

Parallel Histories

Culturally it also must be noted the parallel histories of the Jews and Igbos/Hebrews of Nigeria how they have been scattered worldwide and where ever they go they are considered strangers and are persecuted by the indigenous peoples they find themselves around.

We have already discussed a great length how the Babylonian and Assyrian Captivities mirror the slave trade of the Igbos and how this fulfills Deuteronomy 28, but to recap; Israel was taken into slavery by Egypt and the Igbos one of the first of the African peoples to be taken into slavery by the white men of the west. An old slave trading advertisement read, "To be sold.... Fine Heeboes." There were some Igbo slaves so tenacious and uncontrollable that they were put onto separate boats to Haiti and Jamaica to be exiled. Haiti still has a proverb that says, "The Igbo has hung Himself," meaning one would rather die than to be forced into doing something. They have the folklore song called "Ibu Lele." And anything of value is referred to as, "Ibu." They have a place called Ibo Beach. In Jamaica they have a place called Ibu Town. Ebo Landing is located in St. Simons Georgia (1850's) is known for a slave ship landing on its shores and the Igbo slaves refused to disembark, but rather fell overboard in their chains and drown. They would rather die than to be slaves. They believed their souls would fly back to Igboland to rest. Some accounts say they actually made it to shore and conspired a suicide pact and ran into the water and drown. Why would they do this? Maybe because they knew of the slavery of their ancestors in Egypt and refused to allow history to repeat itself? And is this not reminiscent of the Jews who committed suicide at the wilderness fortress of Masada rather than be conquered by the Romans?

Also it is necessary for me to bring to the readers attention how Israelite Judaism after the Babylonian Captivity became Rabbinic Judaism we know today and how

this is very much like how Igbo culture transitioned from the way it was before the white man came and what it turned into after the Colonials left.

Jews underwent the infamous persecution of the Jews during the many pogroms and holocaust of World War II. Igbo underwent a type of holocaust during the Nigerian Biafran War (6th of July 1967–15th of January 1970) where many Igbos were slaughtered by the surrounding peoples of Nigeria.

The Igbos history uncannily parallels much of Jewish history in so many ways. Coincidence? I don't think so.

In Nigeria's North, the Islamic Extremists dwell and are usually made up of the Hausa tribe. They habitually use terrorist tactics, mostly aimed at Igbo Christian and Jews and send suicide bombers to anywhere a mass of Igbo can be found. This creates a fury of anger and desire for retaliation from MASSOB (The Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra). This is just a mirror image of the tension in Israel between Zionist Jews and Palestinians, this is just one more way Igbos are like Jews.

The late, great General Emeka Ojukwu himself compared the Biafrans (Igbos), to Israelites. "The Israelites are hardworking people. So are we. They suffered from pogroms. So have we. In many ways, we share the same promises and the same problems."

At this time 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 an 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.

I am sure we can compare other finer points of History; that is likely another book in and of itself, but these big main events solidifies a shared parallel history of Israel and the Igbo.

