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?..
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>bible</strong></th>
<th><strong>new testament</strong></th>
<th><strong>old testament</strong></th>
<th><strong>quran</strong></th>
<th><strong>tipitaka</strong></th>
<th><strong>avesta</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the prophets and their mission</td>
<td>the mission of the Messiah</td>
<td>Levites</td>
<td>prophets and their followers?</td>
<td>the basics (and differences from hindu)</td>
<td>land and economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Israeli identity (Egypt, prophets&lt; etc)</td>
<td>the Apocalypse</td>
<td>family and tribes (12 tribes)</td>
<td>heaven and hell? (or smth like all about the irreal world)</td>
<td>good and evil?</td>
<td>the story of Yima (and/or drikhs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the temple</td>
<td>missionary journeys of Barnabas and Paul</td>
<td>about good and evil?</td>
<td>virtues (and the story of Abraham?)</td>
<td>?comments?</td>
<td>sins, repents and prayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall of Jerusalem</td>
<td>good and evil</td>
<td>the story of Moses (the way to Israel)</td>
<td>nature and how God created it</td>
<td>mind and body</td>
<td>the end of the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the patriarchal age (era of the three biblical patriarchs)</td>
<td>the Trinity</td>
<td>foundation (and early ages) of the kingdom of Israel</td>
<td>the story of Moses</td>
<td>the birth of Buddha</td>
<td>God, prophet and the Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foundation of the kingdom of Israel</td>
<td>Ultima Cena (and probably other significant meals)</td>
<td>the temple</td>
<td>good and evil</td>
<td>meditation and similar practices</td>
<td>description of practices?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the story of Moses</td>
<td>allegories?</td>
<td>the Israeli nation</td>
<td>about the followers</td>
<td>attitudes towards sangka</td>
<td>the meaning of water and fire</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>levites</td>
<td>sermons of Peter in Northern Israel</td>
<td>the patriarchal age</td>
<td>the fate of believers and non-believers? (believers - reward, disbelievers - punishment)</td>
<td>sermons and relig. practice</td>
<td>description of Ahura Mazda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expectations of Jesus (check the Torah)</td>
<td>relations with Jewish authorities and Pilate (and what was right before it)</td>
<td>(and what was right before it)</td>
<td>about the Book and those who (cont) read it</td>
<td>the story of Buddha</td>
<td>the world (gods, daevas, men and women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about righteous and bad men</td>
<td>proselytism</td>
<td>Solomon and the first temple</td>
<td>the story of Joseph (that who got Jews to Egypt)</td>
<td>the upper worlds and Sansara</td>
<td>good and evil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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!