

Igbo Torah Thoughts

Parashah # 13: Shemot “Names”

Shemot / Exodus 1:1-6:1

Rabbi Yehudah “Tochukwu” ben Shomeyr

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months... And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water. Exd. 2:1, 2, 10

Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. – Gen. 49:5-7

And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant. They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands; smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again. – Deut. 33:8-11

Knowing that the Tribe of Levi has been dispersed and scattered amongst all the 12 tribes during the Babylonian and Assyrian Captivities one may wonder, “Are there Levites amongst the Igbos or Gad?” That is a very good and valid question; one we can only speculate on because if Gad did leave prior to the Exodus of Moses, the Levites may not have known or operated in their priestly capacity prior to Adonai’s revelation to them at Sinai, therefore a portion of Levi may not have left with Gad’s son Eri, his brothers and their other companions. If Eri and

the others left after the Exodus of Moses it is likely some from Levi did go with them. Either way it is speculated that some of Levi did travel with Gad's sons because there is a priestly cast among the Igbo that preformed sacrifices and ministered among the people. But this question will remain unresolved until officials come and test for the Cohen Gene in the DNA of the priestly caste of the Igbo. To date I am unaware of any test such as this being performed. But it wouldn't surprise me at all if the Cohen Gene is found among the Igbos.

Levites not having an inheritance in the Land (Num. 18:21, Deut. 10:8, 18:1, Josh. 13:14, 33) was a Tribe without home except in the Tabernacle/Temple. Thus Levi lived amidst every Tribe of Israel and we see were coveted as personal and household priests (Judges 17). So it is entirely possible for Levites to have traveled with Eri or other Gadites during other Gadite and Israelite migrations throughout history to be found in Nigeria among the Igbo. Perhaps some felt their journey would be blessed if they have a son of Levi with them.

The Nri Priesthood functions in much the same way as the Levitical Priesthood but it is questionable whether the Nri are Levites, seeing as the Nri come from Eri's son (a Gadite) Menri, that is unless his mother was a Levite, but then again this would not show up in a DNA test because the Cohen Gene is passed down by the father. Perhaps it was Levites that Instructed Mneri and the Nri clan in the Levitical ways. Regardless of Nri being Gadites or Levites, for them to function as Levites it would not surprise me to find Levitical blood somewhere among the Igbo.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and

watered the flock. And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. Exd. 2:16-20

Moses married a black women and he himself must have been quite dark for we all know how he was raised by Pharaoh's daughter and when he had to flee Egypt for his life Jasher says (Ch. 71-76) that Moses first flees to Cush, a land of black people, and becomes commander of an army, obviously under the guise of passing himself off to be a dark Egyptian, because when he leaves Cush and meets Zipporah he is taken by her to be an Egyptian, not by way he dressed, but by the way he looked; his complexion.

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land. – Exd. 2:15-22

And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. – Exd. 2:19

Also, with leprosy being white (Num. 12:1, 9-10, Deut. 18:18) Moses had to be dark for leprosy to show up so noticeably and dramatically upon his hand as one of the miraculous signs he was to use to convince the Children of Israel of his mission.

And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. – Exd. 4:6-7

When Moses sister Miriam spoke against Moses' decision to take on a second wife by marry an Ethiopian (black) women, she didn't protest due to the color of his new wife's skin, but against Moses taking on a second wife seemed to her to smack with pride. Due to her unfounded criticism the LORD struck Moses' sister Miriam (who was a black like her brother) with white leprosy.

And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. – Exd. 12:1-10

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. Isa. 28:9-10

How do we know Ndi Igbo is from the Children of Israel? Is it from the Oral Traditions of the Igbo Elders? Is it the onyx stone with Gad's name on it that was found in Igboland? Is it because the Nri Priests are a lot like the Levites? Is it

because much of the Igbo language has Hebrew in it? Is it because Omenana is uncannily a replica of the Mosaic Law? Is it because the Eze of Aguleri had Gad's sons name "Eri" within his own? It is not a single one of these things alone but each one and more together compounded upon one another.

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

It is the culmination of all these evidences that form a solid foundation where Ndi Igbo can confidently proclaim they are Hebrews, sons and daughters of Israel and of Gad!

SHABBAT SHALOM! IGBO KWENU!

Rabbi Yehudah "Tochukwu" ben Shomeyr

Igbo Torah Thoughts

Parashah # 14: Va'era: "He Appeared"

Shemot/Exodus 6:2-9:35

Rabbi Yehudah "Tochukwu" ben Shomeyr

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name YAHWEH was I not known to them. Exd. 6:3

Similarity between the Igbo word YAHME (meaning LET IT BE or LET IT HAPPEN) and the Hebrew word YHWH (Yahweh). The components of YHWH are Y, meaning roughly "he", and the consonantal root HWH, which is connected with acts of creation. There appear to be two main lines of reasoning to explain the origin of the name. The first suggests that it is the shortened form of a sentence used in worship, "he causes to be" or "he creates", from el dū yahwī šaba'ôt, "El who creates the hosts", meaning the heavenly army accompanying the god El as he marched out beside the earthly armies of Israel.

YAHUWA in Igbo language means LET HIM SEE OR LET HIM BE SEEING

YAHUWAH means "The Self-sufficient One" or "The Eternal

YAHU CHANA in Igbo languages means LET HIM NOT SEE ALL.

Yahuchana/John 17:11-12

Yeshua prayed, "And I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Set-apart Father, keep them in Your Name which You have given Me, so that they might be one, as We are. When I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your Name which You have given Me, and I watched over them, and not one of them perish except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be completed."

John 5:43: I have come in My Father's Name and you do not receive Me, if another comes in his own name, him you would receive. Salvation comes only by the Name of YAHUWEH

And these are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations; Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari: and the years of the life of Levi were an hundred thirty and seven years. Exd. 6:16

Knowing that the Tribe of Levi has been dispersed and scattered amongst all the 12 tribes during the Babylonian and Assyrian Captivities one may wonder, "Are

there Levites amongst the Igbos or Gad?" That is a very good and valid question; one we can only speculate on because if Gad did leave prior to the Exodus of Moses, the Levites may not have known or operated in their priestly capacity prior to Adonai's revelation to them at Sinai, therefore a portion of Levi may not have left with Gad's son Eri, his brothers and their other companions. If Eri and the others left after the Exodus of Moses it is likely some from Levi did go with them. Either way it is speculated that some of Levi did travel with Gad's sons because there is a priestly cast among the Igbo that preformed sacrifices and ministered among the people. But this question will remain unresolved until officials come and test for the Cohen Gene in the DNA of the priestly caste of the Igbo. To date I am unaware of any test such as this being performed. But it wouldn't surprise me at all if the Cohen Gene is found among the Igbos.

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And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me. Exd. 8:1

I wish to compare Moses the leader of the Israelites in the Wilderness and General Emeka Ojukwu, the Biafran leader. The parallels are most striking.

Moses

- Egyptian Royal Prince
- Killed and Egyptian - Defended Igbo woman's honor at King's College
- Royal Education
- Refused Royalty
- Consulting Pharaoh
- Exodus/Nation
- First Leader of the Nation of Israel
- Was a Law Giver
- Was a General
- Exiled prior to the Exodus
- Died outside of Promised Land
- Had 2 Wives
- Failed Meetings with Pharaoh

Ojukwu

- Nigerian Royalty/Prince
- Royal Education Oxford
- Went into Civil Service
- Aburi Summit
- Declaration of Biafra
- First and only leader of Biafra
- Was a Law Giver
- Was a General
- Exiled after the War
- Died outside of Igboland (Biafra)
- Had 3 Wives
- Ojukwu and Gowon's failed talks

I would also like to compare other events regarding Israel and the Igbo.

- The first and second coup of the Biafran war is comparable to pogroms suffered by Jews in the Diaspora.
- As mentioned before the Biafra war is in many ways like WWII and the Nazi regime against the Jews.

- 1 million Igbos were murdered in the Biafra war and 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust.
- The Israelites had the Promised Land of Canaan and Biafra was like the Igbo's Promised Land.

It is a curious and interesting thing to acknowledge that the arms used by Biafra were supplied by Israel from arms confiscated from Israel's enemies during the 1967 Israeli 6 Day War.

Also the following African countries that recognized and supported Biafra has/had a Jewish population as well as African peoples who believed they were Hebrews from the Lost Tribes. These countries were: Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Gabon and Zambia.

Countries of the world to recognize and support and or gave aide to Biafra are countries believed to contain Lost Israeli Tribes, some of which were believed to be of Gad: Scandinavia (Gad, Asher, Dan, Benjamin) West Germany (Gad), Israel (Judah, Levi), France (Reuben, Gad), Switzerland (Gad, Issachar), Haiti (Gad).

One must also keep in mind that Igbos have been blamed by their enemies for socio-political and social-economic problems, as well as things such as plagues and natural disasters in much the same way the Jews in Europe and Russia were during the black and bubonic plague, the pogroms and blood libels. They are villanized by the people of the surrounding nations and tribes and their religion and culture.

Thus saith the Lord God; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen,

then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob. And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God. Ezk. 28:25-16

When Messiah returns, as He is returning for His whole Bride, not a partial and incomplete Bride, He will gather in all the Lost Tribes of Israel including the Gadites and various other tribes of Israel that are among the Igbo. The secular state and religious establishment of Modern Day Israel will be powerless to deny Ndi Igbo their rightful place within the Land and among the People!

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