

# Acknowledgment

If that were to happen in regard to Earth, where would be the best location to reach the sentient life on that planet? Maybe centrally, where Asia, Europe, and Africa meet, and therefore not favoring any one ethnic group or region. If we look more closely at that area, there was a people group that claimed that the creator was speaking to them and that the creator promised to come to Earth as a male child who would be himself the almighty God (Isa. 9:6), born specifically in an obscure little village called Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), a descendant of their King David (2 Sam. 7), yet be associated with a despised region called Galilee (Isa. 9:1–2).

There is one who more than fulfilled these markers. His life transformed his followers (N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* [Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003]). Acts 4:13 puts it this way (in my translation): “Seeing these uneducated, common people act and talk this way, they were astonished and could tell that these people had been with Jesus.”

Not only individuals, but communities and whole societies were changed; not yet perfected, but set on a better course that we should not take for granted. Tom Holland traces some of these points of transformation in *Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World* (Basic Books, 2019). Now 2.5 billion people claim to follow Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ, as part of the world’s largest, and still growing, global movement. In our current year, we find more Anglicans in church each Sunday morning in Nigeria, than in England. Brazil has 166 million Christians as the largest Catholic country in the world, alongside 43 million Brazilian Protestants. In the last one hundred years, South Korea has gone from about one percent Christian, to now actively 25% Christian ...

This is Big, Indeed Epic, History.

**James C. Peterson**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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