Black scholars have been underrepresented in Old Testament scholarship, particularly in North America, where their admittance to the guild has been relatively recent. Indeed, Charles B. Copher was only “the third African American to receive the Ph.D. in Old Testament, which he earned at Boston University in 1947.”¹ Not until 1989 did an African American woman complete a Ph.D. in Old Testament when Renita Weems graduated with her degree from Princeton Seminary.² In 1991 Cain Hope Felder declared, “There are today just a little more than thirty Black North Americans with a completed Ph.D./Th.D. in biblical studies (less than one-fifth of 1 percent in North America alone). As of this writing, there are but two African American female Ph.D.’s in New Testament and two in Old Testament.”³ The situation has improved since 1991, but the work of African American Old Testament scholars has still not been given sufficient attention within the broader scholarly guild. Moreover, although a much higher percentage of Old Testament scholars working in Africa are Black, their writings remain almost invisible to many Old Testament scholars in North America and Europe. Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele) laments that “Africa is . . . a stranger in the global village, as it cannot participate as an equal partner. Hence, even within academia, resources developed in Africa are not always taken seriously, if at all, by the powerful.”⁴

This bibliography seeks to address this problem by highlighting the work of Black Old Testament scholars to encourage others to use these publications in research and teaching. The bibliography is not designed to be comprehensive, but merely to illustrate the range of scholarship available from these Black scholars. Clearly many other sources could be added to this list, and works on the Old Testament have also been written by Black scholars with advanced degrees in other fields, such as New Testament or Theology, though they are not included here. The first section omits editorial work, though a later section contains some edited collections and metastudies that are focused particularly on African, African American, postcolonial, and Womanist interpretation. At times we have swapped the order of author names in order to highlight the Black author or Old Testament scholar.

While Black interpretation exhibits some common features, these scholars are writing from a wide variety of contexts with different approaches and aims. In particular, African and North American scholarship are distinct worlds, so we have broken up the first section along those lines, categorizing scholars based on where they are currently working. However, considerable variation may also be found within those groups. The background and concerns of Afro-Caribbean scholars differ from those of African American scholars, even if both are currently teaching in the US. And the historical and cultural context for scholars in Nigeria is not the same as for those in South Africa. For this reason (and because some scholars have moved across continents), we have included the country of origin for each Black OT scholar in parentheses after their name.

To navigate to a particular section, click on the following links:

**Categorized by Author**

**Scholars in Africa (and Europe)**
- Adamo, David Tuesday
- Adamo, David Tuesday, and Erivwierho Francis Eghwubare
- Ademiluka, Solomon Olusola
- Akoto-(Abutiate), Dorothy B. E. A.
- Akoto, Dorothy B. E. A., and Timothy J. Sandoval
- Arulefela, Joseph O.
- Bailey, Randall C., Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), and Rodney S. Sadler Jr.
- Boniface-Malle, Anastasia
- Bookholane, Lehlohonolo
- Carew, Douglas M.
- Chebet, Dorcas.
- Chebet, Dorcas, and Beatrice Cherop
- Davidson, Steed Vernyl, Justin Ukpong, and Gosnell Yorke
- Farisani, Elelwani B.
- Farisani, Elelwani B., and Dorothy Farisani
- Githuku, Sammy
- Habtu, Tewoldemedhin
- Himbaza, Innocent
- Himbaza, Innocent, and Adrian Schenker
- Himbaza, Innocent, Adrian Schenker, and Jean Baptiste Édart
- Himbaza, Innocent, François-Xavier Amherdt, and Félix Moser
- Kalugila, Leonidas
- Katho, (Robert) Bungishabaku
- Kimilike, Lechion Peter
- Koudouguéré, David
- Lokel, Philip

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5 See the introductory essays in The Africana Bible: Reading Israel’s Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora, ed. Hugh R. Page Jr. et al. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010), especially Randall C. Bailey, Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), and Rodney S. Sadler, “African and African Diasporan Hermeneutics: Reading the Hebrew Bible as Journey, Exile, and Life through My/Our Place,” 19–24.
Bibliography of Black OT Scholars

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Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Madipoane J., and Hulisani Ramantswana
Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Madipoane J., and Lehlohonolo Bookholane
Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Madipoane J., and Rodney S. Sadler Jr.
Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Madipoane J., and V. Ndikhokele N. Mtshiselwa
Monsengwo Pasinya, Laurent
Mosala, Itumeleng J.
Mtshiselwa, V. Ndikho(kele) N.
Mtshiselwa, V. Ndikhokele N., and Madipoane J. Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele)
Murrell, Nathaniel Samuel, David T. Shannon, and David T. Adamo
Muthengi, Julius K.
Nadar, Sarojini
Naré, Laurent
Ndiokwere, Nathaniel I.
Ndjericou, Abel Laoundoye
Nkabala, Helen Nambaliwra
Nkesele, Zephania Shila
Ntreh, Benjamin Abotchie
Nwaoru, Emmanuel O.
Nzambi, Philippe Dinzolele
Nzimande, Makhosazana K.
Odhiambo, Nicholas Oyugi
Ramantswana, Hulisani
Razafindrakoto, Georges
Tushima, Cephas, T. A.
Ukpong, Justin S.
Wafula, R. S.
Wambutda, Daniel N.
Weanzana, Nupanga
Yilpet, Yoilah
Zinkuratire, Victor
Zulu, Edwin

Scholars in North America
Anderson, Cheryl B.
Bailey, Randall C.
Bailey, Randall C., Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), and Rodney S. Sadler Jr.
Bailey, Wilma Ann
Bennett, Harold V.
Bennett, Robert
Bridgeman, Valerie
Bridgeman, Valerie, and Cheryl Kirk-Duggan
Burgh, Theodore W.
Burgh, Theodore W., and Keith Mattingly
Callender, Dexter E. Jr.
Copher, Charles B.
Davidson, Steed Vernyl
Davidson, Steed Vernyl, Justin Ukpong, and Gosnell Yorke
Davis, Stacy
Day, Quonekuia
De-Whyte (Sarfo), Janice Pearl Ewurama
Fentress-Williams, Judy
Fentress-Williams, Judy, and Melody D. Knowles
Franklin, Naomi
Gafney, Wil(da) C. M.
Greene, John T.
Holder, John W. D.
Jacobs, Mignon R.
Johnson, Vivian L.
Johnson, Willa Mathis
Junior, Nyasha
Junior, Nyasha, and Amy Edwards
Junior, Nyasha, and Jeremy Schipper
Kemp, Joel
Lovelace, Vanessa
Mafico, Temba L. J.
Marbury, Herbert Robinson
Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Madipoane J., and Rodney S. Sadler Jr.
Mbuwayesango, Dora Rudo
Mbuwayesango, Dora Rudo, and Susanne Scholz
McClenney-Sadler, Madeline
Murrell, Nathaniel Samuel
Murrell, Nathaniel Samuel, David T. Shannon, and David T. Adamo
Nash, Peter T.
Ngwa, Kenneth Numfor
Norton, Yolanda
Page, Hugh R. Jr.
Peters, Melvin K. H.
Rainey, Brian
Reed, Justin Michael
Reid, Stephen Breck
Robertson, Cleotha
Ross, Jerome Clayton
Russaw, Kimberly Dawn
Sadler, Rodney S. Jr.
Sadler, Rodney S. Jr., and Emerson B. Powery
Shannon, David T.
Simbandumwe, Samuel S.
Skinner, Jerome L.
Taylor, Michelle Ellis
Wafawanaka, Robert
Wafawanaka, Robert, Andrew Mbuvi, James Ashmore, Alice Ogden Bellis, Randall C. Bailey, Dora Mbuwayesango, and Michael Willett Newheart
Waters, John W.
Weems, Renita J.
Wright, Edwina

Categorized by Topic

Collections and Meta-Studies
African Interpretation
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Ezra–Nehemiah
Esther

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Song of Songs

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Jeremiah
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Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Specific Themes
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Exile and Return
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Family
Gender and Women
God and the Gods
HIV/AIDS
Justice and Criminal Justice
Lament
Land and Inheritance
Law/Torah
Leaders and Leadership
Life and Survival
Magic and Religious Practice
Myth
Nation, Empire, and Imperialism
Peace and War
Poetry
Poverty and Money
Prayer and Listening for God
Prophecy
Race and Ethnicity
Sacrifice
Salvation and Evangelism
Sex and Marriage
Sin, Repentance, and Reconciliation
Suffering
Violence
Wisdom
History of Interpretation/Reception History
Modern Translations
Teaching and Preaching

Categorized by Author

Scholars in Africa (and Europe)\textsuperscript{6}

\textbf{Adamo, David Tuesday} (Nigeria).


\textsuperscript{6} Aside from Innocent Himbaza, who teaches in Switzerland, the rest of the scholars in this category reside in Africa.


Adam, David Tuesday (Nigeria), and Erivwierho Francis Eghwubare (Nigeria).


Ademiluka, Solomon Olusola (Nigeria).


**Akoto(-Abutiate), Dorothy B. E. A. (Ghana)**


**Akoto, Dorothy B. E. A. (Ghana), and Timothy J. Sandoval.**


**Arulefela, Joseph O. (Nigeria)**


**Bailey, Randall C. (USA), Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele, South Africa), and Rodney S. Sadler Jr. (USA/Bermuda)**

Boniface-Malle, Anastasia (Tanzania).


Bookholane, Lehlohonolo (South Africa).


Carew, Douglas M. (Sierra Leone)


Chebet, Dorcas (Kenya)


Chebet, Dorcas (Kenya), and Beatrice Cherop.


**Davidson, Steed Vernyl** *(Trinidad and Tobago)*, **Justin Ukpong** *(Nigeria)*, and Gosnell Yorke.


**Farisani, Elelwani B.** *(South Africa)*


**Farisani, Elelwani B.** (South Africa), and Dorothy Farisani.


**Githuku, Sammy** (Kenya).


**Habtu, Tewoldemedhin** (Eritrea).


**Himbaza, Innocent** (Rwanda).


**Himbaza, Innocent (Rwanda),** and Adrian Schenker.


**Himbaza, Innocent (Rwanda),** Adrian Schenker, and Jean Baptiste Édart.


**Himbaza, Innocent (Rwanda),** François-Xavier Amherdt, and Félix Moser.


**Kalugila, Leonidas (Tanzania).**

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Katho, (Robert) Bungishabaku (Democratic Republic of Congo).


Kimilike, Lechion Peter (Tanzania).


Koudouguéret, David (Central African Republic).


Lokel, Philip (Uganda).


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**Greene, John T. (USA)**


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Scholars in North America  50


**Holder, John W. D. (Barbados)**


**Jacobs, Mignon R. (USA)**


Jacobs, Mignon R. (USA), and Raymond F. Person Jr.

Johnson, Vivian L. (USA)


Johnson, Willa Mathis (USA).


Junior, Nyasha (USA).


Junior, Nyasha (USA), and Amy Edwards.


Junior, Nyasha (USA), and Jeremy Schipper.


Kemp, Joel (USA).


Lovelace, Vanessa (USA).


Mafico, Temba L. J. (Zimbabwe)


**Marbury, Herbert Robinson** (USA).


**Masenya (ngwan’a Mphahlele), Madipoane J.** (South Africa), and **Rodney S. Sadler Jr.** (USA/Bermuda)

Mbuwayesango, Dora Rudo (Zimbabwe).


Mbuwayesango, Dora Rudo (Zimbabwe), and Susanne Scholz.


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Ngwa, Kenneth Numfor (Cameroon).


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**Rainey, Brian (USA)**


Reed, Justin Michael (USA).


Reid, Stephen Breck (USA).


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Ross, Jerome Clayton (USA).


Russaw, Kimberly Dawn (USA).


Sadler, Rodney S. Jr. (USA/Bermuda)


Sadler, Rodney S. Jr. (USA/Bermuda), and Emerson B. Powery.


**Shannon, David T. (USA)**


**Simbandumwe, Samuel S. (Burundi)**


**Skinner, Jerome L. (USA)**


**Taylor, Michelle Ellis (USA).**


**Wafawanaka, Robert (Zimbabwe).**


**Wafawanaka, Robert** (Zimbabwe), Andrew Mbuvi, James Ashmore, Alice Ogden Bellis, **Randall C. Bailey** (USA), **Dora Mbuwayesango** (Zimbabwe), and Michael Willett Newheart.

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Waters, John W. (USA)


Weems, Renita J. (USA)


*Wright, Edwina* (USA).


**Categorized by Topic**

Collections and Meta-Studies

The Collections and Meta-Studies section contains some works that were written and edited by non-Black authors as well as by scholars from other disciplines in order to offer a broader perspective on the fields of African and African American interpretation. Two major trends
within Black interpretation are (1) liberationist or postcolonial approaches and (2) feminist or Womanist approaches. To highlight these, we have devoted separate sections to them, and we have also drawn attention to a few essays discussing the place of historical criticism within Black interpretation.

**African Interpretation**


**African American and Afro-Caribbean Interpretation**


**Historical-Critical Methods**


**Liberationist and Postcolonial Interpretation**


**Feminist and Womanist Interpretation**


Hebrew Text and Ancient Versions


Hebrew Text and Ancient Versions


Canonical Divisions

Whole Old Testament


Pentateuch


Genesis


Exodus


Leviticus


**Numbers**


“Balaam as Figure and Type in Ancient Semitic Literature to the First Century BCE, with a Survey of Selected Post-Philo Applications of the Balaam Figure and Type.” Pages 82–147 in *SBL Seminar Papers, 1989*. Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers 29. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.

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**Deuteronomy**


______. “Revisiting the Rock: Tsur as a Translation of Elohim in Deuteronomy and Beyond.” Pages 37–51 in Text-Critical and Hermeneutical Studies in the Septuagint. Edited by...


Historical Books


Joshua


Judges


**Ruth**


**Samuel**


**Kings**


Chronicles


Ezra–Nehemiah


Nzimande, Makhosazana K. “Imbokodo Explorations of the Prevalence of Historical Memory and Identity Contestations in the Expulsion of the Nāšîm Nokriyyōt in Ezra 9–10.” Pages 269–94 in Texts, Contexts and Readings in Postexilic Literature: Explorations into


**Esther**


_____. “‘Limping, Yet Made To Climb a Mountain!’ Re-reading the Vashti Character in the HIV and AIDS South African Context.” Pages 534–47 in *The Bible and Feminism*: 101


**Poetic and Wisdom Literature**


**Job**


**Psalms**


**Proverbs**


**Ecclesiastes**


**Song of Songs**


**Prophets**


Isaiah


Jeremiah


Lamentations


**Ezekiel**


**Daniel**


**Hosea**


**Joel**


Amos


Obadiah


Jonah


Micah


**Nahum**


**Habakkuk**


**Zephaniah**


**Haggai**


**Zechariah**


**Malachi**


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Barrenness


Biblical Authority


**Church**


**Covenant**


**Creation and Ecological Ethics**

Specific Themes – Creation and Ecological Ethics


Specific Themes – Death and Mourning, Exile and Return, Faith

Death and Mourning


Exile and Return


Faith


Weems, Renita J. “Running the Race for Future Generations: Can You Handle the Faith Without the Fulfillment?” Pages 109–15 in *Blow the Trumpet in Zion: Global Vision and Action*

**Family**


**Gender and Women**


Bridgeman, Valerie. “I Will Make Boys Their Princes’: A Womanist Reading of Children in the Book of Isaiah.” Pages 311–27 in *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the*


Specific Themes – Gender and Women 129


God and the Gods


**HIV/AIDS**


Specific Themes – Justice and Criminal Justice


Justice and Criminal Justice


**Lament**


**Land and Inheritance**


Specific Themes – Law/Torah 138


**Law/Torah**


Himbaza, Innocent. “Le Décalogue de Papyrus Nash, Philon, 4Qphyl G, 8Qphyl 3 et 4Qmez A.”

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Leaders and Leadership

Adamo, David Tuesday. “Ebed-Melech’s Identity and His Sense of Justice (Jer. 38:1–13 and

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Gender and Leadership in the Old Testament.” Pages 56–64 in The Quest for Gender
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Jacobs, Mignon R. “Mothering a Leader: 1 King 1–2’s Portrayal of Bathsheba as a Model of
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Mommie Dearest: Biblical Mothers and Their Children. Edited by Cheryl A. Kirk-


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Life and Survival


Magic and Religious Practice


Myth


**Nation, Empire, and Imperialism**


Peace and War


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Poetry


Poverty and Money


Chebet Juma, Dorcas (Kenya), and Beatrice Cherop. “Gender and Poverty: Rereading Proverbs 31 in Pursuit of Socio-Economic Justice for Women in the Reformed Church of East Africa.” Pages 193–218 in Living With Dignity: African Perspectives on Gender


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Specific Themes – Prayer and Listening for God, Prophecy 147


Prayer and Listening for God


Prophecy


**Race and Ethnicity**


Sacrifice


______. “Textual Witnesses and Sacrificial Terminology in Leviticus 1–7.” Pages 95–111 in Sôfer Mahîr: Essays in Honour of Adrian Schenker, Offered by Editors of Biblia
Specific Themes – Salvation and Evangelism, Sex and Marriage


**Salvation and Evangelism**


**Sex and Marriage**


**Sin, Repentance, and Reconciliation**


**Suffering**


**Violence**


**Wisdom**


**History of Interpretation/Reception History**


_______. “Balaam as Figure and Type in Ancient Semitic Literature to the First Century BCE, with a Survey of Selected Post-Philo Applications of the Balaam Figure and Type.” Pages 82–147 in *SBL Seminar Papers, 1989*. Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers 29. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.

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Modern Translations


Teaching and Preaching


