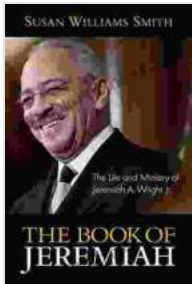


The Life and Ministry of Jeremiah Wright Jr.



Book of Jeremiah: The Life and Ministry of Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. by Susan Williams Smith

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 772 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 334 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Early Life and Education

Jeremiah Wright Jr. was born on June 27, 1941, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His father was a minister and his mother was a social worker. Wright grew up in a devout Christian household and attended church regularly. He developed a strong sense of social justice at a young age, witnessing firsthand the discrimination and poverty faced by African Americans in Philadelphia.

Wright attended Temple University and graduated with a degree in sociology. He then went on to Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. While at Union, Wright was influenced by the teachings of James Cone, a leading theologian in the Black Liberation Theology movement. Black Liberation Theology emphasized the liberation of African Americans from oppression and the importance of social justice.

Ministry at Trinity United Church of Christ

In 1972, Wright was called to serve as pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois. Trinity was a small, struggling congregation at the time, but under Wright's leadership, it grew into one of the largest and most influential African American churches in the country. Wright's sermons were known for their powerful blend of biblical teaching, social commentary, and calls for justice.

Wright became a prominent figure in the civil rights movement, working closely with leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Jesse Jackson. He was a vocal critic of racism and poverty, and he advocated for policies that would address these issues. Wright also played a key role in the development of the Black Church movement, which sought to empower African American congregations and communities.

Relationship with Barack Obama

Barack Obama first attended Trinity United Church of Christ in the early 1990s. He was drawn to Wright's sermons and his commitment to social justice. Obama became a close friend of Wright and his family, and Wright officiated at Obama's wedding in 1992. Wright's controversial sermons, however, would later become a source of controversy for Obama during his presidential campaigns.

Controversy and Criticism

In 2008, Wright's sermons became the subject of national controversy after they were featured in a news article. In one sermon, Wright had said, "God damn America!" in response to the September 11th attacks. He had also made other statements that were critical of the United States government

and its policies. Wright's sermons were widely condemned by many, including Obama, who distanced himself from his former pastor.

Wright has been criticized for his inflammatory rhetoric and for his support of Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam. However, Wright has defended his sermons, saying that they were intended to challenge the status quo and to inspire his congregation to fight for justice. He has also said that his relationship with Farrakhan was based on their shared commitment to social justice, not on their agreement on all issues.

Legacy

Jeremiah Wright Jr. remains a controversial figure, but there is no doubt that he has been a powerful voice for social justice throughout his career. His sermons have inspired generations of African Americans to fight for their rights and to work towards a better future. Wright's legacy will continue to be debated for years to come, but his impact on the American civil rights movement is undeniable.

Additional Resources

- The New York Times: "Obama's Pastor Stirs Debate With His Sermons"
- NPR: "Rev. Wright Apologizes For Inflammatory Remarks"
- Chicago Tribune: "Wright defiant despite criticism"

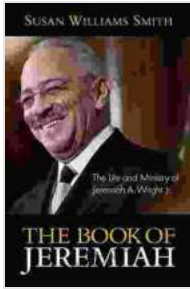
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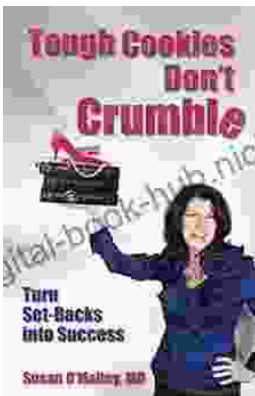
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