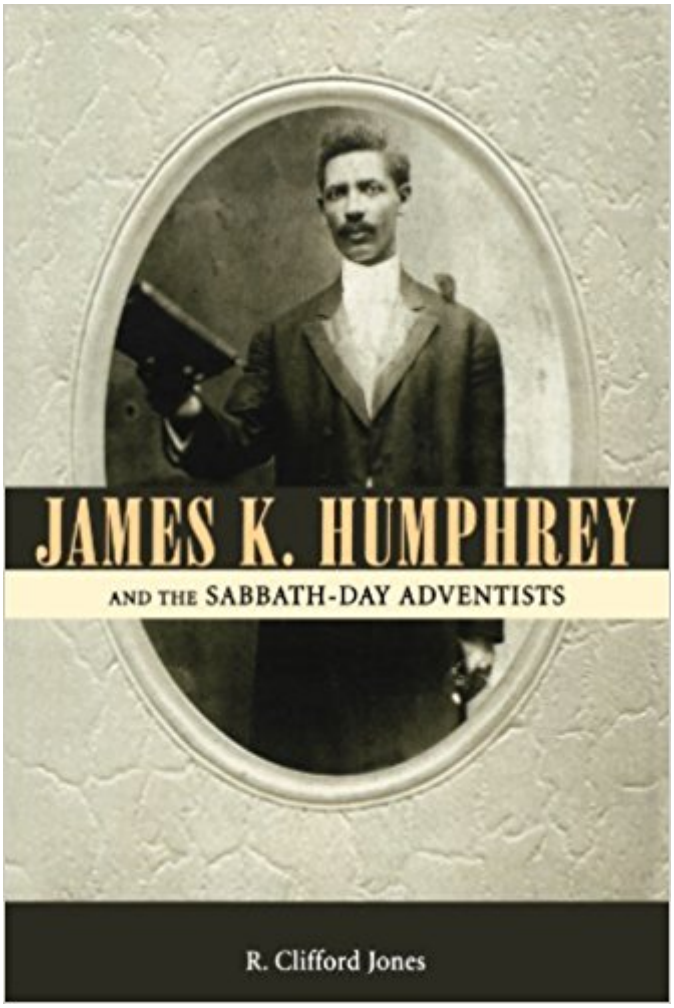
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James K. Humphrey And The Sabbath-Day Adventists



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Synopsis

In James K. Humphrey and the Sabbath-Day Adventists, R. Clifford Jones tells the story of this important black religious figure and his attempt to bring about self-determination for twentieth-century blacks in New York City. Humphrey was a Baptist minister who joined the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church shortly after arriving in New York City from Jamaica at the turn of the twentieth century. A leader of uncommon competency and charisma, Humphrey functioned as an SDA minister in Harlem during the time the community became the black capital of the United States. Though he led his congregation to a position of prominence within the SDA denomination, Humphrey came to believe the black experience in Adventism was one of disenfranchisement. When he refused to alter his plans for a utopian community for blacks in the face of dissent from SDA church leaders, Humphrey's ministerial credentials were revoked and his congregation dissolved. Subsequently, Humphrey established an independent black religious organization, the United Sabbath-Day Adventists. This book rescues the Sabbath-Day Adventists from obscurity. Humphrey's break with the Seventh-day Adventists provides clues to the state of black-white relationships in the denomination at the time. It set the stage for the creation of the separate administrative structure for blacks established by the SDA church in 1945. This history of a minister and his church demonstrates the struggles of small, independent, black congregations in the urban community during the twentieth century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This story of an African American minister who broke from the Seventh-day Adventist church at the peak of the Harlem Renaissance --- Describes the emergence of the Sabbath-Day Adventists in detail --- Presents a compelling picture of Humphrey, whose struggles were comparable to other notable African American religious figures --- Links the struggles of the Sabbath-Day Adventists within their religious community to similar racial issues in society at large --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A story of an African American minister who broke from the Seventh-day Adventist church during the Harlem Renaissance

Excellent volume by Jones highlighting a rare courage by black urban pioneers and the continued legacy[...]

great book. i would recommend it to any adventist that wants to know about the racial climate of the church in the turn of the century.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, I am humbled by James Humphrey’s expereince. While he sought to carry the message of Adventism to those in Harlem, he found he could not do it within the framework of the organization due to the prejudice of the day. The church he founded still stands as a testimony to his character. We are also reminded to ask ourselves if such reasons still exist for this church to remain outside the family of churches of the Seventh-day Advenist Church. While this church points others to the Adventist church, let us pray for their continued success as God’s children and members of God’s one true universal Chruch. May we be truly one.

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