



Christian Beginnings

Geza Vermes

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Geza Vermes, translator and editor of *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls* and worldwide expert on the life and times of Jesus, tells the enthralling story of early Christianity and the origins of a religion. The creation of the Christian Church is one of the most important stories in the development of the world's history, yet one of the least understood. With a forensic, brilliant re-examination of all the key surviving texts of early Christianity, Geza Vermes illuminates the origins of a faith and traces the evolution of the figure of Jesus from the man he was - a prophet in the tradition of other Jewish holy men of the Old Testament - to what he came to represent: a mysterious, otherworldly being at the heart of the official state religion of the Roman Empire. *Christian Beginnings* pulls apart myths and misunderstandings to focus on the true figure of Jesus, and the birth of one of the world's major religions. Reviews: 'A beautiful and magisterial book' Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, *Guardian* 'An exciting and challenging port of call, sweeping aside much of the fuzzy thinking and special pleading that bedevils the study of sacred scripture ... courteously expressed and witty' Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Times* 'A challenging and engaging book that sets out to retrace the route by which a Jewish preacher in 1st-century Israel came to be declared as consubstantial and co-equal with the omnipotent, omniscient only God' Stuart Kelly, *Scotsman* 'A major contribution to our understanding of the historical Jesus' *Financial Times* 'A very accessible and entertaining read' *Scotland on Sunday* *Books of the Year* 'A magnum opus of early Christian history and one of the year's most significant titles' *Bookseller*

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