

Introduction: Marcus Garvey and the Cry for Dignity

Marcus Garvey (1887–1940) was a Jamaican-born activist, orator, and entrepreneur who became one of the most influential Black leaders of the early 20th century. Through the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), the Negro World newspaper, and the Black Star Line, he preached self-reliance, pride, and unity under the motto: "One God, One Aim, One Destiny."

His movement gave millions a vision of dignity and independence, inspiring Pan-Africanism, the Rastafari movement, and even future civil rights leaders. Garvey's cry was powerful and cultural, but like every human voice, it ended in the grave. The question remains: where is the answer to the cry for justice and home?



🎵 One Love, One Lord: A Statement on Culture and the Gospel  

 Watch: <https://youtu.be/oGN3R49-CAE?si=i8pLKGML08fK23KH>

Introduction

There is something in reggae and Black culture that stirs the soul. The rhythm carries both pain and hope, a cry against oppression and a longing for freedom. I respect it, I enjoy it, and I see in it the voice of a people searching for dignity and justice. Reggae is not just music; it is a sermon in song, echoing the words of prophets, psalmists, and visionaries. 🎤🔥

Yet I also see how easily that cry can be captured by false Christianity and false gospels. The same Bible that inspired liberation has been twisted into chains by slave-owners, into politics by opportunists, and into false messiahs by those who trade the truth for illusions. Marcus Garvey awakened pride and self-respect, Burning Spear kept his memory alive through music, and Rastafarianism dressed the hunger for Zion in biblical colors. But no man, no movement, no emperor can replace the Christ who alone redeems. ✝️👑

This statement is my conviction: that reggae and Black culture hold a prophetic cry worth honoring, but that only in Jesus Christ is that cry answered. False Christianity must be exposed. False Zions must be rejected. The gospel must be proclaimed as it is written: 📖 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:5–6).

The Cry for Justice and Identity 🧠⚖️

The legacy of slavery and colonialism left deep wounds. Stripped of land, language, and lineage, generations of African descendants searched for meaning. Marcus Garvey gave voice to this hunger with his call: "Africa for the Africans, at home and abroad." He spoke of dignity, self-reliance, and a future not defined by oppressors. Burning Spear, in his song *Marcus Garvey*, carried that cry in rhythm and chant, reminding the world not to forget the prophet of St. Ann's Bay. 🙌🌍

This cry for justice is not to be despised. It echoes the psalmist's lament: "How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?" (Psalm 137:4). It echoes Israel's longing in exile. Reggae, Black culture, and Garvey's vision give witness that humanity cannot live under chains forever. ✂️🌱

Where False Christianity Failed 🚫 🏛️

But into this longing came distortion. Slave-owner religion quoted Paul's words about servants obeying masters (Ephesians 6:5) while cutting out the Exodus, the prophets, and Christ's declaration of liberty. Colonial churches baptized oppression in holy water. Prosperity preachers later turned the gospel into a market for gain. This is not the Christianity of the cross — it is a counterfeit that crucifies Christ anew.

No wonder men and women turned to other answers. If the Church preaches bondage instead of freedom, people will search elsewhere. But the failure of false Christianity does not mean the failure of Christ. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... he has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives" (Luke 4:18). That word belongs to Jesus, not to Babylon's pulpits. 🌿 📖

False Zions and Twisted Scriptures 🏛️ ➡️ 🔦

Rastafarianism took the hunger for Zion and clothed it in biblical imagery. They read Revelation, Psalms, and Exodus with fresh fire, but crowned Haile Selassie as divine. They burned herbs in the name of wisdom while ignoring the call to be sober-minded (1 Peter 5:8). They spoke of Babylon's fall but forgot that Zion is not Ethiopia — Zion is the heavenly Jerusalem where Christ reigns (Hebrews 12:22).

Similar distortions rise in America. The Nation of Islam elevates human prophets and denies the Son of God. Black Hebrew Israelites claim salvation by ethnicity and law, not by grace through faith. All of these awaken real questions, but they offer false answers. As Paul warned: "If anyone preaches another gospel than the one we preached, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:9). ⚠️

The True Gospel ✝️ 🌿

The gospel does not deny the cry for justice — it fulfills it. In Christ, Egypt's chains are broken, Babylon's exile ends, and Zion's gates open wide. But the path to Zion is not by

ship or repatriation; it is by the cross and resurrection. Jesus is the Redeemer not only of Israel but of every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelation 5:9). 🌍

Reggae sings of "One Love." The Bible sings of "One Lord." The two meet in Christ, for He alone can unite humanity without erasing identity. In Him, Black culture, Caribbean rhythm, African pride, and every nation's longing find their true home. 🎵 + 🏰

Conclusion: Garvey and the Greater Hope 🌍 + ✝️

I honor the cry of reggae and Black culture, because it is real, human, and prophetic. But I reject every distortion that twists Scripture or replaces Christ. False Christianity is no gospel. False Zions cannot save. Political messiahs will fall, and cultural idols will fade.

My statement is this: **I stand with the cry for dignity, but I kneel before Christ alone.**

The music may stir the soul, but only the Word made flesh redeems it. *One love* may bring us together for a moment, but *one Lord — Jesus Christ — brings us home forever.*



"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Marcus Garvey died in London in 1940 after a series of strokes. Exiled from his homeland, weakened in body, and even stung by newspapers calling him "washed up," he left this world with his dream of Africa still unfulfilled. His body was later returned to Jamaica, where he was honored as the nation's first National Hero. His vision gave a generation dignity and voice, but like every human prophet-figure, his journey ended in the grave.

Garvey's voice was *prophetic* in a cultural sense — he named oppression, called for dignity, and stirred a people to hope. Yet biblically, prophecy does not end in man, race, or nation. True prophecy testifies of Jesus (Revelation 19:10). Where Garvey pointed to Africa, the gospel points to the heavenly Zion. Where movements crowned emperors and messiahs, Scripture crowns Christ alone.

So I end with this: Garvey's cry matters — but Christ's answer redeems. One love may rally hearts for a moment, but One Lord gathers nations for eternity.