



Cornerstone Speech – Alexander H. Stephens (March 21, 1861)

At half past seven o'clock on Thursday evening, the largest audience ever assembled at the Athenaeum was in the house, waiting most impatiently for the appearance of the orator of the evening, Hon. A. H. Stephens, Vice President of the Confederate States of America. The committee, with invited guests, were seated on the stage when, at the appointed hour, the Hon. C. C. Jones, Mayor, and the speaker entered, and were greeted by the immense assemblage with deafening rounds of applause. . . .

. . . [W]e are passing through one of the greatest revolutions in the annals of the world. Seven states have within the last three months thrown off an old government and formed a new. This revolution has been signally marked, up to this time, by the fact of its having been accomplished without the loss of a single drop of blood.

This new constitution, or form of government, constitutes the subject to which your attention will be partly invited. In reference to it, I make this first general remark: it amply secures all our ancient rights, franchises, and liberties. All the great principles of Magna Charta are retained in it. No citizen is deprived of life, liberty, or property, but by the judgment of his peers under the laws of the land. The great principle of religious liberty, which was the honor and pride of the old Constitution, is still maintained and secured. All the essentials of the old Constitution, which have endeared it to the hearts of the American people, have been preserved and perpetuated. Some changes have been made. Some of these I should have preferred not to have seen made; but other important changes do meet my cordial approbation. They form great improvements upon the old Constitution. So, taking the whole new constitution, I have no hesitancy in giving it as my judgment that it is decidedly better than the old.

Allow me briefly to allude to some of these improvements . . .

But not to be tedious in enumerating the numerous changes for the better, allow me to allude to one other though last, not least. The new constitution has put at rest, forever, all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution—African slavery as it exists amongst us—the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. This was the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution. Jefferson in his forecast, had anticipated this, as the “rock upon which the old Union would split.”¹ He was right. What was conjecture with him, is now a realized fact. But whether he fully comprehended the great truth upon which that rock stood and stands, may be doubted. The prevailing ideas entertained by him and most of the leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old Constitution, were that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature; that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally, and politically. It was an evil they knew not well how to deal with, but the general opinion of the men of that day was that, somehow or other in the order of Providence, the institution would be evanescent and pass away. This idea, though not incorporated in the Constitution, was the prevailing idea at that time. The Constitution, it is true, secured every essential guarantee to the institution while it should last, and hence no argument can be justly urged against the constitutional guarantees thus secured, because of the common sentiment of the day. Those ideas, however, were

fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the government built upon it fell when the “storm came and the wind blew.”²

Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its corner-stone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth. This truth has been slow in the process of its development, like all other truths in the various departments of science. It has been so even amongst us. Many who hear me, perhaps, can recollect well that this truth was not generally admitted, even within their day. The errors of the past generation still clung to many as late as twenty years ago. Those at the North, who still cling to these errors, with a zeal above knowledge, we justly denominate fanatics. All fanaticism springs from an aberration of the mind from a defect in reasoning. It is a species of insanity. One of the most striking characteristics of insanity, in many instances, is forming correct conclusions from fancied or erroneous premises; so with the antislavery fanatics. Their conclusions are right if their premises were. They assume that the negro is equal, and hence conclude that he is entitled to equal privileges and rights with the white man. If their premises were correct, their conclusions would be logical and just, but their premise being wrong, their whole argument fails. I recollect once of having heard a gentleman from one of the northern states, of great power and ability, announce in the House of Representatives, with imposing effect, that we of the South would be compelled, ultimately, to yield upon this subject of slavery, that it was as impossible to war successfully against a principle in politics, as it was in physics or mechanics. That the principle would ultimately prevail. That we, in maintaining slavery as it exists with us, were warring against a principle, a principle founded in nature, the principle of the equality of men. The reply I made to him was, that upon his own grounds, we should, ultimately, succeed, and that he and his associates, in this crusade against our institutions, would ultimately fail. The truth announced, that it was as impossible to war successfully against a principle in politics as it was in physics and mechanics, I admitted; but told him that it was he, and those acting with him, who were warring against a principle. They were attempting to make things equal which the Creator had made unequal.

In the conflict thus far, success has been on our side, complete throughout the length and breadth of the Confederate states. It is upon this, as I have stated, our social fabric is firmly planted; and I cannot permit myself to doubt the ultimate success of a full recognition of this principle throughout the civilized and enlightened world.

As I have stated, the truth of this principle may be slow in development, as all truths are and ever have been, in the various branches of science. It was so with the principles announced by Galileo [and] it was so with Adam Smith and his principles of political economy. It was so with Harvey, and his theory of the circulation of the blood. It is stated that not a single one of the medical profession, living at the time of the announcement of the truths made by him, admitted them. Now, they are universally acknowledged. May we not, therefore, look with confidence to the ultimate universal acknowledgment of the truths upon which our system rests? It is the first government ever instituted upon the principles in strict conformity to nature, and the ordination of Providence, in furnishing the materials of human society. Many governments have been

founded upon the principle of the subordination and serfdom of certain classes of the same race; such were and are in violation of the laws of nature. Our system commits no such violation of nature's laws. With us, all of the white race, however high or low, rich or poor, are equal in the eye of the law. Not so with the negro. Subordination is his place. He, by nature, or by the curse against Canaan,³ is fitted for that condition which he occupies in our system. The architect, in the construction of buildings, lays the foundation with the proper material—the granite; then comes the brick or the marble. The substratum of our society is made of the material fitted by nature for it, and by experience we know that it is best, not only for the superior, but for the inferior race, that it should be so. It is, indeed, in conformity with the ordinance of the Creator. It is not for us to inquire into the wisdom of His ordinances, or to question them. For His own purposes, He has made one race to differ from another, as He has made “one star to differ from another star in glory.”⁴ The great objects of humanity are best attained when there is conformity to His laws and decrees, in the formation of governments as well as in all things else. Our confederacy is founded upon principles in strict conformity with these laws. This stone which was rejected by the first builders “is become the chief of the corner”⁵ the real “corner-stone” in our new edifice. I have been asked, what of the future? It has been apprehended by some that we would have arrayed against us the civilized world. I care not who or how many they may be against us, when we stand upon the eternal principles of truth, if we are true to ourselves and the principles for which we contend, we are obliged to, and must triumph.

Thousands of people who begin to understand these truths are not yet completely out of the shell; they do not see them in their length and breadth. We hear much of the civilization and Christianization of the barbarous tribes of Africa. In my judgment, those ends will never be attained, but by first teaching them the lesson taught to Adam, that “in the sweat of his brow he should eat his bread,”⁶ and teaching them to work, and feed, and clothe themselves. . . .

Reporter's Note.—Your reporter begs to state that the above is not a perfect report, but only such a sketch of the address of Mr. Stephens as embraces, in his judgment, the most important points presented by the orator.—G.

When perfect quiet is restored, I shall proceed...

I was remarking that we are passing through one of the greatest revolutions in the annals of the world. Seven States have within the last three months thrown off an old government and formed a new...

This new Constitution...

All the essentials of the old Constitution ... are preserved. Some changes being made, others which I approve ... put at rest forever all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution — **African slavery as it exists amongst us** — the proper status of the negro in our form of civilization. This was **the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution.**

"Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea"

Its cornerstone rests upon the great truth **that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery — subordination to the superior race — is his natural and normal condition.** This,

our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this **great physical, philosophical, and moral truth** (teachingamericanhistory.org, battlefields.org, learningforjustice.org).

...It is, indeed, in conformity with the ordinance of the Creator.

This stone which was rejected by the first builders **‘is become the chief of the corner’** — the real cornerstone in our new edifice.

In Summary:

Stephens’s speech is unflinchingly explicit:

Slavery and white supremacy are the **bedrock principles** of the Confederacy — ideological, moral, and Biblical justifications tied together in one foundational address.

In Alexander H. Stephens’ *Cornerstone Speech*, he used several **biblical justifications** to argue that the enslavement of Black people was ordained by God. These justifications were **common among Southern pro-slavery theologians** and are completely **inconsistent with a literal, righteous reading of Scripture**, but here are the specific **arguments he and others falsely used**:

1. Curse of Ham (Genesis 9:25–27)

Stephens and many other pro-slavery advocates **twisted** this passage to justify Black enslavement:

“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.”

They falsely claimed:

- Ham (Noah’s son) was the ancestor of African people (which is not stated in Scripture).
- The curse of **Canaan** (Ham’s son) applied to all Black people.
- God therefore **ordained their servitude** to other nations.

Literal truth:

- The curse was on *Canaan*, not Ham or all his descendants.
 - Canaanites were Middle Eastern, not African.
 - This was a **localized judgment**, not a universal race-based curse.
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2. Slavery in the Torah (Leviticus 25:44–46)

Stephens and others cited verses where God gave Israel laws regulating slavery:

“Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen... they shall be your bondmen forever.”

They argued:

- Since Israel had slaves, slavery is not sinful.
- Slavery was part of divine civil order.

Literal truth:

- Torah *regulated* slavery due to man’s sin (like divorce) but always demanded **righteous treatment**, rest days, release, and Jubilee redemption.
 - Slavery in Torah was **not race-based** and allowed pathways to freedom.
 - Kidnapping for slavery was a **capital crime** (Exodus 21:16).
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3. Paul’s Letters (Ephesians 6:5, Colossians 3:22)

They misused Paul’s instructions to slaves:

“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters...”

Used to argue:

- New Testament doesn’t abolish slavery.
- Christianity endorses social hierarchy.

Literal truth:

- Paul addressed the condition *as it existed*, commanding obedience to avoid rebellion or punishment.
 - He **never said slavery was good**, and in 1 Timothy 1:10, **manstealers (slave traders)** are listed among the **lawless and sinners**.
 - The gospel was meant to **free men spiritually and socially** — “there is neither bond nor free...” (Galatians 3:28).
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4. Psalm 118:22 — Cornerstone Imagery

Stephens applied this messianic prophecy to the **Confederacy**:

“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.”

He twisted this to say:

- The rejected idea (that slavery is righteous) has now become the cornerstone of the new nation.
- God supports this structure.

Literal truth:

- Psalm 118:22 refers to **the Messiah**, YAHUSHA, not any nation built on oppression.
 - To use this verse to support racial subjugation is **blasphemy** and a violation of God's Word.
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Bottom Line:

The Confederacy — and Stephens directly — used **Scripture out of context** to build a doctrine of **white supremacy, racial slavery, and rebellion** against God's righteousness. These were **doctrines of devils**, wrapped in Christian language.






Isaiah 5:20 (KJV)

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil...”

The **first seven states** that formed the **Confederate States of America** (often referred to as the **"original Confederate states"**) **seceded from the Union before the Civil War began** in April 1861.

Here they are in order of secession:

us The Seven Original Confederate States:

#	State	Date of Secession
	South Carolina	December 20, 1860
	Mississippi	January 9, 1861
	Florida	January 10, 1861
	Alabama	January 11, 1861
	Georgia	January 19, 1861

#	State	Date of Secession
6	Louisiana	January 26, 1861
7	Texas	February 1, 1861 (joined officially March 2)

These seven states:

- Formed the **Confederate States of America** in **February 1861**.
 - Set up a **pro-slavery government** headquartered first in Montgomery, Alabama.
 - Were later joined by **four more states** after the Battle of Fort Sumter (Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee).
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There is **substantial evidence** that many of the **core ideologies** which led the original Confederate states to secede (especially **white supremacy**, **states' rights to preserve slavery**, and a **racially segregated social order**) still persist in various cultural, political, educational, and **legal systems** in those same regions today — though not always openly or under the same names.

Let's examine this **evidence**.

1. The Original Confederate Cause Was Racial Slavery

Official Declarations of Secession:

Each of the seven states made clear their secession was to protect **chattel slavery** and the **subjugation of Black people**:

Mississippi Declaration (1861):

"Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery—the greatest material interest of the world."

Georgia Declaration (1861):

Blamed Northern hostility to slavery and refusal to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act.

So the Confederacy was **explicitly created** to preserve white dominance.

2. Post-Civil War Policies Reinforced the Same System

◆ Jim Crow Laws (1877–1965):

- Enforced **legal racial segregation**.
- Denied Blacks voting rights (poll taxes, literacy tests).
- Maintained **white control** over politics, education, and law enforcement.

These laws were enforced **heavily** in the original seven **Confederate states** for nearly 100 years after slavery ended.

3. Modern Evidence of Persistent Confederate Ideology

Voting and Political Patterns:

- These states often:
 - Oppose **federal civil rights expansion**
 - Lead the nation in **voter suppression tactics**
 - Resist acknowledging **historical racism**

Example: **Shelby County v. Holder (2013)** — a case from Alabama that gutted the Voting Rights Act. Since then, many Southern states passed new laws **restricting access to the vote**, particularly for Black voters.

Educational Curriculum Battles:

- States like Texas, Florida, and Georgia have:
 - Attempted to **sanitize or downplay slavery**
 - Banned or restricted **Critical Race Theory**
 - Punished teachers for teaching America's true racial history

This is ideological **continuity** with Confederate ideals: **suppressing truth, maintaining a false narrative.**

Confederate Symbols and Monuments:

- These seven states hold **hundreds of Confederate monuments**, many erected during:
 - The Jim Crow era (1900–1920)

- The Civil Rights Movement (1950s–60s)
- These symbols were meant to **reassert white dominance**, not simply "remember history."

Example: In Georgia and Alabama, there are **laws** protecting Confederate monuments from removal.

4. Spiritual Preceptual Analysis

Isaiah 5:20 (KJV)

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..."

Obadiah 1:10 (KJV)

"For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever."

The Confederacy shed innocent blood, deified slavery, and created a false religion to justify it — this is spiritual rebellion.

Revelation 2:9 (KJV) – those who claim righteousness but are a synagogue of Satan

5. Summary of Present-Day Indicators

Area	Modern Evidence of Confederate Thought
Voting laws	Targeted voter suppression of minorities
Education	Whitewashing slavery and banning honest history
Symbols	Preserved monuments, flags, school names
Policing & Justice	Over-policing of Black areas; racial disparities in sentencing
Cultural denial	Claiming the Civil War was about "states' rights," not slavery

? Does It Still Exist Today?

Yes — not as open secession, but as:

- Policy-level racism
- Cultural resistance to truth
- Suppression of Black history and power

The spirit of the Confederacy — rebellion against YAH's justice, the dehumanization of the poor and oppressed — is alive in many institutions and hearts today.

Ecclesiastes 3:15 (KJV)

"That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."

Canaan's Lineage in Scripture

Genesis 10:6, 15–18 (KJV)

“And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan...
And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth,
And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite,
And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite,
And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.”

Canaan's Named Descendants

#	Name	Notes
1	Sidon	His firstborn; city of Sidon in Phoenicia named after him
2	Heth	Ancestor of the Hittites (called “children of Heth” in Genesis 23)
3	Jebusite	Inhabited Jerusalem (Jebus); defeated by David (2 Samuel 5:6–9)
4	Amorite	A major Canaanite tribe; mentioned throughout conquest narratives
5	Girgasite	Lived near the Jordan; less prominent than other tribes
6	Hivite	Inhabited Shechem and Gibeon (Genesis 34, Joshua 9)
7	Arkite	Inhabited region of Arka (northwest Lebanon)
8	Sinite	Uncertain location; possibly in northern Canaan or Lebanon
9	Arvadite	From Arvad (island off Syria's coast)
10	Zemarite	Lived in Semar (Zemar), coastal region near Arvad
11	Hamathite	From Hamath, a city in modern Syria

Canaanite Nations Mentioned in Torah

These eleven peoples form the **Canaanite nations** that Israel was commanded to drive out:

Deuteronomy 7:1 (KJV)

“The Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites...”

(Note: Perizzites and others like Amalekites are mentioned but not direct sons of Canaan.)

Summary

Canaan's descendants were:

- Powerful early city-state peoples
- Known for idolatry, child sacrifice, and sexual sin (Leviticus 18, Deut. 18)
- **Not Black Africans**, but **Middle Eastern peoples** living in the land later given to Israel.

Today, **no major nations openly and officially claim descent from the Canaanites**, but there are **a few modern groups or ideas** that either:

1. **Historically descend** from Canaanite peoples,
 2. **Culturally preserve elements** of their identity, or
 3. Are **associated with Canaanite territory** (Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, etc.).
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1. Phoenicians (Sidonites) → Modern Lebanese

- **Sidon**, the firstborn of Canaan (Gen 10:15), founded the ancient city of Sidon and the broader **Phoenician civilization**.
 - Today, **some Lebanese nationalists and historians** (especially Maronites) **claim descent from the Phoenicians**, distinguishing themselves from Arab identity.
 - Example: The *Phoenicianist movement* in Lebanon emphasizes a cultural and genetic link to ancient Canaanite-Phoenician heritage.
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2. Hittites (Children of Heth) → Anatolian Peoples (Extinct)

- The Hittite empire (from Heth, Gen 10:15) was centered in modern-day Turkey.
 - Most scholars believe they were **absorbed or destroyed**, though **some cultural remnants** may survive in **Anatolian and Kurdish** populations.
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3. Jebusites, Amorites, Hivites, etc. → Dispossessed & Absorbed

- These tribes occupied **Jerusalem (Jebusites)**, the **hill country (Amorites)**, and surrounding areas in what is now **Palestine/Israel/Syria/Lebanon**.
- After Israel's conquest (see Joshua), many were **killed**, enslaved, or **intermarried** (see 1 Kings 9:20–21).

- By the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, these peoples had **lost ethnic distinction** and were simply called “people of the land” (Ezra 10:2).

4. Canaanite Religion → Modern Occult, Masonic, or Satanic Ideologies

While not ethnic, some ideologies **spiritually adopt Canaanite values**:

- **Baal worship, Asherah poles, and child sacrifice** (Leviticus 18; Jeremiah 19) are echoed in **modern occultism**.
- Freemasonry and occult societies have **used Canaanite symbols**, such as **Baal, Moloch, or Tammuz**.

These groups don’t claim to be **biological Canaanites**, but their **spiritual inheritance** resembles the abominations of the land (Lev 18:24–25).

What Scripture Warns:

Leviticus 18:25 (KJV)

“And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.”

Jeremiah 10:2 (KJV)

“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen...”

Summary Table:

Canaanite Group	Modern Claimants / Region	Notes
Sidonites (Phoenicians)	Some Lebanese (Maronites)	Cultural heritage, not religious continuation
Hittites	Anatolia (Turkey, Kurdistan – indirect)	Ancient empire; not openly claimed
Amorites, Jebusites, Hivites	Absorbed into Israelite conquest	No current ethnic group claims direct descent
Arkites, Sinites, etc.	Possibly ancient Syrian regions	No distinct modern claim

Canaanite Group	Modern Claimants / Region	Notes
Canaanite Religion	Occult societies, Masons (spiritual only)	Symbolic inheritance of abominable practices
