

Scripture passages that shed light on our discussions
regarding Race, Religion and Reconciliation.
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Genesis 9:25

This passage has been used by Christian churches to give theological legitimization to the notion of black subservience to white supremacy. In the centuries of chattel slavery in the U.S.A. it was one of the most frequently used passages to justify slavery.

Problem: There is an assumption that Noah was white and that Canaan, his grandson, was black. It is also assumed, that this was a divine curse on the black race for Noah's nakedness being exposed. This passage has also been used to legitimize the subservience of the Arabs and Palestinians to Zionist Israel in our time.

Acts 6: 1-8

This passage does not deal with racism per se, but with ethnic discrimination in the Church. Ethnic discrimination has the same dynamics of racial discrimination, i.e. relegating a certain group of people to secondary status.

The Gentile widows of the Church were not being taken care of as well as the Hebrew widows of the Church.

Acts 10: 1-48

In this passage, it is very clear that the Apostle Peter, a leader in the early Church, though chosen by Christ, still had some cultural "hang ups" about Gentile vs. Jew. It was obvious that he believed that Gentiles were "unclean."

It was clearly a case of Jewish ethnic supremacy and Jewish privilege

Romans 13: 1-14

This passage was used by the slave masters in the U.S.A. to legitimize subservience on the part of the slaves. It was also a favorite passage of the Dutch Reformed Church to justify apartheid in South Africa. In both cases, blacks were considered "inferior" to whites and therefore had to be in perpetual subservience to the white race. Ironically enough, in South Africa, it was the black majority subservient to the white minority.

Ephesians 6:5-9

This passage has been used to legitimize race-based slavery