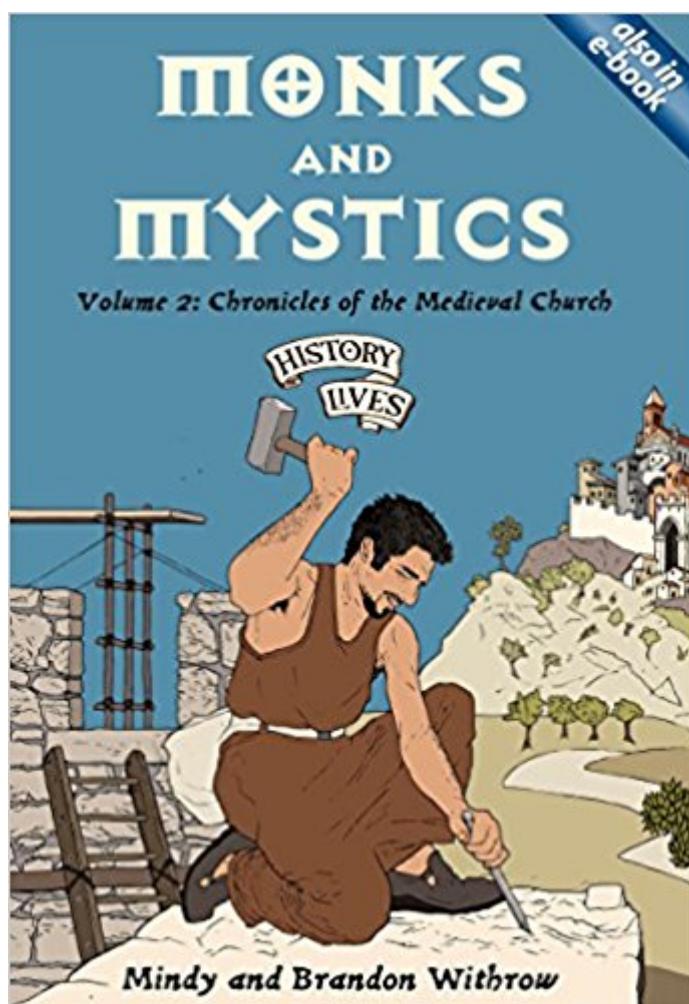


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# Monks And Mystics: Chronicles Of The Medieval Church (History Lives Series)



## **Synopsis**

Let history come to life - just the way it should be. Read the stories of Gregory the Great, Boniface, Charlemagne, Constantine Methodius, Vladimir, Anselm of Canterbury, Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Sienna, John Wyclif and John Hus. From people of the Medieval church you can discover how the young Christian church moved on into another era of time. From Gregory I through to Wyclif and Hus you can discover about the crusades and the spread of Islam as well as the beginnings of universities and the Reformation. As the church moves on through the centuries you can see its people struggling against persecution and problems from inside and out. Learn from their mistakes and errors but more importantly learn from their amazing strengths and gifts. Marvel at God's wonderful care of his people - the church - the Christian church. Written in a modern and relaxed style this is a book that will introduce you to history without the tears and with all the wonder. Extra features throughout this book include looking deeper into issues such as Islam; Division; The crusades; the first university; Creeds and Councils and the Renaissance.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 224 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #217,798 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Biographies #66 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious #214 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Devotional

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

"There is nothing new under the sun - that is definitely true with church history. Many of the same issues and problems face us today that faced the medieval church. So not only does this book give a good, fast-paced narrative through early christian history - it also highlights some of the mistakes

and problems that have raised their heads again today." (Catherine MacKenzie ~ Author and CF4K Editor)"Protestants tend to think of the Middle Ages as the dark and oppressed period between Augustine and Luther. But God did not abandon his people for 1000 years! Missionaries carried the gospel to foreign lands, the Bible was translated into various languages, and Christians held each other accountable before God. Picking up where volume 1 leaves off at the close of the sixth century, these stories bring to life both the believers and the unbelievers God used to grow his church in the medieval era. We hope you'll find the History Lives series an engaging, accurate introduction to the true story of Christianity." (Mindy Withrow ~ Blogger, writer)

Brandon and Mindy Withrow are both bloggers and writers.

LOVE THIS SERIES! We own almost all of these now and each one is as great as the one before! We use them in our homeschool and I enjoy them as much as the kids do! Very well written.

Bringing history to life by presenting it like a novel, Monks and Mystics is one of the most entertaining history books you or your child will ever read. It is the second in the "History Lives" series by Mindy and Brandon Withrow and covers the "Chronicles of the Medieval Church." The majority of chapters present part of the story behind an important figure in the early church, written with the action, dialogue, and description of a good novel. Interspersed between these chapters are a few short, strictly nonfiction chapters, explaining such things as how the pope came to be, how Islam affected Christian history, and the councils of the Medieval church. The novelized chapters cover Gregory the Great, Boniface, Charlemagne, Constantine and Methodius, Vladmir, Anselm of Canterbury, Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Sienna, John Wyclif, and John Haus. Although a book covering Christianity during this time period must focus on the Catholic church (because there was no other church), the authors stress: "Modern Protestants disagree with quite a few medieval ideas, but that does not mean that the men and women of the Middle Ages were always wrong or that they did not love God's Word. In fact, despite their differences, later Protestants admired many medieval thinkers...Like Christians of all eras, they made both positive and negative contributions to the church." Although Medieval Christians are perhaps best known for the Crusades, they also translated the Bible into several languages for the first time, including English. Constantine and Methodius even created a written Slavic language so they could give the Slavs a Bible. Like Christians of all eras, they also strove to help the needy, teach the gospel, keep the church pure, and deal with the politics surrounding them. What I Like:

The concept behind these books is excellent. Very few of us don't enjoy reading a novel more than a dry history book. *Monks and Mystics* gives us the best of both worlds by giving us historic fact combined with good story telling. What I Dislike: My only gripe with this book is its treatment of the Crusades. Unfortunately, many people have forgotten the fact that Muslim armies invaded Europe, hoping to make them Islamic lands, and *Monks and Mystics* doesn't seek to remind anyone of this. It almost seems as though the Withrows wish to make the Crusades apolitical and non-religious. This is not to say Europeans were without fault during the many Crusades, or that some endorsed the Crusades for political reasons or personal gain. However, there were understandable reasons for Europeans to fight many of the Crusades, also. (For a few ideas about the real history of the Crusades, click [here](#).) Overall Rating: Despite this flaw, however, the book is Very Good, overall. Kristina Seleshanko Christian Children's Book Review

Great book.

My 8 year old son and I read this series together and we both learned a lot.

This book, and its companion, *Peril and Peace*, is a well-written collection of narratives about important Christians. The stories are descriptive and interesting, and give you a real sense of "being there". I never studied church history as a child, and I enjoy reading these stories aloud to my 10yo son as we study history. I highly recommend this book to other homeschoolers, parents who want to help their kids learn about church history, and even adults who want an enjoyable introduction to the lives of important Christians of the past. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series!

The book was very much enjoyed by my son who is very particular about books. He enjoys biographies and the stories are very interesting.

As a homeschooling mother, I am always looking for ways to bring curriculum to life. As I was preparing our study on the Middle Ages, this book literally dropped from the shelf into my grasp. Whether it was a divine appointment or not, I have found *Monks and Mystics* to be a great addition to my son's studies. He loves the conversational style and remembers the factual information much better than through purely textual accounts. I plan on purchasing all the books in this series as our studies progress!

Great book!

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