



## BOOK NOTE REVIEW

**Ayuk, Ayuk Ausaji. *African Theology of Missions*. Foreword by Blayne C. Waltrip. Port-Harcourt, Nigeria: Zumafind, 2023. Pp. xii + 143. ₦9,600.00**

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### Introduction

Dr Ayuk, a Nigerian missionary in the Philippines, presents a compelling argument for an *African Theology of Missions*. His perceptive and imaginative theological praxis emerge from a lived experience as an African. Written from this lens, it provides a prototype for a missions theology globally. Arising from the African landscape, an exploration of inculturation and contextualization is a recurring theme throughout this work. These concepts are not defined by lines of demarcations; however, they are applicatory to the missionary, the student of missions, and the missiologist.

This examination explores the global significance of African theology in shaping missions practice. Dr Ayuk argues that African theology reflects and challenges issues confronting present-day Africans. The questions posed seek to understand salvation, worldview, ancestors, tribalism, and life as an African.

### Overview

Each chapter is inscribed with a biblical motif for implementing an African theology of missions. Ayuk possesses a vast comprehension of theology, missions, and practice, which surfaces in each section. Ayuk tactfully addresses the oblivious lack of sensitivity suffered by some western missionaries and compares this to the Apostle Paul's missional appropriations. Paul demonstrates that the gospel is adaptable to all cultures and not monolithic in approach and function. As exegeted by the author, the Apostle's teaching depicts a prescription of assimilating into differing ethnic groups with the apprehension of cultural demeanors. Practitioners of mission in Africa from North America and Europe should intentionally grapple with cultural adaptation without undue suspicion. This analysis must take into consideration traditions and societal norms prior to the implementation of Christian tenets. Dr Ayuk proposes a paradigm shift to inclusivity of religious altruism, Indigenous integration, perpetual discussions, and the alleviation of bias. These enactments

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**by Ayuk Ausaji Ayuk**

will create sustainable systems for the success of each missionary worker.

African Theology encapsulates traditions, understandings of indigenized religious discipline, and theology from an African perspective. This theological rubric expands God's intimate understanding of the African continent revealed to his people. Dr Ayuk's articulation of African theology speaks to matters and questions from the sacred text. He uniquely affirms this school of thought and encourages African Christians to embody their ethnocultural heritage. *An African Theology of Missions* answers distinct questions and confers the author's understand of God's response.

Another vital aspect of this intriguing research is the educational insight provided by the author. He affirms the significant premise that theological educators should draw upon the worldview of their students and targeted ethnic groups. This component creates a space to inquire how one views their society, practices their values, and expresses expectations. Therefore, these underpinnings foster contextualization, sensitivity, and efficacy in the educational methodology. Together, this course of action will allow dialogue and theologizing that remains contextualized, thus equipping the pupil with indispensable tools of preparation.

### **Evaluation**

These pages contain pivotal details and findings for an African Theology of Missions in contemporary times. Importantly, these themes are answered with insightfulness and a contextual framework. Appraising the twelve chapters and placing them in four categories articulates an established pedagogy for a theology of missions. Through the first three chapters, a well-defined position on theology and mission is detailed. Chapters four, five, and six illustrate African theology reflective of literature and constructive cultural systems. The contents in chapters seven, eight, and nine divulge inside beliefs and juxtapose the writings of Chinua Achebe's literary work with African Missions Theology. Equally important are the remaining chapters that promulgate a biblical basis for African Theology, implications for theological education, and applied strategies.

### **Conclusion**

*African Theology of Missions* is a consequential text for the study of missiology. As a missiologist, Dr Ayuk delineates his interpretation of a missions theology constructed for the African continent. Through Ayuk's assessment, a theological delineation of missiological implementations formed for Africa emerges. This book serves as an enduring conveyor of inculturation, contextualization, Christianity rooted in African soil, and missions theology.