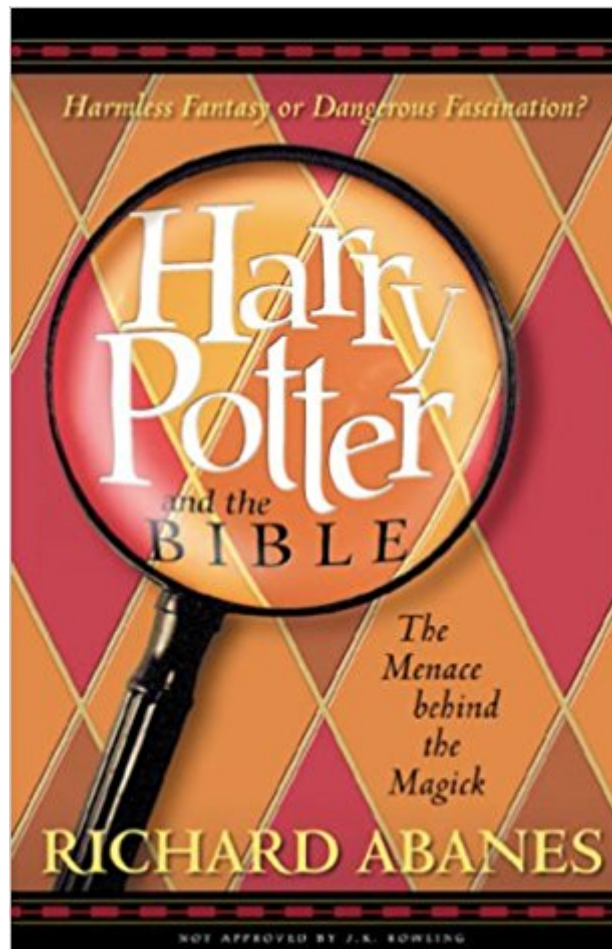




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Harry Potter And The Bible : The Menace Behind The Magick



Synopsis

In response to the heated controversy surrounding the Harry Potter phenomenon, Christian Publications is excited to present the book "Harry Potter and the Bible: The Menace behind the Magick." (The word "magic" refers to stage illusions by sleight-of-hand, where-as "magick" refers to occult practices.) In this timely book, Richard Abanes -- nationally recognized cult researcher -- skillfully answers the questions parents and others are asking about the mega best-selling series by J.K. Rowling.

Book Information

Paperback: 275 pages

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Average Customer Review: 2.3 out of 5 stars 137 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

In Part One: "The World of Harry Potter, Abanes provides a brief but enlightening summary of each of the first four books. He then exposes the various forms of occultism, some subtle, some more glaring, that are woven into the Potter books. Abanes offers appropriate scriptural responses and discusses numerous psychological and spiritual dangers associated with the Rowling volumes. In Part Two: Out of the Darkness, he presents a critical overview of occultism in America, the place of fantasy in Christian literature and the controversy surrounding the use of Harry Potter in public schools. The book concludes with an insightful explanation of why occultism is unquestionably condemned in Scripture.

Richard Abanes has been in full-time Christian Ministry for more than ten years. He is a nationally known author/journalist specializing in the area of cults, the occult, new religious movements, world religions, and Christian doctrine. In addition to serving on staff as a minister at Southern California's

Saddleback Church from 1997 - 2000, Richard has written/co-authored nearly a dozen books relating to his field of expertise, He also has written for numerous magazines and journals including: CBA Marketplace, Christian Retailing, Christianity Today, Charisma & Christian Life, Ministries Today, Moody Magazine, and Christian Research Journal. Interestingly, Richard is an accomplished singer / songwriter who has performed on Broadway in such hit musicals as "A Chorus Line" and "Dreamgirls." He has independently produced two full-length CD's of original inspirational songs, which are available at mp3.com/richardabanes.

I had to read this book for a graduate class, otherwise I would not have even bothered with it. In all fairness, the author does make his argument in the first four sections of the book where he evaluates each of the first four Potter books, which were what was out when this was published. Yet the last half of the book jumps into a tirade on the dangers and horrors of all branches of occultism and sounds like a mad rant rather than a ordered presentation of interpretations. This is just one in a series of books ...And the Bible, so I'm sure the formula for them is the same, the targeted book and characters just changes.

I am skeptical of both Christianity and the occult, but that doesn't mean I can't enjoy a book about both. Abanes discusses matters which are important to both believers and non-believers, such as the importance of respecting fat people, skinny people, and Moaning Myrtles. As for whether or not occult powers really exist, Abanes presents a case of a person undergoing eerie visions and sensations while becoming entrapped in Satanism. I wonder, however, if those visions and sensations resulted from the drugs and alcohol which the person was consuming at the time. I was surprised that Abanes cited evidence that astrology is ineffective. This indicated to me that astrology comes from neither God nor Satan. Yes, Abanes argues very convincingly that the occult is at odds with Christianity. He does not prove to my satisfaction that the occult is evil and that Christianity is good, but I didn't expect him to.

I have to agree with the poor reviews of this book. While Mr. Abanes may indeed be an expert in the occult, I certainly was not deceived into following the occult or actively seeking a Wiccan community as he claims readers of the Potter series will undoubtedly do after reading the witchcraft woven through the stories. Mr. Abanes also seems to have the belief that all Christian children are perfect in every way every hour of the day and if raised in a Christian home will never break the commandments or sin. The reality is as Luther stated that we are simultaneously saint and sinner.

No human is perfect; all sin and have fallen short of the glory of God. Mr. Abanes repeats himself endlessly, cites books from 4 centuries ago when superstitions abounded across Europe to support his occultism threads, and truly believes that every child who reads Harry Potter is going to believe magic is true. Mr. Abanes needs to realize that Harry Potter is shelved in the FICTION section of the library, not in the non-fiction section labeled religion! His criticism of "swearing" in the HP series is not even accurate as he clearly did not carefully read in HP Book III the context surrounding the "b" word he claims is a curse word. He needs to brush up on his veterinary terms instead, as that is the context of the word. He also apparently is SO far removed from being a child that he does not understand that nearly all students, when learning the name of Neptune's twin planet want to make a joke out of how to pronounce it, and learn about the joy of puns, even if they are a bit crude. Please do not waste your time or money on this book, though it should be found in humor, not religion. After reading his bio, exactly how does A Chorus Line promote the Bible, and Christ's expectation of how we should live our lives?

As a Pastor and Missionary who has had significant dealings with the Occult & Witchcraft, I take the supernatural realm very seriously. So what do you do with Harry Potter? My two oldest boys have watched Harry Potter. Then they read Abanes chapter about the book/movie and we discuss the spiritual stuff. I've found that we can enjoy the story and benefit by understanding where Rowling is coming from. I'm hoping this will teach my kids to think critically while discussing something our culture is crazy about.

Are the Harry Potter books just harmless fantasy or do they go against God's Word & His principles? 'Harry Potter & the Bible,' answers this question & more. Richard Abanes gives the Biblical Scriptures and the page and book title where the harmful actions or statements are located in the Harry Potter books. Additionally, he compares acceptable, excellent Christian fantasy books such as those by C.S. Lewis, & J.R. Tolkien to the fully occult deviant Harry Potter books. This is a tremendous tool for parents that are interested and concerned about their children's spiritual health & future welfare. Parents that wish to ignore what their children are forcibly reading in the public schools & are not ready to give up their Harry Potter books, videos, games etc.; will not be happy with the conviction or knowledge of the damage that these pagan materials cause.

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