

Read Free Jesus Wars How Four Patriarchs Three Queens And Two Emperors Decided What Christians Would Believe For The Next 1500 Years Philip Jenkins

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Offers "new possibilities of interpretation for religious pluralism." Covers topics like God's global reach in salvation, a Christology of Grace, and how Scripture views other religions.

What does the future hold for European Christianity? Is the Christian church doomed to collapse under the weight of globalization, Western secularism, and a flood of Muslim immigrants? Is Europe, in short, on the brink of becoming "Eurabia"? Though many pundits are loudly predicting just such a scenario, Philip Jenkins reveals the flaws in these arguments in *God's Continent* and offers a much more measured assessment of Europe's religious future. While frankly acknowledging current tensions, Jenkins shows, for instance, that the overheated rhetoric about a Muslim-dominated Europe is based on politically convenient myths: that Europe is being imperiled by floods of Muslim immigrants, exploding Muslim birth-rates, and the demise of European Christianity. He points out that by no means are Muslims the only new immigrants in Europe. Christians from Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe are also pouring into the Western countries, and bringing with them a vibrant and enthusiastic faith that is helping to transform the face of European Christianity. Jenkins agrees that both Christianity and Islam face real difficulties in surviving within Europe's secular culture. But instead of fading away, both have

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adapted, and are adapting. Yes, the churches are in decline, but there are also clear indications that Christian loyalty and devotion survive, even as institutions crumble. Jenkins sees encouraging signs of continuing Christian devotion in Europe, especially in pilgrimages that attract millions--more in fact than in bygone "ages of faith." The third book in an acclaimed trilogy that includes *The Next Christendom* and *The New Faces of Christianity*, *God's Continent* offers a realistic and historically grounded appraisal of the future of Christianity in a rapidly changing Europe.

"Jenkins is one of America's top religious scholars." —Forbes magazine *The Lost History of Christianity* by Philip Jenkins offers a revolutionary view of the history of the Christian church. Subtitled "The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—and How It Died," it explores the extinction of the earliest, most influential Christian churches of China, India, and the Middle East, which held the closest historical links to Jesus and were the dominant expression of Christianity throughout its first millennium. The remarkable true story of the demise of the institution that shaped both Asia and Christianity as we know them today, *The Lost History of Christianity* is a controversial and important work of religious scholarship that sounds a warning that must be heeded.

"Scholarly, pastoral, prophetic, and eloquent. The invitation to follow Jesus instead of worshipping Christ could not come at a more important time, or be issued by a more credible source." —Desmond Tutu "Robin Meyers emerges in *Saving Jesus from the Church* as a national voice for a new Christianity. He is a well read scholar and a superb communicator. He writes with a refreshing honesty and a disarming authority. This book is a treat." —John Shelby Spong, author of *Jesus for the Non-Religious* Robin Meyers, a rising star of liberal Christianity, restores the true mission of

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the faith that captures the heart of Jesus's concern for people over "right belief." Saving Jesus from the Church will resonate deeply with those who enjoy the works of John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, and John Dominic Crossan. Most Christians will readily admit that they lack a solid understanding of the fundamentals of salvation. Chang engages the reader by elucidating what scripture teaches about salvation and by demonstrating how God's transformative power can mold believers into truly new people. (Christian Religion)

The Great and Holy War offers the first look at how religion created and prolonged the First World War, and the lasting impact it had on Christianity and world religions more extensively in the century that followed. The war was fought by the world's leading Christian nations, who presented the conflict as a holy war. A steady stream of patriotic and militaristic rhetoric was served to an unprecedented audience, using language that spoke of holy war and crusade, of apocalypse and Armageddon. But this rhetoric was not mere state propaganda. Philip Jenkins reveals how the widespread belief in angels, apparitions, and the supernatural, was a driving force throughout the war and shaped all three of the Abrahamic religions - Christianity, Judaism, and Islam - paving the way for modern views of religion and violence. The disappointed hopes and moral compromises that followed the war also shaped the political climate of the rest of the century, giving rise to such phenomena as Nazism, totalitarianism, and communism. Connecting remarkable incidents and characters - from Karl Barth to Carl Jung, the Christmas Truce to the Armenian Genocide - Jenkins creates a powerful and persuasive narrative that brings together global politics, history, and spiritual crisis. We cannot understand our present religious, political, and cultural climate without understanding the dramatic changes initiated by the First World War. The

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war created the world's religious map as we know it today.

The purpose of this book is to answer the following questions by presenting answers based on primary sources and interpretation by scholars, as well as logical deductions drawn from relevant research: 1. Did Jesus Christ ever exist? 2. Did the Roman Emperor Constantine and the Church of Rome transform Serapis Christus into Jesus Christ? 3. Did the Council of Nicea vote Christ as God? 4. Did the Council of Nicea decide on the number of books that should be in the New Testament? 5. Is there evidence that Jesus Christ had a wife, children and bloodline that can be traced into the French royalty? 6. Why did the Vatican destroy tens of thousands of early Judeo-Christian scrolls of the Old and New Testament? 7. Are God's chosen people Indo-European as portrayed in the West or African as the blacks of the Sub-Sahara and Africans in Diaspora (African-Americans)? 8. Has white ethnocentrism and nationalism transform the image, purpose, message, and value of Christianity? If so, is this transformation a contradiction? 9. What is the lasting legacy of the Council of Nicea and its impact on Christianity? The book examines the interpretations of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi library by Abdul Osman, the renowned Egyptian scholar/researcher. He has written *Out of Egypt*, *The Hebrew Pharaohs of Egypt*, *Moses and Akhenaten*, *Jesus in the House of the Pharaohs*, and *Christianity: An Ancient Egyptian Religion*. The Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi library was discovered shortly after the end of World War II. The library was first published in 1977, it includes unpublished gospels of the New Testament. The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal the Jewish/Christian sect based on historical Jesus hundreds of years before the Roman Church's acknowledgement of the birth of Jesus Christ under the domain of the Roman empire. The Egypt of ancient times was known as "the land of the blacks" or Kemet for its people

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rather than the rich soil along the banks of the Nile as interpreted by Eurocentric pundits who see North and Northeast Africa as an extension of Europe. The evidence drawn from the unblemished remains and artifacts of pharaohs demonstrate that the people of Kemet are the ancestors of the blacks of Sub-Saharan Africa and Africans in Diaspora (African-Americans). Dynastic Kemet reigned over all civilization for thousands of years. It was the creator of all modern religions. Constant Indo-European and Asiatic invasions, along with internal strife and Nubian rebellions, led to hegemony by outsiders that have declined since the end of World War II and absolute control over colonial possessions. The present Arabic population that dominates North and Northeast Africa (today's Middle East) are Indo-European invaders that have held these lands since the 8th century. This population is more aligned with the Indo-European West than the non-Moslem population in their midst and south of the Sahara. They readily sold these non-believers into slavery until it was prohibited by Western nations. The book explores how Eurocentrism denies the truth about Black Africa's role in ancient and world history, as well as the development of modern Christianity. It examines the deplorable effects on the psyche of Africans in Diaspora and intra-racial victimization from street crime to national politics. The book also describes how Christianity have become anti-Christian and serve the interest of evil, envy, narcissism, intolerance and greed by disconnecting itself from the African authors of the gospel and their message.

One man's quest to find the oldest Bible scrolls in the world and uncover the story of the brilliant, doomed antiquarian accused of forging them. In the summer of 1883, Moses Wilhelm Shapira—archaeological treasure hunter and inveterate social climber—showed up unannounced in London claiming to have discovered the oldest copy of the Bible in the

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world. But before the museum could pony up his £1 million asking price for the scrolls—which discovery called into question the divine authorship of the scriptures—Shapira’s nemesis, the French archaeologist Charles Clermont-Ganneau, denounced the manuscripts, turning the public against him. Distraught over this humiliating public rebuke, Shapira fled to the Netherlands and committed suicide. Then, in 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Noting the similarities between these and Shapira’s scrolls, scholars made efforts to re-examine Shapira’s case, but it was too late: the primary piece of evidence, the parchment scrolls themselves had mysteriously vanished. Tigay, journalist and son of a renowned Biblical scholar, was galvanized by this peculiar story and this indecipherable man, and became determined to find the scrolls. He sets out on a quest that takes him to Australia, England, Holland, Germany where he meets Shapira’s still aggrieved descendants and Jerusalem where Shapira is still referred to in the present tense as a “Naughty boy”. He wades into museum storerooms, musty English attics, and even the Jordanian gorge where the scrolls were said to have been found all in a tireless effort to uncover the truth about the scrolls and about Shapira, himself. At once historical drama and modern-day mystery, *The Lost Book of Moses* explores the nineteenth-century disappearance of Shapira’s scrolls and Tigay’s globetrotting hunt for the ancient manuscript. As it follows Tigay’s trail to the truth, the book brings to light a flamboyant, romantic, devious, and ultimately tragic personality in a story that vibrates with the suspense of a classic detective tale. A probing look at the spiritual condition of the body of Christ, examining the fortresses of Satan in believers’ own lives (greed, pride, selfishness and lust of the flesh) and shows the scriptural path to rejuvenation through

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repentance and holiness.

The Fifth-Century Political Battles That Forever Changed the Church In this fascinating account of the surprisingly violent fifth-century church, Philip Jenkins describes how political maneuvers by a handful of powerful characters shaped Christian doctrine. Were it not for these battles, today's church could be teaching something very different about the nature of Jesus, and the papacy as we know it would never have come into existence. *Jesus Wars* reveals the profound implications of what amounts to an accident of history: that one faction of Roman emperors and militia-wielding bishops defeated another.

America has a long history of drug panics in which countless social problems have been blamed on the devastating effects of some harmful substance. In the last forty years, such panics have often focused on synthetic or designer drugs, like methamphetamine, PCP, Ecstasy, methcathinone, and rave drugs like ketamine, and GHB. Fear of these substances has provided critical justification for the continuing "war on drugs." *Synthetic Panics* traces the history of these anti-drug movements, demonstrating that designer chemicals inspire so much fear not because they are uniquely dangerous, but because they bring into focus deeply rooted public concerns about social and cultural upheaval. Jenkins highlights the role of the mass media in spreading anti-drug hysteria and shows how proponents of the war on drugs use synthetic panics to scapegoat society's "others" and exacerbate racial, class, and intergenerational conflict.

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This book will start with the earliest Christian textual evidence, the letters of Saint Paul, as a foundation to reveal surprising details in the history of the early Church that have been hidden in plain sight for almost two thousand years: (1.) that Saint Peter and Saint Paul became enemies; (2.) that according to some early Christians, Jesus was both the Messiah and the Antichrist, but not God nor the Son of God; (3.) that James, the brother of Jesus, rejected the original teaching of Jesus in order to further his own claim to be the Messiah; (4.) that the apostle Paul actually failed more than he succeeded during his lifetime; (5.) that Christians were instrumental in the First Jewish Revolt; and (6.) that Jesus did claim to be both the Son of God and God. The evidence is laid out logically in a new way. But the evidence is not new; it is on your shelf right now. '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

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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. This edition of *An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith* comes complete with a Touch-or-Click Table of Contents, divided by each book. *An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith* (Ekdosis akribes tes orthodoxou pisteos) provides a beautiful summary of the dogmatic writings of the Early Church Fathers. This writing was the first work of Scholasticism in Eastern Christianity and an important influence on later Scholastic works. Saint John of Damascus (c. 676 – 4 December 749) was a Syrian Christian monk and priest. Born and raised in Damascus, he died at his monastery, Mar Saba, near Jerusalem. A polymath whose fields of interest and contribution included law, theology, philosophy, and music, before being ordained, he served as a Chief Administrator to the Muslim caliph of Damascus, wrote works expounding the Christian faith, and composed hymns which are still in everyday use in Eastern Christian monasteries throughout the world. The Catholic Church regards him as a Doctor of the Church, often referred to as the Doctor of the Assumption due to his writings on the Assumption of Mary. You can purchase other wonderful religious works from Wyatt North Publishing.

Jesus Wars How Four Patriarchs, Three Queens, and Two Emperors Decided What Christians Would Believe for the Next 1,500 Years Harper Collins

We are presently living at a truly extraordinary time of

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profound transformation. Most people, wherever they may be living in the world, are presented with very real and great dangers but equally real and perhaps even greater opportunities. To survive and thrive in the 21st century it is essential to activate our intuition and to awaken our spiritual consciousness. The royal road, the fundamental skill, to achieve this is prayer. Integrating the teachings of the spiritual tradition, of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and of Psychosynthesis, the author who has personally experienced the theory and practice of prayer in his own being life and observed many different people in different cultures do the same, aims at making prayer become conscious: alive, meaningful, and effective. While the essential prayers were drawn from the Christian tradition, the same can be done with prayers coming from any valid tradition. The "key" here is to be able to contact and drawn down the Light from the inner Source that already dwells at the core of our being. The best-selling author of *The New Christendom* continues his study of the growth of Christianity in the southern regions of the world, examining the influence of the Bible on the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, including the impact on growing liberation movements and the rise of women's rights. Beginning as a marginal group in Galilee, the movement initiated by Jesus of Nazareth became a world religion within 100 years. Why, among various religious movements, did Christianity succeed? This major work by internationally renowned scholar Udo Schnelle traces the historical, cultural, and

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theological influences and developments of the early years of the Christian movement. It shows how Christianity provided an intellectual framework, a literature, and socialization among converts that led to its enduring influence. Senior New Testament scholar James Thompson offers a clear, fluent English translation of the successful German edition. In A.D. 381, Theodosius, emperor of the eastern Roman empire, issued a decree in which all his subjects were required to subscribe to a belief in the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This edict defined Christian orthodoxy and brought to an end a lively and wide-ranging debate about the nature of God; all other interpretations were now declared heretical. It was the first time in a thousand years of Greco-Roman civilization free thought was unambiguously suppressed. Why has Theodosius's revolution been airbrushed from the historical record? In this groundbreaking book, acclaimed historian Charles Freeman argues that Theodosius's edict and the subsequent suppression of paganism not only brought an end to the diversity of religious and philosophical beliefs throughout the empire, but created numerous theological problems for the Church, which have remained unsolved. The year A.D. 381, as Freeman puts it, was "a turning point which time forgot."

Fostering mutual understanding by viewing religion from an outsider perspective Depending on how one

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defines religion, there are at least thousands of religions in the world. Given such religious diversity, how can any one religion claim to know the truth? Nothing proposed so far has helped us settle which of these religions, if any, are true--until now. Author John W. Loftus, a former minister turned atheist, argues we would all be better off if we viewed any religion--including our own--from the informed skepticism of an outsider, a nonbeliever. For this reason he has devised "the outsider test for faith." He describes it as a variation on the Golden Rule: "Do unto your own faith what you do to other faiths." Essentially, this means applying the same skepticism to our own beliefs as we do to the beliefs of other faiths. Loftus notes that research from psychology, anthropology, sociology, and neuroscience goes a long way toward explaining why the human race has produced so many belief systems, why religion is culturally dependent, and how religion evolved in the first place. It's important that people understand these findings to escape the dangerous delusion that any one religion represents the only truth. At a time when the vast diversity of human belief systems is accessible to all, the outsider test for faith offers a rational means for fostering mutual understanding.

The Fifth-Century Political Battles That Forever Changed the Church

In this fascinating account of the surprisingly violent fifth-century church, Philip

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Jenkins describes how political maneuvers by a handful of powerful characters shaped Christian doctrine. Were it not for these battles, today's church could be teaching something very different about the nature of Jesus, and the papacy as we know it would never have come into existence. *Jesus Wars* reveals the profound implications of what amounts to an accident of history: that one faction of Roman emperors and militia-wielding bishops defeated another.

L. Michael White, one of the world's foremost scholars on the origins of Christianity, provides the complete, astonishing story of how Christianity grew from the personal vision of a humble Jewish peasant living in a remote province of the Roman Empire into the largest organized religion in the world. Rather than reading the New Testament straight through in its traditional, or "canonical" order, *From Jesus to Christianity* takes a historical approach. Looking at the individual books chronologically, in the sequence in which they were actually written, readers can see what they divulge about the disagreements, shared values, and unifying mission of the earliest Christian communities. White digs through layers of archaeological excavations, sifts through buried fragments of largely unknown texts, and examines historical sources to discover what we can know of Jesus.

Looks at cults and anti-cult scares in American

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history and reveals the true characteristics of religious fringe movements and why they inspire such fierce antagonism.

A timely journalistic look inside worldwide Christian persecution. The persecution of Christians is widespread and increasing in many areas. In 2010, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, the gold standard of contemporary religion statistics, concluded that Christians are the most widely persecuted religious group in the world. In December 2010, the Vatican reported the same conclusion.

This timely and well-documented book tells this story well, in a journalistic and lively way, punctuated with compelling stories. *Persecuted* offers readers an overview of Christian persecution, analyzing patterns of repression, abuse, and violence across the globe. It explores the reasons that specific ideological, religious, and political groups and establishments target Christian believers as enemies. Woven throughout are vivid examples of Christians persecuted and harassed for their faith. These cases illuminate the courage it takes to be a Christian in today's world. The book provides examples of how the church, including the American church, has successfully diminished or halted repression in other countries, and suggests the steps we can take together in the future.

One of America's foremost scholars of religion examines the tumultuous era that gave birth to the modern Judeo-Christian

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tradition In *The Crucible of Faith*, Philip Jenkins argues that much of the Judeo-Christian tradition we know today was born between 250-50 BCE, during a turbulent "Crucible Era." It was during these years that Judaism grappled with Hellenizing forces and produced new religious ideas that reflected and responded to their changing world. By the time of the fall of the Temple in 70 CE, concepts that might once have seemed bizarre became normalized-and thus passed on to Christianity and later Islam. Drawing widely on contemporary sources from outside the canonical Old and New Testaments, Jenkins reveals an era of political violence and social upheaval that ultimately gave birth to entirely new ideas about religion, the afterlife, Creation and the Fall, and the nature of God and Satan.

"[A] panoramic view of early Christianity as it developed against the backdrop of the Roman Empire of the fourth century" (Publishers Weekly). The story of Jesus is well known, as is the story of Christian persecutions during the Roman Empire. The history of fervent debate, civil strife, and bloody riots within the Christian community as it was coming into being, however, is a side of ancient history rarely described. Richard E. Rubenstein takes the reader to the streets of the Roman Empire during the fourth century, when a fateful debate over the divinity of Jesus Christ is being fought. Ruled by a Christian emperor, followers of Jesus no longer fear for the survival of their monotheistic faith. But soon, they break into two camps regarding the direction of their worship: Is Jesus the son of God and therefore not the same as God? Or is Jesus precisely God on earth and therefore equal to Him? The vicious debate is led by two charismatic priests. Arius, an Alexandrian priest and poet, preaches that Jesus, though holy, is less than God. Athanasius, a brilliant and violent bishop, sees any diminution of Jesus's godhead as the work of the devil. Between them

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stands Alexander, the powerful Bishop of Alexandria, who must find a resolution that will keep the empire united and the Christian faith alive. With thorough historical, religious, and social research, Rubenstein vividly recreates one of the most critical moments in the history of religion. “A splendidly dramatic story . . . Rubenstein has turned one of the great fights of history into an engrossing story.” —Jack Miles, *The Boston Globe*; author of *God: A Biography*

We are often told that early Christianity comprised a vast multitude of strange sects, and that this diversity was wiped out in the fourth century when the Church canonized the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But how, then, can we explain that the scene of the baby Jesus in the mangerthe central image of the Christmas storyshows the influence of the Protevangelium,” or that our belief that the Serpent in Eden is Satan comes from another so-called Lost Gospel? In [Title TK], Philip Jenkins offers a revelatory new history of Christianity, showing that hundreds of these supposedly lost alternate gospels were never suppressed by the early Church, but instead remained widely influential until the Reformationand continue to play major roles in Christian belief to this day. An authoritative account of the formation of the biblical canon and the evolution of modern faith,[Title TK] restores the Lost Gospels” to their proper place in history and in belief.

This incisive critique thoroughly and convincingly debunks the claims that recently discovered texts such as the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, and even the Dead Sea Scrolls undermine the historical validity of the New Testament. Jenkins places the recent controversies surrounding the hidden gospels in a broad historical context and argues that, far from being revolutionary, such attempts to find an alternative Christianity date back at least to the Enlightenment. By employing the appropriate scholarly and

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historical methodologies, he demonstrates that the texts purported to represent pristine Christianity were in fact composed long after the canonical gospels found in the Bible. Produced by obscure heretical movements, these texts have attracted much media attention chiefly because they seem to support radical, feminist, and post-modern positions in the modern church. Indeed, Jenkins shows how best-selling books on the "hidden gospels" have been taken up by an uncritical, drama-hungry media as the basis for a social movement that could have powerful effects on the faith and practice of contemporary Christianity.

The Bible is not the word of God. *Biblical Nonsense* is a broad look at the tremendous problem of associating divinity with the world's most popular book. This part-philosophical, part-scientific overview explores the Bible's divine treachery, scientific mistakes, historical errors, false prophecies, and comical absurdities. *Biblical Nonsense* also expands beyond these standard reasons for skepticism by tackling the rationale behind the emergence and perpetuation of Christianity, psychological and sociocultural reasons that drive Christians to cling to their beliefs, and illogical methods of argumentation invoked in the defense of the Bible. Author Dr. Jason Long is a former Christian who condenses the most significant biblical problems into this single volume. Unlike other books in the field that delve into only one topic, this manuscript, comprehensible even to those who have never opened a Bible, is a full-fledged attempt to demonstrate that God's supposed word is a product of human minds, not divine inspiration. Dr. Long's fresh experiences in the church and advanced levels of educational enlightenment make him the perfect individual to present this vehemently unpopular, yet undeniably appealing topic.

"...There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars...Now when these things begin to happen, look up and

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lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Luke 21:25a, 28 It is rare that Scripture, science, and history align with each other, yet the last three series of Four Blood Moons have done exactly that. Are these the "signs" that God refers to in His Word? If they are, what do they mean? What is their prophetic significance?

Philip Jenkins delivers a fearless examination of the dark and violent verses of the Bible—and a call for us to read them anew in pursuit of a richer, more honest faith. From “one of America’s best scholars of religion” (The Economist), this daring exploration of the Scripture’s most difficult passages forces us to confront and accept the violence that was integral to the formulation of Christianity’s message as it was for many other of the world’s religions, and shows us how a full understanding of the Scripture will allow us to finally move towards a more peaceful, spiritual world. Readers of Bart Ehrman’s *God’s Problem*, John Selby Spong’s *The Sins of Scripture*, and Jenkins’s own *The Jesus Wars*, as well as every Christian eager to square the recurrent violence of the Scripture with Christianity’s enduring message of peace, will find these difficult questions explored in full in *Laying Down the Sword*.

Jesus Wars reveals how official, orthodox teaching about Jesus was the product of political maneuvers by a handful of key characters in the fifth century. Jenkins argues that were it not for these controversies, the papacy as we know it would never have come into existence and that today’s church could be teaching something very different about Jesus. It is only an accident of history that one group of Roman emperors and militia-wielding bishops defeated another faction. --from publisher description.

Lynn Cohick provides an accurate and fulsome picture of the earliest Christian women by examining a wide variety

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of first-century Jewish and Greco-Roman documents that illuminate their lives. She organizes the book around three major spheres of life: family, religious community, and society in general. Cohick shows that although women during this period were active at all levels within their religious communities, their influence was not always identified by leadership titles nor did their gender always determine their level of participation. The book corrects our understanding of early Christian women by offering an authentic and descriptive historical picture of their lives. Includes black-and-white illustrations from the ancient world.

Tanner offers not a repetition of doctrines but a creative synthesis of key Christian principles - especially the transcendence and gift-giving of God - and contemporary experience. What emerges is a profound yet precise vision of creation, God's life, and our participation in it. While consonant with traditional teachings, Tanner's dynamic speculative theology is universal in its range, mystical in its outlines, and deeply ethical in its relations with all God's gifted creatures. Jesus, Humanity, and the Trinity not only takes stock of Christian belief in a time of tumultuous intellectual and cultural change. It also finds in that ferment a life-giving meaning and mission for Christian life.

"In AD 381, Theodosius, emperor of the eastern Roman empire, issued a decree in which all his subjects were required to subscribe to a belief in the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This edict defined Christian orthodoxy and brought to an end a lively and wide-ranging debate about the nature of the Godhead; all

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other interpretations were now declared heretical. Moreover, for the first time in a thousand years of Greco-Roman civilization, free thought was unambiguously suppressed. Not since the attempt of the pharaoh Akhenaten to impose his god Aten on his Egyptian subjects in the fourteenth century BC had there been such a widesweeping programme of religious coercion. Yet surprisingly this political revolution, intended to bring inner cohesion to an empire under threat from the outside, has been airbrushed from historical record. Instead, it has been claimed that the Christian Church had reached a consensus on the Trinity which was promulgated at the Council of Constantinople in 381." "In this groundbreaking new book, acclaimed historian Charles Freeman shows that the council was a shambolic affair which only took place after Theodosius' decree had become law. In short, the Church was acquiescing in the overwhelming power of the emperor. Freeman argues that Theodosius' edict and the subsequent suppression of paganism not only brought an end to the diversity of religious and philosophical beliefs throughout the empire, but created numerous theological problems for the Church, which have remained unsolved. The year AD 381, Freeman concludes, marked 'a turning point that time forgot'. "--BOOK JACKET.

The Council of Nicea was not merely clerics in a dark and ornate hall. It was brawls in churchyards. It was emperors and governors fighting to save the empire ... and perhaps salvage a little fame for themselves. It was political intrigues as the governments of church and state

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blended into a volatile stew. It was the way a fringe group of peace-loving communal worshipers of a crucified Palestinian prophet conquered the Roman Empire.

JOHN 8:58 has been one of the most hotly debated verses in the Bible for centuries. For the first time, an impartial, unbiased, objective investigation begins and ends here. BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS I AM is for all individuals interested in how John 8:58 should be translated, as well as how it should be interpreted. The book impartially (objectively) offers the two different translation views on this verse, as well as two different interpretational views. The reader is given the opportunity to see both perspectives, and then, he or she can decide for themselves. The reader does not have to know Biblical Greek, as we have taken every measure to make this small book easy to understand. We have used the Greek interlinear with the English above the Greek. We have translated all the Greek herein. We have tried to define and explain every uncommon term. Views on translating John 8:58 include NT commentator with the historical setting Kenneth O Gangel, Bible background Clinton E. Arnold and Craig S. Keener, Exegetical commentator D. A. Carson, NT Greek scholar Daniel B. Wallace, Textual scholar B. F. Westcott, Senior Bible Translator of the NASB Don Wilkins, and Chief Translator of the UASV and textual scholar Edward D. Andrews.

Relics were everywhere in medieval society. Sainly morsels such as bones, hair, teeth, blood, milk, and clothes, and items like the Crown of Thorns, coveted by Louis IX of France, were thought to bring the believer

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closer to the saint, who might intercede with God on his or her behalf. In the first comprehensive history in English of the rise of relic cults, Charles Freeman takes readers on a vivid, fast-paced journey from Constantinople to the northern Isles of Scotland over the course of a millennium. In "Holy Bones, Holy Dust," Freeman illustrates that the pervasiveness and variety of relics answered very specific needs of ordinary people across a darkened Europe under threat of political upheavals, disease, and hellfire. But relics were not only venerated--they were traded, collected, lost, stolen, duplicated, and destroyed. They were bargaining chips, good business and good propaganda, politically appropriated across Europe, and even used to wield military power. Freeman examines an expansive array of relics, showing how the mania for these objects deepens our understanding of the medieval world and why these relics continue to capture our imagination.

What food did the ancient Israelites eat, and how much of it did they consume? That's a seemingly simple question, but it's actually a complex topic. In this fascinating book Nathan MacDonald carefully sifts through all the relevant evidence -- biblical, archaeological, anthropological, environmental -- to uncover what the people of biblical times really ate and how healthy (or unhealthy) it was. Engagingly written for general readers, *What Did the Ancient Israelites Eat?* is nonetheless the fruit of extensive scholarly research; the book's substantial bibliography and endnotes point interested readers to a host of original sources. Including an archaeological timeline and three detailed maps, the

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book concludes by analyzing a number of contemporary books that advocate a return to "biblical" eating. Anyone who reads MacDonald's responsible study will never read a "biblical diet" book in the same way again.

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