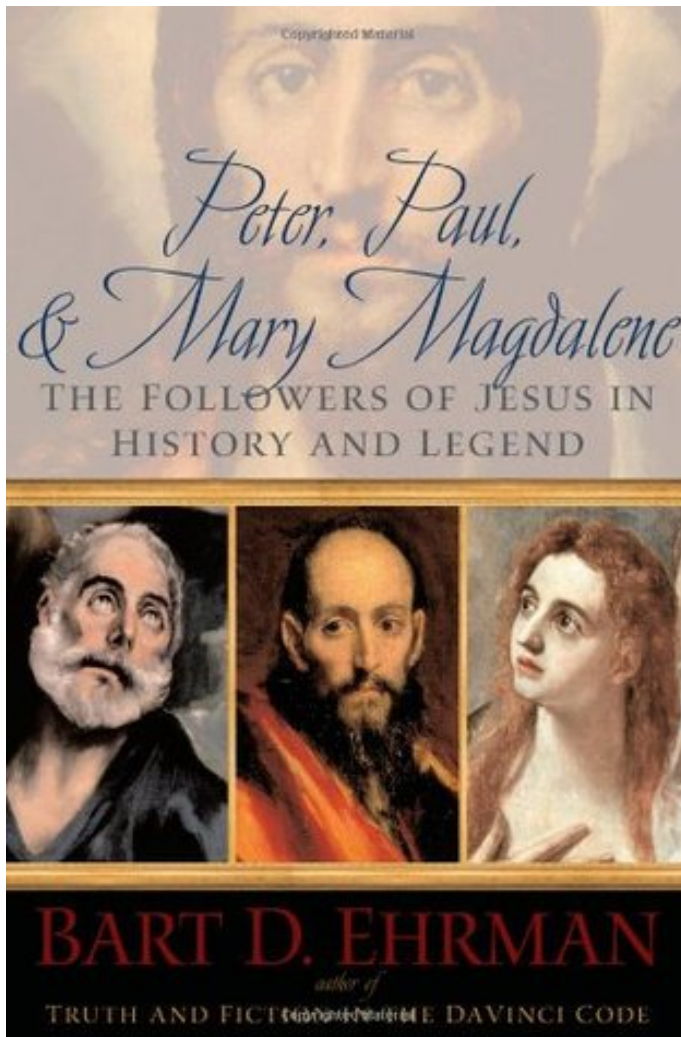

Bart D. Ehrman

Peter, Paul & Mary Magdalene: The Followers of Jesus in History & Legend



Title: Peter, Paul & Mary Magdalene: The Followers of Jesus in History & Legend

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Description

Ehrman deals with three followers of Jesus who are the most significant: Peter, his closest disciple; Paul, his most important apostle; and Mary Magdalene, his most prominent female follower. This book explains what we can know about each of these figures as real people, and what legends emerged about them after their deaths.

Insightful reviews

Paul V.: Bart Ehrman is by far my favorite writer on early Christianity, and this book has the same insight and logic that his others have had. Here he deals with a subject that is more legend than simple fact. He does a really nice job of explicating it.

Sarah: My Book Blog ---> <http://allthebookblognamesaretaken.bl...>

I read Ehrman's books, not for his opinions but for the facts he presents in relation to the New Testament, of which he obviously knows thoroughly. However, our faiths differ greatly, again obviously.

His writing style is easy to follow, but there is so much background information here that he used word-for-word in other texts, that gets a bit tedious. And his habit of repeating himself also gets tiresome.

Here he presents Peter, Paul, and Mary Magdalene as both historical and legendary figures in an accessible fashion, giving each their due turn in the spotlight. I don't put much stock in the Gnostic Gospels, though Ehrman references them frequently. Nor can we really put a lot of faith in other gospels and writing excluded from the Canon as we know it today. But still this makes for an interesting read about three of the most important figures in Christianity - without whom it would not exist had they each not done their part after the crucifixion and in the ensuing years.

Lee Harmon: This may be my favorite among Ehrman books. It details the legends of three of the most important followers of Jesus in the Bible.

Few of the stories told are considered historical; even stories that derive from the Bible are not considered literally true by Ehrman. For example, many of our stories come from the book of Acts, and about a quarter of Acts is made up of speeches by its characters, mostly Peter and Paul. But the speeches all sound about the same; Peter sounds like Paul and Paul sounds like Peter. This may seem a bit odd, given the fact that Peter was an illiterate peasant who spoke Aramaic, whereas Paul was a well-educated, highly astute author raised in a Greek-speaking environment. Ehrman handles these situations with characteristic bluntness: "When we examine what Peter is alleged to have preached, we are in effect seeing what different authors imagined him to have said—which may come down to the same thing as seeing what authors would have wanted him to say."

Nevertheless, even knowing that nearly all we have about these characters is legend, the

legends are fascinating and the book is fun to read. Ehrman takes a shot at unraveling which epistles are written by these three (a few of the Pauline epistles is all) and he dives into a number of second-century non-canonical Christian writings, presenting his findings in three parts: One part for each character. The section on Peter is absolutely fascinating; the section on Paul is argumentative, and not so original (Ehrman's usual chip on the shoulder regarding pseudonymous writing makes an appearance); and the section on Mary will leave you bewildered, definitely thinking differently about her and the role of women in early Christianity. Ehrman puts it like this:

"The Christian religion is founded on the belief that Jesus was raised from the dead. And it appears virtually certain that it was Mary Magdalene of all people, an otherwise unknown Galilean Jewish woman of means, who first propounded this belief. It is not at all far fetched to claim that Mary was the founder of Christianity."

Amy: the idea of this publication appeared appealing... a glance on the historic figures of Sts. Peter and Paul, and Mary Magdalene. Unfortunately, resource fabric is difficult to come back by means of and the Ehrman used to be left repeating himself in bankruptcy after chapter. a few of the assumptions he made concerning the reader's figuring out of historical, biblical records have been off the mark and will were fleshed out extra descriptively. It was once additionally very conveniently obvious that Ehrman has an awl to grind with Dan Brown's fictionalization of a number of facets of biblical history. whereas I loved exploring points of the bible and the non-cannonical texts describing the occasions of those saints and the characters surrounding Jesus' ministry, i discovered this ebook to be a lifeless slog rehashing an analogous issues in each chapter.

C.C. Thomas: i've got enjoyed all of the different Ehrman books i have learn and so admire his writing type and research. Hhe is going step-by-step via his study and considering procedures for every of the issues he is attempting to make, then he shall we the reader make a decision for him/herself. He does not simply beat you over the top with proof and his opinion. The publication is split into thirds, approximately one 3rd approximately all of the apostles Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene, and the contributions each one made to the formation of the church and arranged religion. a lot of this felt like rehashed model of his others books and this one felt a bit pushy. extra like a diatribe than simply purely informative. a lot of what I learn here, i've got learn in a few of his different books. in lots of places, I simply wasn't confident by way of Ehrman's research. His convictions and passions, yes! His study looks missing here. Of course, he is digging via issues millions of years old, so there most likely is not a lot to head on within the first place. However, I simply wasn't swayed. The ebook used to be additionally a bit boring. even though equivalent quantities got to every of the massive 3, Paul's part drug on a piece and the Magdalene's part did not rather have any new revelations. However, it used to be my favourite section. if you are eager to study something major approximately those 3 energy gamers or the beginnings of the early church, you might want to most likely commence someplace else.

Hilary: stars was once approximately correct for this ebook for me. Bart D. Ehrman is perhaps my favourite writer in terms of New testomony scholarship, and his books by no means fail to carry my interest. That having been said, this e-book used to be a slightly huge ignored chance

in my opinion. a lot of what's stated is repeated from part to section, and later traditions are usually not handled at all. I comprehend the aim of this e-book used to be to provide an explanation for what historic determine lies at the back of the traditions, however the traditions might have been handled extra completely ahead of pulling again that mask. Also lacking have been quotations from the texts themselves. i would extra hugely suggest a e-book like misplaced Christianities or maybe Misquoting Jesus for this kind of information. This ebook may well simply were a lot better.

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