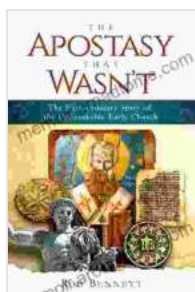


The Apostasy That Wasn't: A Journey Through New England Puritanism and the Salem Witchcraft Trials

In *The Apostasy That Wasn't*, historian David D. Hall challenges the long-held assumption that there was a mass apostasy in 17th-century New England that led to the Salem witchcraft trials. Drawing on extensive research, Hall argues that the evidence for such an apostasy is thin, and that the trials were more likely the result of a complex interplay of factors, including religious tensions, political rivalries, and economic anxiety.



The Apostasy That Wasn't: The Extraordinary Story of the Unbreakable Early Church by Rod Bennett

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1288 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 266 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Hall begins his book by examining the origins of Puritanism in England and its transplantation to New England. He shows how the Puritans' beliefs in predestination and the importance of a visible church led them to create a society that was both deeply religious and deeply intolerant of dissent.

In the second part of the book, Hall looks at the specific events that led to the Salem witchcraft trials. He shows how a series of seemingly unrelated incidents—a group of young women accusing each other of witchcraft, a local minister being accused of heresy—snowballed into a full-blown witch hunt.

Hall argues that the trials were not simply the result of mass hysteria, but rather a complex interplay of factors. He shows how the Puritans' beliefs about witchcraft, their fears of the devil, and their own internal divisions all contributed to the tragedy.

The Apostasy That Wasn't is a groundbreaking work that challenges our understanding of one of the most infamous episodes in American history. Hall's meticulous research and insightful analysis shed new light on the Salem witchcraft trials, and offer a fresh perspective on the complex relationship between religion, society, and politics in early America.

Praise for *The Apostasy That Wasn't*

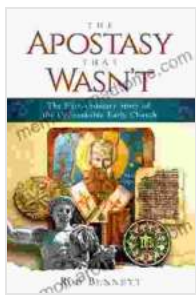
"A major contribution to the study of both Puritanism and the Salem witchcraft trials. Hall's work is meticulously researched and elegantly written, and it offers a fresh perspective on one of the most notorious episodes in American history."—**Jon Butler, Yale University**

"A tour de force. Hall has written the definitive account of the Salem witchcraft trials. His work is a must-read for anyone interested in American history or the history of religion."—**David Hackett Fischer, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Albion's Seed***

"A brilliant and groundbreaking work. Hall's book will forever change our understanding of the Salem witchcraft trials."—**James Axtell, William P. Clyde Professor of History, College of William & Mary**

About the Author

David D. Hall is the Samuel Knight Professor of History Emeritus at Harvard University. He is the author of numerous books on American religion, including *The Faithful Shepherd: A History of the New England Ministry in the Seventeenth Century* and *A World of Wonders: The Early Republic and American Cultural Nationalism*.



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