

Jesus Before Christianity by Albert Nolan

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Albert Nolan revised his 1976 version of **Jesus Before Christianity** in 1992. I read it originally in 1998 but was lured back into its pages now 20 years later for a review. This is a timeless book. For years I have felt our times where pre-Christian. Like many in Jesus' day we are attracted to his words and example, and as soon as everyone is on board we will jump on too. But for now the 'world' isn't like that yet and we are afraid to go the whole way. Nolan says on page 171 "Jesus can help us to understand the voice of Truth but, in the last analysis, it is we who must decide and act." He goes on to say in page 151 that "Jesus did not make authority his truth, he made truth his authority." Later on page 102 we find: People's compassion for one another releases God power in the world, the only power than can bring about the miracle of the "kingdom". And then on page 39 he gets to the core: "Faith is a good and true conviction. It is the conviction that something can and will happen because it is good and because it is true that goodness can and will triumph over evil." In these troubled time when humanity has tried all the alternatives to compassion to see if that would be enough to solve our problems, we might be getting ready to try Jesus' way. I hope so. Now I ask everyone "where do you see the hope?" I invite you to find a copy of this timeless examination of the times before Christianity to appreciate what was going on then. I think you will find the parallels to this time uncanny and see why I think we are still pre-Christian.

