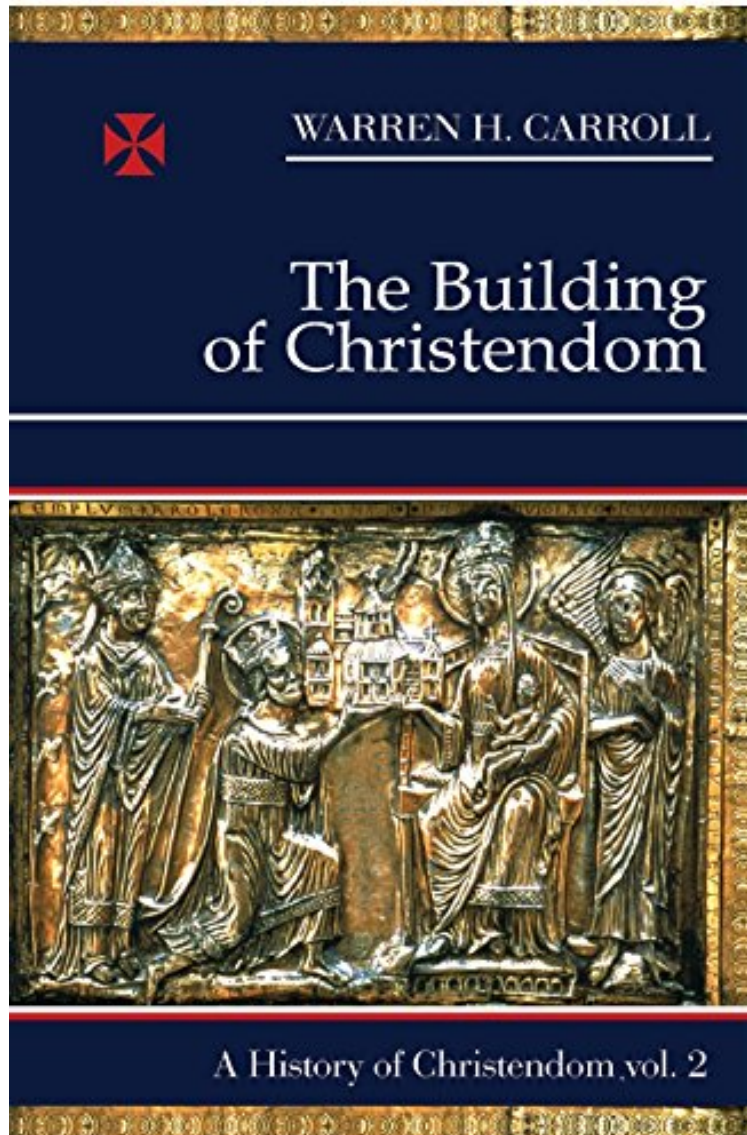


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The Building of Christendom, 324-1100: A History of Christendom (vol. 2)

Warren H. Carroll

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Warren H. Carroll : The Building of Christendom, 324-1100: A History of Christendom (vol. 2) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Building of Christendom, 324-1100: A History of Christendom (vol. 2):

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. The Glory and the Ashes By john Searching for a definitive work on the history of the Church, I found authors described in reviews as "masterful", "scholarly", "magisterial", and

"possessing of critical acumen." Upon reading them, I concluded that these descriptions were euphemisms for "hostile", "biased", "modernistic", and "possessing of papal antipathy." I came across Warren H. Carroll's "A History of Christendom" by sheer luck. After reading a few negative reviews I nearly passed him by but decided to give his first volume, *The Founding Of Christendom*, a chance, and it far exceeded my expectations. I began this second volume wondering if there would be a drop-off in quality; not so. If anything, "The Building of Christendom" surpasses that exciting first volume. Dr. Carroll continues his balanced presentation of Church history and pulls no punches, recording "the glory and the ashes"; the sublime heights to which Christendom and its actors could rise, and the evil depths to which they could sink. There are men of bravery like those 700 Swabians who died to the last man defending Pope Leo from the Normans of Southern Italy, and scenes of horror like the one played out in the damnatio memoriae of Pope Formosus. Picking up in 324 with the Arian heresy after the conversion of Constantine, and ending with the reconquest of Jerusalem from the Fatimids in 1099, Carroll's story-telling skills shine in episode after episode. The story spans West from El Cid in Spain, to the Muslim ultimatum to China in the East; from Viking invasions from Norway in the North, to the drum-beating warriors from Niger in the South: the scope is truly breath-taking. The facts and the narrative are the warp and the woof of this work; Carroll's research and documentation are extensive, yet he surrenders nothing in dramatic beauty. This truly is history at its finest. One of the things I would have liked to have seen in these volumes is chapter sub-sections or margin labels for easier look-up of events and people. For now I'll have to wait till my second trip through these works to render them full of notes and highlighting. I highly recommend "The Building of Christendom" and can't wait to dive into the next volume of this series. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great series By Mr Greenjeans My Evangelical Lutheran grandfather loves this series, and so as long as he keeps finishing the volumes I will buy him the next. Carroll has a talent for narrative and research. The only caveat is that Carroll can be irrationally polemical, at times, in favor of Roman Catholicism. My grandfather noticed this and I agree, as a baptized Catholic. My opinion is that this series would have better served history with theological opinion edited out, but I also have never read a book of theological history that was not opinionated and so perhaps this is difficult to avoid across the board. If you can stand to take Carroll's occasional strong opinion with a grain of salt, and wish to read exceedingly well written Christian history from a Columbia educated Historian, then do not hesitate and begin the series with volume I. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sometimes tough to get through... By Robert Neal Lawry I'll start by saying that the first volume was an excellent read. This author can write with the best of them and, at times, puts you right in there with the story. This volume, however tends to lean to a more tedious read. I see lot's of names, dates, and occurrences and not as much of those wonderful story-like passages we got in the first volume. To a non-scholar it can be hard to get through. To the scholar, it's everything it's cracked up to be. Sometimes it seems like there are entirely too many characters being thrown at you at once and it's hard to get a fix on the actual advancement of the history itself. I don't want to treat it too harshly, though. It's still an excellent history although the smile that crossed my face so many times in the first volume doesn't come near as often in this one. The sheer scope of this entire work is worthy of admiration.

The Building of Christendom, 324-1100 is the second volume in *The History of Christendom* series. This series is the only in-print, comprehensive narration of Western history written from an orthodox Catholic perspective. How would a historical narrative read if the author began with the first principles that truth exists and the Incarnation happened? This series is essential reading for those who consider the West worth defending.

About the Author Warren Carroll