

# SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF AFRICAN METHODISM



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# AME BELIEF: 25 ARTICLES OF RELIGION



- 1. THE HOLY TRINITY
- 2. INCARNATE CHRIST
- 3. RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
- 4. THE HOLY GHOST
- 5. SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE FOR SALVATION
- 6. AUTHORITY OF THE HEBREW BIBLE
- 7. ORIGINAL SIN
- 8. FREE WILL
- 9. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

# AME BELIEF: 25 ARTICLES OF RELIGION (CONT.)



- 10. GOOD WORKS
- 11. WORKS OF SUPEREROGATION
- 12. SIN AFTER JUSTIFICATION
- 13. THE CHURCH
- 14. THE FICTION OF PURGATORY
- 15. WORSHIP IN AN UNDERSTANDABLE  
LANGUAGE
- 16. THE SACRAMENTS

# AME BELIEF: 25 ARTICLES OF RELIGION (CONT.)



- 17. BAPTISM
- 18. THE EUCHARIST
- 19. COMMUNION IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BELIEVERS
- 20. FINISHED WORK OF THE CROSS
- 21. MARRIAGE OF CLERGY
- 22. RITES AND CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH
- 23. LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES
- 24. CHRISTIANS SHARE THEIR GOODS WITH ALL
- 25. OATHS

# AME BELIEF: THE WESLEYAN FOUNDATION



- THE SALVIFIC PROCESS
- 1. SALVATION
- 2. SANCTIFICATION
- 3. PERFECTIONISM

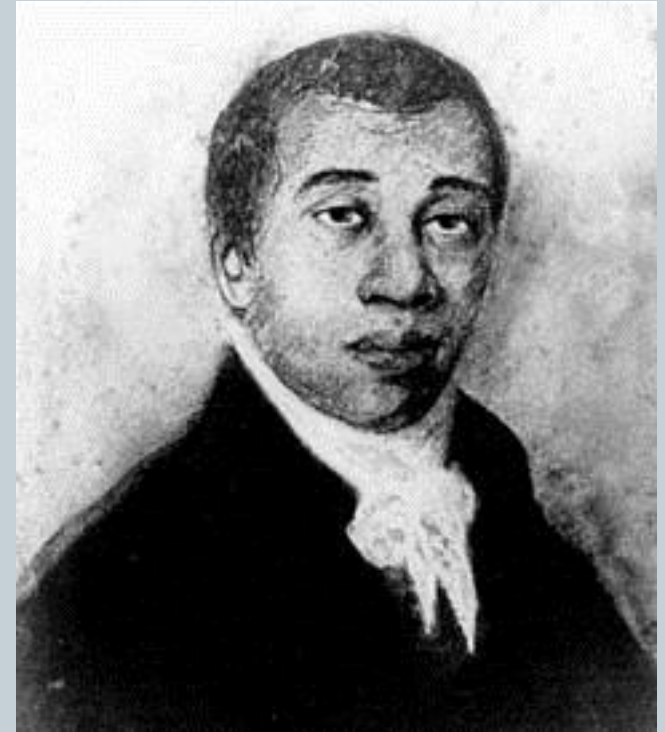


JOHN WESLEY

# ALLEN'S SALVIFIC EXPERIENCE: SCRIPTURE



- “AND, BEHOLD, THE ANGEL
- OF THE LORD CAME UPON
- HIM. AND A LIGHT SHINED
- IN THE PRISON: AND SMOTE
- PETER ON THE SIDE, AND
- RAISED HIM UP, SAYING,
- ARISE UP QUICKLY, AND HIS
- CHAINS FELL OFF FROM HIS
- HANDS.” ACTS 12:7 (KJV)



# ALLEN'S SALVIFIC EXPERIENCE: HYMNODY AND CAN IT BE (1738)



- LONG MY IMPRISONED SPIRIT
- LAY, FAST BOUND IN SIN AND
- NATURE'S NIGHT; THINE EYE
- DIFFUSED A QUICKENING RAY-
- I WOKE, THE DUNGEON FLAMED WITH
- LIGHT; MY CHAINS FELL OFF, MY HEART WAS
- FREE, I ROSE WENT FORTH, AND FOLLOWED  
THEE.”

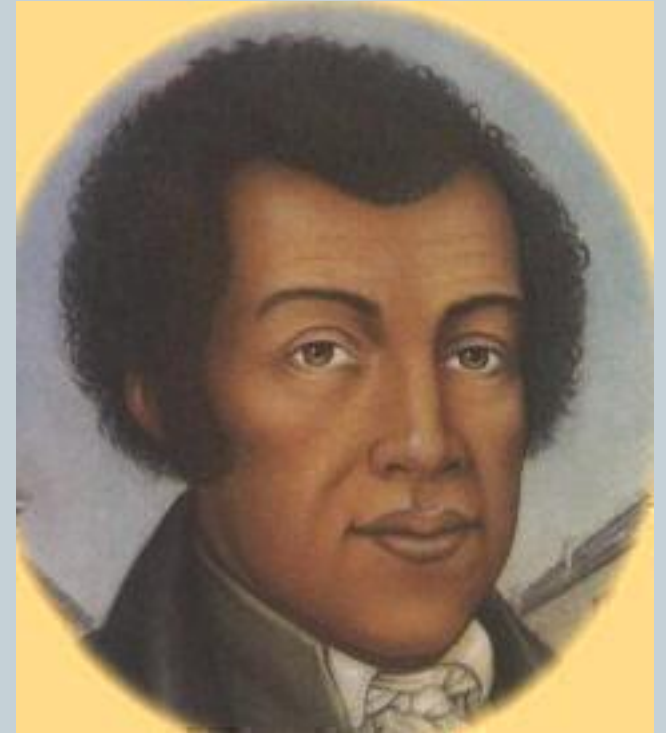


CHARLES WESLEY

# ALLEN'S SALVIFIC EXPERIENCE-TESTIMONY



- “MY CHAINS FELL OFF,  
MY HEART WAS FREE”  
English soldier (1743)
- “MY DUNGEON SHOOK...  
AND MY CHAINS FLEW OFF”  
Richard Allen (1777)





# JARENA LEE'S SALVIFIC EXPERIENCE



- “...the progress of the soul from a state of darkness, or of nature, was three-fold...as follows: First, conviction for sin. Second, justification from sin. Third, the entire sanctification of the soul of God. I thought this description was beautiful and (I) immediately believed in it”



# JARENA LEE'S SALVIFIC EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)



- “LORD SANCTIFY MY SOUL FOR CHRIST’S SAKE.’ THAT VERY INSTANT, AS IF LIGHTNING HAD DARTED THROUGH ME, I SPRANG TO MY FEET, AND CRIED, ‘THE LORD HAS SANCTIFIED MY SOUL!’”



# AME BELIEF: OUR THEOLOGY



- GOD OUR FATHER, CHRIST OUR REDEEMER, MAN OUR BROTHER (1856)
- GOD OUR FATHER, CHRIST OUR REDEEMER, THE HOLY GHOST
- OUR COMFORTER, MAN OUR
- BROTHER (1908 GENERAL CONFERENCE)



# AME BELIEF: OUR HISTORY

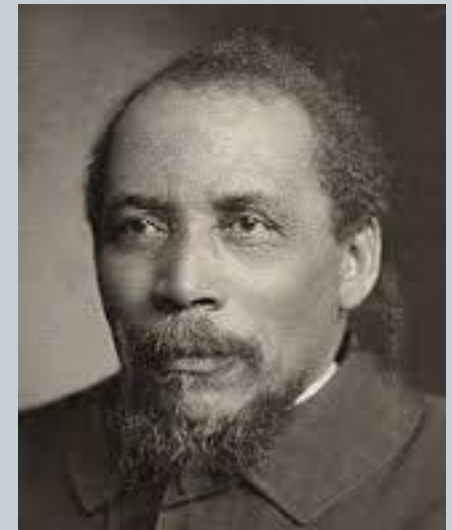


- “God prepared Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, so he lead Richard Allen, and established the AME Church. First-to demonstrate to the world the capacity of the Negro race variety for self-government and intellectual development. Second-to carry the Gospel to the emancipated Freedmen of the South. Third-to redeem Africa, our fatherland.”
- Walter Thompson, “The Missionary Work of the AME Church, as it Relates to Africa,” AME CHURCH REVIEW 20 (1) (1903), 58-59.

# AME BELIEF: “ETHIOPIAN MILLENNIALISM”



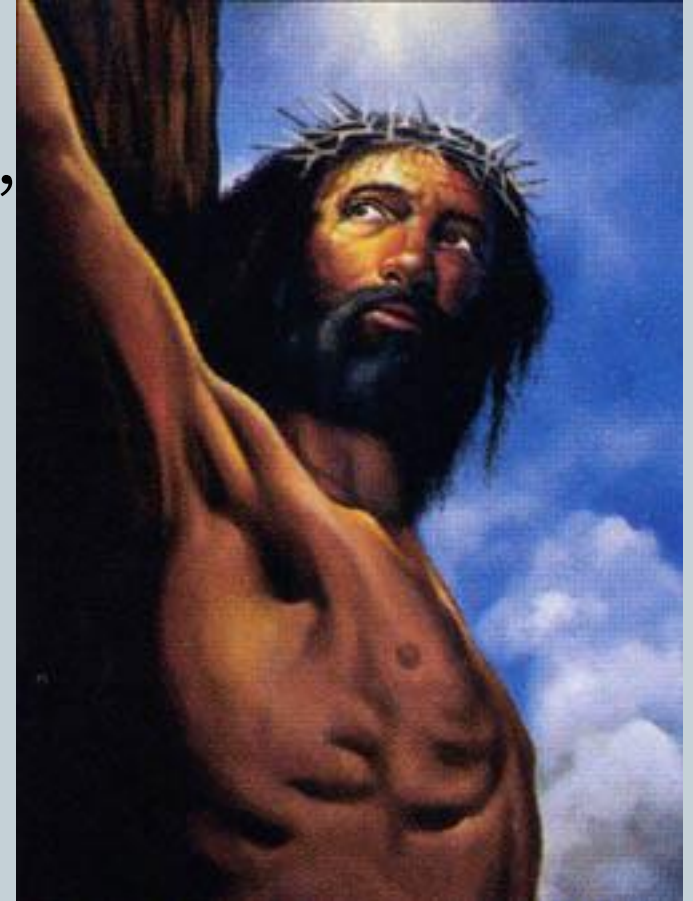
- 1. BENJAMIN ARNETT, “THE NEGRO AND CHRISTIANITY,” (1893)
- 2. BENJAMIN T. TANNER, THE COLOR OF SOLOMON-WHAT? (1895)
- 3. HENRY M. TURNER, “GOD IS A NEGRO,” (1898)



# THE GREAT COMMISSION



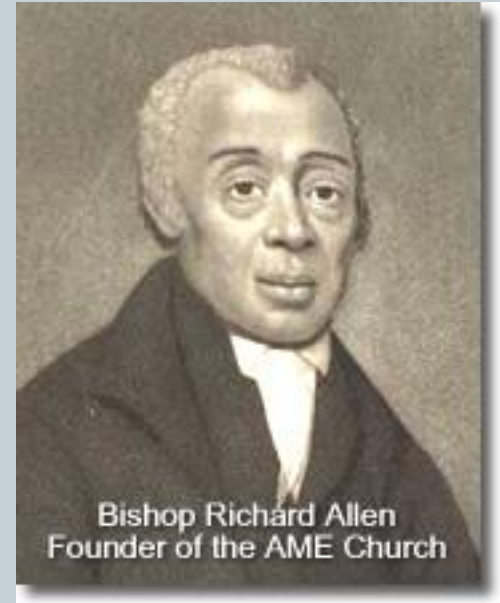
- “AND HE SAID UNTO THEM,
- GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD,
- AND PREACH THE GOSPEL
- TO EVERY CREATURE”
- MARK 16:15 (KJV)



# THE GREAT COMMISSION: RICHARD ALLEN



- YE MINISTERS THAT ARE
- CALLED IN PREACHING,
- TEACHERS AND EXHORTERS
- TOO. AWAKE! BEHOLD YOUR
- HARVEST WASTING. ARISE!
- THERE IS NO REST FOR YOU



# THE GREAT COMMISSION: JARENA LEE



- In 1835, I traveled 721 miles,
- And preached 692 sermons
- ...In 1836, I traveled 556 miles
- And preached 111 sermons. In
- Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore,
- and all the principal cities, from
- 100 to 1000 miles distant...I have
- Been instrumental in the hands of
- God...by raising societies where there
- never had been any...





# THE GREAT COMMISSION: THEOPHILUS G. STEWARD



- “I SEEK MY BRETHREN” GENESIS 37:10 (KJV)
- “We have come to seek those
- who are our brethren by virtue
- of race; not because we care
- anything for races or nations,
- but because they have been
- and are yet in a great measure
- our brethren in affliction. And
- that very affliction has served



On entering Conference, June  
1864

# THE GREAT COMMISSION: THEOPHILUS G. STEWARD (CONT.)

- to bind us together by the
- two-fold cord –sympathy,
- for the oppressed, and love
- of man.”
- “Yet earnestly do I seek you
- to tell of Jesus who was born
- in Bethlehem of Judea, lived
- a life of misery and discomfort,
- taken by wicked hands,



CHAPLAIN T. G. STEWARD

# THE GREAT COMMISSION: THEOPHILUS G. STEWARD (CONT.)

crucified on Calvary's top  
to purchase for all men,  
redemption from the  
consequences of sin;  
deliverance from the power  
thereof; a right to the joys of  
heaven, and actual indwelling  
peace with God while living in  
this world.”

SERMON: BEAUFORT, SC.  
JUNE 18, 1865



CHAPLAIN T. G. STEWARD

# THE GREAT COMMISSION: CHARLOTTE MANYE



- Manye's letter to
- her uncle, M.M.
- Mokone, founder
- of the Ethiopian
- Church in South Africa,
- moved him to unite with
- the AME Church in 1896.



# THE GREAT COMMISSION: AFRICAN METHODISM IN SOUTH AFRICA



# CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF RELATION TO JESUS



- TESTIMONY OF RICHARD
- ALLEN, A SLAVE
  
- “I obtained mercy through the
- blood of Christ. . .My soul was
- filled I cried, enough for me-
- the Saviour died.”
  
- Jesus came to save all, irrespective of
- race and with no recognition of one’s
- servile status.....
- 



# CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF RELATION TO JESUS



- TESTIMONY OF JARENA
- LEE, A BLACK WOMAN

“If a man may preach, because the

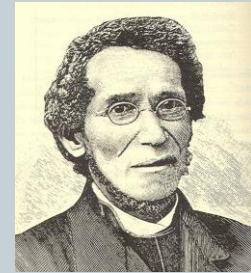
- Saviour died for him, why not the
- woman? seeing he died for her also.
- Is he not a whole Saviour, instead of a
- half one? as those who hold it wrong for
- a woman to preach, would seem to make it appear.”
- Preaching a whole Saviour, without reference to race and gender, was foundational in AME Christology



# CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF RELATION TO JESUS



- TESTIMONY OF DANIEL A.  
PAYNE
- “CHRIST OUR REDEEMER”
- A WHOLE CHRIST, AN INCLUSIVE CHRIST,
- A LIBERATIONIST CHRIST DECLARED
- AS A REBUKE TO HUMAN SUBJUGATION





# GROUNDED FAITH



- The Salvific Process, as described in Wesleyan theology, involves both spiritual/scriptural holiness (personal renewal) and social holiness (societal renewal).
- A. Spiritual/Scriptural holiness (personal renewal) activates in the believer the experience of salvation (deliverance from sin), sanctification (expelling from the believer the sin nature), and perfectionism (renewal that remakes the believer into the image of Christ). This is a Trinitarian transaction in which God whose grace and gift of Jesus Christ provides salvation and the Holy Ghost who takes away from the believer the sin nature and perfects the believer toward the image of Jesus Christ.

# GROUNDED FAITH



- THE SALVIFIC PROCESS (CONTINUED)
- B. Social holiness (societal renewal) draws from the divine overflow from the salvific process. The same renewal that occurs within the believer and releases him/her from personal sin is similarly sought for the unrighteous and unholy surroundings in which the believer resides. Just as personal sin is repugnant to the believer, so is social sin found in slavery, segregation, apartheid, economic inequality and exploitation, hunger, and human trafficking unacceptable to those who are saved, sanctified, and “groping” toward perfection.”

# GROUNDING FAITH



- ROSA PARKS EMBODIED
- SPIRITUAL/SCRIPTURAL
- HOLINESS SPILLING OVER
- INTO PURSUITS OF SOCIAL
- HOLINESS. THIS TRANSFER
- THIS STEWARDESS FROM
- ACTS OF SPIRITUAL/
- SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS INTO
- SOCIAL HOLINESS.



# GROUNDED FAITH



- INVITATION TO DISCUSS
- 1. Restore “sanctification” and “perfection” to the religious vocabulary of AMEs.
- 2. Restore the linkage between spiritual/scriptural holiness and social holiness to AME vocabulary. Also, stress the spiritual disciplines that undergird social holiness. These are pursued through the “means of grace” in such devotional venues as prayer, Bible study, participation in the sacraments, and acts of charity aimed at social reconstruction.
- 3. Revisit the AME creedal statement: God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family-define its meaning and direct it toward missional objectives.

# GROUNDED FAITH



- INVITATION TO DISCUSSION
- 4. Just as the General Conference of 2000 because of Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr. sacralized Sister Rosa Parks in the collect for the consecration of deaconesses, other sainted women should be added to the roster: Sister Flora Allen, known for her “piety, charity and other christian virtues” (see obituary) and Sister Sarah Allen, whose home was a station on the Underground Railroad where “the poor, flying slave, trembling and panting in his flight” found refuge.

# GROUNDED FAITH: SISTER FLORA ALLEN



# GROUNDED FAITH: FLORA ALLEN OBITUARY EXCERPT



she bore with duty Christian fortitude, and resigned her happy soul with calmness and composure into the hands of her BLESSED REDEEMER, in sure and certain hope of a glorious immortality. Her remains were next day deposited in Bethel church, attended by the Reverend Messieurs McComb, Sneeth, Cavender, Green and several other Clergymen of the Methodist persuasion, and followed by a very numerous and respectable concourse of citizens of every description, who, without discrimination of colour or profession joined in paying the last sad office of respect to the remains of one whose piety, charity, and other christian [*sic*] virtues, they revered while living, and deplore the loss by death.

We wish to remark, that Mrs. Allen was formerly a slave in Virginia, and her freedom procured by the Abolition Society of this city. Her prudent

conduct and christian [*sic*] virtues, are a clear proof that the coloured race are not destitute of talents, and only wants cultivation and the fostering and of generous

# GROUNDED FAITH: SISTER SARAH ALLEN





# GROUNDED FAITH



- INVITATION TO DISCUSSION
- 5. Posthumous ordination of Jarena Lee as an itinerant elder

