



The Origin of the Races and the Pizza Lady

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During a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, I had an interesting conversation with the owner of the pizza place where I had lunch. She noticed my accent and asked where I originated from. For some (obvious) reason, she wouldn't accept Daytona Beach as my final answer and once I uttered the word 'Egypt' she went on to tell me how fascinated she was with the ancient Egyptian civilization and monuments. I smiled and told her that my great grandfather probably built the middle pyramid.

"You wish", she replied.

"What do you mean? I'm from Egypt, I'm a descendant of the Pharaohs" I said.

"No, Arabs are different from the Pharaohs and only a 'Coptic' person can claim to be related to the Pharaohs," she answered me.

I commended her anthropological knowledge assuring her that I was indeed a Coptic Egyptian. I paid for my pizza and went on my way.

The pizza lady was definitely correct, for the Egyptians are the descendants of Mizraim, the son of Ham, while the Arabs are the descendants of Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah, the sons of Cush the son of Ham. Cush had another son, Seba, who is the father of the Ethiopians. In the Holy Book of Amos 9: 7 we read about the Palestinians coming from Caphtor who is another son of Mizraim. Thus, they are the closest Arab relatives to the Egyptians. It is interesting to learn about the origin of the different human races. For example, the Europeans are the descendants of the sons of Japheth, and Shem is the progenitor of the Semitic race.

All the different races have Noah as a common father. Therefore, St. Paul said that God "has made from one blood every nation of men" (Acts 17: 26), and although they were scattered over the face of all the earth (Gen. 11: 8), our Lord Jesus Christ sent His apostles into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16: 15). The Holy Spirit supported them with the gift of speaking different tongues



Moses

in order to overcome the language barrier (Acts 2: 8). David said about the apostles, "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world" (Ps. 19: 4).

In Acts 8 we read about the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch who is from the descendants of Seba, the son of Cush, the son of **Ham**. In Acts 9 we read about the conversion of Saul who is from the descendants of Eber, the son of **Shem**. And finally in Acts 10 we read about the conversion of Cornelius who is from the descendants of **Japheth**. St. Paul summarized the Christian concept of race when he said that in Christianity "there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all" (Colossians 3: 11). It is no surprise then to read in the book of Revelation about a great multitude of people of all nations, tribes, people and tongues, standing before the throne of God with white robes and palm branches in their hands (Rev. 7: 9).

The Old Testament is full of prophecies and symbolism about the union of all races in the Lord Jesus Christ. For example the marriage between Moses, a descendant of Shem, and the Ethiopian woman, a descendant of Ham (Numbers 12: 1) represents the union between the Lord Jesus Christ, who came from Shem (Lk. 3: 36) and the believers, from the Gentiles. The prophecy of Noah about Japheth dwelling in the tents of Shem (Gen. 9: 27) was fulfilled when the Gentiles were added to the Church (Acts 11: 18). And the prophecy of Isaiah about a 'highway' from Egypt to Assyria and Israel being one of three with Egypt and Assyria (Is. 19: 23, 24) was fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ came as the 'way' (Jn. 14: 6) where these nations meet to enjoy spiritual unity and ample blessings. Even the sons of Canaan who were cursed by Noah (Gen. 9: 25) have hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, for He healed the daughter of the woman of Canaan (Matt. 7: 22).

Indeed we believe in a Catholic (Universal) Church that transcends language, culture, and ethnicity. A Universal Church that offers salvation to all races through faith and sacraments gathering them into one flock that follows the same shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever, Amen.