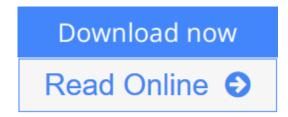


# Reasons to Believe: How to Understand, Explain, and Defend the Catholic Faith

By Scott Hahn



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This book unravels mysteries, corrects misunderstandings, and offers thoughtful, straightforward responses to common objections about the Catholic faith.

Bestselling author Scott Hahn, a convert to Catholicism, has experienced the doubts that so often drive discussions about God and the Church. In the years before his conversion, he was first a nonbeliever and then an anti-Catholic clergyman.

In REASONS TO BELIEVE, he explains the "how and why" of the Catholic faith—drawing from Scripture, his own struggles and those of other converts, as well as from everyday life and even natural science. Hahn shows that reason and revelation, nature and the supernatural, are not opposed to one another; rather they offer complementary evidence that God exists. But He doesn't merely exist. He is someone, and He has a personality, a personal style, that is discernible and knowable. Hahn leads readers to see that God created the universe with a purpose and a form—a form that can be found in the Book of Genesis and that is there when we view the natural world through a microscope, through a telescope, or through our contact lenses.

At the heart of the book is Hahn's examination of the ten "keys to the kingdom"—the characteristics of the Church clearly evident in the Scriptures. As the story of creation discloses, the world is a house that has a Father, a palace where the king is really present. God created the cosmos to be a kingdom, and that kingdom is the universal Church, fully revealed by Jesus Christ.





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#### Reasons to Believe: How to Understand, Explain, and Defend the Catholic Faith By Scott Hahn Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #34064 in Books

• Brand: Hahn, Scott

Published on: 2007-05-08Released on: 2007-05-08Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.52" h x .90" w x 5.79" l, .86 pounds

• Binding: Hardcover

• 240 pages

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#### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Many times in its 2,000-year history, the Catholic Church was under tremendous scrutiny and even persecution, thus necessitating the faithful to provide a cogent and passionate explanation of doctrine to skeptics. These explanations developed into a formal branch of theology known as "apologetics." Hahn, an increasingly popular theologian, speaker and writer, has grabbed the doctrinal baton with books like *The Lamb's Supper* and *Hail, Holy Queen*. Here he presents a contemporary apologetics for those who feel a need to defend their faith in the postmodern world. Hahn certainly knows the Catechism, and his writing is concise and certain. He unabashedly declares the Catholic faith to be "the only Christian body that professes one faith, undivided, unchanged, throughout the world and throughout the ages." While some may be persuaded by this rhetoric, such phrases will come across to others as overly triumphalistic, especially since the history of the church includes many doctrinal disputes and painful clashes over belief that Hahn glosses over. Readers wrestling with doubts about their faith may not find much solace in Hahn's work, but Catholics who feel the need to articulate their viewpoint to fellow believers and nonbelievers could benefit from Hahn's clear explanation of doctrine. (*May*)

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#### Review

Advance Praise for Reasons to Believe:

"A flagship volume for contemporary apologetics. This book should be required reading for every Catholic college student and especially for every priest, seminarian, and deacon. This is apologetics made fascinating." —Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, CFR

"An outstanding book." — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. (Denver Archdiocese)

"The definitive book on the subject of apologetics." —Marcus Grodi, TV host, The Journey Home

"A cohesive vision of God's kingdom that enables people more fully to understand, live, and defend the truth of the Catholic Church.... This is a book many have been waiting for." —Jeff Cavins, author of *My Life on the Rock* 

"Relying on Scripture, history, and logic, Hahn offers clear and compelling reasons to embrace the Catholic Faith and to defend that Faith, charitably and joyfully. He shows us yet again not just what to say, but how to say it." —Patrick Madrid, author of *Search and Rescue* and *Does the Bible Really Say That?* 

"Hahn does more than respond to our doubts. He shows us a God who has a plan for history and for each of our lives." —David Scott, author of *The Catholic Passion* 

"Hahn's gently expressed enthusiasm for theology is infectious.... This work will help those who are inquiring about the Catholic Church to 'take the leap,' and those already within the fold to appreciate all the more the biblical basis for, and unique fullness of, the Catholic faith."

—Dave Armstrong, author of A Biblical Defense of Catholicism

"A great aid to anyone interested in the biblical, patristic, and historical reasons to believe in Jesus Christ as a Catholic Christian." —John Michael Talbot, songwriter; founder of The Brothers and Sisters of Charity at Little Portion Hermitage

"Scott Hahn, perhaps Catholicism's leading evangelist in English, takes the next step....a book for believers who want to grow stronger in their faith and share it with others, and for inquirers who search for a belief that satisfies both the mind and the heart." —Fr. C. J. McCloskey III, Research Fellow, Faith and Reason Institute, Washington, DC

"Hahn knows how to write for us ordinary people." —Mark P. Shea, CatholicExchange.com

"Very highly recommended." —Thomas Howard, author of On Being Catholic

"Often we are asked to give an account of the hope that is in us, to explain our Catholic faith. In *Reasons to Believe*, Scott Hahn offers that explanation in a clear, cogent, and compelling manner, by answering the most frequently raised questions about aspects of Church teaching. It is a must-read for Catholics who want to be able to explain the faith they hold and cherish. This work should be of immense value." —Archbishop Donald W.

Wuerl (Archdiocese of Washington, DC)

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#### **Nancy Landry:**

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