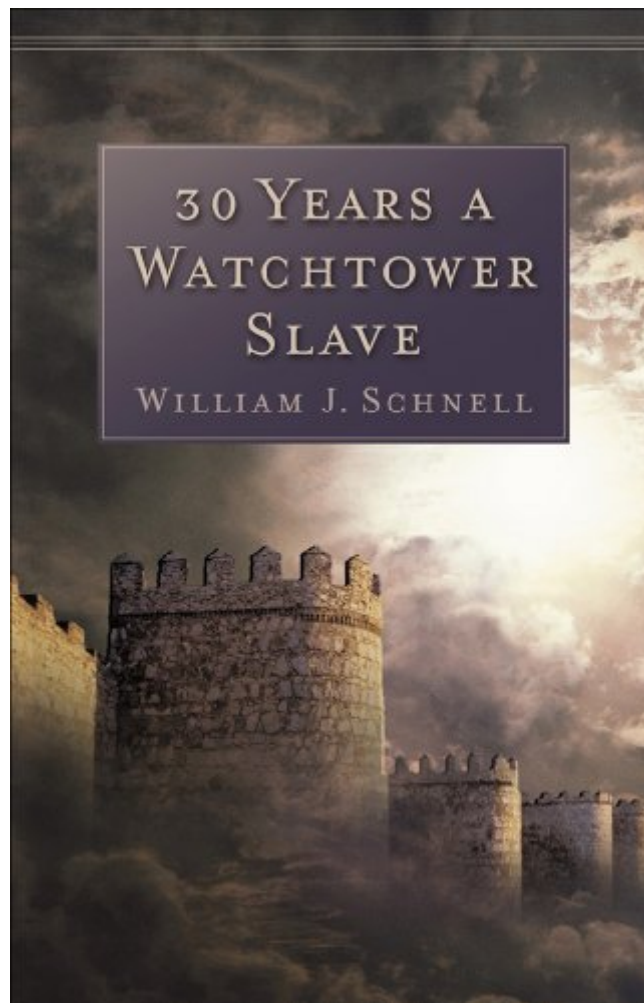




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30 Years A Watchtower Slave: The Confessions Of A Converted Jehovah's Witness



Synopsis

At first, the Watchtower Society seemed harmless to William J. Schnell, even valuable as a way to develop his faith in God and pass it on to others. This book is Schnell's fascinating account of his involvement with the cult, which effectively enticed him in the 1920s and continues to lure countless individuals today. Readers will learn, as Schnell did, that the Jehovah's Witness religion he had joined was anything but innocent. For thirty years he was enslaved by one of the most totalitarian religions of our day, and his story of finally becoming free is riveting. Readers will be alerted to the inner machinations, methods, and doctrines of the Watchtower Society, arming them to forewarn others and witness to their Jehovah's Witness friends, relatives, neighbors, and the stranger at the door. With more than 300,000 copies sold, 30 Years a Watchtower Slave is truly one of the classic testimonies of freedom from a powerful cult.

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Customer Reviews

This book gives a personal view from a one time "prominent" publisher of the Watchtower Society.

This book pre-dates Ray Franz book "Crisis of Conscience", written from early 20th century, shortly after the Jehovah's Witnesses were formed. The author describes the original true background of the Watchtower Society as a multi-million dollar publishing company. The only goal of the society was to push publications to make money. The author even describes the propaganda created by J. Rutherford during WWII that landed several Jehovah's Witnesses in jail/concentration camps unnecessarily under NAZI regime just to "prove" that so called true Christians were to be "tried and tested". This is a must-read for current JW's (even though I know the Governing Body instructs them to "stay away" from this type of material) as well as Ex-JW's as myself.

I haven't finished this book yet that's the reason for the four star rating. I purchased this book because; 90% percent of my family are in the religion and will not stop trying to get me to join. Every time I see them they always bring up this topic and I'll talk to them but, polity say "I'm not interested. I have C.P. and they'll say such things like "Jehovah will take that away" (I'm paraphrasing) and I'll find the love of my life in the religion. Anyway, it all seems very shady to me and this book makes it clear why. You can clearly see it has a cult given the definition of a cult. They claim to be in the truth but, the organizations origins only go back to the 1870's (long after Christianity began). A Cult will rewrite christian doctrine to fit their beliefs and they have. I'm reading two different bible simultaneously theirs and King James. King James was published for the in 1611 and The new world Translation not until 1961. The New World Translation is published by the watchtower bible and tract society but, Jehovah's Wittness's don't think it is biased and yes they added Jehovah and changed somethings around to co inside with their beliefs. It says on their website that their tolerant of other religions and their not. I know why people get disfellowshipped. I bought this book because; I was interested to see why (If it's "the truth" why people voluntarily leave the faith) . The other thing one should consider is if JW'S are christian how can some one convert from JW's to Christianity? I think that anyone should read this before committing "your life" to the organization.

As a fading JW, I am interested in discovering the truth behind "the truth". Growing up in the JW, I was taught their history without proof or a foundation. I was also taught to not question or doubt what I was learning or told. This book gives the history behind the most important years of Jehovah's Witness. It has been white washed and sanitized by WTBTS. Now I get to know the other side...the unedited version.

Written from the perspective of someone that lived through WWI and saw the International Bible

Students become the Jehovah's Witnesses while working at Bethel Headquarters and thereafter as a Zone Servant, this book provides a look back at a much earlier version of the Watchtower organization than many today are familiar with. Worth the read for many reasons. In my opinion, the 7 steps of indoctrination that begins when you accept Watchtower literature on your doorstep justifies reading the entire book.

Overall, this book is a good historical record of the beginnings of the Jehovah's Witness religion. The author gives his true account of having been a Bible Student (the precursor group to Jehovah's Witnesses) for 30 years during the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's. The author's family moved to Germany when he was 7 years old, as an adult he became a Bible Student, then returned to the US about 10 years after that. He talks about different brainwashing techniques, as well as techniques used to drive sincere Bible Students out the new Jehovah's Witness groups, and then when he returned to the US, he aided in implementing many of those same techniques in the Jehovah's Witness groups here. I learned a lot about the Jehovah's Witness groups that doesn't match their public image--i.e. while they give the impression of having great biblical knowledge, most Jehovah's Witnesses no very little about the Bible, except for a few proof texts they can quote. When I started the book, I was thinking the word "slave" to be an over dramatization, but indeed he recounts years spent working for the Watchtower while living in a dorm and receiving no pay. He also talks about how contrary to many people's beliefs that the Jehovah's Witnesses want to spread the good news of their gospel, the main tenant of the Jehovah's Witness religion is to sell books, pamphlets, and their Watchtower magazine, and that the members are required to keep records of the time they spend on this activity. He talks about how the Watchtower purposely would try to create controversy and get members arrested, to try to create sympathy for themselves, so that people would buy more books. Scarily he details how the Watchtower sees itself becoming a supreme world power controlling everything. The author talks about how Jehovah's Witnesses live their life in a daze, knowing nothing except what the Watchtower tells them. He details their 6 step conversion plan to recruit new members, aka sellers of their material. At the end, the author talks about his conversion to Christianity, and the true freedom and love he has found. He also gives tips on what to say and what not to say, when talking with a Jehovah's Witness. Issues with the book, it was hard to follow at times. I'm not sure if this is because most of the formative years of the author were spent speaking German, or if writing just isn't his forte. Also, he left out many personal facts that would have made the story more real. For instance, near the end of the book we find out he has a wife, but in the book he never talked about dating, getting married, or whether he had any children. Given that JW's often

refuse to have anything to do with a family member who left the faith, it would have been interesting to know how his family reacted to his leaving the faith. Also, this book detailing the author's experience nearly 70 years ago as a Jehovah's Witness is dated, and can only provide a historical reference.

Very informative. My daughter converted and I wanted to understand what she had gotten into, especially since it changed our family dynamics for holidays and birthdays.

Should have read this years ago and saved myself years of agony as a JW.

Wow! This book is a real eye-opener. Best of all, at the end of the book, the author gives tips for dealing with JW's who come to the door.

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