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**Tuesday, August 19, 1997**

**Subject:** People of color in Bible history

**Dear Dr. Ryrie:** Why are there never any people of color talked about in Bible class or seen in pictures of Bible history? I find that if I am to win people of color to Christ, I need to know what to say when someone asks me this question. --Ron W.

**Dear Ron:** The descendants of Ham lived in Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, and perhaps also in southern Palestine. The Ethiopian eunuch who was converted as he returned home from Jerusalem lived in the Sudan (for that is where Candace ruled, Acts 8:27) which is, of course, in Africa. In the church at Antioch, mention is made of Simeon (his Jewish name) who was also called Niger (his Latin name), which probably indicates he was an African. Most of biblical history concerns the Jewish people in the Old Testament and inhabitants of the Roman empire in the New Testament and does not deal with Africans or Asians, for example. Our Lord was neither Caucasian nor African nor Asian but Jewish. Presumably his skin color would have been more olive.

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