



# Discovering God: The Origins of the Great Religions and the Evolution of Belief

By Rodney Stark

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Winner of the 2008 *Christianity Today* Award of Merit in Theology/Ethics

The History of God

In *Discovering God*, award-winning sociologist Rodney Stark presents a monumental history of the origins of the great religions from the Stone Age to the Modern Age and wrestles with the central questions of religion and belief.

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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1021482 in Books
- Published on: 2008-12-02
- Released on: 2008-12-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.24" w x 6.00" l, 1.14 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 496 pages

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### Editorial Review

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**\*Starred Review\*** Skeptics such as Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett have just lost their monopoly on the topic of religious evolution. Only a believer, Stark asserts, can fathom the origins and subsequent unfolding of the world's great faiths. In this wide-ranging investigation, Stark detects sacred reality—not pious deception—at the heart of transcendent beliefs shared by Aborigines and Anglicans. In their myths of the high gods, Stark contends, early tribal peoples glimpsed divine truths obscured in later civilizations when pharaohs and emperors lent government support to temple priesthods more interested in maintaining a comfortable lifestyle than in serving God. The eventual emergence of a religious marketplace in ancient Rome opened a wide range of metaphysical options. Yet in a culture of religious pluralism, the insistent claims of tightly knit communities of Jews and Christians appeared threatening to Roman leaders, who defended the status quo by persecuting adherents to these unsettlingly intense faiths. Yet it is in these revelatory faiths—and not the meditative religions of Eastern Asia—that Stark discerns the fullest manifestation of God. Some readers will resist Stark's comparative judgments; others will dispute his religious interpretation of modern science. But serious students of religion will recognize this as an essential sourcebook. Christensen, Bryce

### Review

Stark's retelling of the origins of the world's great religions is fascinating and excellent. (Newsweek)

"[A] wide-ranging investigation...serious students of religion will recognize this as an essential sourcebook." (Booklist)

### About the Author

Rodney Stark is the Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences at Baylor University. His thirty books on the history and sociology of religion include *The Rise of Christianity*, *Cities of God*, *For the Glory of God*, *Discovering God*, and *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*. Stark received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

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**Christopher Patterson:**

Now a day individuals who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How a lot more to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Discovering God: The Origins of the Great Religions and the Evolution of Belief book because book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

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