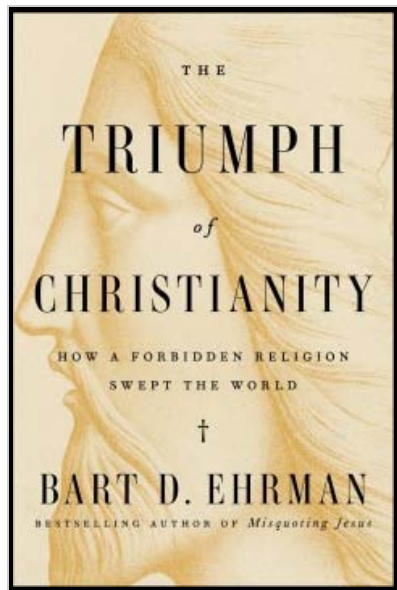


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 The Triumph of Christianity



The Triumph of Christianity

How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World

by Bart D. Ehrman

Price: **\$28.00**(Hardcover)
 Published: February 13, 2018

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 Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the *Publisher*: From the *New York Times* bestselling authority on early Christianity, the story of how Christianity grew from a religion of twenty or so peasants in rural Galilee to the dominant religion in the West in less than four hundred years. Christianity didn't *have* to become the dominant religion in the West. It easily could have remained a sect of Judaism fated to have the historical importance of the Sadducees or the Essenes. In *The Triumph of Christianity*, Bart Ehrman, a master explainer of Christian history, texts, and traditions, shows how a religion whose first believers were twenty or so illiterate day laborers in a remote part of the empire became the official religion of Rome, converting some thirty million people in just four centuries. *The Triumph of Christianity* combines deep knowledge and meticulous research in an eye-opening, immensely readable narrative that upends the way we think about the single most important cultural transformation our world has ever seen—one that revolutionized art, music, literature, philosophy, ethics, economics, and law.


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About The Author

Bart D. Ehrman
 Bart D. Ehrman is the author or editor of more than thirty books, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *Misquoting Jesus* and *How Jesus Became God*. Ehrman is a professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and a leading authority on the New Testament and the history of early Christianity. He has been featured in *Time*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Washington Post*, and has appeared on NBC, CNN, *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, The History Channel, National Geographic, BBC, major NPR shows, and other top print and broadcast media outlets. His most recent book is *The Triumph of Christianity*.

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What We Say

In this work of scholarship for the general reader, author Bart D. Ehrman spells out why and how Christianity managed to become so remarkably popular in an age where polytheism ruled the world. Ehrman uses everything from basic math to the allure of marketing to tell his story, which sets aside at the start any supernatural advantages. (Obviously, if God wants your religion to succeed, well by God it's GOING to succeed.) He focuses on the practical real world questions raised by the amazing success of a faith which began with about twenty poor people in a rural community at the time of Christ's death. Ehrman is best at putting Christianity in context, lucidly explaining that antipathy towards Christians wasn't knee-jerk

prejudice but inevitable. In a world where virtually everyone believed that if the gods weren't properly honored that disaster would strike in the form of war or famine or disease or natural disaster and the like, a new religion that insisted all the other gods simply didn't exist or were demons wasn't just "different" but a genuine threat to everyone's existence. How did it grow so quickly? Looking carefully at the best available data shows it was not so spectacular but rather an example of recruitment at a reasonable but exponentially big amount. And the appeal of Christianity? Ehrman suggests its unique desire to proselytize and ground-breaking promise of a blissful life after death combined to make it a giant killer. Or in this case, a god(s)-killer. Ehrman runs out of steam towards the end and this is truly a work of scholarship rather than a compelling story. But for those with an interest, it is clearly laid out and useful for placing a new faith squarely in its time and place. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

“Drawing on a wealth of ancient sources and contemporary historical research, Bart Ehrman weaves complex questions into a vivid, nuanced, and enormously readable narrative.” - Elaine Pagels, National Book Award-winning author of *The Gnostic Gospels*

“One of Christian history’s greatest puzzles after the age of the apostles is how a tiny band of mostly-illiterate outsiders converted the proud and massive Roman Empire in just three centuries - a historical blink of an eye. In *The Triumph of Christianity*, Ehrman brings impressive research, intellectual rigor, and an instinct for storytelling to this extraordinary dynamic.” - David Van Biema, former religion writer at Time and author of *the forthcoming Speaking to God*

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