DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

A

Uploaded the first time: 2017

Latest revision: 2026

A DESIRABLE GOVERNMENT (1924)
Booklet authored by Rutherford.


A DESIRABLE GOVERNMENT

Government
Page Three

The Original Man
Page Eight

The First Advent
Page Fifteen

New World Beginning
Page Eighteen

The New Government in Operation
Page Twenty-seven

Armageddon First
Page Forty

Could Armageddon Have Been Averted?
Page Fifty-three

International Bible Students Association
Brooklyn, N.Y

A GOD (JOHN 1:1)

> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. (John 1:1 NRSV)
>
> In the beginning was the Word was, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was a god**. (John 1:1 NWT)

Which translation is correct?

Most Bible translations agree with the NRSV. The WTS, however, has listed obscure or sectarian English and German Bibles, some translated by Unitarians and one by a Spiritualist, which have:

- The word was a god
- the word was divine
- the Word was Divine
- the Logos was divine
- the logos was a god
- what God was, the Word was
- the Message was Deity
- a Divine Being was the Word
- the Word was a divine Being
- the Word was Deistic
- a God was the word
- a god was the Word
- the Word was of divine nature
- the Word had the same nature as God
- the Word was with God and shared his nature
- the nature of the Word was the same as the nature of God
- the Idea and God were One
- The Divine word and wisdom was there with God, and it was what God was

Philip B. Harner (1973) says the grammatical construction in John 1:1 involves an anarthrous predicate, that is a predicate noun without the definite article ("the") preceding the verb, which construction is primarily qualitative in meaning and indicates that "the logos has the nature of theos":

> This study will suggest that anarthrous predicate nouns preceding the verb may function primarily to express the nature or character of the subject, and this qualitative significance may be more important than the question whether the predicate noun itself should be regarded as definite or indefinite... (p.75)
>
> [Clauses] with an anarthrous predicate preceding the verb, are primarily qualitative in meaning. They indicate that the logos has the nature of theos. There is no basis for regarding the predicate theos as definite. (p.85)
>
> In John 1:1 I think that the qualitative force of the predicate is so prominent that the noun [the·os'] cannot be regarded as definite. (Journal of Biblical Literature, 1973, Volume 92, pp 85, 87)

One website lists 13 "world-renowned Greek scholars" who declare the "a God" translation to be wrong. A less confusing strategy for JWs would have been to translate John 1:1 like the major translations do, but add a footnote interpreting in what sense or in what way Jesus is God. (John 10:33-35; 8:54)
[http://www.equip.org/PDF/DJ520]

(See also: *ARTICLE — DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE*)

A.D.
WTS publications avoid the expression "A.D." which means "Anno Domini" or "In the year of the Lord". They instead label dates "C.E." which is short for "Common Era"

AAWA
See: *ASSOCIATION OF ANTI-WATCHTOWER ACTIVISTS*

ABADDON
In Revelation 9:11, the angel of the bottomless pit.

The JWs leaders used to identify this angel as "Satan the devil". (The Finished Mystery 1917, 159)

In a stunning reversal in 1930 "Satan the devil" was re-interpreted as Jesus. (Light I 1930, 160) More than 1000 interpretations of Bible verses published in *The Finished Mystery* were eventually revised!

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION
(Matthew 24:15 KJV)
The League of Nations and United Nations according to JWs interpretations. They usually cite the NWT which has the rendering "disgusting thing that causes desolation".
(See: *LEAGUE OF NATIONS*)

ABORTION
JWs regard abortion as equivalent to murder. (w1969 12/15 767)

ABOUT DONE
A phrase Rutherford used to remind JWs that their door-to-door activity and/or the events preceding Armageddon are almost finished:

> The witness work for THE THEOCRACY appears to be about done in most of the countries of "Christendom". (w1940 9/1 265)
>
> For some time God's "strange work" has been in progress, and it appears that the same is now about done. (w1941 12/12 375)
>
> The "day of [God's] preparation" is about up, the FINAL END of Satan's rule is very nigh, the maneuvering of all enemies into the position for their destruction is about done… (w1942 4/15 119)

The "about done" phrases stimulated JWs to zeal, sacrifice and door-to-door book selling but brought disappointment because they turned out to be false predictions. Not only are almost all JWs who felt stimulated because their efforts were "about done" now dead, but much of Rutherford's theology and prophecy is on the scrapheap, discarded.

ABOUT TO
A phrase used to suggest the imminence of world destruction at Armageddon:

> The religious systems can furnish neither protection nor salvation to anyone from … the disaster that is about to come upon the world at Armageddon. (w1940 1/1 8)
>
> …the truth will enable them to find God's provision for their protection and salvation from the disaster that is now impending upon the world and about to fall. (w1940 2/1 35)
>
> "The signs of the times" have been and are clear, and next we shall see the sign that Armageddon is about to begin and deliverance is very near… The great fight is about to take place. (w1940 9/1 266)
>
> The fight to the finish is about to take place. (w1940 10/1 301)
>
> Armageddon, the final settlement of accounts between God and the Devil, is about to take place. (w1941 2/1 44)
>
> Likewise today, when the "strange work" [the preaching] is being completed and the "strange act" [Armageddon] is about to begin…" (w1941 4/1 102)
>
> Armageddon is about to be fought. (w1941 4/15 116)
>
> Whereas the world is in a state of disintegration and the world elements are about to melt due to intense heat, the "bond of union" based on love from God does not get dissolved. (w1982 12/15 21)
>
> Likewise today, apostate Christendom is about to perish in "a great crash" along with the entire world empire of false religion. (w1987 1/1 30)
>
> True, for most of mankind, there has been much unhappiness on earth since 1914. But the woeful conditions on earth are proof that Satan's rule is about to end. (w1990 10/15 19)

"About to" also replaced the date published in *Awake!* until October 22, 1995 which stated:

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away.

This was changed to:

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a

peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things.

More than 30 years have passed since 1995, making the prediction again false because humans don't normally say "about to" for events in their own life that are decades away. Indeed, Armageddon was also predicted for within the 20th century, a date not officially rescinded — therefore "about to" in 1995 meant within 5 years.

Generally speaking, the "about to" phrases are addressed to human readers to persuade them to limit their education, reduce their job commitments, postpone or avoid marriage, preach more, and sell their assets to finance their own ministry or donate to the WTS. When Armageddon delays so long that schooling, careers and marriage could have been had, then the "about to" phrases become false predictions.

ABOUT TO BREAK

A variant on the "about to" phrases for Armageddon's imminence:

> Time is fast running out! The generation from 1914 has now witnessed the fulfillment of the major part of Jesus' great prophetic "sign" describing the "conclusion of the system of things". The great tribulation … is about to break in all its fury over the entire earth. (w1976 11/15 685)

> ... the "year" of Jehovah's goodwill is about to end and his "day of vengeance" is about to break. (w1981 2/1 24)

In 1976 the prediction of Armageddon to occur in the mid 1970s failed and large numbers of publishers began to leave the sect. To help halt the exodus, fresh phrases implying imminence but rarely used before, such as "about to break", appeared occasionally.

Considering how many decades have passed since 1976 it is clear that the great tribulation was **not** "about to break in all its fury..."

ABRAHAM & SARAH

Abraham pictured Jehovah. Sarah, the wife of Abraham pictured God's Organization. (Preservation 1932, 332)

ACCEPT AND BELIEVE WITHOUT DOUBT OR CRITICISM

JWs tell other people to "examine your religion" but must themselves believe without criticism, doubting nothing, and "keep trying to grasp" whatever they may disagree with, since to do otherwise is "presumptuous":

We must show our understanding in these matters, appreciating our relationship to the visible theocratic organization, remembering the fate of those like Korah and Achan and Saul and Uzziah and others who forgot the theocratic order. Are we assigned as individuals to bring forth the food for the spiritual table? No? Then let us not try to take over the slave's duties. We should eat and digest and assimilate what is set before us, without shying away from parts of the food because it may not suit the fancy of our mental taste. The truths we are to publish are the ones provided through the discreet-slave organization, not some personal opinions contrary to what the slave has provided as timely food. Jehovah and Christ direct and correct the slave as needed, not we as individuals. If we do not see a point at first we should keep trying to grasp it, rather than opposing and rejecting it and presumptuously taking the position that we are more likely to be right than the discreet slave. We should meekly go along with the Lord's theocratic organization and wait for further clarification, rather than balk at the first mention of a thought unpalatable to us and proceed to quibble and mouth our criticisms and opinions as though they were worth more than the slave's provision of spiritual food. Theocratic ones will appreciate the Lord's visible organization and not be so foolish as to pit against Jehovah's channel their own human reasoning and sentiment and personal feelings.

[12] Now some may ask, Should we accept as from the Lord and true the food provided through the discreet slave, or should we withhold acceptance until we have proved it for ourselves? If we have gained our present understanding of the Bible by feeding at the table set by the slave, if we have been thereby freed from false doctrines and built up in the clean and undefiled worship of God and given a new world hope, we should have some confidence in the slave's provisions. After being nourished to our present spiritual strength and maturity, do we suddenly become smarter than our former provider and forsake the enlightening guidance of the organization that mothered us? "Forsake not the law of thy mother." (Prov. 6:20-23) And if the heavenly Father would not give a stone or serpent or scorpion to a child who asked for bread or fish or an egg from him, are we to take the spiritual food he provides through the slave into our hands as if we were going to be bruised by a stone or bitten by a serpent

or stung by a scorpion? (Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13, *NW*) Are we to be doubtful and suspicious about each new provision? "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. In fact, let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from Jehovah." (Jas. 1:6, 7, *NW*) Even the Beroeans first received Paul's preaching "with the greatest readiness of mind", and then went to "carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so". (Acts 17:11, *NW*) This was the first real contact the Beroeans had with Paul's preaching, yet they received it readily and then studied the Scriptural support for themselves. How much more readily we can receive the slave's provisions with confidence, since, unlike the Beroeans, we have much past experience with the precious provisions from the slave. After receiving these food supplies we prove their Scripturalness for ourselves to make the message our own, in a spirit of meekness and trustfulness and not combativeness. (w1952 2/1 79-80)

JWs are denied the right to examine their own religion, despite its foundation of false predictions and countless revised interpretations, but have to tell others to examine theirs!

(See also: *INFALLIBLE*)

ACCOUNTS
Bookkeeping records in local congregations are recorded on WTS-supplied stationery in a format set up by the WTS.

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT
At JWs conventions the accounting department is responsible for handling money donated via contribution boxes and money acquired by other convention departments.

ACCOUNTS SERVANT
The ministerial servant assigned to handle a local congregation's bookkeeping.

ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE
The Greek "epignosis" is consistently (22 times) translated "accurate knowledge" in the NWT.

JWs call all their doctrines and interpretations "accurate knowledge". The phrase occurs over 2500 times in WTS publications on the *Watchtower Library* CD 2007:

> With accurate knowledge of God's Word, we can puncture and cut down false teachings, exposing their lack of logic and, in particular, their conflict with Holy Scriptures. (w1984 10/15 18)
>
> Accurate knowledge helps us to avoid blind religious faith and to serve Jehovah God with clean hands and a pure heart. (w1984 8/15 26)

Often — probably thousands of times — the so-called "accurate knowledge" published by the WTS was not or is not accurate.

(See: *DATES; ERROR; PROPHECY; THE FINISHED MYSTERY; TRUTH.*)

ACHESON, DEAN (1893-1971)
U.S. Secretary of State to President Truman from 1949 to 1953, and unofficial advisor to presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

The first edition of the "Truth" book (1968) quoted a comment Acheson made in 1960: "I know enough of what is going on to assure you that, in fifteen years from today, this world is going to be too dangerous to live in." (p.9)

JWs at the time believed Armageddon would occur in the mid 1970s. WTS publications sometimes fueled this anticipation by quoting secular sources that made general predictions for 1975 or near that date.

In the 1981 edition of the "Truth" book "in fifteen years from today" is replaced with "soon".

ACKLEY FAMILY
Maria Francis Ackley (1850-1938) married C.T. Russell in 1879 in what was probably an unconsummated marriage.

Due to disputes over doctrine with her husband, and his unseemly interest in Rose Ball their so-called "foster daughter", Maria left Bible House (the headquarters of the cult) in 1897.

Maria Russell during her marriage had three living sisters – Emma H. Russell, Laura Raynor and Lena Guilbert – who all sided with her during the separation from C.T. Russell.

Emma Russell was wife to Joseph L. Russell, Charles Russell's father (and had married him in his old age).

Maria's parents were Mahlon Foster Ackley (c.1807-1873), born in New Jersey, and Selena Ann Ackley (c.1815-1901), born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The parents moved to Allegheny in the 1840s and saw Allegheny grow from a village into a metropolis. The husband was employed on the Pennsylvania railroad.

Selena Ackley was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, had seven children, and died at Maria Russell's home in October, 1901.

Maria died on 12 March, 1938, in St. Petersburg, Pennsylvania.

(See also: *RUSSELL, MARIA FRANCIS*)

ACT NOW

A phrase sometimes used to emphasize the urgency of joining JWs to avoid being executed at Armageddon:

> It is for the everlasting good of such persons inclined to receive the message as good news that the Kingdom message has to be preached first, that they may be able to act now to avoid destruction. (w1967 12/15 756)
>
> And as the generation that heard Jesus Christ's judgment message lived to experience the destruction he foretold, so the present generation since 1914 "will by no means pass away" before the foretold "great tribulation" comes.— Matthew 24:21, 22, 35.
>
> What must we do to survive the great tribulation and live on into God's new world? … Those able to recall events from 1914 are becoming ever fewer. Thus we need to be alert; there is no time to lose. (Matthew 24:42) All who want to survive the end of Satan's wicked world must act now in a way that shows agreement with the inspired words… (w1990 10/15 20)

The "act now" actions required for survival include joining the JWs sect, accepting and promoting its doctrines, and obeying the Governing Body and Organization.

ACTIVE

Any JW who goes door to door and distributes WTS publications is "active" or "active in the service of the Lord God." (w1933 2/15 52)

ACTIVE FORCE

JWs interpret the "holy spirit" as an "invisible active force" which God uses to accomplish his will.

"Active force" and "holy spirit" appear in lower case in WTS publications. The NWT in Genesis 1:2 reads:

> ...and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters.

The phrase "active force" is found in the *New World Translation* of JWs not in other Bible translations.

ACTIVE / ACTIVE PUBLISHER

A publisher who has reported his "witnessing" time at least once in the previous six months is considered "active".

Instead of membership statistics JWs have monthly statistics of active publishers who report their "activity" or "ministry".

"Active" can also refer to a person's recent preaching — for example: "Has Brother Smith been active lately?" or "Has Brother Smith reported his activity?"

ACTIVITIES BANNED TO JWs

See: *RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON JWs*

ACTS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN MODERN TIMES

This is the general heading in WTS yearbooks for the history of JWs in particular countries.

"Acts ... In Modern Times" were introduced in the 1972 *Yearbook*. They gave glossed accounts of JWs history and allowed JWs the last word in old disputes. Defectors of long ago were again described as "puffed up with pride", "rebellious" and "apostate". The reasons why such men defected are not elaborated.

The "Acts" repeatedly describe pre-World War I Russellites as "zealously preaching the Kingdom" even though until 1925 the kingdom preached was the non-existent kingdom of 1878. (See: *KINGDOM*) The Russellites of that time allegedly gave "zealous proclamation of the approaching end of the Gentile Times." (Yearbook 1983, 41) The fact that every prophecy failed and the meaning of "Gentile Times" was subsequently changed is never mentioned. Russell's doctrines are called "real spiritual treasures" (Yearbook 1979, 175), "truth", "true worship" and "God's revealed truth" even though thousands of points were discarded from 1918 onwards. Pyramidology, for example, promoted by the cult until 1928, and Christ's 1874 second coming preached until 1930, were actually unbiblical rubbish and not a "real spiritual treasure"!

The alleged "truth" believed in Russell's cult is distinguished from "personal opinion". (Yearbook 1984, 43-44) The fact that the official WTS book *The Finished Mystery* (1917) had about 1300 statements that contradict later JWs dogma, and therefore must have been "personal opinion", is ignored in the "Acts". Successful distributions of old books such as *The Finished Mystery* are described as great victories even though the WTS subsequently discouraged followers from reading them.

Consider Jamaica as reported in the *1985 Yearbook*:

- In 1897 Jamaica got "the good news of God's Kingdom." (p.67)
  [The "kingdom" preached in 1897, however, was their unbiblical, fake kingdom of 1878 which Rutherford extinguished in 1926.]

- Some Jamaicans "accepted the Bible's truth". (p.67)
  [However, Russell's so-called "Bible truth" differed in thousands of points to the "Bible truth" that JWs believed in 1985!]

Page 67 says: "Six years after the **first light of truth** reached this land…" And so it goes on with repetitions of self-praising but misleading phrases:

- "The love of the Truth";
- "earnest for the Lord and for the Truth";
- "kept the light of truth burning";
- "falling away from the truth";
- "the work of the Lord";
- "loyal ones";
- "the work of kingdom preaching".

"The Acts" indoctrinated JWs to believe that their religion from Russell's time to the present was the one and obvious "true religion" and rejection of it by mainstream Christianity was malicious rejection of true worship. "The Acts" blends superficial history, value judgments, self-justification, glorification of the WTS, significant omissions and lies.

The aim of the Governing Body in the Yearbooks was to indoctrinate readers with the false idea that the WTS has all along been guided by God and taught "Bible truth", and that church ministers who criticized followed Satan.

AD HOMINEM
"Ad Hominem" is from Latin and means "against the man".

Ad Hominem argumentation is the fallacy of replying to evidence or reasoning by making accusations or irrelevant personal remarks. The opponent's reputation, motives, training, ethics or education is smeared with the implication that this refutes his evidence. For example:

> John: Prostitution is wrong because of the harm it causes to families and the diseases it spreads.
> Henry: Your problem is that you lack business skills and get jealous when other people earn more money than you do.

JWs leaders excel at the ad hominem fallacy. Examples are:

- When JWs compare ex-JWs to Satan or call them "deceivers", "proud apostates" and "puffed up", or compare their writings to "poison" and ignore the evidence that such writings provide on specific issues;
- Whenever they make sweeping moral accusations against all clergymen, all priests and all religions.

(See: *VITUPERATION*)

ADAM
According to the Bible Adam was the first man.

JWs believed that God created Adam with female characteristics and changed him into a real man by transferring his female qualities to Eve:

> God had now divided the feminine characteristics from Adam and put them in this woman or *Ish·shah´* and thus produced the human sexes. (w1956 9/1 530)
>
> When God took the male and female characteristics or qualities that were combined in balance in the original Adam and divided them between the sexes he did not mean to start any battle of the sexes in the paradise of Eden. (ibid 531)

ADAM & EVE
Literal individuals calculated by Russell to have been created in 4128 BC. Franz changed this to 4,028 BC in 1943 and finally to 4,026 BC in the 1950s.

In making such calculations the genealogies in Genesis were assumed to be complete and without gaps. This assumption was already challenged in 1890 by theologian W.H. Green. (Bibliotheca Sacra 1890, Volume 47, pp 285-503)

Circular reasoning

To show that Adam and Eve are not myth the WTS writers often make the error of circular reasoning — they assume the Bible to be true from which it follows that Adam and Eve existed.

For example, the article "Adam and Eve Myth or Reality?" (w1985 6/1 5-8) offers "Two Pieces of Weighty Evidence".

The first "weighty evidence" consists of comments of the Apostle Paul. (p.6) Next we read: "However, the most important testimony concerning the authenticity of the Genesis account … was provided by Christ himself who referred to it…"

Applying this same logic to the questions "Was Muhammad God's prophet?" and "Was Joseph Smith God's prophet?" we would have to say "Yes" because *The Quran* and *Book of Mormon* give "the most important testimony concerning the authenticity" of such claims.

To argue that a book is true and accurate because the book itself says so, is so silly that even youngsters can recognize such reasoning as illogical.

ADAMS, DON ALDEN (1925- 2019)
Sixth president of the WBTS of Pennsylvania, and the first to be neither a Governing Body member nor a member of the alleged "remnant".

Adams succeeded Milton Henschel after Henschel and the rest of the Governing Body resigned in October 2000 from holding executive positions as officers and directors in the WTS corporations.

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, Don Adams was a member of a large family in the Episcopal Church who progressively became interested in JWs. Adams' mother joined JWs in 1938 and his father was baptized in 1952.

Adams became a pioneer in 1943 and entered the workforce at Brooklyn headquarters in 1944. He later became secretary to Nathan Knorr the WBTS president.

In the 1960s Adams served as a zone servant [overseer] and visited various branch offices to audit accounts and encourage missionaries. Later he served on the "Bethel Home Committee".

Adams' presidency, 2000 to 2014, was administrative since the Governing Body retained ultimate control; therefore he did not impact the Organization in theology or policies like previous WBTS presidents. In 2014 be was replaced by Robert Ciranko.

Adams' brother Joel C. Adams became vice-president of another Watchtower corporation — Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Inc.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Alden_Adams)

ADDRESSES
Before the sale of the WTS's Brooklyn properties and the relocation of the JWs headquarters, mail to Bethel family members in Brooklyn including the Governing Body was addressed to:

Person's name
124 Columbia Heights
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1698
USA

Correspondence to the WBTS was addressed to:
25 Columbia Heights
Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483
USA

A list of addresses of branch offices appeared on the last page of most WTS books.

ADJUST/ADJUSTMENTS
JWs sometimes refer to doctrinal changes and new interpretations as "adjustments".

People who identified errors before they were adjusted and criticized them, are not acknowledged when "adjustments" are published, but remain "apostates" despite having been right.

ADMINISTRATION
The NWT has the word "administration" instead of "dispensation" at Ephesians 1:10, and is interpreted by JWs as God's heavenly government composed of Christ and the 144,000.

ADMISSION OF ERRORS
"A false witness shall not go unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish." (Riches, 1936, 179)

In the 1940s the WTS's presentations of JWs history was almost nil. Publications of the 1940s describe members from the 1870s to 1920s as "Christians", "consecrated", "separated" and "searching the pure word". The Organization's previous leaders were not even named and research into them was discouraged:

> The Christians back of this publication [Zion's Watch Tower] were consecrated persons that had separated themselves from all religious organizations of "Christendom" and heathendom. They were applying themselves to a direct search of the pure Word of God unmixed with religious traditions of men. Who these individuals were is unimportant; their being consecrated directly to God by Jesus Christ and the message they were used of Him to put forth are the important thing. (The Kingdom is At Hand 1944, 310)

As JWs increased in number, ignorance became harder to enforce. Therefore in the 1950s JWs leaders began to publish glossed accounts of JWs history which ignored the fact that thousands of "truths" had been revised.

Jehovah's Witnesses and the Divine Purpose (1959) repeatedly praised Russell's accuracy (e.g. p.31). Referring to the false predictions for 1878 the book says that they were no excuse to "fight against the message". (p.37) Clergy who exposed Russell's errors were "used of Satan". (p.37) Russell's doctrines were "rich spiritual food being served at the true table of Jehovah". (p.39)

Such claims are made even though Russell's first book *Three Worlds* (1877) contained hundreds of ideas contrary to 20th century JWs dogma! Its content was such rubbish that Russell, already in the 1880s, counseled people against reading it.

Nevertheless Russell, according to the *Divine Purpose* book, "stood firm for true worship in 1878". (p.127) His courage is praised for not taking up collections. (p.19) What he did instead was urge his followers to put aside money every week and sent it to him every three months.

Regarding the failed prophecies for 1878, JWs leaders blame Nelson Barbour who until 1878 jointly ruled the cult with Russell. (Yearbook 1975, 37)

Russell correct on 1914

Although no prophecy for 1914 succeeded, modern-day JWs leaders often assert Russell was correct. (e.g. Yearbook 1975, 37; w1967 2/15 110; w1971 8/1 467-468)

Or they state that he predicted a "marked date". This phrase "marked date" hides the fact that all of Russell's prophecies failed. (See: *DATES*)

Sometimes the leaders claim that Russell accurately predicted World War I. (w1971 8/1 467-9) What he did predict was a European war for around 1906 which would weaken the nations in readiness for their destruction in 1914. (See: *DATES*)

Also:

> Based on what he [Jesus] said, along with the words of Daniel and John, Jehovah's witnesses pointed to the year 1914, decades in advance, as marking the start of the conclusion of the system of things. (g1973 1/22 8)

This is incorrect. To Russell 1914-1915 did not mark the "start of the conclusion", but rather the end of the conclusion when world peace would come:

> The 'Time of the End,' a period of one hundred and fifteen (115) years, from A.D. 1799 to A.D. 1914 is particularly marked in the Scriptures. (Studies III, 23)

Russell's teachings are still called "God's revealed truths" (Yearbook 1984, 44) although he interpreted thousands of Bible verses differently to JWs of today, and although "Russellites" retained Russell's beliefs after 1917 are called the "unfaithful slave class".

Partial admission, but blameless

In the 1970s the JWs leaders made partial admission regarding false predictions for 1914 and 1925, but not for about 20 other dates. They assigned no blame to the previous leaders but blamed the rank-and-file with phrases like "the bothers thought". (See: *EXCUSES*)

Rutherford admitted disappointment for 1914, 1918 and 1925 but implied that the "faithful" were to blame not the WTS. He added that three dates – 1914, 1918 and 1925 — "were definitely fixed in the scriptures". (Vindication I 1931, 338) In 1931 the significance of the date 1925 was discarded — no longer "fixed in the scriptures."

Sometimes Jehovah is blamed. *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* which falsely predicted paradise on Earth for 1925-1926 is something that: "Jehovah caused to be preached..." (w1955 11/15 698)

In 1984 it was admitted that the *Millions* message came from Rutherford and that in private he called himself an "ass" when the prophecy failed. (w1984 10/1 24)

Errors were minor, showed watchfulness

A frequent ruse is to suggest that only a few minor things failed. For example:

> True, some expectations ... did not materialize at the anticipated time. (w1984 12/1 18)

Actually, almost no published "expectation" materialized. Also, they were not merely expectations. Russell taught them as "God's dates", and anyone who disagreed was expelled.

Rather than saying "we were wrong", the JWs leaders glamorize their date-setting by calling it "watchful" and "spiritually awake":

> Publishers of this journal have always been watchful… So when Christ's invisible presence began in 1914, happy were these Christians to have been found watching! (w1984 12/1 12, 14)

> As early as 1876, Charles T. Russell of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had been

attentively watching for the end of "the appointed times of the nations," or "times of the Gentiles." (p.16)

Non date-setters are castigated for not being watchful and because they: "…abandoned the clear truths of the Bible and chose to follow Greek philosophy and "Saint" Augustine's theology." (ibid p.8)

The Bible in contrast calls false prophecy a "horrible thing" (Jeremiah 5:30) and false prophets "presumptuous". (Deuteronomy 18:22) JWs leaders do not accept this but rationalize as follows:

> Admittedly, it was thought that the establishment of the Kingdom in the heavens would mean the immediate destruction of earthly kingdoms and that anointed Christians would be "caught away" to join deceased anointed Christians due to be resurrected at the time of Christ's presence. (2 Thessalonians 2:1) But who can blame them for not fully understanding at that time that… (p.17)

The underlined segment is misleading since the Russellites proclaimed as Bible truth — not merely "thought" — that "the establishment of the Kingdom in the heavens" occurred in 1878 and "destruction of earthly kingdoms" would occur by 1914/1915. (See: *KINGDOM*) Yet we're told no one should "blame them" although they proclaimed nonsense as "Bible truth", wrongly condemned other religions.

Why misrepresent the past?

The reason for the web of lies is that in JWs mythology Jesus inspected Christendom's religions in 1919, and found only the Russellites to be genuine Christians, "spiritually awake". Jesus therefore appointed them as his "faithful and discreet slave" to supervise the post-1919 world-wide preaching. (w1984 12/1 16, 17)

This mythology requires that the Russellite beliefs in 1918 be correct, and the fact that hundreds of beliefs were false and were progressively dropped like hot potatoes has to be ignored. The senseless myth that Jesus chose the Russellites in 1919 because they were loyal, watchful and promoting "spiritual food" is regularly reinforced:

> When the enthroned Jesus inspected his household in 1919, he found the group of Christians associated with the *Watchtower* magazine loyally striving to "keep on the watch" with the help of spiritual "food at the proper time." (ibid p.17)
> (See also: *SLAVE CLASS — APPOINTED IN 1919*)

"Loyally striving to keep on the watch" is hardly a proper description of numerous failed prophecies and hundreds of false teachings!

[Around 2010 the Governing Body redefined the "slave class" as no longer the "remnant of the 144,000, but as themselves, just a handful of men. This demoted or ousted thousands of the "remnant" previously included. It follows that when Jesus allegedly appointed the Russellites and WTS as the "slave class" in 1919 he was wrong, and no one for 90 years noticed Jesus' mistake!]

Death threats motivate activity

WTS publications often add a death threat when they urge JWs to do more preaching. The death-threat is the reminder that Armageddon is "near" or "fast approaching":

> Similarly today, it would be highly dangerous for Christians to rationalize about the urgency of our times and adopt a "cruising speed" attitude that reflects doubt about the nearness of the end.
> The *parousia* or presence, of Christ has now run for 70 years, and his "coming" for "Jehovah's day" of execution against Satan's world is fast approaching…
> Proper Christian expectation will safeguard us during these perilous "last days" and will prompt us to take part in preaching "this good news of the kingdom." (w1984 12/1 19)

The Bible, in contrast to JWs, teaches that date-setters are "shaken from … reason" (II Thessalonians 2:1-2) and warns against lifelong slavery based on the fear of death!.(Hebrews 2:15)

ADVANCEMENT

Spiritual progress/advancement among JWs is indicated by:

1. Taking on a new "privilege of service" such as when a publisher becomes an auxiliary pioneer, or an auxiliary pioneer a regular pioneer.
2. When a male gets a more responsible position such as advancing from "ministerial servant" to elder, or a pioneer to "Bethel volunteer".

AFTER ARMAGEDDON

"After Armageddon" is an expression commonly used by JWs when talking about the anticipated earthly paradise populated exclusively by JWs after God wipes out the global population of non-JWs.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A sect previously known as the Advent Christian Association and Advent Christian Conference, which in 1854 began to separate from other Adventists.

Summary

- Founder: Jonathan Cummings
- Origin: 1860 in Salem, Massachusetts
- Classification: Protestant
- Governance: Congregational
- Headquarters: Charlotte, North Carolina
- Theology: Annihilationism; Conditional immortality; Historicism; Premillennialism
- Official Website: www.acgc.us/

The Church holds membership in the National Association of Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Origin

The Advent Christian Church one of many groups that grew out of the ministry of William Miller (1782-1849) a US Army Captain who fought in the War of 1812.

Miller concluded that Jesus Christ would return to earth visibly in 1843 and preached this message in the 1830s in churches in New York, New England, and eastern Canada. In 1840 Miller went to Boston where Joshua Himes a pastor with public relations skills brought the message to national attention.

Supporters numbered up to 100,000 in America and England.

After the prophecy failed the "Adventist movement" splintered and over the next four decades established a number of sects.

The main founder of the Advent Christian Church was Jonathan Cummings (1817–1894), a disciple of Miller who rescheduled Christ's second coming to 1853/1854.

Advent Christian Church

Cummings' 1853/1854 prediction failed but informal fellowships in many communities formed a network and established the Advent Christian Conference in 1860.

The name Advent Christian Church was adopted in 1861. A smaller group, the Life and Advent Union, merged with it in 1964.

Advent preachers such as Charles F. Hudson (1795–1881) and George Storrs (1796–1879) promoted the doctrine of conditional immortality which rejected belief in the immortality of the soul and taught that the redeemed would receive eternal life after the resurrection and final judgment.

Jonas Wendell and C.T. Russell

Jonas Wendell (who re-activated C.T. Russell's faith in 1868) was a preacher of the Advent Christian Church. He conducted revivals and organized new congregations. For example:

> The Advent Church of Yorkshire, at Yorkshire Corners, [about 60km south-east of Buffalo in New York State] was organized with 63 members in 1868, during a revival that was held in a tent by Revs. Clinton Colgrove, William A. Fenn, and **Jonas Wendell**. Mr. Colgrove, an eloquent divine, and formerly of the Baptist Church, had begun preaching here in the school-house three years previously, and continued his labors with this church until 1875…
> www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyccatta/history_of_the_town_of_yorkshire.htm

The Bible class which C.T. Russell attended from about 1869 was led by preachers of the Advent Christian Church and the Life and Advent Union.

This is important in the JWs context because JWs believed that a "the faithful slave class" which alone promoted "true Christianity" persisted from the time of the Apostles — continually replacing itself — until Russell's cult became the "slave class". If this has any credence then in 1870 the "slave class" must have been the Advent Christian Church, although it had no such doctrine. Furthermore, when Russell separated from the Advent Christians, he would have deserted "the faithful slave class".

In 1877 Advent Christians regarded Russell as a deceiver. *The Advent Christian Times* reported:

> ONE N.H. Barbour, called Dr. Barbour, with his confreres, J.H. Paton and C.T. Russell, is traveling around the country, going everywhere that they can find Adventists, and preaching that Jesus has come secretly, and will soon be revealed, and mingling in their lectures a lot of "Age-to-come" trash, all to subvert their hearers. They are not endorsed by Adventists, "Age-to-come" folks, or anybody else, yet having some money and a few sympathizers they will probably run awhile. They have been in Ohio and Indiana and are working westward. We are credibly informed that one of them boasted in Union Mills, Ind., a few days since, that they would break up every Advent church in the land. We guess not. Their whole work is proselyting. The Lord never sent them on

their mission. Give them no place, and go not near them or countenance them. (Advent Christian Times, July 18, 1877, pp 89-90)

Currently

The Advent Christian Church is an evangelical denomination. Its Executive Director heads various ministries but is accountable to an executive council of elected representatives chaired by the organization's president.

Regional work is done in five regions of the U.S. and Canada under the direction of five regional superintendents.

The organization holds to a structure in which member churches have input into the overall direction of the organization.

Membership in the USA

Year	Members	Churches
1925	28,300	
2000	35,000	325
2006	25,600	293

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH BELIEFS

Advent Christian Church members believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God and that God will soon intervene in human history with the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. Members practice tithing and hold the Lord's Supper every month.

Many evangelical denominations believe man is inherently immortal and will live forever either in heaven or hell. Advent Christians, in contrast, believe that only those who accept Jesus Christ receive the gift of eternal life. (Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:11-12)

Advent Christians stress loyalty to Scripture and accept the Apostles Creed, although their early pastors and evangelists declared they had, "No creed but the Bible."

The Church believes that people become Christians through faith in Jesus Christ. Justification is by grace through faith in Christ. It holds three beliefs that distinguish it from other evangelical churches:

1. People do not have an immortal soul. Eternal life is a gift of God to those who receive Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord.
2. The dead are unconscious until the second coming of Christ when Christians receive eternal life and non-Christians are judged and annihilated.
3. Christ will return to earth personally and visibly to establish his eternal kingdom on Earth.

Declaration

The Advent Christian Church has a *Declaration of Principles* adopted in 1900 which lists its essential doctrines:

Article One was revised in 1964 and Article XI added in 1972.

The *Declaration of Principles*:

I. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, being in its entirety a revelation given to man under Divine inspiration and providence; that its historic statements are correct, and that it is the only Divine and infallible standard of faith and practice (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15,16; John 17:17).

II. We believe, as revealed in the Bible:
a. In one God, our Father, eternal, and infinite in His wisdom, love and power, the Creator of all things, "in whom we live and move, and have our being" (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:28; Matthew 6:6)
b. And in Jesus Christ, our Lord, the only begotten Son of God conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; who came into our world to seek and to save that which was lost; who died for our sins, who was raised bodily from the dead for our justification; who ascended into heaven as our High Priest and Mediator, and who will come again in the end of this age, to judge the living and the dead, and to reign forever and ever (1 Timothy 3:16).
c. And in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, sent from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, whereby we are sanctified and sealed unto the day of redemption (John 14:16,26; 16:7-11; Ephesians 1:13).

III. We believe that man was created for immortality, but that through sin he forfeited his Divine birthright; that because of sin, death entered into the world, and passed upon all men; and that only through faith in Jesus Christ, the divinely ordained Life-giver, can men become "partakers of the divine nature," and live forever (2 Timothy 1:10; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 51-54).

IV. We believe that death is a condition of unconsciousness to all persons, righteous and wicked; a condition which will remain unchanged until the resurrection at Christ's second coming, at which time the righteous will receive everlasting life while the wicked will "punished with everlasting destruction"; suffering com-plete extinction of being (Ecclesiastes 9:5; Job 14:14; John 5:28,29; Matthew 10:28).

V. We believe that salvation is free to all those who, in this life and in this age, accept it on the conditions imposed, which conditions are simple and inflexible; namely, turning from sin, repentance toward God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a life of consecration to the service of God; thus excluding all hope of a future probation, or of universal salvation (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Luke 13:25-28).

VI. We believe that Jesus Christ, according to His promise, will come again to this earth, even "in like manner" as he went into heaven personally, visibly and gloriously—to reign here forever; and that this coming is the hope of the Church, inasmuch as upon that coming depend the resurrection and the reward of the righteous, the abolition of sin and its consequences, and the renewal of the earth now marred by sin- to become the eternal home of the redeemed, after which event the earth will be forever free from sin and death (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Revelation 22:12,20).

VII. We believe that Bible prophecy has indicated the approximate time of Christ's return; and comparing its testimony with the signs of our times, we are confident that He is near, "even at the doors," and we believe that the great duty of the hour is the proclamation of this soon-coming redemption, the defense of Bible authority, inspiration and truth, and the salvation of lost men (2 Peter 1:19-21; Matthew 24:42-45; Revelation 22:17).

VIII. We believe the Church of Christ is an institution of Divine origin, which includes all true Christians of whatever name; but that local church organizations should be independent of outside control, congregational in government, and subject to no dictation of priest, bishop or pope; although true fellowship and unity of action should exist between all such organizations (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 4:15).

IX. We believe that the only ordinances of the Church of Christ are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; immersion being the only true baptism (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

X. We believe that the first day of the week, as the day set apart by the early Church in commemoration of Christ's resurrection, should be observed as the Christian Sabbath, and used as a day of rest and religious worship (Psalms 118:22-24; Luke 24:1-12; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

XI. We believe that war is contrary to the spirit and teachings of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ; that it is contrary to the spirit of true brotherhood; and that our influence should be used against it. We believe the Bible also teaches that properly constituted government is ordained of God and is a divine instrument for man's welfare and protection. When an Advent Christian decides on the basis of Scripture and conscience, either to bear arms or to submit to penalties imposed for his refusal to do so, local Advent Christian congregations should extend continued fellowship and nurture.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH OUTREACH

Advent Christian Church missionaries have been active in India since 1900. In 2000 India had 17,000 Advent Christians in 90 churches, two Bible schools to train more workers, and a Christian school system enrolling 14,000 students with 400 teachers.

Advent Christians have mission outreach in over 30 countries including Croatia, Romania, Ukraine, South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Malaysia, Japan, Philippines, Mexico, New Zealand, Honduras, and China.

In the 1970s the Advent Christian Church recommitted itself to "go and make disciples." It employed a Director of Church Planting in 1978 (Dr Edwin K. Gedney) and emphasis on church planting and disciple-making spread throughout the denomination.

In 1991 David Ross was employed as the Executive Director of the denomination and given the task of implementing a disciple-making ministry.

In North America there are five "Regions" of the denomination each administered by a Regional Superintendent. Each Region is made up of "Conferences" of local churches. The Eastern Region, for example, has seven Conferences. Individual churches vary from under 20 people to over 300.

ADVENTISTS

The term "Second Adventists" originally applied to the followers of William Miller (1782–1849) whose ministry began in 1831 and predicted Christ's Second Coming (Advent) for 1843 and 1844.

The term Adventist came to refer to six American religions founded in the 19th century by Second Adventists.

Miller taught that the 2,300 days in Daniel meant 2,300 years which started in 457 BC and would conclude with Christ's return in AD 1843 along with the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies not accomplished in Christ's first coming. Christ would return in 1843 in the clouds of heaven and reign on the throne of David for 1000 years.

About 100,000 people in America and England accepted these beliefs. When 1843 passed, one of Miller's disciples corrected Miller's calculations and announced the end of the world for 22 October, 1844. Many Millerites left their occupations and again waited but were again disappointed.

In 1845 a conference of Millerites in Albany, N.Y. announced their faith was unshaken. They adopted a statement declaring belief in the imminent, visible Second Coming of Christ when the resurrection of the dead also occurs and the millennium commences. This group of Millerites later named their group Evangelical Adventists.

Another branch of Miller's Adventists became, in 1860, the Advent Christian Church.

Another group started in 1848 and in 1863 formed the Life and Advent Union. This had only a few hundred members and merged with the Advent Christian Church in 1964.

The largest Adventist body is the Seventh-Day Adventists. Under the leadership of Joseph Bates, James White and Ellen Gould White some Millerites adopted Saturday as the Sabbath. The Seventh Day Adventist sect was organized in 1863 with Ellen G. White (1827-1915) as leader and prophetess. Ellen White had joined the Millerites in 1842 and married Adventist minister James White in 1846.

The Seventh Day Adventists grew as follows:

1860	3,000	2000	11,687,000
1890	60,000	2005	14,399,000
1900	75,000	2010	16,923,000
1910	105,000	2015	19,126,000
1920	185,000	2016	20,009,000
1930	314,000	2017	20,727,000
1940	505,000	2018	21,415,000
1950	757,000	2019	21,557,000
1960	1,245,000	2020	21,724,000
1970	2,052,000	2021	21,912,000
1980	3,481,000	2022	22,234,000
1990	6,694,000	-------	----------

Another Adventist group began in 1864/1865 composed of Seventh Day Adventist dissidents who rejected the prophecies of Ellen White. The dissidents organized themselves in 1888 as the Churches of God in Christ Jesus, which became the Church of God in 1921. The US membership is around 75,000.

Age-to-come Adventists originated in 1851 with a General Conference organized in 1885.

Some original Millerites who either left the above denominations or had never joined them established small fellowship groups that lasted awhile and faded away. One group was led by Nelson H. Barbour with which C.T. Russell's group amalgamated in 1876.

Russell's faith was rejuvenated by Advent Christian Church preacher Jonas Wendel in 1868. Russell joined a Bible class composed of members of the Advent Christian Church and the Life and Advent Union. He was baptized in 1874. By 1875 Russell either led this class or had defected and started another. From 1876 until 1879 the Russell group amalgamated with Barbour's group.

Put briefly, it seems that the Russellites began in the Advent Christian Church.

(See also: *MILLERITES*)

ADVICE FOR KINGDOM PUBLISHERS (1939)

A 16-page WTS booklet dealing with door-to-door book-selling and how to conduct oneself when arrested by police and during lawsuits.

ADVOCATES FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESS REFORM ON BLOOD

See entries on: *BLOOD*

ADVOCATES FOR AWARENESS OF WATCHTOWER ABUSES (AAWA)

An "activist" website formerly named Association of Anti-Watchtower Activists.

It is based on a "business model" and aims to get the WTS "to rethink its damaging policies." Seven ex-JWs became the founders and agreed on a charter and to make decisions collectively.

AAWA was to be religiously neutral and raise public awareness of:

- The shunning of family members.
- The mishandling of child abuse cases.
- The mishandling of domestic abuse cases.
- The ban on certain medical treatments involving blood.
- The stigmatizing of higher education as the pursuit of materialism and a waste of time.

AAWA was incorporated as a non-profit company in 2013 and claims support from some former JWs missionaries, a former district overseer and a former WTS translator in Europe.

AFRICA

WTS influence in Africa started with Joseph Booth in 1907. It is a story of schisms, violence, government bans, and legal restrictions.

Cross (1978) gives the following information for East Africa:

When the WTS first appears	WTS recognized	WTS Restricted
Malawi 1908	1933	1967
S. Rhodesia 1914	1948	
Zambia 1917	1948	1969
Tanzania 1919	1948	1964
Zaire 1925	1959	1966
Kenya 1930s	1962	1973
Uganda 1940s	1948	1973

Joseph Booth arrived in South Africa from Australia in 1892 to do independent missionary work. He converted to Russellism in 1906 and started the African Watchtower movement in 1907. (See: *BOOTH, JOSEPH*; *KITIWALA*)

The movement defected from American control in 1915. Called Chitawala in Rhodesia and Kitawala in the Congo it persisted as an independent, multifarious movement. It was eschatological, anti-European and violent with murders, drowning of "witches" and insurrections.

Around 1930 JWs arrived and tried to recapture the African Watchtower movement. They failed but made converts from it. This has given JWs a grass roots aspect not enjoyed by other Western religions in Africa.

JWs Growth in Africa, excluding island-nations:

	Peak Publishers	Average yearly % Increase
1930	100	
1940	6,600	52
1950	53,800	23
1960	131,000	9
1970	251,000	7
1980	301,000	2
1990	c.455,000	4
1993	580,000	8

In 1993 there were almost 600,000 active JWs in Africa and about 2 million attended meetings. The African indigenous Watch Tower movements also still exist.

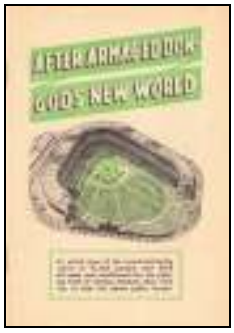
The Roman Catholics in Africa, by way of comparison, increased from 52 million in 1980 to about 92 million. (Time Australia, 1994, April 25) This represents growth at the rate of 4·5% per year.

After the JWs prophecy of Armageddon in 1975 failed, growth slowed. But strong increases, spurred by the "1914 generation" doctrine and Armageddon in our "twentieth century", recommenced in the 1980s:

Year	Population of Africa	Peak Publishers	Ratio
2007	827,000,000	1,086,700	1/761
2009	878,000,000	1,171,700	1/749

AFRICAN WATCHTOWER MOVEMENT
See: *KITIWALA*

AFTER ARMAGEDDON GOD'S NEW WORLD (1953)



A booklet in which it is argued that:

- The nations promote peace in order to better oppose the JWs religion;
- People must join JWs to "avoid perishing";
- America is a false prophet for not favoring handing national sovereignty to God's kingdom (p.15);
- The post Armageddon visible rulers of the "new world" will be the JWs overseers, "each with his territory assignment". (p.23)

AGAPE
A Greek-Biblical word referring to affection guided by principal, and usually translated "love". WTS leaders write: "Such love never does injury to anyone..." (w1984 9/15 18)

AGENCY
In 2003 Rick Alan Ross, Executive Director of Cult Education Institute, considered why the WBTS "paid the estate of Frances Coughlin $1.55 million dollars rather than let a jury decide a wrongful death lawsuit":

> Frances Coughlin's surviving family sued Jehovah's Witnesses, also known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, in State of Connecticut Superior Court at Milford (CV-00-0072183 S).
>
> The principle defendant was a "Bethelite" ... who drove recklessly in bad weather and killed Ms. Coughlin ... on October 8, 1998.
>
> That Bethelite Jordon Johnson was traveling between "Bethel," which has

housing for its full-time workers in Patison, New Jersey and Brooklyn, New York, to a Witness Kingdom Hall he was assigned to in Derby, Connecticut.

Johnson was found guilty of vehicular manslaughter, but only served 30 days in jail... Subsequently, he and Jehovah's Witnesses faced a civil suit filed by Ms. Coughlin's surviving family for damages.

Why was the Witness organization willing to pay more than $1.5 million dollars?

Apparently because a much larger issue of "agency" was at stake.

Agency is the word used to express a relationship between a principal party and its agent, through which the principal party projects its power and/or advances some purpose. And a principal party may be held liable for the actions of its agent.

Jehovah's Witnesses contended that Jordan Johnson acted on his own and was not their agent at the time he caused the fatal car wreck.

But plaintiff's counsel ... claimed on his client's behalf that Jordan Johnson was serving as a Bethelite and agent of the organization at the time and advancing their purpose, therefore Jehovah's Witnesses was responsible for his actions...

But on the first day of trial Jehovah's Witnesses decided they didn't want a jury to decide this case and instead $1.55 million was paid to the plaintiff...

... Jehovah's Witnesses were apparently concerned about what legal precedent a jury might set…
https://www.culteducation.com/culteducation.html

AGREEMENT

No matter where Jehovah's Witnesses live on this earth, they speak and teach in agreement. (w1996 1/15 5)

JWs attribute their "agreement" to all JWs using and understanding the same textbook – the Bible. However, their "speaking in agreement" also occurred in numerous beliefs that were later amended or discarded. Since the "textbook" the Bible did not change, their "speaking in agreement" cannot be attributed to the Bible but rather to:

1. Effective indoctrination;
2. Disfellowshipping of dissenters;
3. So-called "Bible study" is really the study of WTS books and magazines which describe what various Bible verses mean, and anyone who tries to disagree is silenced.

Other autocratic regimes where everyone follows the "party line" — such as Nazism, Fascism, Communism, and North Korea — have a history of suppression and violence and demonstrate the danger to life, prosperity and freedom when the policy is to produce nationwide or worldwide "agreement".

(See: *UNITY; APOSTATES*)

AHAZ

The eleventh king of Judah, Ahaz, was a murderous law-breaker. JWs claim he pictured the Protestant Clergy. (w1942 1/1 6)

AID BOOK, THE

"Aid Book" is the short way of referring to the book *Aid To Bible Understanding* (1971.

AID TO BIBLE UNDERSTANDING (1971)

An official WTS encyclopedia of the Bible and JWs beliefs.

About 250 Branch Office personnel and overseers sent information which Raymond Franz began to sort through, later assisted by Lyman Swingle (WBTS Director), Edward Dunlap (Registrar of Gilead School), Reinhard Lengtat (of the Service Department) and John Wischuk (of the Writing Department).

Franz wrote most of the historical articles and the introduction. (Franz, R. 1983, Crisis of Conscience, pp 20-21)

AKASHI, JUNZO

A Japanese immigrant to California converted in 1922 to Rutherford's cult who preached to Japanese Americans. (w1924 2/1 47)

Akashi opened a Branch office in Japan, in 1926, and wrote on *The Witness Work in Japan* for the JWs newspaper *The Messenger*. (1931, July 29)

Akashi was arrested in Japan in 1939 and imprisoned until 1945. He left the JWs sect in 1947.

A harsh verdict

The verdict on Akashi in the 1948 *Yearbook of JWs* was:

…he did not believe what was published as far back as the Deliverance book. Still, through all these years. He played the part of a hypocrite and remained as Branch Servant… he has proved himself to be a hypocrite, especially since 1926. (p.165)

This verdict was repeated in 1973: "…playing the part of the hypocrite for more than twenty years." (Yearbook 1973, 217)

This harsh verdict epitomizes what has happened to many thousands. Believing they're getting "the truth" and Armageddon and paradise are "just ahead" they sacrifice education and employment to preach. Prophecy fails, "truth" keeps changing and excuses lose credibility. Doubts arise but the WTS publications say "show humility", "wait on Jehovah" for clarification, and meanwhile be obedient. Akashi did this for 20 years.

Many JWs similarly, after much "waiting on Jehovah", cannot cope with further false prophecies and more reversals of "Bible truth" and finally give up. Instead of apologizing and offering compensation, the JWs leaders slander them, call them hypocrites, and get them stigmatized and ostracized. It's like the Bible says: "A lying tongue hates its victims..." (Proverbs 26:28)

Akashi, for example, would have "waited on Jehovah" to bring Armageddon and paradise on Earth in 1926, 1936 and the early 1940s. Instead he got six years of prison and torture followed by demands for more work for the WTS and more "waiting on Jehovah" without good evidence that this time the prophecies would be right.

Indeed they were again false. The doctrine that the last generation began before 1914 and included people who would live to see Armageddon – a doctrine called "the Creator's promise" – was changed in 1995. (See: *GENERATION*)

Hypocrites

From 1932 to 1971 JWs congregations had **one** elder/overseer each. Yet *The Watchtower* in October 1944 implied that congregations could have many elders each. But this was not instituted until 1972.

To be consistent with the judgment on Akashi as "hypocrite" because he saw errors but remained in the cult for 20 years, the same verdict should apply to the Governing Body — hypocrites for 27 years from 1944 to 1971.

AKULOVA, VARYA (1992-)
Ukrainian weightlifter, athlete, gymnast, and wrestler billed as "the strongest girl in the world."

Varya first entered weight lifting contests at the age of four and power-lifted 420 pounds at age seven. At 14 she weighed 40kg, could lift almost nine times her bodyweight, but did not look particularly muscular. Apparently she has genes for strong muscles, tendons and ligaments besides training seven hours daily coached by her father, Yura, himself a former circus strongman.

Due to circus performances the family constantly moved and Varya constantly changed schools. Her circus acts included acrobatics and juggling.

The Akulova family featured in *My Shocking Story* (2006, December) on *Discovery Channel*. A scene where the parents disallowed a blood sample for genetic tests explained they are JWs.

ALBANIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Albania and their ratio to Albania's population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	600	5,437	3,491	934
2000	2,160	1,510	10,864	300
2005	3,556	882	10,144	309
2010	4,314	834	11,959	301
2015	5,415	592	12,945	248
2018	5,647	508	11,866	242
	Ave.			
2019	5,605	514	12,135	237
2020	5,569	517	14,252	202
2021	5,599	513	15,626	184
2022	5,531	518	12,106	237
2023	5,406	511	10,644	259
2024	5,352	449	10,447	230
2025	5,320	444	9,756	242

Starting in 2019 the WTS based the publisher-to-population ratio calculations on the average instead of peak publishers.

ALCOHOL
Alcohol in moderation, without drunkenness, is acceptable to JWs. In Rutherford's time excessive use was common even at Bethel headquarters.

ALIENS ON OTHER PLANETS
JWs do not believe in the existence of alien civilizations on other planets. Alien life, they argue, depends on evolution being a correct theory but "even life on earth did not evolve from inanimate matter" and therefore on Earth "there are no evolved forms of life".

JWs, however, believe in "intelligent creatures in ... outer space" in the form of angels and demons. In ancient times the demons could materialize this being the basis of, "legends ... some scientists have interpreted as perhaps indicating visitations from outer space." (w1967 11/1 645-648) In 1914 Satan and the

demons were tossed out of heaven and confined to the vicinity of Earth.

ALMIGHTY
A term JWs restrict to God the Father. The Father is God Almighty but Christ the Son is "a mighty god".

ALGERIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Algeria and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	74	164,000		
1975	26	513,000		
1980	21	904,800	57	333,000
1985	41	512,000	75	280,000
1990	55	465,000	95	269,000

ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA
The birth place of Charles Taze Russell and where he grew up, converted to Second Adventism, started his cult, had his first meeting hall, and where his headquarters, Bible House, was located.

Allegheny City was a municipality on the north side of the junction of the Allegheny and Ohio rivers, near Pittsburgh. Prior to Russell's birth in 1852 the area was mainly farmland.

Allegheny was annexed by Pittsburgh in 1907 and is known as the North Side of Pittsburgh, and its riverfront district the North Shore. Allegheny City was laid out in 1788 and incorporated as a city in 1840 with population growth as follows:

1840	10,000	1880	79,000
1850	21,000	1890	105,000
1860	29,000	1900	130,000
1870	53,000		

Allegheny was an industrial and commercial city with packing houses, tanneries, soap factories, glue factories, brewery, etc. Pittsburgh and Allegheny, after their merger, were divided into 27 "wards"; Allegheny became wards 21 to 27.

Urban redevelopment in the 1960s demolished much of Allegheny's historic center. Today nothing apparently remains of locations associated with Russell.

ALLOWANCE
Resident workers at WTS branches receive a monthly allowance. In the early 1970s this was $20. Special pioneers received $38 in early 1970s. In low-income areas such as Papua-New Guinea the native special pioneers received half the White rate.

JWs believed that the Governing Body and regular workers at the Brooklyn headquarters had the same living conditions. Former Governing Body member Raymond Franz disagreed:

> The monthly allowance of fourteen dollars often barely covered (and in some cases was less than) their transportation costs going to and from Kingdom Hall meetings. Those whose family or friends were more affluent had no problems as they received outside assistance. But others rarely could afford anything beyond bare necessities. Those from more distant points, particularly those from the western states, might find it virtually impossible to spend vacations with their families, particularly if they came from a poor family. Yet they were regularly hearing greetings passed on to the Bethel Family from members of the Governing Body and others as they traveled around the country and to other parts of the world giving talks. They saw the corporation officers driving new Oldsmobiles bought by the Society and serviced and cleaned by workers like themselves. Their work schedule of eight hours and forty minutes each day, and four hours on Saturday morning, combined with attendance at meetings three times a week, plus the weekly "witnessing" activity, seemed to many to make their lives very cramped, routine, tiring. But they knew that to lessen up in any of these areas would undoubtedly put them in the "B.A." class and result in their being called to a meeting designed to correct their attitude. (Crisis of Conscience, Raymond Franz 1983, p.70)

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND BENEFICIAL (1963)
A summary of the Bible from the JWs viewpoint. The last 80 pages have "background information" that emphasizes JWs views. In chronology for example only the WTS chronology is given. The pages dealing with Bible translations praise the NWT.

A second edition came out in 1990.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE
Alternative Service refers to civil service offered to conscientious objectors to military service.

During World War II the WTS leaders ruled that JWs must reject Alternative Service because it is a compromise of their neutrality,

and death or prison must be chosen in preference.

In the USA 4300 JWs were imprisoned during the World War because of this stand and subsequently many thousands in other countries:

> They had been duly ordered by their draft boards to report for and submit to service in the army or in work camps for conscientious objectors and they refused. (Divine Purpose 1959, 224)

> Because they are wholly dedicated to God by their vows to him through Jesus Christ, Jehovah's Witnesses are according to God's Word no part of this world which is governed by the political systems. For this important Bible reason they tell officials of the government that they conscientiously object to serving in any military service. (w1951 2/1 77)

To do Alternative Service was a disfellowshipping offence. (Pay Attention to Yourselves and All the Flock 1992, 96)

At a meeting of the Governing Body in October 1978 nine out of thirteen members present voted to permit JWs to do Alternative Service. (Crisis of Conscience, 1983) A policy change, however, required a 2/3 majority vote. Since the Governing Body numbered 16 in 1978 and 9 is less than 2/3 of 16 the previous ruling remained.

Change came in 1996 when the Governing Body made the acceptance of Alternative Service in lieu of military service a matter of individual conscience:

> In some places a required civilian service, such as useful work in the community, is regarded as non-military national service. Could a dedicated Christian undertake such service? Here again, a dedicated, baptized Christian would have to make his own decision on the basis of his Bible-trained conscience. (w1996 5/1 19)

> Appointed elders and others should fully respect the conscience of the brother and continue to regard him as a Christian in good standing. (p.20)
> [See also w1999 11/1 28-29; w1998 8/15 17]

"Bible trained conscience" really had nothing to do with it since all JWs knew, or thought they knew, that Alternative Service was a violation of neutrality. They "knew" it because the Governing Body told them so in WTS publications and also banned them from doing independent thinking!

Relative subjection or total?

In making this policy change *The Watchtower* article claimed that Russell correctly identified the "higher powers" of Romans 13 as the secular authorities but was confused on whether subjection to them should be relative or total:

> Obviously, a clearer understanding of Christian submission to the superior authorities was needed. (w1996 5/1 13)

This, however, is wrong since Russell **did** teach relative subjection:

> While Christians are enjoined to be subject to the 'Powers that be' the kings, governors, magistrates, etc. nevertheless this is not to be understood as meaning the renouncement of our fidelity to the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is our Over-Lord. Our allegiance to earthly lords and powers and their commands is merely to the extent that they do not conflict with the commands of our over-Lord. (w1916 7/15)

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE — 2

Alternative service is offered by some governments as a substitute for military service to conscientious objectors.

For about 60 years until 1996 the JWs leaders did not permit JWs to do alternative service. The ban was enforced by disfellowshipping JWs who disobeyed. The ban meant that thousands of JWs went to prisons and caused the deaths of some of them. In 1996 the Governing Body cancelled the ban and permitted JWs to do alternative service. (w1996 5/1)

As is usual when revising doctrines and policies the leaders did not admit to having instigated and enforced the previous stance. Instead they placed the blame of abstaining from alternative service onto the victims:

> [6] In the past, some Witnesses have suffered for refusing to share in an activity that their conscience now might permit. For example, this might have been their choice years ago as to certain types of civilian service. A brother might now feel that he could conscientiously perform such without overstepping his Christian neutrality regarding the present system of things.

> [7] Was it unrighteous on Jehovah's part to allow him to suffer for rejecting what he now might do without consequences? Most who have had that experience would not think so. Rather, they rejoice that they had the opportunity of

> demonstrating publicly and clearly that they were determined to be firm on the issue of universal sovereignty. (Compare Job 27:5.) What reason could anyone have to regret having followed his conscience in taking a firm stand for Jehovah? By loyally upholding Christian principles as they understood them or by responding to the proddings of conscience, they proved worthy of Jehovah's friendship. Certainly, it is wise to avoid a course that would disturb one's conscience or that would likely cause others to be stumbled...
>
> [9] In modern times, there have been some Witnesses who were very strict in their view of what they would or would not do. For that reason they suffered more than others. Later, increased knowledge helped them to expand their view of matters. But they have no reason to regret having earlier acted in harmony with their conscience even when this possibly brought extra suffering. It truly is commendable that they demonstrated their willingness to suffer in faithfulness to Jehovah... (w1998 8/15 17 Underlining added)

The Governing Body obviously accepted no blame for wrongly imposing needless restrictions, or for enforcing them with excommunication, or for forbidding "independent thinking" by which JWs might have made the right decision independently. The talk of "conscience" masks what really happened — which is that JWs obeyed their leaders because they were afraid to disobey.

Consider again the words "By loyally upholding Christian principles as they understood them or by responding to the proddings of conscience, they proved worthy of Jehovah's friendship." When Christians of other churches argue from conscience or from their understanding, JWs condemn them, claiming sincerity is not enough because what counts is knowing the truth. But among JWs "sincerity" and "conscience" based on blind obedience to men is "worthy of Jehovah's friendship."

Unity

The JWs leaders emphasized the importance of unity among JWs including agreement in all doctrines, and discourage "independent thinking". (w1983 1/15 22, 27) They tell their followers that they are "free moral agents" (w1993 8/15 26; w1981 5/15 6) but in practice the enforced unity negates freedom of conscience:

> …there cannot even be coexistent tendencies or schools of thought within the Christian organization. (w1983 9/15 18)
>
> Approved association with Jehovah's Witnesses requires accepting the entire range of the true teachings of the Bible, including those Scriptural beliefs that are unique to Jehovah's Witnesses. (w1986 4/1 31)

Since the Governing Body demands obedience, and this has led to suffering and deaths among JWs who obediently rejected alternative service, the Governing Body is to blame.

ALUMINIUM

From the 1920s until the 1960s the WTS opposed the use of aluminum cooking pots and published over 100 articles against their use.

The idea apparently began with dentist Charles Betts (1879-1959) who published a booklet on the dangers of aluminum in 1926.

The WTS claimed that aluminium poisoned people and caused heart and lung cancer, stomach ulcers, meningitis, vomiting, headache, heart attacks, blindness, kidney trouble, tumors, tonsillitis, paralysis, fainting, skin eruptions, asthma, insanity and anemia. (g1936 9/23 803-812; g1937 9/8 773)

Story after story appeared in *The Golden Age* about people who used aluminium cookware and developed maladies but recovered after switching to enamel pots

The aluminium rumor was discredited in 1933 but the WTS ignored the science and continued its campaign for several more decades.

A Brief Dictionary of American Superstitions (1965) says:

> There was a widespread rumor and belief that food in contact with aluminium turned to poison. (Discredited by the United States Public Health Service and the American Medical Association [*Nature*, March 25, 1933])

AMBASSADORS

JWs believe that in early Christianity, "All were ambassadors of the kingdom." (w1982 7/1 22; w1981 6/15 27; w1927 1/15 27; w1921 3/15 93-94; Deliverance 1926, 230; Government 1928, 229-230; The Kingdom is at Hand 1944, 294-295)

However, the ambassadors of II Corinthians 5:20 refer to "we" — Paul and Timothy (II Corinthians 1:1) — and are distinguished from

"you" the Corinthian Christians. Therefore only some Christians were ambassadors, not all.

AMERICAN SAMOA

Publishers and Memorial attendance on American Samoa and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	47	553		
1975	87	322		
1980	78	415	164	197
1985	86	414	304	117
1990	188	203	458	83
1995	190	288	607	90
2000	185	340	570	110
2005	198	292	730	79
2010	237	296	855	82
2015	233	247	835	69
2018	194	287	682	82
	Ave.			
2019	154	357	595	92
2020	150	420	520	106
2021	144	382	668	82
2022	131	420	647	85
2023	124	395	568	86
2024	136	324	545	81
2025	146	315	610	75

AMOS — MODERN FULFILMENT

According to JWs leaders, the Old Testament prophet Amos, and his prophecy against the kingdom of Israel (the northern ten-tribe kingdom), has a second, modern fulfillment:

> It's prophetic meaning is made known to us through "the faithful and discreet slave,' that group of anointed Christians whom the Master, Jesus Christ, is using now to provide spiritual "food at the proper time" for all of God's people. (w1984 7/1 9)

JWs correspond to Amos, and the "apostate kingdom of Israel has its parallel today in Christendom…" (ibid p.9) Amos declared his prophecy as far as Egypt. (Amos 3:9-10) Egypt is:

> ...a symbol of the entire wicked world alienated from God… (p.10)

Like ancient apostate Israel, Christendom is full of violence including:

> Now Christendom is very much a party to the struggle between the two superpowers, "the king of the south" and "the king of the north," with the result that its nations go along with the deployment of murderous nuclear weapons… (p.11)

The empire of Assyria destroyed ancient Israel. Similarly:

> In like fashion, Jehovah will bring a heavily armed modern-day Assyrian … to execute apostate Christendom. Indeed, the entire world empire of false religion, Babylon the Great, will at that one time be devastated by vicious "horns"—militarized political powers that are even now members nations of the UN. (pp 11-12)

After destroying false religion "Assyria" attacks JWs:

> …the political powers of the UN 'wild beast,' will gather to wage war against God's enthroned "King of kings and Lord of lord." That will be the signal for Har-Magedon, "the war of the great day of God the Almighty." (p.12)

The Watchtower (w1984 7/1) next discusses an attack by the neighboring countries of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir against Judah (II Chronicles 20), giving this also a modern counterpart. Judah was "theocratic" (p.14) and its king, Jehoshaphat:

> ...pictures the King, Jesus Christ, newly installed on his heavenly throne in 1914… (p.13)

Ammon and Moab picture, "today's political powers and big business…" (p.14) Mount Seir, inhabited by Edomites "foreshadowed the proud apostates of Christendom today." (p.14)

Jehoshaphat prayed for help and a prophet named Jahaziel gave the king a reply:

> Has Jehovah provided a corresponding channel in the midst of his people today? To be sure, he has! …the anointed "faithful and discreet slave" class…" (p.15

Jahaziel ordered the Jews to go and face the attacking armies but without fighting. (II Chronicles 20:16, 17) The parallel for JWs is:

> It is their sacred service of going to the homes of the people, time and again, to warn them of the impending destruction. (p.16)

The invading Ammonites and Moabites, according to the Bible, then attacked their allies of Mount Seir. Similarly in the JWs parallel:

> He [God] will cause militarized member nations of the UN to have this same "thought", by turning upon false religion, to devastate and destroy her. The great apostate system of Christendom, like

> those Edomites from Mount Seir, will be crushed! (p.18)

With false religion crushed the UN next seeks to crush JWs. God, therefore, brings on Har-Magedon and the nations are destroyed. (p.18)

Predictions failed; "Slave" demoted; No apology

In 1984 when the above was published JWs predicted Armageddon "within our twentieth century" and within the generation of 1914. But these predictions were false as were similar prophecies for 1914/1915, 1918 and the 1940s.

The "the faithful and discreet slave class", also known as "the anointed remnant" and God's modern day collective "prophet", which allegedly produced all the "spiritual food" including prophecies, was removed from that position in 2010 and is no longer the "faithful slave".

Neither this former "faithful slave", nor the Governing Body who headed it, have admitted that their predictions were false, nor have they apologized.

ANCIENT WORTHIES

The "ancient worthies" were faithful Hebrew men of Old Testament times (including those listed in Hebrews 11) whose resurrection was predicted to occur prior to Armageddon in 1914/1915, 1925 and the 1940s, and who would rule the world.

After 1925 their appearance was expected at any time and a house named "Beth Sarim" was built for them in 1929. In 1942 their arrival was "any day now". (The New World 1942, p.104)

In 1948 Beth Sarim was sold and in 1950 the resurrection of the worthies was changed from before to after Armageddon. The princes mentioned in Psalm 45, who for decades were interpreted as the resurrected worthies, were reinterpreted as the overseers [elders] of the JWs congregations:

> For some years now both the remnant and the great crowd of strangers or "other sheep" have been looking for the promised "princes" of the new earth to appear. Their expectation has been based upon the statement of Psalm 45:16, which is addressed to the new world's King: "Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth." In the past we have understood this to apply exclusively to the witnesses of Jehovah of ancient times before Christ, men who were either the natural forefathers of Jesus Christ, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, or who were faithful prophets and fellow witnesses of these ... the WATCH TOWER publications used to refer to them as the "ancient worthies". (w1950 11/1 414)

(See also: *PRINCES; BETH SARIM*)

ANDERSON, BARBARA (1940-)

Brooklyn Bethel member 1982-1992 initially in the Shipping Department followed by the Construction Engineering Department and finally four years in the Writing Department where she did research for the book *Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* (1993).

Anderson was born in New York of Polish Catholic parents and joined JWs at age 14.

When in the Writing Department Anderson also monitored mail and phone calls to headquarters, and these increasingly enquired about how elders should respond to child sexual abuse.

She was disfellowshipped in 2002 after publicizing the Organization's tolerance of child sexual abuse on the television program *Dateline*.

JWs regard police and psychologists as part of Satan's organization to be avoided if possible. Anderson noted that in 16 states where the law required clergy to report child abuse to police, JWs elders were instructed to also report abuse to the police. In other states without such laws the elders handled cases internally.

The elders had to have two eye-witnesses to a child-molestation incident or a confession. Otherwise the accused was counted as innocent and the accuser required to not repeat the charges to anyone. Since pedophiles rarely abuse children in front of observers JWs pedophiles were able to continue abusing.

Barbara Anderson and her husband left headquarters in late 1992 but she continued as an outside researcher for the Writing Department until 1997.

w1997 1/1 27 states that known child molesters "would not qualify for congregation privileges", but an official Organization letter sent to all bodies of elders in 1997 reversed the policy and permitted former pedophiles and those so-accused to be elders.

Barbara Anderson then went public about this cover-up policy and was disfellowshipped.

ANDERSON, BARBARA — LAWSUIT

Former "Bethelite" (live-in volunteer at JWs headquarters) Barbara Anderson exposed the Organization's tolerance of pedophiles and was disfellowshipped. Her excommunication led to a lawsuit:

Ousted Jehovah's Witnesses' Couple Lose Lawsuit

A court has dismissed the claims of a couple who accused the Jehovah's Witnesses of improperly ousting them from their congregation after the wife told NBC's "Dateline" the denomination covers up child sexual abuse.

The denomination's national organization, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc., asked the court to dismiss a $20 million lawsuit brought by Barbara and Joseph Anderson, who claimed defamation, fraud and intentional infliction of emotional distress in their ouster from their congregation...

In dismissing the case, Judge Patricia Cottrell, with the Tennessee court of appeals, in Nashville, wrote the court did not have jurisdiction to hear it "based upon the First Amendment's protection of decisions of church tribunals on religious questions..."

According to the suit, Barbara Anderson was working as a volunteer researcher at the international headquarters of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the early 1990s when an official asked her to look into the handling of sexual abuse cases. She found hundreds of allegations that had been kept secret, and when she made those findings public she was ousted from the denomination.

"I went public about the fact that they were not reporting child abuse," Anderson said Monday. "They punished me for something I was legally bound to do. I came forward and showed their policies protect pedophiles." Joseph Anderson was ousted shortly afterward.

As part of the ouster—called "disfellowshipping"—the couple said they were shunned by other members of the congregation. The Andersons' only child refused to talk to them or let them see their grandson...
(Associated Press [Nashville TN] January 23, 2007
http://www.whas11.com/topstories/stories/012307whasrtTopJehovahsWitnessesSuit.f396ce2.html)

ANDERSON, JOE

A JW of 50 years and member at Brooklyn Headquarters who resigned as elder in 2002 over Governing Body child sexual abuse policies and sent them a letter protesting against their policy of "keeping child abuse a secret".

He wrote that Governing Body members Chitty and Greenlees were dismissed in the 1980s because Chitty was a homosexual and Greenlees had molested a boy, but neither was disfellowshipped. Joe Anderson also claimed his congregation had a confessed child molester, and a former elder who confessed to molestation had moved to another congregation, but Watchtower policy prohibited that the congregations be informed.

Joe operated one of the printing presses at "Bethel" at Columbia Heights, New York, from 1956 to1959. He then married and he and his wife (Barbara) pioneered, converting 80 people to the JWs faith.

In 1982 the two returned to Bethel where Joe was assigned to the Construction Plumbing Department.

ANDORRA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Andorra and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	17	1,150		
1975	53	501		
1980	88	347	233	131
1985	97	440	271	157
1990	165	306	251	201
1995	149	432	326	197
2000	155	426	313	211
2005	177	444	297	265
2010	198	427	376	225
2015	181	438	320	248
2018	178	432	354	217
	Ave.			
2019	173	445	332	232
2020	168	458	383	201
2021	169	456	372	207
2022	167	461	331	233
2023	165	509	351	239
2024	161	534	340	253
2025	168	524	359	245

ANDRE, PETER (1973-)
English singer and TV personality born in London of Greek Cypriot JWs parents. Until aged 16 he attended the five hours of weekly meetings and door-knocked on weekends: "The only book allowed in his house was the Bible; the only other ones he read were approved texts about the Jehovah faith." (Aitkenhead 2023)

When he was nine his parents moved to Queensland, Australia. At 16 he was a contestant on the TV talent show *New Faces* after which he was offered a recording contract. For the next ten years he "rebelled against everything" but his songs made him a "global heart-throb". He had a nervous breakdown at 25 followed by six years of therapy and a return to show business.

He married twice and has four children, two from each marriage, and lives again in London: "But he now believes in bringing up children to decide their religion for themselves and does not observe Jehovah practices..." (ibid p.27

ANGELS
Invisible spirit beings who watch over JWs, take messages to the Governing Body, and fight Armageddon. Allegedly angels use JWs as mouthpieces to preach:

> During the 20th century, only Jehovah's Witnesses have cooperated with the angels in this vital work. (w1988 1/1 16)

Rutherford taught that in 1918 the "holy spirit" ceased activity such as teaching or comforting. Rutherford therefore needed to explain how God could communicate doctrine to him and the WTS without the holy spirit mediating. Therefore he taught that angels deliver the "truth" to God's representatives on Earth, that is to himself and the WTS.

ANGELS (1934)
Booklet authored by Rutherford.

ANGELS AND J.F. RUTHERFORD
Rutherford claimed that angels — invisible supernatural spirits — transmitted into the minds of "the remnant" of the 144,000 the interpretations and instructions to be taught in *The Watchtower*.

This doctrine followed of necessity from his claim that the "holy spirit" ceased activity including teaching and comforting in 1918 and without the spirit Rutherford needed to explain how God communicated new truth.

In practice Rutherford alone, not the entire "remnant", came up with new interpretations.

(The charade that the entire "anointed remnant" colluded to produce new truth ended in 2010 when the Governing Body removed the "remnant" from their position as "the faithful and discreet servant class".)

Angelic input in the mind

Some quotes affirming angelic influence:

> These invisible ones the Lord uses to put in the hands of his "faithful servant" class, that is, the man clothed with linen, the fiery message from his Word, or judgments written, and which is to be used as directed. The resolutions adopted by conventions of God's anointed people, booklets, magazines, and books published by them, contain the message of God's truth and are from the Lord Jehovah, and provided by him through Christ Jesus and his underofficers...
>
> The interpretation of prophecy, therefore, is not from man, but is from the Lord; and the Lord causes events to come to pass in fulfillment of the prophecy in due time. (Vindication 1, 1931, 120)
>
> These angels are invisible to human eyes and are there to carry out the orders of the Lord. No doubt they first hear the instruction which the Lord issues to his remnant and then these invisible messengers pass such instruction on to the remnant. The facts show that the angels of the Lord with him at his temple have been thus rendering service unto the remnant since 1919. (Vindication III 1932, 250)
>
> Certain duties and kingdom interests have been committed by the Lord to his angels, which included transmission of information to God's anointed people on the earth for their aid and comfort. Even though we do not understand how angels transmit this information, we know that they do it... (Preparation 1933, 36-37)
>
> The remnant do not hear audible sounds, because such is not necessary. Jehovah has provided his own good way to convey thoughts to the minds of his anointed ones. (Preparation 1933, 64)
>
> [17] Enlightenment proceeds from Jehovah by and through Christ Jesus and is given to the faithful anointed on earth at the temple, and brings great peace and consolation to them. Again Zechariah talked with the angel of the Lord, which shows that the remnant are instructed by the angels of the Lord. The remnant do not hear audible sounds, because such is not necessary. Jehovah has provided his own good way to convey thoughts to the minds of his anointed ones. (w1933 10/15 247-248)

This shows that the remnant of God are instructed by the angels of the Lord. The remnant do not hear audible sounds, because such is not necessary. Jehovah

has provided his own good way to convey thoughts to the minds of his anointed ones on earth. To all on the outside of the organization of Jehovah his is a secret organization. (w1938 9/15 286)

No man's opinion

Rutherford claimed that no one could understand prophecy until God's "due time" to reveal it — and God's due time was always when Rutherford published his new interpretations.

Rutherford also claimed that *The Watchtower* contains "no man's opinion" and no "human opinion" and the evidence for this was the alleged angelic communication.

Spirit medium

Rutherford must have noticed the similarity of his angels with the séances practiced by Spiritualists and that this left him open to accusations of being a spirit medium. His response was to deny it:

The Lord used *The Watchtower* to announce these truths. Doubtless he used his invisible deputies to have much to do with it. This is not what some may regard as "spiritism", by any means; but it does mean that God in his own good way can direct his people without any audible communication with them. (w1938 5/15 158)

Oracles and angels of Satan

Rutherford also tried to distinguish his angelic messages/messengers from "oracles" of "Satanic religions" and the influence of Satan's deceiving angels:

[9]An oracle may be properly defined as "a speech or message proceeding or coming from an unseen power, given in answer to an inquiry"...

It was from amongst the Jews that Jehovah selected all his prophets and to whom he spoke or delivered his messages. Those precious messages coming from Jehovah now are for the benefit of those who love and serve Jehovah God. An oracle is therefore a speech or message that prompts and directs action of the creature.

[10]Satan is the mimic god, and hence attempts to counterfeit that which appears to the outworking of Jehovah's purpose. To this end he has used and still uses wicked spirit creatures to deliver speech or messages to those who are willing to give heed thereto. Such has ever been a part of the practice of satanic religions. The priest of such satanic religions is said to receive a message from the unseen which he delivers to others, and thus the priest claims to be in communication with a god. However, these priests do not disclose that the god with whom they are in communication is the Devil or some of his invisible assistants. (w1933 1/15 20-21)

As Satan "that old Serpent" is the arch deceiver, also all his wicked angels are deceivers, and the undisputed evidence shows that they continue to deceive men. They operate by gaining control of the mind of man and thereby compel or lead man to commit wrongful acts. (w1937 6/1 165)

Testing for truthful angels

The difference between angels influencing Rutherford and demons deceiving other religions, therefore, is that Rutherford's angels supposedly bring truth and enlightenment but Satan's wicked angels error and deception.

We can test this alleged difference by checking whether Rutherford was always right in his interpretations. This is being done throughout this *Dictionary of JWs*, but here are a few reminders in brief:

The Finished Mystery (1917) foretold the destruction of Christendom in 1918, the passing away of all republics in 1920, the death of the "great multitude", and taught that "Pastor" Russell was supervising the preaching work from heaven — and more than 1000 other pieces of nonsense! (See: *FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

In 1920 Rutherford in *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* predicted the return to Earth in 1925 of the "ancient worthies" to create paradise on Earth, but the predictions were false!

In 1922 Rutherford endorsed the prophetic dates Russell had worked out from the Great Pyramid as being "correct beyond a doubt" — but actually pyramidology was ungodly rubbish!

In the 1930s Rutherford taught that marriage is contrary to the Scriptures, and Armageddon is so near it would come within "months". The source of his anti-marriage doctrine, judged from the New Testament, was not God's angels but the "wicked angels" or "deceitful spirits"! (I Timothy 4:1-3)

The new leaders of JWs after Rutherford's death gradually discarded or revised many of his doctrines and predictions. His supposed good, truthful angels were therefore the bad, lying angels! (II Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 1:8-

9) Alternatively, his angel-claims were outright lies and he a deceiving false prophet!

ANGELS THAT SINNED
Angels that materialized human bodies prior to Noah's flood. (See: *NEPHILIM*)

Rutherford taught that some of the angels that sinned will be converted to God's service. (w1940 4/1 110) Franz altered this so that no sinner-angels will be converted.

ANGLO-AMERICAN WORLD POWER
JWs believe that England and the United States together form a dual "world power" in fulfillment of the "two-horned wild beast" described in Revelation 13.

ANGOLA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Angola and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	355	14,930		
1975	3,055	1,784		
1995	26,129	430	106,000	106
2000	43,200	292	181,000	70
2005	58,200	224	259,400	50
2010	78,300	217	344,800	49
2015	115,948	210	530,000	46
2018	156,000	178	636,000	44
	Ave.			
2019	159,800	199	696,000	46
2020	154,000	213	371,800	88
2021	150,300	226	419,200	81
2022	155,000	226	485,484	72
2023	163,700	221	643,900	56
2024	174,300	217	673,700	56
2025	184,800	211	659,000	59

ANGUILLA
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Anguilla (a self governing British overseas territory in the Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970				
1975	18	362		
1980	14	466	26	251
1985	18	362	39	167
1990	24	290	88	79
1995	28	250	134	52
2000	45	222	175	57
2005	41	279	197	58
2010	61	237	328	44
2015	71	192	252	54
2018	67	255	225	76
	Ave.			
2019	64	234	288	52
2020	56	268	156	96
2021	55	273	206	73
2022	58	259	208	72
2023	55	273	254	59
2024	62	258	201	80
2025	67	239	237	68

ANIMAL RIGHTS
JWs disapprove of cruelty to animals. (g1985 11/8 23)

ANNIVERSARY
An annual day for remembering or celebrating an important event. JWs permit wedding anniversaries and have an anniversary of Christ's death but disfellowship any JW who openly celebrates birthdays including Christ's birthday.

ANNIVERSARY SUPPER
Russell's name for the annual Memorial.

ANOINTED CLASS
Russellites and JWs who after WWI claimed to be of the 144,000 are called the "anointed remnant", the "remnant", and the "anointed class".

The anointed, according to JWs belief, are 144,000 individuals who are born of the "holy spirit", destined to live in heaven after they die and to rule the world after Armageddon.

They are also the "body of Christ" chosen by God progressively since the day of Pentecost. Until about 2010 they were also God's composite modern-day prophet and the "faithful and discreet slave class" who produce all the new truth and doctrines of JWs.

ANOINTED REMNANT
Those of the 144,000 still living on Earth. Only JWs in good standing can be of the "anointed remnant".

The 144,000 constitute the ruling class of God's Kingdom. Because Christ inaugurated a "covenant for the kingdom" at the Last Supper only the alleged "anointed remnant" take wine and bread at the annual JWs memorial of Christ's death.

The selection of the 144,000 was completed in 1935 — at least that was the official doctrine until early in the 21st century. They were all either Russellites or new converts to the WTS after Russell's death. After 1935 only a few were added to replace those who defected from JWs.

In 1334/1935 almost all adult JWs were members of the "remnant" – about 50,000 of them. In 1970 they were down to 10,368, and in 2000 AD 8661.

If we assume an average age for remnant members in 1935 of 30, then their average age in 2000 was 96, or slightly little less if we allow for a few replacements of any who defected.

The **actual** decline in the numbers of the "anointed" can be compared to the **expected** decline by consulting mortality tables used by insurance companies. Until about 1970 the actual decline was roughly equal to the expected decline.

After 1970, however, the "anointed remnant" decreased too slowly! Mortality tables show that in 2000 CE the "remnant" should have numbered below 1000. Instead they numbered 8661. It follows that over 7000 of these supposed kings of the kingdom of God were frauds. (The 144,000, the Great Crowd and 1935 — *Investigator Magazine* 162, May 2015)

After 2005 the "anointed" began to increase — 21,150 in 2022. This refuted a 70-year long teaching that they would decline until Armageddon and die out soon after Armageddon..

(See also: *REMNANT; MORDECAI CLASS*)

ANOINTED SERVANT CLASS

Until the 1930s the "anointed servant class" referred to all members of Rutherford's cult — all who preached his doctrines. (Life 1929, 290)

In 1935 Rutherford divided his followers into two classes, the "remnant of the 144,000" and the "great multitude". The "anointed servant class" was identical to the remnant; all new converts after 1935 (or nearly all) were in the "great multitude" class. (See: *REMNANT*)

ANOUK, MISHA

Author of the German book *Goodbye Jehovah* (2014) in which he tells of his departure from JWs and their indoctrination, and the personal challenges this entailed. He discusses the effects of being ostracized by everyone whom he had cared about and the fear, blame, denial, anger and depression he experienced.

ANTI JWs MINISTRIES

See: *MINISTRIES TO JWs*

ANTI WAR

Conscientious objection to war and refusal to participate is not unique to JWs. Anti-war Christian groups include:

- Moravians (a Protestant religion dating back to the 16th century)
- Bretheren
- Anabaptist groups including Mennonites, total adherents about 1,500,000
- Hutterites
  Schwenkfelders
  Bruderhof Communities
- Amish c.200,000 members
- Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Doukhobors — A 17th century breakaway from Russian Orthodox Church
- Molokans — A 17th century breakaway from the Russian Orthodox
- Pentecostal Charismatic Peace Fellowship
- Seventh Day Adventists, about 20 million members
- Community of Christ
- Christadelphians
- Worldwide Church of God
- Pax Christi — A Catholic peace movement
- Fellowship of Reconciliation — A group formed in 1914 to unite pacifists regardless of denomination; most major religious denominations have groups affiliated with these.

Most of these Peace Churches have suffered for their anti-war stance including prison and death. After two Hutterites died in American prisons for refusing the military draft in WWII many Hutterite colonies moved to Canada.

(See also: *WAR*)

ANTICHRIST

Defined by Russell as the apostate church together with its head the pope. (Studies II, 272, 277, 302, 355)

Rutherford limited the term "antichrist" to the Papacy. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 106)

Franz applied the term to the clergy of all Christian churches collectively. To JWs the clergy are the worst people in the world and the ones they most criticize.

(See *VITUPERATION*)

ANTIGUA

Antigua is a two-island, Caribbean, nation composed of Antigua and Barbuda, formerly in the British Empire but independent since 1981.

Publishers on Antigua and Memorial attendance and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1980	198	358	536	132
1985	212	324	563	122
1990	254	300	665	115
1995	328	201	1,056	62

2000	372	177	1,123	59
2005	434	175	1,292	59
2010	524	170	1,447	62
2015	472	170	1,230	65
2018	479	192	1,337	69
	Ave.			
2019	454	214	1,392	70
2020	463	212	876	112
2021	460	215	1,549	64
2022	466	215	1,244	80
2023	462	216	1,301	77
2024	449	232	1,264	82
2025	439	237	1,216	86

ANTITYPE/ANTITYPICAL
An "antitype" is a prophetic fulfillment that was foreshadowed or pictured by previous events referred to as the "type".

To JWs ancient unfaithful Jerusalem foreshadowed Christendom; ancient Israel when faithful to God foreshadowed the JWs anointed class; and ancient Babylon along with its religions foreshadowed today's "world empire of false religion".

The ancient situations were the "types", the alleged modern counterparts the "antitypes" or antitypical.

JWs have given hundreds of Old Testament persons, nations and events modern equivalents. Because this is a very subjective use of the Bible the JWs leaders have had to repeatedly change and update the details about the modern counterparts.

APARTHEID
Former system of race discrimination in South Africa.

JWs went along with Apartheid because of their principal of obeying government laws except those that contravene the JWs interpretation of the Bible.

Rutherford segregated his Negro and White followers in the USA by means of separate meeting arrangements and separate territory for going door to door. The authority for this came from "the Lord".

APOLLYON
The angel of the bottomless pit (Revelation 9:11) interpreted in *The Finished Mystery* (1917) as Jesus Christ but as Satan the Devil in *Light* Volume I (1930).

APOLOGY—1
Some former JWs have published apologies in the media for having deceived the public. An early example was that of Mr and Mrs Leroy Gholson which started off:

> A public apology
> This is a public apology to the people of Sterling, Rock Falls and the northern Illinois area. We have been guilty of pushing the publications of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, NY. For over 40 years, we did so in good faith, having been programmed by their meetings and publications to believe that Jehovah's Witnesses alone had the truth to give to the world…
> (Rockford Register Star, 1984 March 20, USA, Illinois)

Another apology appeared in *The Fannin County Special* (1985 July 30) of Texas. Titled PUBLIC APOLOGY it started off:

> To my friends and neighbours in Fannin County
> from Ralph Deal
> Former local representative of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society; Jehovah's Witnesses
>
> For over 22 years, since 1963, many of you will recall my frequent visits to your home, in support of the views of Jehovah's Witnesses. Because I was particularly active in this work from 1963-1975, I appreciate your kindness and patience in listening to my presentations at your door. However, for the past 10 years, you may have noticed that my visits have become less frequent.
>
> The Watchtower alluded to the year 1975 as the end of the world, and when it failed to materialize, I realized that I had indeed become a false prophet to you. Several years after this much-promoted "end of the world" failed to come in 1975, the Watchtower Society revised its largest selling book, "The Truth That Lead To Eternal Life" (published in 115 languages, 100-million copies). This revision was necessary so that the comments alluding to 1975 could be removed. Add to this, the fact, that during those 22 years, more than 20 local residents were lured into becoming Jehovah's Witnesses because of my ministry…

Another apology began:

> To all Jehovah's Witnesses
> Regarding my relationship to the Watchtower Society: My decision has been made after much prayerful study of the Bible and sleepless nights and great concern. I have lost faith in the organisation because Deuteronomy

18:21-22 states, "And in case you should say in your heart, how shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken? When the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him."…
(Southern Times Messenger 1987, May 20, South Australia)

Yet another apology [by Todd Mitchell of Utah] started off:

A Public Apology

This is a public apology to the people of Salt Lake County, Utah. I have been guilty of pushing the publications of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, New York. For 17 years I did so in good faith, having been programmed by their meetings and publications to believe that Jehovah's Witnesses alone had the truth to give the world. How wrong I was!

In recent years many changes have occurred to their major doctrines and chronological dating system. As I examined the publications I found that not one of the many prophecies put forth in God's name had ever come true. (See Deuteronomy 18:20-22) Even their pivotal date of 1914 didn't produce what was originally expected and has been shown to be chronologically wrong!!
(Reprinted from TIDBITS 1998, February)

APOLOGY — WHY NO APOLOGY?

Creation (1927) says that ministers who deny that Christ returned in 1874 "are not spiritually minded…" (p.312) This accusation is one of thousands published in the WTS literature since the 1880s — a continual barrage of accusations, insults, faulty generalizations and misrepresentation.

Windle (1939) quotes some of Rutherford's anti-religion statements such as:

"*Every religious practice under the sun means that the practitioners are indulging in idolatry*."
"*The greatest racket ever invented and practiced is that of religion*."
"*All liars and murderers are religionists*."
"*Religion is a great enemy, always working injury to mankind*..."

Windle then comments:

The above indictment of religion in general and the Christian religion in particular does not emanate from the Soviet League of the Godless, but comes from the poison pen of "Judge" Rutherford.

The quotations can be found in his book, "Enemies" on pages 101, 99, 144, 118, and 130.

Thousands of Rutherford's trained salesmen, Witnesses of Jehovah, are going from house to house attacking religion, preaching against going to church... (pp 13-14)

Why no apology?

The Watchtower (1961 June 15) asks: "Is Apology a sign of weakness?" and denies that it is. But judging by their lack of apology the JWs leaders believe apology is weakness.

Awake! says: "Sorry seems to be the hardest word… Try being the first to say it." (1982 2/22 19) Again, the JWs leaders are not only not the first, but refuse ever to say "sorry".

The refusal of the Governing Body to apologize is due to theological/ideologiczl reasons:

They teach that in 1919 the invisibly-returned Jesus inspected all religions and found only one religion faithful to the Bible and therefore appointed its members as his "faithful and discreet slave class."

In 2010 the Governing Body removed the "remnant of the 144,000" which had for about 80 years been the "faithful and discreet slave class" appointed by Jesus, out of that class. This left only the Governing Body clique as the "faithful slave" appointed in 1919.

This ideology — that Jesus appointed them due to faithfulness to the Bible — requires the presumption that the Russellites of the World War I period preached "true Christianity" and that thousands of doctrinal re-interpretations including false predictions did not happen. If they did not happen then of course there is nothing to say "sorry" for.

In the 1990s some religions publicly acknowledged the sins of previous generations. The JWs leaders in "Why Are They Asking Forgiveness" reasoned:

Such behavior reminds us of Saul, the first king of Israel. (I Samuel 15:1-12) He committed a grievous error, and when this was exposed, he first tried to justify himself—explain away his error—to Samuel, a faithful prophet of God. (1Samuel 15:13-21) Finally, the king had to acknowledge to Samuel: "I have sinned; for I have overstepped the order of Jehovah." (1 Samuel 15:24, 25) Yes, he

admitted his fault. But his next words to Samuel reveal what was uppermost on his mind: "I have sinned. Now honor me, please in front of Israel." (1 Samuel 15:30) Evidently, Saul was more concerned with his standing in Israel than with being reconciled with God. This attitude did not result in God's forgiveness of Saul. Do you think a similar attitude will result in God's forgiveness of the churches? (w1998 3/1 4-7)

At least Saul admitted error. The JWs leaders deny their errors and routinely sum up everything they've published as "Bible truth", probably because to admit serious error and apologize could reduce the "honor" they get in their sect. Like Saul, as quoted above, they are more concerned with their standing among JWs "than with being reconciled with God."

(See also: *DATES; ERROR; FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE; VITUPERATION*)

APOLOGY—1975

The following quotation does not use the word "apology" but is the nearest to an apology that the Governing Body has offered for making false predictions:

[5] In modern times such eagerness, commendable in itself, has led to attempts at setting dates for the desired liberation from the suffering and troubles that are the lot of persons throughout the earth. With the appearance of the book *Life Everlasting—in the Freedom of the Sons of God*, and its comments as to how appropriate it would be for the millennial reign of Christ to parallel the seventh millennium of man's existence, considerable expectation was aroused regarding the year 1975. There were statements made then, and thereafter, stressing that this was only a possibility. Unfortunately, however, along with such cautionary information, there were other statements published that implied that such realization of hopes by that year was more of a probability than a mere possibility. It is to be regretted that these latter statements apparently over-shadowed the cautionary ones and contributed to a buildup of the expectation already initiated.

[6] In its issue of July 15, 1976 *The Watchtower*, commenting on the inadvisability of setting our sights on a certain date, stated: "If anyone has been disappointed through not following this line of thought, he should now concentrate on adjusting his viewpoint, seeing that it was not the word of God that failed or deceived him and brought disappointment, but that his own understanding was based on wrong premises." In saying "anyone," *The Watchtower* included all disappointed ones of Jehovah's Witnesses, hence *including persons having to do with the publication of the information* that contributed to the buildup of hopes centered on that date. (w1980 3/15 17)

Analysis

Rather than a sincere apology the above shifts blame for the fiasco of 1975 from Governing Body to victims.

The passive — "considerable expectation was aroused" — doesn't identify who aroused the "considerable expectation". A proper apology would say "We, the Governing Body, aroused considerable expectation..."

"It is to be regretted..." Again a proper apology would say, "We, the Governing Body, regret..." And proper regret would include an offer of compensation to JWs who sold their homes to devote more time to preaching or who postponed surgery because Armageddon would make surgery unnecessary or missed higher education because Armageddon was too near.

Ruinous selling of one's home was encouraged in the *Kingdom Ministry*:

Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end. (May 1974)

The claim that "cautionary" statements were "overshadowed" ignores the fact that 1975/1976 became a definite date when JWs publications implied Adam and Eve were created only months apart, in the same year. [1975 was claimed to be 6000 years from Adam's creation in 4026 BCE, but Eve arrived later and this unknown time-gap had to be added to 1975.]

(See: *NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE*; *6000 YEARS*)

The claim that "it was not the word of God that failed or deceived him" ignores the teaching that the spiritual food (the doctrines) come from God who edits *The Watchtower* and that only JWs "understand the deep things of God".

Furthermore, JWs are not permitted to disagree with any doctrine:

What is required if one is to become an approved associate of Jehovah's Witnesses? Such a person must accept the entire range of Bible teachings, including those Scriptural beliefs that are

unique to Jehovah's Witnesses. (w1986 4/15/ 31)

From the Governing Body's claim to have God's authority, Bible teachings, and guidance of God's spirit, it follows — regarding 1975 — that it was "the word of God that failed or deceived".

Dissent is quelled by comparing dissent to "Korah and his supporters":

> It is proper to ask sincere questions about a Scriptural subject. But what if we were to develop a negative attitude that manifested itself in critical discussions among an intimate circle of friends? We would do well to ask ourselves, "Where is this likely to end? Would it not be far better to stop murmuring and pray humbly for wisdom? (James 1:5-8; Jude 17-21) Korah and his supporters, who rebelled against the authority of Moses and Aaron, may have been so convinced that their perspective was valid that they did not examine their motives. Nonetheless, they were completely wrong. So were the Israelites who murmured about the destruction of Korah and the other rebels. How wise it is to let such examples move us to examine our motives, dispel murmuring or complaining, and allow Jehovah to refine us! (w1996 6/15 21)

Invoking the deaths of Korah and his 250 confederates, brands doubting JWs as rebels who deserve to die, and equates the Governing Body with Moses to whom God spoke directly.

The Governing Body is supposedly, "appointed through the holy spirit under the direction of Jehovah and Christ." (w1990 1/15 26) Such exulted self-promotion meant that rank-and-file JWs could not challenge the 1975/1976 prophecy without facing expulsion and shunning.

Not an apology

The nearest approximation to making an apology by the JWs leaders turns out upon analysis to be not an apology at all.

It blames the victims, has no hint of remorse, makes no offer of compensation, retains the perpetrators' position as God's appointees, and ignores the Bible's criteria for identifying false prophets. (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

The following counsel is excellent but the Governing Body intends it for others, not for themselves:

> *Honesty and empathy* also enter the picture. If certain persons are entitled to know that we have erred, we should be willing to admit the wrong. Especially should empathy move us to admit it if another person would otherwise be blamed and would suffer for our mistake. Here Jesus' words apply: "Just as you want men to do to you, do the same way to them."—Luke 6:31.
>
> *Humility* also will help us to admit a wrong. When we think it through, failure to admit a wrong borders on hypocrisy, does it not? Neither the haughty person nor the hypocrite has God's approval. (w1982 9/1 30)

APOSTATES

A dictionary definition of apostasy is, "abandonment of one's religion".

Many Governing Body members abandoned Christian denominations, thus making themselves apostates. Russell left the Congregational Church and Advent Christian Church, Rutherford left the Baptist Church, Knorr the Reformed Church, Frederick Franz the Presbyterian Church. They also abandoned Russellism by altering thousands of interpretations. Most of the lower-level JWs left other religions.

Apostasy is alright except for JWs

Apostasy is alright if one's religion "does not measure up to the Scriptures":

> The person who values his relationship with the Most High is willing to change his religion when he is convinced that the religion to which he belongs does not measure up to the Scriptures. It is only by changing that he can escape God's adverse judgment. (w1959 5/15 307)
>
> Would you change your religion if you were dissatisfied? Or if you became convinced it was not God's arrangement for worship? Thousands of persons have and are convinced their decision was a wise one. (g1969 4/8 31)
>
> Is it a sin to change religions? Not if one's form of worship disagrees with the Word of God. In fact, in such a case it would be a sin not to change. (g1973 11/8 28)
>
> It is obvious that the true God, who is himself "the God of truth" and who hates lies, will not look with favor on persons who cling to organizations that teach falsehood. (Psalm 31:5; Proverbs 6:16-19; Revelation 21:8) And, really, would you want to be even associated with a religion that had not been honest with you? (Is This Life All There Is? 1974, 46).

Many JWs leave their sect because of its false predictions for date after date and its subsequent cover-ups and denials, as well as its hundreds of revisions to what was taught as "Bible truth". As we just read, **"in such a case it would be a sin not to change."**

Yet, when JWs leave, they often suffer the worst treatment that can legally be inflicted on them. This includes ostracism, expulsion from their family, shunned by their "friends", and loss of job if they have a JW employer. Added to this are numerous negative judgments, accusations and insults published in *The Watchtower* which stereotype them in the minds of their former friends. The consequences sometimes include suicide.

The official assumption which justifies such treatment, is that Christendom's religions are "defiled", worthy of extermination, and JWs alone are undefiled, "the one religion of truth":

> That a change from Christendom's defiled religions is the right thing to do is indicated by the divine command: "Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4)
>
> Likewise, there is only the one religion of truth that will lead to everlasting life, and guidance is needed to find it. ("Look! I Am Making All Things New" 1986, 27)

From such a doctrine it follows that ex-JWs are deliberate rebels against God, knowingly choose to be evil, therefore deserve hatred and the worst possible treatment.

The JWs' leaders never explain how their countless falsehoods, such as "Armageddon … will come in the twentieth century" (g1961 2/22 8), are compatible with their religion being the "one religion of truth".

Why many JWs become "apostate"

About 2% of JWs leave the sect each year. Many of these are disfellowshipped because they committed moral sins such as fornication or child abuse and are soon readmitted.

Others, however, leave because they discover the real history of JWs and of this group few go back.

They were baptized on the understanding that JWs teach "Bible truth". They were not told about failed prophecies, major doctrines taught for decades being discarded, and "flip-flops" where beliefs were true, then false, then true again, and false again.

Converts who discover the cover-ups realize that if every prophecy failed then the next prophetic date is unreliable, and if thousands of interpretations of Bible verses have changed then current interpretations cannot be trusted. They realize they were persuaded to preach, donate money and work for the WTS based on misinformation and lies.

Treatment of Apostates — Loathe and Hate

Already in 1909 Russell wrote:

> Mark them that cause division and stumblings contrary to the doctrine which you have learned and avoid them. (w1909 12/15 4531)

The word "apostasy" comes from a Greek term that means "a standing away from," "a falling away, defection," "rebellion", "abandonment". (w1980 8/1 17)

So far so good. But the Governing Body add to this basic description numerous character-assassinating details. An apostate is:

- A person who willfully forsakes Christianity. (Aid to Bible Understanding 1971, 91)
- Persons having abandoned Jehovah and his organization. (Survival Into a New Earth 1984, 143)
- They "Advance to more and more ungodliness". (w1980 8/1 18)

Identifying features include:

- Deviation from the truth
- Twisted, empty speech
- Efforts to subvert faith and win disciples
- Hypocrisy

Loyal JWs must have no contact with ex JWs:

1) Do not receive them into your homes
2) Do not greet them
3) Do not read their literature
4) Do not watch TV programs that feature them
5) Do not examine their Web sites
6) Do not add your comments to their blogs

If married to one do not pray with them:

> If he [a disfellowshipped husband] insisted on praying at the meal table, the wife could not in any way acknowledge his prayer, either by a silent or an audible "Amen.". She can offer her own prayer silently to Jehovah while he is praying or afterward as she feels is suitable. If the disfellowhsipped husband asked his wife to pray for the family in his presence, she would have to refuse. However, she could pray silently for herself and for the children even though he were present, but not at his direction. (w1964 4/1 203-204)

Apostates are said to have revolted against God and hate God, therefore must themselves be hated and loathed:

> We must hate in the truest sense, which is to regard with extreme and active aversion to consider as loathsome, odious, filthy, to detest. Surely any haters of God are not fit to live on his beautiful earth. What do you do with anything loathsome or repugnant that you detest and abhor? The answer is simple. You get away from it or remove it from your presence. You do not want to have anything at all to do with it. This must be exactly our attitude toward the haters of Jehovah. (w1952 10/1 599)

> More than that, we want to hate those who willfully show themselves haters of Jehovah, haters of what is good. As David of old expressed it: "Do I not hate those who are intensely hating you, O Jehovah, and do I not feel a loathing for those revolting against you? With a complete hatred I do hate them. They have become to me real enemies." (Ps. 139:21, 22) We hate them, not in the sense of wanting to do them harm or wishing them harm but in the sense of avoiding them as we would poison or a poisonous snake, for they can poison us spiritually. That is why we are warned: "Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits." (w1980 6/15 8)

> Apostates are included among those who show their hatred of Jehovah by revolting against him. Apostasy is, in reality, a rebellion against Jehovah. Some apostates profess to know and serve God, but they reject teachings or requirements set out in his Word. Others claim to believe the Bible, but they reject Jehovah's organization and actively try to hinder it work. When they deliberately choose such badness after knowing what is right, when the bad becomes so ingrained that it is an inseparable part of their makeup, then a Christian must hate (in the Biblical sense of the word) those who have inseparably attached themselves to the badness. True Christians 'feel a loathing' toward those who have made themselves God's enemies… (1993 10/1 19)

A vehement tirade appeared in w2011 7/15 where the anti-apostate statements include:

- False teachers are like dried-up wells.
- Anyone coming to them for waters of truth will be bitterly disappointed.
- Speak twisted things
- Their aim is "to draw away the disciples after themselves."
- Ravenous wolves
- Out to devour trusting members of the congregation
- A cunning spirit
- Quietly bring in corruptive ideas
- Like smugglers, they operate in a clandestine manner
- Like a clever forger who tries to pass phony documents
- Use counterfeit words to pass their fabricated views as if they were true
- Spread "deceptive teachings," "twisting . . . the Scriptures" to fit their own ideas
- Divert us from the road that leads to eternal life
- Mentally diseased and seek to infect others with their disloyal teachings:

The Raymond Franz case

In 1983 Governing Body member Lloyd Barry told JWs in Australia:

> We find those who want to teach something different, to muddy up the body of truth revealed during the past 100 years. So we'll flee from anyone who tries to tell us otherwise!

In 1981 Raymond Franz, a Governing Body member, left the sect and wrote *Crisis of Conscience* (1983). Another defector, C.O. Jonsson of Sweden, author of *The Gentile Times Reconsidered* which refuted the 607 BCE date. had sent his research to the Governing Body.

The false 607 BCE date was part of the reason Franz resigned from the Governing Body.

How did the leaders answer? The people that the Governing Body had in mind when writing the following most likely included Franz and Jonsson:

> ... jealous, quarrelsome, filled with selfish ambition, often wanting to make a name for themselves; murmurers, complainers about their lot in life, proceeding according to their own desires; opposers; attacking the Christian congregation; speak twisted things; blind guides... (w1983 3/1 24)

> "rejected various scriptural views", "self seeking heretics", "promoters of false teaching", "unfaithful persons", "wicked deeds", "ungodly deeds and activities", "spiritual darkness". (w1983 4/1 24)

On the same pages JWs are flattered as "lovers of light and truth" and "loyal witnesses":

> Lovers of light and truth must take a firm stand against these promoters of false teaching. In no way do loyal witnesses of Jehovah want to be accomplices in the

> "wicked deeds" of such unfaithful persons by supporting their ungodly words and activities in any manner. Rather, may we "put up a hard fight for the faith that was once for all time delivered to the holy ones." (w1983 4/1 24)

The actual disagreement and the evidence gets no mention! Yet one group's character is sullied, dragged through mud; the other group is flattered. And to deserve the flattery they merely have to refuse to think, and act as if they're blind and deaf.

Barry who advised JWs to "flee" from "those who want to teach something different" himself refused to flee when, in his remaining lifetime, the Governing Body "wanted to teach something different" and new truths contradicted "truth revealed". He was a hypocrite.

Defending the status quo

Social Scientists and historians have observed abusive behavior in many religions toward ex members and other religions:

> Every conceivable form of religious discrimination has been practiced, from name-calling to the most fiendish tortures, and all this in the name of a God who proclaims "peace on earth and good will toward men." (Apsler 1975 p.159)

The Governing Body are merely doing what most political and religious dictatorships do when their weak foundations suffer cracks. They defend their power with as many lies and the infliction of as much pain as it takes.

In 2011 we read:

> [7] What is involved in avoiding false teachers? We do not receive them into our homes or greet them. We also refuse to read their literature, watch TV programs that feature them, examine their Web sites, or add our comments to their blogs. Why do we take such a firm stand? Because of love. We love "the God of truth," so we are not interested in twisted teachings that contradict his Word of truth. (Ps. 31:5; John 17:17) We also love Jehovah's organization, through which we have been taught thrilling truths....
>
> [8] No matter what false teachers may say, we will not follow them! Why go to such dried-up wells only to be deceived and disappointed? Instead, let us be determined to remain loyal to Jehovah and to the organization that has a long record of quenching our thirst with the pure and refreshing waters of truth from God's inspired Word. (w2011 7/15 15-17)

How is such language compatible with the sect leadership having taught that Christ's second coming occurred in 1874? God's kingdom began in 1878? Armageddon would end in 1915? The Old Testament "worthies" would rise from the dead in 1925? Armageddon within the generation of 1914 is "the creator's promise"? Marriage before Armageddon is against the Scriptures? The Great Pyramid's corridors are prophetic and as inspired as the Bible? And much, much, much other ungodly nonsense?

The JWs Governing Body incultate "loathing" and "hate" toward informed people, and give orders against any dialogue, so that their remaining followers don't discover the real history of the sect:

> The first one in his legal case may appear righteous, but his opponent comes in and certainly searches him through. (The Bible—Proverbs 18:17; 25:8-10)

Would JWs kill their "apostates"?

No one who leaves JWs is ever acknowledged as being right — not even when JWs later adopt his "apostate views" as official teaching. No one can leave amicably and join another religion. No "loyal" JW is permitted to greet him or talk to him because he is:

> … determined to remain in a false religion. (w1986 10/15 31)

If the Governing Body had greater power – if whole nations converted and became "theocratic nations" – would they order the killing of their "apostates"?

At present the JWs leaders are "limited by the laws of the worldly nations":

> We are not living today among theocratic nations where such members of our fleshly family relationship could be exterminated for apostasy from God and his theocratic organization, as was possible and was ordered in the nation of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai and in the land of Palestine… Being limited by the laws of the worldly nations in which we live and also by the laws of God through Jesus Christ, we can take action against apostates only to a certain extent, that is, consistent with both sets of laws. (w1952 11/15 703)

Trust broken; Laborers Unpaid and Hated

People join JWs trusting it's "the truth", and they work hard for the Organization. Then, if

they do research, they find serious errors, and may do what *The Watchtower* says:

> So let the people act independently of the religious leaders who have failed them. Let them exercise faith and run to and fro through God's now unsealed and opened Book. (w1950 9/1 276-277)

Their situation is like a hired laborer who worked hard but was not paid. (James 5:4-6) The Bible says: "Expectation postponed is making the heart sick..." (Proverbs 13:12)

To leave JWs requires many readjustments such as:

- Unlearn falsehoods and prejudices;
- Establish new friendships;
- Display humility by apologizing to people for attempts to deceive them;
- Catch up on missed education;
- Learn to trust again;
- Find employment or do job-training;
- Re-start one's search for truth and God.

Considering that the Governing Body created these problems one would expect them to show compassion and arrange counsel and other assistance:

> Truly if you are going to help someone who is disturbed, it is important to listen, and not only that but to get across to the troubled person that you are listening with interest and concern. (w1974 11 /22 23)

> Try to see matters from the other person's viewpoint. (w1971 10 /1 580)

Free Speech

In 1917 Russell's cult, despite its obscene record of changed "truth", failed predictions demanded free speech, freedom to investigate, and freedom of the press:

> Efforts to throttle the press to prevent the publication of his sermons have been made. Why this opposition? Why would anyone oppose investigation or revelation and searching the Scriptures? Why? What right has any one to prevent free thought, free speech, or the freedom of the press? (The Finished Mystery 1917, p.126)

Today such freedoms are opposed by the Governing Body because "free thought" would threaten their self-assumed position as God's channel of truth:

> A *third* factor that unites us is that *all of us benefit from the same spiritual feeding program.* We recognize "the faithful and discreet slave" as the agency that Jehovah is using to provide spiritual food at the proper time. (Matthew 24:45-47) There is no question in our mind that this "slave" is made up of spirit-anointed heirs of the heavenly Kingdom who are found today only among Jehovah's Witnesses. We appreciate what that "slave" and its Governing Body are doing to care for our spiritual needs. And we thank God for the abundance of fine spiritual provisions we have. (Isaiah 65:13, 14) Are we also taking sufficient time to instill appreciation for this arrangement in persons newly associating with the congregation? (w1984 2/1 19)

The here-mentioned "faithful and discreet slave" consisted of thousands of JWs known as the "anointed remnant of the 144,000". Although this was "Bible truth" for about 80 years, it was another false doctrine because they were deleted as "faithful slave" around 2010! Only the Governing Body is now in this "faithful and discreet" group, which makes the entire above paragraph nonsense.

It is doubtful that the leaders have ever published even one positive sentence about people who leave. People who harm others, which the JWs leaders do by gaining peoples' trust and then betray them, tend to hate their victims. Derek Wright (1971) in *Psychology of Moral Behaviour* writes:

> Glass (1964) found that subjects who had been encouraged beforehand to think well of themselves were markedly unfriendly to the victim when they felt themselves in some measure responsible for giving him shocks. Thus the truth of the familiar observation that **we tend to dislike the people we have harmed** is demonstrated in the laboratory, albeit in an attenuated form.

[See also: *HATE*]

APOSTATE CHRISTENDOM

The phrase "apostate Christendom" is listed 66 time on *Watchtower Library 2007* and "apostate Christianity 92 times

Apostate Christendom

> As a consequence, rebellious, apostate Christendom, with her religious systems, will feel Jehovah's rage without pity and without any heed to their cries. (w1972 10/1 587)

> ... without question the execution of divine judgment upon apostate Christendom and the rest of Satan's world is imminent. (w1984 10/1 11)

To JWs every historically identifiable Christian person or group from the 2nd century to the 19th is apostate. Christian leaders and ministers of other denominations are "proud apostates of Christendom." (w1984 7/1 14)

If Christendom is "apostate", when and where did Christendom break off from Christianity? JWs answer that Christianity became apostate by watering down the doctrines and standards of 1st century Christianity.

However, if doctrinal change or error suggests apostasy, what about the WTS of JWs which in just one book, *The Finished Mystery* (1917), published about 1300 interpretations that were later changed or discarded? (See: *ERRORS*; *DATES*)

Is it right to revile apostates?

JWs criticize and revile other religions while claiming it is JWs who get reviled:

> Well, who has taken the lead in reviling and persecuting the 20th-century spiritual Israel? Has it not been apostate Christendom, through its proud clergy class? (w1983 11/15 28)

JWs are mainly ex-members or apostates from other religions. The so-called "persecution" they complain of usually followed when they actively tried to entice people to leave those religions. The "persecution" was often less than what JWs inflict on their own ex-members. (See: *APOSTATES*)

It is also a fallacy to speak of "apostate Christendom" as if all the world's Christians attacked JWs when very few did so. It is the fallacy racists make when they speak of "the Jew" or "the black man" as if all Jews or all Negroes are the same and equally to blame for something.

Thousands of hate-expressions toward "apostate Christendom" and Christian ministers (See: *VITUPERATION*), often blaming them for all the world's problems, become foreboding as the monolithic JWs Organization expands and we remember what the expansion and hate propaganda of Nazism led to!

APOSTATES — ANTI APOSTATE QUOTES

Below is a sample of anti-apostate statements published by the WTS. Consider that these statements come from an Organization with thousands of doctrinal revisions and false predictions for dozens of dates behind it, and imagine the depth of religious hypocrisy they therefore indicate.

Criticize the "clean organization"

Those who despise Jehovah's teaching include individuals who criticize and complain about Jehovah's clean organization and its rules for maintaining peace and good order. There is only a fine line of demarcation between such and those who are outright rebels. Korah and his supporters found that out to their complete undoing when they dared to be hasty in speaking against God's servant Moses. (Numbers 16:1-40) On this same subject, Proverbs 29:20 states: "Have you beheld a man hasty with his works? There is more hope for someone stupid than for him." (w1984 5/15 17)

Poison from the Devil

Therefore, resolve in your heart that you will never even touch the poison that apostates want you to sip. Heed the wise but firm commands of Jehovah to avoid completely those who would deceive you, mislead you, turn you aside into the ways of death. If we love Jehovah with our whole heart, soul, and mind, while loving our neighbor as we love ourselves, we will leave no room for penetration by apostate thinking. (Matthew 22:37-39) We will not "allow place for the Devil" and will have no desire to look elsewhere. We will not `be quickly shaken from our reason' by some counterfeit teaching. (w1986 3/15 20)

The anointed don't need apostates to teach them

To walk in divine light and not be misled by apostates, we need proper spiritual instruction. (*Read 1 John 2:26-29.*) Spirit-begotten ones have an "anointing" by holy spirit, have come to know God and his Son, and "do not need anyone [an apostate] to be teaching" them. By his anointing spirit, God "is teaching" spiritual Israelites "about all things" needed in order to worship him acceptably. (John 4:23, 24; 6:45) We are delighted that as Jehovah's Witnesses we receive such spiritual instruction from God through "the faithful and discreet slave." (w1986 7/15 14)

Don't read the writings of rebels

We have been forewarned that there will be apostates and people who just like to have their ears tickled. Counsel such as at 2 John 9-11, 1 Corinthians 5:11-13 and 2 Timothy 3:5 allows no room for associating with those who turn away from the truth. Nor do we purchase or read their writings. (w1984 12/15 19)

Rebels against Jehovah's leadership

Often coupled with 'disregard for lordship' is an independent and rebellious spirit that ignores the fact that Jehovah is directing his organization. (w1985 6/1 18)

If we always remember our loving God and act in harmony with his Word, we will maintain strong confidence in his unfailing leadership. (Proverbs 22:19) To turn away from Jehovah and his organization, to spurn the direction of "the faithful and discreet slave," and to rely simply on personal Bible reading and interpretation is to become like a solitary tree in a parched land. (w1985 6/1 20)

Avoid independent thinking

As we study the Bible we learn that Jehovah has always guided his servants in an organized way. And just as in the first century there was only one true Christian organization, so today Jehovah is using only one organization. (Ephesians 4:4, 5; Matthew 24:4547) Yet there are some who point out that the organization has had to make adjustments before, and so they argue: "This shows that we have to make up our own mind on what to believe." This is independent thinking. Why is it so dangerous?

Such thinking is an evidence of pride. And the Bible says: "Pride is before a crash, and a haughty spirit before stumbling." (Proverbs 16:18) If we get to thinking that we know better than the organization, we should ask ourselves: "Where did we learn Bible truth in the first place? Would we know the way of the truth if it had not been for guidance from the organization? Really, can we get along without the direction of God's organization?" No, we cannot! (w1983 1/15/ 27)

No conflicting interpretations

Many people, particularly in Protestant lands, claim that the Bible is like an old fiddle that can be used to play many tunes. They feel that the Bible can be used to prove many conflicting doctrines. They say: 'It all depends upon the way you interpret it.' Is this correct? ...
Jehovah's Witnesses maintain that an honest reading of the Bible does not allow for conflicting interpretations of key doctrines. (w1985 6/15/ 3)

Senseless ones guided by their own interpretation

Is it not true that those who have gone out from us over the years because "they were not of our sort," and who try to induce others to follow the same life-imperiling course, have cut themselves off from the source of solid spiritual food and refreshing spiritual waters? (1 John 2:19) And these senseless ones, far from being generous and openhanded toward those of mankind who hunger and thirst after righteousness, do not see any urgent need for an organized preaching work in our time. They would allow each one to be guided by his own private reading and interpretation of the Bible instead of being brought into a unity of people trained to live and act according to the lofty principles and reminders of God's Word. (w1984 5/15 18)

Accurate knowledge cuts down false teaching

With accurate knowledge of God's Word, we can puncture and cut down false teachings, exposing their lack of logic and, in particular, their conflict with the Holy Scriptures. (2 Corinthians 10:4) We do this not out of pride but out of humility and love for God, truth and our fellow man. Happily, with the help of true Christian publications, we can get "a tight grip on the word of life." Philippians 2:16. (w1984 10/15 18)

New light makes apostates gnash their teeth

Are we here identifying the "sheepfold" of John chapter 10, verse 1, with the Mosaic Law covenant arrangement? Why, yes! The former explanation of the sheepfold as being the Abrahamic covenant was based on the view that John chapter 10 mentioned directly only one fold, and if that were so, then the Abrahamic covenant would be its logical meaning. However, further study of this chapter showed that Jesus actually spoke of more than one sheepfold. Thus, as we will see, an adjustment in explanation proved fitting.

Such adjustments become necessary from time to time, for Proverbs 4:18 tells us that "the path of righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established." Oh, apostate opposers of truth "gnash their teeth" at such progressive revelations, but this does not disturb us. (Acts 7:54) Rather, we thank Jehovah that "light itself has flashed up for the righteous one, and rejoicing even for the ones upright in heart." (Psalm 97:11) We are confident that you will rejoice to know just what meaning Jesus'

illustration of the sheepfolds has for you and all others of Jehovah's Witnesses today. (w1984 2/15 11)

Apostates snub God

Christian meetings are a way by which we can maintain proper esteem. Since Jehovah and Jesus are present invisibly at these gatherings, grateful Christians will not snub them, as the apostates do, but rather do all they reasonably can to attend regularly. (w1985 12/15 7)

Governing Body directives on a par with the Apostles

Back in early Christian times, some decisions made by the governing body may have been hard to understand at the time. This was doubtless the case when Paul was sent back to Tarsus or when he was sent to the temple after his third missionary journey. (Acts 9:30; 21:23-25) Yet, Christ was actually behind such decisions. (Acts 22:17-21; 23:11) Today we can be confident that whatever Christ allows to occur among his disciples on earth has some lofty purpose behind it, even as in the first century. (w1987 8/1 20)

Defilers, Prideful, Poison

Apostates often appeal to the ego, claiming that we have been deprived of our freedoms, including the freedom to interpret the Bible for ourselves. (Compare Genesis 3:15.) In reality, these would-be defilers offer nothing more than a return to the nauseating teachings of "Babylon the Great." (Revelation 17:5; 2 Peter 2:19-22) Others appeal to the flesh, urging former associates to "take it easy" because the humble work of witnessing from house to house is "unnecessary" or "unscriptural." (Compare Matthew 16:22, 23) True, such smooth talkers may look outwardly clean in a physical and moral way. But inside they are spiritually unclean, having given in to prideful, independent thinking. They have forgotten all that they learned about Jehovah, his holy name and attributes. They no longer acknowledge that all they learned about Bible truth—the glorious hope of the kingdom and a paradise earth and the overturning of false doctrines, such as the Trinity, the immortal human soul, eternal torment, and purgatory—yes, all of this came to them through "the faithful and discreet slave." Matthew 24:45-47.

Interestingly, a circuit overseer in France observes: "Some brothers are deceived because they lack accurate knowledge." That is why Proverbs 11:9 states: "By knowledge are the righteous rescued." This does not mean giving apostates a hearing ear or delving into their writings... False religious propaganda from any source should be avoided like poison! Really, since our Lord has used "the faithful and discreet slave" to convey to us "sayings of everlasting life," why should we ever want to look anywhere else? John 6:68. (w1987 11/1 19-20

Rutherford's followers were a courageous group of Christians

As time passed, the Bible Students became even more closely identified with Jeremiah when, in 1931, at a convention in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., it was announced that the Biblical name for this courageous group of Christians should be "Jehovah's Witnesses." (Isaiah 43:10-12)
...Therefore, it was appropriate that at God's due time, his people should finally qualify for this divinely appointed name "Jehovah's Witnesses." (w1988 4/1 23-24)

Christ does not illuminate individuals, but only through "discreet slave class"

Jehovah does not illuminate each Christian individually. Rather, Christ appointed the "faithful and discreet slave" class to provide Scriptural study material and timely counsel to Christians throughout the world. (w1988 8/15 28)

Cure "poisonous" doubt"

[8] Has the reading or listening to apostate ideas or worldly philosophy introduced poisonous doubts? ... Just as a surgeon acts quickly to cut out gangrene, act quickly to rout out of the mind any tendency to complain, to be dissatisfied with the way things are done in the Christian congregation... Cut off anything that feeds such doubts. (w1996 2/1 23-24)

Mentally diseased and disloyal

Suppose that a doctor told you to avoid contact with someone who is infected with a contagious, deadly disease. You would know what the doctor means, and you would strictly heed his warning. Well, apostates are "mentally diseased," and they seek to infect others with their disloyal teachings. (1 Tim. 6:3, 4) Jehovah, the Great Physician, tells us to avoid contact with them. We know what he means, but are we determined to heed his warning in all respects?

[7] What is involved in avoiding false teachers? We do not receive them into our homes or greet them. We also refuse to read their literature, watch TV programs that feature them, examine their Web sites, or add our comments to their blogs. Why do we take such a firm stand? Because of love. We love "the God of truth," so we are not interested in twisted teachings that contradict his Word of truth... (w2011 7/15 15-17)

Good advice

Decades of statements like the above indoctrinate JWs with blind hatred for others combined with self righteousness.

Good advice which unfortunately is meant for other people and not for the JWs or their leaders is:

> Few people there are who can correctly state the position of an opponent. (w1921 11/1 323)
>
> Try and see the other person's point of view. This is not easy to do. (w1980 12/15 5)

APOSTATES ON THE RESURRECTION

Christians who claim that the resurrection has already occurred are apostates:

> Paul wrote about some in his day: "Their word will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of that number. These very men have deviated from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred; and they are subverting the faith of some." (2 Timothy 2:17, 18; see also Matthew 18:6.) There is nothing to indicate that these men did not believe in God, in the Bible, in Jesus' sacrifice. Yet, on this one basic point, what they were teaching as to the time of the resurrection, Paul rightly branded them as apostates, with whom faithful Christians would not fellowship. (1986 4/1 31)

However, C.T. Russell taught that "the resurrection has already occurred", claiming it started in 1878:

> Based on the premise that events of the first century might find parallels in related events later, they also concluded that if Jesus' baptism and anointing in the autumn of 29 C.E. paralleled the beginning of an invisible presence in 1874, then his riding into Jerusalem as King in the spring of 33 C.E. would point to the spring of 1878 as the time when he would assume his power as heavenly King. They also thought they would be given their heavenly reward at that time. When that did not occur, they concluded that since Jesus' anointed followers were to share with him in the Kingdom, the resurrection to spirit life of those already sleeping in death began then. (Proclaimers 1993, 632)

The resurrection of 1878 was still taught in 1925:

> [31]It is the understanding of the consecrated that the sleeping saints were resurrected in 1878. Glorified with their Lord they would shine in glory. (1 Corinthians 15:41, 62) It would seem that that is the time where the words of the Prophet would be specially fulfilled or begin to have a fulfilment: "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." (Psalm 50:2**)** It must be from that time that the work of these resurrected saints begins on the other side the vail. It must be from that time the words app]y: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."—Revelation 14:13.
>
> [32]From that time forward the work of gathering together the saints progressed in fulfilment of the prophecy : "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."—Psalm 50:5.
>
> [33]Truly that was the work the Lord did by and through his faithful and wise servant, Brother Russell. (w1925 2/1 37)

The *Proclaimers* book (1993) confirms that the 1878 date for the resurrection was official teaching:

> Based on the premise that events of the first century might find parallels in related events later, they also concluded that if Jesus' baptism and anointing in the autumn of 29 C.E. paralleled the beginning of an invisible presence in 1874, then his riding into Jerusalem as King in the spring of 33 C.E. would point to the spring of 1878 as the time when he would assume his power as heavenly King. They also thought they would be given their heavenly reward at that time. When that did not occur, they concluded that since Jesus' anointed followers were to share with him in the Kingdom, the resurrection to spirit life of those already sleeping in death began then. (p.632)

In 1927 Rutherford cancelled the 1878 resurrection and replaced it with a resurrection in 1918:

[40]It seems impossible to find anything in these parallel events to indicate the resurrection of the sleeping saints in 1878...

[41]Again referring to the quotation from Volume III : The conclusion there reached, that the parallels bear upon the resurrection of the saints, results from the assumption that the Lord was supposed to have taken his power and begun his reign in 1878, and that therefore he would resurrect his saints at approximately the same time. But there is nothing to indicate that Jesus Christ took his power and began his reign in 1878. He could not consistently do so until the expiration of the Gentile Times, and the Gentile Times ended in 1914.

[45]...Seeing then that the Scriptures conclusively prove that the Lord Jesus Christ did not take his great power and begin his reign in 1878, but that he did so in 1914, it follows that the resurrection of the sleeping saints did not take place in 1878."(w1927 5/15 151-152)

[25]The anointed and faithful ones constitute the temple of God... Such of course include both the sleeping saints and the faithful ones who afterwards have their instantaneous change...

[26]Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for his saints... it would hardly seem that he would awaken the sleeping saints until this preparatory work was completed...

[28]... It follows then that the temple of God was brought together in 1918, and that that marks the time of the resurrection of the sleeping saints. (w1927 6/1 165)

From the statement in w1986 — which identifies people who proclaim that the resurrection has already occurred as apostates — it follows that Russell, Rutherford and other leaders of JWs were apostates throughout their adult lives..

Other past doctrines mentioned in the preceding quotations — Russell as "faithful and wise servant", Jesus' invisible return in 1874, and Jesus becoming "heavenly King" in 1878 — were official WTS "truths" but anyone who advocated them now would be expelled as an apostate.

APOSTLE
The Bible names about 20 "apostles" including the original twelve.

Who replaced Judas as the 12th apostle?

Russell claimed Paul was the 12th apostle. (w1883 November p.550; wr1912 4/1 5002)

Initially Rutherford agreed: "St Paul taking the place of Judas…" (The Finished Mystery 1917, 18)

Later Rutherford implied, without directly stating so, that Matthias was the 12th. (w1938 6/1 167) Rutherford argued that voting in the congregation is untheocratic and cited the choice of Matthias by lot. This argument loses relevance if the non-voting method of casting lots gave the wrong decision!

Franz reversed this back to Paul who was "unquestionably" the 12th apostle. (w1944 6/1; w1951 12/15 762; g1957 8/22 26).

Then, in 1971 Matthias was again the 12th apostle.

APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION
Defined in Livingstone (1977):

> The method whereby the ministry of the Church is held to be derived from the original apostles by a continuous succession of bishops, emphasized by Clement of Rome before the end of the 1st cent., has occasionally been disputed; the necessity of it, widely taught in the RC Church…

JWs reject Apostolic Succession as a false doctrine when considering the Roman Catholic Church, but embrace virtually the same notion in regard to the "faithful slave class" including the Governing Body.

That there was no succession over the centuries leading to JWs is seen in the hundreds of major differences in JWs teaching from Russellism. Russell and his early followers left the Advent Christian Church and developed a unique set of beliefs that no previous sect had ever had.

No Christian group or sect from the Apostles onwards can be identified as teaching either Russellism, Rutherfordism or JWs doctrines. A few individuals and groups opposed the doctrine of the Trinity but their belief led to Unitarianism.

APPEAL COMMITTEE
A committee of three or more elders assigned to reconsider a case previously heard and judged negatively by a judicial committee. The decision of the appeal committee is usually final.

APPOINTED TIMES (OF THE NATIONS)

JWs regard the "appointed times" — also called "Gentile times" — as 2520 years when the Gentile (non-Jewish) nations ruled the world without censure from a nation ruled by God.

The period began with the dethronement of Jerusalem's last king, supposedly in 607 BCE, and ended with the supposed heavenly enthronement of Christ in 1914.

APPOINTMENT
When a person is promoted or elevated to an official position in a JW congregation or in the WTS. Every appointment is considered as coming from Jehovah guiding the Organization.

APPOINTMENT OF THE SLAVE.
See: *INSPECTION BY JESUS IN 1919*

APPRECIATION OF SPIRITUAL THINGS
An approving attitude toward WTS teachings and the WTS and organizational arrangements

APPROACHING PEACE OF 1000 YEARS, THE (1969)
A booklet in which it's implied Armageddon could occur in the 1970s. One reason for Armageddon is:

> Since the end of the 'times of the Gentiles' in the year 1914 the nations and empires of this world have refused to yield over peaceably their earthly kingship to him, even Christendom refusing to do so. (p.23)

To hand over kingship to Jesus who is invisible could only be done by handing it to his alleged agents the Governing Body and the WTS, but this implication the booklet does not develop.

APPROVAL AND POWER
The desire for approval and power are said to be attributes of Christian ministers, political figures, and educated people:

> The modern savants are drunken with the desire for the approval of men and for power among men. (w1932 5/1 141)

APPROVED ASSOCIATE
Anyone progressing in the JWs faith and conforming to it:

> ... when a person has conformed his life to Jehovah's righteous standards, is a regular meeting attender, and is having a meaningful share in the field service as an approved associate, he may express to one of the elders his desire to be baptized and at that time receive a personal copy of *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry*...
>
> Upon receiving the book, the approved associate should begin reviewing the questions for baptismal candidates starting on page 175. (Kingdom Ministry 9/1986, p.3)

ARCHAEOLOGY
> The truth of the Bible is, of course, not dependent upon confirmation by secular sources. (Insight I, 1988, 587)
>
> A faith that depends only on the interpretation of archaeological finds is a shaky one indeed. Proof that the Bible is divinely inspired is found within the Bible itself, and not in archaeology. (Insight I, 1988, 959)
>
> Christian faith depends, not on broken vases, moldering bricks, or crumbling walls, but on the entire, harmonious body of spiritual truth found in the Bible… That said, consider a number of interesting archaeological discoveries that corroborate Biblical accounts. (g2007 November, p.15)

WTS publications disparage archaeology as well as the notion of proof generally, and also much of modern science, to discourage JWs from going to archaeological or scientific publications for information.

The real proof of the Bible, according to the Governing Body, is the "harmonious body of spiritual truth". However, "harmony" in any document is not proof of accuracy. The most stupid claims can be "harmonious" and still be false. Furthermore, if JWs know the Bible to be "harmonious" why have they not presented that harmony but have instead published discrepant interpretations by thousands and made numerous false predictions? Obviously, they do not **know** the Bible to be harmonious but affirm it from indoctrination.

If JWs are told, "The truth of the *Book of Mormon* [or any other disputed document] is, of course not dependent upon, confirmation by secular sources" they would see this as dogmatism. The fact is that "confirmation" **does** depend on "secular sources" especially on scientific method.

The article "Tel Arad Bears Silent Witness" (w2008 7/1 23-25) starts by summarizing the work of archaeologists at Tel Arad — and therefore one expects a report of what archaeologists found.

The article, however, devotes more space to what archaeologists could **not** find such as "God's people", "King Solomon", the "Babylonian invasion of Judah in 607 B.C.E." and what "Jehovah plainly decreed". The point seems to be that archaeology is of little use as evidence for the Bible.

Further reasons to believe

Another "proof" JWs often offer for claims in the Bible is to quote Jesus or Paul:

> That Eve actually lived and was not a fictional character is testified to by Christ Jesus himself. In being questioned by the Pharisees concerning divorce, Jesus directed attention to the Genesis account with reference to the creation of male and female. (Aid to Bible Understanding 1972, 538)

Of course to establish what the Bible teaches requires quotes from the Bible. But if the aim is to examine whether the Bible is reliable or true, then quoting it is only the start — what the quotes state still has to be proved. Otherwise we're merely being told to believe the Bible:

1. Because the Bible says it's true;
2. Because the JWs leaders say it's true.

The JW reasoning is epitomized in *Should Archaeology Make You Doubt The Bible?* (g1983 7/8 6-11) The article discusses debate over the Red Sea crossing and says:

> Are Christians to believe that major portions of the Bible are just 'literary masterpieces' with no relationship to "factual experience"? Or can they rely on the Bible as the inspired Word of God? Should we be swayed by the conflicting theories of archaeologists and scholars? Or should we accept as reliable the testimony of the Bible writers and Jesus Christ himself? (p.9)

The *Awake!* article next quotes the Apostle Paul that "All Scripture is inspired" and continues:

> Why, then, do Jehovah's Witnesses believe the Bible to be inspired? Does their faith depend on archaeological findings? Briefly, the proof for inspiration is found in the Bible itself, not in archaeology. It is one thing to write accurate history; it is another to write accurate history *in advance*. That is prophecy. The Bible contains hundreds of fulfilled prophecies attesting to its divine authorship. For example, it has been estimated that 332 distinct prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures were fulfilled in Jesus Christ alone.
>
> Another powerful support of the Bible's authenticity is that its testimony is based on accounts supplied by actual eyewitnesses of the events, often the writer himself. This is the case with the Exodus account written by Moses himself. Do we have any reason to doubt his honesty as a witness? No, not when we also acknowledge that he was divinely inspired to write. (p.10)
>
> Therefore, the reasonable Christian will not expect absolute proof from archaeology for everything stated in the Bible, especially in this imperfect system of things. Nevertheless, he knows the time will soon come when it will be possible to check out perfectly so many of the persons and events related in the Bible. How so? "Because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his [Jesus'] voice and come out." (p.11)

Again archaeology is disparaged, subject to "conflicting theories" but the Bible contains "accurate history"! But without archaeology and other confirming sources how could anyone know that the Bible contains accurate history? Apparently because the Bible is "reliable … regarding … the future"! Again, how could anyone know such a thing — since all JWs prophecies for over 20 dates, supposedly based on the Bible, have failed?

The main thrust is that the Bible is true because Jesus or Paul so testified. Again, how can anyone know that Jesus or Paul so testified or that the alleged testimony is true without any means of checking it? In the *Book of Mormon* Jesus testified for that book as also did the angel Moroni, the Apostle John and others.

What about the so-called "332 distinct prophecies … fulfilled in Jesus"?

No Old Testament prophecy names Jesus. Few prophecies even cross-reference to other Old Testament prophecies so readers can be sure that they refer to one person. Many of what apologists call "prophecies" were statements about King David in the Psalms and refer to events in David's life. The Old Testament omits the name and dates needed to identify a specific future "Jesus".

Regarding "eyewitnesses" such as Moses, again there is no proof. It is merely **assumed** that the Bible stories are true including that there was a man named Moses who was an "eye witness".

A JW supposedly "knows the time will soon come when it will be possible to check out

perfectly so many of the persons and events" because the Bible heroes will be resurrected and can be questioned.

As proof for the Bible this is nonsense because it's a doctrinal claim which *assumes* the Bible true before it's proved. Should we really believe unproved claims provided they're accompanied by a further unproved claim that people will rise from the dead?

Such a resurrection claim is also undermined by the falseness of the resurrection claims the WTS published for 1878, 1914 and other dates.

Bible truth -- merely assumed

JWs do not know how to prove the Bible. They "walk by faith, not by sight", which means they have to believe whatever their leaders tell them and not think for themselves:

> While current interpretations of archaeological excavations at Jericho are of interest, true Christians 'walk by faith, not by sight.'… Their faith does not depend on archaeology. With or without archaeological evidence, the Bible repeatedly proves to be a reliable source of information regarding the past, the present, and the future. (w1990 7/15 7)

If the reasoning of JWs proves the Bible then we can generalize their reasoning and use it when investigating other beliefs. The *Book of Mormon* would be true because it says it's true; Nazism would be true and good because Adolf Hitler claimed it is; and even 2 x 2 = 7 would be correct if somebody so testifies.

But the reasoning of JWs is not valid — their assumption that something [the Bible] has to be true because it says its true is an erroneous assumption..

ARCHANGEL
The word "archangel" occurs only twice in the Bible, both times in the singular.

JWs therefore believe that Michael who is mentioned in Daniel as "one of the chief princes", is the pre-existent Jesus and is also the only archangel:

> The prefix "arch," meaning "chief" or "principal," implies that there is only one archangel, the chief angel; in the Scriptures, "archangel" is never found in the plural. (Insight I, 1988, 156)

ARDILL, G.E.
The author of *Millennial Dawn* (1915) an expose of Russell and of *Zion's Watch Tower*.

ARGENTINA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Argentina and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	17,762			
1975	31,100	804		
1980	36,100	721	66,600	390
1985	56,600	530	135,400	222
1990	82,500	392	194,200	167
1995	111,200	298	244,600	135
2000	121,400	298	260,600	139
2010	142,000	255	320,200	113
2015	148,600	287	315,800	135
2018	153,342	290	312,994	142
	Ave.			
2019	153,200	292	330,200	136
2020	154,800	292	355,800	127
2021	156,800	291	411,400	111
2022	153,800	308	345,700	137
2023	152,800	301	306,400	150
2024	155,000	298	308,000	150
2025	156,300	296	304,100	152

ARK OF NOAH
JWs interpret many Old Testament stories as picturing parts of their Organization and doctrines.

Until 1974 Noah's Ark pictured the 1914 Kingdom. This interpretation was then altered and the Ark pictured "our spiritual paradise." (w1986 10/15 24) The idea is that the Ark was the only safe place during Noah's Flood and similarly the JWs religion or Organization will be the only safe place during Armageddon.

ARMAGEDDON — RUSSELL
Armageddon, also called "The battle of the great day of God the almighty", is the world's final battle. It is spelled with two D's in the NWT and many other Bible translations. Exceptions which spell it with one D include *Moffat*, *ASV*, *Knox*, *The Bible in Living English*, and *Weymouth*.

Russell's teaching

For most of his ministry Russell regarded the expressions "Armageddon" and the "Day of Jehovah" and the "Day of Trouble" to be synonymous. He taught that Armageddon began in 1874 and would finish in 1914-1915.

His portrayal of Armageddon was probably inspired by Karl Marx's idea of the working classes rising against the capitalists. Russell conceived of Armageddon as a worldwide revolution of the poor against the rich, the oppressed against their oppressors (Studies IV, 77-112):

> … peasant against prince, pew against pulpit, labour against capital, the oppressed in arms against injustice and tyranny of every kind... (Studies IV, 541)
>
> Anarchists, Socialists and hot blooded radicals … will be in the forefront of the battle… (Pastor Russell's Sermons 1916, 237)

The cause of Armageddon, according to Russell, is disequilibrium of poverty and wealth and the demands of the poor exceeding the supply of goods. (Studies IV, 312-317, 525; wr1890 October 1243-1245).

Armageddon, according to Russell, began in 1874 but would escalate in intensity from about 1905 and climax in "Jacob's trouble" which would finish in 1915. During the latter part of Armageddon God would raise the ancient heroes of the Bible such as Abraham, Moses, Samson and Daniel from the dead, put them in Jerusalem, and their "kingdom rule" would spread outwards from Jerusalem and take control of the world.

Quotes from Russell; Armageddon 1874

Russell wrote in 1889:

> In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915...
>
> So, in this "Day of Jehovah," the "Day of Trouble," our Lord takes his great power (hitherto dormant) and reigns, and this it is that will cause the trouble, though the world will not so recognize it for some time. That the saints shall share in this work of breaking to pieces present kingdoms, there can be no doubt. It is written, "This honor have all his saints—to execute the judgments written, to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron"—of strength. (Psa. 149:8, 9)...
>
> Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1915, with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. (Studies II 1889, 99-101)

In 1892 Russell wrote:

> The Scriptures give unmistakable testimony to those who have full faith in its records, that there is a great time of trouble ahead of the present comparative calm in the world—a trouble which will embroil all nations, overthrow all existing institutions, civil, social and religious, bring about a universal reign of anarchy and terror, and prostrate humanity in the very dust of despair, thus to make them ready to appreciate the power that will bring order out of that confusion and institute the new rule of righteousness. All this, the Scriptures show us, is to come to pass before the year 1915 (See MILLENNIAL DAWN, Vol. II., Chapter IV.)—that is, within the next twenty-three years.
>
> For several years past thoughtful observers have said, War cannot be kept off much longer: it must come soon—"next spring," "next summer," "next fall," etc...
>
> These rumors of impending European wars, and the desire to judge whether observation would tend to confirm the divine revelation that the intensity of the great predicted trouble is yet nearly fifteen years future, formed no small part of our motive in visiting Europe during the past summer. With this object in view, and especially to be enabled to form some estimate of the social conditions of the people, which always have much to do with war probabilities, we pursued a very different course from that usual to European tourists...
>
> The date of the close of that "battle" is definitely marked in Scriptures as October, 1914. It is already in progress, its beginning dating from October, 1874. Thus far it has been chiefly a battle of words and a time of organizing forces—capital, labor, armies and secret societies...
>
> This feature of the battle must continue with varying success to all concerned; the organization must be very thorough; and the final struggle will be comparatively short, terrible and decisive—resulting in general anarchy...
>
> The Scriptures show also that the battle of the great day will begin with the church of God, and that the overthrow of the great nominal church systems will precede the overthrow of the present civil powers...
>
> This culmination we do not expect, however, before about 1905... (wr1892 1/15 1354-1355)

Altered time-scale

In 1904 Russell changed the time-scale from "by 1914" to "Immediately after 1914".

Nevertheless Armageddon would still be over in 1915. (Studies II 1915 edition, 140, 98-101)

When World War I broke out Russell predicted that Armageddon consisting of a worldwide uprising would occur at the end of the war. (wr1914 11/1 5567; 8/1 5526-5527)

View during 1915

When 1915 arrived Russell believed that Armageddon was still future but the ongoing World War would merge into Armageddon. In a public address at he said:

> "This war and the following Anarchy of Armageddon will prove conclusively the need of Divine interposition in human affairs. As Jesus said, speaking of the present trouble and the resulting anarchy, 'Unless those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.'-Matthew 24:22. Doubtless, earth's great rulers have done their best. Having a false idea of what constitutes Messiah's Kingdom, each seems to think it their mission to conquer the world. They also believe they foresee a general uprising of Socialism, and their hearts are failing them fearing the things coming on the earth.
>
> "While they knew this would be the worst war ever known, they preferred it to what they were striving to ward off and have succeeded in warding off for the present. But they have lost their best blood, their best energy, money, commerce etc., and when the war is ended, their disappointed peoples will be greatly angered at their rulers. Then will come the determination for something like Socialism. This the governments will endeavor to put down, and will succeed partially. Then will come the great explosion-the Armageddon of the Scriptures. This Time of trouble will just precede Messiah's Kingdom.-Daniel 12:1. (The Pensacola Journal, about March 20, 1915)

Russell's view after 1915

In 1916 Russell taught that Armageddon was already in progress:

> Incidentally we remark that some historians put the end of the Jewish Time of Trouble as April A.D. 73, which would correspond to April 1918…
> In the meantime, our eyes of understanding should discern clearly the Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty now in progress… (wr1916 9/1 5951)

ARMAGEDDON -- RUTHERFORD

Rutherford changed the date for Armageddon because Russell's Armageddon didn't happen.

He also reinterpreted what Armageddon is:

> In The Watch Tower ... there appeared in its issue of July 15, 1925, the leading article entitled "The Remnant." This article set forth for the first time that Armageddon is not a disorganized "time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation," or a violent, anarchistic battle between capital and organized labor, but is a universal fight between Jehovah God and the entire organization of Satan the Devil in heaven and on earth. (w1961 12/1 721)
>
> In 1926 another brilliant flash of light revealed that the war of Armageddon was not to be a social revolution, as Bible Students once thought. Rather, it would be a war in which Jehovah will demonstrate his power so clearly that all people will be convinced that he is God. (w1995 5/15, 1995 18)

Armageddon was therefore no longer the masses against the upper classes but a war "by the hand of Almighty God" (w1933 7/1 202) with the angels of God slaughtering people everywhere with the exception of JWs:

- Armageddon will not be fought between nations (The Peoples Friend 1928, 28-31) but between the forces of God and the forces of Satan. (The Standard for the People 1926)
- The main slaughter would be in Christendom. (w1933 3/1 72)
- Satan's organization will be cleaned off the earth. (w1932 4/15 118)
- JWs will not take part in destroying the world (Deliverance 1926, 293) but may watch and call out: "The enemy is on the run, they flee! they flee!" (w1932 4/1 103)
- JWs "will sing and greatly rejoice" (w1940 1/1 10; w1941 4/15 122) and ask, "How can any flesh be saved?" (w1934 10/15 311).
- "Great will be the actual flow of blood." (w1932 5/1 134)
- God: "…will empty the earth of everything and every creature that is in opposition to THE THEOCRACY." (w1941 4/15 120).
- "When the battle of Armageddon is done there will be so many dead that the survivors will not be able to bury them. The whole earth will be a place of shambles." (w1940 10/15 312) Survivors will number "a few million". (Salvation 1939, 330)

In the 1930s Rutherford divided Armageddon into two parts, the first part the destruction of all religions, the second the destruction of all the nations and their non-JWs inhabitants:

> The Scriptures seem to fully support the conclusion that the destruction of the religionists under the lead of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy will be the first part, or the beginning, of Armageddon. (Riches 1936, 285)

The 1975 *Yearbook* says that Armageddon is part of the "great tribulation", the climax of it. (Text for December 20)

The interpretation in 1942 was that World War II would end in an armistice. After that the JWs preaching-work would terrify all nations into attacking JWs, whereupon Jesus and the angels will intervene and fight against the demons, the religions, and "Hitler and his Axis partners..." (w1942 1/1 6) This of course wasn't fulfilled and now cannot be fulfilled because "Hitler and his Axis partners" perished in 1945.

The Date

When will Armageddon occur?

Until 1904 Russell's prophetic scheme had Armageddon occur 1874-1914 and its violent peak starting after 1905 or 1910-1912. World rule by the resurrected heroes of the Bible and peace on earth would come in 1914/1915.

In 1904 the time scale Russell changed from "by 1914" to "immediately after 1914". Nevertheless Armageddon would still finish in 1915. (Studies II 1915 edition, 140, 98-101)

After the Russian revolution in 1917, Rutherford equivocated as to whether Armageddon had started or was future. In 1922, however, we read: "Armageddon Battle Is On". (Peoples Pulpit 1922, December 1, p.2)

During the 1920s JWs believed that Armageddon began with World War I.

The Great tribulation stopped in 1918; And resumed at Armageddon

In 1933 Rutherford distinguish Armageddon from the "great tribulation" and transferred Armageddon to the future:

The "great tribulation", however, still began with World War I in 1914, but was "cut short" in 1918 when the War ended, and would re-start and conclude soon with Armageddon. The 1918 cutting-short was supposedly predicted by Jesus in Mathew 24:22.

The re-start or second part of the "great tribulation" would be Armageddon:

> It is not correct to say that Armageddon has begun and that the worst part is yet future. (w1933 3/1 68)
>
> The year 1914 marks the beginning of sorrows, which sorrows include the World War, and which are a part of the great tribulation but not the greatest part. Jehovah shortened that great tribulation for the elect's sake, and the clear inference is that when the elect have finished the work assigned to them by Jehovah there will be much tribulation.
>
> Has the battle of Armageddon begun? Scripturally the answer is, No… that time is when Jehovah God, the Almighty, takes a hand in the great tribulation that comes upon the whole world, and that he does so in the execution of his judgment…
>
> That the great battle is yet future is clearly shown, both by the Scriptures and by the facts. Although tribulation has been on the world since 1914, yet even to this day, 1933, the clergy of "Christendom", who call themselves the "shepherds of the flock", are arrogant and austere and continue to feed themselves while the members of their flock are fleeced; and they continue to work hand in glove with other oppressors of the Devil's organization…
>
> Satan began the tribulation in 1914, and Jehovah stopped the wholesale slaughter in 1918 and thus shortened the days of tribulation for his own purposes. The tribulation was begun by Satan and carried on in unrighteousness; but soon Jehovah will take an active part therein, by the hand of Christ Jesus, and will "cut it short in righteousness". That part begun by Jehovah will be the battle of the great day of God Almighty and which is sometimes called "the battle of Armageddon". (w1933 3/1 71-73)

Until about 1930 Rutherford expected multitudes of people, not just JWs, to survive Armageddon. This teaching he changed and designated JWs as the sole survivors.

When? How much longer?

In 1932 "all the facts showed" the following:

> All the facts show that Armageddon is only a short time away, and that period much less than the length of a generation. (Health and Life 1932, 24)

In 1934 and again in 1941 Armageddon was only "months" away:

> During the few remaining months until the breaking of that universal cataclysm

> the powers that rule the nations of the earth will continue to make treaties and tell the people that by such means they will keep the world peace and bring about prosperity. (Universal War Near 1934, 27)
>
> Receiving the gift [the book *Children*], the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for the most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon. (w1941 9/15 288)

During the early 1930s the word "Armageddon" occurred about 60 times per year in *The Watchtower* but reached 340 times in 1940:

Occurrences of "Armageddon" in *The Watchtower*

1926	18	1937	136
1927	23	1938	250
1928	43	1939	273
1929	18	1940	340
1930	37	1941	270
1931	54	1942	309
1932	64	1943	170
1933	61	1944	177
1934	66	1945	178
1935	264	1946	119
1936	96	1949	185

Such frequent reminders stimulated JWs to more door-to-door activity. It also made them reckless, provoking conflict with "foot in the door" methods and telling people that they were about to die because their religion is the "great whore". Annoyed people sometimes formed crowds and inflicted beatings on the "ordained ministers" (which is what JWs called themselves). WTS publications in turn called such public reaction "persecution" and interpreted it as further proof that Armageddon is imminent. This stimulated the "ordained ministers" even more, resulting in self-sustaining violence including cases of JWs shooting people!

In 1943 mentions of Armageddon in *The Watchtower* began to taper off.

The 2015 *Watchtower Library CD* lists "Armageddon" 5457 times, a yearly average from 1950 to 2014 of 89 occurrences in WTS publications on the CD.

In particular we read on the CD, seven times, that Armageddon is "immediately before us", and that the world is:

- "deep in the time of the end"— 29 times;
- "deep into the last days" — 13 times.

In 1946 the book *Let God Be True* implied Armageddon would occur in the 20th century. This prediction was stated plainly in 1961:

> Revelation 16:16 calls it the "war of the great day of God the Almighty," Armageddon. This war will come in the twentieth century. (g1961 2/22 8)

Current attitude

In 1969 Governing Body member F.W. Franz detached the great tribulation from 1914 and made it a future event — to start around 1975 with the destruction of all other religions.

The world then turns on JWs at which point Armageddon erupts:- Natural catastrophes kill people everywhere, angels go on worldwide killing sprees, and vast flocks of birds gorge on human flesh.

Armageddon means "swift doom for evil nations and people" during which God "will wipe the earth clean of all wickedness" and people who "call on the name of Jehovah will get away safe." (w1985 1/1 6-7)

The 1980s and 1990s saw many repetitions stressing Armageddon's nearness such as: "As we stand on the brink of the 'great tribulation'…" (w1985 3/1 21)

Until 1995 when the definition of "generation" was changed JWs believed:

> And as so often **proved Scripturally** in this journal, the present generation will not pass away before Armageddon occurs! (w1990 5/15 7)

Until 1995 "the present generation" meant people who saw 1914 and were old enough in 1914 to understand what was happening. (See: *GENERATION*) Observe this was "often proved **Scripturally**", yet has turned out false!

We also read:

> We also know that the 1914 generation is well into the evening of its existence, thus allowing only a little time… (w1985 5/1 7)

Function of the Armageddon-is-near doctrine

Emphasis on Armageddon's nearness stimulates preaching activity among JWs, comparable to a spur stimulating a horse. (See: *DATES*)

Armageddon-predictions do the same for JWs as the doctrine of purgatory is said to do for Catholics:

…a bogeyman, set up by the agents of Satan to frighten the people into the religious organizations, where they may be fleeced of their hard earned money. (Religion 1940, 197)

(See also: *GREAT TRIBULATION, THE*

ARMAGEDDON NEAR QUOTES

Below is a sample of the statements that frightened Russellites and JWs into abandoning jobs and education, selling their homes, donating money, volunteering for unpaid work, and preaching:

1886:

The outlook at the opening of the New Year has some very encouraging features. The outward evidences are that the marshaling of the hosts for the battle of the great day of God Almighty, is in progress while the skirmishing is commencing... In the battle already beginning we are clearly told that there will be a general division of the world into two contending parties... (wr1886 January, p.817)

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1915, with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. The gathering of the armies is plainly visible from the standpoint of God's Word. (Studies II 1886, 101)

True, it is expecting great things to claim, as we do, that within the coming twenty-six years, all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved... (Studies II 1915, 98-99)

1894:

A <u>few more years</u> will wind up the present order of things, and then the chastened world will stand face to face with the actual conditions of the established kingdom of God. And yet the course of the church is to be finished within the brief space of time that intervenes. Seeing, then, that all these things—present political, social, religious and financial arrangements—are to be dissolved, and that so soon, and also how apart from these things are the real interests of the saints, how comparatively unimportant should the things of this present order seem to us: they are not worthy our time or words... (wr1894 2/15 1622)

We see no reason for changing the figures — nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the *beginning*, but for the *end* of the time of trouble. (wr1894 7/15 1677)

1897:

But now we are in the end of this Gospel age, and the Kingdom is being established or set up. Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874, A.D., according to the testimony of the prophets, to those who have ears to hear it: and the formal inauguration of his kingly office dates from April 1878, A.D.…

All this is in harmony with the Scriptural declaration that the Kingdom of God must first be set up before its influence and work will result in the complete destruction of "the powers that be" of "this present evil world"—political, financial, ecclesiastical—about the close of the "Times of the Gentiles," October A.D. 1914. (Studies IV 1897, 621-622.)

1904:

According to our expectations the stress of the great time of trouble will be on us soon, somewhere between 1910 and 1912--culminating with the end of the Times of the Gentiles, October, 1914. (Studies VI 1904, 579)

1914:

While it is possible that Armageddon may begin next Spring, yet it is purely speculation to attempt to say just when. We see, however, that there are parallels between the close of the Jewish age and this Gospel age. These parallels seem to point to the year just before us—particularly the early months. (wr1914 9/1 5527)

1915:

The Battle of Armageddon, to which this war is leading, will be a great contest between right and wrong, and will signify the complete and everlasting overthrow of the wrong, and the permanent establishment of Messiah's righteous kingdom for the blessing of the world... (wr1915 4/1 5659)

1916

We see no reason for doubting, therefore, that the Times of the Gentiles ended in October, 1914; and that a few more years will witness their utter collapse and the full establishment of God's kingdom in the hands of Messiah. But by that time, the Elijah class will have

passed beyond the Veil; for "when he [Jesus] shall appear in his glory, we [the church] also will appear with him." (wr1916 9/1 5950)

The present great war in Europe is the beginning of the Armageddon of the Scriptures. (Rev. 16:16-20) It will eventuate in the complete overthrow of all the systems of error which have so long oppressed the people of God and deluded the world... We believe the present war cannot last much longer until revolution shall break out. (Pastor Russell's Sermons, 1916, p.676)

1917

...the battle of [that] THE great Day of God Almighty.—Of which the present horrible European war is only the preliminary skirmish.—Rev. 17:14; 19:19. (The Finished Mystery 1917, p.254)

16:20. And every island fled away.—Even the republics will disappear in the fall of 1920.
And the mountains were not found.—Every kingdom of earth will pass away, be swallowed up in anarchy... The three days in which Pharoah's host pursued the Israelites into the wilderness represent the three years from 1917 to 1920 at which time all of Pharoah's messengers will be swallowed up in the sea of anarchy. (ibid p.258)

Pastor Russell's mission, in large part, was to advise Christendom of its impending end, in the time of world-wide trouble. It is the Divine judgment upon the nations… The trouble is due to the dawning of the Day of Christ, the Millennium. It is the Day of Vengeance, which began in the world war of 1914 and which will break like a furious morning storm in 1918. (ibid p.404)

1920:

This is the Golden Age of which the prophets prophesied and of which the Psalmist sang; and it is the privilege of the student of the divine Word today, by the eye of faith, to see that we are standing at the very portals of that blessed time! Let us look up and lift up our heads. Deliverance is at the door! (Millions Now Living Shall Never Die 1920, p.97)

1928

... the battle of Armageddon is just ahead. (w1928 6/1 167) and
"rapidly approaching." (w1928 7/15 214)

1929

... the battle of Armageddon will soon be fought... (w1929 3/15 87)

1930:

The great climax is at hand. The kings of earth now set themselves against his anointed Stone. (Light II 1930, 327)

1931:

God's kingdom has begun to operate. His day of vengeance is here and Armageddon is at hand and certain to fall upon Christendom and that within an early date. God's judgment is upon Christendom and must shortly be executed. (Vindication I 1931, 147)

1932

The great day of God Almighty is here, and the battle of Armageddon is soon to be fought. (w1932 1/15 22)

1935

...the scriptural evidence and the physical facts strongly indicate that such witness work is now almost done; and when it is done the universal war will begin. Universal war is absolutely certain to come and that soon, and no power can stop it

...during <u>the few remaining months</u> until the breaking of that universal cataclysm the powers that rule the nations of the earth will continue to make treaties and tell the people that by such means they will keep that world peace and bring about prosperity. (Universal War Near, 1935, 3, 26-27)

Likewise today the battle of Armageddon draws near... (w1935 2/1 42)

1938

Would it be scripturally proper for them to marry and begin to rear children? No, is the answer, which is supported by the scriptures... It will be far better to be unhampered and without burdens, that they may do the Lords will now, as the Lord commands, and also be without hindrance during Armageddon... Those... who now contemplate marriage, it would seem, would do better if they wait a <u>few years</u>, until the fiery storm of Armageddon is gone. (Face the Facts 1938, 46, 47, 50)

1939:

The abundance of Scriptural evidence, together with the physical facts that have come to pass showing the fulfillment of prophecy, conclusively proves that the time for the battle of the great day of God Almighty is very near and that in that battle all of God's enemies shall be

destroyed and the earth cleared of wickedness... (Salvation 1939, 310)

Likewise today, all the nations and peoples of earth are face to face with the greatest emergency. They are being warned as God commands, that the disaster of Armageddon is just ahead. (ibid p.361)

1940:

The prophecies of Almighty God, the fulfillment of which now clearly appears from the physical facts, show that the end of religion has come and with its end the complete downfall of Satan's entire organization... (Religion 1940, 336)

The day for final settlement is near at hand. (ibid p.338)

The Kingdom is here, the King is enthroned. Armageddon is just ahead. The glorious reign of Christ that shall bring blessings to the world will immediately follow. Therefore the great climax has been reached. (The Messenger 1940, September, p.6)

1941:

Receiving the gift [the book *Children*], the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon. (w1941 9/15, 288)

1942

Now, with Armageddon immediately before us, it is a matter of life or destruction. (w1942 5/1 139)

THE NEW WORLD IS AT THE DOORS... The time is short. Those who do not inform themselves and who do not now choose the new world which Higher Powers shall establish will never live to enter into blessings and glories. (The New World 1942, 10)

1943:

Nevertheless ... the unknown day and hour of the beginning of the final war is dangerously near. In view of world developments there is no time to delay further one's flight to ... God's ... kingdom. (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 341)

1946:

The disaster of Armageddon, greater than that which befell Sodom and Gomorrah, is at the door. (Let God Be True1946, 194)

1950:

The disaster of Armageddon, greater than that which befell Sodom and Gomorrah, is at the door. (Let God Be True1946, 194)

1955:

...it is becoming clear that the war of Armageddon is nearing its breaking-out point. (You May Survive Armageddon into God's New World 1955, 331)

1961

…more than 15,000 are preaching every minute of every day about this kingdom. What kingdom? The kingdom of God that is to crush all present kingdoms of men. (Dan. 2:44) That now-operating kingdom in heaven will, within the twentieth century, cleanse the entire earth of wickedness… (g1961 2/22 7)

Revelation 16:16 calls it the "war of the great day of God the Almighty," Armageddon. This war will come in the twentieth century. (ibid p.8

1966:

What cataclysmic times are fast approaching! A climax in man's history is at the door! How vital, then, for each one who loves life to take note of these evidences of history that point to the near end of this wicked system! (g1966 10/8, 20)

According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E. ... Six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation... It would not be by mere chance or accident but would be according to the loving purpose of Jehovah God for the reign of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the sabbath, to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence. (Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God 1966, 29-30)

1969:

There is only a short time left before Jehovah will destroy this wicked system of things. (w1969 1/15 39)

1969

[39] More recently earnest researchers of the Holy Bible have made a recheck of its chronology. According to their calculations the six millenniums of mankind's life on earth would end in the mid-seventies. Thus the seventh millennium from man's creation by Jehovah god would begin within less than ten years....

[40] Apart from the global change that present-day world condition indicate is fast getting near, the arrival of the seventh millennium of mans existence on earth suggests a gladsome change for war-stricken humankind...

[41] The Lord Jesus Christ, the prospective Prince of Peace, pointed forward to a greater Sabbath Day. Pointing forward to this, he said on a certain weekly sabbath day when he came under criticism: "Lord of the sabbath is what the Son of man is." (Matt. 12:1-8) He was referring to his peaceful reign of a thousand years...

[42] In order for the Lord Jesus Christ to be Lord even of the Sabbath day, his thousand-year reign would have to be the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millenniums. (Matt 12:8, AV) Thus it would be a sabbatic reign. Since early in the existence of mankind Satan the Devil has been on the loose, making the human family to toil in hard bondage, causing the earth to be filled with violence before the global flood of Noah's day and inducing the same old earth to be filled with even greater violence today. Soon now six millenniums of his wicked exploiting of mankind as his slaves will end, within the lifetime of the generation that has witnessed world events since the close of the gentile times in 1914 till now, according to the prophetic words of Jesus in Matthew 24:34. Would not, then, the end of six millenniums of mankind's laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath. (w1969 10/15 622-623)

1971

Shortly, within our twentieth century, the "battle in the day of Jehovah" will begin against the modern antitype of Jerusalem, Christendom. (The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah—How? 1971, 216)

1984

Some of that "generation" could survive until the end of the century. But there are many indications that "the end" is much closer than that! (w1984 3/1 18-19)

Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: "This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 21:32) And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment... (w1984 5/15 6-7)

1989

The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for a work that would be completed in our 20th century. (w1989 1/1 12
[The bound volume has "in our 20th century" altered to "in our day"]

ARMY

JWs reject service in the armed forces of every country.

Insight On The Scriptures (1988) quotes several sources that state early Christians avoided army service. Until the time of Emperor Aurelius (121-180 C.E.) for example:

> …no Christian became a soldier; and no soldier, after becoming a Christian, remained in military service… In reviewing the records of the early church fathers up to about 170 A.D., no mention is made of Christians being enrolled in the military.

Argument from lack of records is inadequate since the records may be lost — we do not possess the biography or the service record of every Roman soldier.

Early Christians refrained from military service for reasons that may not apply now such as:

- Rome often persecuted Christians which would have discouraged them from military service!
- Rome required soldiers to take an oath of allegiance to the emperor as god which to Christians was idolatry.
- There was no universal conscription.
- New Testament teachings of peace, Christian unity and doing good were incompatible with military service to Rome.

Whether the New Testament allows military service when the government is nominally Christian and the country has a large Christian population under attack (such as the late Roman Empire pillaged by the Huns) is not addressed by JWs.

In such a situation might not ancient Israel in Moses' time be the model to follow? Would it be right for threatened villagers to band together to defend themselves against rape and slaughter? What if today law and order broke down, would JWs band together to defend against attack by militants?

(See also: *MILITARY SERVICE; ALTERNATIVE SERVICE*)

ARMENIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Armenia and their ratio to Armenia's population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2000	6,387	524	18,817	178
2005	8,998	357	20,662	155
2010	11,123	292	24,693	132
2015	11,117	272	23,318	130
2018	10,997	272	21,843	137
	Ave.			
2019	10,702	276	20,968	141
2020	10,590	280	22,723	130
2021	11,150	279	32,022	97
2022	11,093	267	26,543	112
2023	11,194	277	25,977	119
2024	11,388	267	25,606	119
2025	11,530	267	25,000	123

ARMY OF 200,000,000 (Revelation 9:16)
Rutherford said that the 200,000,000 meant Protestant church-membership. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 164) He changed this and made the 200,000,000 refer to JWs plus the angels. (w1939 12/1 364) Franz changed the interpretation again and made the 200,000,000 refer to the WTS publications. (Then is Finished the Mystery of God 1969, 253)

ARRESTS
From 1933 to 1951 there were 18,886 arrests of JWs in the United States. (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 330)

ARUBA
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Aruba (an island in the Caribbean, north of Venezuela) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	169	354		
1975	342	181		
1980	311	207	921	70
1985	324	208	921	73
1990	451	150	1,249	54
1995	513	156	1,901	42
2000	655	149	1,980	49
2005	743	135	2,356	43
2010	811	132	2,674	40
2015	975	112	2,922	37
2018	1,080	98	2,898	37
	Ave.			
2019	1,078	98	3,084	34
2020	1,082	99	3,062	35
2021	1,108	97	3,523	31
2022	1,100	98	2,978	36
2023	1,077	100	2,725	40
2024	1,086	98	2,662	39
2025	1,096	99	2,774	39

ARTICLE — DEFINITE and INDEFINITE — IN JOHN 1:1
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

The definite article is the word "the"; the indefinite article is the word "a". Greek has the definite article but "...in Greek there is no indefinite article." (Wenham 1965)

John 1:1 literally reads: "the Word was **the** God and the Word was God." The significance of the absence of the definite article in "the Word was God" is much debated. Does the absence imply that the "Word" (i.e. Christ) is "**a** God" i.e. a lesser god than "the God"?

Wenham (1965) explains:

> When two nouns in the nominative are linked by the verb 'to be'; it may not be clear which is subject and which is complement. Thus [John 1:1] could be either The Word is God *or* God is the Word. In such cases the complement usually drops the article…

Apparently the definite article is omitted before "God" in "the Word was God" for grammatical reasons, but its presence is implied and so is equivalent to "the Word was the God."

However, Wenham adds:

> In ancient manuscripts which did not differentiate between capital and small letters, there would be no way of distinguishing between ... ('God') and … ('god'). Therefore as far as grammar alone is concerned, such a sentence could be printed … either, 'The Word is a god', or, 'The Word is the god'. The interpretation of John 1:1 will depend upon whether or not the writer is held to believe in only one God or in more than one god. It will be noticed that the above rules for the special uses of the definite article are none of them rigid and without exceptions. It is wiser not to use them as a basis for theological argument until the student has reached an advanced stage in the knowledge of the language.

Therefore although John 1:1 says, when put into English, "The Word was God" it can — because the writer believed in only one God — be rendered "The Word was the God."

However, that does not end the matter since the New Testament in other passages usually has the definite article added to *theos* whether *theos* refers to God the Father or another god. The terms *theos* (Greek) and *elohim* (Hebrew) do not always refer to God Almighty:

> And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharoah, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. (Exodus 7:1)
>
> God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds council. (Psalm 82:1)
>
> Jesus answered: "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods' — and the scripture cannot be annulled — can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's son'? (John 8:34-36)
>
> Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father… (I Corinthians 8:5-6)
>
> In their case the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers… (II Corinthians 4:4)

"The God" in "the god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4) means Satan despite the definite article.

Therefore "the Word was [the] God" would still require interpretation even if the definite article is inferred.

(See also: *A GOD*)

ASSEMBLIES
See: *CONVENTIONS*

ASSEMBLY HALLS
In the 1970s JWs went on a spree of building assembly halls in many countries – 25 countries by 1984. The halls usually hold 1,000 to 2,000 people each and are used for conventions and special meetings. (See: *CONSTRUCTION*)

ASSETS
See: *CONSTRUCTION*

ASSIGNMENT
A task or job a JW is given by the congregation-elders or the WTS and includes public talks, ushering, cleaning, preaching, etc, as well as official positions of responsibility.

ASSOCIATED BIBLE STUDENTS
One of the many sects into which Russellism split after 1917.

(See: *PASTORAL BIBLE INSTITUTE*)

ASSISTANT CONGREGATION SERVANT
The second-in-command after the overseer in kingdom halls until 1972 when the position was discontinued and "bodies of elders" established.

ASSOCIATED JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES for REFORM on BLOOD (AJWRB)
An anonymous group founded in 1997 and said to include members of Hospital Liaison Committees.

The group calls for reform to the JWs blood policy, which it sees as complex, contradictory and without biblical basis. It advertises via the Internet and writes to the Governing Body which, however, has not officially responded.

AJWRB claims to have thousands of members in 25 countries but remain anonymous for fear of being excommunicated.

The founder Lee Elder (a pseudonym) claims to be a former elder whose grandmother died from refusing a blood transfusion.

www.jehovahs-witness.com/topic/202479/bombshell-ajwrb-real.htm

ASSOCIATION, FREEDOM OF
The democratic and legal right to meet together.

This "right" is supported by JWs and their Governing Body when considering their own official meetings but denied to JWs who seek to association outside the sect or want to research and study together without WTS publications.

JWs who meet for independent research or attend at other churches or participate in political meetings will be criticized and, if they remain non-compliant, disfellowshipped and ostracized.

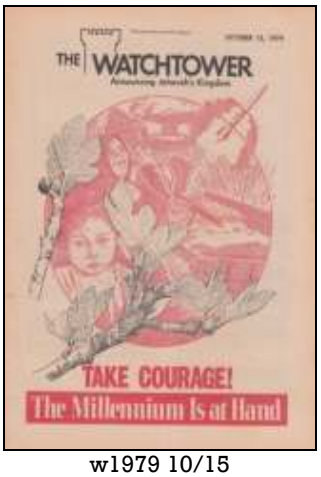
ASSYRIA
The Bible describes an unsuccessful attack by the Assyrians against Jerusalem in the 8th century BC. (Isaiah 36-37; 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32) JWs believe that those ancient events pictured modern times.

Jerusalem, for example, represented JWs and Assyria represented the "King of the North" which includes Nazis, Fascists, the Vatican and the Pope. (w1945 4/1 102-105)

ASTROLOGY
JWs are opposed to astrology and horoscopes.

They believe that the "wise men" who visited the infant Jesus were astrologers.

AT HAND (Luke 21:8)



w1979 10/15

In Luke 21:8 most Bible translations read "the time is near" but some Bible versions translate it:

> And he said, "Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name, saying … 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them."
> (Revised Standard Version 1952; Byington Translation 1972)

JWs have never taken this warning of Jesus seriously. The WTS prophets use the phrases "at hand" and "the time is near" regularly, and were wrong every time when "at hand" referred to a specific year (e.g. 1914), decade (e.g. 1970s), generation (e.g. 1780-1833) or century (20th).

Already in 1886 the WTS circulated a book titled *The Time Is At Hand*.

In 1886 "at hand" meant that the Kingdom (which God had set up in 1878) would crush all nations and religions at Armageddon by 1914, and rule the world. The year, generation and century were wrong.

In *The Watchtower* w1979 10/15 we read on the cover "The Millennium Is at Hand!".

Inside it says:

- In foretelling events, the "things happening" in our 20th century, Jesus Christ compared them to the fig tree when "its young branch grows tender and puts forth its leaves"—a proof that summer is at hand. (Mark 13:28, 29) This corresponds with Jesus' coming to execute judgment. Then will follow "the thousand years," during which the Devil will not mislead the nations anymore. (p.12)
- "the appointed times of the nations" ran out in 1914 ... Christ Jesus the son of man, "is near, at the doors,"... (p.13)
- "Today, God's people stand at the very portals of the millennium." (p.23)

In 1979 when this was published "at hand" and "near" and "at the very portals" meant in the 20th century:

> Revelation 16:16 calls it the "war of the great day of God the Almighty," Armageddon. This war will come in the twentieth century. (g1961 2/22 8)

AT THE VERY PORTALS

A phrase sometimes used in WTS publications to suggest that Armageddon is dangerously near:

> Because we now stand at the very portals of universal war the information concerning the same, as set forth in the Bible, is of greatest interest, convenience and necessity to the people. (Universal War Near 1935, 3)
>
> A new world of righteousness is at the very portals! (w1960 8/1 508)
>
> Today, God's people stand at the very portals of the millennium. (w1979 10/15 23)

AT THE DOOR(S)

Another phrase used by JWs leaders to suggest the nearness of Armageddon and motivate JWs into extra activity and/or to donate more money. The phrase implies that the wait for Armageddon and for the "New World" is virtually over:

> The indisputable facts show that the world's greatest tribulation is at the door. (Armageddon 1937, 53)
>
> The new order of righteousness is at the doors. The judgment of the nations of the old world is hastening to its disastrous climax, and the peoples are steadily being pressed to an individual decision…
> (w1942 10/15 317)
>
> Trusting in that reliable information and comparing it with the distress of nations and increasing perplexity and confusion, such favored persons are fairly overwhelmed with the conviction, yes, their heart bound up with joy, that THE NEW WORLD IS AT THE DOORS.
> (The New World 1942, 9)
>
> The disaster of Armageddon, greater than that which befell Sodom and

> Gomorrah, is <u>at the door</u>. (Let God Be True 1946, 194)

After these "at the door" statements were published, Armageddon failed in the 1940s, 1975, and "within our twentieth century". The "reliable information" was not reliable and Armageddon and the New World were not "at the door" or "doors"!

ATTEND

To JWs the concept of them being "members" of their religion is offensive. Therefore they also avoid saying they belong to a certain congregation and say instead that they "attend at" and name the congregation or "go" to that congregation.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance at every official JWs meeting is counted and recorded to calculate increases and keep tab on the percentage of publishers loyal enough to attend. In the 1950s the usual attendance at Kingdom Halls represented about 65% of publishers; in 1960s 80%.

ATTENDANTS

"Attendants" are ushers in congregations and at conventions assigned to direct people to seats.

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

The volunteers at conventions responsible for checking the accounts.

AUSTRALIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Australia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	22,203	554		
1975	28,813	470		
1980	31,000	468	64,300	226
1985	42,453	368	82,200	190
1990	53,100	319	98,489	172
1995	61,100	294	110,900	162
2000	60,900	313	112,000	170
2005	61,400	327	111,300	181
2010	65,200	345	116,000	194
2015	67,600	353	116,000	206
2018	68,247	363	116,581	213
	Ave.			
2019	67,800	372	118,300	213
2020	67,000	376	107,200	238
2021	70,000	368	117,700	219
2022	70,700	369	113,900	229
2023	70,200	379	114,100	233
2024	71,100	384	115,600	236
2025	71,500	387	114,300	242

AUSTRALIA HISTORY OF JWS

In 1896 Arthur Williams Senior began reading the WTS book *The Divine Plan of the Ages* in Perth and around 1900 began distributing Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures*.

In 1901 Russell sent four followers to open an office in Melbourne, followed in 1903 by his "foster daughter", Rose Ball, and her husband E.C. Henninges, to manage the office.

Soon 100 people were getting *Zion's Watch Tower*. The majority left Russell's cult with the Hennniges couple in 1908/1909 and founded the New Covenant Bible Students.

Russell appointed a new branch manager, R. Nicholson, but he defected in 1918 and founded the Berean Bible Students Association. The dispute in 1918 was over *The Finished Mystery* book with its failing predictions and slanderous verbal attacks on Christian churches. A NSW doctor wrote:

> … its vindictive and slanderous aspersions of other religious thought, and its scurrilous cartoons, in no way indicating the spirit of Christ, made me throw it aside… (Peoples Paper, September 1, 1918, p.4)

Rutherford's supporters were more organized, and more effective at advertising and made extensive use of newspapers. In 1921 when they held their first national assembly in Sydney, attended by 300, they may have already outnumbered the ex members. In 1924 they started a radio station in Launceston, Tasmania, followed during the next 20 years by another 20 stations.

A major setback were the false predictions for 1925 in Rutherford's *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* book. The prophecy created much public interest and made cult members zealous in going door to door, but when exposed as false in 1925 many left and never returned.

1929 to WORLD WAR II

Controversy increased during the 1930s due verbal attacks by JWs on mainstream Christianity as a "whore" and a "racket", and public demonstrations with placards, and insults, mockery, and offensive cartoons such as "Pious Pilcher" spying on a naked woman.

"Pious Pilcher" apparently referred to Oxford-born Charles Venn Pilcher, Anglican Bishop in Sydney, lecturer at Moore's Theological College, and a writer and translator of hymns.



Consolation (Australian) January 10, 1940, p.4

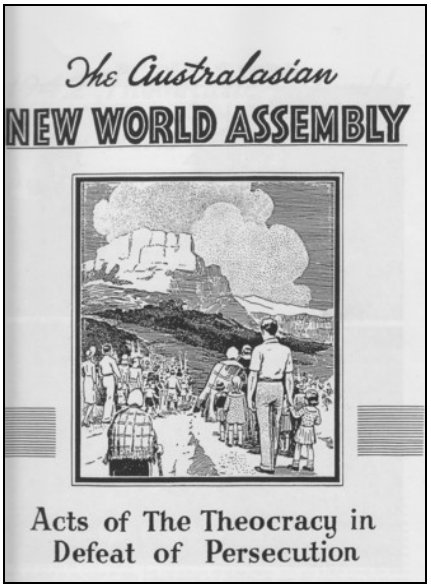
JWs also in the 1930s lacked the morals that they nowadays claim to excel at and would go door to door while intoxicated:

> Looseness of morals is also quite noticeable. The thought has been prevalent amongst some that it is unnecessary for Jehovah's witnesses to go through the form of marriage prescribed by the state… It has likewise been noticed that some take part in the field service and perform other duties in the organization while under the influence of liquor. (w1935 3/1 76-77)
>
> Some have unwisely concluded that if they were engaged in the house-to-house witness work they could pursue with impunity any course that their appetites might call for. (ibid p.78)

JWs were already so controversial and effective at getting noticed by 1938 that when Rutherford visited Australia in that year his public discourse in Sydney attracted an audience of 25,000!

In January, 1941, the Federal Government issued an order which declared organizations unlawful whose activities were "prejudicial to the defence of the Commonwealth". The JWs organization — due to its opposition to national service, its predictions that Nazi Germany will defeat the democracies, and generally being a nuisance — was banned and its radio stations, meeting halls, branch office and Sydney warehouse closed.

Nevertheless MacGillivray managed to publish Australian versions of *The Watchtower*, *Consolation* and the book *The New World* (1942) which reproduced the wording of the American versions but differed in page numbering. JWs also, in 1942, held *The Australasian New World Assembly* in seven cities and published a 36-page report.



Assembly report published 1942

In 1943 JWs appealed in the High Court. The ban was found to contravene the religious freedom guaranteed in the constitution and removed.

Rutherford had predicted Armageddon would occur within "months" and that the remaining time is too short for marriage and child-rearing. To JWs the World War and government bans seemed to confirm the predictions. The result was that JWs increased during the ban, but declined for several years afterwards:

Year	Peak Publishers
1940	2500
1943	4300
1945	3787
1950	c.5000
1955	8354
1960	14,090
1965	17,137

After World War II

The post-Rutherford leadership toned down the offensive verbal attacks on Christian churches, and also got their people to learn to present short, polite, 2-minute doorstep sermons. They called this new strategy "theocratic tact". It worked and JWs increased to about 5000 "publishers" in 1950 and 14,000 in 1960..

In 1947-1948 circuit assemblies and district assemblies were initiated and subsequently held every year.

National conventions in Sydney in 1951 and 1954 were attended by the new WTS president, N.H. Knorr.

In 1954 the newly released WTS propaganda film, *The New World Society in Action*, featured the Organization's New York headquarters, and attracted large audiences in Australia.

The blood transfusion issue got nationwide attention from 1959 onwards. A Melbourne couple with four children refused an exchange transfusion for jaundice to their newborn baby boy and the father was charged with manslaughter. Large headlines read JEHOVAHS' LET THEIR BABY DIE and BABY KILLER SAYS "I'D DO IT AGAIN" (Melbourne Truth, May 23 1959, April 2 1960)

In 1969 the "Peace on Earth International Convention" in Melbourne, at a time when the Governing Body was implying Armageddon was due in the mid 1970s, drew 26,000 people. Knorr gave the main talk, "The Approaching Peace of a Thousand Years".

The WTS vice president, F.W. Franz also spoke. He described revisions to the "great tribulation" doctrine. The tribulation, in the revision, no longer starts in 1914 and is cut short by God in 1918 fulfilling Matthew 24:22, but will start in the near future with the destruction of the world's religions as its first part and Armageddon as its climax



Speakers' platform at the 1969 Convention

The next international convention took place in Sydney, 1973. It attracted 34,000, and was noteworthy for a bomb hoax which stopped proceedings for several hours.

Then, around 1975, instead of Armageddon there came a spate of building activity.

When prophecies are in the process of failing, the leadership commonly distracts JWs by involving them in building projects. People who put in physical effort, sweat and time, as well as give money, are unlikely to defect, at least not for a while. In 1977 a new branch office and printing facilities were constructed at Ingleburn, a suburb of Sydney, 40km SW of the central business area, and the Strathfield office was discontinued. Numerous "quick build" kingdom halls, each constructed in one or two weekends appeared in many cities throughout Australia. Also assembly halls (which could seat over 1000 people) were built in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Spurred by two other prophecies — Armageddon to occur in the 20th century and within the generation of 1914, the latter the "creator's promise" — JWs increased steadily until 1995 and then fell below the rate of population increase.

A new interpretation, introduced around 2010, that by "this generation" Jesus meant two overlapping generations was unconvincing, and failed to cure the malaise. The obvious question, "Why not in another 60 years make it three generations and after that four?, was not addressed. Nor is Jesus present to remind JWs that he said "generation", singular not plural.

In 2015 Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that JWs had since 1950 failed to report 1006 perpetrators of child abuse, involving 1800 victims, to the police. Newspapers throughout Australia reported this scandal.

The Governing Body in New York justified the non-involvement of police by quoting a Bible rule that requires two observers to a crime before guilt can be established. JWs do not, however, keep secret, if lacking two observers, the crimes of rape (of adults), murder, violent assault, and arson. Child abuse was the exception. But after the Royal Commission the sect agreed to report suspected child abuse to the police.

Many Australians realized that the self-proclaimed moral superiority of JWs over "immoral Christendom" is a sham. Child abuse, false prophecy, ever-changing doctrines, opposition to tertiary education, excommunication with ostracism for a large range of infractions, deaths from refusal of blood, and no obvious charities for the public good, gave the impression that JWs had little to recommend them.

(See also: *BAN IN AUSTRALIA*; *CHILD ABUSE; ROYAL COMMISSION*)

AUSTRIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Austria and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to

1970	9,618	764		
1975	12,256	610		
1980	13,417	556	24,286	307
1985	15,861	476	27,502	275
1990	18,891	402	32,300	235
1995	20,944	384	34,800	231
2000	20,458	396	33,200	244
2005	20,436	395	33,800	239
2010	20,992	399	34,400	243
2015	21,300	402	34,400	250
2018	21,563	409	34,118	258
	Ave.			
2019	21,483	417	34,213	262
2020	21,095	430	31,900	284
2021	21,616	418	36,810	245
2022	21,788	412	34,300	262
2023	22,162	411	35,200	259
2024	22,449	406	35,400	257
2025	22,421	410	34,400	267

AUXILIARY PIONEERS

JWs appointed to preach full time for short periods, two weeks to a few months, and who therefore receive organizational literature at reduced rates. Previously called "vacation pioneers" until about 1970; after that "temporary pioneers". Auxiliaries currently commit themselves to 60 hours per month.

Average Auxiliary Pioneers

2014	635,300
2016	459,000

AWAKE!

In 1946 *Awake!* magazine replaced *Consolation* which was published October 1937 - July 31 1946. *Consolation* succeeded *The Golden Age* published October 1919 - October 1937.

One reason for the change of name was public outrage at scandalous cartoons and provocative language that characterized the misnamed *Consolation*. The name-change represented a break with the past. The range of articles in *Awake!* was greater than in *Consolation* to appeal to a wider public. Gradually the WTS copied other religions by introducing articles about human feelings and problems — including loneliness, finances, anxiety, sex, etc.

***Awake!* Details**

Awake! began as a 32-page bi-monthly illustrated magazine and became a 16-page monthly magazine in 2006. It is published by the WBTS of Pennsylvania and printed in about 19 printeries associated with WTS branch offices. It is commonly offered by JWs as "companion magazine" to *The Watchtower*.

Awake! Circulation in July

1950	800,000	1990	11,930,000
1955	1,450,000	1995	12,990,000
1960	3,075,000	2000	
1965	4,250,000	2005	22,842,000
1970	6,300,000	2010	38,451,000
1975	9,250,000	2015	
1980	7,650,000	2017	60,000,000
1985	9,800,000	2018	

Annual production in millions

1950	19.2	1970	171.7
1955	35.7	1974	235.0
1960	79.0	1979	184.0
1965	110.4	1980	187.5

Languages

1993	67	2000	------
1995	75	2005	82
1997	80	2010	83

The number of copies published increased steadily from 1946 except after the failure of Armageddon in 1975/1976.

The original editor of *Consolation* was Clayton J. Woodworth (1870-1951) but when renamed "*Awake!*" the editorship became anonymous. Its publication is overseen by the Writing Committee of the JWs Governing Body.

Awake! is available in selected languages on audio compact disc and via download in MP3 , AAC , PDF and EPUB formats.

Topics

JWs sometimes compare *Awake!* to the *Reader's Digest* in the range of topics which include history, geography, nature, ethics, current events, family issues, health, prophecy, and self-biographies of long-term JWs.

The magazine has or has had a number of regular features: The Bible's Viewpoint; Young People Ask; Watching the World; From Our Readers; How Would You Answer?

Governments and other religions are routinely criticized, and none of the hundreds of thousands of Christian ministries such as schools, hospitals, pharmacies, healing missions and literacy campaigns get mentioned. *Awake!* regularly forecasts the nearness of apocalyptic events and committed itself to Armageddon occurring in the 1970s, within the generation of 1914, and within the 20th century.

The stated purpose of the magazine, listed in most editions from 1982 until 1995, was: "this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that saw 1914 passes away". When "this generation" had almost passed away the purpose was revised in 1995 to: "this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure

new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things".

Even "about to" is already dubious. If a person talking to another person says "I'm about to go on a trip" or "I'm about to finish my study course" does he mean in 30 years or more?

Cost

Until March 1990 *Awake!* was offered for a nominal "donation" which had increased with inflation. In the USA the asked-for donation was $0.05 in 1950 increasing to $0.25 in 1989.

On January 17, 1990, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that sales of religious literature were subject to taxation. The WBTS filed an amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief arguing that WTS literature should be exempt from taxation.

Starting on March 1, 1990, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* in the USA were offered at the doors at no cost but with publishers suggesting that a donation would be accepted. Publishers in turn gave the "voluntary donations" to the "Society" via their congregation. This new distribution arrangement was progressively extended to other WTS publications and to other countries around the world, and possibly brings the WTS more revenue than the previous method.

JWs were told that the reason for the new arrangement was to simplify their ministry and to distinguish the WTS from other religions that commercialize religion.

Awake! has been distributed free except for donations worldwide since 2000:

> The voluntary donation arrangement is explained to people, but no charge is made for the literature. As of January 2000, that arrangement was extended to all lands where it was not already in operation. (Yearbook 2001, 18)

Our Kingdom Ministry, March 2005, carried the announcement:

> ... beginning with its January 2006 issue, *Awake!* will be published as a monthly magazine. This will result in considerable simplification in the preparation, translation, and shipping of our literature. This change will affect about 40 percent of the languages in which *Awake!* is published. In most languages, *Awake!* is already a monthly or a quarterly publication.

AZERBAIJAN
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Azerbaijan and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2000	215	36,038	510	15,192
2005	528	15,530	1,227	6,683
2010	924	9,656	2,148	4,154
2013	1,196	7,823	2,496	3,749
2015	1,351	7,101	2,674	3,588
2018	1,430	6,922	2,874	3,444
	Ave.			
2019	1,439	6,937	3,053	3,270
2020	1,522	6,614	3,286	3,064
2021	1,634	6,193	4,345	2,329
2022	1,660	6,118	3,647	2,785
2023	1,713	5,912	3,642	2,781
2024	1,846	5,581	3,866	2,665
2025	1,786	5,725	3,783	2,703

AZORES
Publishers and Memorial attendance on the Azores (islands in the Atlantic, west of Portugal) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	87	4,000		
1975	211	1,308		
1980	308	909	813	344
1985	330	788	905	287
1990	436	598	1,067	244
1995	587	408	1,323	181
2000	538	459	1,295	191
2005	626	386	1,427	169
2010	765	320	1,727	142
2013	768	321	1,725	143
2015	739	333	1,680	146
2018	767	318	1,528	160
	Ave.			
2019	759	320	1,622	150
2020	792	307	1,654	147
2021	800	296	2,045	116
2022	791	298	1,685	140
2023	796	302	1,651	145
2024	804	300	1,627	148
2025	817	296	1,609	150

REFERENCES:

Adams, D.A.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Alden_Adams

Aitkenhead, D. The Other Side, *The Weekend Australian Magazine*, May 27-28, 2023, pp 22-27)

Anderson, Barbara
http://www.whas11.com/topstories/stories/012307whasrtTopJehovahsWitnessesSuit.f396ce2.html

Apsler, A. 1975 *An Introduction to Social Science*, second edition, Random House

Ferm, V. 1965 *A Brief Dictionary of American Superstitions*, Philosophical Library Inc

Franz, R. 1983 *Crisis of Conscience*, Commentary Press, pp 20-21

Harner, P.B. *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 1973, Volume 92, pp 75, 85, 87

Investigator Magazine No. 162, May 2015, The 144,000, the Great Crowd and 1935

Livingstone, E.A. (Editor) 1977 *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press

Service Year Reports of JWs Worldwide [since 2017] https://jw.org/

Wenham, J.W. 1965 *The Elements of New Testament Greek*, Cambridge University Press, pp 2, 30,

Windle, C.P. 1939 *The Rutherford Racket*

Wright, D. 1971 *The Psychology of Moral Behaviour,* Penguin, p.111

Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses 1927-2016, WBTS

Yorkshire (Town) History
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyccatta/history_of_the_town_of_yorkshire-files

https://ed5015.tripod.com/

https://investigatormagazine.net