

ZIPPORAH – Keturah

(Numbers 12:1-15) And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman he had married, for he had married a woman of Ethiopia [Hebrew = Kuyshiy, Cushite, or descendant of Cush, a son of Ham (Gen.10:6-8; I Chr.1:8-10; Isa. 11:11).

The word is translated Cush (II Sam. 18:21-32; Jer.36:14; Zeph.1:1) as well as Ethiopian (Num.12:1; II Chr.12:3; 14.9-13; 16:8; 21:16; Isa. 20:4; Jer. 13:23; 38:7-12; 39:16; 46:9; Ezek.30:9; Dan. 11:43; Amos 9:7; Zeph. 2:12).

Moses married a Midianite. a daughter of the priest of Midian (Exo. 2:15-25; 3:1; 4:18-26; 18:1-27; Num.10:29-36; Judg. 1:16; 4:11; I Sam. 15:6). The land of Midian in Arabia was the land of Cush as well as Ethiopia because one branch of Cush settled there in ancient times. Midian was a son of Abraham through Keturah whom Moses married after the death of Sarah (Gen.25:1-4).

Hence, Moses married a descendant of the son of Abraham and not, as some wrongly believe, a member of the Negro race. She was simply a Cushite because of dwelling in the land of Cush, in the same sense that a native born German or an Italian becomes an American because of citizenship and their dwelling in America. Just as being an American does not identify one as to color and race, so being a Cushite did not identify Zipporah as to these matters. Some affirm that she was a second wife of Moses, but we have no certain grounds for this supposition. Thus the jealousy of Aaron and Miriam was founded upon a prejudice far different than most perceive. It was seated in snobbery as well; Moses had married from the wrong branch of Abraham's lineage.