

### **Issachar Princess**

#### Interviewed: Ashira House of Officer Zane



### What makes you proud of being an Israelite from the Tribe of Issachar ??

To be hired as Genesis 30:18 mentions, I honestly believe that scripture and that Issachar is a very hard-working people. Proud to say that things will get done with Issachar. Even down to the pace, I feel like there is always a rush for everything and I must have it done as quickly as possible. Also, our food. I can't bypass a week without making an Issachar dish. Of course, whatever my Lord requests I will make but he has liked many of the Issachar dishes that he requests them often too.

### What does your family think about the truth?

Unfortunately, my family opposed to everything about the truth at the beginning, even to having a Black husband. I was raised in a very Catholic household; the Virgin of Guadalupe or Mary was always around in the house. My mother was the main one bringing in those beliefs and lighting up candles all the time. After being in the truth over the years, my father has been more open to know more and always has many questions for my Lord and I (mainly because I have to translate).

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He always asks how my husband is treating me and is always in disbelief/surprised on how good he has been to me. Sadly, as a child I was always told that Black people are mean spirited and dangerous and to never have any association with them. When they found out Christ was black, my dad did not believe for a while, but he's been inquiring often about the bible. My mother has not and will never acknowledge that Christ is black.

## What do you believe is one of the biggest challenges you have faced being a Northern Kingdom sister in this truth?

Communication and head wraps. Communication was big because I thought I was not going to have anything in common to discuss with other sisters. Now if I find myself in that situation, I just explain the cultural side of it on my end or ask the meaning of it. When my Lord mentioned the head wraps for the first time, I asked him how I was going to pull that off if I wasn't African?? Cut me some slack I was brand new and was completely ignorant. My thoughts on head coverings were like Ishmael type hijab or something similar to Elam. So, when I first saw the head coverings I was relieved and started to practice and finally found something that worked for me.

# In one of our T2 it was discussed how Northern Kingdom sisters tend to gravitate to each other and exclude Southern Kingdom. What are your thoughts?

This is especially important for me to point out that we as NK sisters do not try to exclude our SK sisters, we love each and every one of them. The main reason I feel there is this gravitation is due to the language and the similarities in our cultures. The first one is language, after being away from your 1<sup>st</sup> language for so long, the best I can explain it is a joyful and refreshing feeling to hear it from another sister. I can't speak for other NK sisters that are from Ephraim or Simeon..etc, but when I see another Issachar sister first thing we talk about is food and how we prepare it differently.

## What are some of the major cultural differences you have experienced or seen between Southern and Northern Kingdom?

The food, language, and hair. Mainly because I was born in Mexico, raised in EI Paso, TX (mini Mexico) and certain Judah dishes are still a little foreign to me. I must confess that my Lord taught me how to make fried chicken...lol. Even though I speak fluent English, moving to the South was also a big change when listening to conversations I feel I need to pay extra attention with the accents. I often had to ask people to repeat themselves.



I noticed one of the biggest for SK is their hair and the covering of it. I never really experienced seeing so many weaves or fake hair and how proud the unrepentant are to display it; but even in the truth I noticed that some repented SK sisters, like to display their hair or show it off even with the head wrap on. I learned that with a head covering on there is still a way to display or show your hair off. This often leads to a whole lot of Titus 2's and school meetings on the proper way to wear head coverings. To me it was just as simple to covering. From my experience I can say that I have never had a problem covering my hair in its entirety,

### Do you ever feel left out?

I don't feel left out, just a bit unlearned of somethings and/or events. For example, I had no idea who Willie Lynch was until I got here to GA. Or certain songs that a lot of Judah people know and sing, I have no clue about. I am still learning something new all the time.

## In the 11th hour how can sisters from the Southern Kingdom be more prepared to welcome our Northern Kingdom sisters as they come in?

Continue to be friendly and supportive. I can tell that every sister I meet always has that welcoming spirit. And one thing is to please don't get upset if I or another NK sister asks you to repeat what you said. One time I had to ask 3 TIMES!!! I was so embarrassed, but I could not for the life of me understand what she was saying to me. Lots of patience please. I think no matter how much education you might have language is an obstacle sometimes.

## What advice will YOU give our sisters from the tribe of Issachar when the come in?

It depends. If the sister speaks English, I would urge her to speak in English when another SK sister joins the conversation to avoid making her feel left out. Now on the other hand, if they don't speak English, then translating is a must. The reason for that is that there was a point in my life where I didn't speak English at all, so I know the feeling. Oh and to bring out their best dishes so that we share them with everyone.