



# Readers' Favorite®

## Book Reviews and Award Contest

### Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book. These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** Myths of Christianity: A Five Thousand Year Journey To Find The Son of God  
**Author:** Jedediah McClure  
**Genre:** Christian - Non Fiction

**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.  
**5**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books--those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.  
**5**

**Development:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books--those without plot  
**5**

and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

**Formatting:**

**5**

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

**Marketability:**

**5**

Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**Overall Opinion:**

**5**

The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

**Review:**

Reviewed by Teodora Totorean for Readers' Favorite

Starting from the premise that there are two types of Christians – the ones that interpret the Bible literally and believe that everything within is true and the ones that read the Bible allegorically, being aware that the cultural context of the time can change the way we interpret it, *Myths of Christianity* by Jedediah McClure concentrates on the latter, offering a cultural background of the times when the Bible was written. The scope is not to demystify Christianity, but to open people's minds. What is common knowledge for Biblical scholars is not for some Christians still preoccupied with their version of Christian truth, rejecting other sects and faiths. The author hopes to offer Christians a starting point in accepting differences, tolerating one another and finding the essence of this great religion which is love, generosity and charity. The book has three main parts, covering the existence of various Christian groups during the first and second century AD, and the development of the Bible as we know it today; the belief in God, angels and the Devil, and the cultural context of biblical texts. The author analyses many myths and mythologies that are similar to the stories in the Bible and offers an array of beliefs and folklore specific to those times.

*Myths of Christianity* by Jedediah McClure is a challenging read on many levels. It can be read as an intellectual pursuit if you are passionate about mythology; as an eye opener for Christians without trying to dent their faith; as another point of view if you reject the scholastic approach to interpreting the Bible and so on. The chapters are well organized, well written and researched; the vocabulary is

specific to this genre and specialized words are explained. At the end of each chapter, there are the notes that indicate thorough research. The scholastic explanations are intertwined with examples from the author's personal life and beliefs, from current politics, economy and popular culture making the concepts easy to understand. I particularly enjoyed the reference to Plato's allegory of the cave which was the starting point for the final conclusion of the book, as well as where Halloween, Christmas and Easter celebrations come from.