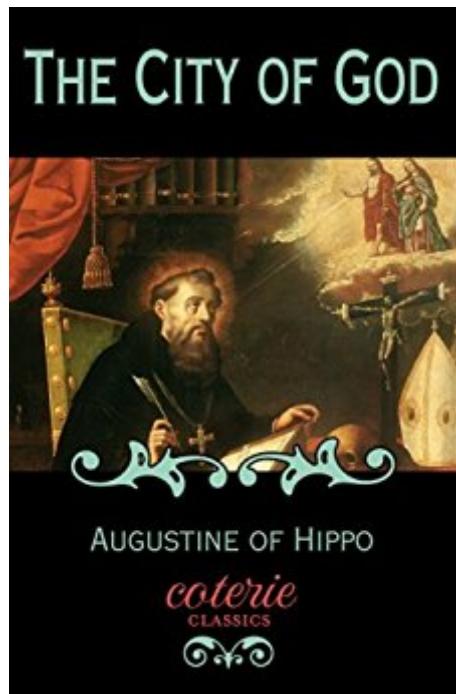


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The City Of God (Coterie Classics With Free Audiobook)



Synopsis

The City of God by Augustine of Hippo Shaw from Coterie Classics All Coterie Classics have been formatted for ereaders and devices and include a bonus link to the free audio book. "God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them." • Augustine of Hippo, City of God City of God was written just as Rome was coming to an end and is essential for understanding the history of Western Christendom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although I am normally a quick reader, it has taken me about six months to finish The City of God. At times I was frustrated, and believed that the book was imbued with a generative power, and grew longer the further I read. And yet I am a little sad to have finished it, for no matter what was going on in my life, like Scripture, the City of God had relevance. How to summarize such a monumental work? First of all, I do not concur with the diminishment of the early parts of the work. While Books 1 through X are indeed more clearly tied to the dissolving Roman world, it is extremely helpful for us to get our minds into a time when pagans were more than countercultural "post-Christian" teenage

losers. Augustine's vivid arguments against the pagan "theology" are incisive. More notably, they bring into focus a world that was both ultra-rational in the Platonic/Aristotilean tradition, and "superstitious" in its belief in household gods, demons, curses, and magic. That both a very advanced science and such beliefs could coexist is a lesson to us in our secularized, smug modern world. The temporal proximity of Augustine to Christ and the Apostles brings another level of clarity. While Augustine emphasized that "none shall know the day nor hour," it is clear that there is an apocalyptic undercurrent in the Christian society he inhabits. The urgency of Christian life seems to me to have diminished. Particularly striking are Augustine's arguments against those "tender-hearted Christians" who hold various levels of Salvation for even the most depraved. In our world of ecumenical outreach, guitar-Mass hippy communalism, Augustine's defense of the limited Salvation is a necessary wake-up call.

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