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## Burns and Jensen's "Christianity in Roman Africa: The Development of its Practices and Beliefs" (Book Review)

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subject index adequately satisfies readers' needs. Theology and psychology students, faculty, pastors, and counselors will gain an historical perspective of psychoanalysis and a theologically balanced assessment of the topic. Academic and liberal arts libraries should add it to their collections.

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**Christianity in Roman Africa:  
The Development of its Practices and Beliefs,**

by J. Patout Burns Jr. and Robin M. Jensen. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014.  
723 pp. \$55.00. ISBN 9780802869319

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J. Patout Burns Jr. and Robin M. Jensen have crafted an in-depth volume detailing the practice of faith by early Christians in North Africa during the second through fifth centuries, including the Vandal Era and the Byzantine Period. The authors begin with a foundational overview of Christianity in Roman Africa, allowing for the core of the text to delve into the theology and practices of these believers. Topics explored include: baptism, the Eucharist, penance, clergy and religious orders, marriage and family, death and burial customs, the cult of the martyrs, and piety of believers. Lastly, the influence of Roman Christianity on Latin Christianity's theological practices and positions are explored. African theologians Tertullian, Cyprian, and Augustine are profiled in depth through this volume.

Burns and Jensen shape their work through an archaeological and literary lens, accomplishing a dual focus of providing a broad overview of early Christian theology and practices in the North African region but also detailing specific archaeological evidence and histories. Consequently, *Christianity in Roman Africa* is recommended as a useful companion to track theological and faith expressions over time, especially from a non-Western perspective. Applicable socio-cultural applications and commentary lead to the richness of this text. A wonderful highlight of this volume is the numerous illustrations; many full color photographs, diagrams, and other illustrations make the text come alive. Because it is well written and presented, the volume is quite readable and accessible. The accompanying timeline and bibliography provide necessary background for understanding the social and cultural context. This work is especially recommended as a means to make apparent the impact of African theology on Christianity and would strengthen college, university, and seminary libraries.