



TESTIMONIAL

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INTRODUCTION TO TREATISE ON:

(PT 1) What we Rastafari brothers and sisters who are born again by the Holy Spirit believe.

(PT 2) What we the converted members of the Twelve tribes of Israel have been enlightened to understand and accept.

Rastafari is an indigenous Messianic movement raised up out of the historical experiences of Africans in the Diaspora and developing its theology from the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. This faith was born out of a genuine desire of descendants of Africans for justice, freedom and nationhood. The historical injustices perpetuated by European slave masters and colonizers against native peoples in Africa and the Americas contradicted the very principles of their professed religion. The faith of Rastafari was inspired by a genuine desire for The God of justice and truth to deliver the oppressed, just as He had so done before for the children of Israel, who had been in bondage for 400 years. Our fore parents searched the Holy Scriptures for themselves, independent of the interpretation of the colonizers and their missionaries. In the pages of the Holy Bible, they found that "... Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God", (Psalms 68 v 31) and that the struggles and experiences of the people of God in Scripture were identical to their own struggles for national redemption. Our hope for justice and freedom was also identified with the coming of a promised Messiah, "...are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me, O children of Israel?" says the Lord... (Amos 9 V 7).

The growth and development of the Theology and Faith of Rastafari has been a progressive revelation. Moving from mere reaction to Eurocentric domination, and interpretation of a faith and culture (that, ironically, had its roots in an African and Middle Eastern setting), to a developed theology that challenges organized Christendom to look into its conscience and its very soul. This theological perspective has debunked any false claims or portrayal of Biblical images, icons and interpretations that have not truthfully represented the Biblical historical truths, geographical setting and ethnic identity and culture of its African and Middle Eastern players and actors.

Such awareness, growth and development of an indigenous Messianic movement from among simple people outside the traditional religious establishment is but another expression of the historic origins of Christianity, where *"not many mighty wise men according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called, " to reveal the mysteries of God and relay the Good News, "...but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the mighty, and the base things of the world and things which are despised has God has chosen, and the things that are not to bring to naught the things that are, so that no flesh should glory [boast] in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1vs 26 -29)*

Over the past 90 years the theology of Rastafari has transitioned and spread more rapidly than many other faiths that took hundreds of years or refining and struggles. This can be attributed to our advanced high-tech age and the rapid spread of the knowledge, and in this particular case quick access to information on the biography and utterances of the former RasTafariMakonnen (the pre-coronation name of Emperor Haile Selassie I from whom the name Rastafari is drawn.). These speeches and historical findings of the Emperor not only verified him as being the 225th restorer of the Solomonic Dynasty, but also the 134th Christian king of the world's oldest Orthodox Christian nation. His appointment as *Defender of the Faith* by the Oriental Orthodox Churches in 1965, and his nomination and invitation by the World Evangelical Congress to address their international conference as the world's foremost Christian head of State, have been significant in influencing the movement towards a more holistic Christian perspective. I must also add here the Emperor's message conveyed to the Rastafari community in Jamaica by Mrs. Mayme Richardson, the International Organizer of the E.W.F, in 1955 now unearthed is of tremendous significance. In this message the Emperor charged Mrs. Richardson to tell the people of the African Diaspora to, *"know and learn more of their ancient history; learn their native language and about their own religion and the true fidelity of Jesus Christ."* Lastly, but not at all the least influential factor in this development of authentic Biblical Theology, was the utterance of His Majesty the Emperor on the Holy Bible, that has been widely publicized and circulated. Pertinent excerpts from this speech is that *"the Bible is the rallying point of all humanity" and that, "...unless the Bible and its message is accepted with a clear conscience, there can be no hope for salvation."*

The present and future direction of the movement as it falls in line with sound Biblical Theology will only be determined by the grace (unmerited or unearned favour) of The Most High God, Who has been patient and gracious allowing time for the *"fullness of the other peoples to come" into the Kingdom fold ,and that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3Vs 9)*. His grace and mercies are also manifested in the raising up from among the brethren, bold and inspired teachers and leaders such as the likes of Vernon Carrington, otherwise known as Prophet Gad, founder of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Prophet Gad has led many humble and genuine Rastafari seekers of truth to read the Holy Bible from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 for themselves, which must be considered a tremendous accomplishment. As a result, growing numbers of Rastafari brethren and sisters are accepting the Holy Bible as the only foundation on which to build a solid faith and doctrine. This is known in Christian Theology as *'Sola Scriptura'* or teachings based solely on the authority of Scripture.



(PT 1) What we Rastafari brothers and sisters who are born again by the Holy Spirit of Christ accept and believe.

1. We accept that there is One God and One mediator between God and men, The Man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2v 5) That all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3v 16). Therefore the Holy Bible from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 is accepted as the inspired word and revealed mind of The Most High God, The Father of the Universe.
2. We accept as taught in Scripture that God is a Spirit, "and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, for the Father seeketh such to Worship Him". (John 4 vs. 23-24) and that the body of believers is the Temple of the living God, His chief instrument here on earth. (1Corinthians3v16 and 6v19)
3. We accept and proclaim with all our heart, soul, mind and strength that Jesus Christ (known in the Hebrew tongue as Yahshua Ha Masheak), who walked the earth over 2000 years ago, is The Lord Messiah, The Christ, the Son of The Most High God, The Savior and Redeemer of Mankind. He laid down His life as a sacrificial payment with his innocent blood as a ransom for our sins and rose, because He had no sin, for our justification. He laid down the curse of mankind's mortality on the cross and redeemed us to partake of the grace of immortality. He Jesus defeated sin and death having become the first fruits of them that slept. (Romans 5 v 19). He ascended to the seat of authority and power in heaven as our faithful High Priest, seated at the right hand of The Father.
4. We accept that Jesus Christ will return to the earth in glory and power to sit upon the throne of King David, and will overthrow the existing social, political, economic, and religious disorder and establish God's Righteous Kingdom here on earth (Daniel 2 v 44 and Isaiah 54 vs. 21-22). He will reign from this restored throne of King David, which is His by right with His saints justly, from a renewed Jerusalem. He shall reign for a millennium (thousand years) over a renewed earth until He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that he shall put under His feet is death, after which He shall deliver up the Kingdom to the Father. (1Corinthians 15 Vs 24-27, Rev 5 v 10)
5. We accept that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Teacher, The Helper, petitioned by Jesus of The Father for us on His departure to the Heavenly realm, is the medium through which we receive the Divine nature to begin overcoming our carnal sinful nature. This is a process that will only be finally completed at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Only then will we humans, descendants of Adam and Eve be fully free from our sin nature and be Divine like Him, Jesus.
6. We accept and believe in the physical bodily resurrection (standing up) of all who have fallen asleep (laid down the mortal body) in their faith in Christ Jesus. At His glorious appearing, those who had fallen asleep (died) with faith in Jesus Christ, will be resurrected a spiritual immortal transformed body, and those of the faith who are alive then will also be transformed instantly with glorious immortal bodies; like Christ Jesus; no longer bound by space, time or gravity.

Note that the mystery (secret hidden throughout the ages) revealed to St Paul was that only in this transformed metamorphic incorruptible glorious state of being, that we will be able to ascend 'astrally' to welcome and escort the victorious triumphant blessed and "only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Who only has immortality, as He descends to the terrestrial realm to reign and judge the earth along with his resurrected and transformed saints. (1 Timothy 3V15) (1 Corinthians 15 vs. 50-57,) (1 Thessalonians 4 vs. 13-18) Yes, He shall come with His Saints and reign for a thousand years. (Rev 20 Vs. 4 -6) This is the "behold I show you a mystery" (hidden secret) revealed by the Holy Spirit to St. Paul and opened by the Holy Spirit to our understanding. Those who embrace this Hope, this Faith that the Twelve Tribes of Israel waited earnestly for day and night, possess the Faith of Abraham and all the prophets and Saints of God. Those are therefore the spiritual seed of Abraham, the Israel of God and therefore inheritors of the promises made to Abraham. (Galatians 3 vs. 28-29)

7. We accept, the undeniable Biblical truth, that the Davidic Covenant, as well all the seven Covenants, are ultimately fulfilled in and through Christ Jesus, the Spiritual Seed, the Holy Spirit made flesh; the Son of The Most High God. This is the no-cohabitated seed of the woman, the Virgin Mary, who was also a descendant of King David, the daughter of Heli, father-in-law of Joseph, referred to in Hebrew culture as son of Heli. (Luke3vs.23 23) .This same Jesus, has received the "sure mercies" of King David, i.e. immortality, is the one raised up from death and will be given the throne of David to rule for 1000 years, on earth. (Acts 2vs.30-31)



(PT 2) What we the converted members of the Twelve tribes of Israel have been enlightened to understand and accept.

- **The Kings of Ethiopia and their throne is descended from King David through King Solomon's union with Queen Makeda of Sheba and His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie¹ was the 225th descendant. As such this Royal House of Ethiopia represents a genealogical extension of the 'cohabitated' body of King David on earth today. Others of the world Jewry and Christendom have chosen to ignore this historical fact of the continuing existence of legitimate representatives of the throne of King David. We accept that his throne resides in the custodianship of the Royal House of Ethiopia and is distinguished from all other monarchs by a Divine Covenant to hold the scepter until "Shiloh" (meaning to whom it belongs) comes. (Gen 49. 10)**

(Please take careful note as recorded in the Holy Bible that the children of Israel asked for a King. Their carnal minds could not understand or accept that the Eternal God was and is their King. However, God allowed their desire so they would learn that no cohabited fallible human king was perfect enough to fulfill His promises of salvation (2 Samuel 7 and Psalms 89), (1 Samuel 8 vs1-9) (Psalms10 v. 16), (1 Timothy 1 v17)

- **The Messiah Jesus, Yahshua, the preeminent One, "root and offspring of David," King David's "greater Son", born of the Virgin Mary, is the Saviour who was and is to come. Therefore even though Christianity has been misrepresented by others, we will not throw out "the baby (Jesus) with the dirty bath water", (i.e. the counterfeit representation of Babylonian, Hellenistic and Roman indoctrination). The Davidic Covenant will be ultimately and eternally fulfilled in and by Jesus Christ and this we must proclaim and teach without adding or subtracting.**
- **His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, according to the anointing he has received, and according to the Royal tradition of the Coronation of Davidic Judaic Monarchies, is the person who has been instrumental in leading us to accept and understand Jesus as the Lord and Christ, by his example and utterances. (1 Samuel 16 vs12-13). We therefore hold that our precious Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, has revealed to us *through the personality (more clearly, instrumentality) of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I (whose name is accurately translated and transliterated from Amharic as 'Instrument of the Power of the Trinity')*. For proper understanding we must of necessity mention here that all believers in this New Testament are also anointed by the same Holy Spirit, each with a specific individual gift and a duty to also reveal Jesus Christ to the world through our conduct and 'personality.'**
- **We also accept that in the physical absence of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, his designated successor, Crown Prince H.I.H Zere Yacob Asfa Wossen Selassie (declared 14th April 1974) and future legitimate successors, represent the throne of King David and hold this Scepter of Judah, until Shiloh, (meaning to whom it belongs) comes, and unto Him [Shiloh, Jesus Christ] shall the gathering of the people be. (Genesis 49 V 10)**
- **We have seen in Scripture that Africa has historically been the place of refuge, (as Jacob took refuge in the tents of Ham, Africa/ Egypt, and also Jesus and His parents), and also gave refuge to the world's three major religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We too have the hope and aspire to return there as exiled and the dispersed converted 'Israel of God'. We hope to live a more spiritual, focused and prosperous life in the land that nurtured our forefathers and gave refuge to Jesus and His parents, Mary and Joseph. This we will persevere as God allows, with the consciousness and awareness that evil still exists everywhere, until Jesus Christ returns to unlock the eternal gates of Paradise guarded by an angel with a 'flaming sword'. This concealed Paradise is where mankind was exiled from in the Genesis, because of sin. Only Jesus has the keys to unlock the gates of eternal Paradise and declare, "Enter into the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."**
- **His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, the 134th Christian King who followed Jesus Christ and led the world's oldest Christian nation, Ethiopia, has commanded us to "arise with the spiritual zeal and earnestness which characterized the Apostles and early Christians and let us lead our brothers and sisters to our Saviour Jesus, who only can give life in its fullest sense". We accept to follow him as he too follows Jesus Christ.**

Conclusion

We give the Most High thanks for sending the Prophet Gad, Vernon Carrington, the first Rastafari leader to point us to the Holy Bible and who instructed us to read it from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 "one chapter a day" in order to find the truth for ourselves. It is he who was the first Rastafari brethren on record to confess Jesus Christ as our precious Lord and Savior and led us to confess this with our mouth in our greeting. He was also the first to reveal to us our identity with the Twelve Tribes of Israel, Jerusalem, and the Ethiopian Royal Family.

Glory be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Your Servant in Jesus Christ.