

Rodney Stark, *Cities of God: The Real Story of How Christianity Became an Urban Movement and Conquered Rome*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.

Rodney Stark, sociology of religion scholar, provides a history of Christianity that goes beyond many conventional views of the early church. Stark uses quantitative research to show how Christianity grew quickly and steadily. His goal is to view the rise of Christianity within the appropriate social and cultural contexts through a social scientific lens. Stark argues that Christianity was an urban religion that grew through relationships. He also shows that early Christianity was primarily an urban movement. He explains that about two-thirds of the population of the Roman Empire – and of Christians – were in the major urban cities. In light of the fact that over half the population of the world resides in urban contexts today, this book is a must read for pastors, church leaders, and scholars alike. *By: Kevin Hall*