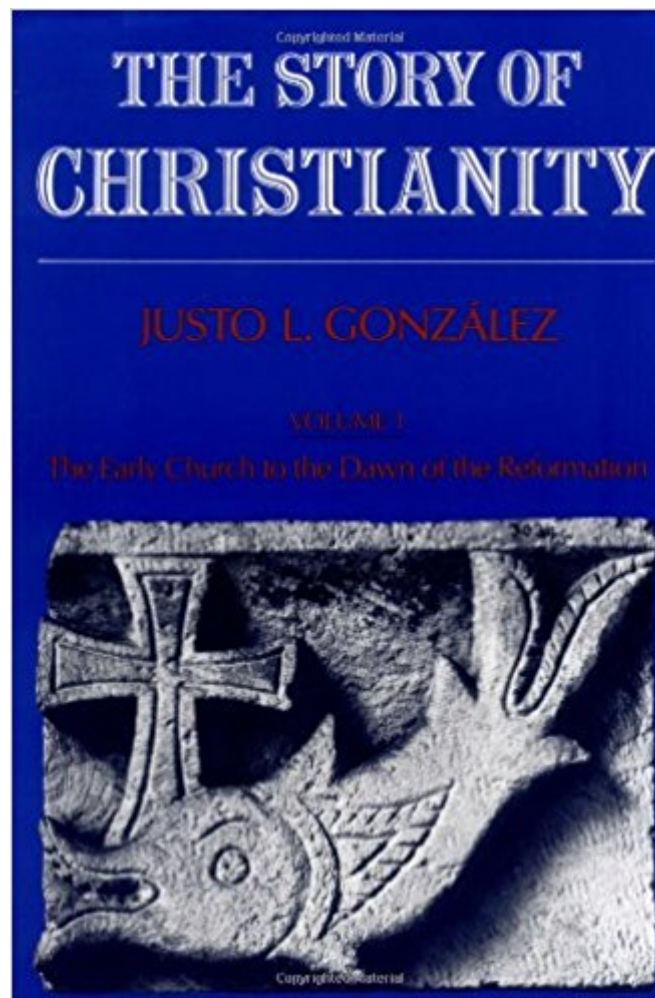


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# The Story Of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church To The Dawn Of The Reformation (Story Of Christianity)



## Synopsis

• This crisp retelling of Christian history from the days of the apostles to the eve of the Reformation is filled with insight. • "Mark A. Noll, Wheaton College" The Story of Christianity, Volume 1 is a narrative history of Christianity, from the Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation, from Justo L. Gonzalez, author of the highly praised three-volume History of Christian Thought.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sheds light on the major cultural and theological currents shaping the church during this period.

The Story of Christianity, Volume 1, is an informative, interesting, and consistently readable narrative history. It brings alive the people, dramatic events, and ideas that shaped the first fifteen centuries of Europe, such as the Spanish and Portuguese conquest of the New World. Historian Justo Gonzalez shows how various social, political, and economic movements affected Christianity's internal growth. Gonzalez skillfully weaves in relevant details from the lives of prominent figures from the apostles to John Wycliffe, tracing out core theological issues and developments as reflected in the lives and struggles of leading thinkers within the various traditions of the church. "The history of the church, while showing all the characteristics of human history, is much more than the history of an institution or movement," Gonzalez stresses. "It is a history of the deeds of the spirit in and through the men and women who have gone before in the faith." 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. The Story of Christianity will serve as a fascinating introduction to the panoramic history of Christianity for students and teachers of church history, for pastors, and for general readers.

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! That's what the 5 stars are for. Bought both 1 & 2 and I have another book I need to read too...I hope it's 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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