

Moments in Black Church History

A Collection of People, Places, and Times in the African and
African American Church Tradition

Early African Churches

Ethiopian & Coptic Churches

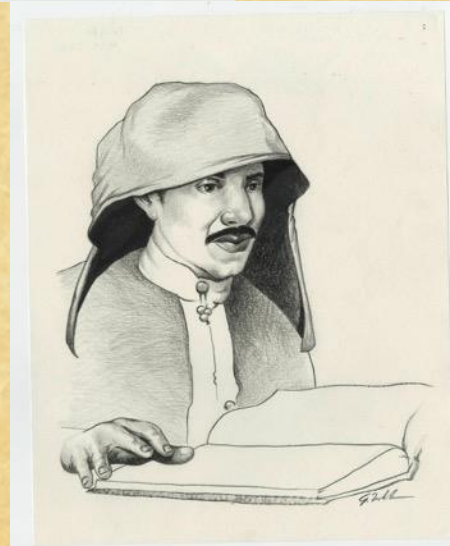
- ◆ The Ethiopian Orthodox and the Coptic (Egyptian) Orthodox churches are two of the oldest Christian denominations in the world
- ◆ These churches trace their establishment back to Biblical times (Acts 8:26-39, Acts 2:10)



Early African Church Fathers

African Theologians

- ♦ Many African Theologians strongly shaped the doctrines of early Christianity
- ♦ 3 who were very notable were
 - ♦ Origen
 - ♦ Tertullian
 - ♦ St. Augustine



Pre Civil-War Black Church in the United States

**Black Churches
founded before 1860**

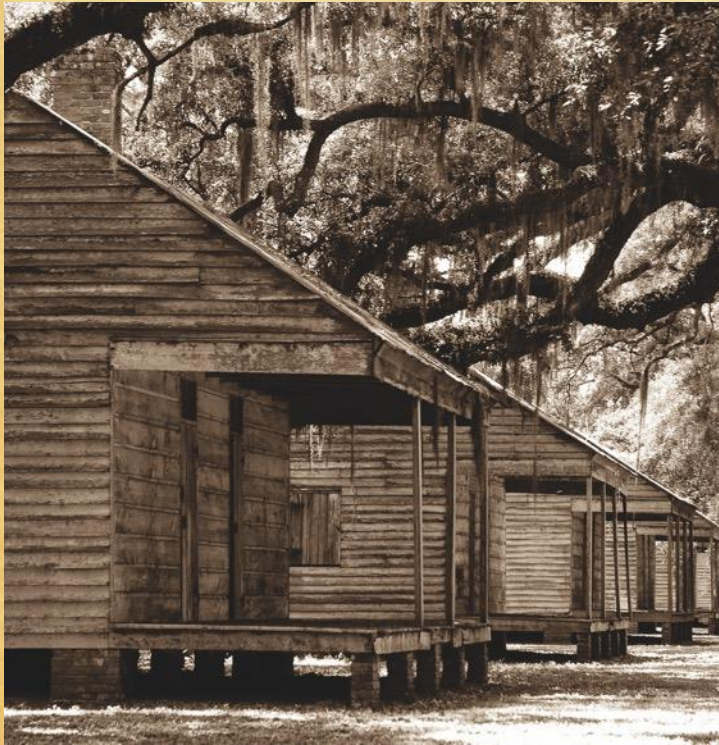
**Richard Allen, founder of
AME Church**



- ♦ Missionary Baptists established churches in the South
- ♦ African Methodists established churches in the North
- ♦ Churches later became National Baptists, African Methodists, and African Episcopalians

Pre Civil-War Black Church in the United States (con't)

Forms of Worship



- ♦ Africans who were not Christian already were denied access to Christianity when they arrived to the USA
- ♦ Enslaved Africans developed practices such as hush-habors and ring shouts to practice Christianity

Christian Abolitionists

Black Christian Abolitionists
fought for the end of slavery in
the USA



Notable Christian Abolitionists

- ◆ Harriet Tubman
- ◆ Frederick Douglass
- ◆ Denmark Vesey
- ◆ Nat Turner
- ◆ Sojourner Truth

Black Churches During Reconstruction

- ◆ A number of black churches and denominations were founded during reconstruction as formerly enslaved Africans became Christian
- ◆ More African Americans became Christian during reconstruction than at any prior time



Pentecostal Revival



- ♦ The fastest growing churches in the world today are Pentecostal churches
- ♦ These churches started from the early 1900s Pentecostal revivals in the USA led by African Americans such as William J. Seymour