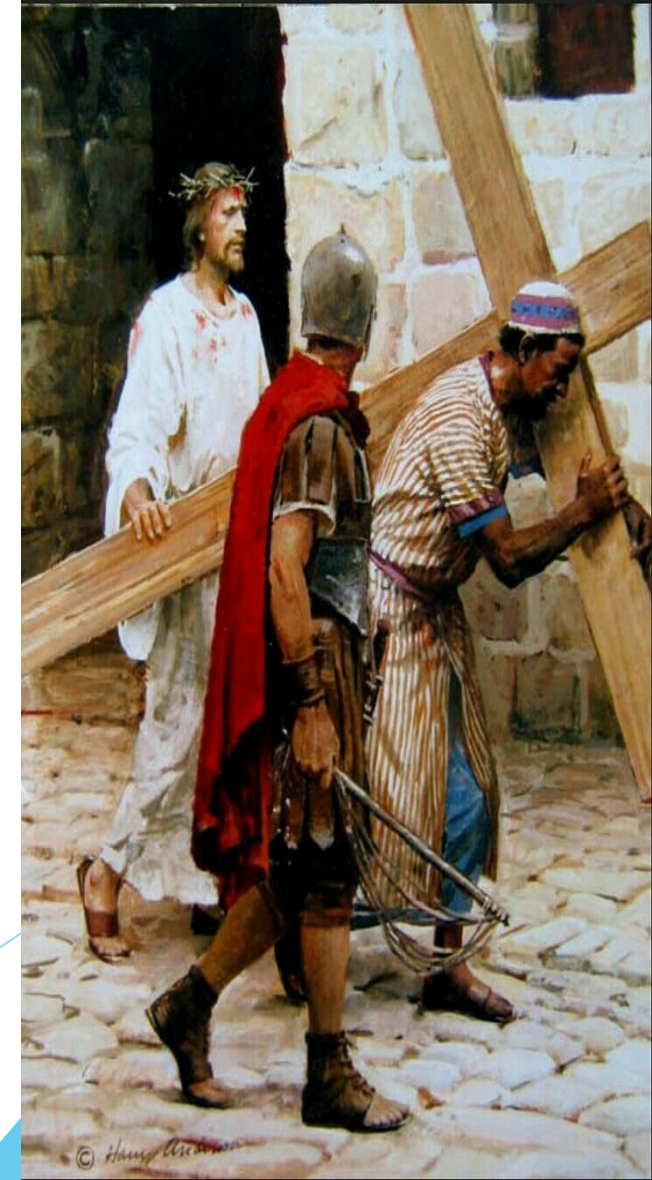
Early Libyan Christianity (New Testament)

The City of Cyrene



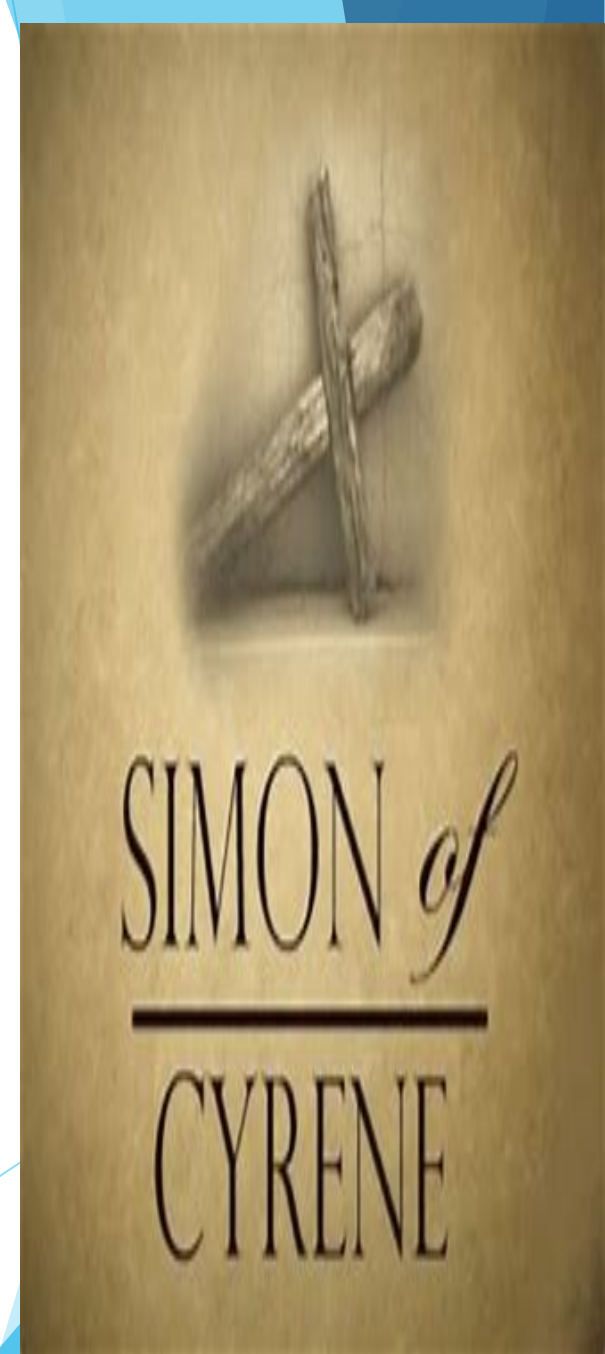
Libya Embraced Within New Testament Salvation History

- ▶ The cross of Jesus is carried through Jerusalem by African from Cyrene in Libya.
 - ▶ Matthew 27:32 King James Version (KJV)
- ▶ ³² And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.
 - ▶ Mark 15:21 King James Version (KJV)
- ▶ ²¹ And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.
 - ▶ Luke 23:26 King James Version (KJV)
- ▶ ²⁶ And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.



Simon of Cyrene

- ▶ Most refer to Simon as a “foreigner” and some incorrectly refer to Simon as a “Gentile”.
- ▶ Scripture teaches Simon of Cyrene was present in the crowd watching Jesus on his way to crucifixion.
- ▶ Simon was required to assist Jesus in bearing the cross.
- ▶ Early Christian exegetes such as Clement, Origen and Terullian looked for the spiritual meaning of the text. For they saw Simon as a type, a picture or a model and needless to say they found profound meaning embedded in the biblical narrative of Simon of Cyrene.
 - ▶ Wood of the “Cross” in Gen. 22:1-24 Abraham carry the wood for sacrificing Isaac on a holy mountain, thus the picture of the first substitutionary sacrifice.
 - ▶ The “first cross bearer”, follower of Jesus was an “Outsider” an “Outcast” takes places “Outside” the city.
 - ▶ Other reflected on the two cross bearer. (Jesus and Us). Doing Compulsory Service



Simon of Cyrene

The Family Man

- ▶ Mark 15:21 King James Version (KJV)
 - ▶ ²¹ And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.
 - ▶ Romans 16:13 King James Version (KJV)
 - ▶ ¹³ Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.
- ▶ FATHER-Simon of Cyrene MOTHER-not named directly, indirectly
 - ▶ Sons- Alexander and Rufus
- ▶ Simon had more than momentary experience, the cross impacted his life and his family life.



Early Libyan Christian Church

- ▶ Libyans at Pentecost as early as 30A.D.
- ▶ Cyrenians involved in the missions to Antioch in the 40s A.D.
- ▶ The Apostle Mark preached in Northern Africa before his death in Alexandria, with numerous converts and the appointment of apostolic successor thus the arrival of Christian Church in Libya was at the very beginning of Christianity

