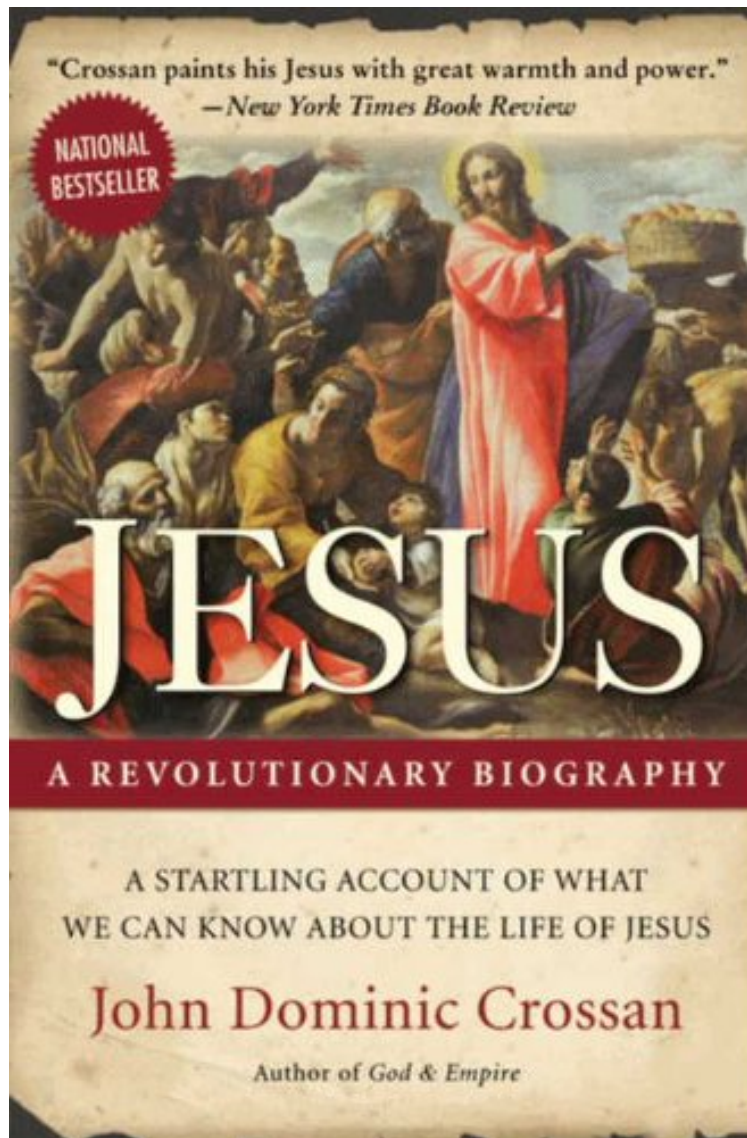


[E-BOOK] Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography

Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography

Von John Dominic Crossan
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Von John Dominic Crossan : Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I woke up this morning ...Von Tavor MaierJesus has been so shamelessly faked by the Gospels that I lost my faith.The question arises who was the person behind all these phantastic exagerations, distortions of facts, if not frauds? To understand who Jesus really was, what he might have taught and probably done, what really happened to him when he

was condemned, tortured to death, and exalted on heavens throne, is not a matter of theology but of diligent and thorough historical research. Crossan does a convincing job in combining scientific knowledge of ancient agricultural societies in general, the history of first century Palestine in particular, and, of course, the Bible, in order to draw a realistic picture of the man who still keeps mystifying our minds. (Thanks to Crossan, I couldn't sleep this morning, after I had dreamed to be the angel Gabriel, standing before a virgin, who was, when I woke up, the Anatolian charlady.) This is first of all a book for people who are interested in historical facts, but also for people who sometimes wish exploitation and iniquity would stop on G-d's planet, with a little help from Jesus. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Believe it or not Von J. P. Burke One who feels he has cornered the market on religious truth will not take kindly to having anyone disagree with his interpretation of the Bible. Such a person is poorly equipped to review a this book. A book about belief has value if the ideas resonate with the reader and provide insight into our place in the world. There's no way anyone can know exactly who Jesus was, what he said and what he did. Everything we have on Jesus has been colored by interpretation. Crossan takes a historical approach, and this will be refreshing to people who are tired of interpretations that simply except every passage as truth but twist the meaning to reflect their wishes. "A fool believes every word, but the reasonable man looks for proof" - Proverbs 14:15. You can't look for proof if you don't read many sources and judge for yourself. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Honestly Discovered Answers to Very Difficult Questions Von Good Bye Whether you regard John Dominic Crossan as a visionary or a heretic, you must nevertheless regard him. This once obscure yet academically honored professor has risen on the wave of interest in the search for the historical foundations of Christianity to the height of public renown. His credentials are not to be ignored. Seventeen books, an emeritus professorship at DePaul following a twenty two year career at that university, a six year chairmanship of the Historical Jesus Section of the Society of Biblical Literature - truly Professor Crossan is a force in the world of New Testament scholarship. Yet his books are still looked upon with suspicion by many Christians. Why? One simple reason alone has gained Professor Crossan the suspicion of so many: he has questioned the accuracy of the story of Jesus as printed in the four canonical gospels. Worse yet, he has searched for and found answers to some of his questions. This work, *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, is the result of his questioning. To those who have never questioned the literal truth of the Christian canon, it is a shocking, frightening, and blasphemous work. However, to those who have often wondered why the four canonical gospels differ from one another, why one includes a story not included in the others, or why the same basic story is quite different between two or three of the four, this book is a ray of light into a room too long left dark. Professor Crossan tackles some of the basic questions surrounding the man who is perhaps the most significant man who ever lived. Who was Jesus - a revolutionary, a prophet, a lunatic, or the true human embodiment of God? What were his origins? Why did he do what he is recorded as doing, or did he do it at all? Truly, these are not questions that can be faced by anyone with a fear of ambiguity, for these questions will certainly inspire deep reflection as to what is to be believed about the namesake of the world's largest religion. There are those who would say that the book is simply a reflection of Professor Crossan's own spiritual beliefs - that he does not substantiate his assertions with enough evidence and merely presents what he wants presented. These criticisms are only marginally justified. While it is true that most people who have ever written on the subject of Jesus of Nazareth do seem to come to the conclusion that he was just like they are, Professor Crossan does a better job than most in justifying his assertions with at least enough evidence to be plausible. Truth be told, we do not know most of the very basic things about the life of this man from Nazareth (including if he was even from Nazareth); his childhood, genealogy, education, marital status, even his physical appearance are all mysteries only answerable by conjecture. No writers whose works have come down to us through history other than those within the Christian faith even record his existence. Moreover, the closest written document about him that has survived was written at least thirty years following his death. Hence we are only given one side of the story, as it were, right from the beginning. All these things considered, Professor Crossan's book is to be recommended. It will take a long time to cut through two thousand years of accumulated myth, theology, dogma, and schism. This book, along with many others from both the Jesus Seminar, and the Context Group as well, is at least a solid beginning.

Kurzbeschreibung The Controversial, Bestselling Account of What We Can Know About the Life of Jesus From Booklist Based on Crossan's more scholarly text, *The Historical Jesus* (1992), this biographical study makes the author's view of Jesus as a social revolutionary available to a wider audience. Crossan clearly defines the problem of trying to locate the historical Jesus in the midst of myth, and he tells readers how he intends to find that Jesus: through cross-cultural anthropology, Greco-Roman and Jewish history, and literary and textual evidence. Compared to A. N. Wilson's *Jesus: A Life* (1992), which brought a real man to life, this account gives little sense of a flesh-and-blood Jesus, though Crossan offers some thought-provoking theories about the man and his mission. What is most interesting about the book, though, is Crossan's portrayal of the times and the milieu that gave birth to a new religion. While, at the end of the book, readers may still not be sure if Jesus was a savior or a sorcerer, they will certainly understand the

cultural and historical dynamics that allowed him to step forward in that particular time and that particular place. Ilene Cooper's Kirkus sRevisionist "biography" of Jesus, by New Testament scholar Crossan (Biblical Studies/DePaul University; *Raid on the Articulate*, 1976). Crossan's study--a popularization and extension of his *The Historical Jesus* (1992--not reviewed)--proves again the oft-made observation that biographies of Jesus reveal more about their authors than about the subject. Here, we get a politically correct Christ stripped of all mythology, a revolutionary social leader who taught "radical egalitarianism" but performed no miracles, except that of awakening social consciousness (Crossan reads Jesus' casting out of demons as a blow against colonialism). This is, then, the Jesus of liberation theology, not of the Christian scholarly mainstream (up to now, Crossan has been best known for another unconventional and little-accepted theory, positing the existence of a "cross gospel" that predates the passion narratives of the canonical texts). As usual, Crossan's scholarship is good, with a command of cultural anthropology, Greco-Roman history, and textual analysis. Eyebrows will rise often, though, as he goes beyond facts into conjecture: Jesus "did not and could not cure...disease" despite his laying-on-of-hands; Jesus never met Pilate or Caiaphas; the Barabbas tale is fiction (a dismissal based largely on Crossan's subjective reading of Pilate's personality), as are the Last Supper, the Raising of Lazarus, the Virgin Birth, etc. Moreover, at his most extreme, Crossan suggests that Jesus' body, far from being resurrected, was probably buried in a shallow grave and eaten by dogs. Disappointing. The most reliable--read: cautious--guide to the historical Jesus remains John P. Meier's massive, on-going project, *A Marginal Jew* (1991-). -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.