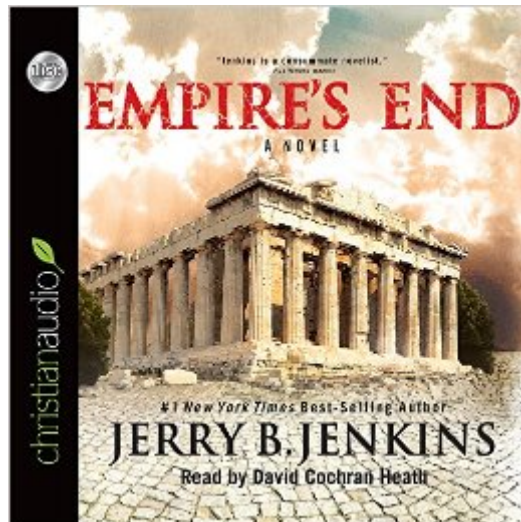


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Empire's End: A Novel Of The Apostle Paul



Synopsis

Betrayal. Passion. Defiance. Violence. An obsessed persecutor transformed. And the world would never be the same. Mining clues sprinkled throughout Paul's writings, Jerry B. Jenkins weaves a thoroughly believable tale filled with high drama at every turn. This inventive, page-turning novel is steeped in bravado and bloodshed, conflict and deep devotion, romance and political maneuvering. The result is a can't-put-it-down thriller crafted to satisfy any curious observer's longing to meet a flesh-and-blood man whose mission and message ultimately triggered the end of the great Roman Empire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Okay, I must first open this review with a couple of disclaimers and all of which are my own personal opinion which you can take with a grain of salt if you wish, but when I search for a book to purchase, I often sort through the reviews, the good and the bad to help decide if I really want to pick it up and read it, however if it is by an author I love, I will pick it up regardless. Since I've been a huge fan of biblical fiction, I gravitate towards that whenever possible. I love how some creative authors will take what the Bible story is and add to it, provide filler in order to help us fully understand the role this person may be played in the context we read about them in the Bible. I also understand this will not be your typical re-telling of a Bible story and some liberties will be taken. Second, I've been a huge fan of Jerry B. Jenkins since his co-authorship of the Left Behind series and countless others, so I naturally wanted to pick this one up. That being said, I was a bit disappointed by his latest novel Empire's End, the story about the life of Paul the Apostle or Saul of Tarsus as he was formerly

known. I had thought the television series A.D. was a bit disappointing by their own interpretation of events after the death and resurrection of Jesus, so I was hoping for a bit more than what I found. The novel opens as a journal-like text from Saul/Paul as he conveys his story of his journey apart from what we gain from the Bible. It picks up with a brief overview of Saul's initial conquest as persecutor of Jesus follower's beginning with Stephen, and his subsequent conversion on the Damascus Road where he lost his eyesight and discovered Jesus in a vision.

I had a hard time getting into this book but I am glad that I stuck with it. It wasn't that the story was slow; it was that I had to keep going to my Bible (which is great) and googling historical events of the era. There were several characters/ideas throughout the story that threw me and initially irritated me: At first I was completely baffled by the horse. The horse was described as a big black stallion, which made Saul higher in the saddle than the men in his command to instill respect for his position. Then the stallion is used as the means of facilitating the miraculous. We are then introduced to a romance in Paul's life. Paul was thrown overboard from a ship (I will leave the details for you to read). Taking the time to think and search through my concerns was one of the true benefits to this story. I learned so much about Paul and his missionary journeys. It also challenged my presuppositions. I came to the realization that there is much that we are not told in scripture, leaving the details of daily life unknown. If all of those details were laid down for us the Bible could never be read in multiple lifetimes. I believe that the author is taking literary license but is also trying to keep the story within the realm of possibility for the times and the details that we do have sketched out for us. The Romans used horses during this time period so it is very likely that Saul rode a stallion. Whether or not Paul had a romance is unknown but conceivable. Here are a few Bible scriptures often used in the debate as to whether or not Paul had a wife: 1 Corinthians 9:5 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 Galatians 1:14* Thrown overboard? Possibly but not mentioned in Scripture as far as I am aware.

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