

Black Hebrew Israelite doctrine is based on misuse of Scripture.

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Jacob's Trouble (Jer 30:7)?

Are black people currently in the period of captivity referred to in Scripture as Jacob's trouble (Jer 30:7)? Black Hebrew Israelites say, "yes." The truth is, no, because:

- Jeremiah 52:28-30 lists the number of Israelites taken captive into Babylon over a sixteen year period. This proves the captivity already occurred.
- Jeremiah 30:3 says God would cause them to be returned from captivity to their homeland and 29:10 says the captivity was one where they would return to their homeland from Babylon after seventy years. Ezra 1-2 says that release from captivity in Babylon back to their homeland already occurred.

Clearly the captivity referred to as Jacob's Trouble in Jeremiah 30 is a captivity into Babylon (29:10, 52:28-30) which was occurring at the time Jeremiah was written (about 2600 years ago) not a captivity of black people in the late twentieth century more than 2000 years after Jeremiah was written. Also, the captivity of black people in modern history was not for only seventy years nor was it a captivity into a place called Babylon. Jeremiah gives details of the captivity (only seventy years long, in Babylon, already occurring whilst Jeremiah was being written) so there can be no speculation about what captivity Jeremiah was referring to. Jacob's trouble ended more than 2500 years ago.

Prophesied destruction of Edom?

Black Hebrew Israelites believe white people are the Edomites of the Bible. There were various prophecies given in the Bible (approximately 400-600BC) saying Edom would be made desolate because of their transgressions against Israel. The Black Hebrew Israelites believe this prophecy refers to:

- A future transgression of Edomites (supposedly white-skinned people mistreating brown-skinned people 2300-2600 years after the prophecy was given), and
- A destruction of white people (modern white people are supposedly Edomites) which has not yet occurred.

The truth is:

- All of the passages which mention the transgression of Edom refer to it in the past tense indicating their transgression was, at the time the prophecy was given (about 600BC), a past event. So the transgression of the Edomites against the Israelites had already occurred prior to the prophecy being given (that is why it was given).
- The prophecies against Edom mention their ancient cities by name (Teman, Bozra, Mount Seir), identify Edomites as 'you who dwell in the clefts of the rock' and mention that their transgression was a helping of Babylon plunder Israel which had already occurred.

The transgression of the Edomites was that they sided with Babylon against Israel (when Babylon was sent by God to attack Israel taking them into captivity, approximately 586BC).

- Psalm 137:7 mentions Edom saying that God should remember to punish them for their treatment of Jerusalem with the author captive in Babylon (1-3) complaining that Edom had been a 'daughter of Babylon' (8). It means Edom had helped Babylon plunder Jerusalem, saying "Raze it, Raze it" (7). *Raze* means *destroy*.
- Obadiah mentions the wrath was coming upon Edom because they 'were as one of' the 'strangers' or 'foreigners' (Babylonians) who 'carried captive' the Israelites (Ob 10-11), the Edomites 'rejoiced' 'in the day of their captivity' and 'the day of their destruction' (12), they

‘entered the gate’ of the Israelites ‘in the day of their calamity’ (13) ‘to cut off those among them who escaped’ and they ‘delivered up those among them who remained’ (14).

We see that Edom was guilty of siding with Babylon helping them take the Israelites captive but the Edomites were not the ones taking the Israelites captive. But the Black Hebrew Israelites say God is going to take Edomites into captivity because Edomites took Israelites into captivity. No record of Edomites taking Israelites captive exists except to say that they helped the Babylonians.

The prophesied destruction of Edom mentions their cities:

- Jeremiah 49 mentions that God would destroy Bozrah (13, 22), coming from ‘the floodplains of the Jordan’ (19), he would ‘make desolate the inhabitants of Teman’ (20, 7, see also Ob 9), referring to them as those ‘who dwell in the clefts of the rock’ (16, see also Ob 3).
- Ezekiel 35 mentions that Mount Sier (part of Edom, Gen 32:3, Deut 2:12) shall be made desolate as well as all of Edom (15) because after Israel had been made desolate (from the Babylonians) the Edomites said ‘against the mountains of Israel’, “They are desolate; they are given to us to consume” (12). God then said, “The whole earth will rejoice when I make you desolate (14). As you rejoiced because the inheritance of the house of Israel was desolate, so I will do to you; you shall be desolate, O Mount Seir, as well as all of Edom—all of it! Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD” (15).

Modern white people are not known for dwelling in Bozrah or Teman, nor are they known as being ones who dwell in the clefts of the rock, nor are they the ones who said, “They are desolate, they are given to us to consume.” But the Edomites of that era (500-600BC) were known as such, so clearly the prophesy is against them and not against white people in the modern era as Black Hebrew Israelites claim.

Conclusion: The Black Hebrew Israelite doctrine is based on misuse of Scripture, mainly Old Testament prophesy which is already fulfilled. The Devil has fooled them into despising innocent white people and into thinking God likes black people regardless of how they treat white people. They have embraced a victim status for themselves and a guilty verdict for many innocent people and now preach as an unrepentant hate-group spouting foolish misuse of Scripture threatening white people with their fictional god’s unjustified wrath. But God will forgive any of them who turn to Jesus Christ in humility and repentance.