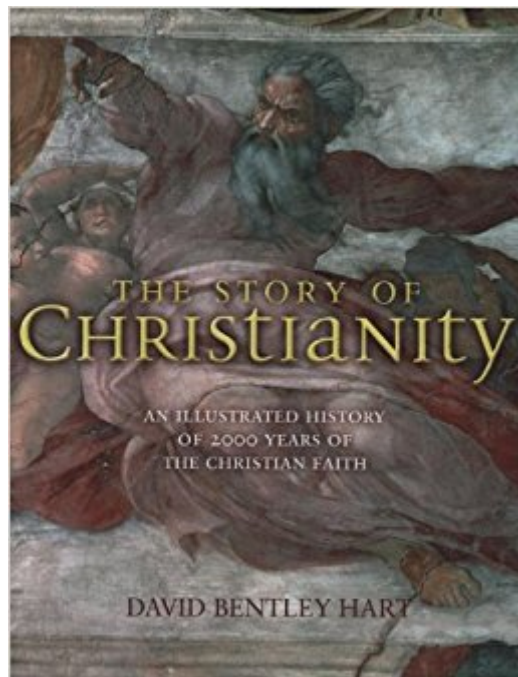




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The Story Of Christianity: An Illustrated History Of 2000 Years Of The Christian Faith



Synopsis

Includes timelines, display quotations, and profiles of the key personalities who shaped the course of the history of the Christian faith. Contains 150 color images.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'A theologian of exceptional quality - but also a brilliant stylist' Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

David Bentley Hart, an Orthodox theologian, has taught at the University of Virginia; the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota; Duke Divinity School; and Loyola College in Baltimore. His books include *Atheist Delusions*, *The Beauty of the Infinite*, and *The Doors of the Sea*. He has been published in *First Things*, *Modern Theology*, *the New Atlantis*, and *the Wall Street Journal*. He lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Brilliantly written and beautifully illustrated, this excellent book is an exacting, fair-minded and eloquent look at both Christian AND human history. Hart's truly astounding knowledge of church/Christian history and his remarkable writing skills are on full display here, with his observations and story re-telling complimented by sometimes lovely, oft-times heart-rending and all-times exquisite illustrations, artwork and photographs. (This entry from Mr. Hart is aimed at a

wider, more public audience than much of his other work. For those of you familiar with his more academic oeuvre, be prepared for a much more reader-friendly, and lovely, style of prose -a style and imagery often hinted at in his scholarly works but loosed here, in this less constricted writing environment, in all its' glory.) As one other reviewer mentioned, for a one-volume compendium on such a complex and exhaustive subject, this is as thorough and comprehensive a treatment as one can get. Whether well-versed on the topic or less so knowledgeable, for anyone seeking an objective, informed and fairly intensive look at the roots and rich history of Christianity, and how it has become what it is today, this is the handbook. For Christians looking for a thought-provoking, challenging and ultimately uplifting and reassuring study on the story of one Jesus Christ and the religion which bears His name, you need look no further than this beautiful and inspiring volume.

Great overview of the history of the Christian Church including the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Very high level overview, not what I expected.

Professor Hart is an Eastern Orthodox Christian, but as in many of his works, he gives considerable (and fair) attention to the West. He doesn't cover any new ground in this book that one wouldn't also find in the standard church history book, but he does cover old ground from new angles. In discussing the different epochs of Church History, Hart asks the reader questions that only an Easterner would ask, causing the reader to pause for reflection and to come away with a richer understanding of his faith. In this review I will focus on several areas that Westerners do not either speak of or speak of in simplistic terms: Christology, Asian Christianities, and the struggle for faith in the 19th Century. So, I won't be giving a point-by-point outline of the book. Most readers will be familiar enough with the material.

Christology When we speak of Christ it's usually in terms of "God sent him to die for our sins so that we could be saved." That's true, but there's more to the story. As Hart notes of the Incarnation, "human beings were now able to become vessels of the divine presence, and Christians would look forward to a day when God's glory would be revealed in those who had been joined to Christ, and would transfigure the whole of creation" (12). Hart is not changing the story but telling it on different grounds, allowing different (but very biblical) questions to be raised.

Asian and African Christianities If any churches can claim continuity with antiquity, it would be Armenian and Indian churches. Like other Oriental churches, the Armenian church had problems with Chalcedonian formulations (one wonders how much of this was substance and how much was language?). According to legend, the Church in India was founded by St Thomas the Apostle. Hart

argues this might not be entirely fiction. There were ancient trade routes from the Middle East to India and there were Christian communities in western India as early as the second century (62). The Anguish of Faith in the 19th Century Many writers point out the depression and anguish of the 1800s. Non-Christian writers were in despair (read a secular novel from the 19th century and see the quiet desperation). Christian writers, supposedly, were in flux. And much of this narrative is true. Hart goes on to say that despite the acute attacks on Christianity (Nietzsche, Comte, etc), there was a flowering of fresh Christian activity. And perhaps these were related. The Slavophiles of Russia reacted to the Enlightenment and in that reaction produced arguably the most creative Christian response. Alexei Khomyakov and Vladimir Solovyov articulated the Sobornost: an integrated approach to reality that values brotherhood, harmony, and concordance all in the context of a connected and rooted Christianity. Even to this day it is my opinion that Sobornost is the best response to socialism and capitalism. And finally, the 19th century gave us one of the greatest thinkers of all time: Fyodor Dostoevsky. Conclusion: There is much more to the book. Hart debunks many mythical narratives told by the Enlightenment: Galileo actually had church protection and routinely failed to mathematically prove his conclusions. He gave the "correct" answers but his models could not allow for them. And Galileo could not allow for the fact that he was wrong. Hart notes that the Islamic empires didn't actually give scientific and cultural breakthroughs. Rather, they inherited the cultural legacy of three different civilizations. Those are other examples in the book. And of course, obviously, the book contains some of the most beautiful art work in Western Civilization

I wish I could give this six stars. This is far and away the best book I have ever read (and, I think, will ever read) on Christian history. The illustrations are great, the explanations insightful, and the flow and pace are perfect. Hart tells the story of Christianity from its beginnings all the way to today, never missing an important event and all the while subtly undermining the fallacious myths of Christianity's modern-day detractors (the "assassination" of Hypatia, the "persecution" of witches, the "attacks" on scientists, etc.). Unlike most other history texts, Hart also doesn't forget to include the Christian world outside of Europe -- reminding us of the frequently forgotten stories of the Assyrian, Ethiopian, and Indian Churches. If anyone wants to learn about the history of Christianity -- this is THE book to read.

This is a magnificent and beautiful book. Exquisitely illustrated, it's the history of Christianity in brief -- as complete as one volume can put it and in words easily read and understood by the reader. It's

easily worth several times what it costs, as it leaves one with a new assurance of what he or she believes and knows about Christianity. In very few words, Hart displays his excellent knowledge of the sweep of Christianity from its beginning to the present. There is beauty in both the illustrations and the prose. I highly recommend it!

Story of Christianity: An Illustrated History of 2000 Years of the Christian Faith

After years of teaching Church History in high school, college and seminary, it has always been a challenge to find material that makes historical presentations without theological bias. This beautifully done volume presents accounts of the history of the Church that includes the church in Africa, India and other areas in an objective manner. Difficult issues in history are presented without interpretation or bias. Truly a wonderful book

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