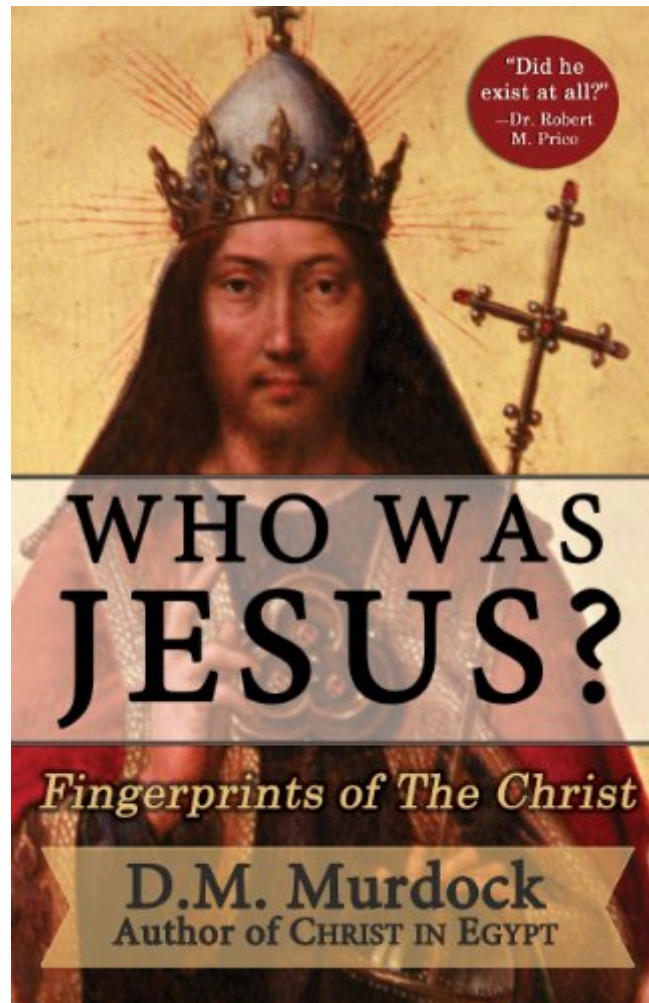




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Who Was Jesus? Fingerprints Of The Christ



Synopsis

Was Jesus Christ truly the divine Son of God who walked the earth 2,000 years ago? How can we be sure the gospel story is an accurate and infallibly recorded historical account? When the gospels are examined scientifically, can we truthfully uphold them as "inerrant?" Is it possible to assert honestly and ethically that the Bible is the inspired Word of God? The answers to these questions and many more may surprise and shock you! Is the New Testament a "historical record" or "factual biography" of what really happened, or a tool for the priesthood to lay down doctrines and dogma as they were developed over the centuries?--Was Jesus the Jewish Messiah?--Was Christ the Savior of the World?--Was He a Cynic sage or a political rebel?--Or was Jesus Christ something altogether different? This fascinating "CSI-style" investigation by controversial historian D.M. Murdock aka "Acharya S" includes quotes from Christian authorities, apologists and evangelists, as well as New Testament scholars. Using the Bible itself, as well as the research of these individuals and others, Murdock demonstrates that what you see is not what you get when it comes to Christ and Christianity.

Book Information

File Size: 906 KB

Print Length: 299 pages

Publisher: Stellar House Publishing, LLC (November 27, 2007)

Publication Date: November 27, 2007

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004IK8HFI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #394,402 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #51

in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Agnosticism #128 in Â Books >

Religion & Spirituality > Agnosticism #172 in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion &

Spirituality > Atheism

Customer Reviews

Christian scholars have made careers being apologists for the Christian faith. This book reveals that they may in fact own their readers an apology. I think the title may mislead some. The book isn't about discovering who the real Jesus was, and it certainly has nothing to do with the Templar Knights or whether or not Jesus was married. It's a critical analysis of the gospels, and the dogmatic belief held by many Christians that the Bible is the inerrant word of God, which was written by eye witnesses. The author, who is fluent in Ancient Greek herself, and an expert in ancient mythology, draws from the research of several biblical scholars, including Christian sources. For being such a short, easy to read book, she does an incredible job and laying out both sides of the argument. I came away with a better understanding of exactly what source materials biblical scholars actually have to go on, and the methods by which they've approximated their dates. No one will miss the point that Murdock doesn't believe the gospel accounts are history, but it's not presented in a rash or deliberately abrasive manner. Though this book is a great resource for those who may choose to engage a fundamentalist Christian in a debate, I believe her target audience for this book was actually Christians. She avoids for example, attacking Christianity on the grounds that it proposes donkeys can talk, people can fly up into outer space, and that loving God will fry you for eternity for not believing he committed a human sacrifice to himself. But rather, she poses questions like, if zombies really rose from the dead and walked around town, why didn't anyone record it? If King Herod knew the precise location of the infant Jesus, why did he need to have every young male in Bethlehem killed? Why does Jesus suggest that men castrate themselves? If you have a Christian friend or family member who tries to pressure you from time to time to convert to their faith, ask them to read this book in exchange for going to church with them a few times.

Who Was Jesus: Fingerprints of the Christ is a scholarly work of textual and historical criticism that is extremely well written. The author does not overstate her case and does not make assertions that are not fully supported by clearly explained arguments. She takes the four gospels of the New Testament as her primary focus of the first section of the book, taking each gospel in turn and then comparing them to show how they agree and disagree. She shows a great amount of authority and does in fact cite the opinions of evangelical scholars as well as secular scholars. Her thesis for this is that the texts are not consistent and coherent but she never takes this claim further than her textual evidence allows. The examination of the historicity of Jesus and a summary of the contemporary Roman histories was also quite thorough. The exhaustive thoroughness of every part of this book and the rigor of her rhetorical style--always precise, exact, and never accusatory--make

the text all that much stronger. For all Christians who believe that the Bible is an entirely consistent, perfect and divinely inspired book, or that we have perfect transmissions and good translations, they must read this book. The author stays very close to the Bible itself, going line by line through the gospels and bring to bear significant amounts of research, but in later sections of the book she examines the history of the creation of the Bible and the formation of what we know of Jesus through the surviving manuscripts (and those that did not survive). I recommend this book to believers and nonbelievers alike. This is the critical look at the Bible that all Christians need to take. Without a book such as this, they do not understand their own religion and its text. I have read and reread sections of this book several times and have also used it as a jumping off point for further research. Even if you hold views contrary to the author's, you cannot deny that she has written a scholarly, well crafted and persuasive investigation of the gospels and the story of Jesus.

Excellent book, Most helpful by finally bringing home that overlooked piece of history--that nothing much at all is written about the historical character called Jesus Christ--except a few sentences in Josephus--but even that could have been interpolated!

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