

BIBLICAL LITERATURE

E 351 Western Literature

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Introduction

The Bible certainly has had an impact on Ancient Literature for it is the centerpiece in which morals spring from. Also, it is important to note that the Bible is a great literature work. In some ways, it is very easy for one to look to the Bible for inspiration while penning literature. The bible is a very emotionally driven piece and if one were to read it, they would be moved emotionally by reading the stories within it. Usually, when a literary work is penned it is with the intent of igniting an emotion within said reader. Since, the Bible invoked emotion and a wide variety of emotions at their peak levels of intensity. It is wholly admissible that an author would mimic the Bible in their own writings. Mimicry with the intent to stir up emotions is one reason the Bible would influence one. This essay will discuss the influence of the Bible in Literature, the influence of the Bible in Greek Literature and parallels in Greek/Western Literature and the Bible.

Influence in Literature

One should take note that within the Bible there is a hierarchy system. God is a very organized, structured God for the most part. God's demonstration of this can be found throughout the Bible. For instance, some things in bible were more important than others and these must be accomplished first. When Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden it was noted before the

expulsion Adam was placed above Eve in relation to marital affairs (Damrosch & Pike, 2008,). The angel that guarded the gate after their expulsion from the Garden of Eden operated within a structured system. There is a noted order of angels with specific roles. Some examples are archangels and seraphim. With these examples of hierarchy present in the Bible. The serpent found in the book of Genesis can be found in many tales of literature performing an act of deception (Chakraborty, S. (2017). It is therefore only fitting that there within literature there are many examples of hierarchy, government, and social classes. Also, the efforts between the classes to make known the distinctions is also present. A blue blood or elite would make it known they are not a peasant serf emphatically. In some cases, it could be viewed as an insult. In the story Don Quixote, the wife of Bath takes her in making known she is of a noble background and not of common status (Damrosch & Pike, 2008,).

Greek Literature

To think the Bible would not have an impact on Greek Literature would be daft. One of the original languages of the Bible is koine Greek which is a dialect of Greece which is consistent in 2 ways. Koine Greek was a dialect of ancient Greece which along with Hebrew existed along the same timelines in which the Bible was penned. Greek literature was appreciative of realism when it could be used. The use of realism in the book of

Mark would have struck a nice chord of pleasantries with the Greek audience A. F. J. Kleijn. The story of Samson in the Bible draws parallel comparisons to Achilles. The both had a common point of weakness. Achilles if ever struck in his heel he would be defeated. Likewise, Samson had a point of weakness (Damrosch & Pike, 2008,). If his head was ever shorn then he too could be submitted in defeat. The old testament speaks of Giants in the Philistine valley or the land of promise (Damrosch & Pike, 2008,). In Greek mythology there is the offspring of Gods known as Demi-Gods. The descriptions between the two is evident.

Greek / West / Biblical Parallels

A writer such as John Milton was under the influence of the Bible and through his writing the impact of this influence is clearly shown. Well-versed in not only Christian theology. Milton was also very traveled in philosophies, religions, and other schools of thought. It should be noted that out of this and of all the things that he could write and could have written. It is unsurprising to some and maybe not others. That what is known as his Magnum Opus is his interpretation of the Biblical story of Adam and Eve. This is not happenstance. The Bible is relevant and emotion provoking. These two factors and some creativity by an accomplished writer is a recipe for literary success. One thing that gets misunderstood about the Bible is how truly living it is. In a very loosely translated parallel there are

similarities between William Shakespeare's work **The Tempest** and the Biblical Flood listed in the Old Testament. The flood describes a tough time for all of those involved. In *Metamorphoses* by Ovid it is noted again that a Flood is causing havoc. This time the parallel can be found more directly. A greater being (God) named Jupiter destroys the earth with a flood. In the Old Testament another supreme being (God) destroys the earth with a flood. Both are done for the reason of judgement. Lack of respect for God and doing things against God's will are also some of the underlying causes for the flood within two tales.

CONCLUSION

In the end one must be able to notice that the Bible is going to be a literary standard in which all will strive to live up to. Another outstanding aspect of the Bible is that it can hold up to criticism in all its forms Hedrick, C. (2007). It is original and within the writings of the bible is the gamut of all life. It is very rare to come across a situation or scenario that the Bible does not come across and address indirectly or directly. Authorship of the bible is quite living and a draw for it as well Sakenfeld K.D (2008). Who is the exact author of it is an excellent debate topic? Since it remains unsettled, it is not a dead topic. Thus, giving life and relevancy to the Bible. The bible is the belief of God in literary form. Also, it serves as a

guideline to live by for followers of Christ, Christians, discophiles, etc. Whether or not it is considered true in whole or in part is a decision that reads solely with said reader of the bible. One of the beliefs concerning the bible is considered of the transactional value cycle. If a good thing happens to us then we look to somewhere to give praise and thanks for the blessing we receive. We have found the one who provided this was God. Since we done our duty in acknowledging God then God bestows on more blessings. Hence, the cycle comes full circle in this succinct explanation. The greater scope is quite expansive.

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