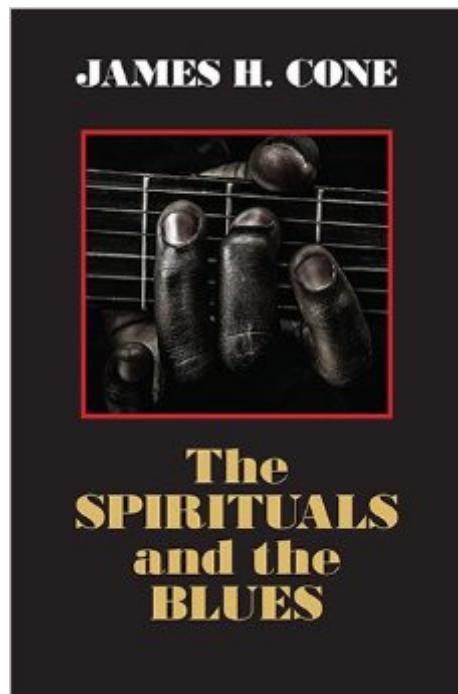


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# The Spirituals And The Blues: An Interpretation



## **Synopsis**

Cone explores two classic aspects of African-American culture--the spirituals and the blues. He tells the captivating story of how slaves and the children of slaves used this music to affirm their essential humanity in the face of oppression. The blues are shown to be a "this-worldly" expression of cultural and political rebellion. The spirituals tell about the "attempt to carve out a significant existence in a very trying situation."

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (9 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

The history of white Christianity reveals an otherworldliness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that eliminates much concern for the earth and its inhabitants. The overspiritualization of the Bible's concepts opens the door for oppression. People think that deliverance and liberation is not for this fallen world but the next. But the Black community would disagree, and they'd have the Bible to agree with them. Cone shows wonderfully how the Black African community of the days of slavery and afterward actually had a more biblical view of the Gospel. Yes, the Gospel involves heaven, the next life, salvation unto eternal life. But the Gospel is clearly demonstrated, both in the Old and New Testaments, to be one that shows God's concern for the earth and its inhabitants without distinctions. The concept of God cannot co-exist with the concept of continuing oppression, even in a fallen world. Cone shows how the spirituals and the blues (secular spirituals) are a foundational binding force, much like American Sign Language is for the Deaf community. Remove the Blues and the spirituals and you try to destroy the personhood, humanness, and the dignity of the people of

the Black community who are also made in the image of God. This book had quite an affect on me because I, as a white person, I held to much otherworldly interpretations of the Gospel and much else in scripture. I recently learned that the Hebrew word for vanity and vain is never used in the book of Ecclesiastes! The word simply means temporary and the book expresses that we are not to trust in temporary things, but we can joy in them as a gift from God. Both the Old and New Testaments teach that the earth and all else created is good (beneficial according to Hebrew and Greek).

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