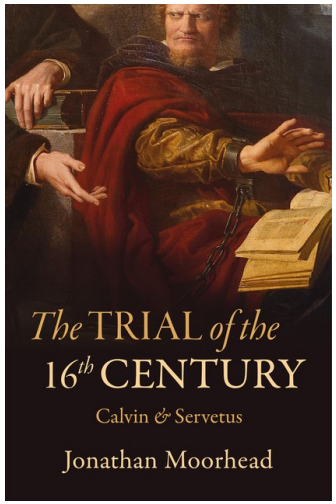
# The Trial of the 16th Century

## Calvin & Servetus

*Jonathan Moorhead*

**RELEASE DATE 10 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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**DESCRIPTION**

The execution of Michael Servetus (1511–53) is one of the most debated events in the life of John Calvin (1509–1564). It has left an indelible stain on his reputation and the retelling of the story is often dependent on the historian's relationship to Calvinism. Jonathan Moorhead here seeks to give a faithful narrative of the role of John Calvin in the execution of Michael Servetus. He examines the life of Servetus, with emphasis given to his education, publications, and relationship with John Calvin.

**MARKETING POINTS**

Controversial trial of a heretic

Role of Calvin in execution of Servetus

Encourages thinking about ethics of telling history

**AUTHOR**

Jonathan Moorhead(PhD; ThM; MDiv) has served with The Master's Academy International in Russia, the Czech Republic, France, and Switzerland as an instructor. He is a pastor at Geneva Bible Church, is a fellow with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC), and is the author of 'The Trial of the 16th Century: Calvin & Servetus'. Jonathan and his wife Sharon have five children: Nahum, Isaac, Jesse, Jonas, and Miriam.

**ENDORSEMENTS**

This well researched study demonstrates the situation in Geneva and the Protestant Swiss cantons, forever exonerating John Calvin as the principal complainant and persecutor in the case. The book is a wonderful addition to our collective knowledge of both the times and of Calvin. I highly recommend it.

**John D. Hannah**
*Distinguished Professor of Historical Theology, Research Professor of Theological Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas*

... an extremely helpful study of a significant event of the French Reformation and reveals how the history of such difficult and intricate events should be written.

**Michael A. G. Haykin**
*Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky*

... confronts all those who for centuries have turned Servetus into an innocent martyr and a victim of Calvin's cruel rule in Geneva. Here we have the whole story and the true one, and thus a different one. The book reads like a good movie, but there is no happy end and there are no winners, except for the historical truth.

**Herman Selderhuis**
*President, Theological University Apeldoorn, The Netherlands*

... demonstrates that Calvin's primary concern was not his execution, but his conversion. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in finding out what exactly transpired, and the broader implications.

**John MacArthur**
*(1939-2025) Chancellor, The Master's University and Seminary; Pastor–Teacher, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California*

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

LARGE TRADE PAPERBACK
104 Pages

ISBN 9781527107212
BISAC REL108020
PRICE £9.99 $13.99