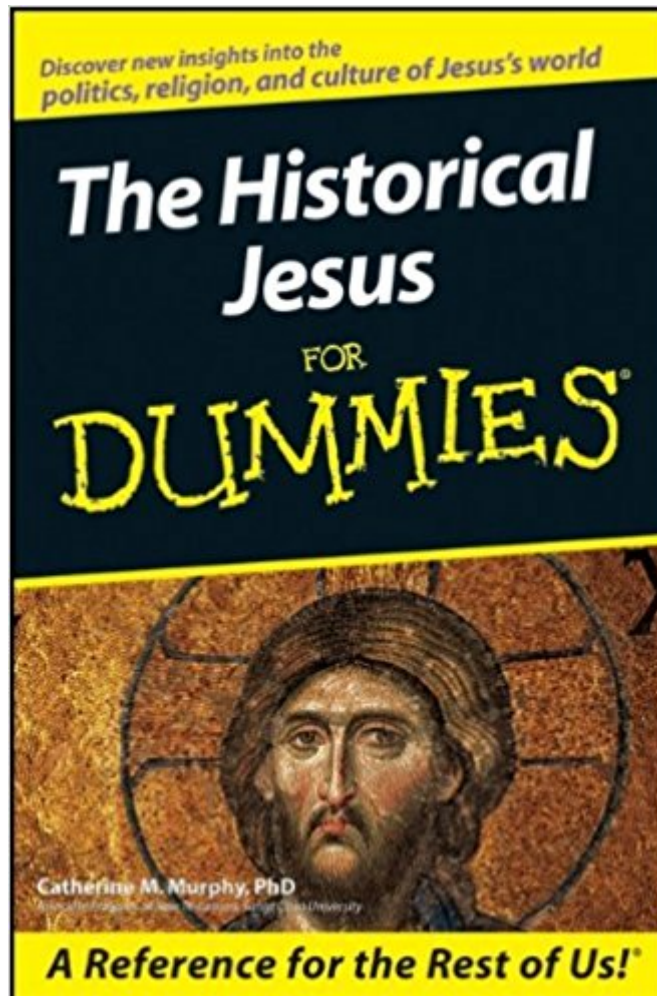




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# The Historical Jesus For Dummies



## Synopsis

Was Jesus of Nazareth a real person? Did all of the events described in the gospels really happen? How was the world Jesus lived in different from our own? In *The Historical Jesus For Dummies*, you'll discover the answers to these questions and hundreds more. This accessible, plain-English guide to the life and times of Jesus paints a vibrant picture of his world, examining records in the New Testament and Roman history as well as recent archeological finds that shed new light on his life. You'll find informative explanations of Jesus's birth, infancy, and childhood; meet his followers and enemies; learn about his teachings and miracles, and discover how modern scholars and historians have arrived at these conclusions. This fascinating primer to the real-life Jesus explores:

- The different stories of Jesus in the gospels
- The three quests for the historical Jesus
- The miracles of Jesus
- Jewish society and the influence of Rome in Jesus's time
- The Roman practice of crucifixion
- The politics of Roman-occupied Judea
- What people thought of Jesus when he was alive
- The Gnostic gospels and other non-biblical texts of the time
- The top controversies surrounding Jesus
- Portrayals of Jesus in art and film

Complete with a concise account of the spread of Christianity throughout the world, *The Historical Jesus For Dummies* puts you in touch with the human Jesus who walked the earth and whose teachings changed the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Demystifies top controversies surrounding Jesus Your accessible guide to the life and times of Jesus Want to know more about Jesus? This plain-English, practical guide paints a vibrant picture

of his world, examining records in the Bible and Roman history and exploring recent archaeological finds that shed new light on his life. You get informative explanations of Jesus's infancy, followers, teachings, and miracles, as well as the crucifixion and resurrection. Discover: The different stories of Jesus in the gospels The three quests for the historical Jesus Jewish society and the influence of Rome in Jesus's time The spread of Christianity around the world Jesus in art and film

Dr. Catherine Murphy is Associate Professor of New Testament at Santa Clara University, where she teaches courses on the Bible, the historical Jesus, gender in early Christianity, and apocalyptic literature. She earned her doctorate in New Testament and early Christianity from the University of Notre Dame, where she worked on the Dead Sea Scrolls publication team. She has traveled frequently to Israel, Greece, Turkey, and Europe and has written two books, *Wealth in the Dead Sea Scrolls and in the Qumran Community* (2002) and *John the Baptist: Prophet of Purity for a New Age* (2003). She also gives frequent talks on the Bible, the historical Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Jesus in film.

I am supposing that one does not come to *The Historical Jesus for Dummies* without having some exposure to the more scholarly approaches from writers such as John Dominique Crossan or the Jesus Seminar or even Albert Schweitzer. Being somewhat familiar with those works but not being a student of the gospels myself, I was hoping the Dummy book would help me put certain historical concepts in perspective and I was not disappointed. The book makes an effort to remain respectful of religious beliefs- the book's prose style frequently takes on a light-hearted tone, however - while setting forth mainstream historical thinking. I would think that only those who cling to a literal interpretation of the New Testament would be offended by the argument that the Bible should be read as metaphorical stories of moral teachings and not as eyewitness history. Its main theme is that there are two applicable kinds of truth when dealing with a figure such as Jesus - historical truth and religious truth, and both must be kept separate in examining the life of any religious person and his or her role in history. I was particularly pleased with the author's explanation of the so-called Q Gospel and how it is used to explain the similarities and differences in the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. However I would have liked more space devoted to the other gospels, the dozen or so other writings that did not make it into the Bible, even though they may not have direct relevance to the narrative life of Jesus. The Dummy books are designed so that the reader can start anywhere and go anywhere that interest leads him. But I read this volume straight through and I thought that perhaps that method would make more sense and tend to make the subject matter hang together

better.

This is a fantastic and complete book of Jesus as is historically known. What Catherine does is put it all together for us from all the credible sources available. She even delves into church understandings and weaves a concise and understandable life of Christ. This is a wonderful reference document and I have recommended it to several church friends also who are struggling with the many scattered sources.

Disappointing review of the history around the life of Jesus.

I felt like a goof buying it and hesitate to tell people that I am reading it but I have gleaned a lot from this book. It has helped me to better understand the world in which Jesus lived. It has led to a lot of personal and scriptural reflection as well as discussion. I recommend this If you are looking for something that provides you with a very basic background. Don't read it as if it's the word of God, question it and discuss it over with your pastor. I will be moving on to something with more heft after this.

Very enlightening from a historical point of view, as it should be.````

I'm still reading it, and everything I've read so far I've thoroughly enjoyed very much. I would recommend it to anyone interested in this subject. So far the author has done a good job in making this subject very easy to read and interesting.

Great

I learned more about ancient Christianity, Jesus, and religion in this book than I ever did in school. And how many of the things which used to not make sense now do after reading this book. I recommend this book for its well researched, unbiased information.

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