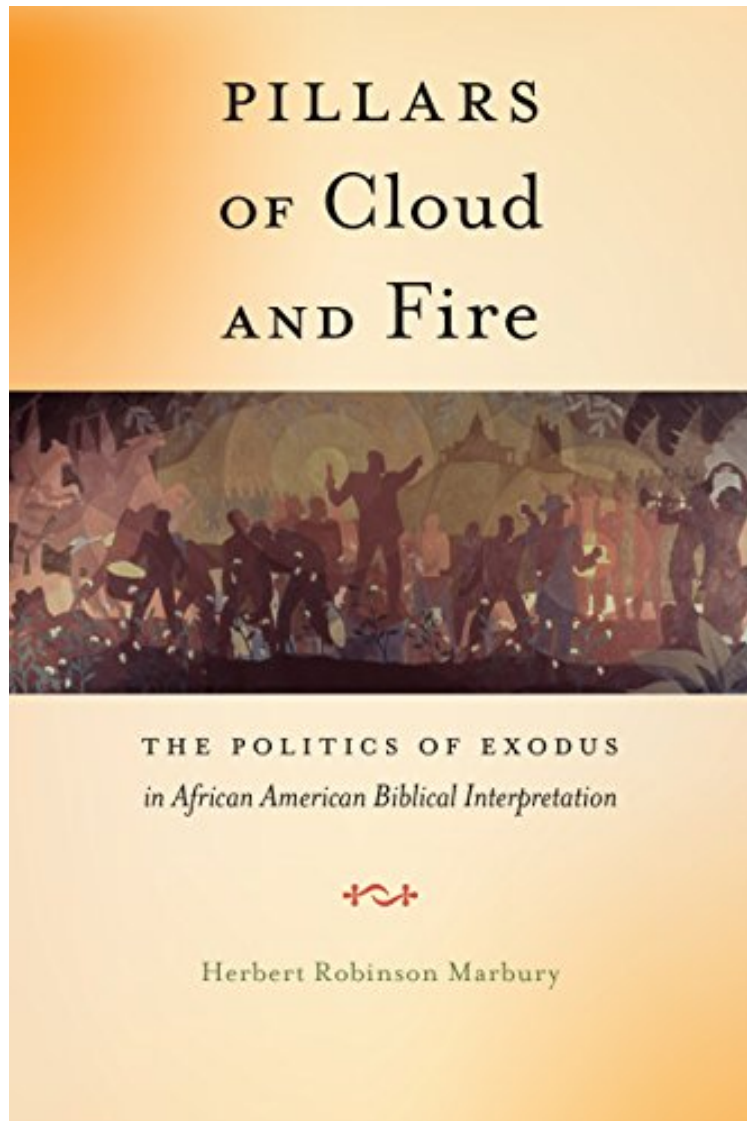


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## **Pillars of Cloud and Fire: The Politics of Exodus in African American Biblical Interpretation (Religion and Social Transformation)**

*Herbert Robinson Marbury*  
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be worth my time, and all praised *Pillars of Cloud and Fire: The Politics of Exodus in African American Biblical Interpretation (Religion and Social Transformation)*:

At the birth of the United States, African Americans were excluded from the newly-formed Republic and its churches, which saw them as savage rather than citizen and as heathen rather than Christian. Denied civil access to the basic rights granted to others, African Americans have developed their own sacred traditions and their own civil discourses. As part of this effort, African American intellectuals offered interpretations of the Bible which were radically different and often fundamentally oppositional to those of many of their white counterparts. By imagining a freedom unconstrained, their work charted a broader and, perhaps, a more genuinely American identity. In *Pillars of Cloud and Fire*, Herbert Robinson Marbury offers a comprehensive survey of African American biblical interpretation.

"Marbury brilliantly functions as historical, literary, rhetorical and ideological critic in this work. Most exciting is how he demonstrates the sophisticated exegetical and hermeneutical usages of the biblical text by African Americans over three centuries. . . . Fundamental to all of the individuals explored in this work and to Marbury is the belief that using the biblical text for inspiring African Americans to strive for freedom and for motivating other racial ethnic groups to assist in this effort is a worthwhile endeavor. This work is a must read."-Randall C. Bailey, Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of Hebrew Bible, Interdenominational Theological Center  
The book will find a wide audience with scholars of African American biblical interpretation, scholars of the biblical book of Exodus, and historians of American religion.-*Religious Studies*  
Herbert Robinson Marbury offers an insightful exploration of select African American social, cultural and political exegesis of Exodus, both the biblical text and liberative trope.-*Black Theology*  
"Deepens in substantial ways our understanding of the socio-political dynamics informing African encounters with the Bible in North America. Marbury utilizes the 'cloud pillar' and the 'fire column' from Exodus as master tropes for examining the contexts and performative dimensions of biblical hermeneutics in the North American diaspora. The result is a new paradigm both evocative and creative for reconceptualizing biblically informed rhetorics of liberation and their historical development."-The Rev. Hugh R. Page, Jr., general editor of *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*  
About the Author  
Herbert Robinson Marbury is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of *Imperial Dominion and Priestly Genius*.