

black history scriptures in the bible

Black History Scriptures in the Bible: Exploring the Rich Heritage of Black Figures and Themes

black history scriptures in the bible offer a fascinating window into the profound presence and influence of Black people throughout biblical narratives. Often overlooked or misunderstood, these scriptures reveal stories of Africans and other Black figures who played pivotal roles in the unfolding spiritual history that shapes faith traditions today. Exploring these passages not only sheds light on the diversity of the biblical world but also affirms the deep roots of Black heritage within sacred texts.

In this article, we'll delve into key scriptures, explore significant Black biblical figures, and uncover how these stories contribute to our understanding of biblical history and the rich tapestry of Black culture and identity.

Understanding Black History Scriptures in the Bible

When discussing Black history scriptures in the bible, it's important to recognize that the Bible reflects a diverse ancient world, with people of various ethnicities, including Africans. The biblical lands sat at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and Europe, making encounters between different cultures inevitable. Black individuals and nations appear in both the Old and New Testaments, often carrying symbolic and literal significance.

The term "Black history scriptures" refers to passages that highlight African characters, nations, or themes directly related to Black heritage. These scriptures are foundational to appreciating the contributions and experiences of Black people in biblical times.

Why Black History Scriptures Matter

Acknowledging Black history scriptures helps counter narratives that have historically marginalized or erased the presence of Black people in biblical stories. It provides a more accurate and inclusive understanding of scripture and strengthens cultural identity for many believers.

Moreover, these scriptures encourage reflection on themes of resilience, faith, and divine purpose that resonate deeply within the African diaspora. By studying these texts, readers can draw inspiration from the rich spiritual legacy passed down through generations.

Prominent Black Figures in the Bible

Several key biblical characters are traditionally understood to have African origins or connections. Their stories offer insight into the complex social, political, and spiritual landscapes of their times.

Moses' Ethiopian Wife: A Symbol of African Presence

In Numbers 12:1, the Bible briefly mentions Moses' wife as a Cushite woman. Cushites are generally identified as people from the region south of Egypt, often associated with modern-day Sudan or Ethiopia. This reference highlights an important African connection within the Israelite leadership.

The mention of Moses' Cushite wife also sparked debate among biblical scholars and readers, emphasizing the diversity present among God's chosen people. It suggests a blending of cultures and affirms the presence of Africans in significant biblical events.

The Queen of Sheba: African Royalty in Scripture

Another prominent figure is the Queen of Sheba, who visited King Solomon to test his wisdom (1 Kings 10:1-13). Sheba is commonly linked to the ancient kingdom of Ethiopia or Yemen, with many traditions identifying her as African royalty.

Her story exemplifies the recognition of African wisdom and wealth in biblical times. The Queen of Sheba's visit underscores the interconnectedness of African kingdoms with Israel and highlights the esteem in which African leaders were held.

Pharaohs and Egyptian Influence

Egypt, a dominant African civilization, frequently appears throughout the Bible. Pharaohs ruled one of the most powerful empires of the ancient world, and their interactions with the Israelites form a central biblical narrative.

While the ethnicity of individual Pharaohs can be debated, Egypt's geographical location in northeast Africa makes it an undeniably African force. Stories like the Exodus emphasize the struggle for freedom and justice, themes that resonate strongly within Black history and spirituality.

Scriptural References to African Nations and Peoples

The Bible includes references to several African nations and peoples, each carrying unique significance.

Cush and Nubia: The Ancient Kingdoms

The regions of Cush and Nubia appear frequently in the Old Testament. Cush, often translated as Ethiopia in some versions, was known for its mighty warriors and wise leaders (Psalm 68:31). These lands were esteemed in scripture and often associated with strength and nobility.

Biblical passages such as Isaiah 18 and Jeremiah 13 paint Cush as a land of great potential and

mystery, reflecting the spiritual and political importance of African nations within the biblical worldview.

Put and Libya: African Territories in Biblical Context

Put and Libya are also mentioned as African regions in the Bible (Genesis 10:6-8). These areas, located in North Africa, further demonstrate the geographical breadth of Africa's presence in scripture.

Their inclusion alongside other nations in genealogical lists highlights the Bible's acknowledgment of Africa's diverse peoples and cultures, emphasizing a global perspective on humanity's origins.

The Spiritual and Symbolic Meaning of Blackness in the Bible

Beyond historical and geographical references, blackness in the Bible often carries deep spiritual symbolism. Various scriptures use color imagery and metaphors linked to blackness, which can be interpreted in multiple ways.

Blackness as a Symbol of Beauty and Strength

In the Song of Solomon (1:5-6), blackness is portrayed positively. The beloved describes herself as "black but lovely," signifying beauty, resilience, and dignity. This passage counters negative stereotypes and affirms the inherent worth and splendor found in darker skin.

This poetic affirmation echoes throughout African and African diaspora cultures, serving as a source of pride and spiritual affirmation.

Blackness and Divine Mystery

Blackness is sometimes associated with mystery, depth, and the divine in biblical literature. For example, in Revelation 1:14-15, the description of Christ includes hair "white like wool" and feet "like burnished bronze," colors that evoke both majesty and earthly strength.

These symbolic depictions connect blackness with sacred qualities, inviting believers to reflect on God's multifaceted nature and the beauty found in diversity.

How to Explore Black History Scriptures in the Bible

For those interested in deepening their understanding of Black history scriptures in the bible,

several approaches can enrich the study experience.

Utilize Diverse Bible Translations and Commentaries

Different Bible translations can shed light on the nuances of African references. For example, some use “Cush” while others say “Ethiopia,” which can influence interpretation. Consulting scholarly commentaries and historical texts also provides context on the cultural and geographic settings.

Engage with African and African Diaspora Theological Perspectives

Many theologians from African and African diaspora backgrounds have written extensively on the role of Black figures in scripture. Their insights bring cultural depth and contemporary relevance to ancient texts, helping readers connect faith with identity and history.

Join Study Groups Focused on Black Biblical History

Community study groups or church ministries that focus on Black biblical history provide opportunities for shared learning and discussion. Engaging with others can uncover new perspectives and encourage a more holistic grasp of scripture’s diversity.

The Enduring Legacy of Black History Scriptures in Faith and Culture

The presence of Black history scriptures in the bible continues to inspire faith communities worldwide. These scriptures affirm that Black people have always been an integral part of God’s story, from ancient times to the present.

In African American churches, Black biblical figures often serve as symbols of hope and perseverance in the face of adversity. The narratives of figures like the Queen of Sheba or Moses’ Cushite wife remind believers of their valued place within the divine plan.

Moreover, these scriptures encourage ongoing dialogue about race, representation, and spiritual identity, fostering greater inclusivity within religious practice.

Exploring black history scriptures in the bible is not only an academic pursuit but a journey of cultural affirmation and spiritual empowerment. It invites everyone to appreciate the rich diversity embedded in sacred texts and recognize the enduring contributions of Black people throughout biblical history.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there scriptures in the Bible that reference Black people or African heritage?

Yes, the Bible contains several scriptures that reference Black people or African heritage. For example, the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:27-39 is a significant African figure who converts to Christianity. Additionally, figures like Cush and Mizraim in the Old Testament are associated with African regions.

Who was the Ethiopian eunuch mentioned in the Bible?

The Ethiopian eunuch is a figure mentioned in Acts 8:27-39. He was a high official in charge of the treasury of the Kandake (queen) of Ethiopia. Philip the Evangelist encountered him on the road, explained the scriptures, and baptized him, marking an important moment of early African inclusion in Christianity.

What does the Bible say about Cush and his descendants?

Cush is mentioned in the Bible as a son of Ham and a grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:6). His descendants are traditionally linked to regions in Africa, particularly around modern-day Sudan and Ethiopia. The Bible often associates Cushites with African peoples, reflecting the diverse ethnic backgrounds present in biblical narratives.

Are there any Psalms or Proverbs that mention Black people or African lands?

While the Psalms and Proverbs do not explicitly mention Black people by race, some Psalms reference lands associated with Africa. For example, Psalm 68:31 says, 'Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God,' indicating a recognition of African nations in worship.

How have Black Christians historically interpreted scriptures about Africans in the Bible?

Black Christians have often interpreted scriptures about Africans in the Bible as affirmations of their heritage and inclusion in God's plan. Figures like the Ethiopian eunuch are seen as early examples of African Christianity. These interpretations have been important for cultural pride and countering historical narratives of exclusion.

Does the Bible mention the tribe of Judah and its significance to Black history?

The tribe of Judah is one of the twelve tribes of Israel, often associated with leadership and the lineage of King David and Jesus Christ. Some interpretations within Black Hebrew Israelite movements connect their ancestry to the tribe of Judah, emphasizing spiritual and historical ties to biblical promises and identity.

How can studying Black history scriptures in the Bible impact modern faith communities?

Studying Black history scriptures in the Bible can foster greater inclusivity, cultural awareness, and appreciation for the diverse backgrounds represented in biblical texts. It helps modern faith communities recognize the global and multicultural nature of Christianity and can empower marginalized groups by highlighting their historical and spiritual significance.

Additional Resources

Black History Scriptures in the Bible: An Analytical Review

Black history scriptures in the bible serve as a vital area of study for theologians, historians, and cultural scholars alike. These scriptures offer insights not only into the spiritual and religious narratives of the African diaspora but also illuminate the often-overlooked presence and significance of Black individuals and communities within biblical texts. Exploring these passages involves a careful examination of historical context, linguistic analysis, and theological interpretation, which together contribute to a richer understanding of the Bible's diverse tapestry.

Understanding the Context of Black History Scriptures in the Bible

The Bible, as a compilation of texts written over centuries in the ancient Near East, encompasses a broad spectrum of peoples and cultures. While the dominant imagery and narratives have often centered on Middle Eastern or Mediterranean populations, there is significant evidence suggesting the inclusion of African peoples and their descendants within the biblical narrative. This inclusion is critical for recognizing the multicultural and diverse nature of biblical history.

Black history scriptures in the bible refer primarily to passages that mention African individuals, tribes, or regions, as well as the theological implications surrounding these references. Scholars emphasize that ancient Africa—comprising regions such as Egypt, Cush (modern-day Sudan and Ethiopia), and Libya—played a crucial role in biblical events. These regions were not peripheral but central to many biblical stories, impacting the development of religious thought and historical progressions.

Key Biblical Figures and Places Associated with Africa

Several prominent characters and locations within the Bible are linked to African heritage, highlighting the interconnectedness of biblical narratives with Black history:

- **Cush (Ethiopia):** Frequently mentioned in the Old Testament, Cush represents a kingdom south of Egypt, often associated with Black African peoples. Notable mentions include the descendants of Ham, one of Noah's sons, traditionally linked to African lineage.

- **Moses' Cushite Wife:** In Numbers 12:1, Moses is described as having married a Cushite woman, highlighting the presence and acceptance of African individuals within Israelite society.
- **Pharaohs of Egypt:** Egypt's rulers and people are central to many biblical stories, particularly in Exodus. The Egypt of the Bible is an African kingdom, showcasing the continent's influence on biblical history.
- **Simon of Cyrene:** In the New Testament, Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry the cross, is believed to have been from North Africa, underlining African presence in early Christian narratives.

These examples serve as vital points of reference for understanding how black history scriptures in the bible intersect with broader historical and cultural studies.

Examining Theological Implications of African Identity in Scripture

The acknowledgment of African presence in biblical texts has profound theological implications. For many Black Christians and scholars, these scriptures provide affirmation of identity and spiritual heritage. The recognition of African figures within sacred texts challenges historically Eurocentric interpretations of Christianity and encourages a more inclusive theological discourse.

Theological discussions often focus on the reinterpretation of traditionally contentious passages, such as the "Curse of Ham" in Genesis 9:18-27. Historically, this passage has been misused to justify racial discrimination and slavery, linking Ham's descendants to African peoples in a negative light. Contemporary scholarship, however, challenges these interpretations, emphasizing a more nuanced understanding that disavows racial prejudice and highlights biblical themes of redemption and equality.

Impact on Black Theology and Liberation Movements

Black history scriptures in the bible have also played a significant role in the development of Black theology and liberation movements. Pioneers like James Cone utilized these scriptures to articulate a theology that speaks to the experiences of oppression and resilience within Black communities.

This theological framework draws from biblical narratives of liberation, such as the Exodus story, framing it as a metaphor for African American emancipation and social justice struggles. The presence of African figures in scripture strengthens the connection between biblical faith and Black identity, empowering communities to reclaim their spiritual and historical narratives.

Comparative Analysis of Scriptural Interpretations Across Cultures

Interpretations of Black history scriptures in the bible vary widely across different cultures and denominations. In Western Christianity, there has historically been a tendency to downplay or overlook African contributions within biblical texts. This has resulted in a limited appreciation of the multicultural dimensions of scripture.

Conversely, African and African diaspora Christian traditions often emphasize these scriptures to assert cultural and spiritual identity. For example, Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity holds the Ark of the Covenant and associated scriptures as central to national and religious identity, reflecting a unique biblical engagement that intertwines faith with Black heritage.

Diverse Perspectives in Biblical Scholarship

Modern biblical scholarship increasingly acknowledges the importance of African contexts and perspectives. Archaeological findings, linguistic research, and historical analysis contribute to a more accurate reconstruction of the biblical world, inclusive of African peoples.

The recognition of Black history scriptures in the bible fosters dialogue between academic disciplines and faith communities, promoting a holistic understanding that transcends cultural biases. This multidisciplinary approach enriches biblical studies and encourages inclusive interpretations that resonate with a global audience.

Challenges and Opportunities in Studying Black History Scriptures

Studying black history scriptures in the bible is not without challenges. Difficulties include:

1. **Historical Ambiguity:** Many ancient place names and ethnonyms are subject to interpretation, making it challenging to definitively identify African peoples.
2. **Racial Misinterpretations:** Past misuse of certain passages has led to entrenched stereotypes, requiring careful exegetical work to rectify.
3. **Linguistic Barriers:** Translational variations can obscure original meanings related to ethnicity and geography.

Despite these challenges, there are notable opportunities:

- Enhanced cross-cultural biblical literacy encouraging respect for diversity.

- Greater inclusion of African perspectives in theological education.
- Promoting reconciliation by confronting and correcting historical misuses of scripture.

The ongoing scholarship in this field propels a more equitable and truthful engagement with biblical texts, underscoring the importance of black history scriptures in the bible as a component of both religious study and cultural heritage.

The exploration of black history scriptures in the bible thus opens pathways to deeper understanding of the Bible's multicultural dimensions and enriches contemporary discussions about faith, identity, and history. Recognizing and appreciating these scriptures allows for a fuller appreciation of the Bible's complex narrative and affirms the integral role of African peoples in the spiritual and historical legacy of Christianity.

Black History Scriptures In The Bible

black history scriptures in the bible: Philosophy of Religion and the African American Experience John H. McClendon III, 2017-07-03 Most white philosophers of religion generally presume that philosophy of religion is based on what is a false universality; whereby the white/Western experience is paradigmatic of humanity at-large. The fact remains that Howard Thurman, James H. Cone and William R. Jones, among others, have produced a substantial amount of theological work quite worthy of consideration by philosophers of religion. Yet this corpus of thought is not reflected in the scholarly literature that constitutes the main body of philosophy of religion. Neglect and ignorance of African American Studies is widespread in the academy. By including chapters on Thurman, Cone and Jones, the present book functions as a corrective to this scholarly lacuna.

black history scriptures in the bible: The Fortney Encyclical Black History Albert Fortney Jr., 2016-01-15 The Encyclical Black History has been created for the critical and lack of vital Afro-Centric Multi-Curriculum text in urban school systems and is a necessity for African Americans. This book was created with careful and serious attention to biographical names that identifies history, culture as well as biblical characters. The reason why of this encyclical history can be explained with the facts and proof/evidence of the following. The point that has socio-psychological implications at the unconscious as well as the conscious level is the great little white racist lie, seen long enough, becomes the truth; like, portraying a white Jesus Christ who was a black man. Dr. Alvin Poussaint, a Black psychiatrist associated with Harvard University and others have observed and explained the most tragic part of all of this is that the African American has come to form his self image and self-concept on the basis of what white racists have laid down as a guide or prescribed. Therefore, black men and women learn quickly to hate themselves and each other more than their white oppressor. There is almost infinite evidence that racism has left almost irreparable scars on the psyche of Afro-Americans that burden with an unrelenting, painful anxiety that drives the psyche to reach out for a sense of identity and self-esteem. Poussaint and others say that black children, especially learn to hate themselves at very early ages. Studies reveal their preference for white dolls over black ones. One study reported that black children in their drawings tend to show blacks as small, incomplete people and whites as strong and powerful. To conclude, in western color symbolism white is positive and black negative. Many people might ask why the contributions of Africa should be included in American curriculum? Is because they bleach and still rob black history

and culture with black pictured as white that lie, leaves us mentally-dead, angry, and without purpose, of where we are going! Human culture is the product of all humanity, not the possession of a single racial or ethnic group. Afro-centric Multicultural education's major aim is to close the gap between Western ideals of equality, justice and practices that contradict these ideas. Stereotype people of color and people who are poor have just about no opportunities to become free of perspectives that are monoculture, that devalue African culture victimize them mostly having an inability to fully function effectively in society. Many of these problems could be miraculously remedied with astonishing results if explained of black scientific achievements, which occurred in black Africa. There are also white African Americans living in the U.S.A. besides black African Americans, should make the distinction. Carl Sandburg (1979) related a dialogue between a white American and an American Indian which illustrates the need for multicultural education: The white man drew a small circle in the sand and told the red man, This is what the Indian knows, and drawing a big circle around the small one, this is what is what the white man knows. The Indian then took the stick and swept an immensely big ring around both circles and said, this is where the white man and the red man knows nothing.

black history scriptures in the bible: Transforming Scriptures Katherine Clay Bassard, 2011 *Transforming Scriptures* is the first sustained treatment of African American women writers' intellectual, even theological, engagements with the book Northrop Frye referred to as the "great code" of Western civilization. Katherine Clay Bassard discusses how such texts respond as a collective "literary witness" to the use of the Bible for purposes of social domination.

black history scriptures in the bible: Religious Education in the African American Tradition Kenneth H. Hill, 2012-11 Schweitzer's goal in this book is to explore what postmodernity actually means for theology and how theology and the church may respond to its challenges. He focuses on the life cycle as it is changing with the advent of postmodernity, looking sequentially at segments of the life cycle using different lenses: modernity, postmodernity, and responses from church and theology. Schweitzer concludes with a theology of the life cycle.

black history scriptures in the bible: Theorizing Scriptures Vincent L. Wimbush, 2008 Historically, religious scriptures are defined as holy texts that are considered to be beyond the abilities of the layperson to interpret. Their content is most frequently analyzed by clerics who do not question the underlying political or social implications of the text, but use the writing to convey messages to their congregations about how to live a holy existence. In this innovative collection of essays that aims to turn the traditional bible-study definition of scriptures on its head, Vincent L. Wimbush leads an in-depth look at the social, cultural, and racial meanings invested in these texts.

black history scriptures in the bible: Scripture and Ethics Jeffrey S. Siker, 1997 Siker brings together the history of biblical interpretation and the study of uses of the Bible in Christian ethics, to examine how the Bible has actually been used in Christian theological ethics - and in the process profiling eight influential twentieth-century theologians.

black history scriptures in the bible: Jesus in History, Legend, Scripture, and Tradition Leslie Houlden, Antone Minard, 2015-06-23 This multifaceted work contextualizes Jesus in religion and culture by bringing together articles on folklore, history, literature, philosophy, popular culture, and theology. Many books have been written about Jesus, but this two-volume work takes a different approach than most. What sets it apart is that it emphasizes Jesus' lasting impact on world history and his legacy in the imagination over 2,000 years. Written as an introduction, the encyclopedia is equally suitable for Christians who wish to better understand the history and philosophy of their religion and for non-Christians who wish to grasp Christianity in its historical and social contexts. Alphabetically arranged entries cover representations of Jesus in the bible and the writings of key theologians, examining the essentials of philosophical and religious views across history. The set also includes hundreds of entries that reflect on the role Jesus has played in popular culture and contemporary vernacular religion—perspectives that are not usually placed alongside theology. Through the encyclopedia, students will see how artists, writers, philosophers, church figures, and others have imagined Jesus and been influenced by their perceptions of him. At the same time,

primary documents will encourage students to compare and contrast ideas and evaluate arguments that have arisen over 20 centuries.

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black history scriptures in the bible: Holy Writings, Laws of the Prophet, Songs and Proverbs Ammishaddai, 2012-08-02 There is no available information at this time.

black history scriptures in the bible: Americans With African Roots Empowered El Piper, 2025-08-15 *Americans With African Roots Empowered (A'WA'RE™)* offers a grounded and insightful exploration of the history and identity of the Hebrew Israelites, tracing their journey from biblical times through centuries of exile, colonization, and cultural erasure. Beginning with King James VI and I, the book examines how his influence shaped the Bible's translation and how this version was used to reinforce imperial agendas. Through careful comparison with ancient texts such as the Ethiopian Bible and analysis of removed or suppressed scriptures, the book reveals how religious doctrine was reshaped to justify colonization and slavery. The transformation of the Hebrew Israelite faith into a tool of European dominance is laid bare, showing how key elements of biblical history were distorted or omitted. Spanning events from the founding of Jamestown to the transatlantic slave trade, this work connects pivotal historical moments to the ongoing journey of a people whose story has often been hidden. It also explores the cultural endurance and prophetic traditions of the Hebrew Israelites, the evolving role of women, and the spiritual impact of the King James Bible on African-American communities. This is both a historical reexamination and a call to rediscover truth, identity, and legacy in the face of centuries of misrepresentation.

black history scriptures in the bible: Black/Africana Studies and Black/Africana Biblical Studies Abraham Smith, 2020-11-04 In this study, Abraham Smith introduces the nature, history, and interventions of two theoretical-political cultural productions: Black/Africana studies (the systematic and rigorous study of Africa and African descendants) and Black/Africana biblical studies (a biblical studies' subfield that analyzes and appraises the strategies of reception and the historical and contemporary impact of the Christian bible for people of African descent). Both cultural productions were formally introduced in U.S. educational institutions in the late 1960s as a part of the Black Freedom movement. Both have long and deep intellectual antecedents on the one hand and ever-evolving recent interventions that challenge a narrow politics of identity on the other. Through the interrogation of keywords (such as race, family, and Hip Hop or cartographies, canons, and contexts), moreover, the study examines how these two theoretical-political projects question the settled epistemologies or prevailing intellectual currencies of their respective times.

black history scriptures in the bible: Decolonizing Contemporary Gospel Music Through Praxis Robert Beckford, 2023-08-24 Is contemporary Black British gospel music a coloniality? What theological message is really conveyed in these songs? In this book, Robert Beckford shows how the Black British contemporary gospel music tradition is in crisis because its songs continue to be informed by colonial Christian ideas about God. Beckford explores the failure of both African and African Caribbean heritage Churches to Decolonise their faith, especially the doctrine of God, biblical interpretation and Black ontology. This predicament has left song leaders, musicians and songwriters with a reservoir of ideas that aim to disavow engagement with the social-historical world, black Biblical interpretation and the necessity of loving blackness. This book is decolonisation through praxis. Reflecting on the conceptual social justice album 'The Jamaican Bible Remix' (2017) as a communicative resource, Beckford shows how to develop production tools to inscribe decolonial theological thought onto Black British music(s). The outcome of this process is the creation of a decolonial contemporary gospel music genre. The impact of the album is demonstrated through case studies in national and international contexts.

black history scriptures in the bible: The Bibel of Every Land. A History of the Sacred Scriptures in Every Language Etc Samuel Bagster, 1848

black history scriptures in the bible: *A Common Journey* George C. L. Cummings, 2010-01-01
A Common Journey provides the first comprehensive critical comparison of two of theology's most influential movements: Black theology in the United States (BTUSA) and Latin American liberation theology (LALT). The near-simultaneous emergence and growth of these two movements is only the most obvious of the similarities between them. More importantly, both have fostered a new theology from the perspective of the disenfranchised, the powerless, and the oppressed.

black history scriptures in the bible: *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (2nd edn)* J B GREEN, J BROWN, N PERRIN, 2020-05-21
The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels is unique among reference books on the Bible, the first volume of its kind since James Hastings published his Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels in 1909. In the more than eight decades since Hastings, our understanding of Jesus, the Evangelists and their world has grown remarkably. New interpretive methods illumined the text, the ever-changing profile of modern culture has put new questions to the Gospels, and our understanding of the Judaism of Jesus's day has advanced in ways that could not have been predicted in Hastings's day. But for many readers of the Gospels the new outlook on the Gospels remains hidden within technical journals and academic monographs. The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels bridges the gap between scholars and those pastors, teachers, students and lay people desiring in-depth treatment of select topics in an accessible and summary format. The topics range from cross-sectional themes (such as faith, law, Sabbath) to methods of interpretation (such as form criticism, redaction criticism, sociological approaches), from key events (such as the birth, temptation and death of Jesus) to each of the four Gospels as a whole. Some articles - such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, rabbinic traditions and revolutionary movements at the time of Jesus - provide significant background information to the Gospels. Others reflect recent and less familiar issues in Jesus and Gospel studies, such as divine man, ancient rhetoric and the chreiai. Contemporary concerns of general interest are discusses in articles covering such topics as healing, the demonic and the historical reliability of the Gospels. And for those entrusted with communicating the message of the Gospels, there is an extensive article on preaching from the Gospels. The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels presents the fruit of evangelical New Testament scholarship at the end of the twentieth century - committed to the authority of Scripture, utilising the best of critical methods, and maintaining dialog with contemporary scholarship and challenges facing the church.

black history scriptures in the bible: *African American Readings of Paul* Lisa M. Bowens, 2020-10-13
The letters of Paul—especially the verse in Ephesians directing slaves to obey their masters—played an enormous role in promoting slavery and justifying it as a Christian practice. Yet despite this reality African Americans throughout history still utilized Paul extensively in their own work to protest and resist oppression, responding to his theology and teachings in numerous—often starkly divergent and liberative—ways. In the first book of its kind, Lisa Bowens takes a historical, theological, and biblical approach to explore interpretations of Paul within African American communities over the past few centuries. She surveys a wealth of primary sources from the early 1700s to the mid-twentieth century, including sermons, conversion stories, slave petitions, and autobiographies of ex-slaves, many of which introduce readers to previously unknown names in the history of New Testament interpretation. Along with their hermeneutical value, these texts also provide fresh documentation of Black religious life through wide swaths of American history. African American Readings of Paul promises to change the landscape of Pauline studies and fill an important gap in the rising field of reception history.

black history scriptures in the bible: *The Bible Cause* John Fea, 2016-03-03
The Bible Cause chronicles the role that the American Bible Society has played throughout America's history, from its founding in 1816 to the present day, as it has met the spiritual needs of Americans through the translation and publication of the Bible.

black history scriptures in the bible: *Theologians on Scripture* Angus Paddison, 2016-11-03
The movement that is known as 'theological interpretation of Scripture' reminds us that the reading and exegesis of Scripture is an indispensable part of the theologian's work, not to be reserved to biblical scholars alone. This insight that the reading of Scripture is a theological responsibility is

always at risk of being eclipsed by the modern disciplinary divisions between biblical studies, historical theology, and systematic theology. Intended as a contribution to the theological re-engagement with Scripture, this book invites a range of high-profile systematic and constructive theologians to reflect on the role that the reading and interpretation of Scripture plays in their theological work, both professionally and more personally. Spanning a cross-section of theological perspectives contributors reflect on the role of tradition in their reading of Scripture, the company they view as indispensable in their engagement with the text, the place of historical critical study and biblical studies, and the significance of their context. The book will be valued by all those who care for the place of Scripture in theology and the life of the church, as well as those who want an insight into the state of contemporary theology.

black history scriptures in the bible: Strategies for Educating African American Adults Alvin Lewis, 2006-10-30 Strategies for Educating African American Adults is an engaging, enlightening, and challenging look at how to help Christian adults teach, learn, and prepare for effective ministry in the African American church and community. The book is an important reference as it outlines practical, easy-to-follow techniques that will enhance and revive your Christian education program. After reading this book, you will better understand the heritage and future of Christian education in the Black church, distinguish the characteristics of the Buster, Boomer, and Builder generations, and be better equipped to overcome the obstacles of ministering to families.

black history scriptures in the bible: Scripturalectics Vincent L. Wimbush, 2017 In this book, Vincent Wimbush seeks to problematize what we call scriptures, a word first used to refer simply to things written, the registration of basic information. In the modern world the word came to be associated almost exclusively with the center- and power-defining sacred texts of world religions. Wimbush argues that this narrowing of the valence of the term was a decisive development for western culture. His purpose is to reconsider the initially broad and politically charged use of the term. Scriptures are excavated not merely as texts to be read but understood as discourse: as mimetic rituals and practices, as ideologically-charged orientations to and prescribed behaviors in the world, as structures of relationships and social formations, as forms of communication. Wimbush is naming and constructing a new transdisciplinary critical project, which uses the historical and modern experiences of the Black Atlantic as resources for framing, categorization, and analysis. Using Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* as a touchstone, each chapter offers a close reading and analysis of a representative moment in the formation of the Black Atlantic, regarded as part of a history of modern human consciousness and conscientization. Such a history, Wimbush says, is reflected in the major turns in what he calls scripturalectics, part of the construction of the modern world, defined as efforts to manage or control knowledge and meaning.

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