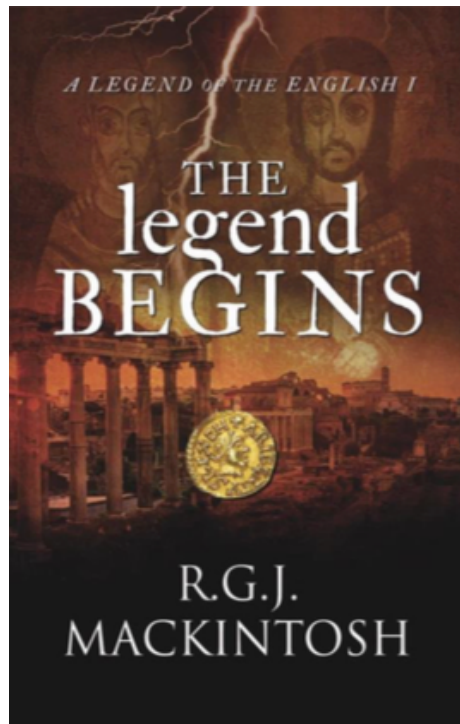


Christian Book Club Session 1:

The Legend Begins



PREPARATION

Gather together a small group (in friends' homes, or Zoom, etc).

AIM

Deepen your insights into some of the tensions between Religion and Faith.
Deepen your understanding of Christianity and Paganism in the C8th AD.
Consider: where are we with Faith and Practice today?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why does Queen Bertha give a golden coin to Alric on the day of his birth? How does Alric's attitude towards the pagan god Wodin change over time? How does Alric use the coin as he grows and matures?
2. Later, in San Andreas Monastery in Rome, why might Abba Gregorius have probed into Alric's pagan beliefs regarding his home Kingdom of Cantia?
3. A few years later, during a devastating plague in Rome, how does Alric respond to the Angel as the Pope attempts to cross the bridge over the Tiber?
4. Alric meets Paulina (at a neighbouring monastery), and finds himself deeply conflicted. Should he abandon his vocation as a monk, and marry the beautiful Paulina? Or remain in Alric's monastery in Rome as a scribe? Which does Alric choose? Do you think he takes the right path? And why?
5. As a reader, what impression did the following characters affect **you** the most in the novel, *The Legend Begins*? And why?
 - a) **At Sandwic Haven** – Alric, Erlina or Galen?
 - b) **At Ratteburg Fort** – Cadmon, Earl Sighart?
 - c) **In the Kingdom of Cantia** – Queen Bertha, King Ethelbert?
 - d) **At sea** – Felix and his crew?
 - e) **In Rome** – Abbot Gregorius, Augustinus, and Tutor Petrus?
6. Overall, is *The Legend Begins* a satisfying read? In what way?