

**After Saturday Comes Sunday:
Understanding the Christian Crisis in the Middle East**

Elizabeth Kendal

Author: Elizabeth Kendal is a leading religious freedom analyst and prayer advocate on behalf of the persecuted church. She authors the weekly Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin, serves as the Director of Advocacy for Christian Faith and Freedom (Canberra), and is an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Arthur Jeffery Centre for the Study of Islam at Melbourne School of Theology.

Publisher, Date & Pages: Resource Publications, 2016, 281 pages

Cover Description(s): The post-Christian West is in decline, revived Islam is on the rise, and Mesopotamia (Syria-Iraq), the cradle of civilization, has become ground zero in a battle for civilization. In her latest book, Elizabeth Kendal opens the eyes of her readers in compelling fashion to the tragedy that has befallen Middle Eastern Christians. Her extensive experience as a religious liberty analyst has informed this work, which is at once an insightful survey of past historical and political events, and a call to action on behalf of persecuted Christians. No reader could fail to be moved by this powerful study.

Endorsements: Peter Riddell, Bishop Anba Suriel, Hermiz Shahen, Jeff Sellers.

Comments: The title is taken from an Arabic cry - which essentially means "After we (Muslims) get rid of the Jews we'll get rid of the Christians" - and the book shows how this has been playing out on the ground, specifically in the historic Christian heartland of Mesopotamia. The author provides the foundations of the problem from the beginning, including geography, history, and ideology. Particular emphasis is on Islamic ideology and worldview, in order to understand why Islam has, throughout the ages, been such a threat to non-Muslims (and dissident Muslims in its path and under its rule. The author concludes with a call to solidarity across denominational lines with the suffering and existentially imperiled church in the Middle East.

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Rating on a scale of 1 to 5:

1. Not a good use of your time
2. Okay, but not that useful
3. Satisfactory, not great – but a good read
4. Loved reading it
5. Impactful, highly recommend

This book: 2-3

"Recommendation" Statement: If you would like a good "history" of events in the Middle East beginning with the Arab Spring in 2011 and up through 2016, this book is very helpful. Otherwise two things: (1) It repeats a lot of Islamic history, and (2) It often gets into the details – and most of the time – stays too long!

Reviewer: J. Bennett, February 2019