



# **African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Structures**

*Vincent L. Wimbush*

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# African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Structures

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## **African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Structures** Vincent L. Wimbush

A unique study of how the Bible "constructs" African Americans and how African Americans "construct" the Bible. From literature and the arts to popular culture and everyday life, the Bible courses through black society and culture. Despite the enormous recent surge of interest in African American religion, scant attention has been paid to the diversity of ways in which African Americans have utilized the Bible. *African Americans and the Bible* is the fruit of a four-year collaborative research project directed by Vincent L. Wimbush and funded by the Lilly Endowment. It brings together scholars and experts (sixty-eight in all) from a wide range of academic and artistic fields and disciplines—including ethnography, cultural history, and biblical studies and also music, film, dance, drama, and literature. The book is less about the meaning(s) of the Bible than about the Bible and meaning(s), less about the world(s) of the Bible than about how worlds and the Bible interact—in short, about how a text constructs a people and a people construct a text. It is about a particular socio-cultural formation but also about the dynamics that occur in the interrelation between any group of people and sacred texts in general. *African Americans and the Bible* offers a critical lens through which the process of socio-cultural formation can be viewed.

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