Old Testament scholarship in Africa
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Abstract

Old Testament can be said to be co-terminous with African life and culture. This means that it is able to serve as a springboard for the internalization of African values and vice versa. In the light of this, Old Testament study in Africa is crucial. Scholarship in this context means serious academic research or study in the area of Old Testament. This vital area of research is being faced by many challenges which hinder its effective growth and development in Africa. This paper therefore examined the necessity and challenges of Old Testament scholarship in Africa. Cooperation among African universities and Old Testament scholars, evolvement of African methodology, planning of curriculum that reflects African perspectives and writing of textbooks that reflect African standpoints are paramount among the solutions suggested.

Introduction

Over the years, studying Old Testament in Africa has been a challenging enterprise and has been in its budding stage. Adamo (2001) notes that discussing Old Testament research in the entire continent of Africa is indeed a phenomenal task, as Africa is such a large continent with so many countries. The development of the study is still unstable in almost all the countries of Africa as no country can be regarded as the center of excellence in Old Testament Scholarship. The need for serious biblical research in Africa has been emphasized and encouraged in many conferences and consultations.

Unfortunately, the books, journals and articles resulting from these conferences and consultations turned out to have few serious Old Testament contributions. There are still some positive exceptions as there are some books, journals and articles related to the Old Testament by African Old Testament scholars. For instance, there is African Journal of Biblical Studies by the Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies, the Old