Topic Modeling of the Sacred Books

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HSE, DH minor

Problem

Prejudice of the typical European (and Russian):

- al-Quran is aggressive
- Buddhism is about meditation and peace
- Bible is about Jesus
- Old Testament is about Jews
- Avesta is about fire…
    - ...but has anybody heard about them?..

Zoroastrianism

Sample

- The Bible (Protestant version)
    - the Old Testament
    - the New Testament
- al-Quran
- the Avesta
- 5 parts from Tipitaka

Preparation

- The books were parsed by a Python code into pieces, each is 1000 tokens large
- Avesta, Tipitaka, New Testament - cleared from introduction and some comments (by hand and by code)
- the forms of word "Thou" were added to stop-list

bible	new testament	old testament	quran	tipitaka	avesta
the prophets and their mission	the mission of the Messiah	levites	prophets and their followers?	the basics (and differences from hindu)	land and economics
the Israeli identity (Egypt, prophets< etc)	the Apocalypse	family and tribes (12 tribes)	heaven and hell? (or smth like all about the irreal world)	good and evil?	the story of Yima (and/or drukhs)
the temple	missionary journeys of Barnabas and Paul	about good and evil?	virtues (and the story of Abraham?)	?comments?	sins, repents and prayers
fall of Jerusalem	good and evil	the story of Moses (the way to Israel)	nature and how God created it	mind and body	the end of the world
the patriarchal age (era of the three biblical patriarchs)	the Trinity	foundation (and early ages) of the kingdom of Israel	the story of Moses	the birth of Buddha	God, prophet and the Book
foundation of the kingdom of Israel	Ultima Cena (and probably other significant meals)	the temple	good and evil	meditation and similar practices	description of practices?
the story of Moses	allegories?	the Israeli nation	about the followers	attitudes towards sangka	the meaning of water and fire
levites	sermons of Peter in Northern Israel	the patriarchal age	the fate of believers and non-believers? (believers - reward, disbelievers - punishment)	sermons and relig.practice	description of Ahura Mazda
expectations of Jesus (check the Torah)	relations with Jewish authorities and Pilate	(and what was right before it)	about the Book and those who (don't) read it	the story of Buddha	the world (gods, daevas, men and women)
about righteous and bad men	proselytism	Solomon and the first temple	the story of Joseph (that who got Jews to Egypt)	the upper worlds and Sansara	good and evil

Results

- al-Quran - big interest towards the Jewish history
- al-Quran - more about disbelievers
- "**sword**" - only in the Old Testament!
- all books - the topic of **"good and evil"**
- everywhere except the Bible - **cosmogony**
- Tipitaka and Avesta - more attention towards **the religious practices**
- Bible - the biggest interest towards **historical events**
- Avesta - story about the great flood AND about daevas
- Tipitaka - less interest towards real stories and places than anywhere
- **Apocalypse** - only in the New Testament and Avesta
- abrahamic religions - "God" and "Lord" almost everywhere
  - Avesta - "Ahura-Mazda"
- Tipitaka - "Monks" almost everywhere
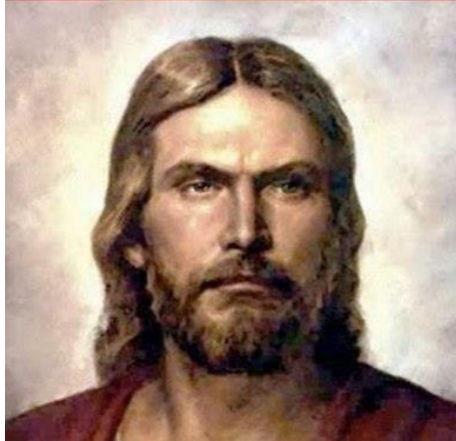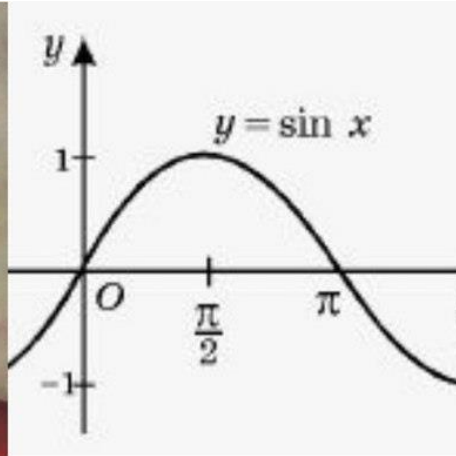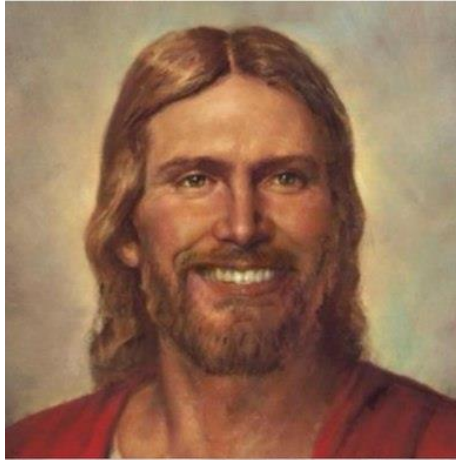
Future horizons

- in width:
  - comparison of different Bibles (and Torah)
  - comparison with other holy books (Asian, American ones, New Age ones, etc.)
    - dharmic religions (different Buddhist books, Vedas, Avesta)
    - New Age (Kitab-i-Aqdas, the Mormon's Bible, new pagans) vs Abrahamic religions
    - comparison with ancient mythological systems (Greek, Scandinavian, etc.)
- in depth:
  - other parameters
  - more details about symbolism (animals, trees, places, names, etc.) in all religions

Thank you for your attention!