



Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story: Taken Treasure

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying the similarities between selected passages from the Book of Daniel with certain aspects of Black History, we will discover the transformational influence we can have in the world today.

Carried Away

Daniel 1:1-7 (NRSV)

Lesson Aim: To highlight how the sovereign hand of God leads and guides God's people – even through traumatic transitions.

The Story Behind Daniel's Story

- Egypt captured Judah during the reign of King Rehoboam, Solomon's son (circa 931-913 BCE)
- Babylon became an international super-power with political & cultural dominance (625-562 BCE)
- In 612 BCE, Babylon overthrew the Egyptian occupation of Palestine (2 Kings 23:34 & 35)
- In 605 BCE, Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakim, king of Judah, a Babylonian vassal (2 Kings 24:1)
- In 597 BCE, King Jehoiachin (son of Jehoiakim) and some of Judah's upper class (including Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) were carried away to Babylon (2 Chronicles 36:9 & 10)

From Egyptian Occupation to Babylonian Exile



vv 1 - 2a "In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² The Lord gave King Jehoiakim of Judah into his power,"
(605 BCE)

vv 2b - 6 "as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he... placed in the treasury of his gods. ³ Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility... ⁶ Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah."
(597 BCE)

Carried Away

Daniel 1:1-7 NRSV

African American History Parallels Daniel's Story

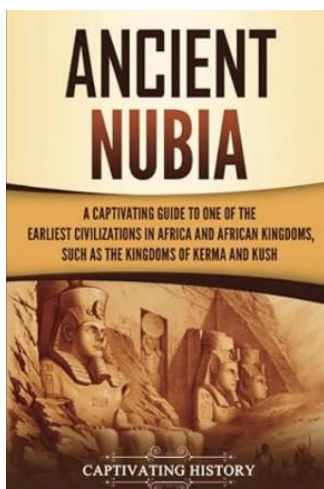
- World History: Great Britain was an international super-power with political and cultural dominance when the trans-Atlantic slave trade began in 1562. By the 1730s, the triangular trade route from Europe to Africa, to the Americas and back had become so lucrative that Great Britain was the world's largest slave-trading nation.¹ African people were the world's largest export.
- American History: In 1526, Spanish explorers brought 100 enslaved Africans to a North American territory that is now South Carolina and Georgia. They revolted and escaped.² Their story is not as widely publicized as that of the 1619 arrival of two English slave trading ships – White Lion and Treasure – to Point Comfort, VA.³
- Black History: Long before Great Britain became a super-power, Africa was the "cradle of humankind/civilization." Not only have the oldest human fossils been found there, but Egyptian civilization dates back to 3,100 BCE.

The Kushite Empire
Founded 1070 BCE in current
Northern Sudan/Southern Egypt



Original & Reconstructed Nubian Pyramids
Photo by Frabrizio Demaritis
(CC BY-NC-SA 20)

Transatlantic Slave Trade Route
The English Slave Ship
Treasure Took This Route



¹ The Transatlantic Slave Trade

UK <https://heritagecollections.parliament.uk/stories/the-transatlantic-slave-trade/#:~:text=British%20involvement%20in%20the%20transatlantic,to%20Europe%20was%20highly%20lucrative>
US <https://slaveryandremembrance.org/articles/article/?id=A0002>

² Before 1619, there was 1526: The mystery of the first enslaved Africans in what became the United States <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2019/09/07/before-there-was-mystery-first-enslaved-africans-what-became-us/>

³ The 1619 Project and the Long Battle Over US History <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/09/magazine/1619-project-us-history.html?auth=login-google1tap&login=google1tap> The 1619 Project Education Materials <https://1619education.org/>