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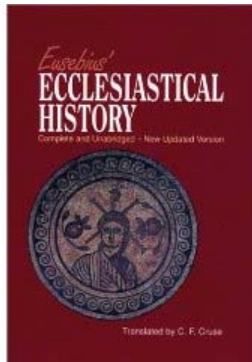
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Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History (Hardcover)

by [Eusebius Pamphilus](#) (Author)

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A Stunning Chronicle of Early Christianity, Aug 1 2002

By **A Customer**

Eusebius' 'Ecclesiastical History', also known as Eusebius' 'Early Church Recordings', is a true tour de force on the development of the early

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Christian Church from the second century to the fourth century AD. His account is so striking for a multiplicity of reasons, starting with the fact that the works is a chronicle of people, ideas, and events which filled the deep groove of esoteric challenge left by Jesus the Christ. I find no more convincing evidence of the raw power of Jesus than I do here, for his influence in these very early accounts proved to be incredibly fortituous and contagious. In Eusebius' chronicles we are exposed almost first hand to what people were thinking and saying about Christ, and how they were acting, including becoming martyrs, in the wake of his presence. What this means is that Eusebius has preserved for us a non-fictional look into the time directly after Jesus' departure, and in reading all these separate but not conflicting accounts of the early Christian pilgrims we get not only a fundamental understanding of the more immediate influence of Jesus upon the people of the Near East, but of the foundations upon which the Christian Church grew upon- not upon physical churches per se, but upon people whose faith was so unwavering that they were willing to face axes and lions to maintain the religion's message. We thus see how the Christian Church was formed not upon stones and government regulations, but upon persecuted peoples who were so moved by Jesus' message that they sprouted up between the cracks of the cruel fasces of thier era until the wave of religious growth overwhelmed the statecraft authorities.

This works takes us as far forward as the aegis of Constantine and the Nicene Council, and no further. The fact that C. F. Cruse has kept true to the original, unabridged language as far as is possible in a translation is refreshing. All too many religious scholars can not keep from injecting their slant or propaganda into the works they purport to be conveying 'unabridged'. But C. F. Cruse sticks to the facts and to historicity, and has included some additional information concerning the early martyrs- 'the Martyrs of Palestine', as some refer to them.

It is with chagrin that one must concede that the drama in the New Testament has become so second-nature to our understanding of Christianity that for many the Bible might seem like an old TV re-run. What Eusebius phenomenal 'Ecclesiastical History' does here is make fresh again the grandeur of Christ and his message by showing us new angles in a very historic sense, by following the movemnets and sacrifices of common individuals, and by relating accounts less 'theatrical' and more 'real'. This is, after all, a non-fiction. The seriousness of the works and Eusebius' in-depth reporting is truly stunning in its crucial insight into those incipient days of Christianity.

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The first few centuries after Christ's resurrection,

Jul 20 2002

By [A. J. Valasek](#) (Clemmons, NC United States) - [See all my reviews](#)

Considered by most to be the father of Church History, this text's primary focus is on the period from the 2nd century to the 4th culminating with Emperor Constantine and the famous council of Nicea. This is certainly a classic text and a must for anyone interested in the history of Christianity. The reader should find a host of interesting topics and can see much of the progression of Christianity and how the theology developed. A special emphasis on martyrdom is given but is appropriately balanced with the periods of times in which Christianity was accepted. On the darker side, one can certainly see the seeds of anti-semitism and the division of the church even in Christianity's adolescence. Considering the many changes that transposed in these earliest years when many of the second generation Christians still lived as evident from this reading, it is no wonder that Christianity is so far removed from its core beliefs today. Finally, I found it most interesting to examine the biographical notes of some of the faith's most influential members, its heroes and its villians.

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Important historical information, May 31 2002

By **A Customer**

Scholars over time have called into question certain information contained in Eusebius. However, in many instances, while there may not be proof confirming what he claims, neither is there proof denying what he claims.

Given the scarcity of actual materials from the time period, scholars work with copies and confirmations from other sources. Manuscripts preserved in monasteries, the occasional archeological find, etc, have provided general confirmation of some information; however, to dismiss Eusebius (or any other ancient historian) because of a lack of "scientific" or "archeological" information is a rather short-sighted and biased methodological principle in itself. In fact, by these lights most all ancient historians would have to be dismissed out of hand. Having said as much, Eusebius provides an historical account of the development of the early Church, informed by the Faith itself. While it is unlikely he had access to a large volume of source materials and the like in the manner of contemporary historians working from archives, the oral traditions and information available to him at the time provide a good outline of what can be gathered in regard to early Church history. Contrary to what another reviewer wrote, Eusebius does not deny the authenticity of John's Revelation (he does deny a Revelation ascribed to Peter); rather, in the case of Cerinthus -- a Jewish gnostic and heretic -- he points out how Cerinthus' heresy lead him to make spurious claims in regard to our state after the Second Coming of Christ. This itself is interesting since Eusebius mentions St. Irenaeus and writings against gnostic heresies, many of which find present-day counterparts in today's New Age movements. Eusebius provides interesting information on early Church practices, the scriptures employed, and the existence of an ecclesiology even in these early days. If one is interested in the development of tradition and the early Church, Eusebius is well worth reading.

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