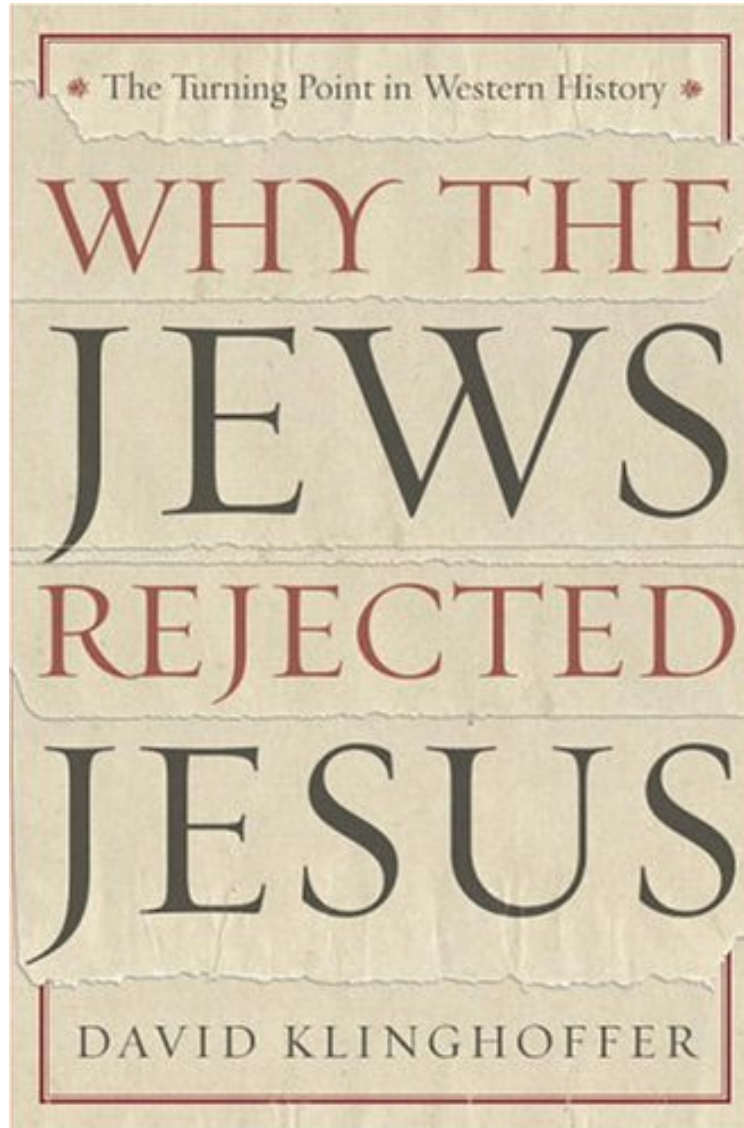


(Read and download) Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western History

Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western History

David Klinghoffer

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#1373615 in Books 2005-03-15 2005-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x 1.00 x 6.40l, #File Name: 0385510217256 pages | File size: 51.Mb

David Klinghoffer : Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent, well written book that explains it in depth ...By

Eric S. For anyone who ever wondered why The Jews don't accept Jesus as the messiah. This is an excellent, well written book that explains it in depth drawing on scriptural sources. I highly recommend it for non-Jews who ask the question as well as for Jews who are often faced with missionaries who insist on "proof texting" to try and sell Christianity to uninformed Jews. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What is good about it is that it is written from the Jewish ...By AnjoI actually would have given this 3.5 stars, but there is no half star. What is good about it is that it is written from the Jewish perspective without anger involved. It makes what I would consider the more subtle arguments. Where as other books, such as Paul and Jesus, Yeshua's People, attack the notion that Jesus was more than a man head on, this work focuses more on why it would have been implausible for Jews of the first century to embrace the Jewish rebel as such. It got four stars for filling a gap I wanted filled. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another one for the history buffs. By Floretta O'Brien Excellent analysis and exegesis on important events which greatly influenced and helped to shape world history. A must-read if you're looking for an answer as to why the people to whom Jesus belonged wound up rejecting him as a god and savior.

Why did the Jews reject Jesus? Was he really the son of God? Were the Jews culpable in his death? These ancient questions have been debated for almost two thousand years, most recently with the release of Mel Gibson's explosive *The Passion of the Christ*. The controversy was never merely academic. The legal status and security of Jews often their very lives depended on the answer. In *WHY THE JEWS REJECTED JESUS*, David Klinghoffer reveals that the Jews since ancient times accepted not only the historical existence of Jesus but the role of certain Jews in bringing about his crucifixion and death. But he also argues that they had every reason to be skeptical of claims for his divinity. For one thing, Palestine under Roman occupation had numerous charismatic would-be messiahs, so Jesus would not have been unique, nor was his following the largest of its kind. For another, the biblical prophecies about the coming of the Messiah were never fulfilled by Jesus, including an ingathering of exiles, the rise of a Davidic king who would defeat Israel's enemies, the building of a new Temple, and recognition of God by the gentiles. Above all, the Jews understood their biblically commanded way of life, from which Jesus's followers sought to free them, as precious, immutable, and eternal. Jews have long been blamed for Jesus's death and stigmatized for rejecting him. But Jesus lived and died a relatively obscure figure at the margins of Jewish society. Indeed, it is difficult to argue that the Jews of his day rejected Jesus at all, since most Jews had never heard of him. The figure they really rejected, often violently, was Paul, who convinced the Jerusalem church led by Jesus's brother to jettison the observance of Jewish law. Paul thus founded a new religion. If not for him, Christianity would likely have remained a Jewish movement, and the course of history itself would have been changed. Had the Jews accepted Jesus, Klinghoffer speculates, Christianity would not have conquered Europe, and there would be no Western civilization as we know it. *WHY THE JEWS REJECTED JESUS* tells the story of this long, acrimonious, and occasionally deadly debate between Christians and Jews. It is thoroughly engaging, lucidly written, and in many ways highly original. Though written from a Jewish point of view, it is also profoundly respectful of Christian sensibilities. Coming at a time when Christians and Jews are in some ways moving closer than ever before, this thoughtful and provocative book represents a genuine effort to heal the ancient rift between these two great faith traditions.

From Publishers Weekly The provocative title of this unfocused book implies that it contains an answer to the question of why the Jews rejected Jesus. Indeed, Klinghoffer, whose memoir *The Lord Will Gather Me In* was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, buries several answers in this study's dense verbiage, but the reader has to struggle to locate them. After numerous citations, many from obscure sources, demonstrating erudite research, Klinghoffer reveals that the Jewish rejection of Jesus was "the founding act of Western civilization." It facilitated the development of Christianity and Islam as mass religions. Thus, according to Klinghoffer, the rejection of Christ was a "civilization-creating act." He arrives at this determination by examining "God's perspective," "God's intention," "God's purposes" and "God's plan." This remarkable display of chutzpah leads Klinghoffer to assert that the Jews are the "priesthood" and the Christians and Muslims are the "laity." Before making his pronouncement, Klinghoffer reviews Jewish history from the year A.D. 27 to modern times. At times, he criticizes Jewish liberals and secularists, and raises hard questions about the directions modern Judaism has taken. Some readers may find that the effort required to read this book is rewarded by its piquant conclusion: that the trajectory of Western history would have been entirely altered if the Jews had accepted Jesus. (Mar. 15) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Klinghoffer (a conservative writer and practicing Jew) frames his thesis by explaining what the Jews of Jesus' time would have expected from the Messiah whom they were awaiting. He bluntly notes that Jesus did not fulfill these expectations (the defeat of Israel's enemies and the establishment of universal peace), and he carefully debunks the biblical texts, such as Isaiah, that Christians claim prove otherwise. Using Talmudic sources that are little known or barely acknowledged, he paints a more complete picture of what the Jewish community has thought about Jesus through the ages. Writing clearly and cogently, Klinghoffer offers detailed analyses of the prisms through which Jews and Christians view each other. Moreover, the book concludes that Jewish rejection was the best thing that could have happened to nascent Christianity. Even incorporating the teachings of Jesus, Judaism with its many

commandments (including circumcision) never would have been accepted by the European masses, and the course of Western civilization would have been forever different. Provocative reading for those on both sides of the Jewish-Christian divide. Ilene Cooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved David Klinghoffer has brought his elegant prose and acute analysis to perhaps the greatest theological controversy in human history. In so doing, he takes today's readers on a compelling and provocative journey back into the Judea of Jesus's time, and the arguments he presents will change the way any reader thinks about Jews and the man who either was or was not the Messiah. Samuel G. Freedman, author of *Jew vs. Jew* and *Upon This Rock: The Miracles of a Black Church* This is not another skeptic's attack on the Christ story. It is a fascinating work of faith by a deeply religious Jew who respectfully explores many unusual aspects of New Testament history. Having explained why some Jews rejected Jesus (others, of course, accepted him and most knew nothing of him), David Klinghoffer reaches the remarkable conclusion that had Jesus been embraced as the promised Jewish messiah, Christianity might have remained an entirely Jewish movement and Western Civilization, as we know it, would not have happened. Rodney Stark, University Professor of the Social Sciences, Baylor University and author of *The Rise of Christianity* and *For the Glory of God* David Klinghoffer distills in this well-written volume a great deal of wisdom concerning one of the oldest questions that divides Christians from Jews. Few will agree with all that he writes, but anyone who wants to understand why Jews rejected Jesus and why it matters 2000 years later should start with this book. Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, Brandeis University, and author of *American Judaism: A History*