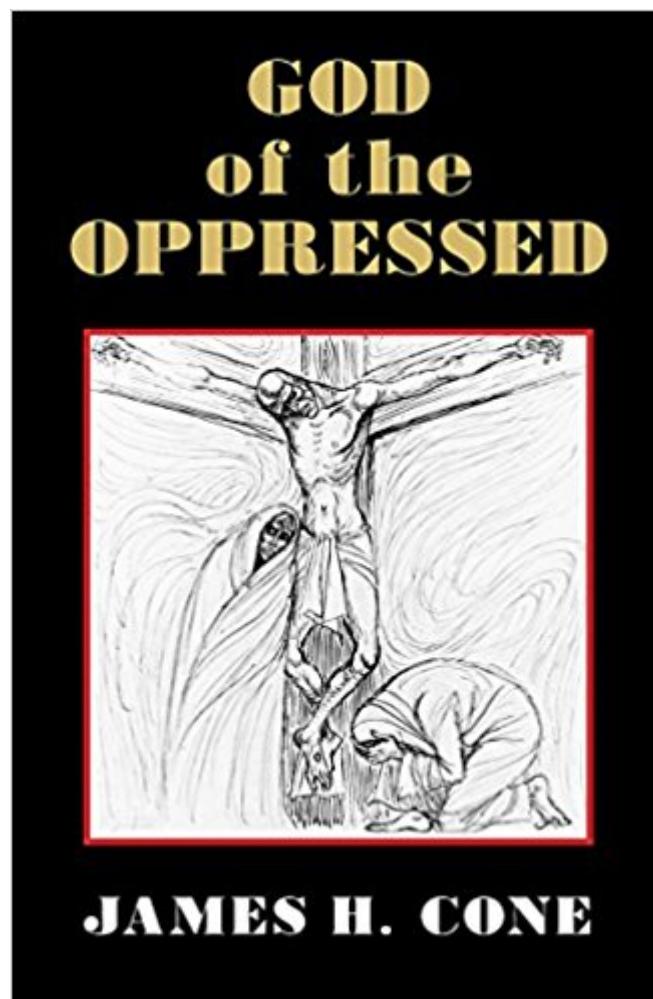


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# God Of The Oppressed



## Synopsis

In his reflections on God, Jesus, suffering, and liberation, James H. Cone relates the gospel message to the experience of the black community. But a wider theme of the book is the role that social and historical context plays in framing the questions we address to God as well as the mode of the answers provided.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James H. Cone, Bill and Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary, is widely regarded as one of the most influential theologians in America. His books include *Black Theology & Black Power*, *A Black Theology of Liberation*, *The Spirituals & the Blues*, *God of the Oppressed*, *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare* and *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*.

Cone's first two books, 'Black Theology and Black Power' (1969) and 'A Black Theology of Liberation' (1970), outline the philosophical necessity and practical framework of the Black Theology's doctrine. In his third strictly theological work, 'God of the Oppressed', he constructs a systematic theology using African-American religion and tradition as its basis; in it, his aim is two-fold: to respond to the dismissal of Black Theology by white theologians, and to explain the rationale of viewing God as the Liberator despite the centuries of oppression in the US. His thesis is that one's social and historical contexts determine the questions and answers that one can ask and

receive from God. To illustrate this social conditioning, he contrasts the way white and black theologies have typically imagined God. Here is a very very brief summary of the book: Cone's first agenda is to address the problem of universality and particularity in Christian theology. He begins by stressing that theology is always contextual and intrinsically related to human experience, and argues that Christian theology must always prophetically address the socio-political conditions and involve liberating marginalized persons. Cone next addresses the question: "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" His answer involves seeing one's social context and the Bible as dialectically related: Jesus IS Black because he WAS Jewish: Christ enters into our world amongst the poor and despised. The cross displayed God's willingness to suffer with humanity; the resurrection proclaims the liberation on display in Israel's history is now available to all. Cone concludes his work by firmly planting theology within history, arguing that salvation IS liberation, and that ethics must be founded upon it. His work teaches Christians to approach the Bible through the experience of the cross and not the other way around. He concludes that reconciliation precedes liberation, and it is as big of a risk as Jesus' cross: reconciliation is not blacks assuring white liberals that there are no hard feelings; it is God's presence insisting upon the death of the oppressor through tangible reparations. God of the Oppressed is a forceful treatise that develops a theological system by interweaving the redemptive history of Israel, Jesus' gospel of freedom, and the concrete experience of black oppression. Cone has laid the groundwork for re-interpreting classical theological concepts: the Christian God is understood only as the God of the Oppressed. This book challenges one's assumptions regarding how the salvific message of the gospel actually occurs; it also addresses the historical nature of the Christian message: salvation should never be regarded primarily as abstract since the effects of sin are concrete; if God's intention is to free us from sin, then the truth of God's revelation must be understood as historically imbedded. The message of God of the Oppressed is clear: God has opened a new future for the humiliated and abused. Cone is a rare type of theologian: he preaches the gospel as if it were good news.

Cone is fabulous. A must-read. But get the paper version. This Kindle edition has poor spelling, leaves out words, varies in font size, and even changes some words. It even put "can" instead of "can't" and messed with punctuation. This book is a classic. At least copy-edit it before you send it live.

A must read for all, This books helps African Americans to understand their history. Other races should also read to begin to understand how slavery continues to touch a culture

This is just my second copy of God of the Oppressed by James Cone. My first copy was so worn I had to replace it. This new edition was even more inspirational. Cone is one of the foremost Liberation Theologians. He speaks "truth to power". Been a "Conite" since 85.

"The God of the Oppressed" by James H. Cone has been considered a classic in the genre since its publication over three decades ago in 1975. Obviously, conservative Christians and conservative theologians will disagree with various conclusions in "The God of the Oppressed." However, if one wants to understand the basic tenants of black liberation theology, and one of the "founding fathers" of the movement, then this is the book to read. Cone, like millions of African American Christians before him, parallels the African American experience of slavery with the Israelite's enslavement in Egypt. For Caucasian Christians, it is vital to understand that America as the Promised Land has been a white experience and perspective, and has not been true for the black experience. Cone develops a theology of suffering and of social justice from his interpretation of biblical passages on these topics integrated with the black experience in America. Again, while his interpretations can be offensive to conservative readers, being introduced to them is a good place to begin an intelligent dialogue. Cone's personal philosophy and political policies often seem to impact his biblical interpretations, though this is true with all writers and theologians. For a historical perspective that provides a conservative black expression of the experience of suffering, readers can consider Beyond the Suffering. *Â Beyond the Suffering: Embracing the Legacy of African American Soul Care and Spiritual Direction*

Excellent follow up to his first book. Dr. Cone has demonstrated that God cannot side with and support those who oppress the marginalized. God, through the oppressed life Jesus Christ offers us a new way to consider divine work in human affairs. God is a champion for the oppressed. A necessary read for anyone who is against the status quo in theological studies.

ESSENTIAL TO ANY DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO  
THEOLOGY/RACISM/SOCIALISM/CAPITALISM/CHRISTIANITY

My pastor recommended this book and I understand why. Great read

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