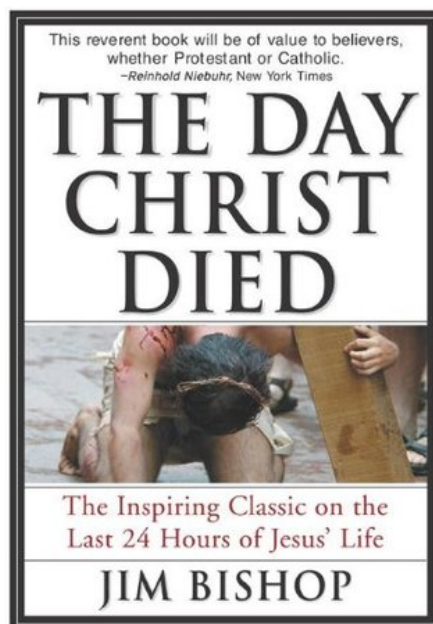




The Day Christ Died

Jim Bishop

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"This is a book about the most dramatic day in the history of the world, the day on which Jesus of Nazareth died. It opens at 6 P.M.—the beginning of the Hebrew day—with Jesus and ten of the apostles coming through the pass between the Mount of Olives and the Mount of Offense en route to Jerusalem and the Last Supper. It closes at 4 P.M. the following afternoon, when Jesus was taken down from the cross. . . . The fundamental research was done a long time ago by four fine journalists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The rest has been added in bits and pieces from many men whose names span the centuries."—from the Foreword

The Day Christ Died Details

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Author : Jim Bishop

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From Reader Review The Day Christ Died for online ebook

Kathryn says

As a confirmed Jew I had a strong belief in God. As a young adult I had spiritual grounding but no home. As I longed for God and examined my beliefs, I was given "The Day Christ Died" by Tim Bishop. This book, though a novel, was grounded in the Bible and provided a context for the life and death of Christ that made me realize that Christianity is not a departure from the God of Abraham, but the next step in our relationship with Him that brings Jews and gentiles into His presence. It also helped me to see how God uses our relationships and our politics and our individual actions for his purpose.

Rossrn Nunamaker says

This books pulls together the story of Jesus' final day on earth as a man from all parts of the Bible as well as from scholarly text known then (it was written in the late 1950s). In doing so, the reader is given a chronological and coherent story with background for better understanding of the times. The latter part of which helped quite a bit in understanding some of the context.

The author specifically notes upfront that he is not going to notate sources throughout as he felt it would pull the reader out, however, I personally would have liked to have gone to some of the source material in certain sections for further reading.

None-the-less this presentation of the day Christ died was well worth reading.

John Sheehan says

A must read fot any Jesus follower

What a journey into the last 24 hours of Jesus' life here on earth taking what so many to be an imaginary myth or what we imagined Jesus to be like into a real life person who was tortured and killed.

Adding life, personality, and character to each idividule laced with historical accounts of the day made this a most enjoyable read.

Sheila says

A great read, although some discrepancies are evident

I would recommend, however with caution: if you're not Biblically familiar, then PLEASE turn to God and ask Him to open His understanding/interpretation up to you. Throw out ALL you've been indoctrinated by man and seek God's wisdom and understanding. As with most authors, this one also takes on literary freedom to pen, not according to God's Word, but also dogma handed down from generations.

Sam says

I read this book during Lenten/Easter season 2012. A very insightful and illuminating book about the last day of Jesus' life on earth. The hour by hour account begins with the Last Supper where Judas leaves abruptly to betray his Lord. From there the drama elevates in the Garden of Gethsemane (The Olive Press), where Jesus feels the pressure of the ordeal and pain that is awaiting him. He cries out to God with anguish and distress. The accounts of the high priests and the Roman occupation is also detailed throughout the book. The scheming and deception of these two forces play a vital role in the will of the Father to bring Jesus to his bout with death. The disciples scatter in fear and Jesus is bound the face the judgement of the Sadducees, Pontius Pilate and the people. The verdict is death by crucifixion. Throughout the beatings, whippings and ridicule, Jesus stands firm in his choice to die for mankind. Death was slow and excruciating, but the pieces were in place for God's ultimate show of grace and mercy. The book ends with Jesus being taken down from the cross, prepared for burial, and placed in the tomb. The tomb was sealed. This book had me pondering Jesus' final hours from several angles: the Jews who wanted him to die, the Roman leaders and soldiers who carried out the sentence, Jesus' followers who either fled or stood by Him at the cross, and obviously the main "character," Jesus who fulfilled prophecy by His death and resurrection. The book also has three chapters committed to explaining the Jewish world, an account of the life of Jesus, and the Roman world. These were helpful insights to the Man and the world around Him during those fateful days. I appreciated the experience of reading this book and plan to read it again next year at this time. Bishop wrote a well researched and written book that I believe brings a fresh perspective to the Gospels. It by all means does not replace the Gospels, but it has helped me view the day Christ died with a deeper understanding and appreciation.

Clay Davis says

The best book about the time, place and events in history

Patrick Barry says

Read intermitantly, this story is from one of my father's favorite newspaper columnists. The title describes the story. Well written with much interesting background on Christ's time.

John Rhoads says

The first-time I read it was shortly after my father died. Found atop a desk he used to design things and prepare correspondence with. I knew he was a believer as a youngster, but something made me ask Ollie ,his second wife, if I could take. She said yes and it became part of him that I have yet today. To my knowledge, it contains the most graphic, anatomically correct description, ever written of the price Christ paid-in-full for your salvation and mine. Pain is a difficult thing to describe. The historian Josephus is listed as one of the references. You will not want to put down. John rhoads, Sun city, az.

K.D. Absolutely says

The Gospels + Historical Facts + Jim Bishop's imagination + Jim Bishop's skillful writing = Very Good Book.

This simple equation summarizes how this book made me more reflective (and almost pious) during this Holy Week.

This book chronicles the last hours of Jesus' stay on earth. It starts with Jesus and his disciples' entry to Jerusalem, to the Last Supper, to his Passion and the taking down of His body from the cross. The writing is detailed and vivid with Bishop's imagination providing the added color to what we already know happened based on the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. So even if we all know the story of Jesus by heart, we don't know what *could* be the feeling of the characters for example while the Last Supper was happening: what was Judas possibly felt when Jesus said that he was the one who would betray him. In the book, based probably in Bishop's research or imagination (I don't really care which one), Judas is the *treasurer* so he has this pocket inside his gown aside from the small bag that he has at his side. Those little details add to the readability of the story we all know about. Mind you, I watched the 2014 movie *The Son of God* by Christopher Spencer and I liked it but there were portions of it that I felt sleepy that I almost dozed off. When my wife asked why I felt sleepy watching a good movie that I said I liked, I said because I already know how the story goes.

Same with this book. Had those details not added by Bishop via his research, hypothesis (the possibility of happening) or imagination, I would have just returned to the Bible and probably sleep also after a few minutes of reading.

A very good book to spend your Holy Week (maybe next year?).

Eric says

Written by Jim Bishop, author of *The Day Christ Was Born* and *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, it is an interesting but at times boring account based on the prevalent scholarship in the 1950s. I'm not enough of an expert on Biblical archaeology to judge the book's credibility or truthfulness, but I didn't read the book to get a history lesson.

I bought this at a used bookstore about a year and a half ago because it was cheap and looked interesting. As a life-long Christian, I'm familiar with the Passion story, but had never read a fictional account of it.

The book does provide various insights into the familiar story. The fictional narrative is broken up by background sections, in which Bishop offers non-fictional information about Christ's life and times. We learned how the Jews lived, worked, and played in Jerusalem, how the Romans ruled Palestine, and were given a brief account of Jesus' life and ministry. The background sections do provide some helpful contextual information, but much of it could have been worked into the story.

The story itself, at times, reads like a non-fiction account. Dialog is sparse as Bishop preferred to sum up conversations rather than detail them. Bishop writes from multiple points of view, shifting from one character to the next, and interjecting explanations of various passages and utterances.

The result is a novel that reads at times like an encyclopedia article. I usually finish a book like this in a few days or a week, but this took so long because it didn't hold my attention. That surprised me because I am very much fascinated with Biblical history.

If anyone knows of a better novel about Jesus and his times, please let me know.

Greg says

This is an interesting book. It is a novel, but it attempts rigorous historical accuracy. Bishop essentially gets the message correct, and even spaces lines that are sometimes beautiful. "To understand one's smallness was, in itself, insufficient. One had to practice humility, preferably publicly, as he had done." (40) Additionally, Bishop adds what is a reasonable reflection of Jesus's feelings at times throughout the book. "Jesus stood silent. It must have seemed ironic, even to him, to see that the Jews who actively plotted against his life numbered so few, and those Jews who believed that he was the Messiah numbered so many, yet the first group could not seem to prove a case against him while the second lifted not a finger to save him." (221)

The book is a fairly slow read, and essentially retells a story that is already in the Gospels. I'm not sure that Bishop added anything specific to the understanding of these events by writing this novel.

See my other reviews [here](#)!

Tracy says

I read this book when I was in high school. It helped me to understand more clearly what Jesus did for me. What pain he must have felt on that cross? I have kept the book all of these years which tells you how good I found it to be.

Terri Lynn says

Actually this book is mis-shelved. It should be under "Fiction" and not "non-fiction". I don't mean to ruffle anyone's feathers, ah hell, maybe I do. I get tired of tip-toeing around people who actually believe in ancient mythology and want me to pretend that they are not ignorant for doing so.

Sorry folks but I am an historian and I am here to tell you that there was NO historical Jesus. None, I don't care what Mama and the Preacher told you. I can show you (if you are up to a very long overseas trip with me) coins commemorating the birth of the Persian god Mithras that far predate the alleged birth of Jesus and show the human mother and her son Mithras born in a stable/cave to god, attended by shepherds and angels saying the exact same things they would say MUCH later in the Christian bible and showing the three wise men following a star, riding camels, and bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh to young Mithras.

It's a good fairy tale which is why it kept getting passed around (with names changed) but the Persians issued coins for their story a long time before the Jesus story borrowed the details. There is no historical evidence for any of the events surrounding the Jesus myth and it copies details from older Mediterranean/Middle

Eastern mythology. Christians often try to use Josephus as proof of a Jesus but unfortunately the original copies of Josephus did not have the couple of paragraphs mentioning a Jesus in the Histories of the Jews. These were added later-and admitted to being forged- by a medieval bishop in medieval language no less, because he was upset that there was no proof of Jesus. The Christians also trot out Pliny who only said they were having trouble with people who called themselves followers of Crestus which no more proves the bible myths than it would if Rush Limbaugh and Rick Santorum had a run in with followers of the Flying Spaghetti Monster and talked about it on the radio.

Obviously I don't have space here to go into the details but if you have any respect for truth and real history, pick up a copy of The Jesus Mysteries: Was the "Original Jesus" a Pagan God? by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy and work through the book, checking the real historical references out for yourself. Unfortunately most Christians are too scared to do that, so I understand if you are too though it is a shame to go about ignorantly believing old fairytales are true.

Deb says

A story of truth

Amazingly written. One can visualize the land, the people, hear the sounds of daily life. You can't help but feel strong emotions throughout the book. You don't have to be Christian or Jewish to understand the truth of what happened. You simply become one with the people of that time. And you understand the feelings of the few that stayed with Jesus until the very end.

This book will stay with me for the rest of my days.

Jean Hall says

I have had this book for awhile and had actually started reading it to my children at one point. This Lent I decided to read the rest of it. It was very interesting and quite appropriate for this time of year. When he described Christ's suffering, crucifixion and dying it made me feel like I was there. Reading about Jesus being nailed to the cross brought tears to my eyes and helped me really understand what he did for all of us.
