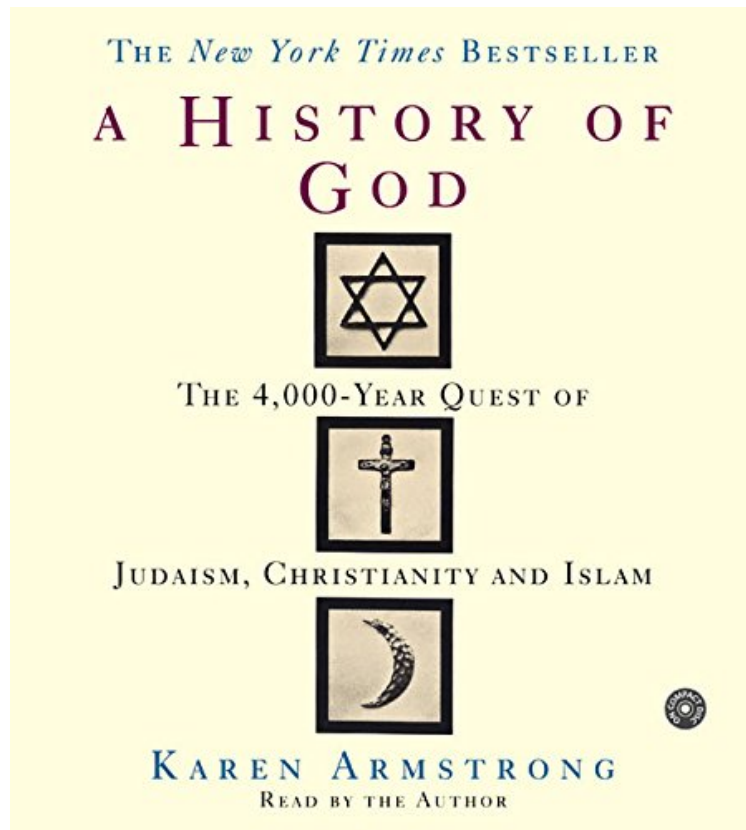



## The History of God CD: The 4,000 Year Quest

*Karen Armstrong*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



 Download

 Read Online

#248060 in Books 2004-02-17 2004-02-17 Formats: Abridged, Audiobook, CD Original  
language: English PDF # 5 6.18 x .78 x 5.251, .33 Binding: Audio CD 5 pages | File size: 59.Mb

**Karen Armstrong : The History of God CD: The 4,000 Year Quest** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of God CD: The 4,000 Year Quest:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. which is not a bad idea anyway By pbqueen The book, as others have noted, is an overview of complicated topics. As such, it does not give as much detail as one might prefer. I find myself questioning the author's assertions because they seem conclusory and not necessarily based on factual information. However, this is not unexpected given the amount of material she is attempting to cover. I will need to seek out secondary sources, which is not a bad idea anyway. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thanks for this book By Brigid F. Dunn Excellent and surprisingly funny in many places. Professor Armstrong reveals a great deal of the human story that we should not forget as we search for God. This book encourages honesty and humor, essential elements in scholarship and storytelling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By AADeLa a very good book worth the read AADeL

"Strange as it may seem, the idea of 'God' developed in a market economy in a spirit of aggressive capitalism," Karen Armstrong asserts in her fascinating work *A History of God*. Armstrong considers herself a "historian of ideas," and with this broad view she gives a compelling account of the correspondences among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,

and the historical, philosophical, intellectual, and social developments through the ages that both shaped them and were shaped by them. Religion is "highly pragmatic," Armstrong finds. Any particular idea of God must work for the people who develop it. Consequently, as the times have changed, so have our ideas about God. "Understanding the ever-changing ideas of God in the past and their relevance and usefulness in their time," she says, "will help us to develop a new concept for the future." "Today an increasing number of people have difficulty with the idea of a God that behaves as a larger version of themselves. Armstrong sees this as inevitable, and welcomes believers to a notion of God that "works for us in the empirical age."

.com Armstrong, a British journalist and former nun, guides us along one of the most elusive and fascinating quests of all time--the search for God. Like all beloved historians, Armstrong entertains us with deft storytelling, astounding research, and makes us feel a greater appreciation for the present because we better understand our past. Be warned: A History of God is not a tidy linear history. Rather, we learn that the definition of God is constantly being repeated, altered, discarded, and resurrected through the ages, responding to its followers' practical concerns rather than to mystical mandates. Armstrong also shows us how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have overlapped and influenced one another, gently challenging the secularist history of each of these religions. --Gail Hudson  
From Publishers Weekly  
This searching, profound comparative history of the three major monotheistic faiths fearlessly illuminates the sociopolitical ground in which religious ideas take root, blossom and mutate. Armstrong, a British broadcaster, commentator on religious affairs and former Roman Catholic nun, argues that Judaism, Christianity and Islam each developed the idea of a personal God, which has helped believers to mature as full human beings. Yet Armstrong also acknowledges that the idea of a personal God can be dangerous, encouraging us to judge, condemn and marginalize others. Recognizing this, each of the three monotheisms, in their different ways, developed a mystical tradition grounded in a realization that our human idea of God is merely a symbol of an ineffable reality. To Armstrong, modern, aggressively righteous fundamentalists of all three faiths represent "a retreat from God." She views as inevitable a move away from the idea of a personal God who behaves like a larger version of ourselves, and welcomes the grouping of believers toward a notion of God that "works for us in the empirical age." 25,000 first printing; BOMC alternate. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal  
Armstrong ( Muhammad , LJ 4/15/92; The Crusades and Their Impact on Today's World , LJ 2/15/91) presents a well-written overview of the changing idea of God as understood by the three great religions of the West. Besides providing a great deal of religious history, she discusses the various philosophers, mystics, and reformers associated with these religions. The author suggests that "God" is primarily a "focus of meaning" created by humanity. If He survives at all, it will be in a much-altered form. Public librarians should be aware that conservative readers may be offended by this book, and even religious scholars may find Armstrong's rather one-sided "death of God" optimism about humanity a bit passe. Otherwise, this is an excellent and informative book. Recommended for academic and public libraries.- C. Robert Nixon, MLS, Lafayette, Ind.  
Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.