



## The Last Disciple

*Hank Hanegraaff, Sigmund Brouwer*

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On a hot summer day, deep in the emperors palace, death arrived hidden in a sealed scroll. When Helius discovers what's written in the scroll, he recognizes it as the symbol hell stop at nothing to keep hidden.

First-century Jerusalem begins to experience the turbulence Christ prophesied as the beginning of the last days. What is the meaning of 666? Some want to reveal its meaning, and others will kill to keep it hidden.

As the enemy seeks to find Johns letter, Revelation, and destroy it, the early Christians must decipher the code in order to survive.

## The Last Disciple Details

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## From Reader Review The Last Disciple for online ebook

### **Jessica says**

This book was an excellent read!! It had me at the edge of my seat the entire time. The courage that these faithful Christians possessed (through the grace of God!) is awe inspiring. And the tortures that they endured for the sake of Christ brought me to my knees!!

I found this book to be very, very moving and encouraging. I strongly recommend this to 16 and up! \*goes to read book 2, "The Last Sacrifice"\*

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### **Steven says**

Hanegraaff's response to the LEFT BEHIND series is another interesting installment in the author's "What They Should Have Written" series. I made that title up, of course, but it was nicer than "What they Would Have Written if they Were as Smart as I am." \*\*

That's too harsh for Hanegraaff, whose work merits more attention than it gets. His radio show (The Bible Answer Man) is excellent, and the speaker/author certainly does his homework. Sometimes I think he is frustrated that such poor books get the massive marketing campaigns that they do. But then, that's the frustration of everyone who is well-trained in a classical, non-pop discipline.

I enjoyed this book, probably as much as the completely different LEFT BEHIND series. But I was not so smitten that I read any others.

(\*\*Another is his THE PRAYER OF JESUS (not on goodreads), an answer to Wilkinson's THE PRAYER OF JABEZ. Unfortunately, where Wilkinson has the advantage of offering analysis of an until-then obscure Old Testament prayer, Hanegraaff chooses for his subject the much more deserving, but well-known and prolifically analyzed "Lord's Prayer." Anyway, Hanegraaff has little unique insight to add, and his book cannot survive the comparison to Wilkinson's.)

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### **Patrick Moen says**

An interesting counterpoint to the Left Behind series. I don't buy the premise but I did enjoy the book. Before I became a believer in Christ I used to read books that were combat focused exclusively. This book harkens back to those days while also teaching a lot about Roman and Hebrew history.

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### **Adrienna says**

there are very minimal parts that keeps my interest in the audio cds.

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### **September says**

I found this book quite disjointed. It was like the authors felt the need to manufacture drama. So, they'd give you a few paragraphs (A few pages, if you're lucky.), then jump to a new scene.

There were times when the authors would jump to a brand new setting/characters but leave out imperative details. It left the reader confused and hanging, as they quickly cut to a new scene.

I found the character development lacking

Honestly, it was pretty grueling to get through. To top it off, almost nothing was resolved in the end. After the fact, I learned that this is the first book in a new series.

On a positive note, I was impressed by the passion of Christos' followers, who would willingly die for their Master, as He had died for them.

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### **Ben Chenoweth says**

OK, I was hoping this would be better than "Apocalypse", but it wasn't. This was way too melodramatic. I really didn't feel the authors dealt with the book of Revelation in the context of the late 60's of the first century. They were more concerned about Mark 13 / Matt. 24. And when they did touch on Revelation towards the end, they didn't explain why the book was written to Christians in Asia Minor when the persecution under Nero was centered on Rome. Disappointing, and I won't go looking for the others in the series.

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### **JEn says**

Interesting take on the book of Revelation.

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### **Kristy says**

I don't agree with the idea here that the antichrist already came, so I can't give this a better rating than 3 stars. However, story-wise this was very intriguing.

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### **Natalie Vellacott says**

There are three books in this series, *The Last Disciple* is the first. This book was not dissimilar to *The Advocate* by Randy Singer that I have just read.

It took me a while to understand what was going on in this book. There were numerous characters and the author jumps around a lot amongst the different scenes. It was difficult to keep track of the plot and storylines. I found myself re-reading whole sections to keep on track. I also found that I wasn't gripped by the main story and became indifferent to what was going to happen by the end.

The book is set in the first century and Nero is in control. The authors present a view that is supposed to contrast the *Left Behind* series of eschatological events. Basically, the majority of biblical prophecies have already been fulfilled, the Great Tribulation has already happened and the anti-christ has been revealed. There is an explanation of this at the end of the book alongside the biblical reasoning for this interpretation. This is not a view that is held by most Christians who expect the rapture, tribulation, anti-christ etc at some point in the future.

Whilst personally I don't hold the views of the authors, as it is fiction, this would not have influenced my rating had the story been more comprehensive. Some characters seemed to become lost as the book progressed and we never learned what happened to them. Maybe this will be addressed in future books but I probably won't be reading them...

I appreciate that the authors made the point that end time views are not something for Christians to divide over and that it is good to keep the dialogue open. I agree and am interested in the various views on the subject.

This book could've been interesting but it was also full of graphic violence, torture and some sexual content although the latter wasn't graphic. There was no bad language. I am rating this as okay but wouldn't recommend it as it just didn't hold my interest.

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### **Emily Wolfenbarger says**

I practically read this in one sitting. Incredible, biblical, inventive. Amazing and highly recommended!

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### **Lee Harmon says**

I'm unaware of another book out there that presents the preterist view in a fictional story, and that alone earns The Last Disciple recognition. If you need a reminder, preterism is a branch of Christianity that believes most of the prophecies and covenantal promises of the Bible have been fulfilled. Armageddon is over. Much, if not all, of Revelation has occurred.

The setting for the book is the years of Nero Caesar's reign, just prior to the war of 70 AD, when the Romans overran Jerusalem. Nero, of course, is the Beast of Revelation, and a beastly fellow he is! The story is told primarily from the viewpoint of Vilas, a trusted advisor, who recognizes Nero is in the throes of madness. He meets up with John the Apostle, the author of Revelation, and together they flee the tentacles of the Beast. This is the first of a series, though I haven't yet seen evidence of future books.

Fiction is not Hanegraaff's bread and butter. I guess that's where Brouwer comes in. For the record, I'll say the fiction is moderately well-written and the plot engaging enough to hold my attention, but that hardly seems to matter to readers. Reviews are all over the map. If appears that you're a preterist, you'll love this

book. If you're a futurist, you'll hate it. If you're undecided, you should probably save the fiction until you can enjoy it, and study the Biblical foundations of preterism first.

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### **Lorraine says**

This is a great read. Fiction but give another viewpoint to compare to the Left Behind series.

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### **Tirzah says**

This book is set in 1st century Jerusalem & Rome during the time of Nero's reign. I love reading absorbing stories from this period and, for me, this was that type of book. There was action, intrigue and romance with characters I cared about and a story that kept me turning the pages. However, going into this I knew it was Mr. Hanegraff's response to the Left Behind series so I was prepared but I still had a hard time swallowing his Preterist views that he intertwined throughout the book - views that I, personally, do not share. I do not think that Nero, as horribly evil as he was, was "THE" beast that Revelation talks about. But anyway, other than that, I found it to be an enjoyable read.

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### **Ashley says**

I know the Christian/Fiction Genre Stamp are going to put some people off... **DO NOT LET IT!!!**

This is a very Intriguing, Interesting, Insightful Beautifully told book!!! The Historical importance of the book is a large factor in getting more people reading it. But it shows the subject in a more "Personable" Light....(We all have heard the stories of Old Testament Christians, How it is Jammed down our throats.... this book does not do that, The opposite really. Its many POVs of many factions of life, We had Gallant Hero's, Loyal Freedmen, Greedy Temple Priests, Evil Femmes, Sympathetic Slaves, Faithful to the end Christians, And the Empire NERO

Nero was made out as we have all probably heard him to be, A Insane, Evil, Wicked man Who rules with an iron fist and fear. His will is Law and he is "Divine". I have read many Articles and books on his reign and all of them are pretty much the same in the end... But i do love books from this era, and this one was a great read...

(view spoiler)

On to the next book....

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## **Christian Fiction Addiction says**

Set in first-century Rome, The Last Disciple weaves together the stories of Gallus Sergius Vitas, a man within the inner circle of Emperor Nero, with the lives of Christians who are experiencing ever-greater persecution for their beliefs. Vitas has committed to serve justice equally for all, and is no longer able to stand by as Nero carries out horrific acts against Christian believers, or while other Roman rulers plunder and steal to their own benefit. Vitas sets out to Jerusalem to investigate the rule of Judea under Florus, the Roman procurator, and ends up witnessing first-hand the mistreatment of the Jews when Florus uses the Roman army to cover up his own abuses. When Vitas returns to Rome to give his report, it is discovered that he has married a Christian, a sect Nero has become increasingly focused on wiping out. Meanwhile, a divine prophecy has emerged from Jesus' last disciple, John, concerning a revelation he received, a revelation that appears to threaten Nero's reign. Nero's closest allies become consumed with deciphering the meaning of the prophecy, while events unfold that place Vitas' very life at risk, along with the lives of those he most holds dear.

Sigmund Brouwer and Hank Hanegraaff have woven a riveting tale, one that has been painted with vivid imagery and haunting details. The characters are well-fleshed out, with much to admire in such persons as Vitas or Sophia or the last disciple, John, but also characters who are so sinister that I shudder to imagine that they actually existed. The historical setting of Rome under the rule of Emperor Nero, combined with his ruthless persecution of Christians, makes for a compelling read, equally entertaining and disturbing at the same time. As I read, I was envisioning the Christians being mauled in the arena by animals or being hung in the city streets and lit on fire, and I found my own faith stirred and inspired by the experiences of the Christians who lived so courageously at that time. I loved the richness that this book brings to details of the Bible, and I am amazed that they were able to take passages of the Bible and debates about prophecies foretold by Jesus in the gospels or by his disciple John in the book of Revelation, and weave these elements into a tale of gripping suspense. Although not all readers may resonate with the stance on prophecy and end times that this book takes, I think that it serves as an excellent alternative to books like the Left Behind series, and it is sure to make you think. Regardless of your beliefs, the book is extremely well-written, fast paced and entertaining, and will give you a greater appreciation for what Christians experienced at the time of the writing of the book of Revelation. The conclusion is powerful and literally had me racing to the last page.

I highly recommend this book and award it 5 out of 5 stars. I can't wait to read the second book in the series!

Book has been provided courtesy of the publisher, Tyndale, for the purposes of this unbiased review.

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