

COULD RACISM EXCLUDE YOU FROM GOD'S KINGDOM?

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For as long as humanity has existed, it is likely that racism has been a problem. This article is intended to encourage and motivate all readers to reject racism or ethnic strife in any form. As you will see from this article, the Bible is clear that God very much expects you to do this. Indeed at the end of this article, you will see a rarely considered biblical reason why it is altogether critical that you be free of racism in your attitudes in order to enter into the kingdom of God (Messianic Age).

Introduction:

Since I have written many books and articles and have given many speeches to diverse audiences about the racial/ethnic origins of the races and especially the migrations and whereabouts of the ten tribes of Israel throughout history, I think it is particularly appropriate that it is I who writes an article on the subject of racism. Those who have read my books already know that I call for racial harmony and tolerance in them, but those who have not read my books may not realize this fact. The Bible relates much about the covenant that God made with Abraham to give a "birthright" blessing to his descendants, and this birthright was conveyed through Isaac and Jacob (renamed "Israel") to the tribes of Israel in general but especially to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48-49). The Bible has many prophecies about the tribes of Israel and other nations that pertain to our modern "latter-day" period of time. [If you need convincing evidence that we live in the biblical "latter days," please read my article, *Are We Living in the Biblical Latter Days?*, available at my website, stevenmcollins.com].

While many biblical narrative accounts and prophecies discuss racial/national matters, the Bible is clear that Christian believers are to avoid and reject racism. It is true that the Israelite tribes today possess certain unique national blessings because of God's covenant with Abraham, but this does not mean they possess any innate racial superiority. It simply confirms that God is keeping his promises that he made to Abraham and to his descendants. The New Testament makes it clear that the racial barriers of the Old Testament were nullified after Jesus Christ's sacrifice for all mankind. Jesus Christ is "an equal opportunity Savior" for *anyone of any race*. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 cites Jesus Christ as telling his apostles to "Go you therefore and teach *all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Luke's gospel account agrees in stating "...that repentance and remission of sins should be

preached in his name among *all nations...*" (emphasis added in both citations). This language is all inclusive. No nation was excluded from God' mercy and grace.

Biblical Origins of Racial Differences:

Often in the media we see stories that can stimulate racial hatreds, bigotries and discord. Not long ago there was a media frenzy in the USA about a fight which resulted in the death of Trayvon Williams (a black) at the hands of George Zimmerman, a man with a Caucasian-sounding name. The story seemed to dissipate quickly when the media realized that Mr. Zimmerman was Hispanic instead of Caucasian. But such stories can quickly polarize people along racial lines.

It is true that racial characteristics make some human beings look a bit different than fellow human beings of other races. So what? The Bible teaches that all of us on the earth today have a common origin with Adam and Eve, and later, via Noah and his family that repopulated all the earth after the Deluge. Let's look briefly at both of these families from which all humans are now descended.

When Adam and Eve were created by God, God obviously created them with the capacity for their descendants to diversify into different racial and ethnic groups. If God had not wanted it to be so, it would not have happened. Consider that God is a Creator who clearly loves variety in his creation! He created a multitude of different kinds of animals, fish, birds, amphibians, insects, plants, shrubs, trees, etc. Wouldn't it be a boring creation if we only had one kind of bird, one animal, one kind of tree, one kind of fish, etc.? I think God also decided it would be boring to him if mankind, made in his image (Genesis 1:26), had only one kind of racial appearance. Revelation 4:11 states that all things (including mankind) were created for God's pleasure. It pleased God to make mankind in diverse races. Genesis 1:31 states that after Creation Week, God rested on the seventh day and pronounced all things he had made as being "very good." God created Adam and Eve's DNA-makeup to cause their descendants to diversify into various races, and God called this "very good."

When Noah and his family repopulated the earth, they began with just eight people (Genesis 7:13). Noah and his wife had two different genetic backgrounds, and their three sons shared that common DNA origin. However, the three wives of Noah's sons came from different genetic backgrounds unique to them. Via the wives of Noah's sons, God preserved the capacity for different races after the Flood as mankind quickly developed into diverse races and ethnic groups in

subsequent centuries and millennia. After the languages of mankind were altered by God at the tower of Babel, the nations spread abroad on the face of the earth, banding together as linguistically-cohesive groups. These diverse linguistic groups developed into the nations we have today. There are so many global Flood legends in so many scattered races with different languages that this commonality in diverse racial/linguistic groups is strong evidence that all these nations had the knowledge of the Flood preserved in their respective racial/national histories.

As an aside, science has confirmed that at one time in ancient history, the human race almost died out and had to start repopulating the earth from a very small group of breeding-age adults. A cable-TV documentary entitled "Supervolcanoes" cited geneticists as discovering that the DNA of modern mankind is so universally common that it can only be explained by the fact that mankind almost died out and started over with a small breeding population. I think the documentary concluded that there had to be less than 2,000 humans on the earth at one time when mankind almost died out during a "bottleneck" which led to all modern humans being so genetically similar! Indeed, this is supported by the Bible which says the actual number was just eight adults. I urge you to watch that documentary if you see it aired again. So, scientific evidence has confirmed that all humans have far more in common in their DNA than anything which makes them different from each other. This scientific understanding also gives powerful evidentiary support to the Bible's account of the Deluge and the near-extinction of mankind.

We Are All "One Blood":

The Bible echoes what science has discovered about mankind being very similar in our genetic background regardless of race. Acts 17:26 states that God "...has made *of one blood all nations of men* for to dwell on the face of the earth" (emphasis added). How true this is! Regardless of racial origin, mankind has four main blood types: types A, B, AB and O. One blood type is a universal donor to the others and one is a universal receptor for purposes of blood transfusions. If your life is saved as a result of a blood transfusion from a blood donor of a different race-- that donated blood can still save your life. Racial differences have no relevance in such matters; modern races really are "one blood" as the Bible teaches.

In the early Christian church, the New Testament makes it evident that the early church, which began as a sect of the Jews, had major problems in grasping that God had abolished *any* racial barriers that existed in the Old Testament in terms

of diverse individuals being part of God's community of believers. In the Old Testament, God's covenant was with the descendants of the tribes of Israel and it was confirmed by the sign of male circumcision. However, even then, people from other races and ethnic groups could merge themselves into the Israelite tribes by adopting the faith of the God of Israel and being circumcised (if male). Leviticus 19:33-34 and Ezekiel 47:22-23 state that non-Israelites who merged into the tribes of Israel were to be given an inheritance amongst the tribes and were to be reckoned as "*one born in the country* among the children of Israel (emphasis added)." I see no racism being allowed by God in these scriptures.

God did forbid the Israelites entering Canaan to intermarry with indigenous groups as they would be a snare to them in terms of their malignant religious/social practices such as human sacrifices, lawless sexual fertility practices, etc. (Deuteronomy 7:13, Judges 2:1-3). However, the previous paragraph cited scriptures that members of other races could join themselves to the tribes of Israel *if* they obeyed God so clearly God forbade the Israelites to mingle with the native Canaanite groups due to their degenerate practices, not because of their race.

Non-Israelites in the Old Testament:

The Bible has many examples of non-Israelites of other races merged into the tribes of Israel. When the Israelites left Egypt in the Exodus, a very diverse group of other, non-Israelite slaves, were freed along with the Israelites and traveled with them (Exodus 12:38). Egypt enslaved many people besides Israelites as they made slaves of any nation they conquered. Given Egypt's African location, many slaves were undoubtedly Nubians, Libyans, Ethiopians and other black Africans as well as various Semitic Ishmaelites, Edomites, Midianites, etc. Moses himself had an Ethiopian (black) wife as well as a Semitic wife named Zephurah. Moses' own siblings murmured against Moses due to his interracial marriage (Moses' black wife was a Cushite/Ethiopian woman). God plagued Moses' sister, Miriam, with leprosy for seven days to punish her for criticizing Moses' interracial marriage (Numbers 12). I think this account settles for all time the matter of whether God can approve of interracial marriages.

During the Exodus wanderings, God allowed a mass of 32,000 virgin Midianite females (verse 35) to be merged into the tribes of Israel after a war in which these females were survivors and captives of war (Numbers 31). This resulted in mass interracial marriages of Midianites into the Israelite tribes. Ruth was a young Moabitess who married Boaz, an older Israelite man in a "May-September" romance (Ruth 2-4). Not only was Ruth a non-Israelite, her genes

were merged into the Israelite bloodline of the tribe of Judah which led to King David and Jesus Christ himself (Matthew 1:1-16, Luke 3:23-32)!

Solomon had so many hundreds of wives and concubines from all the nations of the world that his harem must have included women from every racial group on earth (I Kings 11:3-8). Interestingly, this scripture shows that it was not the number or racial diversity of Solomon's harem that angered God, but it was the fact that these foreign wives *turned his heart away from serving the true Creator God to serving the idols and false "gods" of his many wives*. In the book of Esther, we are told that many people from all the many races and ethnic groups throughout the Persian empire that stretched from Africa into Central Asia and India "became Jews" in the time of Mordechai and Esther (Esther 8:9-17). This meant that they embraced the Torah laws of Moses and males were circumcised as proselytes *into the tribe of Judah*. After they were assimilated into the tribe of Judah, they were free to intermarry with Israelite Jews or non-Israelite Jews of any other race that had assimilated into that tribe. At that juncture, the tribe of Judah became very racially diverse.

More examples could be given, but the above suffice to prove that even in the Old Testament God allowed racial merging into the tribes of Israel by other individuals either as people who wanted to serve God or women who were taken as prisoners of war.

Racial attitudes in the Early Christian Church:

Even though Jesus Christ had made it clear "all nations" were eligible for salvation and the apostles were to go to all the gentile nations of the world to expand the Christian faith everywhere, the original apostles were raised in a Jewish faith that was xenophobic toward gentiles and viewed non-Israelites as "unclean." Peter was given a special vision which meant that he should stop treating non-Jews as if they were "unclean" (Acts 10, see especially verse 16-20, 28 and 34-35). Even though Peter was the apostle that was chosen to be the one to understand that all nations were eligible to receive God's Spirit and be converted into the faith, Peter himself later relapsed into his old racist attitudes and the Apostle Paul "withstood him to the face" on the matter (Galatians 2:11-16). In other words, Paul publicly corrected Peter that he could not withhold table fellowship from uncircumcised gentiles who were fellow believers in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:27-29 continues this teaching of Paul that racial origins had nothing to do with whether a person could be part of "Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise."

Could Racism Exclude you from the Kingdom of God?:

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that I would offer a reason for avoiding racism that is not generally appreciated or understood by Christians/Messianic Believers. I will close with this information for you to consider.

The Bible occasionally gives us very brief glimpses into the appearances of beings in the spirit world. We know mankind is made in the image of God/the Elohim (Genesis 1:26), but many heavenly beings bear little resemblance to human beings.

While angels appearing to prophets and people of God are described as appearing in the general form of men, it is clear that other beings in the spirit world have *non-humanoid* appearances. The category of angels called cherubim is described as having wings (Exodus 25:20 and 37:9 are two examples). In Isaiah 6:1-6, another category of angels called seraphim are described as having six wings each!

Lucifer was originally created as a “cherub that covereth” (*KJV*) so he was created with wings as well. When he became Satan after his rebellion, he is often called “the serpent” (Revelation 12:9) or the “dragon” (many references in Revelation 12 and 13 plus a very specific reference to Satan as a “dragon” in Revelation 20:2). In the Garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve while in the form of some kind of “serpent” (Genesis 3). These scriptures strongly indicate that Satan’s appearance is what we would call reptilian.

We are shown in John’s vision in the book of Revelation that high Spirit Beings at God’s throne have very non-humanoid appearances. Revelation 4:6-8 gives us a description of a select few spirit beings. It describes four beings who have “eyes before and behind, six wings and the heads/faces of a lion, a calf (bull or cow), an eagle and one had the appearance of a man. In verse 8, John adds that they were “full of eyes within” (this is apparently in addition to the eyes previously mentioned).

It is worthy of note that these “animal-headed” spirit beings at the throne of God correspond in our world to the “king of beasts” (the lion), the chief domestic animal (a bull or cow) and the chief predatory bird (the eagle). These are the beings closest to the throne of God. Lesser angelic ranks likely have appearances of lesser animals or birds in their head shape and appearance. This concept is supported strongly by the ancient empires’ depiction of their “gods”—

who are revealed in the Bible to be no more than fallen angels. However, as the book of Revelation confirms, righteous angels also have animal-headed appearances. The ancient “gods” of Egypt are depicted with all kinds of bird and animal heads (crocodiles, jackals, etc.) on top of humanoid bodies. A pagan “god” of ancient India is depicted as an elephant-headed being. The “god” of the Philistines was a fish-headed being called Dagon. Colossians 2:18 warns against worshipping angels, and Deuteronomy 4:15-18 forbade the Israelites to make images of any animal, bird, fish, etc. to worship it. The pagan cultures did these things as they knew their “gods” had the heads of all kinds of animals, birds, fish, etc. Worshipping such images was tantamount to worshipping fallen angels. The famous movie, *The Ten Commandments*, depicts Pharaoh’s wife being scornful toward an Egyptian “god” who couldn’t match the power of Moses’ God when she says something to the effect that the idol was “nothing but a piece of stone with the body of a man and the head of a bird.”

If you are in the kingdom of God as a resurrected spirit son or daughter of God (II Corinthians 6:18), you will eventually meet all kinds of angelic beings, know their names and interact with them throughout eternity. Obviously, these beings look, quite literally, “out of this world.” Are you ready for such an experience? If you have racist attitudes toward fellow members of the human race whose race or ethnicity varies from your own, how can God trust or allow you to enter his kingdom and interact with beings who are very non-human in appearance?

Revelation 4:4 also relates that there are “24 Elders” at God’s throne whose appearances were not given to us. Maybe God withheld John from describing the 24 Elders as their descriptions would be more than we humans could now handle. Perhaps they are all humanoid, but I doubt it given that only one of four beings at the throne of God was humanoid in appearance in its face (and even that one had lots of eyes and six wings). What if the 24 Elders, if we were allowed to glimpse them in their actual shapes and appearances, looked like something as diverse as the Jedi High Council of the Star Wars series? Are you ready to interact with these many types of spirit beings with very different appearances?

In Ezekiel 1 and 10, Ezekiel was given glimpses of God’s heavenly conveyance on which God can travel. This was apparently a mobile throne for God, and it was propelled by or consisted of four creatures who were similar to the four beings shown at God’s throne in Revelation 4. Ezekiel stated that these four creatures had four wings (not six wings like the beings of Revelation 4), and their wings were adjoined to one another’s wings. These creatures also had “wheels”

(Ezekiel 1:15-16) with the appearance of a “wheel within a wheel” (a gyroscopic appearance to our perception). They also had “rings” which were “high and dreadful” in appearance. One can only imagine what that part of their bodies looked like! Ezekiel 10:8 adds that their wings had hands embedded within the wings, and Ezekiel 1:7 states they had feet like calves’ feet (hooves). They could move with lightning-like speed and there is an implication in verse 12-14 they moved “straight” in any direction suddenly (at right angles). This sounds very much like the movement behaviors of some modern UFOs.

Are you so free of racism and prejudices toward all other races that you are ready to interact with the unearthly-looking heavenly creatures described above? The Bible gives us only a bare glimpse into the appearance of heavenly beings. Who knows what other kinds of spirit beings God has created?

If you could travel in a vision and see all the kinds of beings that God has created in the heavenly world and then return to normal earth, I think you would scarcely notice the minor differences that the races of mankind now have. I think you’d see a member of any modern human race and say, “It is so good to see someone who is just like me!