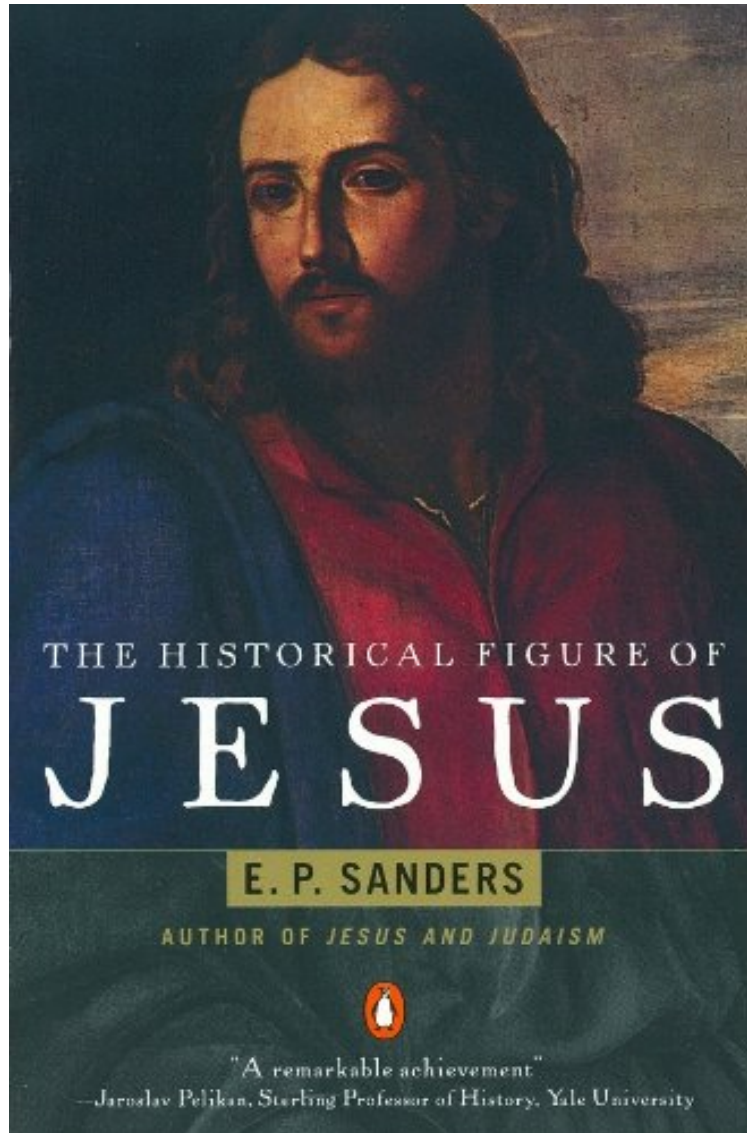


(Ebook pdf) The Historical Figure of Jesus

## The Historical Figure of Jesus

*E. P. Sanders*

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**E. P. Sanders : The Historical Figure of Jesus** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Historical Figure of Jesus:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great insight and views of the time and place around JesusBy Andrew BreedloveFascinating book that left me with more questions than when I started. I love how detail oriented and culturally connected this is with the time and place of Jesus' life. I have a better understanding of what Jesus' world looked like and how others perceived the Messiah theories of the time.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. balanced, fair and fun read.By Harman ThomasSanders provides a balanced voice to the quest for the

historical Jesus, neither too skeptical to be unbiased nor too faithful to adhere to historical method. He does a good job of providing the facts discernible by that method, which are neither threatening to the believer nor crushing to the agnostic. Moreover and most importantly, Sanders writes well, sensibly and in a way that is fun to read - at least for the more academically minded. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A truly revealing reading, a truly insightful study, a great scientist and writer. By CustomerA well-written, with a great deal of scientific discipline, comprehensive and in-depth study of Jesus life. I would expect a little bit more about the trail and resurrection, but anyway the book is an enlightened and enlightening reading. Recommended for every Christian.

A biography of the historical figure of Jesus. The book studies the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, distinguishing the certain from the improbable, and assessing the historical and religious context of Christ's time. The spread of Christianity is also discussed.

From Publishers Weekly  
What, if anything, can be known with certainty about the life and work of a first-century itinerant preacher named Jesus of Nazareth? Since the 19th century, scholars have attempted to answer that question; and out of their studies, Jesus has emerged variously as a Cynic philosopher (Crossan), a "marginal Jew" (Maier), an apocalyptic preacher (Schweitzer), a teacher (Robbins) and a magician (Smith). Sanders (Jesus and Judaism) portrays Jesus as a miracle worker and eschatological prophet whose deeds point to a coming Kingdom of God where good will reign over evil. Sanders's book is a masterful historical reconstruction of the political, social and theological context of the life of the enigmatic Nazarene. The first half of the book provides a detached examination of late Judaism and the Hellenic world into which Jesus came, as well as an exploration of the authenticity of the gospel accounts of Jesus's life. Following such introductory matters, Sanders recounts the gospel narratives in an attempt to separate myth from history and to determine how much we can actually "know about the historical figure of Jesus." The result is a thorough, accessible and conservative study that should have a wider appeal than other recent work on the historical Jesus. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal  
Sanders neither pronounces on the Jesus of faith nor sets his view against later Christian dogma in this study of "Jesus the human being." Thus he closes the door at the outset to the polemic passion such agendas can inspire (as in Uta Ranke-Heinemann's *Putting Away Childish Things*, LJ 6/1/94). Beginning with a brief look at Jesus' life and its religious/historical context, Sanders next evaluates source materials and then—in the bulk of the book—explores what he thinks we can confidently say about Jesus' miracles, for instance, or his attitudes on the kingdom of God. Regarding the latter, Sanders believes (unlike John Dominic Crossan in *Jesus*, LJ 12/93) that "picking and choosing among the sayings" is misguided and opts instead to "calmly survey all sayings," seeking apparent convergence. Highly readable, this is a key addition to literature on the historical Jesus. For academic, theological, and larger public libraries.  
Elise Chase, Forbes Lib., Northampton, Mass. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Kirkus  
A valuable contribution to the evaluation of our knowledge about Jesus by a noted bible scholar. Sanders (Religion/Duke Univ.) returns to the territory of his well-received *Jesus and Judaism* (not reviewed) to provide an overview of the history of study of the historical Jesus (as opposed to the Christ of faith). He doesn't advance any startling new claims about Jesus; nor does he assume the biographical stance that A.N. Wilson adopted in his *Jesus: A Life* (1992); but he does offer his own clear summary of what can be accurately said of Jesus of Nazareth. The so-called quest or search for the historical Jesus began in the late 18th century, in the wake of the Enlightenment, and later engaged Albert Schweitzer, among others. At first, scholars thought the real person was easily discoverable behind the mythic accounts of the Gospels. In the 20th century, it became fashionable, Sanders points out, to say that next to nothing could be known about the man. Sanders himself hews to a middle ground: While admitting the difficulties involved in uncovering the historical reality, he nevertheless claims that one can, with reasonable certainty, say quite a lot that is true about Jesus. Sanders presents an outline of Jesus' life and a discussion of his basic beliefs and teachings. He also traces what he discerns as the course of Jesus' ministry and the events leading up to his execution. He places Jesus in both the political setting of the backwater province of the Roman Empire (Judea was then ruled by a fairly independent Herod) and the Judaism of his time. His discussion of the miracles attributed to the man is set against a backdrop of acceptance of magic and miracles generally in the ancient world. Highly readable, this book will be of interest to scholars and accessible to general readers as well. (History Book Club main selection; Book-of-the-Month Club/Quality Paperback Book Club alternate selections) -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.