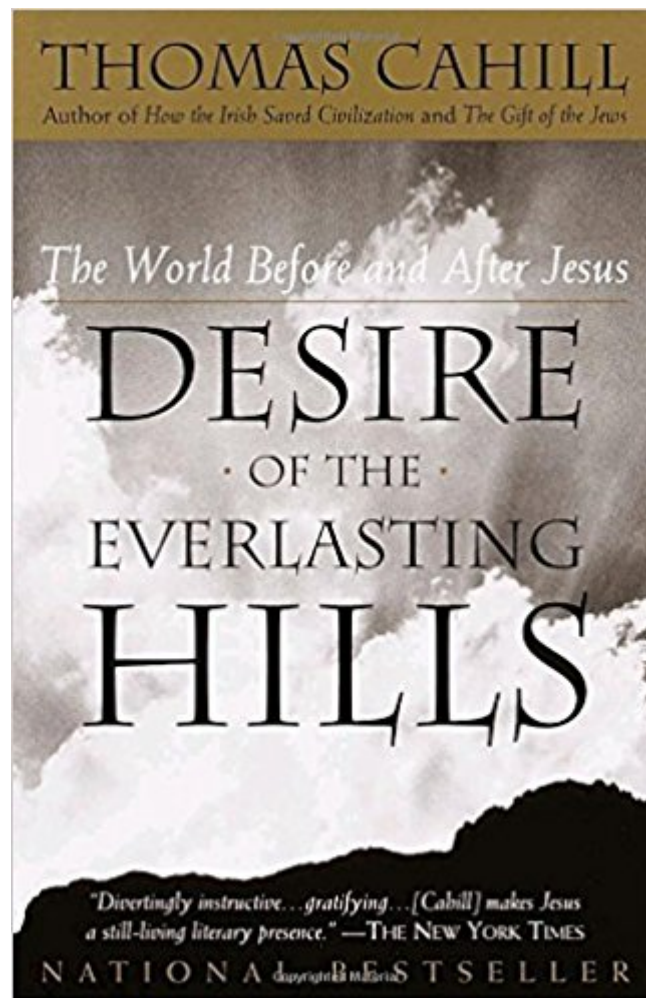




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# **Desire Of The Everlasting Hills: The World Before And After Jesus (Hinges Of History)**



## Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*, his most compelling historical narrative yet. How did an obscure rabbi from a backwater of the Roman Empire come to be the central figure in Western Civilization? Did his influence in fact change the world? These are the questions Thomas Cahill addresses in his subtle and engaging investigation into the life and times of Jesus. Cahill shows us Jesus from his birth to his execution through the eyes of those who knew him and in the context of his time—a time when the Jews were struggling to maintain their beliefs under overlords who imposed their worldview on their subjects. Here is Jesus the loving friend, itinerate preacher, and quiet revolutionary, whose words and actions inspired his followers to journey throughout the Roman world and speak the truth he instilled—in the face of the greatest defeat: Jesus' crucifixion as a common criminal. Daring, provocative, and stunningly original, Cahill's interpretation will both delight and surprise.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Desire of the Everlasting Hills* is another present from the pen of Thomas Cahill, author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*. In this third volume of the bestselling *Hinges of History* series, he knits together history, politics, sociology, and faith with contemporary insights that yield remarkable results. After painting with broad brush strokes an entertaining picture of the Greek, Jewish, and Roman world, Cahill focuses on Jesus. With illuminating deductions and clever

speculation, Jesus is seen through the eyes of his biographers in their Gospel accounts. Each of these authors' lives is reconstructed in such a way that the richness of their writing and their subject matter is wonderfully enhanced. The section on Paul, detailing how his life and letters shaped the early church, should be required reading for every student of the Bible. From his beginnings in the cosmopolitan city known as Tarsus through his calling, like the patriarchs and prophets before him, he becomes "the perfect vehicle for this moment in the development of the Jesus Movement." His mix of Greek reasoning with rabbinical training casts the stories of the early church into a thoughtful theology. He is seen here as the earliest egalitarian who not only impacted the early church but all of western civilization. Cahill challenges many traditional religious ideas while also taking on some of the more radical contemporary interpreters of biblical literature. As with the other volumes in this series, the marginal notes are filled with a wealth of interesting information. Combining his own fresh translation of many New Testament highlights with respect and humor, Thomas Cahill's book is for the believer and nonbeliever alike. --Tracy Danz --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cahill, no stranger to sweeping historical narratives (*The Gifts of the Jews*; *How the Irish Saved Civilization*), triumphs again with this imaginatively written account of Jesus and the early Christian Church. Cahill begins in the manner of most Jesus books, with the Greco-Roman world of the three centuries before Jesus, but here Greece and Rome come to life in Cahill's depiction of their violent despotism. Cahill has an eye for the common person's experience of war, famine and religious upheaval, and it is with this vantage point that he shows readers why Jesus' message of peace and forgiveness was so very startling. Cahill is familiar with biblical scholarship of the origins of the Gospels and their various theological differences, but he is more interested in how ordinary folks might have received Jesus, whom he portrays as "no ivory-tower philosopher but a down-to-earth man" who "hugely enjoyed a good dinner with friends." Although this idea is by no means original, Cahill presents Jesus with infectious energy, and his take on Mary is certainly fresh. "With her keen sense of retributive justice," as evidenced in the Magnificat, Cahill writes, Mary was disappointed with Jesus' odd admonitions to turn the other cheek. She had been "counting on something with more testosterone in it." The best chapter of all is on Paul, whose theological contributions are beautifully recapitulated for the layperson (Cahill also rightly highlights "Paul's perceptiveness, even craftiness, in dealing with other human beings"). There are a few glosses in the book, including instances in which Cahill elevates pious legend to fact; for example, he asserts that the remains of Simon Peter's home "may still be seen at Capernaum, when in fact the home's history has by no

means been established. Overall, however this is an engrossing portrait of Jesus through the eyes of His family and followers. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The CDs are a high-quality product. If you are a history buff, I suggest you read Cahill's Hinges of History series. I read the entire series once a year and always learn something new. Very entertaining!

Following on the heels of "How the Irish Saved Civilization", Thomas Cahill continues his trek through the various time periods that moved history in new directions and effect how we see the world today. This volume focuses on the changes that Christianity brought to peoples view of the world. While his books can be read in any order or are good just as stand-alones; I would recommend reading them in chronological rather than in published order.

Good book with regard to biblical history, really helps in understanding of Christian roots and ethos. Made me realize how the message of Jesus has been "spun" by established contemporary Christian leaders to further the agenda of their particular sects flavor.

This is the second Cahill book we read. He has a good take on Jewish History and his writing style is engaging. A few surprises in here too. Not off-the-wall.

I revived used with notes that appear to be from a seminary student scrawled inside. I don't agree with all the conclusions in the book, but it makes me thing and connect dots I never had before. I particularly liked the background in the Macabees. Puts a lot of things in better perspective. Enjoyed the book....

Interesting read, but the author appears to be impressed with himself using very rare words. He probably thinks he is William F. Buckley. Makes it a bit more difficult. I personally was interested in the subject and the before and after presentation.

And he makes us think often about things that we already assumed we knew plenty about. His portrait of the living Jesus in ancient Judea is respectful, historical, thoughtful, and yet surprising. He gives the early Christian church a context, a fabric that makes sense. His erudition is impressive,

and his faith is undoubtable. Yet he asks questions fearlessly. This is another of his superlative looks at history that still matters today.

Interesting insights into the Biblical story of the ministry of Jesus. Discussion of how the world has been changed by Jesus' life is limited. But a very worthwhile read.

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