

who is the founder of christianity

who is the founder of christianity is a question that has intrigued historians, theologians, and millions of believers worldwide. Understanding the origins of Christianity is essential for grasping its profound influence on culture, philosophy, and society. This article will explore the identity of Christianity's founder, the historical and religious context in which Christianity arose, and the roles of key figures such as Jesus Christ and the apostles. We will also examine how Christianity evolved from its earliest beginnings, its core teachings, and its spread throughout the world. By delving into these topics, readers will gain a deeper appreciation of the foundational elements and individuals that shaped one of the world's largest religions. This comprehensive guide is designed to answer your questions, offer clarity, and provide valuable insights into the history and origins of Christianity.

- Origins of Christianity: Historical Context
- The Central Figure: Jesus Christ as the Founder of Christianity
- The Role of the Apostles in Early Christianity
- Key Teachings and Beliefs Established by the Founder
- The Spread and Evolution of Christianity After Its Founding
- Common Questions About the Founder of Christianity

Origins of Christianity: Historical Context

To understand who is the founder of Christianity, it is important to look at the historical and cultural backdrop in which Christianity emerged. Christianity arose in the 1st century CE in the region known today as Israel and Palestine, which was then part of the Roman Empire. The Jewish people, living under Roman rule, were anticipating the arrival of a Messiah—a divinely appointed leader prophesied in Hebrew scriptures. This climate of spiritual expectation set the stage for the emergence of a new faith centered on the teachings and life of Jesus of Nazareth.

During this period, various religious movements sought to interpret and fulfill Jewish law in different ways. Amidst political unrest and religious diversity, the message of Jesus and his followers gained traction. The rapid spread of Christianity can be attributed to both its unique teachings and the tumultuous environment of the time, which was ripe for new ideas and

religious reform.

The Central Figure: Jesus Christ as the Founder of Christianity

Jesus of Nazareth: Life and Ministry

Jesus of Nazareth, commonly known as Jesus Christ, is universally recognized as the founder of Christianity. Born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, Jesus began his public ministry around the age of 30. He preached a message of love, forgiveness, repentance, and the coming of the Kingdom of God. His teachings, parables, and miracles attracted a following among Jews and Gentiles alike.

According to Christian tradition and the New Testament, Jesus's ministry lasted approximately three years. He was ultimately crucified by the Roman authorities under the charge of claiming to be "King of the Jews," a title viewed as a challenge to Roman rule. Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion, an event that is considered the cornerstone of Christian faith.

Why Jesus is Considered the Founder

Jesus is regarded as the founder of Christianity because he introduced new teachings that transformed the religious landscape of his time. Unlike other Jewish teachers, Jesus emphasized personal relationships with God, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life through faith in him. His identity as the Messiah and Son of God, as proclaimed by his followers, distinguished Christianity from other Jewish sects and laid the groundwork for a new religious movement.

- He established core doctrines such as the Trinity, salvation, and resurrection.
- His life and message are the foundation of the Christian Bible's New Testament.
- Christian communities formed around his teachings shortly after his death and resurrection.

The Role of the Apostles in Early Christianity

The Apostles as Key Leaders

While Jesus is the founder of Christianity, the apostles played a crucial role in spreading his message and establishing the early church. The apostles were his closest followers, chosen to continue his work after his crucifixion and resurrection. Among them, Peter, James, John, and Paul were particularly influential in shaping Christian doctrine and expanding the faith beyond Jewish communities.

The apostles traveled extensively throughout the Roman Empire, preaching, performing miracles, and founding Christian congregations. Their work ensured that the teachings of Jesus would be preserved and transmitted to future generations.

Paul the Apostle: Spreading Christianity

Paul the Apostle, originally known as Saul of Tarsus, was instrumental in transforming Christianity from a small Jewish sect into a global religion. Although not one of the original twelve apostles, Paul's missionary journeys and extensive writings contributed significantly to the spread of Christianity. He emphasized that Jesus's message was for all people, regardless of ethnicity or background, which helped Christianity gain foothold outside the Jewish community.

Key Teachings and Beliefs Established by the Founder

Core Doctrines Introduced by Jesus

The teachings of Jesus form the bedrock of Christian belief. His messages, as recorded in the Gospels, introduced several key doctrines that defined the new faith. These teachings emphasized not just adherence to laws, but also the importance of inner transformation and genuine love for others.

1. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.
3. Forgiveness of sins through repentance and faith.
4. The promise of eternal life for believers.

5. The importance of humility, charity, and compassion.

The Resurrection and Its Significance

The resurrection of Jesus is considered the pivotal event in Christianity. Christians believe that Jesus's victory over death confirms his divine status and the truth of his message. The resurrection is celebrated as proof of life after death and the hope of salvation for all who follow him.

The Spread and Evolution of Christianity After Its Founding

Growth in the Roman Empire and Beyond

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christianity spread rapidly across the Roman Empire. The apostles and early Christians faced persecution but continued to attract converts through their teachings and acts of charity. The message of salvation, equality, and hope resonated with people from diverse social and economic backgrounds.

By the 4th century, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine. Over the centuries, Christianity continued to evolve, leading to the formation of various denominations such as Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.

Lasting Influence of the Founder

The influence of Jesus, as the founder of Christianity, extends beyond religious doctrine. His teachings have shaped art, literature, philosophy, and social movements for over two millennia. The commemoration of his life and message continues through practices such as baptism, communion, and the celebration of Christmas and Easter.

Common Questions About the Founder of Christianity

The question of who is the founder of Christianity invites further exploration into related topics. Below are answers to some frequently asked

questions to provide additional clarity and context about the origins and founder of Christianity.

Q: Who is officially considered the founder of Christianity?

A: Jesus Christ is officially recognized as the founder of Christianity. His teachings, life, death, and resurrection form the basis of Christian belief and practice.

Q: Did any other figures help establish Christianity?

A: Yes, the apostles, especially Peter, Paul, James, and John, played significant roles in spreading Jesus's teachings and establishing the early Christian church.

Q: Was Christianity founded during Jesus's lifetime?

A: Christianity began during Jesus's lifetime through his teachings and followers, but it became a distinct religious movement after his resurrection, as the apostles organized the early church.

Q: What are the main teachings of Christianity's founder?

A: The main teachings include love for God and neighbor, forgiveness, repentance, belief in salvation through faith in Jesus, and the promise of eternal life.

Q: How did Christianity spread after its founding?

A: Christianity spread through the missionary work of the apostles and early disciples, the support of converts, and eventually through the adoption by the Roman Empire.

Q: Why is Jesus called the "Christ" in Christianity?

A: "Christ" is a title meaning "Anointed One" or "Messiah." Christians believe Jesus fulfilled the messianic prophecies of the Hebrew scriptures.

Q: Did Jesus intend to start a new religion?

A: According to historical and theological interpretations, Jesus primarily aimed to reform Judaism, but his teachings led to the formation of a new religious movement.

Q: What role did Paul play in the founding of Christianity?

A: Paul the Apostle was crucial in spreading Christianity beyond Jewish communities and developing key doctrines through his letters and missionary journeys.

Q: How is the founder of Christianity viewed in other religions?

A: In Islam, Jesus is regarded as a prophet but not divine, while Judaism recognizes him as a historical figure but not the Messiah or founder of a new faith.

Q: What lasting impact has the founder of Christianity had on the world?

A: Jesus's teachings have influenced global culture, ethics, law, and social justice movements, making him one of the most significant figures in human history.

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Who is the Founder of Christianity? Unraveling the Historical Figure

Christianity, a global religion with billions of followers, boasts a rich history and complex theological framework. But at its core lies a simple, yet profound question: who is the founder of Christianity?

This isn't a question easily answered with a single name, as the emergence of Christianity was a gradual process involving several key figures. This comprehensive post delves into the historical context, exploring the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and examining his role in establishing the foundations of this influential faith. We will also address common misconceptions and offer a nuanced understanding of Christian origins.

Jesus Christ: The Central Figure of Christianity

The overwhelming consensus, both historically and within Christian theology, points to Jesus of Nazareth as the founder of Christianity. He wasn't the originator of monotheism – belief in one God – as that concept existed long before him within Judaism. However, Jesus's teachings, life, death, and purported resurrection fundamentally reshaped Jewish beliefs and laid the groundwork for a new religious movement.

The Teachings of Jesus: A New Covenant

Jesus's teachings, as recorded in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), emphasized love, compassion, forgiveness, and the Kingdom of God. He presented himself as the Messiah, the long-awaited savior prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. His teachings differed from established Jewish interpretations, advocating for radical inclusivity and challenging the social and religious norms of his time. This revolutionary message formed the core tenets of the emerging Christian faith.

The Significance of Jesus's Death and Resurrection

The crucifixion of Jesus, considered a pivotal event in Christian history, is viewed as an act of atonement for humanity's sins. The belief in his resurrection, central to Christian faith, transformed the small group of his followers into a powerful movement. This belief provided the foundation for the hope of salvation and eternal life, a powerful message that resonated across cultures and societies.

The Apostolic Period: Spreading the Word

After Jesus's death, his apostles, especially Peter and Paul, played a crucial role in disseminating his teachings and establishing early Christian communities. Paul, in particular, is credited with significantly expanding the reach of Christianity through his extensive missionary journeys and writings, which became part of the New Testament. These early followers interpreted and adapted Jesus's message, leading to the development of Christian doctrines and practices.

The Development of Christian Theology

The early centuries of Christianity witnessed a significant evolution of its theological framework. Church councils, debates, and the writings of early church fathers shaped Christian doctrines, defining beliefs about the nature of God, the Trinity, salvation, and the sacraments. This ongoing theological development solidified Christianity's unique identity and theological framework.

Beyond Jesus: The Collective Effort

While Jesus is undeniably the central figure, attributing the founding of Christianity solely to him overlooks the crucial role of his followers in shaping and spreading the faith. The early Christian community, through its interpretations, adaptations, and missionary efforts, played an essential part in establishing Christianity as a distinct religion. They faced persecution, internal disagreements, and external pressures, yet the faith persevered and expanded, eventually becoming a dominant force in the Roman Empire and beyond.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while Jesus Christ is undeniably the central figure and foundational cornerstone of Christianity, the establishment of the religion was a collaborative process involving his apostles, early followers, and subsequent generations of believers. His teachings, death, and resurrection provided the theological and spiritual basis, but the enduring legacy of Christianity is a testament to the collective efforts of those who carried the message forward, adapting and expanding it across centuries and continents. The story of Christianity's founding isn't just about one person; it's a narrative of faith, resilience, and the enduring power of a transformative message.

FAQs

1. Was Jesus the only person who preached monotheism? No, monotheism existed long before Jesus, primarily within Judaism. Jesus's contribution was to reshape and reinterpret existing monotheistic beliefs within a new framework.
2. How did Christianity spread so rapidly? The early adoption of Christianity by the Roman Emperor Constantine played a major role in its spread, alongside the missionary efforts of the apostles and subsequent evangelists. The message of salvation and hope also resonated deeply with diverse populations.
3. What are the main differences between Judaism and Christianity? While both are Abrahamic religions, Christianity centers around the belief in Jesus as the Messiah and son of God, a concept not accepted in Judaism. Key differences also exist in beliefs regarding salvation, the nature of God, and religious practices.
4. Did all early Christians agree on everything? No. The early Christian church faced significant theological debates and internal disagreements about various doctrines and practices, which contributed to the development of different Christian denominations over time.
5. What is the significance of the New Testament in understanding Christianity's founding? The New Testament, containing the Gospels and the letters of Paul and other apostles, provides the primary source for understanding the life and teachings of Jesus and the early development of Christian

beliefs and practices. It is considered a foundational text for Christian theology.

who is the founder of christianity: Paul ,

who is the founder of christianity: Mary, Founder of Christianity Chris Maunder, 2022-04-07

A radical reassessment of the role of Mary the mother of Jesus and other women in the early Church. Despite the commonly held assumption that the Bible says little about the mother of Jesus, there are many indications that Mary preceded and inspired her son in fostering the emergence of a new faith community. In the Gospel of John, Mary instigates Jesus' first miracle, and in all four gospels she is present at the crucifixion, suggesting hers was a place of unparalleled importance in the Christian story. Setting aside presuppositions based on doctrine, Chris Maunder returns to the New Testament to answer the question 'Who was Mary?' He re-examines the virgin conception of Jesus, Mary's contribution to Jesus' ministry, and her central role in the events of the crucifixion and the resurrection. In so doing, Maunder casts a thought-provoking new light on Mary and the women, including Mary Magdalene, who stood alongside her.

who is the founder of christianity: History of Christianity Paul Johnson, 2012-03-27 First published in 1976, Paul Johnson's exceptional study of Christianity has been loved and widely hailed for its intensive research, writing, and magnitude—"a tour de force, one of the most ambitious surveys of the history of Christianity ever attempted and perhaps the most radical" (New York Review of Books). In a highly readable companion to books on faith and history, the scholar and author Johnson has illuminated the Christian world and its fascinating history in a way that no other has. Johnson takes off in the year AD 49 with his namesake the apostle Paul. Thus beginning an ambitious quest to paint the centuries since the founding of a little-known 'Jesus Sect', *A History of Christianity* explores to a great degree the evolution of the Western world. With an unbiased and overall optimistic tone, Johnson traces the fantastic scope of the consequent sects of Christianity and the people who followed them. Information drawn from extensive and varied sources from around the world makes this history as credible as it is reliable. Invaluable understanding of the framework of modern Christianity—and its trials and tribulations throughout history—has never before been contained in such a captivating work.

who is the founder of christianity: Paul, the Founder of Christianity Yoseop Ra, 2021-12-01

Although many scholars have studied Paul's theology, they have not provided satisfactory interpretation. This is because his genuine epistles were studied as they have been left in the New Testament. Rather, from a redactional point of view, Paul, the Founder of Christianity approaches Paul's seven epistles: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon. The book reconstructs his life and uncovers the compilation of sixteen short letters into seven epistles. Accordingly, these can be divided according to the chronological order of composition. When the transformation of Paul's theology is traced, one can see a progressive development of Christology, the death of Jesus Christ, redemption and salvation, the Law, the end of world, the spirit of God, and the church of God. As a result, it can be argued that after the Antioch incident, Paul had conflict with the apostles of Jerusalem and founded Christianity for gentiles--an argument that is presented in detail based on the evidence found in Paul's sixteen letters.

who is the founder of christianity: *The Mythmaker* Hyam Maccoby, 1986 The author presents new arguments which support the view that Paul, not Jesus, was the founder of Christianity. He argues that Jesus and also his immediate disciples James and Peter were life-long adherents of Pharisaic Judaism. Paul, however, was not, as he claimed, a native-born Jew of Pharisee upbringing, but came in fact from a Gentile background. He maintains that it was Paul alone who created a new religion by his vision of Jesus as a Divine Saviour who died to save humanity. This concept, which went far beyond the messianic claims of Jesus, was an amalgamation of ideas derived from Hellenistic religion, especially from Gnosticism and the mystery cults. Paul played a devious and adventurous political game with Jesus' followers of the so-called Jerusalem Church, who eventually disowned him. The conclusions of this historical and psychological study will come as a shock to

many readers, but it is nevertheless a book which cannot be ignored by anyone concerned with the foundations of our culture and society. -- Book jacket.

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul and Jesus* James D. Tabor, 2012-11-13 In this "compulsively readable exploration of the tangled world of Christian origins" (Publishers Weekly), religious historian James Tabor illuminates the earliest years of Jesus' teachings before Paul shaped them into the religion we know today. This fascinating examination of the earliest years of Christianity reveals how the man we call St. Paul shaped Christianity as we know it today. Historians know almost nothing about the two decades following the crucifixion of Jesus, when his followers regrouped and began to spread his message. During this time Paul joined the movement and began to preach to the gentiles. Using the oldest Christian documents that we have—the letters of Paul—as well as other early Christian sources, historian and scholar James Tabor reconstructs the origins of Christianity. Tabor shows how Paul separated himself from Peter and James to introduce his own version of Christianity, which would continue to develop independently of the message that Jesus, James, and Peter preached. Paul and Jesus illuminates the fascinating period of history when Christianity was born out of Judaism.

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who is the founder of christianity: *Who Created Christianity?* Craig Evans, Aaron W. White, 2020-01-01 Who Created Christianity? is a collection of essays by top international Christian scholars who desire to reinforce the relationship that Paul had with Jesus and Christianity. There is a general sense today among Christians in certain circles that Paul's teachings to the early Christian church are thought to be rogue, even clashing at times with Jesus' words. Yet these essays set out to prove that the tradition that Paul passes on is one received from Jesus, not separate from it. The essays in this volume come from a diverse and international group of scholars. They offer up-to-date studies of the teachings of Paul and how the specific teachings directly relate to the earlier teachings of Jesus. This volume explores with even greater focus than ever before the tradition from which Paul emerges and the specific teachings that are part of this tradition. This collection of essays proposes a complementary work to the work of David Wenham and his thesis that Paul was indeed not the founder of Christianity or the creator of Christian dogma; instead he was a faithful disciple and a conveyer of a prior Christian tradition. Includes essays by well-known Christian scholars such as Craig Blomberg, Alister McGrath, N. T. Wright, Michael Bird, Greg Beale, and more: Paul and Jesus: Issues of Continuity and Discontinuity in Their Discussion by Stanley E. PorterHow and Why Paul Invented Christian Theology by N. T. WrightThe Origins of Paul's Gospel by Graham H. TwelftreeWhen Paul Met Jesus: How an Idea Continues to Be Lost in History Past and Present by Stanley E. PorterPaul and the Jesus Tradition: An Old Question and Some New Answers by Rainer RiesnerContinuity and Development in the Ministries of Jesus and of Paul by Christoph W. StenschkePaul's Significant Other in the We-Passages by Joan E. TaylorWhose Gospel Is It Anyway? The Glory of Christ in the Prophetic Ministry of Paul according to His My Gospel and Our Gospel by Aaron W. WhiteDavid Wenham, The Little Apocalypse, Paul--and Silas by Bruce ChiltonThe Parallels between 1 and 2 Thessalonians against the Background of Ancient Parallel Letters and Speeches by Armin D. BaumMetanoia Jesus, Paul, and the Transformation of the Believing Mind by Alister

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who is the founder of christianity: The Rise of Christianity Rodney Stark, 1997-05-09 This fresh, blunt, and highly persuasive account of how the West was won—for Jesus (Newsweek) is now available in paperback. Stark's provocative report challenges conventional wisdom and finds that Christianity's astounding dominance of the Western world arose from its offer of a better, more secure way of life. Compelling reading (Library Journal) that is sure to generate spirited argument (Publishers Weekly), this account of Christianity's remarkable growth within the Roman Empire is the subject of much fanfare. Anyone who has puzzled over Christianity's rise to dominance...must read it. says Yale University's Wayne A. Meeks, for The Rise of Christianity makes a compelling case for startling conclusions. Combining his expertise in social science with historical evidence, and his insight into contemporary religion's appeal, Stark finds that early Christianity attracted the privileged rather than the poor, that most early converts were women or marginalized Jews—and ultimately that Christianity was a success because it proved those who joined it with a more appealing, more assuring, happier, and perhaps longer life (Andrew M. Greeley, University of Chicago).

who is the founder of christianity: Paul, the Founder of Christianity Gerd Lüdemann, 2002 New Testament scholar Gerd Lüdemann continues his exploration of the life and teachings of Paul in this groundbreaking monograph, which synthesizes the research of his four previous books on Christianity's leading apostle. As the subtitle of the present work makes clear, Lüdemann comes to the conclusion that Paul should be considered not only Christianity's most influential proselytizer but in truth deserves the title of founder of the religion that ostensibly originated with Jesus of Nazareth. Though other scholars have previously made the point that Paul's interpretation of the Christian message actually obscured the original teachings of Jesus, Lüdemann goes further. His painstaking historical research shows that Paul created the major tenets of the Christianity we know today and that his theology - an original synthesis of Hebrew and Greek belief systems - differs significantly from what we now know the historical Jesus to have preached.

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conflicts in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Without this lost history, we lack an important element for understanding our collective religious past. By understanding the forgotten catastrophe that befell Christianity, we can appreciate the surprising new births that are occurring in our own time, once again making Christianity a true world religion.

who is the founder of christianity: The Faiths of the Founding Fathers David L. Holmes, 2006-05-01 It is not uncommon to hear Christians argue that America was founded as a Christian nation. But how true is this claim? In this compact book, David L. Holmes offers a clear, concise and illuminating look at the spiritual beliefs of our founding fathers. He begins with an informative account of the religious culture of the late colonial era, surveying the religious groups in each colony. In particular, he sheds light on the various forms of Deism that flourished in America, highlighting the profound influence this intellectual movement had on the founding generation. Holmes then examines the individual beliefs of a variety of men and women who loom large in our national history. He finds that some, like Martha Washington, Samuel Adams, John Jay, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Jefferson's daughters, held orthodox Christian views. But many of the most influential figures, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John and Abigail Adams, Jefferson, James and Dolley Madison, and James Monroe, were believers of a different stripe. Respectful of Christianity, they admired the ethics of Jesus, and believed that religion could play a beneficial role in society. But they tended to deny the divinity of Christ, and a few seem to have been agnostic about the very existence of God. Although the founding fathers were religious men, Holmes shows that it was a faith quite unlike the Christianity of today's evangelicals. Holmes concludes by examining the role of religion in the lives of the presidents since World War II and by reflecting on the evangelical resurgence that helped fuel the reelection of George W. Bush. An intriguing look at a neglected aspect of our history, the book will appeal to American history buffs as well as to anyone concerned about the role of religion in American culture.

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who is the founder of christianity: A New History of Early Christianity Charles Freeman, 2009-01-01 Tracing the astonishing transformation that the early Christian church underwent - from sporadic niches of Christian communities surviving in the wake of a horrific crucifixion to sanctioned alliance with the state - Charles Freeman shows how freedom of thought was curtailed by the development of the concept of faith. The imposition of 'correct belief' and an institutional framework that enforced orthodoxy were both consolidating and stifling. Uncovering the church's relationships with Judaism, Gnosticism, Greek philosophy and Greco-Roman society, Freeman offers dramatic new accounts of Paul, the resurrection, and the church fathers and emperors.--BOOK JACKET.

who is the founder of christianity: ANF03. Latin Christianity: Its Founder, Tertullian ,
who is the founder of christianity: The First One Hundred Years of Christianity Udo Schnelle, 2020-06-30 Beginning as a marginal group in Galilee, the movement initiated by Jesus of Nazareth became a world religion within 100 years. Why, among various religious movements, did Christianity succeed? This major work by internationally renowned scholar Udo Schnelle traces the historical, cultural, and theological influences and developments of the early years of the Christian movement. It shows how Christianity provided an intellectual framework, a literature, and socialization among converts that led to its enduring influence. Senior New Testament scholar James Thompson offers a clear, fluent English translation of the successful German edition.

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James

who is the founder of christianity: *The Cambridge History of Christianity: Volume 4, Christianity in Western Europe, c.1100–c.1500* Miri Rubin, Walter Simons, 2014-07-31 During the early middle ages, Europe developed complex and varied Christian cultures, and from about 1100 secular rulers, competing factions and inspired individuals continued to engender a diverse and ever-changing mix within Christian society. This volume explores the wide range of institutions, practices and experiences associated with the life of European Christians in the later middle ages. The clergy of this period initiated new approaches to the role of priests, bishops and popes, and developed an ambitious project to instruct the laity. For lay people, the practices of parish religion were central, but many sought additional ways to enrich their lives as Christians. Impulses towards reform and renewal periodically swept across Europe, led by charismatic preachers and supported by secular rulers. This book provides accessible accounts of these complex historical processes and entices the reader towards further enquiry.

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul Was Not a Christian* Pamela Eisenbaum, 2009-11-19 Pamela Eisenbaum, an expert on early Christianity, reveals the true nature of the historical Paul in *Paul Was Not a Christian*. She explores the idea of Paul not as the founder of a new Christian religion, but as a devout Jew who believed Jesus was the Christ who would unite Jews and Gentiles and fulfill God's universal plan for humanity. Eisenbaum's work in *Paul Was Not a Christian* will have a profound impact on the way many Christians approach evangelism and how to better follow Jesus's—and Paul's—teachings on how to live faithfully today.

who is the founder of christianity: *Creating Christ* James S. Valliant, C. W. Fahy, 2016-09-07 Exhaustively annotated and illustrated, this explosive work of history unearths clues that finally demonstrate the truth about one of the world's great religions: that it was born out of the conflict between the Romans and messianic Jews who fought a bitter war with each other during the 1st Century. The Romans employed a tactic they routinely used to conquer and absorb other nations: they grafted their imperial rule onto the religion of the conquered. After 30 years of research, authors James S. Valliant and C.W. Fahy present irrefutable archeological and textual evidence that proves Christianity was created by Roman Caesars in this book that breaks new ground in Christian scholarship and is destined to change the way the world looks at ancient religions forever. Inherited from a long-past era of tyranny, war and deliberate religious fraud, could Christianity have been created for an entirely different purpose than we have been lead to believe? Praised by scholars like Dead Sea Scrolls translator Robert Eisenman (James the Brother of Jesus), this exhaustive synthesis of historical detective work integrates all of the ancient sources about the earliest Christians and reveals new archeological evidence for the first time. And, despite the fable presented in current bestsellers like Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Jesus*, the evidence presented in *Creating Christ* is irrefutable: Christianity was invented by Roman Emperors. I have rarely encountered a book so original, exciting, accessible and informed on subjects that are of obvious importance to the world and to which I have myself devoted such a large part of my scholarly career studying. In this book they have rendered a startling new understanding of Christianity with a controversial theory of its Roman provenance that is accessible to the layman in a very powerful way. In the process, they present new and comprehensive archeological and iconographic evidence, as well as utilizing the widest and most cutting edge work of other recent scholars, including myself. This is a work of outstanding and original scholarship. Its arguments are a brilliant, profound and thorough integration of the relevant evidence. When they are done, the conclusion is inescapable and obviously profound. Robert Eisenman, Author of *James the Brother of Jesus* and *The New Testament Code* A fascinating and provocative investigative history of ideas, boldly exploring a problem that previous scholarship has not clearly or credibly addressed: how (and why!) the Flavian dynasty wove Christianity into the very fabric of Western civilization. -Mark Riebling, author of *Church of Spies: The Pope's Secret War Against Hitler*

who is the founder of christianity: *The Abrahamic Religions* Charles L. Cohen, 2020 Connected by their veneration of the One God proclaimed by Abraham, Judaism, Christianity, and

Islam share much beyond their origins in the ancient Israel of the Old Testament. This Very Short Introduction explores the intertwined histories of these monotheistic religions, from the emergence of Christianity and Islam to the violence of the Crusades and the cultural exchanges of al-Andalus.

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perspective. It's an all-in-one course in biblical content, theology, history, and culture, with special attention to the African context. Each feature was planned by African leaders to help readers grow strong in Jesus Christ by providing understanding and instruction on how to live a good and righteous life--Publisher.

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who is the founder of christianity: *The Resurrection Of Christ* Gerd Ludemann, 2010-06-28 Although the resurrection is the keystone dogma of Christian belief, and Sunday churchgoers rarely if ever think to question it, scholarly research shows with the utmost clarity that from a historical standpoint Jesus was not raised from the dead. In fact, it is almost universally recognized among scholars of New Testament textual criticism that the gospel narratives describing the resurrection appearances are not reliable eyewitness accounts, but expressions of faith written by the first Christian believers long after the death of Jesus. In this thorough exegesis of the primary texts dealing with the resurrection of Jesus, New Testament expert Gerd Lüdemann (University of Göttingen) presents compelling evidence that shows the resurrection was not a historical event and further argues that this development leaves little, if any, basis for Christian faith as presently defined. Beginning with Paul's testimony in 1 Cor. 15: 3-8, in which the apostle declares that Jesus has been raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, Lüdemann systematically evaluates every reference to Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament, as well as apocryphal literature. He examines the purpose of the text writers, the ways in which they reworked tradition, and the historical value of each account. Through this approach, he offers a reconstruction of the probable course of events as well as the circumstances surrounding Jesus' death on the cross, the burial of his body, his reported resurrection on the third day, and subsequent appearances to various disciples. Since the historical evidence leads to the firm conclusion that Jesus' body was not raised from the dead, Lüdemann argues that the origin of the Easter faith must be sought in the visionary experiences of Christianity's two leading apostles. From a modern perspective this leads to the inescapable conclusion that both primary witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, Peter and Paul, were victims of self-deception. In conclusion, he asks whether in light of the nonhistoricity of Jesus' resurrection, thinking people today can legitimately and in good conscience still call themselves

Christians. Gerd Lüdemann is a professor of the history and literature of early Christianity at the University of Göttingen, Germany. Professor Lüdemann's published conclusions about Christianity aroused great controversy in his native Germany, where the Confederation of Protestant Churches in Lower Saxony demanded his immediate dismissal from the theological faculty of his university. Despite this threat to his academic freedom, he has retained his post at the university, although the chair he holds was renamed to disassociate him from the training program of German pastors. Lüdemann is also the author of *Jesus After 2000 Years*, *Paul: The Founder of Christianity*, and *The Resurrection of Christ: A Historical Inquiry*.

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