

## **Is God a Racist? (part two of a two part series)**

In our previous segment, we considered several texts from the New Testament, confirming the impartial, non-racist character of God. There have been some who have viewed God's choice of the Semites, physically descended from Abraham, as proof that God has racist tendencies. However, there is one event in the history of the nation of Israel which disproves that perspective. It is found in Numbers 12:1-15. In vv1-2, we read that Miriam and Aaron, speak out against the leadership of Moses and question his authority –

**“Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); and they said, ‘Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?’ And the Lord heard it.”**

What follows in vv4-12 consists of one of the most powerful defenses of Moses by God, anywhere in the Pentateuch. The end result is that Miriam is struck with leprosy, while Aaron is not; indicating a greater level of guilt on the part of Miriam, as the instigator of this attack upon Moses. Aaron pleads with Moses, who in turn pleads with God (vv11-13), for her healing.

There are some commentators who seek to diminish the racist undertones of Miriam and Aaron's accusation by claiming that a jealous sibling rivalry was the real cause of this drama. However, the Word of God states otherwise. The motivation was clearly racial. Moses married a Cushite woman. Whether this woman was Zipporah, or a second wife after her death, the bottom-line issue for Miriam and Aaron was that Moses' wife was a Cushite and not a Semite. The Cushites, in general, were darker skinned than the Semites, so this was clearly a racial slur designed to undermine the authority and leadership of Moses. With God coming to the defense of Moses in such an overwhelming manner, His intervention serves as proof positive, from the Old Covenant, that God is not a racist.

I will close this study with my favorite proof text in regard to the non-racist and impartial character of God. It is descriptive of the successful end result in the building of Christ's church, through the fulfillment of the Great Commission, recorded in Revelation 5:9 –

**“And they sang a new song saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’”**

If you don't think this racially inclusive redemptive accomplishment is awesome, and yet you call yourself a Christian, there is something wrong with you! REPENT.