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## The Talking Book: African Americans and the Bible

*Allen Dwight Callahan*

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#831338 in Books 2008-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.20 x .70 x 6.10l, .95 #File Name: 0300136161304 pages | File size: 20.Mb

**Allen Dwight Callahan : The Talking Book: African Americans and the Bible** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Talking Book: African Americans and the Bible:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book challenges the writer to think beyond many sermons ...By Charles R Butler IIIThis book challenges the writer to think beyond many sermons into some deep seated and complex issues. The four points of Exodus, Exile, Ethiopia, and Emmanuel leads one into areas that few other books have dared to go into reclaiming history and the right to one's own path through life. Emmanuel is in the slave pits of Egypt and

America, and freedom can be seen in Exile from one's promised land and the dreams of one's own home of a mythical Ethiopia. Think through this book, pray with this book. It will open eyes.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. This beautiful book gives you so much more than its title. By Thompson Lilian J This book gives you so much more than its title. What I appreciated is the included history of remigration efforts of Afro-Americans to Africa which I experienced as a bonus of information. This book has an entertaining style and I would recommend it for the young and the old, white and non-white who are looking for a one-stop-window to understand more about the Afro-American.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. About "The Talking Book" By Jerry Callahan provides an excellent summary of the African American experience with the Bible, that is, how we came to encounter it within these United States, how it was used 'against' us, and how we have come to appropriate it via listening "against" it and "reading from below." Certainly, the so little appreciated "Middle Passage" is defined, such that its impact for the Black experience in the United States may be comprehended for African Americans as well as others who employ the Bible. Above all, the work confronts us with the assorted uses of the Bible as the "founding document" of our nation and begs us to be conscientious in our employment of it.

The Talking Book casts the Bible as the central character in a vivid portrait of black America, tracing the origins of African-American culture from slavery's secluded forest prayer meetings to the bright lights and bold style of today's hip-hop artists. The Bible has profoundly influenced African Americans throughout history. From a variety of perspectives this wide-ranging book is the first to explore the Bible's role in the triumph of the black experience. Using the Bible as a foundation, African Americans shared religious beliefs, created their own music, and shaped the ultimate key to their freedom: literacy. Allen Callahan highlights the intersection of biblical images with African-American music, politics, religion, art, and literature. The author tells a moving story of a biblically informed African-American culture, identifying four major biblical images: Exile, Exodus, Ethiopia, and Emmanuel. He brings these themes to life in a unique African-American history that grows from the harsh experience of slavery into a rich culture that endures as one of the most important forces of twenty-first-century America.

From Publishers Weekly In this informative academic volume, Callahan (a New Testament professor at Brazil's Seminário Teológico Batista do Nordeste) examines how the music and literature of black Americans are shot through with biblical images. His opening chapter rehearses familiar history, explaining how white evangelicals introduced slaves to the Bible, and arguing that the Bible has given black Americans the resources to critique injustice. More innovatively, Callahan examines how black readers have engaged the Bible's "toxic" passages, like Genesis 9:25, which racists have read to say that dark skin is a curse. Callahan then turns to his central task: teasing out the various biblical themes that have been important to black writers and readers. He suggests that other scholars have focused too exclusively on the imagery of exodus in African-American culture. Of course, Callahan does find exodus in spirituals like "God's A-Gwint' Trouble de Water." But he also traces the theme of exile through the plays of August Wilson and the novels of James Baldwin, and he considers the central place of the name of Jesus in black folklore, belles lettres, and hip-hop. From W. E. B. Du Bois to Toni Morrison, black writers have invoked Jesus to signify "the suffering of black people." Callahan's investigations will doubtless interest students of African-American religion. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The Bible has been central to the acculturation of African Americans since slavery, providing comfort to slave and slave master alike and providing a hope for deliverance since then. Religion professor Callahan parallels biblical images of exile, exodus, and prophets as expressed in the lives of African Americans. Through history, spirituals, literature, politics, and culture, he illustrates how black figures such as Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., and Louis Farrakhan, among others, have evoked the biblical figure of Moses in messages of deliverance from bondage and racism. Callahan traces the use of the Bible to "civilize" slaves, admonish them to obey their masters, promote the desire for literacy, and provide a code for expressing resistance and hope for justice. He examines the various exodus movements, from the slave South to freedom in the North and various efforts to return to Africa, and the search for the faith and fortitude to remain an exiled people in America. A powerful look at the intersection of religion and African American culture. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "This is a landmark book. I am not aware of any book in print that draws so many telling conclusions about African Americans and the Bible." -Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame "This searing interpretation of ongoing conversations between African Americans and the Bible probes the deepest theological and ethical questions of an amazing company of saints and sages, artists and authors, prophets and preachers. Without question, Callahan's brilliant analysis has established a new benchmark for the study of African American religion and biblical hermeneutics." -Cheryl J. Sanders, Howard University "This is a landmark book. I am not aware of any book in print that draws so many telling conclusions about African Americans and the Bible." -- Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame "A powerful and evocative telling of the dynamic interpretation of the Bible in the African American community, a story that will jolt any reader into a fresh understanding and appreciation of Scripture." -- Harvey Cox, author of "When Jesus Came to Harvard" "This searing interpretation of ongoing conversations between African Americans and the Bible probes the deepest theological and

ethical questions of an amazing company of saints and sages, artists and authors, prophets and preachers. Without question, Callahan's brilliant analysis has established a new benchmark for the study of African American religion and biblical hermeneutics." -- Cheryl J. Sanders, Howard University "We have waited a long time for this text, but it has been well worth it. Callahan does a masterful job of unpacking the various ways in which biblical texts and images have served as vital resources for the expression of African American thought and life. Anyone interested in the ways in which African Americans have used the "sacred book" to explore and explain the various dimensions and nuances of life in the United States, will find this book a powerful resource. This book represents Callahan at his best. I highly recommend it."-- Anthony B. Pinn, Rice University " This is a landmark book. I am not aware of any book in print that draws so many telling conclusions about African Americans and the Bible. " -- Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame "A powerful and evocative telling of the dynamic interpretation of the Bible in the African American community, a story that will jolt any reader into a fresh understanding and appreciation of Scripture." -- Harvey Cox, author of *When Jesus Came to Harvard* " This searing interpretation of ongoing conversations between African Americans and the Bible probes the deepest theological and ethical questions of an amazing company of saints and sages, artists and authors, prophets and preachers. Without question, Callahan ' s brilliant analysis has established a new benchmark for the study of African American religion and biblical hermeneutics. " -- Cheryl J. Sanders, Howard University "We have waited a long time for this text, but it has been well worth it. Callahan does a masterful job of unpacking the various ways in which biblical texts and images have served as vital resources for the expression of African American thought and life. Anyone interested in the ways in which African Americans have used the "sacred book" to explore and explain the various dimensions and nuances of life in the United States, will find this book a powerful resource. This book represents Callahan at his best. I highly recommend it." -- Anthony B. Pinn, Rice University