

Jesus Before Christianity Albert Nolan

*From the creative minds of the scholarly group behind the groundbreaking Jesus Seminar comes this provocative and eye-opening look at the roots of Christianity that offers a thoughtful reconsideration of the first two centuries of the Jesus movement, transforming our understanding of the religion and its early dissemination. Christianity has endured for more than two millennia and is practiced by billions worldwide today. Yet that longevity has created difficulties for scholars tracing the religion's roots, distorting much of the historical investigation into the first two centuries of the Jesus movement. But what if Christianity died in the fourth or fifth centuries after it began? How would that change how historians see and understand its first two hundred years? Considering these questions, three Bible scholars from the Westar Institute summarize the work of the Christianity Seminar and its efforts to offer a new way of thinking about Christianity and its roots. Synthesizing the institute's most recent scholarship—bringing together the many archaeological and textual discoveries over the last twenty years—they have found: There were multiple Jesus movements, not a singular one, before the fourth century. There was nothing called Christianity until the third century. There was much more flexibility and diversity within Jesus's movement before it became centralized in Rome, not only regarding the Bible and religious doctrine, but also understandings of gender, sexuality and morality. Exciting and revolutionary, *After Jesus Before Christianity* provides fresh insights into the real history behind how the Jesus movement became Christianity. *After Jesus Before Christianity* includes more than a dozen black-and-white images throughout. Dominicans believe that the world - turbulent and restless, often violent and terrifying - is also the place where the holy comes to light, the place where we encounter God. Eric Borgman shows how the Dominican Way has something to offer people coping with the exigencies of the modern world.*

'Every time he wanted me to do something, he would quote scripture... I couldn't argue with scripture, it was like arguing with God.' The term 'spiritual abuse' is widely used across the Christian community. But what is it? Sometimes spiritual abuse involves leaders misusing their position, but ministers can also be the victims. Common factors include control through misuse of scripture, claims to divine authority, pressure to conform, and enforced accountability. Individuals may be isolated, and compelled to secrecy and silence. Drawing on a combination of extensive research, individual testimonies, and years of hands-on experience, Lisa Oakley and Justin Humphreys describe clearly the nature of spiritual abuse, and the best ways of countering it. Recovery is possible. But - how do we prevent spiritual abuse in the first place? What can leaders do to create safer places? Is there a link between theological ideas and harmful behaviours? How can leaders create opportunities for spiritual and emotional flourishing? Dr Lisa Oakley has researched spiritual abuse in the Christian faith in the UK since 2003. Justin Humphreys is chief executive of the safeguarding charity thirtyone: eight.

Beginning with Jesus' birth, Ken Bailey leads you on a kaleidoscopic study of Jesus throughout the four Gospels, examining the life and ministry of Jesus with attention to the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, Jesus' relationship to women, and especially Jesus' parables. The work dispels the obscurity of Western interpretations with a stark vision of Jesus in his original context.

Cultural Studies in the Gospels

A Sacred Voice is Calling

The Gospel According to Rome

A History of a Modern Concept

The Dream of God

Creating Healthy Christian Cultures

Center Stage with Jesus, Judas, and Life's Big Questions

According to an old story, a woman concealed her sex and ruled as pope for a few years in the ninth century. Pope Joan was not betrayed by a lover or discovered by an enemy; her downfall came when she went into labor during a papal procession through the streets of Rome. From the myth of Joan to the experiences of saints, nuns, and ordinary women, *The Oldest Vocation* brings to life both the richness and the troubling contradictions of Christian motherhood in medieval Europe. After tracing the roots of medieval ideologies of motherhood in early Christianity, Clarissa W. Atkinson reconstructs the physiological assumptions underlying medieval notions about women's bodies and reproduction; inherited from Greek science and

popularized through the practice of midwifery, these assumptions helped shape common beliefs about what mothers were. She then describes the development of "spiritual motherhood" both as a concept emerging out of monastic ideologies in the early Middle Ages and as a reality in the lives of certain remarkable women. Atkinson explores the theological dimensions of medieval motherhood by discussing the cult of the Virgin Mary in twelfth-century art, story, and religious expression. She also offers a fascinating new perspective on the women saints of the later Middle Ages, many of whom were mothers; their lives and cults forged new relationships between maternity and holiness. *The Oldest Vocation* concludes where most histories of motherhood begin—in early modern Europe, when the family was institutionalized as a center of religious and social organization. Anyone interested in the status of motherhood, or in women's history, the cultural history of the Middle Ages, or the history of religion will want to read this book.

'Since the middle of the twentieth century,' writes Elizabeth Johnson, 'there has been a renaissance of new insights into God in the Christian tradition. On different continents, under pressure from historical events and social conditions, people of faith have glimpsed the living God in fresh ways. It is not that a wholly different God is discovered from the One believed in by previous generations. Christian faith does not believe in a new God but, finding itself in new situations, seeks the presence of God there. Aspects long-forgotten are brought into new relationships with current events, and the depths of divine compassion are appreciated in ways not previously imagined.' This book sets out the fruit of these discoveries. The first chapter describes Johnson's point of departure and the rules of engagement, with each succeeding chapter distilling a discrete idea of God. Featured are transcendental, political, liberation, feminist, black, Hispanic, interreligious, and ecological theologies, ending with the particular Christian idea of the one God as Trinity.

"In his classic work, *Jesus Before Christianity*, Albert Nolan stressed the political context of Jesus' mission. Now, in this long-awaited sequel, he focuses on the spirituality of Jesus and its relevance for us today. After surveying the signs of the times, Nolan outlines the elements of Jesus' spirituality and shows how these lessons might promote a greater communion with God and with all of God's creation."--BOOK JACKET.

Showcasing some of his most enduring and insightful writings, including many previously unpublished works, a concise and illuminating introduction to Marcus J. Borg, the late spokesman for progressive Christianity and one of the most revered and influential theologians of our time. In his acclaimed books, including classics such as *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, *The Heart of Christianity*, *Speaking Christian*, and *Convictions*, Marcus J. Borg helped shape an enlightened modernist view of Christianity. A leading scholar of the historical Jesus acclaimed for his ability to speak about Christianity in the context of contemporary society, Borg offered profound wisdom and inspiration—a new way of seeing and living the Christian life—for believers, students, and lay readers. Ultimately, he taught us that by developing a deeper understanding of Jesus and the New Testament, we can discover a more authentic way of being. Yet Borg himself was always conscious of a greater truth beyond what he could explain: the wonder of God. Now, two years after the liberal theologian's death, comes *The Days of Awe and Wonder*, a selection of his writing, including many never before published works, that explores the Christian faith and what it means to be a Christian in the twenty-first century. Provocative and uplifting, this anthology illuminates Borg's explorations of the miraculous and wonderful, his understanding of conviction and fulfillment, and his contention that we must keep an open mind and question assumptions and certainties in all our religious journeys.

Before Religion

How the Jesus Movement Became the World's Largest Religion

Dominican Spirituality

The Challenge of the Gospel

Global Catholicism

Jesus Before Christianity: With a New Introduction by Sr. Helen Prejean

The Buddha and the Christ

Jesus Before Christianity Orbis Books

Winner of the Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion, this classic text explains what feminist theology is and how we can rediscover the feminine God within the Christian tradition, offering a profound vision of Christian theology, women's experience, and emancipation. First published in 1992, it immediately caused a groundswell reaction for and against the concept of women's participation and role in the Christian church. It is both controversial and thought provoking. It served as the seminal text in the analysis of woman and Christianity. This 25th anniversary edition, with new content, will keep it in the forefront of the feminist theology conversation.

Explores the many different ways of looking at the number one-thousand through estimation rather than actual counting to help children develop an understanding of numeracy. Reprint.

"Hope for Judas" . . . Judas? The son of destruction? Judas, about whom the gospels tell us very little beyond the dramatic events during the Passion? Jesus's loving-saving action finds its culmination in him? Beginning from a sculpture carved at the capital of a column in the medieval Basilica of St. Mary Magdalene in Vézelay, France, Fr. Christoph Wrembek will take you on a breathtaking, challenging, yet ultimately deeply touching journey through key stories of sacred scripture, stories about being lost but ultimately always about salvation. This journey leads into the soul of the gospel, which is Jesus himself.

A Catholic Evangelical Debate

The Three Marks of Manhood

God in South Africa

Poverty of Spirit

Saints Behaving Badly

Original Sin

Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is

Nolan's portrait introduces readers to Jesus as He was before He became enshrined in doctrine, dogma, and ritual, a man deeply involved with the real problems of His time, which are the real problems of our time as well. In a new preface, Nolan reflects on recent work in Christology and how a book written in South Africa in 1976 still has a message for people today.

'I found myself praying from Christian Foundations in new ways. Of course, like most academics, I had heard it all before. But I haven't— not this way, at least. It was truly an experience of talking to God while thinking about God— not a bad way to do theology...Needless to say, I will use it with my undergraduates.' —Dr. Thomas Groome, Boston College

Celebrated religious and social historian Rodney Stark traces the extraordinary rise of Christianity through its most pivotal and controversial moments to offer fresh perspective on the history of the world's largest religion. In *The Triumph of Christianity*, the author of *God's Battalions* and *The Rise of Christianity* gathers and refines decades of powerful research and discovery into one concentrated, concise, and highly readable volume that explores Christianity's most crucial episodes. The unique format of *Triumph of Christianity* allows Stark to avoid dense chronologies and difficult back stories, bringing readers right to the heart of Christian history's most vital controversies and enduring lessons.

From thieves and extortionists to mass murderers and warmongers, up-close and embarrassingly personal snapshots of those sanctified people with the most unsaintly pasts in the history of Christianity. Saints are not born, they are made. And many, as *Saints Behaving Badly* reveals, were made of very rough materials indeed. The first book to lay bare the less than saintly behavior of thirty-two venerated holy men and women, it presents the scandalous, spicy, and sleazy detours they took on the road to sainthood. In nineteenth- and twentieth-century writings about the lives of the saints, authors tended to go out of their way to sanitize their stories, often glossing over the more embarrassing cases with phrases such as, "he/she was once a great sinner." In the early centuries of the Church and throughout the Middle Ages, however, writers took a more candid and spirited approach to portraying the saints. Exploring sources from a wide range of periods and places, Thomas Craughwell discovered a veritable rogues gallery of sinners-turned-saints. There's St. Olga, who unleashed a bloodbath on her husband's assassins; St. Mary of Egypt, who trolled the streets looking for new sexual conquests; and Thomas Becket, who despite his vast riches refused to give his cloak to a man freezing to death in the street. Written with wit and respect (each profile ends with what inspired the saint to give up his or her wicked ways), *Saints Behaving Badly* will entertain, inform, and even inspire Catholic readers across America.

The Cutthroats, Crooks, Trollops, Con Men, and Devil-Worshippers Who Became Saints

God's Boundless Mercy for Us All

Truth Triumphant

An Introduction to Faith in Our Time

5 Steps to a 5: AP U.S. History 2019

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

A Guide to the Essential Spiritual Classics

When *Catechism of the Catholic Church* broke onto the N.Y. Times bestseller list, its astonishing success confirmed the overwhelming interest of Catholics and Protestants in understanding modern Catholicism. Has the recent openness among denominations affected Catholic teachings? In the new spirit of cooperation, is there any reason why Catholics and Protestants should remain divided? This powerful and insightful examination of the Catholic Church provides: a side-by-side comparison of Scripture with the first new worldwide Catholic catechism in 400 years a summary of how modern Catholicism views grace, works, and heaven 24 ways the Catholic plan of salvation still stands in contrast to biblical truth a balanced overview of how the authority structure of the Roman Catholic Church compares with that of the New Testament church an explanation of how participation in the Mass and other sacraments is inconsistent with faith in Christ as Savior Clear, accurate, significant information to know and share—*The Gospel According to Rome*

Nolan's portrait of Jesus introduces us to the man as he was before he became enshrined in doctrine, dogma, and ritual, a man deeply involved with the real

problems of his time--which are the real problems of our time as well. As the author says, "Nothing about Jesus will be presupposed or assumed. . . . My interest is in the man as he was before he became the object of Christian faith.

With an all-new introduction by the author, N. T. Wright's classic work helps us grow in our understanding of the historical Jesus within first-century Palestine while challenging us to follow Jesus more faithfully into the postmodern world of the twenty-first century.

A beloved teacher helps modern people live the Bible ' s message more fully. Respected teacher and author Verna Dozier explores the ways that humanity and the institutional church have strayed far from Jesus ' s original message. To help us get back on track, she examines the Bible: a theological and historical record of hundreds of years in which two communities of faith (Jewish and early Christian) explored their own life experiences. Our task now is not to ask which interpretations are correct, but to ask " what did it mean to them " and " what does it mean for us? " Dozier encourages us to see Christianity not as creed or institution, but as " the vision of a new possibility for human life rooted in an ancient understanding of God and lived out by a Nazarene carpenter. " Through adept storytelling and study, Dozier reawakens our sense of calling and our desire for truth. This new and revised edition includes a new foreword by Sophronia Scott and a study guide.

How to Be a Christian in the Twenty-first Century

A Jesuit Off-Broadway

Quest for the Living God

The Challenge of Jesus

A Challenge to Journal, Pray, Reflect, and Connect with God

The Gospel of Liberation

Hope in an Age of Despair

The directive is so simple: Be still. Draw close. Know Me. Yet who hasn't struggled with the art of quieting your mind and heart to truly dig deep into the intimacy God offers His beloved? The Weekly Prayer Project allows you that moment for reflection and invites you to write your prayers to the One who loves you unconditionally.

More than ever, Walter Wink believes, the Christian tradition of nonviolence is needed as an alternative to the dominant and death-dealing "powers" of our consumerist culture and fractured world. In this small book Wink offers a precis of his whole thinking about this issue, including the relation of Jesus and his message to politics and nonviolence, the history of nonviolent efforts, and how nonviolence can win the day when others don't hesitate to resort to violence or terror to achieve their aims.

Examining a wide array of ancient writings, Brent Nongbri dispels the commonly held idea that there is such a thing as ancient religion. Nongbri shows how misleading it is to speak as though religion was a concept native to pre-modern cultures.

Explores the origins, development and interpretations—past and present—of this conflicting yet fundamental Christian doctrine .

Christian Motherhood in the Medieval West

How Much, How Many, How Far, How Heavy, How Long, How Tall Is 1000?

The Triumph of Christianity

Jesus Before Christianity

A Historical Exploration of the First Two Centuries of Jesus Movements

The Weekly Prayer Project

A Call to Return

[The author's] portrait of Jesus introduces us to the man as he was before he became enshrined in doctrine, dogma, and ritual, a man deeply involved with the real problems of his time - which are the real problems of our time as well.-Back cover.

This book is a printed edition of the Special Issue "Transforming Encounters and Critical Reflection: African Thought, Critical Theory, and Liberation Theology in Dialogue" that was published in Religions

A PERFECT PLAN FOR THE PERFECT SCORE Score-Raising Features Include: 6 full-length practice exams, 3 in the book + 3 on Cross-Platform Hundreds of practice exercises with thorough answer explanations Comprehensive overview of the AP U.S. History exam format with step-by-step explanations Practice questions that reflect both multiple choice and free-response question types, just like the ones you will see on test day Extensive glossary of key terms Proven strategies specific to each section of the test BONUS Cross-Platform Prep Course for extra practice exams with personalized study plans, interactive tests, powerful analytics and progress charts, flashcards, games, and more! (see inside front and back covers for details) The 5-Step Plan: Step 1: Set up your study plan with three model schedules Step 2: Determine your readiness with an AP-style Diagnostic Exam Step 3: Develop the strategies that will give you the edge on test day Step 4: Review the terms and concepts you need to achieve your highest score Step 5: Build your confidence with full-length practice exams

Many of us have questions about the Bible: Can we believe the Bible? What was Jesus' mission? What is sin? Does hell exist? Is anyone beyond God's forgiveness? In A Jesuit

Off-Broadway, James Martin, SJ, answers these questions about the Bible, and other big questions about life, as he serves as a theological advisor to the cast of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Grab a front-row seat to Fr. Martin's six months with the LAByrinth Theater Company and see first-hand what it's like to share the faith with a largely secular group of people . . . and discover, along with Martin, that the sacred and the secular aren't always that far apart.

Personal Vocation and Social Conscience

Escaping the Maze of Spiritual Abuse

Hope for Judas

A Spirituality of Radical Freedom

A Critique of the Theology of Albert Nolan in His Book *Jesus Before Christianity*

Jesus and Nonviolence

A much neglected field of study has been opened by the research of the author into the history of the Christian church from its apostolic origins to the close of the eighteenth century. Taking as his thesis the prominence given to the Church in the Wilderness in Bible prophecy, and the fact that "the Church in the Wilderness," and not the proud hierarchy enthroned in the world's great capital, was the true church of Christ," he has spent years developing this subject. In its present form, Truth Triumphant represents much arduous research in the libraries of Europe as well as in America. Excellent ancient sources are most difficult to obtain, but the author has been successful in gaining access to many of them. To crystallize the subject matter and make the historical facts live in modern times, the author also made extensive travels throughout Europe and Asia. The doctrines of the primitive Christian church spread to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. As grains of a mustard seed they lodged in the hearts of many Godly souls in southern France and northern Italy – people known as the Albigenses and the Waldenses. The faith of Jesus was valiantly upheld by the Church of the East. This term, as used by the author, not only includes the Syrian and Assyrian Churches, but is also the term applied to the development of apostolic Christianity throughout the lands of the East. The spirit of Christ, burning in the hearts of loyal men who would not compromise with paganism, sent them forth as missionaries to lands afar. Patrick, Columbanus, Marcos, and a host of others were missionaries to distant lands. They braved the ignorance of the barbarian, the intolerance of the apostate church leaders, and the persecution of the state in order that they might win souls to God. To unfold the dangers that were ever present in the conflict of the true church against error, to reveal the sinister working of evil and the divine strength by which men of God made truth triumphant, to challenge the Remnant Church today in its final controversy against the powers of evil, and to show the holy, unchanging message of the Bible as it has been preserved for those who will "fear God, and keep His commandments" – these are the sincere aims of the author as he presents this book to those who know the truth. MERLIN L. NEFF.

Cover title: *The Buddha & the Christ*. Includes bibliographical references (p. 223–231) and index.

An inclusive language version of the modern spiritual classic, an exquisitely beautiful meditation on the incarnation, on what it means to be fully human, and on finding the face of God hidden in our neighbors.

Ian Linden has been an active lay member of the Catholic Church for many years and has witnessed first hand such important movements as liberation theology. In this book, he charts the complex history of the forces of renewal unleashed by the Second Vatican Council and the counter-forces that gathered during the last half century.

An Exploration

Towards a Networked Church

Origins, Developments, Contemporary Meanings

She Who Is

Days of Awe and Wonder

Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God

A Third Way

From the creators of *Devotional Classics* and *Spiritual Classics* comes *25 Books Every Christian Should Read*, the definitive guide to the most spiritually influential and important books for Christians to read. *Renovaré*, a community of Christians promoting personal and spiritual renewal, put together a prestigious editorial board including Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, Phyllis Tickle, and Richard Rohr, resulting in this wonderful resource for exploring the richness of the Christian tradition.

Nolan outlines the basis of a theology and spirituality that sides with the poor and the cause of justice. His theme is not simply one of resistance. He also challenges us to embrace the spirituality of Jesus, showing how the saving power of God may empower us to achieve personal liberation and contribute to the creation of structures of grace.

Longenecker and Gustafson offer a lively discussion about the Virgin Mary and related devotional practices from both Catholic and evangelical Protestant perspectives.

The noted Catholic psychologist Dr. G.C. Dilsaver writes that the time has come for Catholic families to re-discover true patriarchy—time for Catholic men to accept and fulfill their role as leader and head of their families. The role of Christian manhood, as ordained by God and confirmed by Catholic teaching, is symbolized by three staffs: the Scepter of authority and self-discipline, the Crosier of spiritual headship, and the Cross of redemptive suffering. Dr. Dilsaver promotes a new and untainted patriarchy in which the husband's ultimate authority is rooted in Christ's example of humility and

self-sacrificing love. Three Marks of Manhood can help Christian families realize their identity to the fullest--empowering them to resist the encroachment of secular culture. Read it and learn how to build a strong and lasting marriage, raise children to become faithful men and women of God, and foster an authentic Catholic culture in your home. Dr. Dilsaver, with his development of the first fully integrated Christian psychology, Imago Dei Psychotherapy, is truly the father of Christian Psychology; with the publication of Three Marks of Manhood he may also be the father of a new Christian patriarchy.

Christian Foundations

The Oldest Vocation

After Jesus Before Christianity

Transforming Encounters and Critical Reflection: African Thought, Critical Theory, and Liberation Theology in Dialogue

25 Books Every Christian Should Read

And Other Talks and Writings

Mary

What does it mean to find and follow our personal calling? How do we distinguish between the "still, small voice" of our authentic vocation and all of the other competing counterfeit voices in our hearts and the needs of our world? Drawing widely on the wisdom of saints, sages, and the traditions of spiritual direction, Neafsey describes a path to living in the place, as Frederick Buechner has put it, "where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

25th Anniversary Edition

How to Be Priest, Prophet and King of Your Family

Jesus Today

Explorations in Buddhist and Christian Dialogue