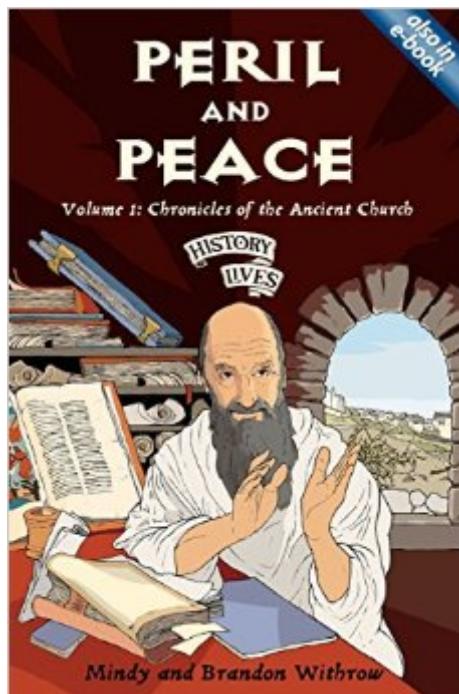


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Peril And Peace: Chronicles Of The Ancient Church (History Lives Series)



Synopsis

Watch in amazement as a varied selection of people from different countries, cultures and times merge together to form the Christian church. Learn from their mistakes and errors but more importantly learn from their amazing strengths and gifts. This book shows the young and developing church struggling but growing in a hostile world. From the apostle Paul to Benedict, discover how those in the early church influence the church today.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: CF4Kids; Reprint edition (January 20, 2006)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 5.2 x 0.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #265,398 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Biographies #82 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious #231 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Devotional

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 3 - 4

Customer Reviews

For an introduction to early Christian church history, it's tough to imagine a more compelling book than *Peril and Peace*, volume one in "History Lives: Chronicles of the Ancient Church" by Mindy and Brandon Withrow. It is a surprisingly good page-turner. The Withrows combine great knowledge of history with the novelist's art, making this volume a fun read even for kids who normally think history is boring. Nearly every chapter is a novelized snippet of early Christian life, covering such important Christians as Paul (Saul), Polycarp, Justin, Origen, Cyprian, Constantine, Athanasius, Cappadocians, Ambrose, Augustine, John Chrysostom, Jerome, Patrick, and Benedict. Full of action, dialogue, and interesting details, these chapters make me wish I was reading an entire historical novel about each individual, rather than only a single chapter about them. Modern Christians will have a tough time not scrutinizing their own lives after reading about the trials of many of these early Christians, who often preferred to die in the name of the Lord rather than run

from their persecutors. This is no dry rendering, full of dates about when the early church began doing this or that. This book focuses on famous martyrs and church formers and what life was like for them. We can also see some problems never change. For example, it's nothing new for the government to find Christianity a threat, and it's an ancient trend for those who encourage others to focus on God and his Word, rather than worldly pleasures, to find popularity passes them by. There are also a few nonfiction chapters interspersed throughout, introducing readers to life in the early church, how we got the Bible as it reads today, and very general information on how early Christians worshiped.

I had high hopes for this series as I had read some very good reviews and I regard the publisher highly. While the books I have read in this series (Peril & Peace and Courage & Conviction) are entertaining and informative, covering a wide range of history in such short works, I found the dialogue between the individuals portrayed to at times be too modern and other times to be a slightly crass, or at least not very polished. That said, I think that there is some value in these books if used as an entertaining supplement to more serious study. The books do contain detailed information on the source documents and are written by a professor of church history and his talented wife. The books begin with an overview of a specific period in church history and subsequent chapters highlight or detail the lives of key figures within that period, spanning several hundred years. Imagined dialogue between key figures is interspersed with actual historical detail with some direct quotes. The end of each fictionalized retelling contains a brief synopsis or significant fact about the key individual or individuals portrayed in that chapter. As with all books, one must exercise discernment and test everything in light of Scripture, which is advice that I am sure the authors would both recommend as well. Other books in this series: Monks and Mystics: Chronicles of the Medieval Church (History Lives series)

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