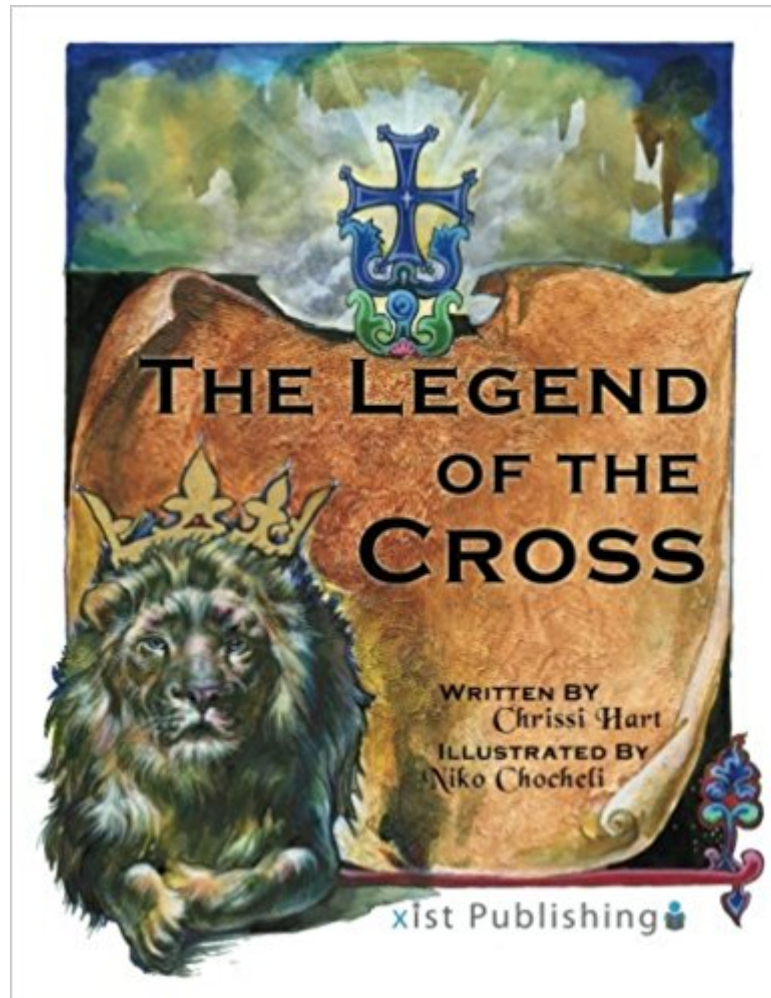




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The Legend Of The Cross



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Synopsis

From the Garden of Eden to Golgotha – the myth retold for young audiences. Discover the legend of the tree that would become the Cross of Christ. Grown from seeds gifted from the heavens, a magnificent tree participates in ancient history before becoming the crowning symbol of Christianity. Don't miss this complement to the story of Easter that is sure to become a Christian children's classic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chrissi Hart is a published author of children's books. Her books include The Hermit, the Icon, and the Emperor: The Holy Virgin Comes to Cyprus and Under the Grapevine, A Miracle by St. Kendeas of Cyprus.

great read

The "Legend of the Cross" gives us the story of the three seeds given to Adam's son Seth so that Adam maybe restored to paradise and the journey those three seeds took from tree to the cross that Jesus died upon. As a Christian I was unfamiliar with this story but I fell in love with it. The author is a remarkable storyteller capturing the very essence of this time honored tale combining three legends into one outstanding children's story. The illustrations are beautiful giving the reader the feel of stories of King Arthur or even the "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis.

Perfectly matched by adding pictures and story together makes for an excellent book that I didn't want to end. As I am sure any child will become caught up in this amazing story and will want read again and again especially for a wonderful bedtime story.

A delightful telling of this beautiful story, the illustrations are worth the entire book. The combination of the author and illustrator are a perfect match. Belongs in every church library also.

Reading this to my 5-year-old, even I learned something about this beautiful relic. The illustrations are also captivating for young and old.

Beautifully illustrated. Lovely for the 7 year old and up.

I was hoping for a story that was based on the biblical accounts. It is beautifully illustrated, but the kindle version is missing words. All in all, I was not satisfied.

The Legend of the Cross, by Dr. Chrissi Hart, illustrated by Niko Chocheli, is a retelling of a legend of the origin of the wood of the holy cross of Christ. The legend tells the story of the wood from its original planting to its use as the cross of Christ. According to the legend, seeds from Paradise were given to Seth, when Adam was dying; he placed them in Adam's mouth at his burial, and the seeds grew into a three-branched tree. Throughout Old Testament times, the tree grew: it survived the flood in which Noah and his family floated in the ark; King David sat under its branches to compose; and finally, Solomon had it cut down for use in building the temple. However, because the wood kept changing sizes, it was not used for the temple and, in fact, became a footbridge. The Queen of Sheba, when she visited King Solomon, was enlightened as to the future of the wood and, herself, venerated it and refused to cross the river on it. She instead waded to get to the other side. Eventually the wood was tossed aside in a deep pit. The pit miraculously filled with water, and became the pool of Bethesda, where many people were healed when the Archangel Raphael would come and stir the water with his staff. The wood remained in that pool for many years, finally surfacing on the day of Christ's crucifixion, when a Roman soldier spotted it and deemed it fitting for a cross: the cross of Christ. Christ's work on this cross has pointed us all to heaven; to the way of God. And so, the legend states, "the three seeds of hope that once grew on Adam's grave show each of us the narrow path back to the garden of Paradise." (p. 27) This legend

developed in the 12th century. Mr. Chocheli's illuminated-manuscript-like illustrations beautifully and appropriately illustrate the story. Realism is mixed with fantasy in his unique art style, as is iconography. All three pair well to communicate the story in the historical context in which it was written. Unfortunately, printing has somewhat subdued the glory of the original colors, however, only one who has seen the originals would notice. The illustrations, as printed, are beautiful; and their subdued color communicates the somberness of the legend. Appropriately, the brightest colors in the illustrations are those used at the birth and resurrection of Christ. The word usage and storytelling style of the book may be difficult for young children to comprehend, but the detail in the illustrations offers a variety of things for them to observe. Older children with a good biblical background will see how the pieces of Old Testament history fit together with the legend of the cross, and appreciate the interplay between the two. The story lends itself to inter-generational discussion about the cross and its significance in Christian history and life. Dr. Hart and Mr. Chocheli have once again collaborated to create a beautiful work of art for the glory of God and for the growth of His Church.

Chrissi Hart's *The Legend of the Cross* is a delightful and captivating retelling of the ancient legend of the tree that became the cross on which Christ was crucified. While Adam's son Seth is in heaven receiving three special seeds from the Archangel Michael, Adam dies. Seth plants the three seeds in Adam's mouth just prior to his burial. The three seeds blossom, combine, and grow into a magnificent three-branched tree that later survives the Flood, grants shelter to King David, helps the Queen of Sheba visit King Solomon, grants healing to people, and eventually becomes the main beam for Christ's cross. Hart tells the story in an engaging manner that will appeal to children and grownups alike. The story is wonderful in itself, but it is made even better by the breathtaking illustrations by Niko Chocheli. Christians of all traditions should get this wonderful book and read it to their children. Regardless of whether or not they accept the legend as true, all will be enriched by the beautiful storytelling and artwork found within *The Legend of the Cross*.

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