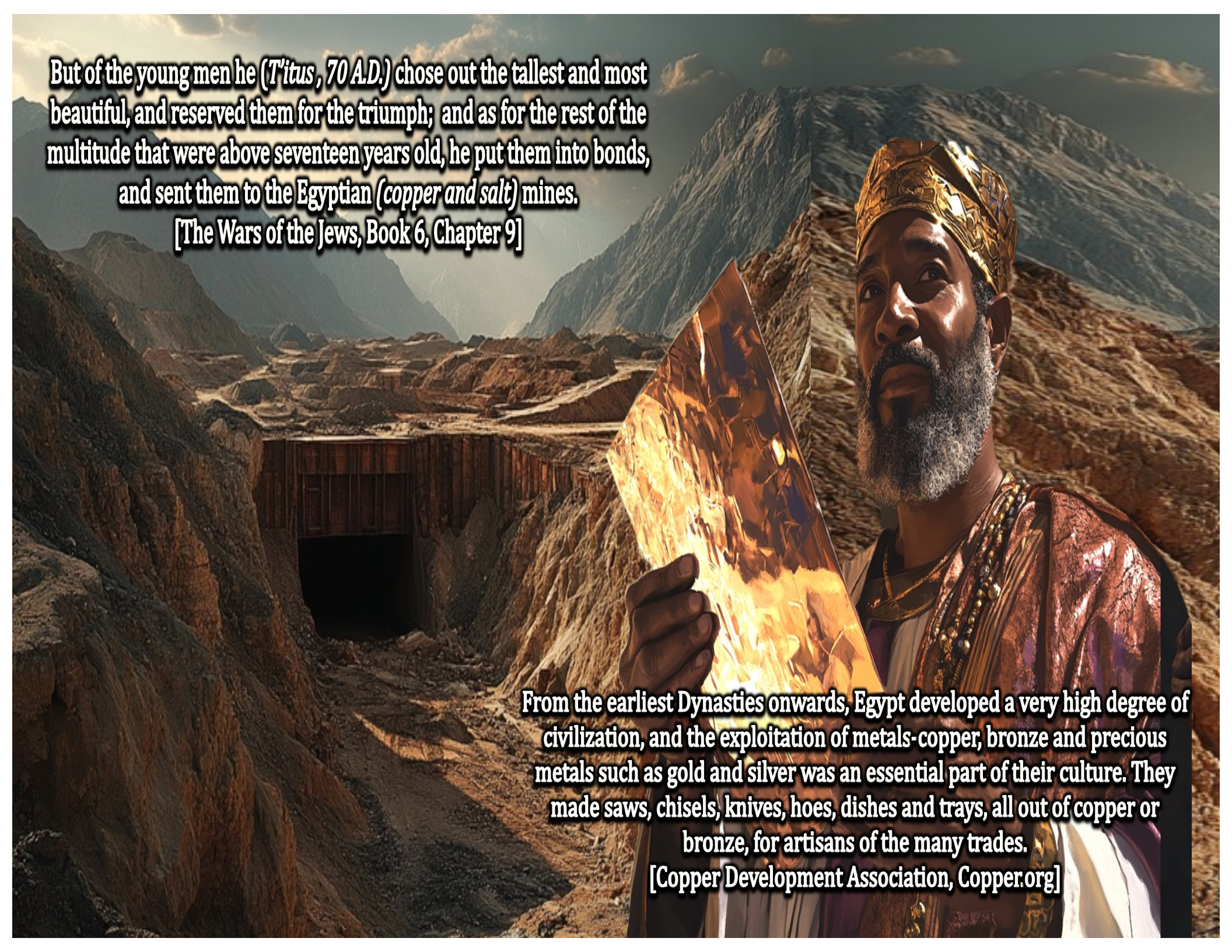


UNITED CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL

2025-26 HOLYDAY & YEARLY CALENDAR





But of the young men he (*T'itus*, 70 A.D.) chose out the tallest and most beautiful, and reserved them for the triumph; and as for the rest of the multitude that were above seventeen years old, he put them into bonds, and sent them to the Egyptian (*copper and salt*) mines.
[The Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapter 9]

From the earliest Dynasties onwards, Egypt developed a very high degree of civilization, and the exploitation of metals-copper, bronze and precious metals such as gold and silver was an essential part of their culture. They made saws, chisels, knives, hoes, dishes and trays, all out of copper or bronze, for artisans of the many trades.
[Copper Development Association, Copper.org]

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	New Year ● 29
30	31					

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By 700 AD, an Afro-Asiatic Bantu-speaking people (referred to as the Zanj) expanded from the Gold Coast of Africa and established a major trading hub along the Swahili coast (Zanzibar) in ivory, gold, copper, salt, iron, fish, pearls, myrrh, balsam, incense, perfume, and spices. Lasting over 100 years, this wealth would attract the Arabs, who would transport the Zanj back to Basra and Bahrain, Iraq as slaves (Indian Ocean Slave Trade) .

[The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History]

In the Zanj Slave Rebellion (869-883 AD) the Zanj were so determined and resourceful they were able to create a marooned state in Iraq for 15 years, during which time they devastated Iraq's economy and minted their own gold coin (which are now rare collectibles currently sold at auction).



APRIL 2025

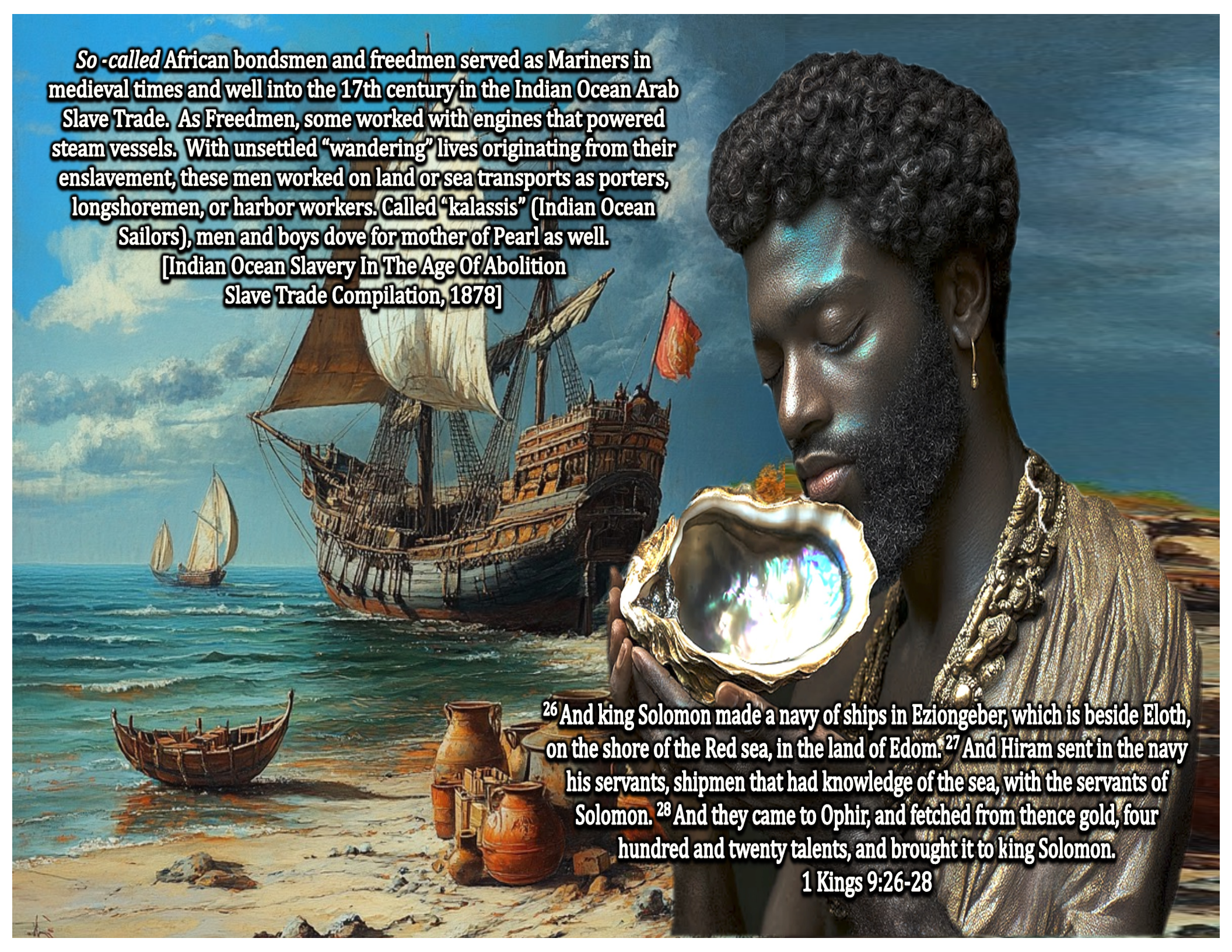
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	Passover (Feast) (High Sabbath)	11 Feast of Unleavened Bread #1 12
Feast of First Fruit (Sabbath) 13	14	15	16	17	Feast of Unleavened Bread #7 (High Sabbath)	18 19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
● 27	28	29	30			

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So-called African bondsmen and freedmen served as Mariners in medieval times and well into the 17th century in the Indian Ocean Arab Slave Trade. As Freedmen, some worked with engines that powered steam vessels. With unsettled "wandering" lives originating from their enslavement, these men worked on land or sea transports as porters, longshoremen, or harbor workers. Called "kalassis" (Indian Ocean Sailors), men and boys dove for mother of Pearl as well.

***[Indian Ocean Slavery In The Age Of Abolition
Slave Trade Compilation, 1878]***



²⁶ And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom. ²⁷ And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. ²⁸ And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.

1 Kings 9:26-28

MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	2nd Passover 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	● 27	28	29	30	31

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As early as the 6th century to the 11th century, Moorish Berber merchants routinely traded salt ounce for ounce for gold as middlemen in the Salt-Gold trade of the Indian Ocean. The Via Salaria was the salt trade route which led to Rome. A Roman soldier's salary was paid in salt which he often used to buy more slaves. This connected the Gold Coast of West Africa to the Egyptians and the so-called *Middle East* Arabs and their salt mines. This highly valued commodity was mined by black (Zanj) slaves.

[The Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapter 9;

The Salt Trade of Ancient West Africa (World History Encyclopedia)]

¹³ And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy Elohim to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.

Leviticus 2:13

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
-----	-----	------	-----	-------	-----	---------

1

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Feast of
Weeks
(Pentecost-
Sabbath))

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Trade with West African societies brokered by the Moorish-Berbers yielded exchanges of salt for gold and large numbers of slaves. Essential to the economy, the Zanj were enslaved and moved to Iraq where they drained salt marshes, cleaned salt flats, harvested salt, and mined for metals like gold and gold dust. Basra became the largest trading port in Iraq and a major international maritime trading port. By the ninth century, many of the Zanj served in the Caliphate military.

[The Revolt of African Slaves in Iraq in the 3rd/9th Century. The Arabs, Islam, and the Arab Caliphate in the Early Middle Ages].

¹⁵ And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword...¹⁶ Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss...¹⁷ And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these were men of war. Judges 20:15-17

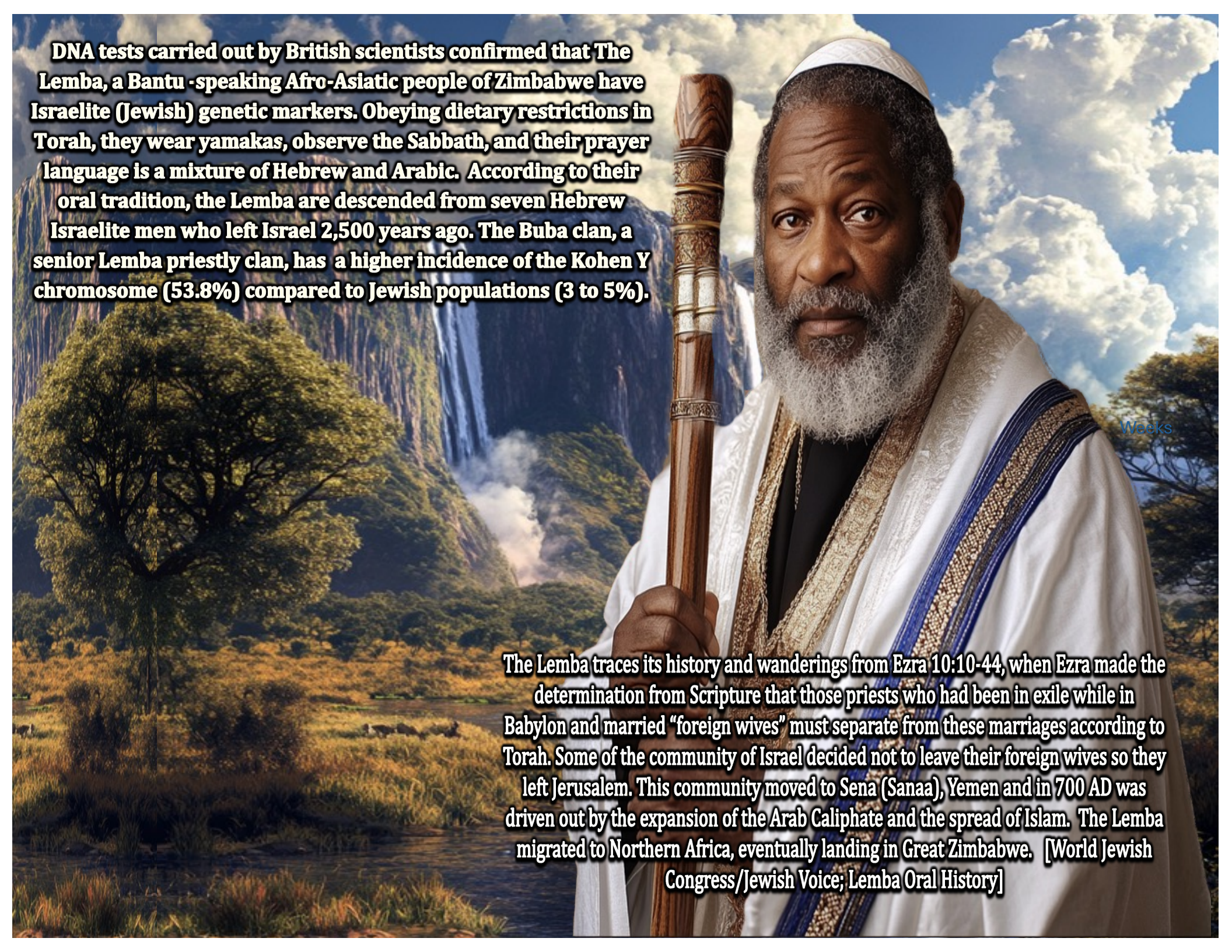
2nd Passover

JULY 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	● 24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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DNA tests carried out by British scientists confirmed that The Lemba, a Bantu -speaking Afro-Asiatic people of Zimbabwe have Israelite (Jewish) genetic markers. Obeying dietary restrictions in Torah, they wear yamakas, observe the Sabbath, and their prayer language is a mixture of Hebrew and Arabic. According to their oral tradition, the Lemba are descended from seven Hebrew Israelite men who left Israel 2,500 years ago. The Buba clan, a senior Lemba priestly clan, has a higher incidence of the Kohen Y chromosome (53.8%) compared to Jewish populations (3 to 5%).

The Lemba traces its history and wanderings from Ezra 10:10-44, when Ezra made the determination from Scripture that those priests who had been in exile while in Babylon and married “foreign wives” must separate from these marriages according to Torah. Some of the community of Israel decided not to leave their foreign wives so they left Jerusalem. This community moved to Sena (Sanaa), Yemen and in 700 AD was driven out by the expansion of the Arab Caliphate and the spread of Islam. The Lemba migrated to Northern Africa, eventually landing in Great Zimbabwe. [World Jewish Congress/Jewish Voice; Lemba Oral History]

AUGUST 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SHABBAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Webster's dictionary (1828) describes a Moor as "a Negro, a black man" of North Africa. Moors were erudite men (men of great knowledge) who conquered most of Spain from Goth overlords and controlled it for 700 years, beginning in 711 AD. They dressed in silk, linen and cotton unlike Europeans who wore animal skins. The Moors' contributions to the literacy rate was remarkable and Astronomy, Chemistry, Physics, Science, Mathematics, Geography, Philosophy, and Construction flourished in Moorish Spain.

Tarif Ibn Ziyad was the Moorish General ("a Jew of the tribe of Simeon") who led the Moors in the conquest of Visigoth Hispania in 711 A.D. The island of Tarifa, Spain is named after him.

**[Travels In North Africa/Nahun Slouchz
Babylon to Timbuktu/Ralph R. Windsor
BlackHistory.com]**

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Feast of Trumpets (Sabbath) ● 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	Day of Atonement (Fast-Sabbath) 30				

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In 1452, Pope Nicholas V issued a papal bull (Dum Diversas), granting the Portuguese the right to enslave Sub-Saharan Africans (i.e., non-Christians); to “reduce their persons to perpetual slavery and convert them to their use and profit”). Jews refusing to convert and Jewish children expelled from Iberia were separated from their parents and brought to Sao Tome as slaves. Sao Tome became a major import-export hub for trade of African gold and slaves, and their sugar plantations dominated European markets.

[Sao Tome and Principe – Britannica.com; Pope Nicholas V And The Portuguese Slave Trade - College of Charleston Libraries; Unearthing The Origins of Slavery on Sao Tome – Sapiens.org/Archeology; Portugal & The Invention of the Atlantic Trade of Enslaved People, 15-16th centuries; Project Manifest/Eu]



In July 1595, Amador Viera led a 3-week revolt with 5,000 slaves, destroying so many sugar plantations and mills that the industry never recovered. Although a slave, he proclaimed himself King (Rei) which means “my shepherd” in Hebrew and refers to ‘pasture’. In 1976, São Tomé replaced their old currency, with a new one, the dobra, which contains Amador's portrait, who is now viewed as a national hero.

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
			1	2	3	4
Feast of Tabernacles #1 (Sabbath) 5	Tabernacles #2 6	Tabernacles #3 7	Tabernacles #4 8	Tabernacles #5 9	Tabernacles #6 10	Tabernacles #7 11
Feast of Tabernacles #8 (Sabbath) 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	● 21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Importing the technology of sugar production from the islands of Madeira and São Tomé, by 1600, Brazil was the largest exporter of sugar to Europe. Using imperial wealth from Portugal, this move launched plantation Brazilian agriculture and a large-scale slave importation with 90% of their slaves obtained from Ouidah (also known as Whydah) Benin, the most active slave trading ports in Africa. Other slaves, came from Angola and the Congo. The discovery of gold in 1690 sparked a massive gold rush and a constant need to acquire more slaves.

**[Slavery And Remembrance
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation]**

The Malé Revolt of Bahia in 1835 was the most significant slave rebellion in Brazilian history. Inspired by Muslim teachers from the Yoruba West African ethnic group, slaves of Brazil unified in rebellion against the Portuguese which was ultimately quelled, but the rebellion created such fear in the hearts of the Europeans and eventually led to the abolishment of slavery in 1888.

**The 1835 Malé (Yoruba) Slave Revolt in Bahia
[International Center for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma]**

NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SHABBAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	● 20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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The first slave ships with captives came directly from Cape Verde Islands and São Tomé, Africa to the Americas, arriving in the Caribbean Islands during the 1520s.

The Spanish Crown increasingly relied on large-scale slaving ventures of Sub-Saharan Africans particularly to limit the spread of Islam rather than enslaving Iberian Moriscos (a Moor who converted to Christianity) or Muslims from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean world. It was the Italian Genoese, Germans, and later the English, French, and Dutch who internationalized the trans-Atlantic slave trade long before the establishment of non-Iberian colonies in the Americas.

Portugal And The Invention of the Atlantic Trade of Enslaved People

Project Manifest/Eu.org



The legacy of slavery in the Caribbean was the backbone of the Caribbean economy particularly in Haiti and Jamaica which encompassed cultural resilience, and a relentless struggle for freedom through work slowdowns, sabotage, rebellions and uprisings; (such as the Haitian Revolution, which led to the establishment of the first independent black republic). While the scars of this dark history remain, the contributions of black slaves have shaped the Caribbean into the rich and diverse region it is today.


The Legacy of Slavery in the Caribbean and the Journey Towards Justice/UN.org

DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	● 19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Taken from the Igbo people in the kingdom of Benin at the age of 11, Olaudah Equiano was sold as a slave to a sugar plantation owner in the British West Indies in 1762 and then sold to a slave owner in English Virginia. In 1766, he purchased his freedom and moved to England where he published what was his autobiography and an anti-slavery tract in which he alluded to similarities between the Igbo religion and ancient Jewish religion such as 'prohibitions against touching corpses, civil adjudication based on the law of retaliation (eye for an eye), cleanliness through ritual washing and separation of women during their purification', suggesting that the Igbo are Jewish in ancestry; (i.e., 'descendants of the biblical Hebrew patriarchs who eventually made their way to West Africa, producing the Igbo nation').

University of Kings College-Halifax, NS, Canada- *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, (Written by Himself, published in 1789)*

British ships going to Africa to buy slaves carried a large cargo of mixed goods, such as cotton, brass, pans and guns to be exchanged for black slaves who were shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to north and south America and the Caribbean. The ships' captains would buy goods to take back to Europe that would be reproduced by slave labor on the plantations. To measure wealth from slaveholding, through Britain's Abolition of Slavery Act in 1833, slaveholders were compensated for the loss of slaves equal to \$132 billion in today's money. The Scottish were also involved in the slave trade in the Americas owning about 30% of plantations in Jamaica. Called 'Lords of Tobacco', Glasgow merchants had financed trading missions since 1707 and began to dominate the tobacco trade after 1740.

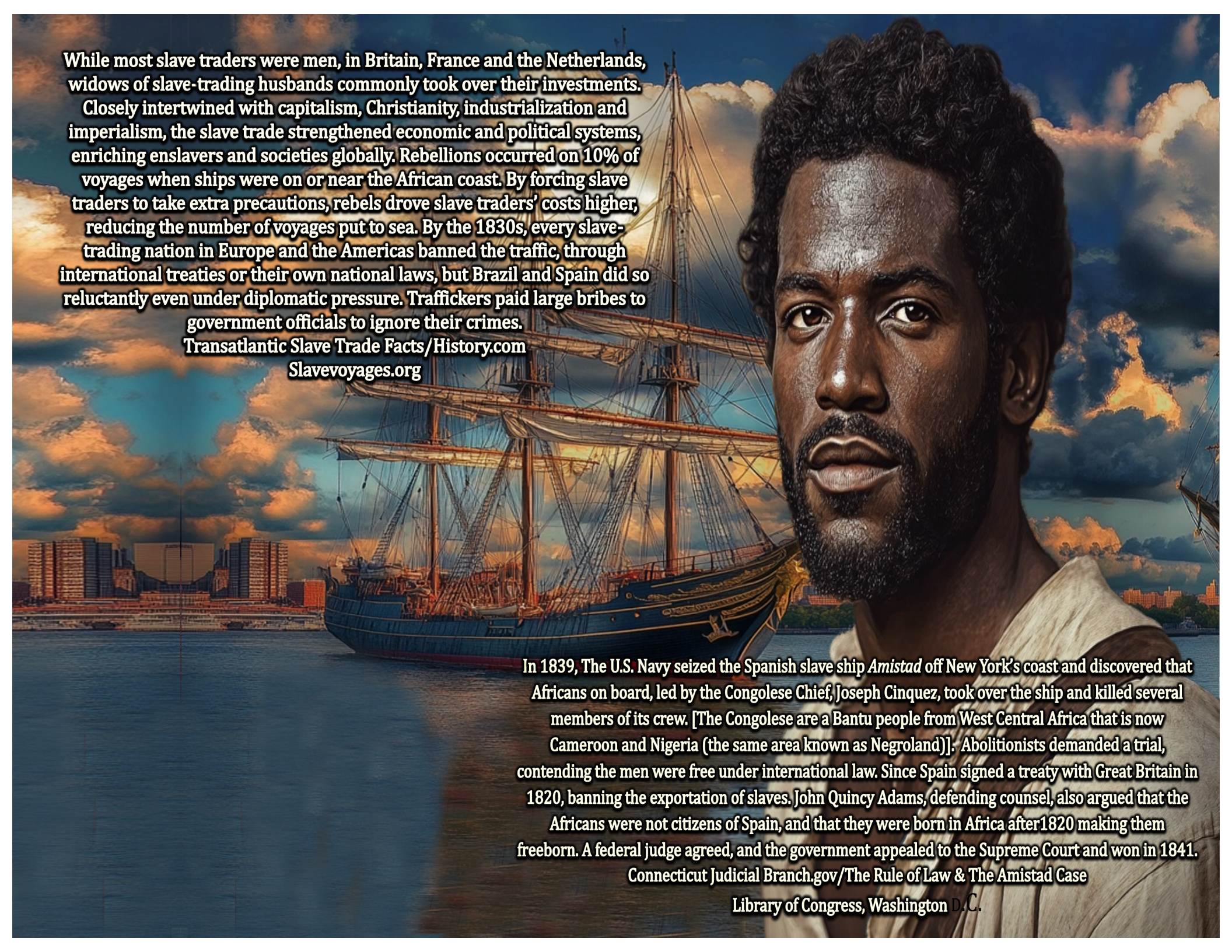
[Slavery Routes/Bristol To Africa/Trade-Goods/Slave-Trade
Slavery And Glasgow/Tobacco Lords/Scottish Archive
Slavery in the British industrial Revolution/(CEPR.org)]

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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While most slave traders were men, in Britain, France and the Netherlands, widows of slave-trading husbands commonly took over their investments.

Closely intertwined with capitalism, Christianity, industrialization and imperialism, the slave trade strengthened economic and political systems, enriching enslavers and societies globally. Rebellions occurred on 10% of voyages when ships were on or near the African coast. By forcing slave traders to take extra precautions, rebels drove slave traders' costs higher, reducing the number of voyages put to sea. By the 1830s, every slave-trading nation in Europe and the Americas banned the traffic, through international treaties or their own national laws, but Brazil and Spain did so reluctantly even under diplomatic pressure. Traffickers paid large bribes to government officials to ignore their crimes.

[Transatlantic Slave Trade Facts/History.com](http://TransatlanticSlaveTradeFacts/History.com)

Slavevoyages.org

In 1839, The U.S. Navy seized the Spanish slave ship *Amistad* off New York's coast and discovered that Africans on board, led by the Congolese Chief, Joseph Cinquez, took over the ship and killed several members of its crew. [The Congolese are a Bantu people from West Central Africa that is now Cameroon and Nigeria (the same area known as Negroland)]. Abolitionists demanded a trial, contending the men were free under international law. Since Spain signed a treaty with Great Britain in 1820, banning the exportation of slaves. John Quincy Adams, defending counsel, also argued that the Africans were not citizens of Spain, and that they were born in Africa after 1820 making them freeborn. A federal judge agreed, and the government appealed to the Supreme Court and won in 1841.

[Connecticut Judicial Branch.gov/The Rule of Law & The Amistad Case](http://ConnecticutJudicialBranch.gov/TheRuleofLaw&TheAmistadCase)

Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SHABBAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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