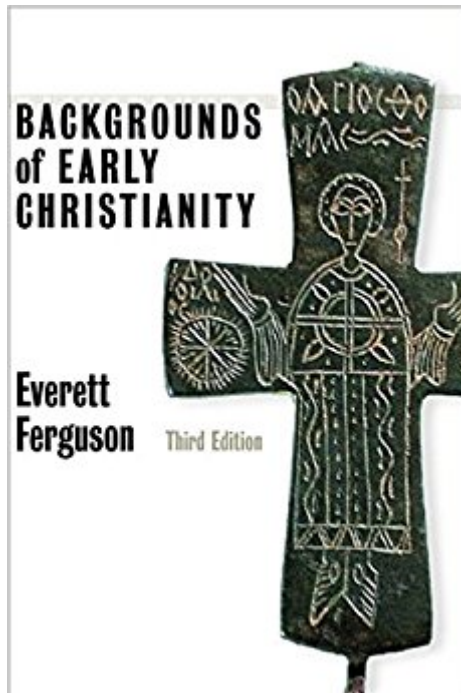




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# Backgrounds Of Early Christianity



## Synopsis

Having long served as a standard introduction to the world of the early church, Everett Ferguson's *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* has been expanded and updated in this third edition. The book explores and unpacks the Roman, Greek, and Jewish political, social, religious, and philosophical backgrounds necessary for a good historical understanding of the New Testament and the early church. New to this edition are revisions of Ferguson's original material, updated bibliographies, and fresh discussions of first-century social life, of Gnosticism, and of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other Jewish literature.

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Currents in Theology and Mission "The text is excellent -- rich and amazingly detailed. A standard textbook, it would also be a good addition to a parish library." *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*

“This book provides a good introduction for students to the historical, cultural and religious environment of the New Testament.”

Having long served as a standard introduction to the world of the early church, Everett Ferguson's *"Backgrounds of Early Christianity"* has been expanded and updated in this third edition. The book explores and unpacks the Roman, Greek, and Jewish political, social, religious, and philosophical backgrounds necessary for a good historical understanding of the New Testament and the early church. New to this edition are revisions of Ferguson's original material, updated bibliographies, and fresh discussions of first-century social life, of Gnosticism, and of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other

Jewish literature.

This is a well written, well organized, comprehensive, and highly readable book that explains the political environment of the 1st century, 2nd Temple era, society and culture, and the various religious realities of the day as well as what existed politically and religiously leading up to 1st century Judean life. I bought the book for a class and while it isn't necessary to read it straight through, it's so well written that you may do just that. I will continue to read and reference it for a long time to come. It's definitely a book you should read if you desire to sort out the maze of ancient history and to understand the only two sibling religions – Christianity and (rabbinic) Judaism – that survived and that period.

Insightful. Only read it because it was a mandatory textbook for a college course.

Excellent resource

ok

Perfectly written for the layman student of Scripture who wants social, historical, cultural, political, educational, racial and economic context for the period leading up to, including and immediately following Jesus' life on earth.

In depth a necessity for any serious student of the New Testament.

This is THE book on NT backgrounds. Ferguson gives you a broad sweep of nearly everything you need to know when studying the NT and an extensive bibliography of additional resources for picking up the rest. I read this book early on in my career and still refer to it almost weekly. In the more specialized material I now study, his work is the basis that allows me to understand it. In short, if you read nothing else on NT backgrounds, read this. If you're going to enter into advanced study of NT backgrounds, read this first. I even recommend this book to 'lay' churchmembers without any theological training. It is simply the best. The next best thing to Ferguson is C. K. Barrett, "NT Background: Selected Documents." This is a collection of excerpts from 1st Century primary sources. Still, READ FERGUSON FIRST!

Very good!

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