

African Heritage Bible Study “The Black Christ”



What has TV and Movies Taught Us?

- ▶ Feb 15, 1974 - Watch **Good Times** - Season 1, Episode 2 - **Black Jesus**: J.J.'s painting of a **Black Jesus**, becomes the family's good luck charm after a string of ... However, Florida refuses to entertain the notion that the painting had anything to do with the recent string of "good times".
- ▶ *Malcolm X* (1992 film) The conversation with the prison's chaplain.



What Does the Word say?

▶ Revelation 1:14-15 King James Version (KJV)

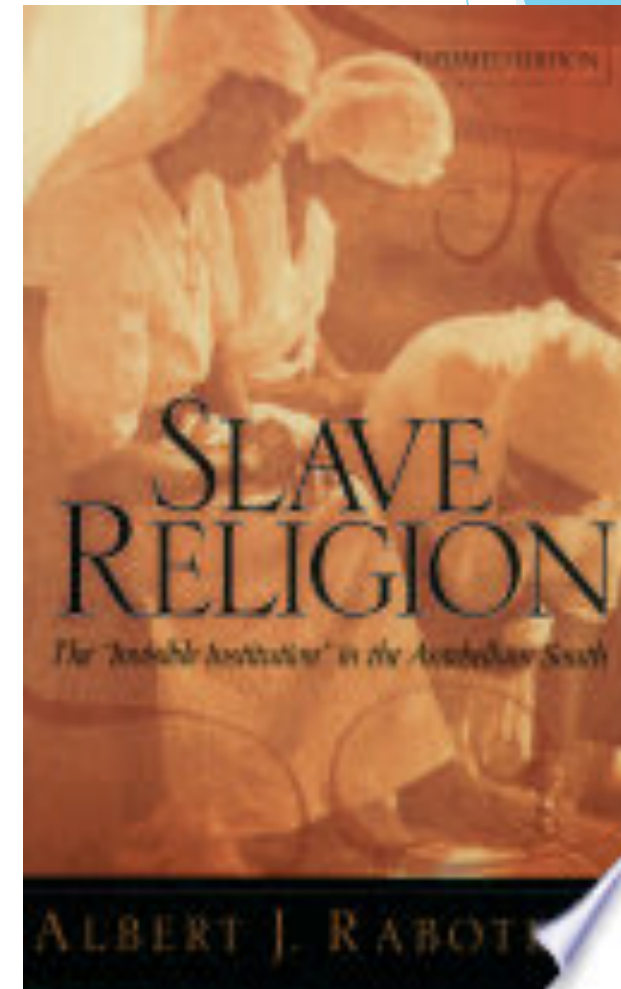
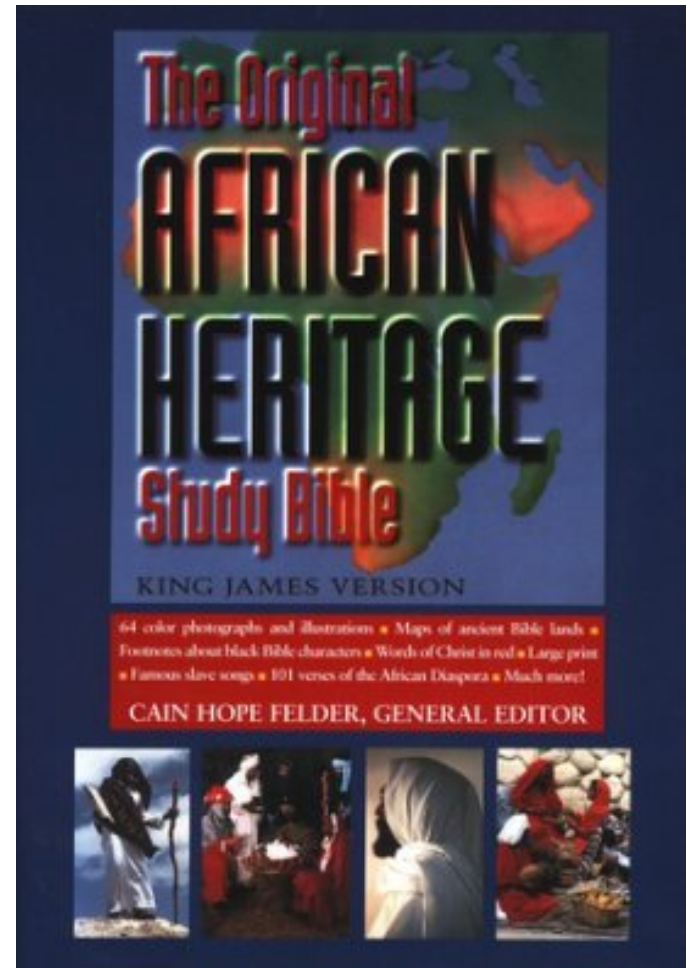
▶ Daniel 7:9 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

¹⁵ And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.



The Source for Tonight's Lesson



Let's Begin

- ▶ Introduction Section- Kelly Brown Douglas tells a story about her grandmother.
- ▶ Her grandmother believed Christ “Identified”, “Cared” and “Empowered”.
- ▶ Our Ancestor’s “Black Faith”, affirmed that Christ was Black and He identified with the struggles against.

- ▶ James Cone, defined the Black Christ’s color as well as relationship to Black People struggle.

- ▶ It’s not just about “Color”, though “Color” is important, it’s about “Action” and “Relationship”.

THE BLACK CHRIST



KELLY BROWN DOUGLAS

A Historical Background

- ▶ The Study of “the Black Christ” started in the 1960’s with what we call “Black Theology”
- ▶ This was during the time of Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement.



- ▶ The Roots of the Black Christ can be traced back to the time of slavery
 - ▶ Slaveholding Christianity and the White Christ
 - ▶ Slave Christian and the Black Christ



Slaveholding Christianity and the White Christ

- ▶ 1-The Justification of Slavery
 - ▶ *Ephesians 6:5* *Luke 4:17-18*
- ▶ 2-Christianization of the Slaves
 - ▶ *Genesis 9:22-25* *Leviticus 25:44-46*
- ▶ 3-Christianity and Cruelty



Slave Christian and the Black Christ

1-Jesus and the Slaves

▶ *Luke 2:7*

2-Radicalization of the Slaves

▶ *Exodus 13:17*

3-The Contradiction between Christianity and the Cruelty of Slavery



Thurman's Greatest Legacy



- ▶ **The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples is an interfaith, interracial, intercultural community of seekers dedicated to personal empowerment and social transformation through an ever deepening relationship with the Spirit of God in All Life.**

Thurman's Greatest Legacy



- ▶ The Inclusive Community confirms Thurman understood God's will for human relationships.
- ▶ As it has been said: Sunday morning is the most segregate hour in American life.
- ▶ Thurman's model removed all barriers thus resulting in inclusive community