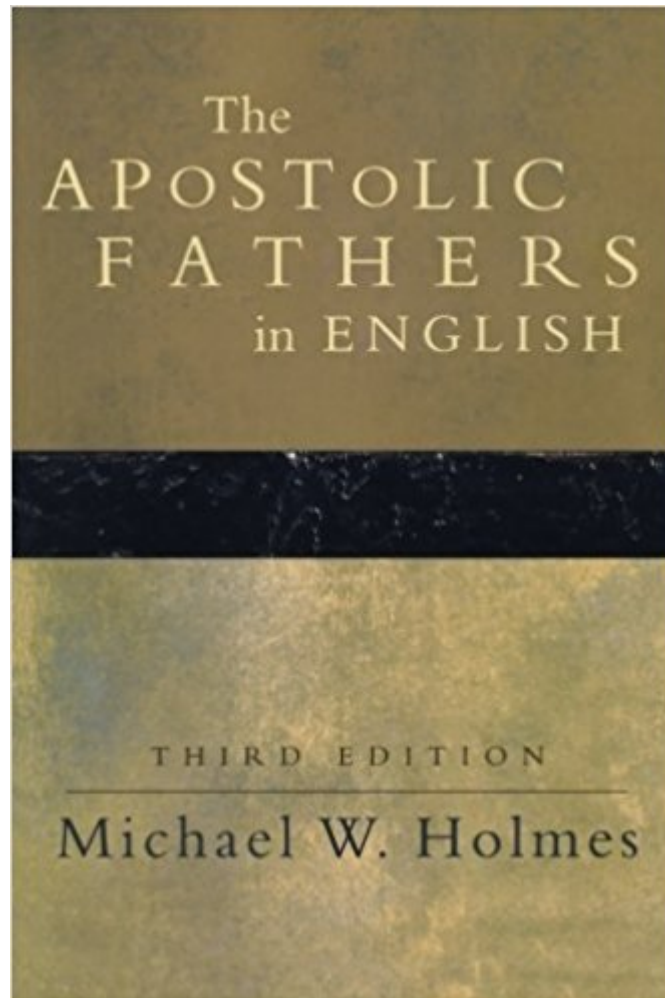




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# **The Apostolic Fathers In English**



## Synopsis

The Apostolic Fathers is an important collection of writings revered by early Christians but not included in the final canon of the New Testament. Here a leading expert on these texts offers an authoritative contemporary translation, in the tradition of the magisterial Lightfoot version but thoroughly up to date. The third edition features numerous changes, including carefully revised translations and a new, more user friendly design. The introduction, notes, and bibliographies have been freshly revised as well.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael W. Holmes (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is professor of biblical studies and early Christianity at Bethel University. A leading scholar of the Apostolic Fathers, he is currently writing a major critical commentary on Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians and The Martyrdom of Polycarp.

If you don't have time to read 8600 pages of the Ante-Nicene Fathers, reading this work is very helpful to understand the position of the earliest of the fathers, the apostolic ones, the ones who sat at the feet of the apostles.

I would recommend Apostolic Fathers in English to anyone wanting to learn the roots of our Christian Faith, from the earliest century of Christianity. The introductory material is a little excessive, but the access to early letters and sermons from men who knew and were trained by the

Apostles of Christ is a real treasure. Many of these same men had also experienced contact with Christ Himself, and were also eye-witnesses to His life, teachings, miracles, death and Resurrection, adding their accounts to the record of the Apostles themselves. I have just begun to read, sequentially, through the Fathers actual writings, and enjoy the sense of contact with the first Christians I find there. I didn't need to have my faith validated, but these letters and sermons do validate my faith all the same. I would suggest to any reader to use the Table of Contents and go directly to "the horse's mouth" reading just the actual writings of the Apostolic Fathers. Leave all the introductory material until last so that any undue influence may be avoided in the reader's response to the Fathers' writing. The reader will come away feeling a sense of having touched the past, and found a link to the present. It's a challenging and comforting read.

Having made extensive use of his Greek/English 2nd edition, this 3rd edition translation of the Apostolic Fathers is a great resource for pastors or interested laypeople. The translations are lucid, clear, and contemporary (without being at all "trendy"); newly expanded footnotes and bibliographies for each work make full use of the most recent scholarship. The scripture-reference footnotes for Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians are particularly dense, given that Holmes makes full use of Berding's and Hartog's studies on Polycarp's use of the NT. If you have more academic interests, the 2nd edition Greek/English is still a very good translation and has a host of technical footnotes not included in this edition. If you just want to read the Apostolic Fathers in clear English, this is the one for you.

Exactly what I needed for my courses. Kindle edition is very easy to use and practical. The author presents the material very clearly and provides excellent introductions to each translation. I didn't give it 5 stars because the kindle edition is difficult to use if you need to provide footnotes and citations.

I'm not an academic and I don't know Greek but am probably more widely and deeply read than the average layman. I find "thee/thou" language difficult to navigate and, for that reason, have had difficulty reading 19th Century English translations of the Church Fathers for any extended period. Holmes' translation is perfect for someone like me. The language is up to date and much easier to read than, say, Schaff, but his writing maintains an academic respectability. Think NIV or NRSV for the Apostolic Church Fathers. Some of the commentary strikes me as Protestant (I'm Eastern Orthodox), but reading the early Fathers has never been as enjoyable and enlightening. This is the

best book purchase I've made in years.

Good collection which is really necessary to supplement the New Testament. The New Testament does not fully recapture all the activity and beliefs of the first century Church.

Everyone should be aware of these works as an insight to what early Christians thought about their faith. This work is a more recent translation that makes the thoughts of early believers available to the average reader and should be read by every student of Christianity.

This is a helpful reference book to find information about most of the Apostolic Fathers. Their writings are translated into easy-to-read English.. I bought the Kindle edition.

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