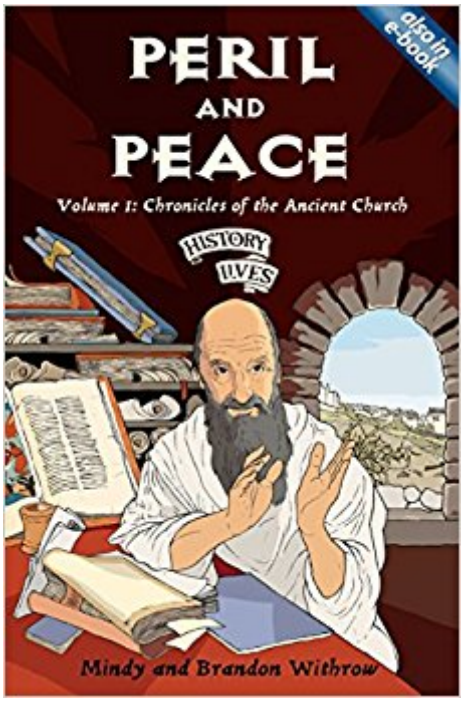
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Peril And Peace: Chronicles Of The Ancient Church (History Lives Series)



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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, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1845500822

ISBN-13: 978-1845500825

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #134,585 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Biographies #36 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious #135 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Devotional

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 3 - 4

Customer Reviews

There is nothing new under the sun - that is definitely true with church history. Many of the same issues and problems face us today that faced the medieval church. So not only does this book give a good, fast-paced narrative through early christian history - it also highlights some of the mistakes and problems that have raised their heads again today. (Catherine MacKenzie ~ Author and CF4K Editor)This is a great overview of Church history -- and a sobering look at the cost of following Christ in the early days of the church. While written for the youth market, I found it very readable as an adult. I've given copies to several friends with children and all are enjoying it. (Parent of a Young Reader)My daughter tore through these books and can't wait for the next ones to come out. I finally wised up and read the first one this summer. A fine balance of history and personality. It made the ancient church come alive. How grateful I am to be in the same family of faith as these fallible believers. As a pastor I think this should be required reading for seminary students. Thanks

Withrows for writing this series! (Parent of a Young Reader)Most church history books for kids are either too textbook-ish to enjoy or too brief and sanitized to be accurate. Our desire for the History Lives series is to provide an engaging, accurate introduction to the true story of Christianity. These "fictionalized" accounts are based on extensive historical research and incorporate quotes from the character's actual writings. Volume 1 is not about the "heroes of the faith," but merely some of the flawed human beings that God used to establish his church in the first 600 years after Christ. We hope that, like us, you will be encouraged to more faithful living by their stories. (Mindy Withrow ~ Blogger, writer)

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I am reading to my children. I love the entertaining way it teaches early church history. It is very well written.

My 8 year old son and I read this series together and we both learned a lot.

great book

Fine

This entire series has proven to be helpful for my family. We began reading these stories to our son in the evening as part of his bedtime routine. He is only 7 months old, so his comprehension is

lacking, but for my wife and I, these stories have been encouraging and helpful. We teach a Jr. High Sunday school class and I gave my kindle to one of my students so that he could read them. He loved them. These books will teach your children about church history, and will do so in a way that keeps their attention. I would highly recommend the whole series.

'Peril and Peace' Vol. 1 is an enjoyable and informative overview of the lives of early church fathers such as Polycarp, Ignatius, Justin, Origen, Constantine, etc. Instead of just dry historical facts the lives of these individuals are told in more of a story format, with dialog and interaction with other people as it may have happened at the time. Some of the stories are very exciting (and some a tad dry) and as these are broken into individual chapters for each church father these make for an excellent supplemental book for family worship times, as you could read about each individual in their own chapter. Each chapter concludes with a brief historical summary to help wrap up the events. The story telling is engaging and enjoyable, with only a couple stories that seem to get a little too muddled with characters, to the point that in a couple stories it was a little difficult telling who was who.In any case, I believe strongly in the importance of understanding church history, in terms of understanding persecution that early Christians endured, as well as in understanding how key doctrines, creeds and confessions were developed, and even seeing how the direction of Christianity changed radically (and arguably for the worse) post-Constantine, and considering books like this very important windows into all of that. It's accessible for all-ages to learn from, and I recommend it.

Mindy and Brandon Withrow came up with a great idea a few years ago - Write a series of books for children that chronicle the history of the church in readable prose that will actually prompt folks to read church history. Their idea is paying off because people are reading these books. And the audience is not limited to children. Adults are devouring these books and delighting in church history!The first volume, Peril and Peace: Chronicles of the Ancient Church introduces readers to the first six hundred years of church history. A helpful timeline is presented at the outset to provide the overall historical context.Each chapter begins with a short explanation of the subject at hand. The authors proceed to write what one might call "historical fiction." A better description might be "church history with a sanctified imagination" to borrow a phrase from one of my Seminary professors.Volume 1 presents key figures of the first six hundred years of church history, including the Apostle Paul, Polycarp, Justin, Athanasius, Augustine, Chrysostom and others.Three cheers for the Withrows. Their book is readable, enjoyable, accurate, and should prompt readers of all ages to

dive in and discover the roots of historic Christianity.

I was hoping to find a children’s series that presented the history of the Christian Church in narrative form, perhaps even containing direct, clearly identified quotations from primary sources. Unfortunately, this book qualifies as historical fiction, not history presented in narrative form. The brief chapters that introduce main sections of the book and the small concluding snippets at the end of each chapter do present well-researched historical information, but kind of like what you’d find at the end of a movie based-on-actual-events (i.e. "Mike went on to marry Linda. They lived in a modest split level in Hoboken, NJ...."). Beyond that, the historical content present in the rest of the book is obscured by narrative embellishments more typical of Hollywood.Additionally, the theme of martyrdom and the graphic description of violence, found especially in the first half of the book, mute what I believe to be the more pertinent themes of Christian purity, Church unity, Church authority, and the Church’s engagement with secular culture. I found the concluding sentence of Constantine’s chapter particularly disturbing when juxtaposed with the authors’ dedication. What would one find at the end of spears of love? Peril and Peace was almost what I hoped for, but will ultimately find a high shelf on the family bookcase.

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