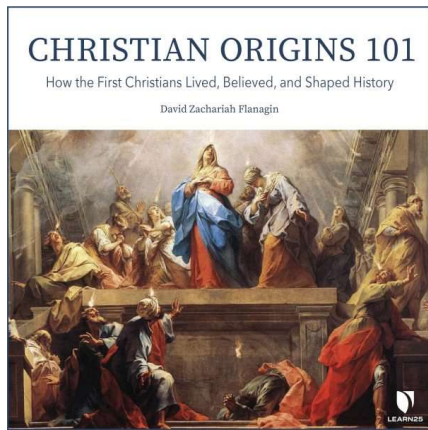


**OUR CURRENT STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 23rd AT 7PM
AND RUNS FOR 16 TUESDAYS**

With a four-week break in the schedule after week 8

Christian Origins 101

**How the first Christians Lived, Believed,
and Shaped History**



You are invited to journey back 2,000 years to the very start of Christianity and track 450 years of its fascinating early development.

In Christian Origins 101, you will explore the rich history, early leadership, and groundbreaking theology, of early Christianity. Through 30 erudite lectures, you will focus on six major themes: the early Church's relationship with its Jewish heritage, the Gnostic movement, Christianity and the Roman Empire, the early Church and women, debates about Jesus' divinity in the fourth century, and debates about Jesus' humanity in the fifth century. Each of these themes served as a locus for

significant debates about the nature of Christian beliefs and practices.

In exploring the fundamental questions that challenged Christianity from the Apostolic Age to the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, you will gain a deep understanding of the roots of the beliefs Christians hold dear. By learning about Christianity's remarkable origins and development, you will gain a richer understanding of the Church today.

Theme #1: The Church Emerging from Judaism

- Introduction: The Early Church and Judaism
- The Early Church and the Torah
- Finding Christian Meaning in the Old Testament: The Case of Justin Martyr
- Christian and Jewish Identities in the Second Century: Who Is the Heir to God's Covenant?

Theme #2: Gnosticism and Orthodoxy

- Gnosticism, Ptolemy, and the Old Testament
- Gnostic Cosmology
- Gnostic Views of Christ and Christianity
- Reactions to Gnosticism: The New Testament Canon

- Reactions to Gnosticism: Ignatius and the Episcopal Structure
- Reactions to Gnosticism: Irenaeus, Apostolic Succession, and the Rule of Faith
- Reactions to Gnosticism: Tertullian, Irenaeus, and the Stereotype of Heresy

Theme #3: Christianity and the Roman Empire

- The Spread of Christianity in the Empire
 - Apologies for the Faith
 - Persecution and Martyrdom
 - The Conversion of Constantine
- A ONE WEEK BREAK -

Theme #4: The Early Church and Women

- Surveying the Evidence about Women in Early Christianity
- Paul's Perspective on Women in the Church
- The Pauline Legacy in the Pastoral Epistles and the Acts of Thecla
- A Positive or Negative Tale for Early Christian Women?

Theme #5: The Divinity of Christ: The Trinitarian Debates

- Early Christian Views of Jesus
- Logos Christology
- Arius and Arianism
- The Council of Nicea
- Alexander and Athanasius
- After Nicea
- The Trinity and the Council of Constantinople

Theme #6: The Humanity of Christ: The Christological Debates

- The Logos-Sarx Christology of Alexandria
- The Logos-Anthropos Christology of Antioch
- Nestorius of Constantinople and Cyril of Alexandria
- The Council of Chalcedon

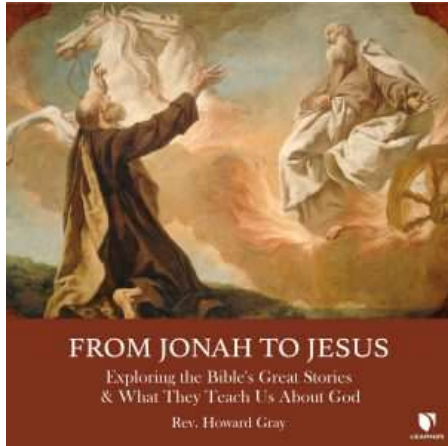
This lecture series will be interrupted near the middle for a three-week Little Rock Scripture Study of Easter

OUR NEXT STUDY BEGINS JUNE 11TH, 2024 AT 7PM

AND RUNS FOR 6 TUESDAYS

Great Biblical Stories

From Jonah To Jesus



Join one of the modern world's great Christian spirituality experts, Fr. Howard Gray, S.J., in exploring your favorite Bible stories anew.

For as long as humans have been around, we have found comfort in stories. With Fr. Gray, you will discover newfound theological and spiritual meaning in the Bible's great narratives. You will discover God as both a dynamic actor in the human narrative and a witty and loving teller of tales. A masterful speaker on spirituality, Fr. Gray explores how Jesus' storytelling technique connects to the stories in each of our own lives. In this engaging 12-lecture audio series, you will first examine the four Old Testament stories of Jonah,

Ruth and Naomi, Elijah, and Jacob. Here, you will discover the richness of God's mercy and forgiveness, His hopes for the human family, and the ways He works toward peace and reconciliation. Additionally, you will look at Jesus as a central figure of the Gospel narratives and as a storyteller in His ministry. Last, you will consider God as a storyteller, exploring the ways you can become His partner in this theology of story. If you love stories and want to deepen your understanding of your own Christian heritage, you will treasure the beautiful insights of this course.

TOPIC TITLES

- Stories from God: Jonah and Divine Wit
- Stories from God: The Book of Ruth as a Love Story
- Stories from God: Elisha and Being a Magician for Peace
- Stories from God: Jacob and God's Pedagogy
- Stories about Call: Jesus and his Call
- Stories about God: Jesus and the Compassion of God
- Stories about God: Jesus and Women
- Stories about God: Jesus and Hospitality
- Stories about God: Jesus and Prayer
- Stories about God: Creating the Church
- Stories about God: God as Narrator
- Stories about God: Becoming God's Partner