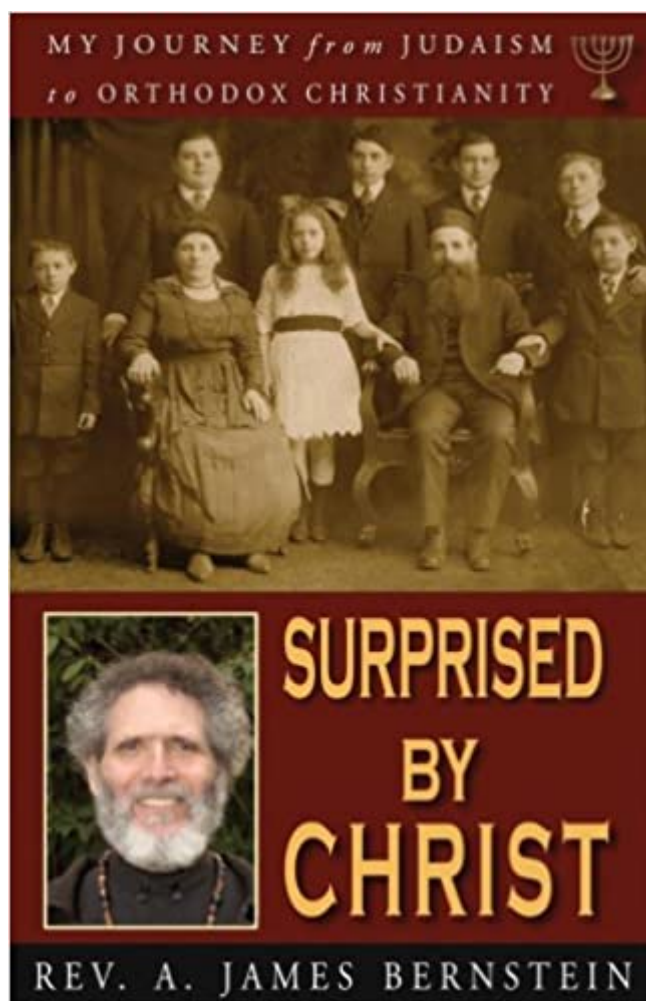


The book was found

Surprised By Christ: My Journey From Judaism To Orthodox Christianity



Synopsis

Raised in Queens, New York by formerly Orthodox Jewish parents whose faith had been undermined by the Holocaust, Arnold Bernstein went on his own personal quest for spiritual meaning. He was ready to accept God in whatever form He chose to reveal Himself and that form turned out to be Christ. But Bernstein soon perceived discrepancies in the various forms of Protestant belief that surrounded him, and so his quest continued -- this time for the true Church. Surprised by Christ combines an engrossing memoir of one man's life in historic times and situations from the Six-Day War to the Civil Rights Movement to the Jesus Movement in Berkeley with an examination of the distinctives of Orthodox theology that make the Orthodox Church the true home not only for Christian Jews, but for all who seek to know God as fully as He may be known.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fascinating. It reminds us again of the sovereignty of God, and his desire to reach every one of his beloved children, no matter where they are. --Frederica Mathewes-Green, Beliefnet columnist and author of "Facing East: A Pilgrim's Journey into the Mysteries of Orthodoxy" In sharing his "surprise" with us, Fr. James Bernstein shows that he is a Hebrew prophet in the definition of prophecy provided by that other "Hebrew born of Hebrews" who knew the same "surprise." In sharing his story and convictions, Fr James "speaks to people for their edification and encouragement and comfort" (1 Cor 14.3). The grace and spirit of His words match the grace and truth of their content. We thank God for this prophetic gift. --Fr. Thomas Hopko, Dean Emeritus, St. Vladimir's Orthodox

Theological Seminary
In life you meet a handful of people whose stories crash through the usual categories of human experience and form a new kind of stand-alone narrative. Enter: Fr. James Bernstein. Son of a Jewish rabbi, national chess champion, leader with Jews for Jesus in Berkeley, Orthodox Christian priest -- whew! You will love and be greatly encouraged by his unusual story of life in Christ. --Fr. Peter E. Gillquist, author of "Becoming Orthodox"

Father Arnold James Bernstein lives with his wife Bonnie outside of Seattle, Washington, where he serves as pastor of St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church.

The first time I heard about Fr James Bernstein when I read his article "Which Came First: The Church or the New Testament?" Frankly, I didn't know the answer that time. Then I read his other article, "The Original Christian Gospel". Google them. They are worth reading: deep, well written, and profound. And then I bought this book, the marvelous story of Fr James' spiritual journey towards the original Church of the Gospels. What can I say? This is a great book. And if you have already read Fr James Bernstein's articles, then get it. It's not only a compelling autobiography but also a great introduction to Orthodoxy. I am buying my second copy. PS The Original Christian Gospel
FR. JAMES BERNSTEIN <http://www.pravmir.com/the-original-christian-gospel>
Which Came First: The Church or the New Testament? by Fr. James Bernstein <http://orthodoxinfo.com/inquirers/whichcamefirst.aspx>

Father James' curious, interesting and spiritually invigorating account of his personal Odyssey to orthodoxy. But it is not just the story of his road to Christianity and ultimately orthodoxy in as much as his remarkable erudition on the subject of early Christianity and the connection to ancient Judaism which over the course of 2000 years has become obscured to both modern day Jews and contemporary Christians. I recommend this book to anyone interested in understanding the fundamentals of historic and apostolic Christianity. My recommendation does come with a caveat, the latter chapters get very deep into early christian and Judaic dogma and may very easily overwhelm the average reader.

I enjoyed following the life stories of Father Bernstein and how he meandered around, eventually discovering Orthodox Christianity. I enjoyed learning also about the Jewish culture .

Interesting testimonial that could of been a bit less intellectual.

An excellent presentation of the Orthodox understanding of the gospel message. As a non-denominational Christian and former Catholic I had great difficulty understanding the Orthodox beliefs until I read this book. The Orthodox teaching has helped me to better understand the new spiritual life we received from Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Previously, I had focused more on the atonement and forensic aspects of salvation, not understanding the work that has been done inside those born again.

This is unique story of a journey from the roots of Christianity to the heart of the Orthodox Church. I especially enjoyed the concise and clear explanation of Orthodox theology and its distinctions from other Christian churches. This is a refreshing and hope filled book.

A good book to start out as an introduction to Christian Orthodoxy for the Evangelical Protestant. The author's life experience growing up as a Jew converting to Christianity, the contrast of Evangelical Protestantism and Roman Catholicism to Orthodox Christianity, and how Orthodox Christianity is the fulfillment of Orthodox Judaism provides a good framework for the Western Christian looking into Eastern Christianity. I highly recommend this book as a must read for the inquirer into Christian Orthodoxy.

Definitely a ladder in my understanding of the Christian Orthodox faith. Thank you Fr. Bernstein for sharing your amazing journey from Judaism to Orthodox Christianity. I look forward to reading your book again as I shuffle toward The Orthodox Church.

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