

The African Presence in the Bible



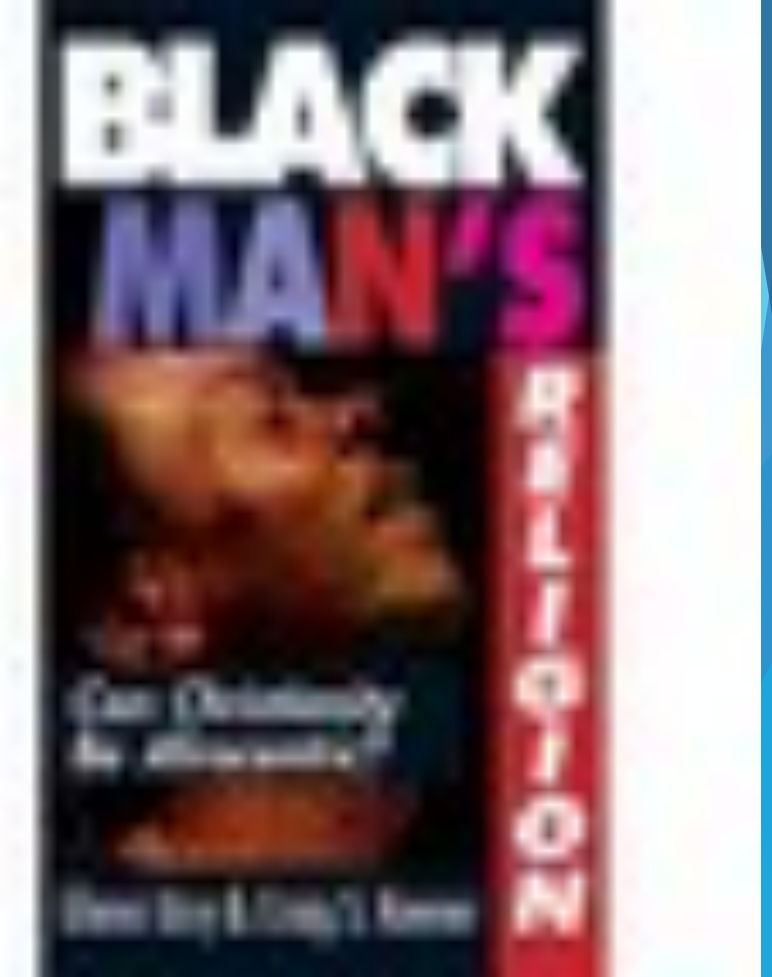
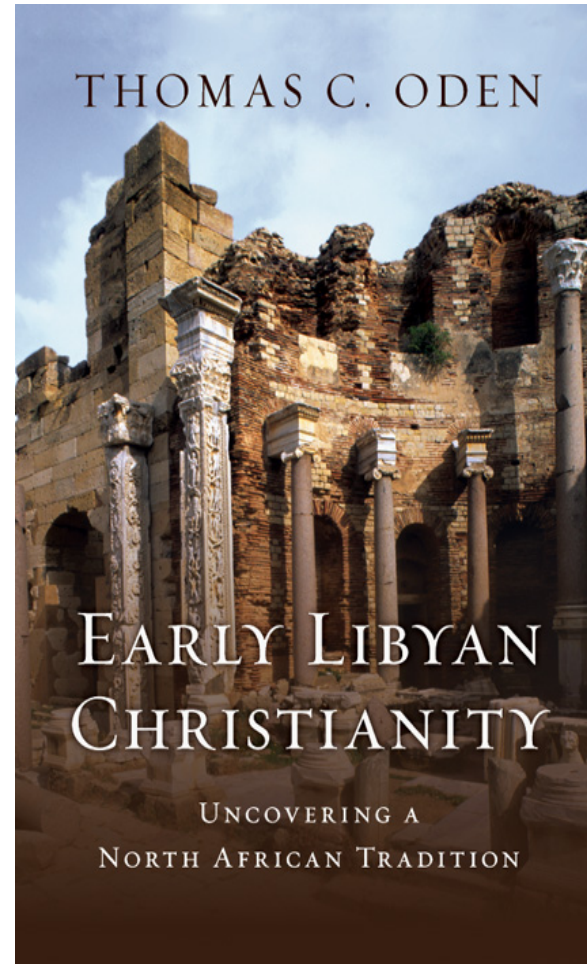
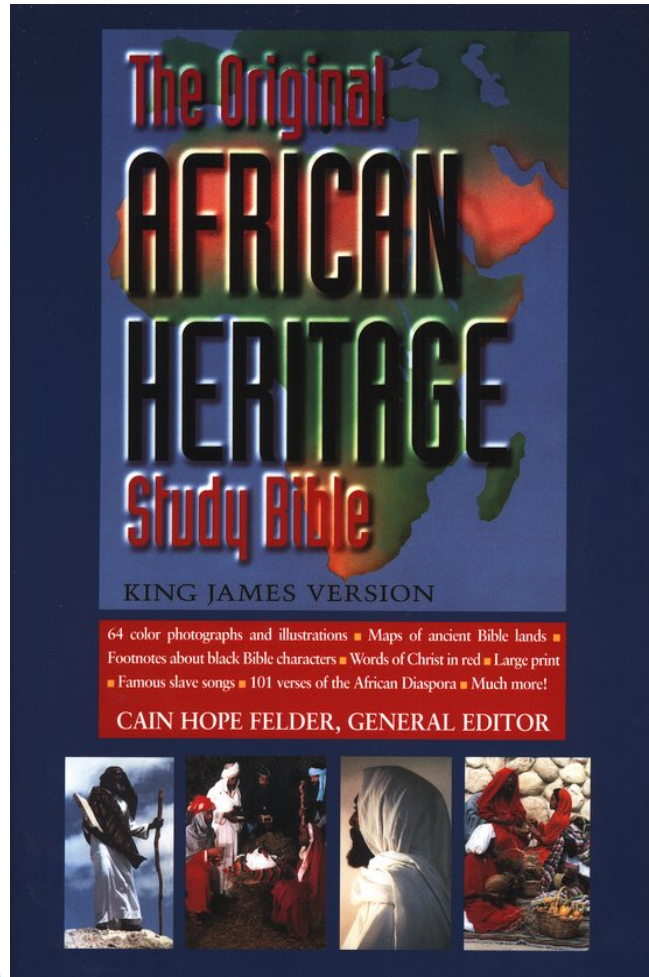


- ▶ Black History Month
 - ▶ Tonight's Topic
- ▶ “Early Christian Church”

The Purpose of Tonight's Lesson

- ▶ Dispel the myths that we were introduced to Christianity through slavery.
- ▶ As well as rebuke the false claim that Christianity is a “White's Man Religion”
- ▶ There are a significant number of educated blacks who believe these untruths.
- ▶ So, tonight, we will search the scriptures for truth.





Let's Get Started

- ▶ When did the Christian Church Begin or When Did It Start?
- ▶ How did the Christian Church Start?
- ▶ Where in the bible does it tell us about the beginning of the Christian Church?



Acts Chapter 2 (1-47)

- ▶ And when the day of **Pentecost** was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

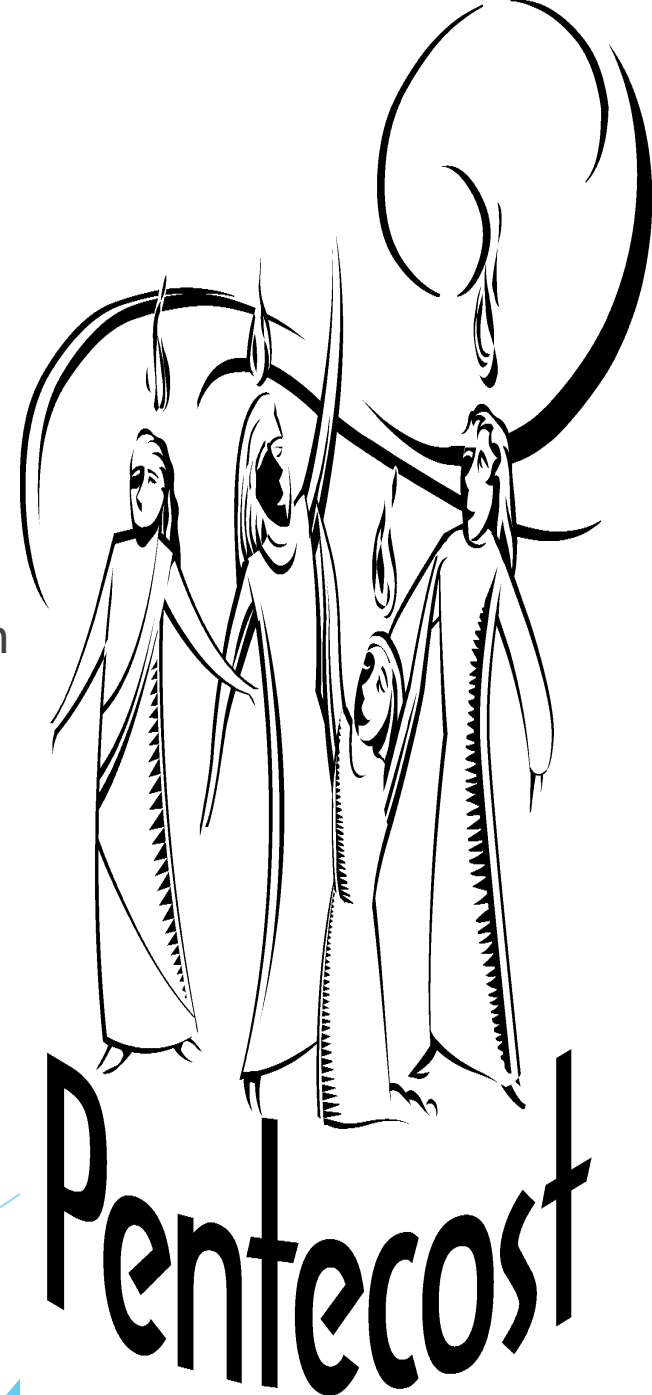
In the Jewish calendar, the Feast of Weeks, or the Day of Pentecost, is **fifty days** after the Passover.

It was on the **Day of Pentecost** after Jesus' death and resurrection when the Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus' followers **that the church began**



Acts 2 (2-5)

- ▶ ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- ▶ ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- ▶ ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- ▶ ⁵ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.



Acts 2 (6-11)

- ▶ ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.
- ▶ ⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
- ▶ ⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?
- ▶ ⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
- ▶ ¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,
- ▶ ¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.



Acts 2(12-15)

- ▶ ¹² And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?
- ▶ ¹³ Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.
- ▶ ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
- ▶ ¹⁵ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.



Acts 2 (16-36)

Peter's Initial Sermon Outline

Acts 2:16 King James Version (KJV)

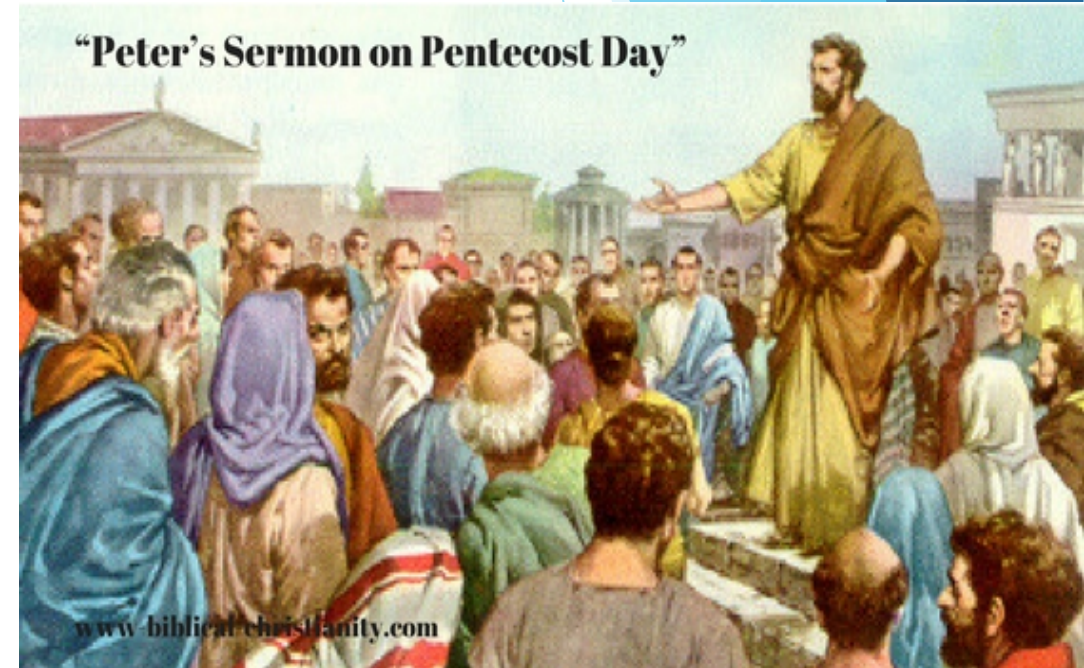
- ▶ ¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Peter's Text

- ▶ Joel 2:28-38 (Acts 2:17-18)
- ▶ Romans 10:13 (Acts 20)
- ▶ Psalm 16:8-11 (Acts 2:25-28)
- ▶ Psalm 68:18 (Acts 2:34-35)

- ▶ Acts 2:36 King James Version (KJV)

- ▶ ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.



1st Century Church Model

- ▶ ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- ▶ ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- ▶ ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them **about three thousand souls**.
- ▶ ⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1st Century Church con't

- ▶ ⁴⁴ And all that believed were **together**, and had **all things common**;
- ▶ ⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
- ▶ ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and **breaking bread** from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- ▶ ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

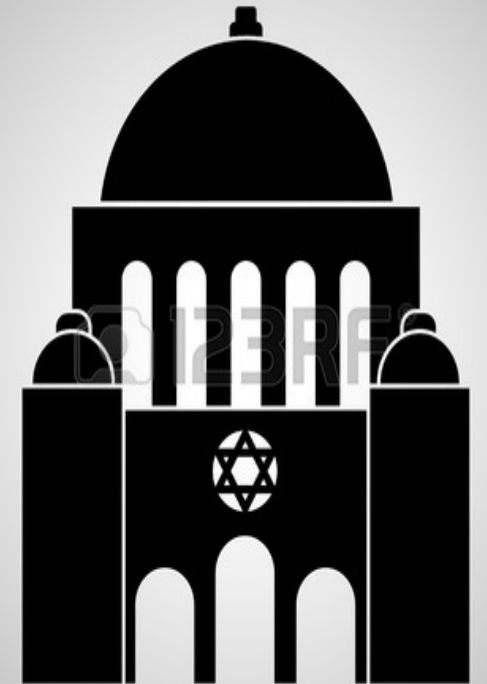
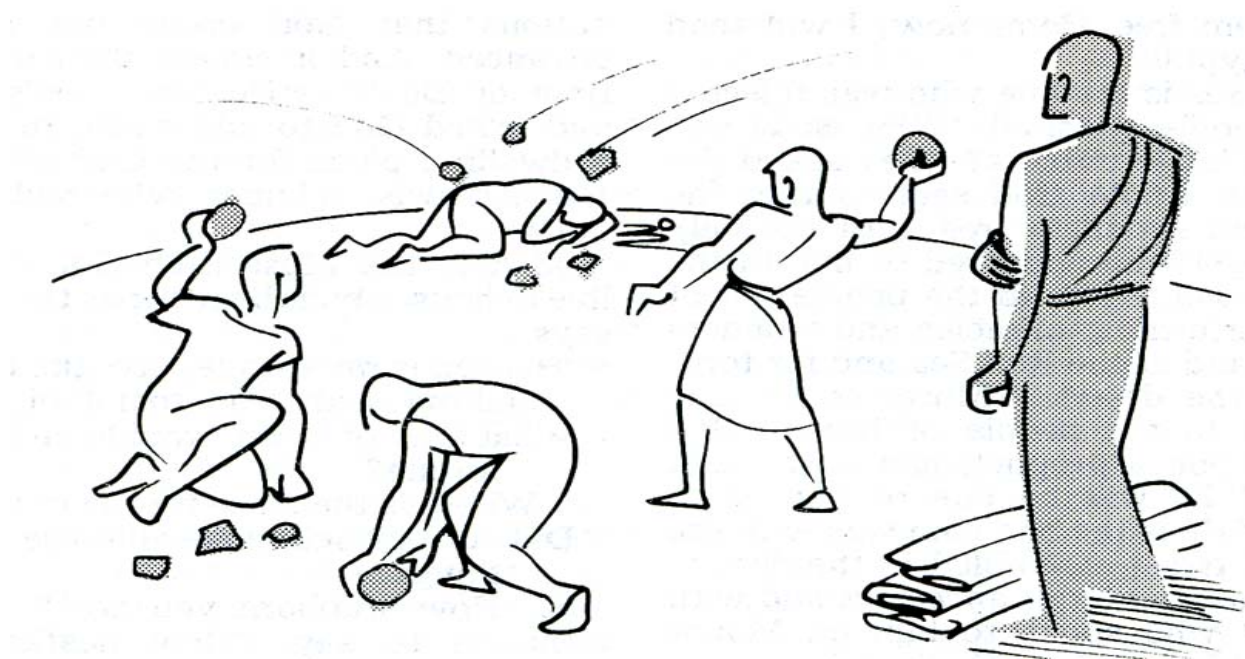


Following the thread through Acts

Acts 6:9 & Acts 7:54-59

Acts 6:9 New International Version (NIV)

- ▶ ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.



Acts 7:54-59

► Acts 7:54-59 King James Version (KJV)

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

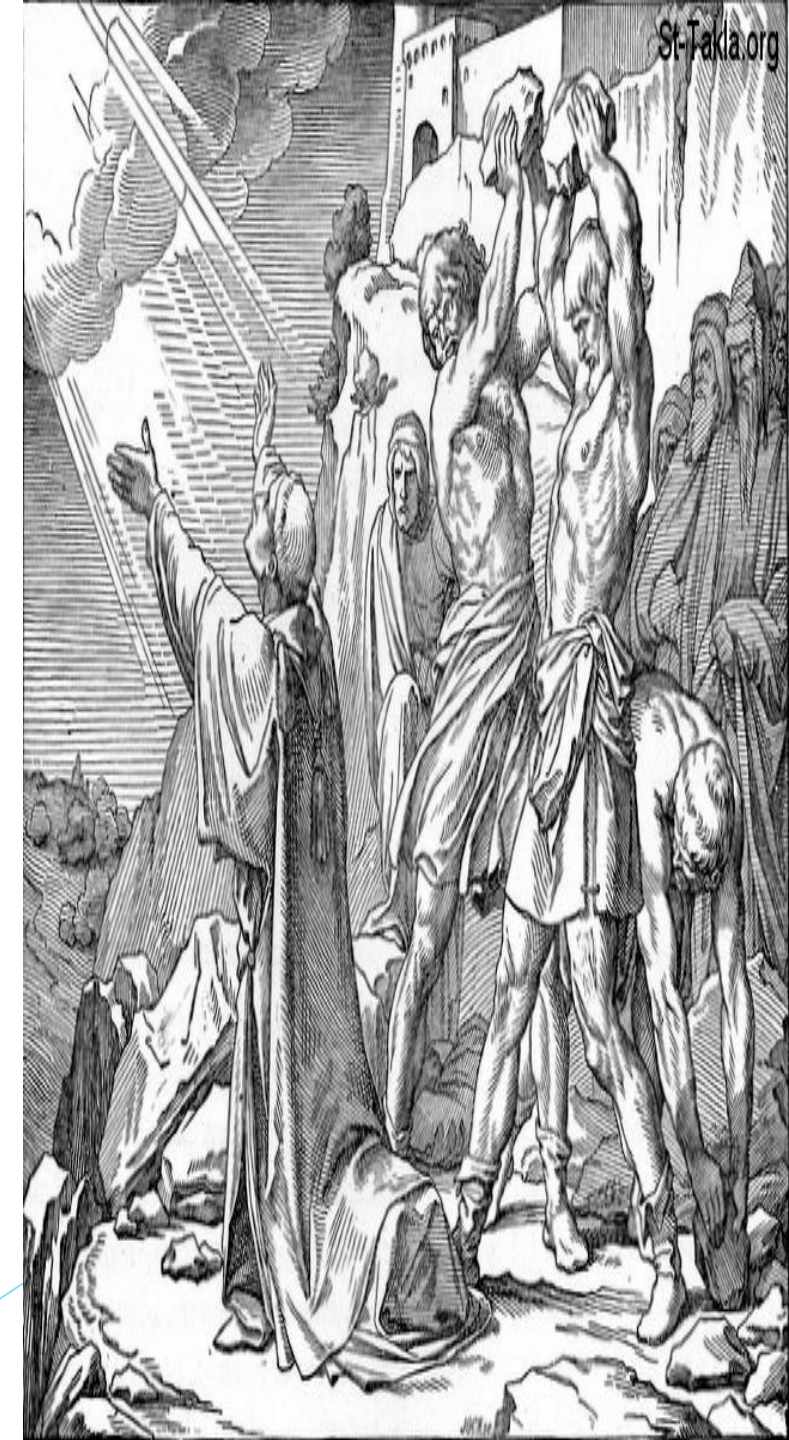
⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, **whose name was Saul.**

► ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.



Acts 11:19-21



▶ Acts 11:19-21 King James Version (KJV)

- ▶ ¹⁹ Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.
- ▶ ²⁰ And some of them were men of **Cyprus** and **Cyrene**, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the LORD Jesus.
- ▶ ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
- ▶ ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. **And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**

Following the thread through Acts

Acts 13:1

- ▶ Acts 13:1 New International Version (NIV)

- ▶ **13** ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: **Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen** (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.
- ▶ ² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
- ▶ ³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and **laid their hands on them**, they sent them away.

- ▶ Colossians 4:10 New International Version (NIV)

- ▶ ¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)



2nd Century

New Martyrs of Libya - pray for us



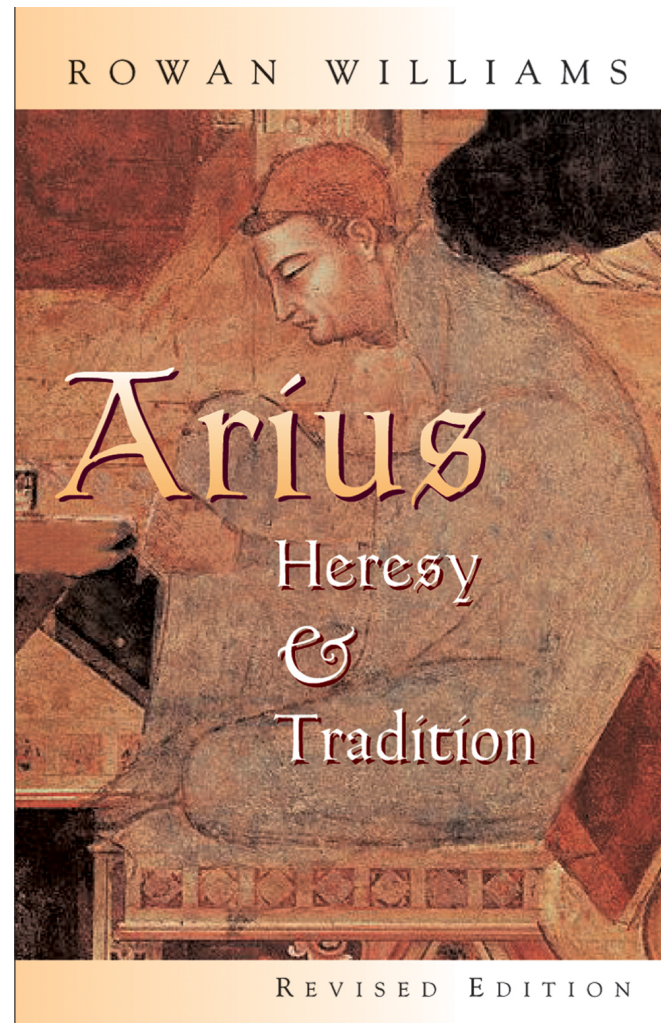
Milad Makeen Zaky
Abanub Ayad Atiya
Maged Solaiman Shehata
Yusuf Shukry Yunan
Kirollos Shokry Fawzy
Bishoy Astafanus Kamel
Somaily Astafanus Kamel
Malak Ibrahim Sinweet
Tawadros Yusuf Tawadros
Girgis Milad Sinweet
Mina Fayez Aziz

Hany Abdelmesih Salib
Bishoy Adel Khalaf
Samuel Alham Wilson
Worker from Awr village
Ezat Bishri Naseef
Loqa Nagaty
Gaber Munir Adly
Esam Badir Samir
Malak Farag Abram
Sameh Salah Faruq

The Blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church

Tertullian - 2nd Century

3rd Century



AFRICAN PRESENCE IN SCRIPTURE

In Summary

- ▶ An African was present on the road to the crucifixion.
- ▶ Africans were present at the beginning of the church (Pentecost).
- ▶ Africans were present in the Cyrenaic synagogue in Jerusalem.
- ▶ Africans were present in the first missionary journey north towards Antioch (Pre-date Paul).
- ▶ African were present in the debates leading to the major decision about circumcision for Gentile believers.
- ▶ African were in the growth of the first international church in Antioch.
 - ▶ Judeo-Christianity
 - ▶ African-Judeo-Christianity

