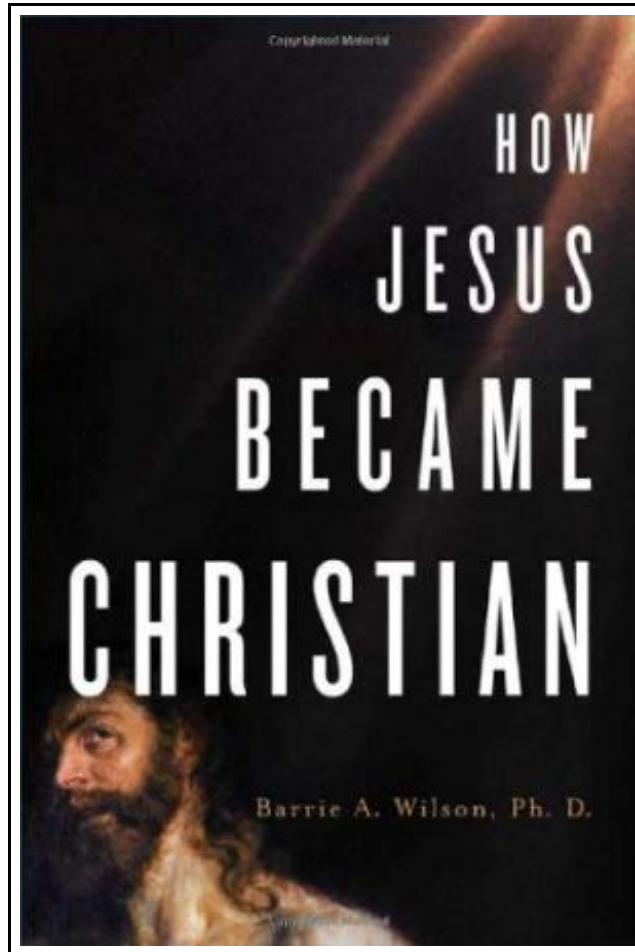


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St. Martin s Press, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Barrie Wilson is Professor of Humanities Religious Studies at York University in Toronto. A specialist in early Christian origins, this is his first book intended for a general audience. Building on contemporary critical scholarship, it addresses some of the major puzzles he has identified in teaching biblical studies over a twenty-year period. An award-winning educator, his previous academic books focused on textual interpretation. How Jesus Became Christian looks at how one of the world s great religions prospered and grew at the cost of another and confronts a fundamental question about religious history: Who was Jesus Christ--a Jew or a Christian? How did a young, well-respected rabbi become the head of a cult that bears his name, espouses a philosophy that he wouldn t wholly understand and possesses a clear streak of anti-Semitism that has sparked hatred against the generations of Jews who followed him? Wilson seeks the answer by recreating the Hellenistic world into which Jesus was born--a theologically cacophonous world guided by Greek philosophies, oriental religions such as Mithraism, and the Egyptian cults of Isis and Osiris. He looks at the rivalry between the Jesus movement, led by James, informed by the teachings of Matthew and adhering to Torah worship, and the Christ movement, headed by Paul, which shunned the Torah. Wilson suggests that Paul s movement was not rooted in the teachings and sayings of the historical Jesus, a man Paul never met, but solely in Paul s mystical, idealized vision of Christ. Wilson goes on to show how Paul established the new religion through anti-Semitic propaganda, which ultimately crushed the Jesus Movement. This is a provocative, well-written religious history about the core differences between Christianity...



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