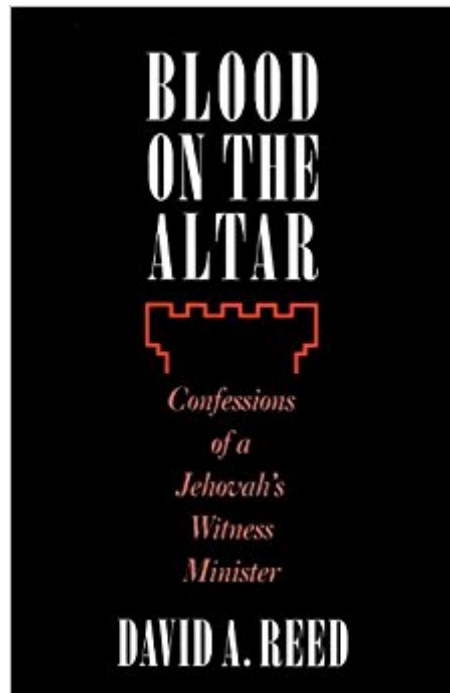




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Blood On The Altar



Synopsis

"More kids are dying right now in obedience to the Jehovah's Witness ban on blood transfusions than perished in the fire at Waco, Texas," says former Witness elder David A. Reed. "How can a major sect with headquarters in New York City and twelve million attending its religious services worldwide quietly lead victims to early deaths without public outcry?" Reed cites dozens of well-documented casesmedia reports naming victims, doctors, and hospitals issuing their death certificatesas he blows the whistle on a deadly cult that secretly instructs members to kidnap children from hospital beds and teaches children to resist doctors violently and give false testimony in court. This former minister, now widely recognized as an authority on the sect, explains his own role in bringing new members under mind control. With captivating anecdotes he details an enforcement apparatus that reaches even into clinics and hospitals. He brings to light secret instructions for hospital employees to turn over confidential patient records to the church, and tells how the hierarchy conducts bedside trials of members who accept forbidden medical treatment. Reed joined the sect as a naive young adult and rose through the ranks until he learned how the secretive leadership operated. Realizing that his friends were dying for beliefs supposedly channeled from God, but actually fabricated by the church hierarchy. After leaving the sect, he spent years researching its history and activitiesevidence revealed here for the first time. Reed's warning cannot be ignored.

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Customer Reviews

Reed, a former Jehovah's Witnesses minister, reveals here his take on what he considers the sect's secretive exploitations, brainwashing techniques, and oppressive practices. Reed promptly telegraphs his punch with the horrifying factoid that, with their doctrinal prohibition against blood transfusions, "JW leaders at Watchtower headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, have led many more people to an early death than the 87 Branch Davidians who died at Waco." His work is a strange (and thematically elusive) interweave of three motifs: Reed and wife Penni's 13-year involvement in Jehovah's Witnesses; the history of the sect; and a recital of well-worn mockeries such as failed end-of-the-world Jehovah's Witnesses predictions. Since primary sources on the sect are freely available in most laundromats and metropolitan street corners, nothing new is revealed in this tedious secondary source. Mainstream Christians seeking biblical arguments against Jehovah's Witnesses interpretations should consult Reed's earlier *Jehovah's Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse* (Baker, 1986). General readers are better served by R. Gordon Melton's objective *Encyclopedia of American Religions* (Gale, 1994. 4th ed.), which every library should own. Bill Piekarski, Southwestern Coll. Lib., Chula Vista, Cal. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"More kids are dying right now in obedience to the Jehovah's Witness ban on blood transfusions than perished in the fire at Waco, Texas," says former Witness elder David A. Reed. "How can a major sect with headquarters in New York City and twelve million attending its religious services worldwide quietly lead victims to early deaths without public outcry? -- Midwest Book Review

I was wanting to learn about the Jehovah Witnesses since we have someone in our family as a witness. How scary this cult is. I can't believe that people would fall into this cult. This book woke me up to how to deal with side of the family.

David Reed is a former Jehovah's Witness, which is also the author of books such as: *Answering Jehovah's Witnesses: Subject by Subject*, *Jehovah's Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse*, *How to Rescue Your Loved One from the Watchtower*, *Left Behind Answered Verse by Verse*, etc. Ordinarily his books are published by Christian publishers, but in this case the preeminent secular humanist press Prometheus Books (!) published the book. He notes in the Preface to this 1996 book, "Many of my fondest memories are of friends I left behind in that organization... I have no axe to grind; Jehovah's Witnesses treated me well, even honoring and elevating me as a public speaker, an elder, and a presiding overseer---until I began knowingly breaking the rules. I credit Jehovah's Witnesses with helping me as a young man to return to faith in

God; I thank them for teaching me much of what I know about the Bible... and I commend them for guiding me in building a strong marriage." (Pg. 10) Here are some quotations from the book: "The recent JW history, *Jehovah's Witnesses: Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* (JVE), relates sufficient information about (Charles Taze) Russell's involvement with (7th-Day) Adventist clergy and churches to demonstrate that he WAS an Adventist." (Pg. 41) "Like Russell, Rutherford tried his hand at prophecy and predicted that the biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be resurrected in 1925 to rule as princes over the earth." (Pg. 79) "In time the organization would begin to view Rutherford's 1935 lecture as the cutoff point for the anointed class; the door to heaven was then closed and would remain so." (Pg. 89) "In actuality, however, the Watchtower Society's ban on organ transplants lasted a bit under thirteen years. In 1980, it was quietly repealed." (Pg. 122) "Unlike Mormons, who are encouraged by their religion to marry and bear children, Jehovah's Witnesses are dissuaded from both. During the late 1930s and early 1940s the admonition to remain single was worded strongly..." (Pg. 129) "...the sect officially dropped this teaching. The October 22, 1995 'Awake!' was the last issue to feature this prediction that the end would come before the 1914 generation passed away." (Pg. 157) "The extent of the organization's power in commanding JWs to shun people can be seen in what happened in November 1988. At that time millions of Jehovah's Witnesses changed their mind again. They all decided to start talking to certain family members and acquaintances they had previously been avoiding." (Pg. 193)

While the title and the back cover synopsis suggest that this book is about Jehovah's Witnesses' refuse of blood transfusion therapy, only the first chapter treats this topic. The rest of the book is a history of the Watchtower Society, from Charles Taze Russell until today, with some of the author's experiences as a former member thrown in here and there. Every chapter begins with a newspaper article about a victim who died because of his/her refusal of blood, but then the chapter invariably discusses a completely different topic, like some WT leader for example, and has nothing to do with blood transfusions. It seems that these articles were put in just to grab the reader's attention or to shock, but they are totally out of context. The book talks very little about the Watch Tower doctrinal errors, but instead the author decided to discredit the Watch Tower Society because of the business side of their organization. For example, Mr. Reed makes a big fuss about the multi-million dollar WT Headquarters complex in Brooklyn, the fact that Witnesses sell their literature (by the way, I have witnessed to JWs for many years in different countries, and they never asked me a penny in exchange of their books), or their alleged failure to pay sales-taxes (even though the author admits that the WT is a non-profit organization)...these critiques sound very hypocritical because, as a

matter of fact, most Christian denominations are as business oriented as JW's, and in many cases even more. Generally speaking, I had the impression that the author had very little to say, so he decided to add some WT history to his experiences in order to have a full-length book. To conclude, if you are interested in personal experiences of former members, go for "Crisis of Conscience", by Raymond Franz. Even as a JW history, this is not the best work around. If you are interested in the subject, I would suggest "Apocalypse Delayed", by M. James Penton.

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