

Annunciation to Zechariah from Ethiopian Bible, 1700



The Picture Art Collection / Alamy Stock Photo

The Ethiopian Bible, a sacred Christian text, was written in Ge'ez script. This page shows a scene announcing the birth of an important figure in Christianity.

2. Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- A. Describe one way the image serves as evidence of Christianity in early African societies.
- B. Describe an effect religions from outside of West Africa had on West African societies prior to the seventeenth century.
- C. Explain one reason why syncretic spiritual practices developed in the African diaspora.

3. Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- A.** Describe one way the rights of free African Americans were limited prior to 1865.
- B.** Describe an example of a maroon society that contributed to Black and African American autonomy in the eighteenth and/or nineteenth centuries.
- C.** Using a specific example, explain how African Americans advocated for change in the first half of the twentieth century.

Question 2: Non-Text Source**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible, or discipline specific, content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical or disciplinary content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

A **Describe one way the image serves as evidence of Christianity in early African societies.** **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The image is from Africa in about 1700. It shows two people holding staffs that are each topped with a Christian cross.
- The two people appear to be in a Christian church or similar building in Africa that is topped with a cross.
- The painting depicts at least one African person with a halo, showing that Christianity is present in Africa.

B **Describe an effect religions from outside of West Africa had on West African societies prior to the seventeenth century.** **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Mansa Musa, the powerful Muslim ruler from Mali, made a pilgrimage to Mecca in the fourteenth century, which then attracted more merchants and scholars to Mali.
 - By converting to Islam, West African merchants gained favorable trade conditions with caravans coming from the Middle East.
 - The presence of Islam in Mali led to the flourishing of education and scholarship in Timbuktu and in other centers of learning.
 - When African leaders adopted Islam or Christianity, the result was often a blending of those faiths with Indigenous spiritual beliefs and religions.
 - After becoming a Christian kingdom, parents in Kongo began the practice of naming their children after Christian saints.
 - When the Kingdom of Kongo converted to Christianity, their trade relationship with Portugal was strengthened.
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C	Explain one reason why syncretic spiritual practices developed in the African diaspora.	1 point
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Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Many Africans blended their local spiritual practices with Christianity as it entered West Africa. These new syncretic faiths were blended further when they were brought to the Americas by enslaved Africans.
 - In West Africa, syncretic spiritual practices predate the African diaspora. These religious combinations were then spread to the Americas by enslaved people, where they continued to blend into new expressions of faith.
 - Roughly one-quarter of all enslaved people who arrived in North America were from Christian societies in Africa. Once in North America, people from those societies found themselves living together, often resulting in continued changes in spiritual practices.
 - In order to cope with the horrible treatment they endured, enslaved people sang spirituals during or after the work day. These spirituals combined Christian and West African spiritual traditions in song, creating new and diverse forms of religious expression.
 - As Afro-Caribbean immigration into the United States increased in the early twentieth century, so did the ethnic and religious diversity of the areas in which they settled. This resulted in the blending of many of those practices with each other and with religious beliefs that were already present where the immigrant communities were formed.
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