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Mt Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

This book is a sequel to my work on the historical Jesus titled *The Jesus Dynasty*. It picks up the story immediately after the execution of Jesus by Roman crucifixion the first week of April in A.D. 30. It investigates, based on new sources, as well as a critical and careful reading of our New Testament documents, what actually happened “after the cross”? *The Paul Dynasty* radically questions the standard Christian story, created by Paul in the 50s A.D., and subsequently embedded and embellished in the gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John in the closing decades of the 1st century. New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan has called the years from A.D. 30 to A.D. 50, the years in which we have no written records of the movement John the Baptist and Jesus inaugurated, the “dark ages of early Christianity.” When the veil is lifted, around A.D. 51, with the earliest surviving writing of Paul, his first letter to his followers at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians), we encounter a wholly transformed movement, truly a “new religion” called Christianity. Yet strangely, the “religion of Paul” stands in the sharpest contrast to the “religion of Jesus.” Indeed, it seems highly unlikely that Jesus the Jewish Messiah would have been able to recognize any of its major affirmations. How this could be possible is one of the mysteries of the ages. The Jesus, who called upon humans to repent of their sins and “believe” that the Kingdom of God was present as God’s will was done *on earth*, was transformed into the message of “faith in Christ” and eternal life and “salvation” in a world beyond this one. In *The Paul Dynasty* I demonstrate that this was *wholly*, not partially, the doings of Paul. His “gospel,” as he called it, was destined to become *the* Christian message.