

AFRIKANIA'S ATTEMPTS TO MAKE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION LOOK MORE APPEALING

By Mama Lorella, Every Child Ministries

THE ADDITION OF SO-CALLED SACRED TEXTS

African Traditional Religions (ATR) have not historically been based on sacred texts. Realizing that this was a disadvantage when compared to Christianity, the 'Afrikania Mission' has begun to claim ancient Egyptian texts as their sacred scriptures.

Yet experts in ancient eastern religions say that "Egyptian religion...had no sacred books containing a revelation. The Pyramid texts engraved in the tomb chambers of the last king of the fifth dynasty and of all the sixth dynasty kings, the sarcophagus texts, drawn with a calamus on the funerary urns of the Middle Empire, the Book of the Dead, copied on papyrus rolls placed near the mummies under the New Empire, cannot be regarded as divine revelations. They were collections of magic incantations for the use of the dead in the next world. The fact that all their formulas were completely replaced by others in the course of time proves that the Egyptians reckoned none of them essential to his religion.

From "Religions of the Ancient East" Vol. 141, Etienne Drioton, Georges Contenau & Jacques Ducheme-Gullemin, Hawthorne Books, NY, 1959.

African Traditional Religions have not been based on a written revelation that claims to have come from God in the manner that Christian faith is based. When the 'Afrikania Mission' wanted to come up with sacred texts to imitate Christianity, they had to go all the way back to Egypt. For millenia, this has not been an inherent part of ATR.

While there are many sacred texts in the world, only the Jewish-Christian Scriptures are God-given revelations of the Almighty—God revealing Himself to His Creation. Far more than ancient funerary texts, they are worth investigating.