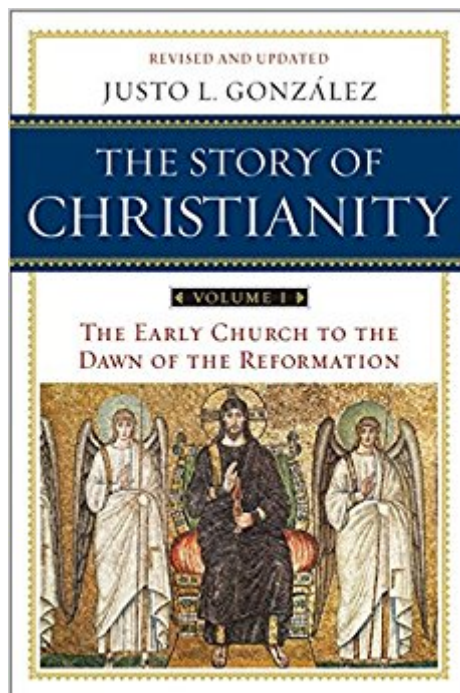




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# The Story Of Christianity, Vol. 1: The Early Church To The Dawn Of The Reformation



## Synopsis

In *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1*, Justo L. González, author of the highly praised three-volume *History of Christian Thought*, presents a narrative history of Christianity, from the Early Church to the Dawn of the Protestant Reformation. From Jesus's faithful apostles to the early reformist John Wycliffe, González skillfully traces core theological issues and developments within the various traditions of the church, including major events outside of Europe, such as the Spanish and Portuguese conquest of the New World. This updated and expanded edition incorporates recent archaeological discoveries about the life of Early Christian Communities, as well as important contemporary research revealing the significant role of women throughout the history of the church. With lively storytelling, *The Story of Christianity* provides a fascinating and panoramic history of the dramatic events, colorful characters, and revolutionary ideas that shaped the first fifteen centuries of the church.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This crisp retelling of Christian history from the days of the apostles to the eve of the Reformation is filled with insight. Gonzalez excels in the brief character sketch. With economy of expression he is still able to define the significance and enliven the character of many great figures in the church's first 1500 years. An additional strength is the careful treatment of Christian expansion into Central and South America during the early modern era. This is a good book for introductory courses, for personal reading, and for adult education in the church."--Mark A. Noll, associate professor, Wheaton College

In this fully revised and updated edition, the lauded church historian Justo González tells the story of Christianity from its fragile infancy to its pervasive dominance at the dawn of the Protestant Reformation. *The Story of Christianity*, volume 1, relates the dramatic events, the colorful characters, and the revolutionary ideas that shaped the first fifteen centuries of the church's life and thought. From Jesus's faithful apostles to the early reformist John Wycliffe, González skillfully weaves details from the lives of prominent figures tracing core theological issues and developments within the various traditions of the church. *The Story of Christianity* demonstrates at each point what new challenges and opportunities faced the church and how Christians struggled with the various options open to them, thereby shaping the future direction of the church. This new edition of *The Story of Christianity* incorporates recent archaeological discoveries to give us a better view of the early Christian communities. Among these are advances in the recovery of Gnostic texts that have revealed a richer diversity of "Christianities" in the first century. González also includes important research done in the past twenty-five years revealing the significant role of women throughout the history of the church. With lively storytelling incorporating the latest research, *The Story of Christianity* provides a fascinating introduction to the panoramic history of Christianity.

So far this book is absolutely enthralling. It is a shame that most Christians, me included, have a very small grasp of where our faith developed, was attacked, changed appearance and then became what it, the church's message, is today. I highly recommend this book. The author is native Cuban and does not seem to be at all influenced by any denomination or creed. The history is straightforward. Thus far in my reading Dr. Gonzalez' interpretations seem to be influenced only by the validity of all the works cited (and there are MANY) and his desire to protect the true stories.

I love history, and was glad that I get to take a Church History course as a part of my education at Liberty University, which includes this book as required reading. I ordered this book a month and a half before class began in order to get ahead of the game, and so far have enjoyed every bit that I have read. I have learned so much just in the first 10 chapters or so!! I'm really looking forward to reading the rest of this book, and even though I won't have to take the course which uses the second edition, I will still definitely be buying it and reading it to further my knowledge of our origins as Christians!

I was very impressed with the amount of knowledge I gained about the development of Christianity, the multi-faceted influences on the religion and learning how various people and their ambitions and thoughts have shaped what presents itself as Christianity today to us. God works through people but at times I wonder if all people who left their mark were indeed working for God and where the truth and pure religion really exists.

I enjoyed this. This is a comprehensive historical book that isn't overly complex. It has nice pictures that accompany the text. It gives you a good overview of the period.

It's very long. It has great detail about the early life of the christian people.

Really brings out the challenges and hardships the disciples and followers of Christ endured. It fills in things to give you a better understanding of the times and struggles of the first century christians.

The book was great, there was an excellent flow and the author is able to go into strong detail without taking the reader away from the overall narrative of what was happening throughout the years of early Christianity. When i started reading i knew i would be giving this book a five star rating, until i got to the Dark Ages. The book really slowed down, which isn't necessarily the author's fault because he was staying true to what was happening during that time. However, I felt it was over extended and it made me put the book down when I originally had trouble doing so. I thought some of those later chapters could be condensed and that is why i ended with a four star rating instead of five. But other than that, it was a book i greatly enjoyed and learned much from. I especially enjoyed when the author dedicated chapters to individual church leaders. Again, i learned a lot and it gave me a greater desire to study the early church fathers since the writer brings the reader into a connection with them.

Seller sent it speedy fast! Thats what the 5 stars are for. Bought both 1 & 2 and I have another book I need to read too...I hope its as accurate as can be for a chunk of history. Usually these books don't have "new information" if they get their history from a "main source".... be interesting to see how true it stays to the truth.

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