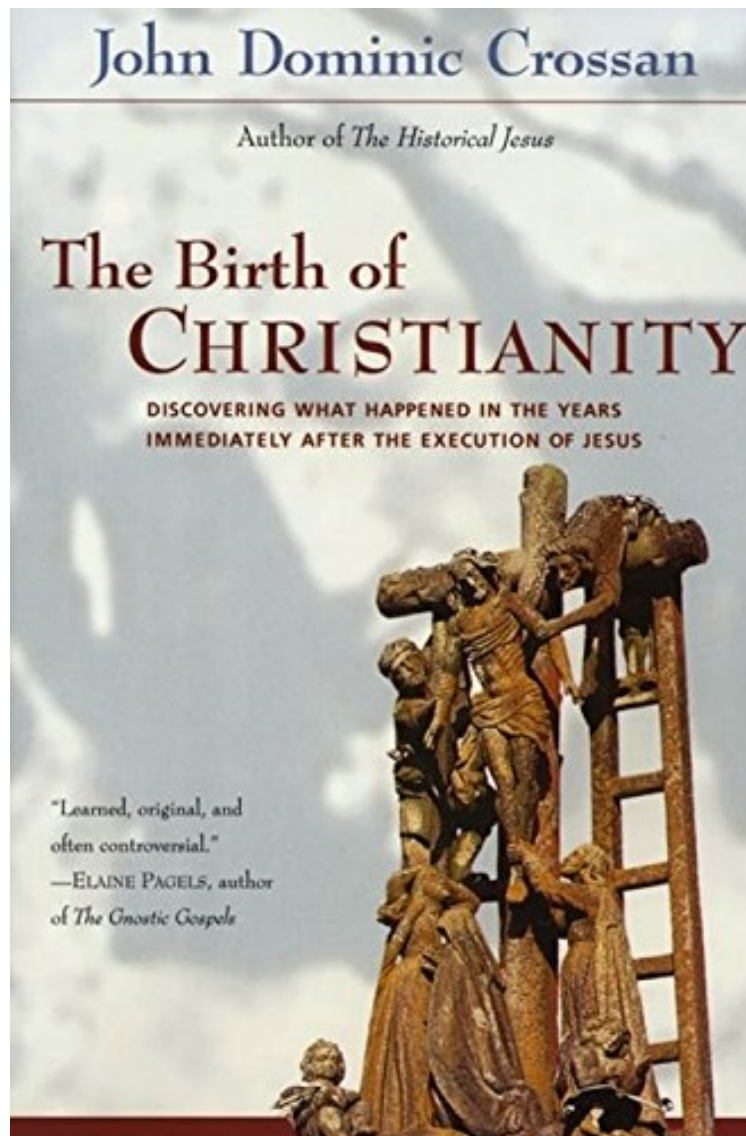


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The Birth of Christianity : Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus

John Dominic Crossan
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#552038 in Books 1999-02 1999-03-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.56 x 6.131, 1.58 #File Name: 0060616601688 pages ISBN13: 9780060616601 Condition: New Notes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 19.Mb

John Dominic Crossan : The Birth of Christianity : Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all

praised *The Birth of Christianity : Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Luiz F. Betim P. Lemel
I'm still in the beginning of the book, but it seems to be very interesting.
15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent for opening the context of Jesus and then the gospels
By Dean P. Olson
I have found the book a seedbed of helpful insight into what was going on both during Jesus' life and in the immediate years after his crucifixion amongst the earliest followers. I am shocked as I normally would not open it because of its title. I would assume it is about the early followers and not about Jesus, more about Christianity and its beginning and not about Jesus and his life and times. Yet the first 235 pages are fertile for opening a sense of what was going on while Jesus was alive and gives a context that helps with understanding what he was doing and saying. What he was doing and saying take on new meaning for me from this multilayered, clearly explained and user friendly approach. You also are getting a sense of how Crossan works with the biblical material and why. Yes it's complicated, but it is readable! And I cringe that I almost did not open it because of the title. From the title, I finally did open it, because after spending a huge amount of time reading and rereading many of Crossan's earlier books, I realized "I'm part of this equation. I need to be more aware of how I'm interacting with this material and what is being asked of me." That is the point of this book, that "interaction", which he also refers to as "the hinge". If you really are serious about grasping what was going on in that first century and through that gaining a better sense and deeper meaning of what Jesus was about and why he was saying what he did, this book is a compost for that! Wow! And to think I almost did not open it!
5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. but that is good as ambiguity in the course of history is always ...
By John Hudson
This is one of many books being written on understanding the take off of Christianity from the life of Jesus. The task is difficult because the written testimonies all begin at least fifteen years after the death of Jesus. There was already a transformation of Jesus into the categories of Jewish messianic thought and Greek and Roman religious categories. The concern is how to glean from the ongoing and developing picture of Jesus as the anointed one to the full blown deification of Jesus. Also, there is the question of defining religious experiences influenced by the Resurrection and the Holy Spirit that broaden the impact of Jesus on the lives of believers and consequently provide the background of the written testimonies. There are all sorts of divergent views about this subject matter and the fact is that there probably always will be, but that is good as ambiguity in the course of history is always present.

In this national bestseller, John Dominic Crossan, the world's leading expert on the historical Jesus, reveals how Christianity emerged in the period following Jesus' death. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, Crossan shines new light on the theological and cultural contexts from which the Christian church arose. He argues powerfully that Christianity would have happened with or without Paul and contends that Jesus' "resurrection" meant something vastly different for his early followers than it does for many traditional Christians today--what mattered was Christ's origins. Finally, Crossan illuminates the mysterious period that set Western religious history in its decisive course.

John Dominic Crossan is the leading contemporary scholar on the historical Jesus, which means that his vocation is to look behind, around, and through Christ's resurrection, toward the goal of establishing what can be known about the life of Jesus of Nazareth. His search for the historical Jesus, however, takes place in the larger context of the life of the church. Among the goals of *The Birth of Christianity* is to teach readers how our habits of worship have created false gods. To that end, Crossan attempts to unearth the religion's earliest forms. What did Christianity look like, Crossan asks, between the crucifixion and the conversion of Paul? And what might Christianity look like today had Saul never set off toward Damascus? Crossan's conclusions don't come from newly discovered documents; they come from freshly-minted academic methodologies. He uses anthropology, history, and archaeology to construct his arguments about the essential nature of both Jesus' religion and Paul's. The 25-cent summary of his conclusion is that Jesus did not recognize the dualism between spirit and flesh that formed the basis of Paul's apocalyptic Christianity. In other words, Jesus was more Jewish than Paul. The ramifications of this argument are huge. Crossan says much of Christian worship--and many of the world's injustices--are based on the dualistic Christ that Paul preached. Though Crossan doesn't bully readers into accepting his conclusions, he does press hard for them to situate their own beliefs in relation to his interpretations of Jesus and Paul. At every point in the evolution of his argument, he asks readers questions such as "How do you understand a human being?" and "What is the character of your God?" Then he proceeds to answer these questions himself. Finally, he tells readers what he thinks these answers mean. It's an incredibly civilized style of argument--both spiritually and intellectually respectful and always rhetorically engaging. Though *The Birth of Christianity* weighs in at almost 600 pages of text, you'll probably want to read every word. And after that, you'll probably be hungry for more.
From *Library Journal*
In his latest book, Crossan (New Testament, DePaul Univ.) asks, "What in that original interaction [between Jesus and his first companions] made continuation from before to after [the Crucifixion] possible or even inevitable?" As with his massive *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Peasant* (LJ 2/1/92), Crossan incorporates crosscultural anthropology, literary analysis, and the

history and archaeology of Roman Judea in the first century C.E. to answer his pivotal question. Reading early Christian texts against a background he rigorously establishes in the first half of the book, Crossan teases out a picture of infant Christianity. Though he may not convince all readers, his case rests heavily upon the priority and independence of questionable documents. Crossan's work cannot be rejected out of hand. Recommended for seminary and academic libraries. Craig W. Beard, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham Lib. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Of the many recent books about the historical realities of earliest Christianity, none have been more successful than Crossan's *Historical Jesus* (1992) and *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography* (1994). Crossan's new book is the direct sequel to those biographies. He begins it by explaining, as he did not in the previous books, why the endeavor to ascertain what happened in the first century to give rise to the most pervasive of world religions is important. Basically, it is important (necessary is Crossan's word) because the Catholic, as distinguished from Gnostic (not Protestant), belief in the incarnation ("the Word of God made flesh") obliges Christian scholars to consider the material realities within which the faith arose and grew. In the rest of a massive book, Crossan exhibits what his sources are, how he uses them, and what findings they lead him to. This is heavy-duty scholarship, of a sort that usually discourages a popular readership. But Crossan's clear, convivial style and his habit of engaging in dialogue with his sources and other writings make his work dazzling and engrossing, and the novelty of his subject--Christianity after the Crucifixion but before the evangelism of Paul--should draw ancient as well as religious history enthusiasts like sugar draws wasps. Ray Olson