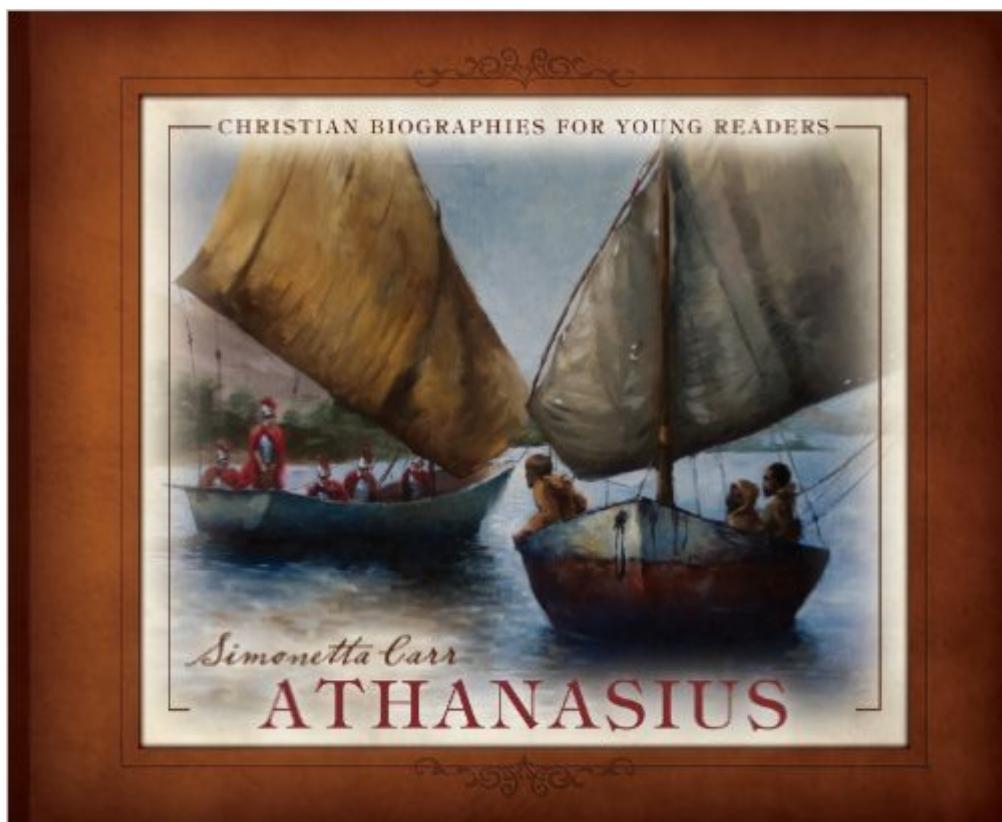


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Athanasius (Christian Biographies For Young Readers)



Synopsis

A complex and fascinating character, Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, is best remembered as the Father of Orthodoxy, upholding the doctrine of the Trinity against the Arian heresy. In the newest addition to the Christian Biographies for Young Readers series, author Simonetta Carr introduces children to the life and times of this important church father who tirelessly defended the Nicene Creed, which many of us today recite as a confession of our faith. Born during the Great Persecution, forced five times to leave his church and city, and constantly threatened by those who tried to ruin his reputation, Athanasius provides an example of godly faithfulness. Beautiful illustrations and a winsome, simply written narrative will bring the Nicene Creed to life for children of all ages, prompting relevant discussions on the divinity of Christ and the importance of creeds and confessions. FIRST PRIZE winner of the 2014 Athanatos Children's Book Awards.

Book Information

Series: Christian Biographies for Young Readers

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #743,302 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #304 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Bible > Reference & Interpretation #4427 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies #5121 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I emailed the author of this book, Simonetta Carr, and asked her what she wants children to learn from this book on Athanasius. She said in her email, "Most of all, that Jesus is fully God. Hopefully, they will also realize that we don't always understand some biblical doctrines, and it's OK. They will see the importance of Christian councils and creeds, and hopefully be better prepared to face future Dan Browns (they pop up every few years)." This was exactly what my daughter took from this book

when she read it. I listened as she, age 7 1/2, gave a summary of the book to my younger daughter, age 5 1/2. She saw that it was important for Athanasius to stand firm in his belief that Jesus was fully God and fully man (she actually said that). Her reading of the book opened the door to a really important discussion about salvation and the trinity. Sometimes it's hard to know how to help children understand why theology matters. But, it does. It matters quite a lot. This biography recounts a time in history when Jesus' deity was questioned. It was challenged. People chose to believe Arius' teaching because it seemed more logical and easier to believe and follow. But, what is easier to believe is often not right. As parents, this is a lesson we have to teach our children. Today there is a great deal of controversy about hell and whether it is really real. Is this controversy any different than what Athanasius faced? Perhaps not. It comes down to questioning the Word of God and choosing to believe what the Bible says or what is easier to believe. Ms. Carr's hope is that understanding the past will help our children understand their faith, theology, and the Word of God better.

Christian Biographies for Young Readers by Simonetta Carr present clear and concise introductions to John Calvin, Augustine, John Owen, and Athanasius. Written for children aged 7-12, these books are sturdy, hardback copies with thick pages. Additionally, they have a nice, large font which is especially helpful for young readers. Each book has a helpful timeline, maps, many realistic photos, and lovely illustrations which are sure to hold attention spans and capture imaginations. Ms. Carr is careful to give pronunciation helps and definitions for any larger words that may prove challenging. One of the things that makes Christian Biographies for Young Readers unique is that Ms. Carr seeks to make Reformed, Christian doctrine accessible to children. She writes: "From the start, my vision has been to introduce not a random choice of role models, but men and women who have helped to shape the church and our Reformed theology. In other words, the focus is on God's providence, His church, and His doctrine" (From Simonetta's Blog Post "Lady Jane"). She successfully accomplishes this, focusing on godly folks who study and proclaim the Truth of God's Word. Ms. Carr's books are thoroughly researched and generally accurate (a few minor corrections have been posted on her website). I love how she chronicles her researching and writing journey on her blog! The goal of her newest addition, Athanasius, is to "...bring the Nicene Creed to life for children of all ages, raising relevant questions on the divinity of Christ and the importance of creeds and confessions" (From Simonetta's Blog Post "Latest News"). Ms.

Athanasius is one of the most important early Christian leaders, perhaps the only one with a Creed

named after him. But like many Christian young people, I grew up without learning much about him at all. Simonetta Carr hopes to remedy this problem through her latest addition to the "Christian Biographies for Young Readers" series from Reformation Heritage Books. In Athanasius, Carr gives young readers a vivid account of Athanasius' life. Complete with beautiful illustrations from Matt Abraxas, the book also includes a timeline, maps and lots of background facts about the time period of Athanasius' life. Written for kids aged 7-12, this book will appeal to kids of a wide age-range. The story is set in the 300s AD in Alexandria, but Athanasius takes us from the deserts of Egypt, to Tyre, Rome, and Trier, Germany among other places. His life criss-crosses that of several emperors and he finds himself in and out of exile constantly. Athanasius is most remembered for his role in helping formulate the Nicene Creed and solidifying orthodox teaching on the Trinity, which is enshrined in the Athanasian Creed. His life also stands testament to the awful reality of persecution which so many Christians of ages past endured. The book is arranged like a cross between a coffee-table book and a story book. The quality of the book will make it more suited for the mantle or special bookcase than a kids' playroom. The art is beautiful and the story stays accessible for young readers. This book will serve well in Sunday Schools or homeschool classes and takes its place alongside other titles in this series, which includes John Calvin, John Owen and Augustine of Hippo.

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