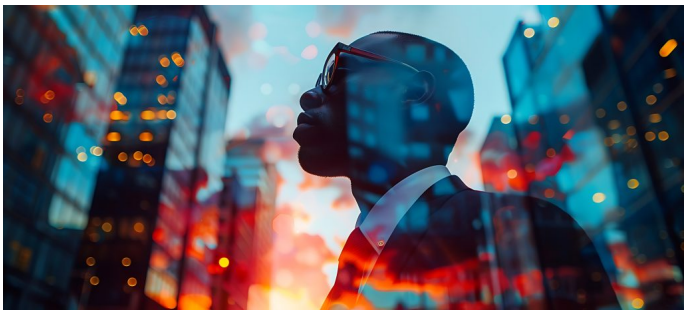


# Top 5 Black Jobs in the Bible

What *are* Black jobs?

So a presidential candidate got people talking about “Black jobs.” Are immigrants coming to take our Black jobs? What *are* Black jobs? Are they the same jobs a certain governor implied enslaved people should have been thankful for, because they taught them valuable skills? Since TheGrio compiled a list of Black jobs, why can’t *Message* add a few more?

Shouldn’t there be at least a few Black jobs in a Black Bible?



Here’s a few Black jobs we found in the Bible, which shouldn’t be surprising since much of the Bible’s events occur in and around, to and from Africa – beginning at the beginning. In Genesis 2:13, one of the four river-heads emanating from the Garden of Eden runs throughout

the land of Cush in the New International Version, which is also known as Ethiopia in the King James Version, and also known as Sudan in God’s Word.

So no, we didn’t need Transatlantic Slavery to teach us agriculture.

Got anymore of them Black jobs?

Before we begin our countdown, we invite you to add to the list on *Message*’s social media.

Here we go!

5) Musicians – Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ (Genesis 4:21, KJV).

As George C. Wolfe said, “God created Black people and Black people created style.”

Now, I haven’t met a “Jubal” yet, but who doesn’t know a brother named Jamaal, Jabari, or Jelani? Trust me, somewhere there’s a 21st century Jubal jamming “straight from yard,” “jamming in the name of the Lord,” and proving

that jamming isn't "a thing of the past." From the mood music performed by David for King Saul, to the blues sang by the Hebrews in Babylonian captivity, to the democratic improvisation of the multi-instrumental jazzy praiz-a-thon of Psalm 150, to the harpers harping on Mt. Zion in Revelation, *we are there*.

4) Cooks – In his latest book, Michael Harriot argues the culinary and cultural distinctions between soul food and Southern cuisine. The following story illustrates the power of soul food, which we might dub "stole food" for the occasion. Then again, ever heard the saying "fair exchange ain't no robbery"?

Anyway, if Jacob would've packaged that seasoning that enticed his brother to basically sell his soul, we never would've heard about Lawry's!

"Now Jacob cooked some stew, and... Esau said to Jacob, "Feed me some of the red stuff... because I'm starving!"

But Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

"Look," said Esau, "I'm about to die! What use is the birthright to me?"

But Jacob said, "Swear an oath to me now." So Esau swore an oath to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew (Gen. 25:29-34, NET).

3) Rope & Confined Space Rescue Specialists – Yes, RRS and CSRS are real certifications for real jobs. You may have seen these specialists in the movies or on the news, but they go way back to biblical times.

"An official in the royal palace, Ebed Melech from Sudan, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the cistern... So Ebed Melech took the men with him and went to the royal palace, to a room under the treasury. He took rags and torn clothes from there and lowered them with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern. Ebed Melech from Sudan said to Jeremiah, 'Put these rags and torn clothes under your arms to protect you from the ropes.' Jeremiah did. They used the ropes to pull Jeremiah up and lift him out of the cistern." (Jer. 38:7-13, GW).

2) Biblical authors – Isn't it amazing that Christianity has been maligned as a White man's religion when two of



the Bible's most influential writers were mistaken for Egyptians?

And isn't it interesting that speaking Greek didn't lead a soldier to mistake Paul for a Greek or Roman, but for an Egyptian? Moses was also mistaken for an Egyptian—by his future wife (Exodus 2:19). Although history is sometimes taught in a way that removes Egypt from Africa in our minds, Egypt is geographically in Africa.

What did ancient Egyptians look like?

Thanks for asking.

*The Encyclopedia Britannica* credits the ancient Greek Herodotus (484-420 BCE) with authoring "the first great narrative history produced in the ancient world." This renowned historian wrote, "The men of the country [referring to Libya, Ethiopia, and Egypt] are black because of the heat," and added that Egyptians "are dark-skinned and woolly-haired."

1) Cross-bearers – "As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene [a city in Libya], who was coming in from the country. They placed the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus" (Luke 23:36, NET).

The late James H. Cone argued in *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* that cross-bearing didn't end for Black people when Simon served as Christ's companion to Calvary. Crosses were Rome's lynching trees, part of the law and order that preserved their celebrated Pax Romana (Roman Peace). Although Jesus' atonement is unique, Roman lynching was quite ordinary. Since Roman citizens couldn't be crucified, this state sponsored terrorism was to keep non-citizens submissive – even if resentful.

Similar to how Isaiah 53:5 says our Savior was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of the empire's peace was upon the colonized as it sought to heal itself through their stripes.

Consider this as Christian Hip Hop artist Swoope builds on slam poet Crystal Valentine's rebuttal to a certain news reporter:

| If you don't see God in the folks put down

Then you should pull his book out, take a  
look now

Christ died in the blackest way possible  
With his hands up and his momma there  
watchin' him.