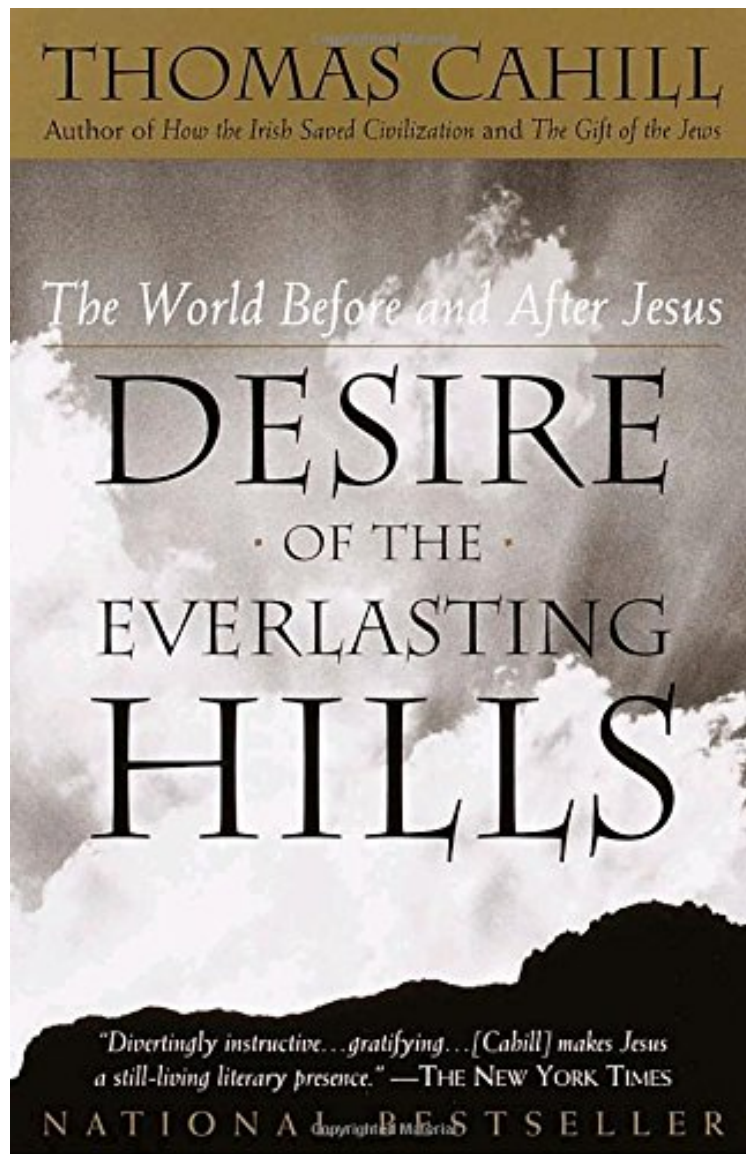


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## Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus (Hinges of History)

Thomas Cahill

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#46079 in Books Thomas Cahill 2001-02-13 2001-02-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .80 x 5.201, .64 #File Name: 0385483724353 pages Desire of the Everlasting Hills The World Before and After Jesus | File size: 25.Mb

**Thomas Cahill : Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus (Hinges of History)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus (Hinges of History):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The CDs are a high-quality product. If you are ...By JMSThe CDs are a high-quality product. If you are a history buff, I suggest you read Cahill's Hinges of History series. I read the entire series once a year and always learn something new. Very entertaining! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The series continues.....By Beverly K. GodwinFollowing on the heels of "How the Irish Saved Civilization", Thomas Cahill continues his trek through the various time periods that moved history in new directions and effect how we see the world today. This volume focuses on the changes that Christianity brought to peoples view of the world. While his books can be read in any order or are good just as stand-alones; I would recommend reading them in chronological rather than in published order. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book with regard to biblical historyBy BillGood book with regard to biblical history, really helps in understanding of Christian roots and ethos. Made me realize how the message of Jesus has been "spun" by established contemporary Christian leaders to further the agenda of their particular sects flavor.

From the bestselling author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*, his most compelling historical narrative yet. How did an obscure rabbi from a backwater of the Roman Empire come to be the central figure in Western Civilization? Did his influence in fact change the world? These are the questions Thomas Cahill addresses in his subtle and engaging investigation into the life and times of Jesus. Cahill shows us Jesus from his birth to his execution through the eyes of those who knew him and in the context of his time a time when the Jews were struggling to maintain their beliefs under overlords who imposed their worldview on their subjects. Here is Jesus the loving friend, itinerate preacher, and quiet revolutionary, whose words and actions inspired his followers to journey throughout the Roman world and speak the truth he instilled in the face of the greatest defeat: Jesus' crucifixion as a common criminal. Daring, provocative, and stunningly original, Cahill's interpretation will both delight and surprise.

.com *Desire of the Everlasting Hills* is another present from the pen of Thomas Cahill, author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*. In this third volume of the bestselling *Hinges of History* series, he knits together history, politics, sociology, and faith with contemporary insights that yield remarkable results. After painting with broad brush strokes an entertaining picture of the Greek, Jewish, and Roman world, Cahill focuses on Jesus. With illuminating deductions and clever speculation, Jesus is seen through the eyes of his biographers in their Gospel accounts. Each of these authors' lives is reconstructed in such a way that the richness of their writing and their subject matter is wonderfully enhanced. The section on Paul, detailing how his life and letters shaped the early church, should be required reading for every student of the Bible. From his beginnings in the cosmopolitan city known as Tarsus through his calling, like the patriarchs and prophets before him, he becomes "the perfect vehicle for this moment in the development of the Jesus Movement." His mix of Greek reasoning with rabbinical training casts the stories of the early church into a thoughtful theology. He is seen here as the earliest egalitarian who not only impacted the early church but all of western civilization. Cahill challenges many traditional religious ideas while also taking on some of the more radical contemporary interpreters of biblical literature. As with the other volumes in this series, the marginal notes are filled with a wealth of interesting information. Combining his own fresh translation of many New Testament highlights with respect and humor, Thomas Cahill's book is for the believer and nonbeliever alike. --Tracy DanzFrom Publishers WeeklyCahill, no stranger to sweeping historical narratives (*The Gifts of the Jews*; *How the Irish Saved Civilization*), triumphs again with this imaginatively written account of Jesus and the early Christian Church. Cahill begins in the manner of most Jesus books, with the Greco-Roman world of the three centuries before Jesus, but here Greece and Rome come to life in Cahill's depiction of their violent despotism. Cahill has an eye for the common person's experience of war, famine and religious upheaval, and it is with this vantage point that he shows readers why Jesus' message of peace and forgiveness was so very startling. Cahill is familiar with biblical scholarship of the origins of the Gospels and their various theological differences, but he is more interested in how ordinary folks might have received Jesus, whom he portrays as "no ivory-tower philosopher but a down-to-earth man" who "hugely enjoyed a good dinner with friends." Although this idea is by no means original, Cahill presents Jesus with infectious energy, and his take on Mary is certainly fresh. "With her keen sense of retributive justice," as evidenced in the Magnificat, Cahill writes, Mary was disappointed with Jesus' odd admonitions to turn the other cheek. As she had been "counting on something with more testosterone in it." The best chapter of all is on Paul, whose theological contributions are beautifully recapitulated for the layperson (Cahill also rightly highlights "Paul's perceptiveness, even craftiness, in dealing with other human beings"). There are a few glosses in the book, including instances in which Cahill elevates pious legend to fact; for example, he asserts that the remains of Simon Peter's home "may still be seen at Capernaum, when in fact the home's history has by no means been established. Overall, however this is an engrossing portrait of Jesus through the eyes of His family and followers. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library JournalYA-Cahill's book, the third in the series, deals with the historical Jesus in terms of His times. The first pages set the scene for His birth, beginning with Philip of Macedon and his son Alexander the Great. This look at the extent of Alexander's conquests and, later, at the Roman Empire, shows the unimportance, geographically, of the area in which Jesus lived and died. Nevertheless, the politics were complicated: states and rulers came and went, as did

tribes, sects, and various peoples over the centuries. Although it's hard to keep track of all of this, the writing is so lively that one really doesn't care. Even the footnotes are interesting. Much of the book deals with the Gospels and how their writing fit into the century after Christ's death. Paul and the four Gospel writers are limned and their writing styles and content put into the context of their personalities and times. Thus, readers see how very radical Christ's message was for its time. In the last chapter, Cahill answers the question posed in his introduction: has the life of Jesus made a difference? While pointing out counterarguments, he answers in the affirmative. One of the book's strengths is the absence of proselytizing, while at the same time showing what a different world this would be had Jesus not lived. Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince William County, VA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.