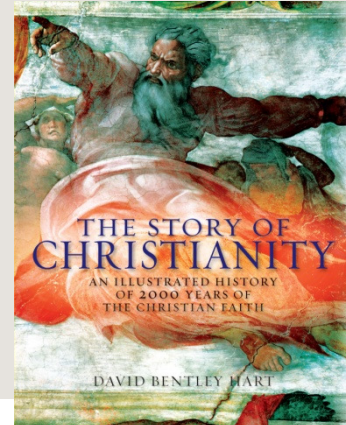


<b>Title</b>	The Story of Christianity
<b>Author</b>	David Bentley Hart
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<b>Imprint</b>	Quercus
<b>Binding</b>	Hardcover
<b>Extent</b>	256 pages
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**A beautifully illustrated history of 2000 years of the Christian faith**

**Description**

The story of Christianity is a fascinating one. A faith that began in Roman-occupied Palestine, as a small and fugitive faction within Judaism, grew, thrived and finally 'conquered' the empire that had sought to exterminate it. Then, over many centuries and in many lands, it became the vital source from which new civilisations sprang. At times, its geographical range expanded mightily, at others contracted perilously. At times, the church proved heroically true to its deepest moral principles; at others, inexcusably traitorous to them. But, by the beginning of the 21st century, this faith that began in such fragility, and that became so powerful is the most widespread and diverse of all religions. Christianity is rapidly taking root in cultures very different from those in which it was born and in which it once flourished, and is assuming configurations that could not have been anticipated a century ago.

In *The Story of Christianity*, the distinguished theologian David Bentley Hart provides a broad picture of Christian history. Presented in 50 short chapters – each focusing on a critical facet of Christian history or theology, and each amplified by timelines, quotations, and colour images – his magisterial account does full justice to the range of Christian tradition, belief and practice. From the persecutions of the early church to the papal-imperial conflicts of the Middle Ages, from the religious wars of 16th- and 17th-century Europe to the challenges of science and secularism in the modern era, and from the ancient Christian communities of Africa and Asia to the 'house churches' of contemporary China, *The Story of Christianity* triumphantly captures the heterogeneous richness of Christian history.

**Sales Points**

- A sumptuously illustrated and superbly written concise history of the Christian faith
- Author is a distinguished contemporary theologian
- Consists of a sequence of essays focusing on critical 'moments' in the history of Christianity
- Includes timelines, display quotations, and profiles of the personalities who shaped the history of the religion

**Author Profile**

An Orthodox theologian, David Bentley Hart has taught at the University of Virginia and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He is the author of *The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?* and *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth*.