

BOOKS WORTH READING



The World Before And After Jesus

(NAPS)—With his bestselling “hinges of history” series which includes *How The Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*,



Thomas Cahill

Thomas Cahill proved himself to be a master interpreter of the forces of good that shaped Western civilization.

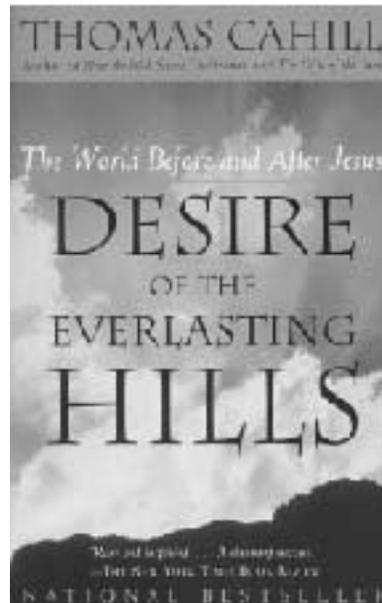
Now in his latest book about people and events that changed the world, he turns his attention to one pivotal individual: Jesus of Nazareth.

The story of who Jesus was—the world he was born into and the world he left behind—is told in *Desire of the Everlasting Hills* (Anchor Books, \$14) by Thomas Cahill.

In his book Cahill asks and answers such questions as: What would it have been like to be alive in Jesus’ time and to have known him and his followers?

Cahill begins his book by describing the time in history in which Jesus lived. Readers learn about the oppressive Roman political presence, the pervasive Greek cultural influence, and especially the widely varied social and religious context of the Judaism in which Jesus moved and flourished.

For example, Cahill shows Jesus’ mother Mary, to be a strong, smart and inquisitive



woman of her time who was a vivid presence and forceful influence on her son.

The apostle Paul’s complexities are fully explored—from his insistence on equality between the sexes, to his then-radical, anti-slavery views, to how he was the most articulate and focused spokesperson for the fledgling Christian faith.

Jesus himself comes to be seen as a real person, sharp-witted and sharp-tongued but kind, humorous, and affectionate, shadowed by the inevitable climax of his impending crucifixion.