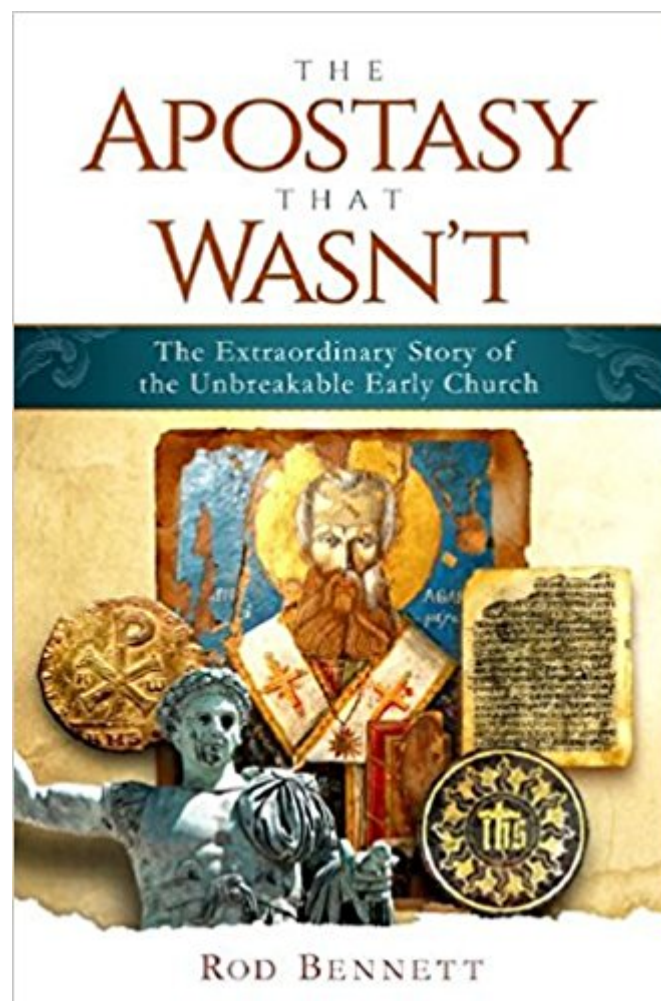


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# The Apostasy That Wasn't: The Extraordinary Story Of The Unbreakable Early Church



## Synopsis

With the touch of a master storyteller, Rod Bennett narrates the drama of the early Church's fight to preserve Christian orthodoxy intact even as powerful forces try to smash it to pieces. The theory goes like this: Just a few centuries after Christ's death, around the time the Roman Empire converted to Christianity, the true Faith suffered a catastrophic falling-away. The simple truths of the gospel became so obscured by worldliness and pagan idolatry kicking off the Dark Ages of Catholicism that Christianity required a complete reboot. This idea of a Great Apostasy is one of the cornerstones of American Protestantism, along with Mormonism, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and even Islam. Countless millions today profess a faith built on the assumption that the early Church quickly became broken beyond repair, requiring some new prophet or reformer to restore the pure teaching of Jesus and the apostles. This theory is popular... but it's also fiction. In *The Apostasy that Wasn't*, Rod Bennett follows up his bestseller *Four Witnesses* with an account of the historical events that led him out of his own belief in apostasy theory and into the Catholic Church. With the touch of a master storyteller, he narrates the drama of the early Church's fight to preserve Christian orthodoxy intact even as powerful forces try to smash it to pieces. Amid imperial intrigue, military menace, and bitter theological debate, a hero arises in the form of a homely little monk named Athanasius, who stands against the world to prove that there could never be a Great Apostasy because Jesus promised his Church would never be broken.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To read this book is to live in the fourth century, for a vivid moment, knowing the thrills and heroics

to which true faith led our ancestors. This is the most enthralling book you'll read this year. --Mike Aquila-Catholic author of over 40 books

Rod Bennett was, for many years, the editor of Wonder Magazine, a popular Christian media journal. His writings have appeared in other national publications as well, ranging from Rutherford and Gadfly to Catholic Exchange and Our Sunday Visitor. Rod has appeared on many well-known radio and television programs such as The Journey Home and Bookmark. His first book, *Four Witnesses: The Early Church in Her Own Words*, is a best seller from Ignatius Press. He also edited *Why Catholic Bibles Are Bigger* with apologist Gary Michuta and compiled *Chesterton's America*. A convert from the Southern Baptist faith, Rod joined the Catholic Church in 1996. He lives in Atlanta with his wife Dorothy and their two children.

This book is extremely well-researched and equally well-written. One problem- once I picked it up, I couldn't put it down, and then my son wanted to run off with it just as soon as I finished it!

This book is absolutely what all history should be written like. An imaginative rendering of the characters and personalities surrounding the Arian Crisis of the 4th Century Christian Church. I reads like a movie at some points and it is absolutely enthralling, engaging, and immersive. You walk away feeling like you are in the heads and know personally the characters of Constantine, Arius, and Athanasius. No matter what Christian denomination you come from: this is a must read.

Have you been told by a fundy or Mormon that the early Church was apostate? Well this book puts that old fallacy to rest.

The often repeated myths surrounding Constantine and his involvement with the Church during the tumultuous years of the Arian heresy. The prideful greedy struggles for personal gain this heresy generated often through disregard for authority and/or lack knowledge was tragic. Unfortunately we see similar vestiges of this heresy present today. Mr. Bennett does a masterful job of pointing out how the lack of humility can inhibit the need to accept and change an understanding when corrected by knowledgeable authority instead of attempting to change God's teaching. An informative book that will clear up a lot of misinformation as well as expand your understanding of the Catholic Church today,, well worth reading.

A really fun read that also teaches. If you want to learn the truth about the history of the early Catholic Church and the evolution of some of its key doctrines that were so hotly debated around the time of Constantine then you need to read this book. I loved it!

Lot of history here. I was always curious about why there was a first "Council of Nicea" I knew there was a lot of discussion about the divinity of Christ but did not know it centered on a few "words" .

I haven't finished the book, but so far it's very good, thorough with many footnotes for author's sources. Rod Bennett is a great storyteller. Serious Christians should become familiar with the history of Christianity and the Church, the Catholic Church. Many Protestants just don't know the facts and are fed misinformation based on bias and prejudice. I was once one of those Protestants and am now Catholic after learning Church history.

A very readable historically based story told through the eyes of the Early Church Fathers. A great read for those who wish to debunk the fairy tale of the Great Apostasy of the Apostolic Churches.

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