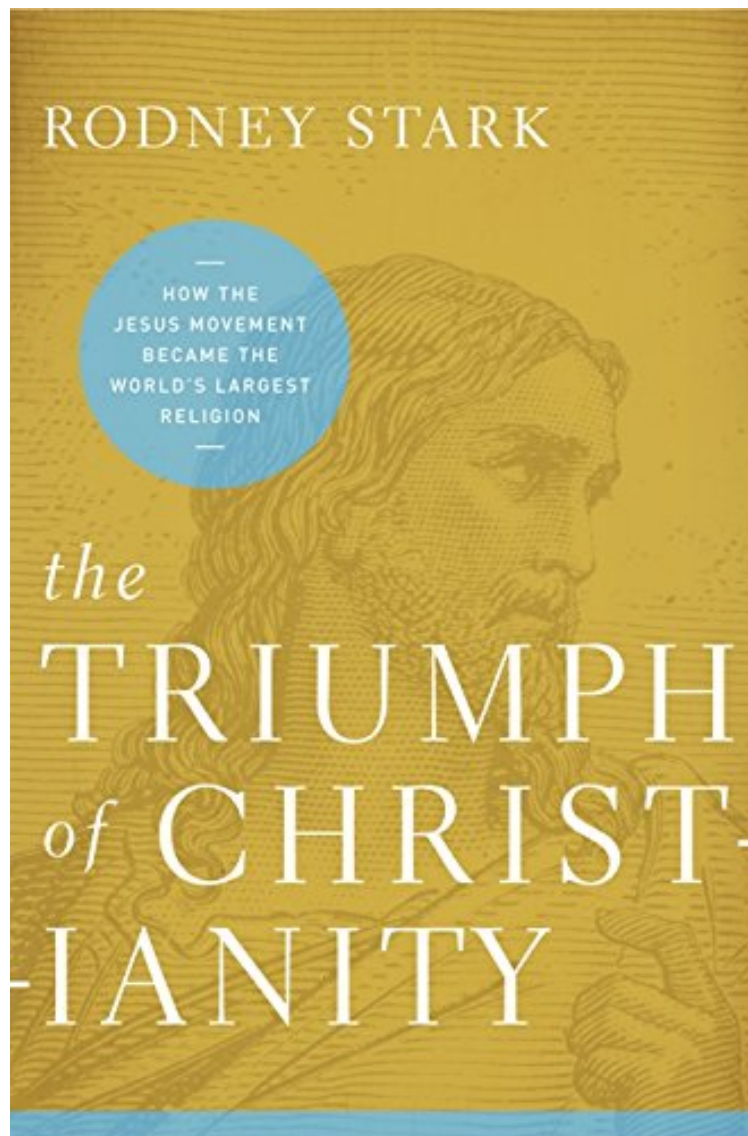


(Download pdf) The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the World's Largest Religion

The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the World's Largest Religion

Rodney Stark

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Rodney Stark : The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the World's Largest Religion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the World's Largest Religion:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More great history from a sociologist! By C. Appleyard My favorite subject in high school was history. We had a year of Western Civ, a year of American History and finally a year of modern history. The class I hated most freshman year of college was a history course. The difference? Our high school was the guinea pig for Harvard U's education programs. We had no text books, we read original documents and a plethora of historians' and social scientists' perspectives on topics. Every summer, we had reading to do...before Western Civ, we got a packet with stories about three teens. One was the son of a Jewish (immigrant) deli owner in Brooklyn. The second was an American Indian and the fourth was a 'mid-western' youth. The stories involved the boys and their dads. When we got to class in September, the teacher asked what we thought of the writings. Most of the class wondered what they had to do with anything. But some of us, saw them as generational/cultural conflicts. Each boy is immersed in a different milieu but the conflict remains the same. So we discussed the reason for the conflicts. It was cultural Anthropology/sociology (which ended up being my major). History was taught through this lens rather than facts and dates. Time periods were important, why was far more important than when and the interplay of culture, place and generation created the background for a very full picture. For me, this is what Rodney Stark does in all his books. He doesn't care who wins but rather why they win, what was it that made one side successful and the other not so much, and how that 'win' or 'lose' affects the next chapter in the history of Christianity. Who was right or wrong is not part of the equation. He has no dog in the chase, so he calls on all the facts that are out there, not only those that move a particular agenda along. It is really the way all history should be taught. They say history is written by the winners. Good history is written by the objective observer. In Church history, there are very few of those. Mr. Stark one of those rare observers; he is a gift given to the Church.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Read this book! By Marcia Yiapan After hearing Eric Metaxas say that it was one of Chuck Colson's favorite books, I started reading the Triumph of Christianity by borrowing the library's copy and quickly decided that I must buy my own. It is probably the best nonfiction book I've ever read. Rodney Stark busts a lot of myths about western civilization and the church and explains some puzzling questions. Every believer should read it. So should skeptics!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great Book! By Thomas M. Magee This book is very interesting. I am not sure how to start the review. The book has a lot in it. I do think any believer will find it well worth their time to read it. The first part of the book is a rough history of the church. The history goes over things most people will learn something from. This isn't a deep history. The development of theology is almost ignored. He gives some eye opening information about how fast the church has grown under Roman times. It had reached across all levels of society. I liked how he presented information that Jesus and the disciples might have been a biblical version of the middle class. That information sort of recasts the events of the New Testament in a new light. Then the book moves to a review of various issues that have confronted the church over the past two thousand years. I really liked the chapters about the non PC version of the crusades and the expansion of Islam at the point of a sword. The last couple of books is really eye opening. He reviews the church as it is today. His statistics shows that the church has grown to a stage most of us haven't realized across the globe. All who are familiar with the new testament will know the significance of that piece of information.

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 *Gods 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.

2012 Book of the Year (World Magazine) From the Back Cover In *The Triumph of Christianity*, acclaimed religious and social historian Rodney Stark explains how an obscure Jewish sect became the largest religion in the world and presents the real story behind the tragedies and triumphs that have shaped the trajectory of the Christian faith and indeed, much of global history.

About the Author Rodney Stark is the Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences at Baylor University. His thirty books on the history and sociology of religion include *The Rise of Christianity*, *Cities of God*, *For the Glory of God*, *Discovering God*, and *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*. Stark received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.