

[PDF] How Jesus Became Christian

Barrie Wilson - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: How Jesus Became Christian

Author: Barrie Wilson

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Of the making of Jesus books there appears to be no end. Although Wilson, professor of religious studies at Toronto's York University, treads familiar ground already covered by Geza Vermes in *Jesus the Jew* and Amy-Jill Levine in *The Misunderstood Jew*, he provokes new thoughts about Jesus' identity. Taking up where Robert Eisenman left off in *James, the Brother of Jesus*, Wilson calls his argument the Jesus Cover-Up Thesis and claims that the religion of Paul displaced the teachings of Jesus so that Paul's preaching about a divine gentile Christ covered up the human Jewish Jesus. Wilson helpfully surveys the political, social and religious contexts of ancient Palestine, demonstrating that the religion of James, the brother of Jesus, was much closer to the religious practice of Jesus himself, but that the followers of Paul suppressed Jesus' teachings in favor of their own leader. Wilson challenges the veracity of the book of Acts, arguing that the followers of Paul created these tales to support the heroic character of their founder in his quest to establish a new religion. Wilson's instructive book introduces important questions about early Christianity for

those unfamiliar with the debates about the historical Jesus. (Mar.)

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Review

Winner of the Joe and Faye Tanenbaum Prize in History

Shortlisted for the Cundill Award

"Wilson's *How Jesus Became Christian* represents a much-needed sea change in our understanding of how one moves from the historical Jesus to the religion called Christianity. It is beyond doubt one of the most significant works on early Christianity to appear in decades. It is bound to stir controversy, but Wilson's sober and carefully documented assessment of the evidence is as challenging as it is compelling. Wilson writes with an engaging style, accessible to the nonspecialist while thoroughly academic in quality. Jews, Christians, Muslims, and secularists will all find much of fascination and value in this provocative and important work."--- James D. Tabor, chair of the department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and author of *The Jesus Dynasty*

"Barrie Wilson has produced a significant and sensational work of scholarship. And it is truly religious dynamite."-*Canada's Globe and Mail*

"Wilson's learned foray into the great debate over Christian origins is to be heartily welcomed. Agree or disagree, the eager reader will be gripped---and at times possibly shocked---by the author's bold investigation of one of the greatest mysteries of all time: How did the Christianity of the earliest Church become the orthodox "churchianity" of the mid-fourth and all succeeding centuries?"--- *Tom Harpur, author of The Pagan Christ*

"Wilson, in an immensely readable and informative book, has put the pieces together in a compelling way to reveal a startling conspiracy. This conspiracy is soundly developed out of real historical evidence...the suppression of Jesus' real message and his real Jewishness in favor of Paul's message about a Christ for the Roman world, the remarkably successful cover-up story provided by the Book of Acts, and the roots of the anti-Semitism endemic to the new religion of Christianity....A groundbreaking and highly controversial work that is sure to provoke considerable attention."--- *Patrick Gray, professor at York University and Toronto School of Theology*

"Provokes new thoughts about Jesus' identity. Wilson helpfully surveys the political, social and religious contexts of ancient Palestine, demonstrating that the religion of James, the brother of Jesus, was much closer to the religious practice of Jesus himself, but that the followers of Paul suppressed Jesus' teachings in favor of their own leader. Wilson's instructive book introduces important questions about early Christianity for those unfamiliar with the debates about the historical Jesus."---***Publishers Weekly***

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