



# The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation

By Justo L. Gonzalez

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In this fully revised and updated edition, the lauded church historian Justo González tells the story of Christianity from its fragile infancy to its pervasive dominance at the dawn of the Protestant Reformation. *The Story of Christianity*, volume 1, relates the dramatic events, the colorful characters, and the revolutionary ideas that shaped the first fifteen centuries of the church's life and thought.

From Jesus's faithful apostles to the early reformist John Wycliffe, González skillfully weaves details from the lives of prominent figures tracing core theological issues and developments within the various traditions of the church. *The Story of Christianity* demonstrates at each point what new challenges and opportunities faced the church and how Christians struggled with the various options open to them, thereby shaping the future direction of the church.

This new edition of *The Story of Christianity* incorporates recent archaeological discoveries to give us a better view of the early Christian communities. Among these are advances in the recovery of Gnostic texts that have revealed a richer diversity of "Christianities" in the first century. González also includes important research done in the past twenty-five years revealing the significant role of women throughout the history of the church.

With lively storytelling incorporating the latest research, *The Story of Christianity* provides a fascinating introduction to the panoramic history of Christianity.

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**The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation By Justo L. Gonzalez Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"This crisp retelling of Christian history from the days of the apostles to the eve of the Reformation is filled with insight. Gonzalez excels in the brief character sketch. With economy of expression he is still able to define the significance and enliven the character of many great figures in the church's first 1500 years. An additional strength is the careful treatment of Christian expansion into Central and South America during the early modern era. This is a good book for introductory courses, for personal reading, and for adult education in the church." --Mark A. Noll, associate professor, Wheaton College

### From the Back Cover

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### About the Author

**Justo L. Gonzalez**, retired professor of historical theology and author of the highly praised three-volume *History of Christian Thought*, attended United Seminary in Cuba and was the youngest person to be awarded a PhD in historical theology at Yale University. Over the past thirty years he has focused on developing programs for the theological education of Hispanics, and he has received four honorary doctorates.

**Michael Kramer** has narrated many audiobooks over the last twenty years; his favorite authors include Donald E. Westlake, Thomas Perry, and Robert Jordan. He has received several AudioFile Earphones Awards for his work. He lives in the DC area, where he also works in theater as an actor and director.

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### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Christina Ochs:**

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#### **Carolyn Wilson:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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