DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

E

Uploaded the first time: 2014

Latest update: 2026

EAGLE VOICE SOCIETY
An offshoot from the Standfast Bible Students Association.

The Standfast Bible Students were organized at Portland in December 1918 under the leadership of Charles E. Heard of British Columbia.

A subgroup led by John A. Hardeson and C.D. McCray became the Elijah Voice Society in 1922. These accepted *The Finished Mystery* (1917) as the posthumous work of "Pastor" Russell. They viewed themselves as the "Elijah class" or "little flock" of faithful ones who had to regather the "great company" — interpreted as the scattered Russellites including those loyal to the WTS — into one organized group adhering to the doctrines of C.T. Russell.

Numbering at most several hundred they published the *Elijah Voice Monthly*, issued membership cards, set official rules for members, and issued 12 pamphlets to explain essential doctrines and duties. The pamphlets were called "The Twelve Stones" from the 12 stones Joshua erected on Mount Ebal. (Deuteronomy 27:1-8)

The Eagle Voice Society rejected the authority of governments and opposed saluting of the flag. They believed in "executing judgments" on Babylon (Christendom) by publishing tracts that regurgitated the criticisms in *The Finished Mystery* and by posting letters to political and religious leaders.

The public ignored them as did other Russellite groups who were suspicious of "organization". The Eagle Voice Society therefore felt commissioned to judge other Russellites and tell them their errors — for example, that they were wrong in rejecting *The Finished Mystery*.

The Finished Mystery, however, predicted that the great "Time of Trouble" would break out in full fury in 1918, the republics would disappear in 1920, and implied 1925 as the time for the resurrection of the Ancient Worthies.

In 1926 it was clear that much of the "truth" was false. Some members tried to find new interpretations and fulfillments to fit the false dates but more and more members withdrew.

EARLY DATE
One of many words and phrases Rutherford employed to imply Armageddon is so close that people then living needed to act quickly to join his cult and preach its doctrines to survive:

> His day of vengeance is here, and his terrible battle at Armageddon is near and certain to fall upon "Christendom", and that within an early date. God's judgment is upon "Christendom" and must shortly be executed. (w1938 9/1 270)

Threats predicted to be fulfilled at an "early date" and "shortly" become empty threats and false predictions if everyone originally threatened dies before their fulfilment. Very few adults of 1938 are still living. None have experienced Armageddon. Therefore in 1938 Armageddon wasn't "near" or due "shortly" or at "an early date".

EARS TICKLED (2 Timothy 4:3)
The words "like to have their ears tickled" (2 Timothy 4:3) JWs apply to defectors from their sect and to other religions. (w1984 12/15 19)

EARTHQUAKES (Matthew 24:7)
In 1926 the WTS began to interpret Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24 as undergoing fulfilment since 1914:

> Never before in the history of man was there a war like the one from 1914 to 1918... Call to mind also that since 1914 there have been more disastrous earthquakes than in any other time in the world's history. These are physical facts which any man except a clergyman can understand.
> (Deliverance 1926, 250, 251)

JWs believe the post-1914 period is exceptional for earthquakes. Their misuse of statistics to support this belief is detailed by Jonsson & Herbst. (1987)

The following list of earthquakes in which

2000 or more people died is based on a list in *Investigator Magazine* (1994 July):

BEFORE 1900 CE

1201	Egypt/Syria	1,100,000
1556	China	830,000
1662	China	300,000
1850	China	300,000
1641	Iran	300,000
525	Syria	300,000
1138	Egypt/Syria	230,000
1876	India	215,000
856	Iran	200,000
1139	Iran	200,000
1703	Japan	200,000
893	India	180,000
678	Syria	170,000
893	Iran	150,000
1731	Japan	137,000
532	Syria	130,000
1290	China	100,000
1730	China	100,000
1731	China	100,000
1721	Iran	100,000
1780	Iran	100,000
1703	Japan	100,000
1855	Japan	100,000
1139	Azerbaijan	100,000
1669	Sicily	100,000
1727	Iran	77,000
1868	Columbia	70,000
1693	Italy	60,000
1739	China	50,000
1783	Italy	50,000
1815	New Guinea	50,000
1755	Portugal	50,000
856	Greece	45,000
1718	China	43,000
1793	Peru	41,000
1754	Egypt	40,000
1868	Peru	40,000
1042	Persia	40,000
1883	Indonesia	36,000
1146	Italy	35,000
1847	Japan	34,000
1854	Japan	34,000
1828	Japan	30,000
1759	Lebanon	30,000
1868	Peru	30,000
1571	Portugal	30,000
1896	Japan	27,000
1057	China	25,000
1038	China	23,000
1822	Turkey	22,000
1716	Algeria	20,000
1717	Algeria	20,000
1773	Guatemala	20,000
1669	Italy	20,000
1752	Syria	20,000
1724	Peru	18,000
1893	Turkmenia	18,000
1875	Venezuela	16,000
1883	Greece	15,000
	Turkey	
1792	Japan	15,000
1859	Turkey	15,000
1851	Italy	14,000
1853	Iran	12,000
1857	Italy	12,000
1841	Japan	12,000
1755	Morocco	12,000
1771	Japan	11,700
1879	China	10,000
1853	Iran	10,000
1757	Italy	10,000
1857	Italy	10,000
1891	Japan	10,000
1853	Philippines	10,000
1881	Turkey	9,000
1778	Iran	8,000
1851	Argentina	7,000
1891	Japan	7,000
1855	Japan	6,800
1726	Italy	6,000
1859	Ecuador	5,000
1747	Spain	5,000
1746	Peru	4,800
1880	Greece	4,000
1631	Italy	4,000
1757	Calcutta	3,000
1885	India	3,000
1780	Iran	3,000
1856	Java	3,000
1882	Italy	2,300
1887	China	2,000
1837	Galilee	2,000
1750	Greece	2,000
1851	Iran	2,000
1751	Japan	2,000

AFTER 1900 CE

1976	China	242,000
1927	China	200,000
1920	China	180,000
1923	Japan	143,000
1908	Italy	85,000
1932	China	70,000
1970	Peru	70,000
1935	India	50,000
1902	Martinique	40,000
1939	Chile	30,000
1915	Italy	29,000
1988	Armenia	25,000
1985	Colombia	25,000
1978	Iran	25,000
1976	Guatemala	23,000
1939	Turkey	23,000
1906	Chile	20,000
1905	India	20,000
1950	India	20,000?
1993	India	20,000?
1985	Mexico	20,000
1968	Iran	12,000
1960	Morocco	12,000
1962	Iran	10,000
1949	Ecuador	9,000
1981	Iran	8,000

1976	Philippines	8,000
1976	West Irian	8,000
1960	Chile	6,000
1909	Iran	6,000
1972	Nicaragua	6,000
1903	Turkey	6,000
1944	Argentina	5,000
1972	Iran	5,000
1948	Japan	5,000
1902	Turkestan	4,600
1980	Algeria	4,500
1985	Mexico	4,200
1987	Ecuador	4,000
1976	Turkey	4,000
1981	Iran	3,000
1966	Turkey	3,000
1982	Yemen	2,800
1980	Italy	2,700
1905	Italy	2,500
1956	Afghanistan	2,000
1902	Guatemala	2,000
1960	Iran	2,000

Many of the pre-19th century statistics may be exaggerated. Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that the 20th century was not unusual in damage or deaths from earthquakes.

The JWs interpretation of Matthew 24:7 is that wars, earthquakes and famines are signs of the imminent "end" including Armageddon.

However the opposite interpretation, that such events are not signs of the end, is indicated. In 24:6 Jesus declared, "but the end is not yet." In 24:7 he continues, "For nation will rise against nation…" The word "For" suggests Jesus is explaining why "the end is not yet". "The end is not yet" because wars, famines and earthquakes are ordinary events that will occur until the end but are and not signs of the imminent end.

EASON, JEAN (1926-)
Author of the book *A Jehovah's Witness Finds the Truth* (1983; 1999) and the article "Why I Left Jehovah's Witnesses" published in *Lamplighter Magazine* and on the Internet.

Jean Eason was a third-generation JW and says:

> Every word written by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (WBTS) was considered "truth" that must be followed to the letter… I was married and had three children before I began having serious doubts about the WBTS being God's only channel of communication.

Eason inherited a library of old WTS publications began reading them:

> I learned they had changed their interpretation many times. I took note that the modern literature quoted often from the older publications. Now I was able to pick up the very book they quoted from - and guess what? They often misquoted - took out of context - and misapplied their own writings!

She went to another church but stopped when JWs elders threatened to disfellowship her.

Fifteen years later her sister-in-law, a "born-again Catholic", persuaded Eason to attend a meeting which resulted in her conversion: "I realize now that I was touched by the power of the Holy Spirit."

This time, in 1981, she was disfellowshipped and ostracized. But in her new church: "I became a Christian discipler overnight … privileged to lead many JWs to Christ…"

EAST TIMOR
See: TIMOR-LESTE

EASTER
Russell regarded Easter as a pagan festival in honour of the goddess Estera but did not ban Easter observance among his followers. (Studies VI 1904, 481-484) Rutherford banned Easter observance in 1929. (See: *CELEBRATIONS*)

EBED MELECH
Assistant to the prophet Jeremiah and pictured the "great crowd".

The JWs leaders draw numerous parallels in which Old Testament events foreshadowed 20th century events. In these parallels the Old Testament good-guys always picture JWs and the bad guys usually foreshadow either "Christendom" (i.e. the Christian religions) or major political systems such as Communism.

Ebed Melech was an Ethiopian eunuch at the court of Zedekiah the King of Judah, and probably in charge of the King's harem. Jeremiah was a prophet who foretold Judah's destruction and King Zedekiah's loss of power.

In JWs theology Jeremiah pictures the "remnant" i.e. the JWs who claim they're

going to heaven and who collectively identify as God's end-time prophet. Ebed-Melech pictures the "great crowd" i.e. the majority of JWs who cooperate with the "remnant" (i.e. with God's prophet) and look forward to eternal life on Earth. Judah pictures Christendom.

Jeremiah prophesied Judah's destruction (which was carried out by King Nubuchadnezzar of Babylon). Likewise the JWs' prophet (the remnant) assisted by the Ebed Melech class (or great crowd) view themselves as prophesying Christendom's destruction:

> To this very day they [Ebed Melech class] have been courageously acting world wide at the side of the Jeremiah class, proclaiming the doom of Christendom and of the world empire of false religion, Babylon the Great. They are encouraging people of all kinds to desert this doomed system of things and to take a firm stand on the side of Jehovah's executional forces under the command of a general greater than Nebuchadnezzar, Jesus Christ. (w1980 2/1 27-28)

Similar JWs arguments, which were also based on alleged parallel events, had foretold the destruction of Christendom in 1914, 1915, 1918, 1925, 1942 and 1975. Subsequent to the 1980 *Watchtower* article quoted above, other JWs dates — "the generation of 1914" and "within our twentieth century" — also turned out false. The former they even advertised for many years as "the creator's promise", thus making God a liar.

Instead of being modern counterparts of all the Bible's ancient good-guys, the JWs leaders more closely resemble the ancient false prophets.

(See also: *CREATOR'S PROMISE; DATES*; ERRORS; GENERATION; *PICTURES*)

ECCLESIA

The term for congregation in Russell's time, changed to "company" in 1932 and "congregation" in 1950.

ECCLESIASTICISM / ECCLESIASTICAL SYSTEMS

Pejorative terms for the authority structures of other religions. Rutherford claimed:

> …these ecclesiastical systems, and particularly their leaders, are marked by arrogance, self sufficiency, impiety and ungodliness.

ECUADOR

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Ecuador and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
1970	2,949	2,095		
1975	5,528	1,176		
1980	5,243	1,417	24,844	299
1985	9,311	967	45,700	197
1990	18,069	597	80,500	134
1995	29,767	385	123,100	93
2000	43,400	291	161,200	78
2005	52,490	248	208,900	62
2010	73,200	195	239,800	60
2013	81,500	193	257,200	61
2015	87,000	187	260,400	62
2018	97,200	175	276,542	61
	Ave.			
2019	97,454	178	290,700	60
2020	99,400	178	298,900	59
2021	100,485	178	357,400	50
2022	99,400	182	294,800	61
2023	98,900	171	282,400	60
2024	100,800	177	275,200	65
2025	103,000	176	270,200	67

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

In his Will and Testament C.T. Russell named an Editorial Committee of five (see top row of the table below) to determine future content of *The Watch Tower*. Replacements to this Committee were to be selected from a second group of five. (wr1916 12/1 5999)

Russell's Will and Testament excluded Rutherford from the Committee. But by December 1916 two Committee members had been replaced with two others, one of whom was Rutherford. (wr1916 12/1 5997, 5999) W.E. Page had resigned because he was unable to move to Brooklyn; and Brenneisen had to support his family.

Editorial Committee 1916 to 1924

1916	W.E. Page; W.E. Van Amburgh; H.C. Rockwell; E.W. Brenneison; F.H. Robison
1916 Dec.	J.F. Rutherford; W.E. Van Amburgh; H.C. Rockwell; R.H. Hirsh; F.H. Robison
1922	J.F. Rutherford; W.E. Van Amburgh; G.H. Fisher; E.W. Brenneison; F.H. Robison
1924	J.F. Rutherford; W.E. Van Amburgh; J. Hemery; R.H. Barber; E.J. Coward

By 1920 Rutherford authored most *Watch Tower* articles which other Committee members "rubber stamped".

Until 1927 Rutherford taught that Russell was "the faithful and wise servant" who "did the Lord's work in the Lord's way":

> Every fellow servant has shown his ability or capacity and has increased the same in proportion as he has joyfully submitted to the Lord's will by working in the harvest field of the Lord *in harmony with the Lord's way*, which way the Lord used Brother Russell to point out, because Brother Russell occupied the office of that "faithful and wise servant." He did the Lord's work in the Lord's way. If, then, Brother Russell did the work in the Lord's way, any other way of doing it is contrary to the Lord's way and therefore could not be a faithful looking after the interests of the Lord's kingdom. (w1923 3/1 71)

The Editorial Committee therefore would have originated, as the quote says, in "the Lord's way." However, in 1926 the Committee disapproved of Rutherford's new doctrine that the Kingdom started in 1914. Therefore in 1931 the WBTS Board of Directors abolished the Committee:

> This journal, *The Watchtower*, is one of the means used by the Lord amongst men to teach his people. The Watchtower is controlled by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. The Board of Directors, seeing no Scriptural or other reason why an Editorial Committee should exist or appear in The Watchtower, by resolution abolished the Editorial Committee. (w1931 12/1 360)

> During the fiscal year, at a meeting of the board of directors a resolution was adopted abolishing the editorial committee. (Yearbook 1932, p.35)

> *The Watchtower* of March 1, 1925, published the article "The Birth of The Nation", meaning the kingdom had begun to function. An editorial committee, humanly provided for, then was supposed to control the publication of *The Watchtower*, and the majority of the committee strenuously objected to the publication of the article "The Birth of The Nation", but, by the Lord's grace, it was published, and that really marked the beginning of the end of the editorial committee. (w1938 6/15 185)

Evidently one man, Rutherford, was in control in the 1920s. No "Governing Body" was mentioned — that came in 1944.

(See: *FAITHFUL SLAVE*)

EDMAN, ED

Ed Edman, a JW for almost four decades, wrote a conspiracy theory (about 5900 words) and gave permission in 2010 to "Post and/or publish what you want":

> As far as my bias is concerned I am not a disaffected JW with 'an ax to grind'. I am currently in good standing in my congregation although if and when I am discovered I am sure to be disfellowshiped as an apostate, even though I have only cited Wt Soc material.

He explains that most critiques of JWs don't impress or convince JWs, "mainly because JWs feel their beliefs and policies are backed by the Bible."

He presents an analysis of six topics:

- JWs compliance to the Nazis;
- the Holocaust;
- name change to 'Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses';
- involvement with the UN;
- the reinterpretation of the "higher powers"; blood transfusions & vaccinations.

Edman weaves his six analyses into a conspiracy in which "Rockefeller" is using JWs to destroy US and Canadian sovereignty,

> "paving the way for ... total UN domination of the US with the future goal of destruction of all things Christian and allowing for ... the New World Order…"

EDOM CLASS

To Russel Edom (the county SE of ancient Israel) represented Christendom. (Studies IV 1897, 17) To Rutherford Edom pictured the Catholic Hierarchy. (Religion 1940, 349)

EDSON, HIRAM (1806-1915)

A pioneer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who introduced the sanctuary-investigative judgment doctrine.

Edson, previously a Methodist, was a prosperous farmer in New York State and embraced the Millerite expectations in early1843 and held meetings in his home in Port Gibson with fellow believers.

Millerites expected the Second Coming of Christ on October 22, 1844. This prediction was based on the 2300 days when "the sanctuary would be cleansed" (Daniel 8:14) which Millerites understood meant Christ's second coming and "cleansing" of the Earth.

Edson spent October 22, 1844 with other believers, waiting for Jesus, and then wept all night in disappointment.

Next morning (he later claimed) he received a vision which informed him that "the cleansing of the sanctuary" meant that Jesus had moved on the previous day not from heaven to Earth but from the Holy Place of the "heavenly sanctuary" to the Most Holy Place in which he had work to do before proceeding to Earth in the "second coming".

Edson shared this interpretation with local Adventist believers including, O.R.L. Crosier and Franklin B. Hahn, who published it in a paper called *Day Dawn*.

James White, his wife Ellen G. White, and Joseph Bates got hold of the information and it became a doctrine of the Sabbatarian Movement which in 1863 was organized as the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) religion. Edson in turn accepted belief in the Saturday Sabbath and joined the Seventh Day Adventists, becoming a minister of it in 1870.

The idea of reinterpreting predictions of physical events which failed to occur as being fulfilled invisibly, was taken up by Nelson Barbour and C.T. Russell for the dates 1874, 1878 and 1881 when their predictions for these dates failed, and by "Judge" Rutherford for the dates 1914, 1918 and 1925.

The disappointed Millerites gave rise to other churches besides the SDAs, in particular to the Advent Christian Church which converted C.T. Russell.

EDUCATION 1

Russell disapproved of higher education since it might "efface all the polish of faith and character". He advised high school as the limit. (Studies VI 1904, 538-539)

In a convention address in 1913 Russell said:

> I think it is safe to say that 99 out of every 100 of the young men and young women who go to higher schools of learning, colleges and high schools, lose all their faith in the Bible and thus become on a par with the minsters of many of the churches, who still may be preaching but have not their faith. (Convention Report 1913, 187)

Defections from the Watchtower cult were usually led by educated men such as P.S.L. Johnson. (Divine Purpose 1959, 69)

Rutherford argued:

> Some of these were by nature better endowed than others and more apt to teach and have been placed in position of elders in various ecclesias. Failing to wait in meekness and humility, and becoming impressed with their own importance, they have fallen to the wily influence of the evil one… (Government 1928, 207)

Rutherford himself, highly educated, "failed to wait in meekness and humility" but maneuvered to the top position in the cult by impressing the Russellites with predictions for 1918, 1920 and 1925. His drive for power (See: *UNITY; CONTROL*) required that everyone else be mediocre or pretend to be mediocre. Therefore he discouraged secular education beyond the legal minimum. Of seminaries and colleges he claimed: "…almost all of the students have become agnostics or infidels." (Children 1941, 17, 41)

Rutherford's successors, Knorr and Franz, argued:

> All this study put into many books which do not issue forth through Jehovah's Theocratic Organization, has merely wearied mankind and has not at all relieved them of the weary heavy-laden state of mind and heart. (Yearbook 1946, Text 11/23)

Such sentiment was/is regularly backed with the threat of Armageddon:

> If you are a young person, you also need to face the fact that you will never grow old in this present system of things. Why not? Because all the evidence in fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates that this corrupt system is due to end in a few years. Of the generation that observed the beginning of the "last days" in 1914, Jesus foretold: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur."—Matt. 24:34.

> Therefore, as a young person, you will never fulfill any career that this system offers. If you are in high school and thinking about a college education, it means at least four, perhaps even six or eight more years to graduate into a specialized career. But where will this system of things be by that time? It will be well on the way toward its finish, if not actually gone!
>
> This is why parents who base there lives on God's prophetic Word find it much more practical to direct their young ones into trades that do not require such long periods of schooling. (g1969 5/22 15)

Nowadays JWs who attend University are only indirectly censured through sarcasm, put-downs and anti-education statements in publications and at meetings. For example:

- w1985 4/1 12 mentions JWs who dropped out of college and says: "…what they did was reasonable and logical." (w1985 4/1 12) This implies that JWs should regard fellow JWs undertaking post high-school studies as unreasonable and illogical.

- w1985 1/1 27 quotes a stooge who said (or was primed to say): "I chose to pioneer because going to college or university would be a waste of precious time that could be used to aid honest hearted ones to gain accurate knowledge…"

Further education is still discouraged with the argument it will lead to loss of faith:

> …they are subjected to a constant onslaught of ungodly ideas at college while separated from other Christians. (w1982 7 /15 14)
>
> Although a basic education is needed, in schools of higher learning it is nearly impossible to escape being swept along with the prevailing tide of worldly thinking. (w1984 10/1 17)
>
> A few years ago, a young Christian man in a large city in the Far East had the opportunity to go abroad to further his study. Though he already had a good secular education and a well-paying job, he felt that this was not enough; he wanted to better his lot in life. Fellow Christians tried to reason with him in line with the Scriptural points we have just considered, but he was adamant and went ahead with the plan. Though he tried to hold on to his faith at first, gradually he lost his appreciation for Bible truth, and doubt began to set in. In just a year or so, he lost his faith completely and claimed to be an agnostic. Granted, gaining a higher degree through advanced secular education brought him a measure of satisfaction. But for the temporary glory, what a heavy price he had to pay—the shipwreck of his faith and the risk of losing eternal life! (w1992 8/15 28)

The JWs stance is that Armageddon is impending and more preaching will save more lives. (g1985 4/22 20) Therefore, despite occasional decide-for-yourself comments the propaganda against further education is incessant. (g1988 1/22 28, 23)

About as accommodating as the JWs leaders get on education is the following:

> Our intent was not to malign university education but to encourage young people to pursue a career in God's service… Nevertheless, a university degree does not guarantee financial success—a fact attested to by reliable authorities. Two-year programs were cited simply as an opinion some youths might consider if their parents insist on their attending a university. How much secular education one pursues is entirely a personal matter. But while not ignoring economic realities, Christian youths should weigh the possible unwholesome effect exposure to the university environment might have on their spirituality. (1 Corinthians 15:33) They must also remember something not shown in employment statistics—God's promise to provide for those who put his interests first. (Matthew 6:33) [g 1989 8/22 30]

When this was written in 1989 JWs still believed Armageddon would come in the twentieth century, within the lifespan of people who experienced 1914. A life spent promoting false prophecy would not ordinarily be considered a "career in God's service" — only JWs would think so. It is true that a university degree does not "guarantee financial success", but it does improve the odds. Financial success is also not the only reason to achieve a degree.

Regarding the "unwholesome effect … on their spirituality": Isn't it more "unwholesome" to waste years of one's life

spreading false doctrines that get repeatedly revised? Countless JWs have left their religion for just that reason — they can't work out how hundreds of errors could be "true Christianity"! Also, "God's promise to provide" failed many JWs who sold their homes in anticipation of Armageddon and lived in poverty afterwards while the WTS accumulated ever more real-estate, buildings, farms, etc. (See: *DATES*)

In 2013 the Governing Body commanded that "any instructions" [originating from them] must be obeyed whether these appear sound or not. Education is equated with "wavering faith" and elders "must stand ready to help":

> All of us must be ready to obey any instructions we may receive, whether these appear sound from a strategic or human standpoint or not. Now is the time for any who may be putting their trust in secular education, material things, or human institutions to adjust their thinking. The elders must stand ready to help any who may now be wavering in their faith. (w2013 11/15 20)

The real reason the JWs leaders oppose education beyond high school and condemn "independent thinking" is that many JWs beliefs cannot survive educated scrutiny. JWs are indoctrinated by repetition and don't learn how to do biblical research. Their so-called "Bible study" is mainly the study of WTS publications which quote Bible verses and tell readers what they mean — and the meaning often changes with the passing decades. The "faith" of JWs undertaking real education may therefore falter if they learn scientific skills and apply them to evaluate their own beliefs. (See also: *CONTROL; DEFECTION; EXCUSES*)

Something to consider is: When JWs install printing presses, wear glasses, get dental treatment, drive a car, operate computers, ingest medicines, get pain relief or even merely eat bread, they are receiving products and services which originated through a "waste of time", that is through further-education and application of skills learned to do research!

Despite claiming to promote "education" JWs do not run public schools. In 1923 Christian missionaries ran 5900 schools in British Africa alone, but JWs none! The so-called "education" JWs promote is indoctrination, and although it supposedly comes from angels, or God, or the "holy spirit", it is continually revised. Therefore learning it is often a waste of precious time.

EDUCATION 2

Since the 1940s JWs leaders have called their proselytizing "public education" (The Truth Shall Make Your Free 1943, 311) and "Bible education" and "education". Kingdom Halls are called "Bible education centres". (g1984 9/22 12)

Their global efforts are a "global campaign of education" (Let Your Kingdom Come 1981, 159) and: "Jesus is having a global education work carried out…" (g1982 4/8 11)

JWs doctrines are "the highest form of education" (w1987 1/15 8) and spreading them is called educating:

> …get…started RIGHT NOW in freely educating men of good-will." (Informant October 1943, p.1 column 2)

Watchtower Library (2007) lists 323 occurrences of the phrase "Bible education".

Instruction that promotes controversial views yet commands students to close their minds to alternatives, and discourages school attendance beyond the legal minimum because Armageddon is "very near", is indoctrination not education.

EGLON & EHUD (Judges 3)

A Bible story that allegedly pictured 20th century events and "shows God's purpose ... to destroy religion":

- Ehud (in Judges 3) pictured the JWs remnant.
- King Eglon of Moab pictured religion, commerce and politics.
- Eglon's fat belly pictured Catholicism "the fattest organization on earth".
- The dagger thrust into Eglon's fat belly pictured "the sword of the spirit" thrust by JWs.
- The guts and excrement spewing out pictured the "Hierarchy's inability to further hide its dirt."
  (w1940 10/1 292-297)

Consider an alternative parallel:

- King Eglon pictured the JWs hierarchy;
- Eglon's fat belly pictured their "great crowd" of supporters;

- The dagger in the belly pictured the truth about JWs being thrust at the sect by Christians and the Internet;
- The excrement spewing out pictured the Governing Body's inability to hide the false prophecies, child sexual abuse and other dirt in their Organization.

This alternative parallel is not meant to be good theology. It is meant to demonstrate how easily parallels to Bible stories can be constructed to badmouth one group while glorifying another. It's the sort of interpretation that justifies the common comment: "The Bible is like a fiddle on which any tune can be played."

EGYPT

Russell claimed Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1799 fulfilled Daniel 11:40-43. (Studies III 1891, 46-47)

Rutherford wrote: "Egypt is used in the Scriptures symbolically to represent Satan's organization." (Life 1929, 336)

EIGHTEEN EIGHTY ONE (1881)

1881 was to be the rapture of the "saints" when Russell and his followers would ascend to heaven and change into "spirits":

> In a certain sense, we may be spoken of even now as God's temple…
> We believe that the seven years ("harvest") from the autumn of 1874 to 1881, is the time for the construction of this temple, i.e. the bringing of all the members—fruit-bearing branches of the Vine—into the perfect spiritual condition. And the living stones for this temple selected and prepared during this gospel age, were nearly all ready before the construction commenced (1874), and must all be ready before the temple is completed, and it must be *completed* before "the glory of the Lord" fills it. 2 Chron. v. 1-13. and Rev. xv. 8…
>
> Our *change* from natural to spiritual bodies we at one time supposed to be the marriage, but we now see that the change precedes, as making us ready for the marriage. We still believe that the change is our full deliverance from fleshly conditions and frailties into the perfections of our new being, from weakness to power; from corruption to incorruption; from dishonor to glory; from a natural to a spiritual body; from the image of the earthly to the image of the heavenly (1 Cor. xv. 42-48)…
>
> When the "body," the "bride," the "temple," is completed, we will all have been thus changed…
> (wr 1880 December, p.172)

And the parallels show us that then [1874] the *harvest* began, and that the gathering of the bride into the place of safety, will occupy a parallel of seven years, ending in 1881. (wr 1881 January, p.175)

Thus is a question doubtless that many ask themselves, viz: "How soon will our change come?" This change many of us have looked forward to for years, and we yet with much pleasure, think of the time when we shall be gathered unto Jesus and see him as he is. In the article concerning our change, in December paper, we expressed the opinion that it was nearer than many supposed, and while we would not attempt to prove our change at any particular time, yet we propose looking at some of the evidences which seem to show the translation or change from the natural to the spiritual condition, due this side or by the fall of our year 1881. The evidence that our change will be by that time, increases since we have seen that the change to spiritual bodies is not the marriage. While we thought the marriage to be the change, and knowing there was three and a half years of special favor to the nominal church (now left desolate) from 1878, we could not expect any translation this side of 1881 or during the three and a half years. But since we recognize that going into the marriage is not only being made ready (by recognizing his presence) for the change, but also, that going in includes the change itself, then the evidences that we go in (or will be changed) inside of the time mentioned are strong, and commend themselves to all interested as worthy of investigation. Aside from any direct proof that our change is near, the fact that the manner of the change can now be understood, is evidence that we are near the time of the *change*, for truth is "meat in due season," and understood only as due. (wr1881 January, p.180)

If this be a correct application (and it seems harmonious) and the time of building is seven years, then we would expect our change by or before the fall of 1881... (wr 1881 January, p.181)

> We now have taken prophetic measurements and allegories together, five different points seeming to teach the resurrection of the dead in Christ and change of the living between the fall of 1874 and 1881. Two or more witnesses are enough to prove any case, as a rule, and certainly God has given us abundant evidence. (wr 1881 January, pp 181-182)

> We have seen that the trouble upon the world begins by the overthrow of the nominal church, and indeed every day since 1878 where we believe the nominal church was given up to her travail [It, however, will not fully commence until the "first born"—"little flock" are born, an event expected during 1881]... (wr1881 January, p.183)

> OUR CHANGE SEEMS DUE
> (We do not know the day or the hour, but expect it during 1881, possibly near the autumn where the parallels show the favor to Zion complete and due to end, the door to the marriage shut and the high calling to be the bride of Christ to cease.) (wr 1881 February, p.191)

Russell's prediction is accompanied with cautionary phrases such as "seeming to", "expressed the opinion" and "our understanding". Notice, however that these phrases are nullified by other statements such as:

> ...five different points seeming to teach the resurrection of the dead in Christ and change of the living between the fall of 1874 and 1881. Two or more witnesses are enough to prove any case, as a rule, and certainly God has given us abundant evidence.

Russell abandoned the prediction when the date and its failure neared:

> The WATCH TOWER never claimed that the *body of Christ* will be changed to spiritual beings during this year. There is *such a change* due sometime. We have not attempted to say when, but have repeatedly said that it would not take place *before* the fall of 1881. (wr 1881 May, p.224)

He afterwards gave the year 1881 new prophetic significance. It now marked:

1. The close of the "high calling" — which meant that God had stopped selecting people to go to heaven to reign with Christ (except to replace unfaithful ones).
2. The Fall of Babylon.

The close of the "high calling" in 1881 was postponed to 1918, then to 1935, and in the 21st century to no close-by date.

By 2000 the decline in the "remnant" levelled off and increases began, which means the 1935 cut-off date for joining the "anointed" was as false.

EIGHTEEN SEVENTY EIGHT (1878)

In the mid 1870s the date, 1878, was:

- The termination or completion of the gospel "harvest";
- The rapture (the physical ascent to heaven) of the Saints. (Three Worlds 1877, 124, 126, 143)

> Coming to the spring of 1878 ... we naturally and not unreasonably expected some change of our condition, and all were more or less disappointed when nothing supernatural occurred. (wr1881 February p.189)

> Based on Paul's statement at 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52 it had been expected 'that at some time the living saints would be suddenly and miraculously caught away bodily, thenceforth to be for ever with the Lord.' Believing this would take place in 1878, some were disappointed because nothing occurred that they could see. (Divine Purpose 1959, 19)

EIGHTEEN SEVENTY FOUR (1874)

1874 was Nelson Barbour's date for the visible return of Jesus Christ. When the prediction failed the date was changed to 1875, which failed also. Christ's return was then made invisible and put back to 1874.

A convention speaker in 1913 said:

> I know of three people who sat all day long with others, watching, I think it was the 2nd of October, 1874, right in Chicago, in their ascension robes, looking up into the sky for Jesus to come and take them away. But the sun went down and Jesus did not come... I know one dear old sister who was there, old Sister Johnson of Los Angeles, she is 91years old. In 1874 she sat here in this city with her ascension robes on, and Jesus did not

> come. She is Norwegian. She said, in broken language, I know it was time for Jesus to come, but he did not come, and I did not know what to make of it. (Convention Report 1913, 102)

Russell accepted 1874 as the date for Christ's second coming. He also made 1874 the date for the beginning of the end-time harvest of the 144,000 which would be completed by 1914.

Rutherford, after WWI, retained 1874 as the date for Christ's return until 1930 but advanced the end of the harvest of the 144,000 by ten years to 1924/1925:

> The Scriptures show that his second presence was due in 1874… This proof shows that the Lord has been present since 1874. (w1923 3/1 67)
>
> Bible prophecy shows that the Lord was due to appear for the second time in the year 1874. Fulfilled prophecy shows beyond a doubt that he did appear in 1874. Fulfilled prophecy is otherwise designated the physical facts; and these facts are indisputable. (w1922 11/1 333)
>
> No one can properly understand the work of God at this present time who does not realize that since 1874, the time of the Lord's return in power, there has been a complete change in God's operations. (w1922 9/15 278)

1874—The start of Armageddon

Until 1904 Russell also taught that 1874 marked the start of the Battle of Armageddon which battle would last 40 years:

> 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…
>
> The date of the close of that "battle" is definitely marked in the Scripture 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. (wr1892 1/15 1354 &1355; also Studies II 1889, 101)

In 1904 the date 1874 was abandoned as the start of Armageddon, and the new start of Armageddon became 1915. During WWI the Russellites regarded the World War as the start of Armageddon.

(See also: *DATES*)

EIGHTEEN SEVENTY THREE (1873)
The date on which Advent Christians awaited the end of the world and Christ's second coming.

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D. (1890-1969
American general, born in Texas, who became the 34th US President. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1915 and became the supreme commander for the 1944 cross-Channel invasion of Nazi-occupied France. Elected US president in 1952; re-elected in 1956.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was raised in the Russellite cult. His mother was an active member from 1895 until she died. Eisenhower's father was also a member but became inactive after 1915.

All of the Eisenhower boys left the cult as adults and hid their family's involvement. (Bergman 1999)

EL SALVADOR
Publishers and Memorial attendance in El Salvador and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,755	1,951		
1975	5,530	724		
1980	7,515	630	27,296	173
1985	14,250	378	51,783	104
1990	18,445	315	60,783	96

1995	23,710	229	70,261	77
2000	28,462	221	75,217	84
2005	30,700	224	81,900	84
2010	37,300	156	94,900	61
2013	39,600	160	95,300	67
2015	40,000	154	92,200	67
2018	40,900	151	88,132	70
	Ave.			
2019	40,000	161	86,100	75
2020	39,100	166	81,200	80
2021	38,900	168	93,300	70
2022	38,000	172	84,000	78
2023	37,400	176	81,600	81
2024	37,100	171	79,800	79
2025	37,200	162	78,200	77

ELDERS
Men appointed by the WTS to positions of oversight in JWs congregations.

The Greek "presbyteros" is translated "elder" and refers to the overseers in Christian congregations. (Acts 20:17, 28)

In Russell's cult, elders supervised meetings, gave sermons and led in prayer and spiritual matters. From 1879-1932 elders were elected by a show of hands.

Local elections of elders hindered Rutherford's drive for absolute control power over the Organization in the 1920s. The refusal of some elders to sell books caused discord. (w1932 4/1 102) *The Watchtower* increasingly criticised the elders (w1930 9/1 261) and published anti-elder letters from Rutherford's stooges. One letter argued:

> And since the chief Shepherd has appeared, it is presumptuous to have two shepherds over the flock… Since the chief shepherd's taking control implies a change of administration, therefore the present shepherds are no longer needed; hence they become false shepherds by holding an office filled by the true Shepherd. (w1932 4/15 127

Elders were abolished in 1932. (w1932 8/15; 9/1) Each congregation was then run by a "service director" appointed by Rutherford and by a "service committee" elected within the congregation. This demise of the elders allegedly marked the end of the 2,300 days of Daniel 8:14. Also "elder" was redefined to mean "publisher" so that all publishers were elders.

Many elders resisted dismissal. After all, Rutherford himself had in 1916 argued that concentration of power out of the hands of the elders was "Babylon's method". (See: *UNITY*) To overcome resistance Rutherford planted "organization men" who received WTS books and correspondence on behalf of the congregation thus encroaching on, and finally usurping, the elders' authority. Non-conforming elders were progressively forced out. (w1933 7/15 217-218; 9/1 271)

The process was completed in 1938 and legitimised with the argument that Jehovah guided the Organization and therefore everyone who received responsibility must be appointed by Jehovah through his agents. This arrangement was called Theocracy or Theocratic Rule.

In 1938 Rutherford summarized the shake-up as follows:

> The clearing out of self-important individuals as "elective elders" followed, and they did not get healed. *The Watchtower* of August 15 and September 1, 1932, in the articles "Jehovah's Organization", brought forward the Scriptural proof showing that the office of "elective elder" was a human invention and should be discredited. *The Watchtower* of October 15, 1932, published a resolution adopted, and which served as a collective announcement by Jehovah's people, that 'the sanctuary had been cleansed'. (Dan. 8:14) The result was the purging and cleansing of the organization preparatory to carrying on the witness work of warfare against the enemy. Only those circumcised in heart, that is, wholly devoted to God, would go forward in the warfare just before them. (w1939 3/15 86)

In 1972 these arguments were ignored and an elder arrangement reinstated but without elections. Perhaps JWs leaders feared mass defection after 1975 and considered it safer to have several elders of equal authority in each congregation rather than just one overseer. Elders in each congregation also had to rotate i.e. swap their work roles, including the position of chairman, annually. This prevented any individual from monopolizing power in any congregation during the late-1970s.

In 1983 the rotation system was abolished (Organized to Accomplish Your Ministry 1983, 41) and chairmen and other elders again retained their positions for indefinite periods.

The elder positions in congregations are Presiding Overseer, Secretary, Service Overseer, Watchtower Study Conductor, and Theocratic Ministry School Overseer.

Branch offices appoint new elders in congregations when congregational overseers, along with a circuit overseer, recommend zealous, obedient men with teaching ability.

ELDERS NOT TO BE CRITICISED
JWs are not to criticize their elders:

> If we object to something done by the body of elders or criticize the way some matter is handled, we are being disloyal to Jehovah's organization. Let us remember that the elders are not newly converted men; they have been serving Jehovah for years. (1 Tim. 3:6) And what is it that prompts faultfinding or complaining? Is it not often a desire to elevate ourselves in the eyes of others? In other words, pride is the root of the problem. This course of action actually may involve resisting the holy spirit, because the holy spirit is responsible for the appointments of older men in the congregation. (Acts 20:28) Why, then, should we criticize one of the brothers for handling the Kingdom interests in a way that the holy spirit seems to direct him? And if the brother is wrong in the way he handled something, we should have faith that the holy spirit will correct him. (w1974 7/1 413)

This counsel is typical of political dictatorships where critics of the regime are likely to be imprisoned. Among JWs this counsel would also have gagged parents of sexually abused children when elders, in obedience to the Governing Body, refused to notify the police and told parents that two observers to the alleged abuse are required.

(See: CHILD ABUSE)

ELECTRONIC RADIO BIOLA
One of the many medical treatments endorsed in the official WTS magazine *The Golden Age* as superior to standard medicine and as evidence for the nearness of the millennial "Golden Age":

> I HAVE named this new discovery, which I believe will be epochal in the history of the treatment of disease, and which I am exclusively announcing in THE GOLDEN AGE prior to its general publication elsewhere, The Electronic Radio Biola, which means life renewed by radio waves or electrons. The Biola automatically diagnoses and treats diseases by the use of the electronic vibrations. The diagnosis is 100 percent correct, rendering better service in this respect than the most experienced diagnostician and without any attending cost...
>
> THE principle of operation of the Biola is the collection ... of the disease vibrations, if any, which have become set up in one's body. The fluid containing the same waves or vibrations enters the body, meets the disease waves and destroys them...
>
> This is a great step forward, marking the Biola as the most valuable treatment apparatus obtainable today, and well worthy of notice in the columns of a magazine like THE GOLDEN AGE, which looks forward to perfect days ahead...
>
> These things in themselves furnish undoubted evidence that we are entering the Golden Age, so longed for by all of earth's inhabitants, where each will have his heart's desire for life, liberty and happiness under perfect conditions. (g1925 4/22 453-455)

ELIJAH
An Old Testament figure who, Russell alleged, pictured the Christian Church and its announcement of Jesus' Second Coming. (Studies II 1889, 55, 251-257)

Since only Russellism (and some of its schisms) preached the Second Coming of Jesus in 1874, the "Christian Church" that Elijah pictured was Russellism.

ELIJAH PERIOD/ELIJAH WORK
Russell, Rutherford and Franz gave the Old Testament stories about Elijah and Elisha modern parallels supposedly fulfilled in their Watchtower religion.

Russell

Russell predicted the emergence of an Elisha **class** during the troubles of Armageddon in 1910-1914. This class would get everlasting life on earth. (Studies II 1889, 265-266)

Rutherford

In 1919 Rutherford altered the notion of an Elisha class to that of an Elisha work or period.

The Russellites, according to Rutherford, did the "Elijah work" from 1878 to 1918. He claimed this was not interpretation but "fact". (Prophecy 1929, 201-204, 70) The Elijah work was superseded in 1919 by Rutherford's Elisha work which would continue until Armageddon.

Frederick Franz

Franz, the fifth WBTS president, initially endorsed Rutherford's "fact":

> The 40-year period of time (from1878-1918) was foretold in Scripture prophecy, and generally has been referred to as the "Elijah" or "John the Baptist" work, and so named as it constitutes a large-scale, modern-day fulfilment of their prophetic works. (w1950 8/1 229)

Elijah period altered

By 1961 Franz altered the "fact" by extending the Elijah "period" or work to 1942. (Let Your Name Be Sanctified 1961, 336) This also altered what had been "foretold in the Scripture prophecy"!

The modern Elijah work was now the preaching of the "faithful and discreet slave" until 1942; and the modern Elisha work was the improved preaching after 1942:

> [10]…This Elijah that was to come had a small-scale fulfilment in John the Baptist, but the Elijah of Malachi's prophecy was scheduled to appear in our own fateful day, just before and during the time of the end of this present wicked system of things. True to the prophecy, in modern times the "faithful and discreet slave" has appeared to perform the foretold work of Elijah…
>
> [14]In 1942 … with the change in administration of the second and third presidents of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, the Elijah work passed away… (w1967 10/1 594-595)

A problem

In 2010 the Governing Body altered the identity of the "faithful and discreet slave" from being the "remnant of the 144,000" to being the Governing Body, which they claim was appointed in 1919.

This "Body" was actually not mentioned until 1944 when it referred to the seven directors of the WBTS.

If we assume, as is now claimed, that the Governing Body existed in 1919 and is the "faithful slave" what do we make of the "Elijah work" from 1878 to 1942? It was done by about 50,000 members of the alleged "remnant of the 144,000" who were identified [actually **mis**identified]. for about 80 years as the "faithful slave"

It follows that the Elijah work, as done by about 50,000 JWs from 1919 to 1941, was done by only seven Governing Body members:

> True to the prophecy, in modern times the "faithful and discreet slave" has appeared to perform the foretold work of Elijah…

How could seven have done the work of 50,000? The doctrine of the Elijah work obviously needs revision. JWs is a confused religion where often no one knows what "the truth" is because it's constantly changing.

EMBLEMS

The red alcoholic wine and the unleavened bread used at the annual Memorial — the JWs version of "the Lord's supper" and Communion.

END OF NAZISM (1940)

Booklet by Rutherford arguing that Catholics and Nazis were about to take over Europe, America and the world:

> …divine prophecy plainly foretold that dictators would gain control of Europe. (p.4)

The booklet urges "honest and sincere ones" to "flee from religion and flee to God and Christ" and claims that the Catholic Hierarchy "now stoops to all unholy means of conquering the world…"

Also:

> The Hierarchy acts in full harmony and conjunction with the cruel dictators including Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini... [the Pope] is the adviser and close ally of Hitler. (p.14)
>
> The Hierarchy are the real movers of compulsory flag-saluting… (p.19)

> Mussolini takes his advice from the Pope. (p.25)
>
> Satan and his horde of demons are now making the last desperate attempt to rule the world by religious dictators… (p.28)

Rutherford's "Divine prophecy" was wrong and the dictatorships were defeated.

END OF THE WORLD

After the "old world" failed to end in 1914 Rutherford called 1914 the "legal" or "judicial" end of the world.

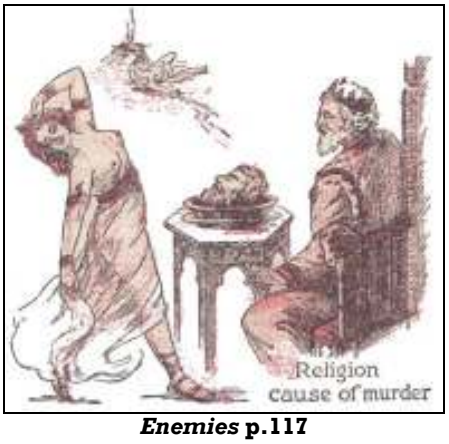
Rutherford was sometimes inconsistent on whether 1914 was the end or the beginning of the end. (The Harp Of God 1921, 244-245) Mostly, however, he asserted that 1914 marked "**the end** of the world" and Jesus and the disciples "understood" this to be so. (Comfort For The Jews 1925, 71)

Prior to 1914 the word "end" was synonymous with Armageddon. When Armageddon failed to occur, the word "end" with "legal" added as in "legal end" was retained. New phrases such as "final end" and "complete end" were invented to refer to Armageddon.

In 1942 the "final end" was itself "at hand".(The New World 1942, ch.11) but also failed to take place. The JWs leaders then returned to the previous meaning of "end" and made "end" synonymous again with Armageddon:

> They shall lie down in sorrowful death at the battle of Armageddon for then this world shall end. (Yearbook 1946, Text September 13)

ENEMIES (1937)



***Enemies* p.117**

A book in which Rutherford describes the enemies of God and of JWs. The enemies include the Devil, commerce, religion, government, and defectors from the Watchtower cult.

The picture (from p.117) portrays the main enemy, "Religion", as the "cause of murder". Rutherford taught that "Religion" meant all religions (especially "Christendom") except JWs because JWs are not a religion!

ENGLEITNER, LEOPOLD (1907-2013)

An Austrian JW persecuted by the National Socialists.

Engleitner is sometimes compared to Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian Catholic who remained a Catholic and was executed in Berlin in 1943 for refusal to serve in the German Wehrmacht.

The two men did not meet but after WWII Engleitner met Jägerstätter's cousin.

Engleitner's story is told by his biographer Bernhard Rammerstorfer in *Unbroken Will: The Extraordinary Courage of an Ordinary Man*, 2004 (Hardcover), 2006 (Paperback) Grammaton.

Engleitner became the oldest known survivor of the Nazi concentration camps. He was probably also the last JW survivor of "the generation that will not pass away" i.e. the people who were old enough in 1914 to observe current events and who, according to Governing Body prophecy, would live to see Armageddon.

Had Engleitner opposed this false prophecy — which *Awake!* (from 1982-1995) called "the creator's promise" — he would have been excommunicated and shunned.

(See also: *JÄGERSTÄTTER; GENERATION*)

ENJOY LIFE ON EARTH FOREVER (1982)

A brochure with 76 pictures portraying the imminent global paradise to be enjoyed by the Armageddon-surviving followers of the Governing Body.

The promised paradise as predicted in WTS publications failed to eventuate in the 1970s and "within the "twentieth century" and in "this generation". Therefore JWs got gaudy pictures of paradise instead.

It's like buying a house and paying the full price but getting only a colour photo of it. The buyer would and should feel cheated!

ENLIGHTENING
A phrase used to describe the work and/or doctrines of JWs. The preaching is an "enlightening work" or "work of enlightenment". (w1985 2/1 18-19)

"Enlightening" is listed 352 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007):

> Today, anointed Christians, aided by a great crowd of worshippers, serve as "a light of the nations," enlightening peoples "to the extremity of the earth." (w2007 1/15 9)

When the Governing Body portray thousands of errors and failed predictions — proved to be errors by repeated revisions of them — as "enlightenment", they ignore Isaiah's condemnation of people who "put darkness for light and light for darkness…" (5:20)

ENTERTAINMENT
The Russellite attitude to entertainment was:

> Do you think it is all right to go to the opera, or to hear good concerts? Is it so inspiring to listen to the music, and surely there is nothing impure in that? It is not a question of purity, but of expediency. Is it expedient to indulge in music and the like? Will this be the best way to make your character like the Redeemer? The time is at hand when the pressure is coming.
> (Convention Report 1913, 317)

Rutherford all but banned his followers from playing sports and attending movies. Even music and singing at meetings were abolished.

Knorr discouraged movie-viewing as selfishness and worldliness because it distracted from the door to door work when Armageddon was imminent. Sport was discouraged as time-wasting, worldly, tempting and competitive.

Many JWs conversion stories mention the convert giving up sport or other recreation. Such sacrifices were commended as showing appreciation and leaving more time for preaching.

Nowadays JWs consider sports and television-watching O.K. in moderation.

ENVELOPES
A JWs advertising method in the 1950s was to use envelopes with small pictures of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* in the lower left corner.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Equatorial Guinea and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	443	552		
1975	67	4,254		
1980	30	9,333	102	2,745
1985	139	2,158	543	552
1990	169	1,966	624	532
1995	312	1,194	1,937	192
2000	768	618	3,514	135
2005	974	550	4,126	130
2010	1,405	451	5,063	125
2013	1,632	431	5,844	120
2015	1,918	423	6,860	118
2018	2,272	409	8,342	111
	Ave.			
2019	2,267	598	8,989	151
2020	2,325	608	5,785	244
2021	2,395	606	9,028	161
2022	2,327	643	6,803	220
2023	2,417	638	7,944	194
2024	2,646	583	8,482	182
2025	2,936	568	8,501	196

EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK (1946)
A WTS book about the Bible. It includes history, geography, the WTS's chronology, and a summary of each book of the Bible.

ERRORS / ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS
Investigator Magazine No. 85 (July 2002) used a sample of 35 pages from *The Finished Mystery* (1917) to estimate the number of erroneous statements, i.e. statements in conflict with current JWs beliefs, in the whole book at 1372.

Jehovah's Witnesses A Statistical Survey (1992) used a sample of 25 pages and estimated the erroneous statements in *The Finished Mystery* at 1480. *The Finished Mystery*, according to these samples, has more than 1300 interpretations that present-day informed JWs would not accept.

Millions Now Living Will Never Die (1920) and *The Harp of God* (1921) also have numerous erroneous interpretations as judged from present-day JWs beliefs.

Russell's six volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures* and the publications of the 1930s-1990s also have many conflicts with today's "Bible truth".

Some errors kill

Sometimes error kills. Raymond Franz (1983, 106) says that JWs haemophiliacs were permitted to accept a blood fraction as medication but each haemophiliac could accept it only once. The "once" ruling was later changed and haemophiliacs were permitted as many medications as needed.

But many inquiries had come to the WBTS by phone and such persons could not be contacted again. To publish the new position entailed admitting the previous position. Rather than do this, the Governing Body decided to risk a few deaths.

The WTS's opposition to vaccinations until 1952 probably also led to the deaths of some JWs and inflicted diseases on others, but statistics are lacking.

Regarding the misinterpretation from 1929 to 1961 of the "superior authorities", the JWs leaders admitted that it: "… cost many of Jehovah's witnesses their personal liberty and even their lives." (w1950 11/15 441)

Don't do as we do; do as we say

Why do the leaders of JWs publish so many errors? A biblical answer is that they lack "a longing for the unadulterated milk belonging to the word." (I Peter 2:2) They also do not heed the following advice which they give to others:

> A person must make such an investigation, however, in all honesty and sincerity. He must be willing to accept truth findings even though they may completely contradict previous held views and opinions. (g1985 5/8 12)

> Instead of learning how to "handle the word of truth aright", evangelists prefer to hear about fund raising and filmmaking. (g1984 5/8 8) [See: *CONTRIBUTIONS*]

Guilty of what they accuse others of

The errors and false predictions of the esteemed Governing Body, although supposedly "Bible-based", make them guilty of the evils they accuse other religions of. A few of those accusations are:

> What if the religious leaders have rejected the Bible's straight testimony? What if the highly esteemed clergy of "Christendom" have been found false and misleading? Do these shocking and disappointing facts change the Bible itself of its message of truth? (Let God be True 1946, 9)

> … for centuries the clergy of "organized Christianity" have hypocritically posed as the teachers of God's Word, have lied to the weaker ones as well as to others, and have used the texts of the Scriptures as a camouflage for their crookedness, and by this means have turned the people away from God…

> That devilish hypocritical organization has at all times stolen the Word of God and misused it, and has stolen the people away from serving God and has produced a crop of creatures that have sworn falsely before God. These religious frauds are defamers of Jehovah's name and are to be transported to their everlasting abode… (w1933 9/1 260)

These words match what the JWs leaders have done for 150 years. By so describing other religions and pretending to be different and better the JWs leaders ignore and reject the insightful counsel of Jesus:

> "You hypocrite, first take the log from your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye." (Matthew 7:5)

The Governing Body advises people to leave religions that do not teach the truth:

> Jehovah tells Christians to leave religions that do not teach the truth. (Enjoy Life On Earth Forever 1982, picture 7)

However, when JWs leave their religion because it "does not teach the truth" or perhaps because they were sexually abused by elders, the consequences the Governing Body has instituted are devastating. (See: *APOSTATES*; *SHUNNING*)

Loyally advocate God's Word?

Although their "Bible truth" continually changes the JWs claim to "loyally advocate God's Word." (w1983 3/15 20) The JWs leaders praise their followers as "generous", "industrious", "open handed

preachers of the good news." Other religions lack "generosity" and "faithfulness" and are "bogus Christians" who "have failed to plant and water properly, not using the word of God honestly." (w1984 5/15 20)

The JWs leaders call their published material "truths contained in God's Word", "bright light", "accurate knowledge", "true Christianity", "Bible truth", and many other self-praising, self-affirming labels. It's an ongoing white-washing and denial of their own sordid history.

The reality is that their words, quoted above and directed at "the clergy", describe the JWs leaders:

- "hypocritically posed as the teachers of God's Word";
- used "Scriptures as a camouflage for their crookedness";
- "stolen the Word of God and misused it";
- "religious frauds";
- "defamers of Jehovah's name";
- turned "people away from God" — many ex JWs are now agnostics and atheists!

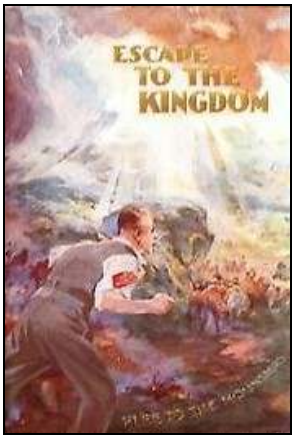
Bad-tasting counsel

With JWs "truth" having undergone thousands of alterations including false predictions for numerous dates, statements like the following leave a bad taste:

> If you rely upon the opinion or word of any man, you are certain to go in the wrong way. (Riches 1936, 8)
>
> … the reader ... is neither being invited nor being led to study God's Word according to the perplexing, mysterious religious errors of Christendom. He is asked to study according to what God himself has to say in his own word… we must let God speak for himself. (Let God Be True 1952, 8)
>
> Do not make the mistake of judging the Bible according to those who quote it. (g1982 3/8 12)
>
> It is not any man, but God, who is the judge of what is true worship. (You Can Live Forever… 1982, 29)
>
> (See also: *ADMISSION OF ERROR; EXCUSES;* PROPAGANDA)

ESCAPE TO THE KINGDOM (1933)

Booklet by Rutherford offering survival at Armageddon and eternal life to people who accept his truth and join "God's organization":

> Jehovah caused the World War to stop in 1918 for the express purpose of
>
> 
>
>
> affording an opportunity for the people to hear the truth of and concerning Him and His kingdom… While Jehovah's Witnesses are declaring in the earth the truth of and concerning Jehovah and His kingdom and His day of vengeance, the preparation for the great war continues and the battle draws night. (p.10)
>
> The clergymen are friends of this world, because they are part of it; and hence according to the Scriptures and the facts they serve the Devil… (p.12)
>
> The great war is now rapidly approaching… He [Jehovah] compels Satan to bring his army up against God's organization. Satan the Devil is causing the nations of the earth to prepare for war for that very reason, and Satan is setting them against God and His kingdom… (pp 12-13)
>
> What, then is the way of escape from destruction in this great war just ahead? (p.17)
>
> All persons in "Christendom" must now shortly take their stand either for or against Jehovah God's kingdom, and all who escape and are brought through that great war and live must seek the truth, take a firm stand on Jehovah's side, and do what is right. (p.18)
>
> Why longer stand in peril? Why listen to the words of blind guides? Those who remain with Satan's organization

> will die in the great battle of Armageddon. Only those who positively put themselves under the protection of Jehovah and His kingdom will live. (pp 19-20)
>
> The prophecies and all the facts show that the war is in the very near future. (p.21)
>
> The next great event is the battle of Armageddon ... (p.46)
>
> Since Christ Jesus will ever be invisible to human eyes, who, then will have to do with the visible administration of God's kingdom on earth? The Scriptures answer that the administration of the affairs of the earthly government will be in the hands of those only who are of God's organization. A number of such men are specifically name in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews... There are today millions of people on earth who will see those faithful men of old resurrected from the dead and brought back as perfect men to administer the affairs of government under Christ... (p.49)
>
> There are millions of people living on earth today who will see the Kingdom in operation and see their dead friends awakened out of death... (p.58)

With only JWs to survive Armageddon and JWs alive in 1933 now numbering nowhere near "millions", it's another false prediction.

ESPIONAGE ACT

The Espionage Act became law in the United States in June, 1917:

> It provided for the punishment of any who should acquire information about American defenses which might be given to the enemy as well as for those who actually conveyed such information. Penalties were also imposed on all who should attempt to cause insubordination or mutiny among enlisted men and upon any who should attempt to obstruct enlistment or recruiting. The post-master general was empowered to close the mails to written or printed matter which he considered to be in violation of any of the preceding sections. (Harlow & Blake 1965, p.636)
>
> The espionage act of June 15, 1917, forbade false statements which might injure the prosecution of the war, incitements to disloyalty, obstruction of recruiting, and similar attempts to impede the activities of the government. (Slosson 1958, p.67)

DeCecca describes the imprisonment in 1918 as follows:

> That year a group of ministers of false religion urged the United States government to halt the work of the Society on the grounds that its officers were disloyal to the war effort. It was asserted that our preaching God's kingdom as the only hope and pointing out World War I as a fulfillment of prophecy was likely to discourage men from going to war. The charges caused the arrest and trial of the Society's officers and associates for not taking an active part in the war...
>
> We were given what was to be later proved an unfair trial. Off we went to the Federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia. While the others received very long sentences, mine was comparatively short. Brother Macmillan, one of my fellow defendants, still says this was due to my being shorter in stature than the others. In the prison tailor shop I found a number of other Italians serving time for counterfeiting money. I witnessed to them about God's kingdom of peace and perfection for mankind...
>
> Justice began to triumph, and we were released from Atlanta in the spring of 1919, later to be fully exonerated. (w1960 10/1 601-605)

Rutherford and seven other Watchtower men were found guilty in April 1918 under the espionage act and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. WTS writings such as *The Finished Mystery* (1917) which predicted the destruction of all religions and governments for 1918-1920 could be considered an "attempt to ... obstruct enlistment and recruiting."

After the World War finished the Watchtower men were released pending a retrial. The retrial, however, did not take place because the defeat of Germany, and American demobilisation, made the matter irrelevant.

DeCecca's claim that "a group of ministers" was involved has never been confirmed. Nor did the Russellites in 1918 "preach God's kingdom" which JWs now believe is a

kingdom of 1914, rather they preached an imaginary kingdom of 1878. Nor could DeCecca know what "false religion" is when he himself believed 1300 interpretations in *The Finished Mystery* that JWs later revised, plus the nonsense of Pyramidology. Anyone that deluded would not know true religion from false.

ESTHER
See: *MORDECAI & ESTHER*

ESTHER CLASS
Converts to the Watchtower religion from 1919 to 1935.

These were supposed to be the final selection of the remnant the 144,000. Armageddon was predicted to come in their lifetime, but very few now-living JWs, if any, joined the sect by 1935.

ESTONIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Estonia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	2,705	551	8,041	185
2000	3,871	356	8,191	168
2005	4,141	330	7,383	185
2010	4,268	314	7,369	182
2013	4,144	310	6,671	193
2015	4,095	321	6,793	194
2018	4,036	327	6,265	211
	Ave.			
2019	3,979	333	6,199	214
2020	3,925	339	5,932	224
2021	3,961	336	7,253	183
2022	3,976	335	6,853	194
2023	4,075	335	6,719	203
2024	4,114	334	6,630	207
2025	4,097	334	6,468	212

ESTRANGEMENT FROM CHRISTIANITY

> Jehovah's witnesses have nothing in common with other religious groups and can never seek any affiliation with them. These organizations simply do not stand for the same things for which Jehovah's witnesses stand.
> (g1975 11/22 23)

JWs propaganda states that their estrangement or separation from conventional Christianity began when clergymen resented Russell's dissemination of "truth". (g1984 12/8 9)

Three Worlds (1877) by C.T. Russell and N.H. Barbour contained so little "truth" that even the Russellites stopped reading it in the 1880s and JWs today accept few if any interpretations published in it.

In addition, Russell's prediction that he and his followers would ascend to heaven in 1878, which is among the many errors in *Three Worlds*, made him in Christian eyes a religious fool, deceiver, and "false prophet", and therefore they ignored him.

Russell retaliated by inventing the doctrine that God rejected Christendom in 1878. Christendom from 1878 contained, he taught, only inferior Christians ignorant of vital truths such as Armageddon by 1914, the Great Pyramid as "God's Witness in stone", and world peace and Israel's restoration in 1914-1915.

Such silly views Russell disseminated. And when some people listened it convinced him of his unique divine calling and hardened him against correction.

He accused clergymen of collecting donations fraudulently whereas Jesus never did. Critics responded that Russell got more money than any priest or minister by predicting Armageddon in 1914 thereby motivating his followers to sell his books.

Mudslinging escalated as 1914 got closer and Russell advertised in hundreds of newspapers.

Rutherford got involved in 1906. He, like his mentor Russell, was proved wrong time and time again. Rutherford leased his New York residence, for example, until October 1st 1914 — when the nations would supposedly be destroyed. In 1915 Rutherford was worsted in public debate with Reverend Troy. In 1917 Rutherford staked everything on an all-out anti-church campaign via tracts and the book *The Finished Mystery*. Many specific predictions, including that Christendom's destruction would start April 29 1918 failed. Soon after April 29 Rutherford himself faced imprisonment. His Organization, not Christianity, faced ruin — a humiliating reversal!

Rutherford concocted revenge — he wanted the collapse of "Christendom" and of its Christianity. His idea was to use mass advertising via pamphlets, books, radio, and door-door visits to incite a mass exodus from all churches. (See: *GOAL*)

Instead, as more prophecies failed, 70% of Rutherford's followers defected in the 1920s.

Rutherford unified the ranks and replaced losses by making the distribution of his publications necessary for salvation and by increased media coverage and by inciting confrontation and riots. Anti church tirades permeated much of his writing. If there were laws against proselytising at certain locations then that is where Rutherford sent his "Jehovah's witnesses" to distribute tracts. If there were laws against peddling or against Sunday doorbell ringing, that is where JWs would peddle and ring and leave booklets that called ministers deceivers and churches a "racket". (See: *PERSECUTION; WITNESSING*)

In brief, the Christian mainstream pushed the original JWs or Russellites away because their prophecies were false and instead of repenting they distorted ever more of the Bible to make them seem true.

The situation today

Today, the JWs leaders i.e. Governing Body retain their anti church attitude but express it less violently. They have learnt that, "To launch a full-scale and at times bitter assault on a man's cherished beliefs is not the best way of inducing him to change them." (Green 1978, 281)

Nevertheless, the leaders rarely say a good word about other faiths. Do other religions oppose nuclear bombs? If so it is because nuclear war would kill priests and ministers and these men are cowards. Do they build hospitals? Then they are wasting time better spent in preaching the 1914 Kingdom. Do they feed the famine stricken? They do that to make "rice Christians". Do they produce Bible publications? If so, they copy the Devil who misquotes Scripture to deceive.

Why rejected?

JWs leaders claim: "Jehovah's Witnesses ... fear to act contrary to his written Word. (w1982 7/1 12) Their "loyalty to God's Word" is supposedly why the Churches reject them.

The real reason is that JWs prophecies for over twenty dates have failed and individual books contain up to 1300 points that contradict later JWs teaching. Yet all this error was paraded as "Bible truth" and Christians who objected were insulted as "deceivers" and "frauds". And during this 150-year long scandal the leaders claimed to be God's channel for delivering Bible truth and their books superior as Bible-study material than the Bible itself!

ESWATINI
A kingdom in southern Africa formerly until 2018 known as Swaziland.

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Eswatini and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	634	662		
1975	750	617		
1980	651	829	1,967	274
1985	814	784	2,804	228
1990	1,235	577	4,195	170
1995	1,772	512	5,819	156
2000	2,096	468	6,524	150
2005	2,335	482	6,456	174
2010	2,793	365	6,886	148
2015	3,124	412	8,841	146
2018	3,316	421	8,272	160
	Ave.			
2019	3,261	352	9,248	124
2020	3,180	365	7,398	157
2021	3,179	369	8,725	134
2022	3,186	372	7,896	150
2023	3,174	377	8,345	144
2024	3,301	370	8,116	151
2025	3,431	366	8,902	141

ETERNAL LIFE
JWs believe that eternal life as immortals is the reward for 144,000 individuals chosen by God to live as spirits in heaven and to rule the Earth from there.

The cut-off date for being of the 144,000 was 1881, then 1918, then 1935. Therefore until 2005 they steadily decreased but then began to increase.

A "great crowd" of JWs anticipate being "Armageddon survivors" and have eternal life on Earth. They expect to be joined by most of the dead who died throughout history and who will be resurrected. Being physical these "earthlings" will not be immortal.

ETHERIDE, CYNTHIA (1967-)
A former JW who campaigned for the office of mayor in London, Canada.

Etheride was baptized and married a JW at 18, went door to door 17 years, then left the sect and her husband. The mother-of-five claimed she grew frustrated by the subjugation of women by men — women couldn't give sermons or handle family financial affairs.

Etheride was shunned by her former friends because of her campaign to become mayor — JWs are barred from voting or holding office — and because she had a child with another man prior to her divorce. (London Free Press, Canada 2006, June 1)

ETHIOPIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Ethiopia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	498	50,200		
1975	1,637	15,272		
1995	4,895	11,236	13,742	4,002
2000	6,166	10,055	16,201	3,827
2005	7,563	9,256	20,058	3,490
2010	9,009	8,325	22,766	3,294
2013	9,649	9,068	25,496	3,432
2015	10,083	9,857	25,323	3,925
2018	10,472	10,023	23,401	4,485
	Ave.			
2019	10,522	10,652	25,543	4,388
2020	10,598	10,848	20,676	5,560
2021	10,876	10,838	26,482	4,451
2022	10,937	11,046	24,477	4,936
2023	11,198	11,053	26,409	4,687
2024	11,812	10,982	27,357	4,741
2025	12,493	10,668	27,152	4,908

EUROPEAN WAR

Russell expected a Europe-wide war for 1906 or 1907 which would weaken Europe and make it ready for Armageddon around 1910-1912 and world peace in 1915. When the Russo-Japanese war broke out in 1904 Russell believed it would draw in Europe. (w1904 3/1)

All this failed. Yet Rutherford initiated the pretence that:

> …the Elijah class knew that the war [World War I] was coming, and one of them, the Lord's faithful servant, Pastor Russell, for forty years pointed out from the prophecies that it would come in 1914. (Millions 1920, 88)

What Russell had "pointed out" was the end of war by 1914 with the "kingdom" of 1878 in control of the world, and the physical resurrection and world peace underway and progressing. It all failed and anyone who prophesies falsely to that extent is hardly "the Lord's faithful servant".

EVANGELISM

From the Greek "euangelion" (noun) occurring 75 times in the New Testament, and "euangelizimai" (verb) occurring 24 times and meaning to "preach the gospel".

The noun, usually translated as "evangelist", appears in the New World Translation as "evangelizer". JWs leaders claim:

> …all Christians are obligated to be evangelizers. (Aid to Bible Understanding 1971, 537; w1928 4 /1 111)
>
> Any and all Christians were to be evangelizers. (w1983 2/1 18-19; w1974 6/1 335-340)

In their 1975 *Yearbook* the JWs leaders announced they had 2 million "evangelizers".

The Bible, however, says: "And he gave <u>some</u> as apostles, <u>some</u> as prophets, <u>some</u> as evangelizers..." (Ephesians 4:11; I Corinthians 12:29)

JWs leaders respond that in Ephesians 4 "evangelizer" is used in a special sense and they cite Romans 10:9-10. (Aid To Bible Understanding 1971, 537)

However, in Romans 10 the word is not "euangelizimai" but "homologeo" often translated "confess". <u>All</u> Christians "confess" faith in Christ, but only <u>some</u> such as Timothy are evangelists. (II Timothy 4:1-5)

EVANS, LUKE (1979-)

A Welsh actor and singer who from 2003 starred in British theatre and whose breakthrough to Hollywood came with the 2010 remake of *Clash of the Titans*.

After that he was cast in many movies including *Immortals* (2011), *The Raven* (2012), *The Three Musketeers* (2011), *Fast and Furious 6* (2013) and *The Hobbit* (2013).

Wikipedia states:

> Evans is openly gay. In a 2002 interview, he said, "Everybody knew me as a gay man, and in my life in London I never tried to hide it.

Evans was raised by JWs parents but left the sect at age 16.

EVE

JWs take the story of Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden literally and believe it happened in 4026 BCE.

In the 1960s and 1970s JWs were concerned with whether Eve was created in the same year as Adam since any difference affected whether Armageddon would occur in 1975:

> Our chronology, however, which is reasonably accurate (but admittedly not infallible), at the best only points to the autumn of 1975 as the end of 6,000 years of man's existence on earth. It does not necessarily mean that 1975 marks the end of the first 6,000 years of Jehovah's seventh creative "day." Why not? Because after his creation Adam lived some time during the "sixth day," which unknown amount of time would need to be subtracted from Adam's 930 years, to determine when the sixth seven-thousand-year period or "day" ended, and how long Adam lived into the "seventh day." And yet the end of that sixth creative "day" could end within the same Gregorian calendar year of Adam's creation. It may involve only a difference of weeks or months, not years. (w1968 8/15 499)

Aid to Bible Understanding (1969; 1971) settled the question in its entry on Eve by stating: "At the age of 130 another son was born to her. Eve called his name Seth…" (p.538) The Bible says that Adam was 130 when he became father to Seth. (Genesis 5:3) Adam and Eve were therefore both aged 130 at the same time, which means both were created in the same year.

This implied Armageddon would take place in 1975.

EVERETT, Jr. LOU (1974-)
A JW who remained in the sect for 15 years, then converted to Catholicism. He founded the *Our Catholic Conversion* website and published his story on the Internet.

Everett was born in San Francisco because his father who was in the army was stationed there at the time. His parents were baptized by JWs in 1984 and Lou at age 13:

> Various questions began to "eat away inside me" such as, "Why is it that the history of Jehovah's Witnesses only goes back so far, thus creating a huge gap in the connection to the apostles?"

After struggling with alcohol and drugs he became a "pioneer' at 18, was appointed a "ministerial servant", and in 1994 married a JW girl. But he still had "that empty feeling" and "many questions".

He stopped attending meetings but confided his doubts to a JW elder and was disfellowshipped. He dabbled in paganism, Hinduism, Buddhism, agnosticism, and Atheism, and returned to alcohol and marijuana, ending in divorce in 2004.

He met a Catholic woman whom he married in the Catholic Church in 2006.

EVERLASTING LIFE
JWs believe in everlasting life on Earth for the "other sheep" and "great crowd", and in heaven for the 144,000.

John 11:25-26 where Jesus said "He that exercises faith in me … will come to life" was previously limited to the 144,000 but extended to the "great crowd" in 1983. (w1983 10/1 31)

EVERLASTING LIFE ON EARTH REQUIREMENTS
The four main requirements to live forever on God's "Paradise earth" are knowledge, moral purity, acceptance of God's channel, and joining JWs and distributing WTS publications:

> Jesus Christ identified a first requirement when he said in prayer to his Father: "This means everlasting life, their *taking in knowledge* of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." (John 17:3) Knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ includes knowledge of God's purposes regarding the earth and of Christ's role as earth's new King. Will you take in such knowledge by studying the Bible?
>
> Many have found the second requirement more difficult. It is to *obey God's laws,* yes, to conform one's life to the moral requirements set out in the Bible. This includes refraining from a debauched, immoral way of life.—1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 1 Peter 4:3, 4.
>
> A third requirement is that we *be associated with God's channel,* his organization. God has always used an organization. For example, only those in the ark in Noah's day survived the Flood, and only those associated with the Christian congregation in the first century had God's favor. (Acts 4:12)

Similarly, Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it.

The fourth requirement is connected with loyalty. God requires that prospective subjects of his Kingdom support his government by *loyally advocating his Kingdom rule to others.* Jesus Christ explained: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth." (Matthew 24:14) Will you meet this requirement by telling others about God's Kingdom? (w1983 2/15 12)

EVIL

JWs distinguish three basic sources of evil: Satan's influence, wrong use of free choice, and inherited imperfection.

EVIL SERVANT CLASS / EVIL SLAVE CLASS (MATTHEW 24:48-51)

Any former JW who criticizes the sect is regarded as an "evil slave".

The "evil slave **class**", according to Rutherford, was members of the "remnant" of the 144,000 who left WTS control between 1917 and the 1930s and formed separate Bible Students groups.

The "evil servant" class claim to be the anointed of God and, these being false, they are therefore false Christs. The "evil servant" class, as Jesus foretold, 'say in their hearts, The Lord delays his coming; and they begin to smite their brethren.' This prophecy of Jesus has been in the course of fulfillment since 1917, and is still being fulfilled. Those once enlightened by the truth and taken into the covenant, and who are in line for the kingdom, and who now refuse to testify to Jehovah's kingdom, and oppose those who are so doing, by their actions declare that 'the Lord has delayed his coming'. (w1938 9/1 270)

The identification of the "evil servant" has changed several times. To Russell it referred to N.H. Barbour. To Rutherford in the 1930s and JWs until the early 21st century the "evil slave" was a class or group composed of all organized defectors from Russell's cult.

(See also: *UNFAITHFUL SLAVE*)

EVOLUTION

At first Russell believed that, except for man, species evolved from earlier forms by Divine direction and were then fixed and unchanging. (Studies I 1886, 31-32)

As for the lower animals we will not on their behalf quarrel with the deductions of evolutionists, although we do hold that the fixity of species today is not very favorable to their contention. If an evolutionary process did take place in the past we hold that it was so under divine supervision and guidance—that different species of plants and animals were brought to perfection, so that no further evolutionary processes in them are possible. On the other hand, be it noted that the Scriptural account might be understood to rather favor the Evolution theory in respect to the lower creatures. (w1907 1/1 12-13; wr1907 1/1 3921)

Although believing that lower creatures could experience evolution, Russell ridiculed the idea they could change into mammals and humans:

However, in due time one of these descendants of the first maggot ... said to himself, I will discard my tail, and cease using my hands and feet, and I will shed my coat of hair, and will develop a nose and a forehead and a brain with moral and reflective organs. (Studies VI 1904, 21)

Rutherford at first also promoted the theory of partial evolution by Divine direction:

One theory regarding creation (excepting man) by a process of evolution, to which we see no serious objection, we briefly state as follows: It assumes that the various species of the present are fixed and unchangeable as far as nature or kind is concerned and though present natures may be developed to a much higher standard, even to perfection, these species or natures will forever be the same. This theory further assumes that none of these fixed species were originally created so, but that in the remote past they were developed from the earth, and by gradual processes of evolution from one form to another. These evolutions, under divinely established laws, in which changes of food and climate played an important part, may have

> continued until the fixed species, as at present seen, were established, beyond which change is impossible, the ultimate purpose of the Creator in this respect, to all appearances; having been reached. Though each of the various families of plants and animals is capable of improvement or of degradation none of them is susceptible of change into, nor can they be produced from, other families or kinds. (g1919 11/12 103-104)

By 1920 genetics had become a recognized science and was demonstrating that species, including species that exist now, undergo change. This conflicted with the Russell/Rutherford doctrine that no further change is possible. For a few years Rutherford accepted evolution theory except for the evolution of man:

> The conflict between Evolution and the Bible has been sharp. Nevertheless, unnecessary friction has been generated. Only in respect to man does the Bible declare a special, direct creation of God. The statements of Genesis in respect to the lower creatures rather favor something along the lines of specialized evolution. (g1920 2/18 341)

During the 1920s *The Golden Age* became increasingly anti evolution.

The 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial" got wide publicity. During the trial, Bible advocate and former presidential candidate William J. Bryan failed to answer a number of criticisms of the Bible. In the 1920s some theologians associated with specific universities denied the truth of Genesis including Adam, Eve, Eden, Noah, the Flood, etc. Such publicity may explain why Rutherford forbade further discussion of evolution. To argue with evolutionists or consider their evidence is, he claimed, an "insult to Jehovah":

> To enter into a discussion as to whether or not the moon is made of green cheese or is green cheese is foolishness. To engage in an argument as to whether man was created by Jehovah or made himself by evolution or evolved from protoplasm is worse than foolishness. It is an insult to Jehovah God. (Reconciliation 1928, 51)
>
> For a Christian to indulge in a serious discussion of the truth or falsity of such a theory means to give countenance and consideration to the Devil and his wicked course. (ibid p.52)
>
> Evolution is one of the evils the Devil has taught to men; and God has not prevented it, in order that men might have an opportunity to learn by experience the effects of evil… The Christian must let it be known…that he refuses to enter into controversy or discussion with any one who denies Jehovah and denies his Word of truth. Before such he is to keep his mouth with a bridle or remain silent. (ibid p.56
>
> But the modernists who advocate evolution as a theory of the origin of many deny the Bible as authority and base their conclusion upon the wisdom of man. Therefore the very statement of their proposition is an insult to Jehovah and it becomes the duty of the Christian to refuse to consider the man-made evidence offered by so-called scientists. (ibid p.57)

For the next 20 years the WTS ignored evolution except for brief, negative generalizations and ridicule. Then the policy of no discussion was changed and the WTS published an anti-evolution booklet in 1950.

Scores of anti-evolution articles appeared in *Awake!* and *The Watchtower* over the next decades as well as several hard-cover books:

- *Did Man Get Here By Evolution Or By Creation?* (1967)
- *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution Or By creation?* (1985)

Anti-evolution arguments in WTS publications are poorly developed. There is little discussion about genetics and variation. Most fossil evidence showing sequence in development is ignored. Problems with the Noah's Ark story — such as preparing thousands of specialized dietary requirements, storing food for one to two years, eight humans harboring the bacteria and viruses for scores of killer diseases, and thousands of animals emerging onto a foodless, mud-covered world — are avoided.

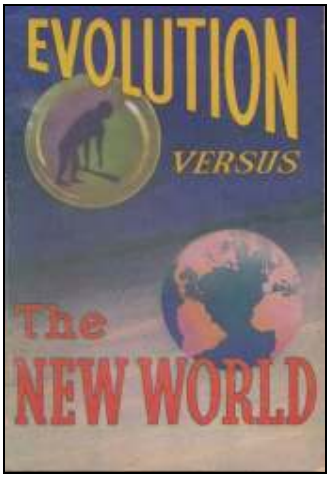
"Species" and "kinds" are still sometimes confused. A serious problem is that "kinds" have not been biologically identified or defined. Occasionally the WTS replies to demonstrations of evolution by claiming the evolved form is "after its family kind". Here

is a letter in *From Our Readers* (g1982 3/22 28) and the editor's reply:

> You talk about no fossil evidence of amphibians becoming reptiles, or reptiles becoming mammals, or reptiles becoming birds, and of apes becoming man… Evolution is not an accident. It is a necessity. The best example I can give you is the example of the Schnauzer, a breed of dog that did not exist 600 years ago. We have a historical record of the breeding of the Schnauzer in Munich less than 600 years ago. They took two existing breeds, and then bred that offspring with a third breed to produce the Schnauzer. The same thing occurred when man developed as a result of multiple cross-breeding of apes, except that in the case of man it occurred in nature rather than through intervention…
> G. M. B. a lawyer, California
> A new variety of dog from dogs is still 'after its family kind,' as Genesis 1:24 says. Man from apes is quite a different matter.—ED.

JWs publications ignore geological evidence for multiple ice ages and promote unsubstantiated claims that a global flood caused most of the geology that geologists attribute to ice. (g1963 6 /22 8-11)

EVOLUTION VERSUS THE NEW WORLD 1950
:



A booklet short on evidence but long on value judgments and opinion. For example

> And is it not the evolutionist that is the gullible gobbler of fairy tales? (p.27)
>
> Their futile speculations and worldly theorizings are foolishness in God's sight. (p.45)
>
> The theory of evolution is old-fashioned, a pagan religious teaching of ancient nations, philosophized about by the Greeks, fervently believed by totemist savages, reeking with fairy tale transformations. (p.61)

The JWs leaders by such language promote ignorance and prejudice instead of knowledge and understanding.

In response to the third quote on "Pagan religious teaching" and "totemist savages":
If pagans and savages believed in "evolution" it was a very different sort than taught by 1950s science and lacked the foundation of a century of scientific discoveries. "Savages" believed also in supernatural gods but that does not refute all modern religious belief. Furthermore, "Reeking with fairy tale transformations" aptly describes the countless revisions to prophecy and doctrines in *The Watchtower*!

EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES
A phrase JWs use when persuading people to study the JWs religion:

> If you have not already done so, why not examine the Scriptures for yourselves. At present, Jehovah's Witnesses are conducting free Bible studies with more than six million people worldwide. They count it a privilege to help sincere individuals to see for themselves that the Bible really is trustworthy, the inspired Word of God. (g2007/11 29)

"Examine the Scriptures" occurs 43 times on the *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD and:

- "examining the Scriptures" 266;
- "examine the Bible" 75;
- "examining the Bible" 22.

Failure to examine

"Examine" sounds objective but in actual practise amounts to a study of WTS publications giving current JWs interpretations and selective Bible quotes, and the "student" has to conform or the "study" is stopped.

If the Bible is "the inspired Word of God" why have Russellites and JWs made false predictions for over twenty dates, changed hundreds of interpretations, and produced

over 100 breakaway cults and millions of ex-members?

Why didn't the leaders simply "examine the Scriptures"?

EXAMINE YOUR RELIGION

The WTS portrays itself as encouraging people to open-mindedly examine their religion from the Bible and accept what is truly in the Bible:

> Prove by God's Word all that you receive from this office. (1) See if it squares with the doctrine of the ransom: if it does not, you need go no further with the proving. (21 If it is in accord with that foundation of the Gospel proceed to examine it in the light of all the Scriptures. (3) If it stands these tests receive it and hold it fast, as being from God; and (4) circulate it wherever you can. (5) But if ever you get from us either tract or paper which you do not find in harmony with the Scriptures, surely let US know wherein it disagrees, and do not circulate it. (wr1894 3/1 1629)
>
> The Watchtower is not the teacher of God's people. The Watchtower merely brings to the attention of Cod's people that which he has revealed, and it is the privilege of each and every one of God's children to prove by the Word of God whether these things are from man or are from the Lord.
> (w1934 5/1 131)
>
> If you find that a doctrine or teaching is a lie, you should quickly forsake it, regardless of who teaches it or how long you have believed that teaching to be true. Your own welfare and your duty to God demand that you abandon lies… (Riches 1936, 178)
>
> However, *The Watchtower* does not claim to be inspired in its utterances, nor is it dogmatic. It invites careful and critical examination of its contents in the light of the Scriptures. (w1950 8/15 263)
>
> It is not religious persecution for an informed person to expose publicly a certain religion as being false, thus allowing persons to see the difference between false religion and true religion. But in order to make the exposure and show the wrong religions to be false, the true worshiper will have to use an authoritative means of judgment, a rule of measurement that cannot be proved faulty. To make a public exposure of false religion is certainly of more value than exposing a news report as being untrue; it is a public service… (w1963 11/15 688)
>
> We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may associate. Are its teachings in full harmony with God's Word…? (*The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* 1968, 13)
>
> Reasonable persons agree that the only fair method is to examine the evidence on both sides, both for and against a disputed theory. That is how one arrives at the truth. (g1973 10/22 6)
>
> The Catholic Church occupies a very significant position in the world and claims to be the way of salvation for hundreds of millions of people. Any organization that assumes that position should be willing to submit to scrutiny and criticism. (g1984 8/22 28)
>
> Having an open mind, on the other hand, means to be receptive to new information and ideas. It means being willing to examine and to evaluate information without a biased attitude. By retaining what is worthwhile and rejecting what is worthless, we can reach definite conclusions on a solid basis and still leave our minds open to further revision should additional information become available at a future time. (g1984 11/22 3-4)
>
> The Bible encourages each Christian to set as a goal the bringing of "every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5) This is achieved, not through restrictions placed by religious leaders, but through an individual's exercise of self-control and through his love for and understanding of Jehovah and His principles. With the achievement of this goal comes true freedom of thought, limited only by godly standards and enhanced by the joy of knowing that, even in our thoughts, we are pleasing to Jehovah. (g1994 6/8 21)

Noble sentiments are not for JWs

The preceding quotes contain noble sentiments such as *The Watchtower* inviting "critical examination" but what the Governing Body really advocate is quite different.

Fair examination, open mindedness, examining both sides, rejecting error, being critical, and checking the Bible is meant for other religions. JWs themselves are instructed: Don't criticize; don't question; don't examine both sides; and don't examine the Bible; instead examine WTS comment on the Bible and be open to that:

> 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? (w1952 2/1 80)

> *The Watchtower* assists in understanding the Bible, its study is imperative… The first essential for study is the right condition of mind and heart, appreciating that Jehovah grants understanding only to the meek, and not to the stiff-necked. If we have love for Jehovah and for the organization of his people we shall not be suspicious, but shall, as the Bible says, 'believe all things,' all the things that *The Watchtower* brings out… (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 156)

> If we feel sure something is wrong we will 'keep the commandment' of our Father and take whatever theocratic steps are open to us and then wait on Jehovah. We will not 'forsake our mother's teaching' by immediately beginning to criticize and find fault. We will realize that Jehovah knows what is going on in his organization, and if he is willing to permit it, who are we to insist it should be different? (w1957 5/1 284)

> But in Jehovah's organization it is not necessary to spend a lot of time and energy in research, for there are brothers in the organization who are assigned to do that very thing, to help you who do not have so much time for this, these preparing the good material in *The Watchtower* and other publications of the Society. (w1967 6/1 338)

> How shall we view the spiritual food provided by this "faithful and discreet slave"? Should it be viewed critically—'Oh, well, it might be true but then again it might not be and so we have to scrutinize it very critically'? … Not at all! … If we have once established what instrument God is using as his "slave" to dispense spiritual food to his people, surely Jehovah is not pleased if we receive that food as though it might contain something harmful. (w1981 2/15 18-19)

> Avoid Independent Thinking
> (w1983 1/15 22)

> Why do Jehovah's Witnesses decline to exchange their Bible study aids for the religious literature of people they meet? …
> Hence, it is out of wisdom and respect for God's counsel that Jehovah's Witnesses do not make a practice of exchanging valuable Bible study aids containing Scriptural truth for religious literature that disseminates error or apostate views. (w1984 5/1 31)

> We can be sure that the Devil and his agents, both demon and human, stand ready to exploit any gnawing doubt … if someone comes along and suggests that Jehovah's organization is oppressive or restrictive, or even wrong in certain vital teachings, the embittered Christian's heart may be receptive to such unfounded claims. (w1986 3/15 15-20)

> 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)

The motive behind the above arguments for rejecting assistance from non JWs or doing careful research, is to retard JWs from discovering the false prophecies and thousands of alterations to "Bible truth" in their own sect.

EXCOMMUNICATION
Declared in 1947 (g1947 1/8 27ff) to be of pagan origin and a pagan practice of false religion, but instituted among JWs under a different name, "disfellowshipping", in 1952.

(See: *DISFELLOWSHIPPING*)

EXCUSES FOR ERROR
The excuses by which the JWs leaders explain their failed prophecies and doctrinal errors include:

- They were "expectations" and "hopes;
- God is "testing" people's loyalty;
- The Bible has errors too;
- The followers had "thought" wrongly;
- Even the Apostles made mistakes;
- Failed dates for Armageddon show God's mercy by allowing more preaching;
- Infallibility was not claimed;
- Other religions are worse;
- The "truth" advances in zigzags like a boat "tacking" into the wind;
- Increase in "light" is progressive;
- It wasn't God's "due time" and the brothers had been "over eager";
- The predictions were a "possibility" misinterpreted as certainty.

Although the leaders at the top of the JWs hierarchy make the false predictions and ordinary followers have to promote them or face disfellowshipping, the excuses are made on behalf of "God's people", the "Bible students", a "loyal remnant", the "anointed", the "brothers", etc. In other words the followers are held responsible.

1. Expectations

> True, some <u>expectations</u> that appeared to be backed up by Bible chronology did not materialize at the anticipated time. But is it not far preferable to make some mistakes because of <u>overeagerness</u> to see God's purposes accomplished than to be spiritually asleep as to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy? Did not Moses make a 40-year miscalculation in trying to act ahead of time to remove Israel's affliction? (w1984 12/1 18)

Apparently, calling hundreds of failed predictions "some expectations" and "over eagerness" makes false prophecy OK. Moses did not make a "40-year miscalculation". He made <u>no</u> prophetic calculation but became a prophet after his 40-year absence from Egypt. He did not make numerous false predictions, call them "God's truth", and excommunicate people who disagreed which is what the JWs leaders did and do.

The *Proclaimers* (1993) book says:

> As October 1914 approached, some of the Bible Students expected … they as spirit-anointed Christians, would receive their heavenly reward. (p.62)

It wasn't just "expected" by "some" but prophesied and upheld as a "Bible truth" by Russell, the entire leadership, and the entire cult. Neither the Bible nor Christian denominations call promoters of false prophecy or the followers of false prophets "spirit-anointed Christians". Only JWs do that, but only when the false-prophets and their followers are associated with the WTS.

2. A "Test" by God

Another JWs excuse calls their errors a "test" by God:

> God's purpose in permitting it [*The Finished Mystery* 1917] to be published surely was for it <u>to serve as an instrument to do a separating work that manifested the real heart condition</u> of those who had professed to be in the covenant with him. (Vindication I, 265)

> A loyal remnant were permitted to go through the fiery test where <u>Jehovah ... tested them</u> by organizational arrangements on their loyalty to Jehovah's organization rather than to human leaders… (w1960 7/15 426)

3. The Bible is wrong

> That it [The Finished Mystery] contains some mistakes is freely admitted. Even the Bible contains some. (w1920 4/1 103)

> <u>There are mistakes</u> in the Seventh Volume; there are mistakes in all the other volumes of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and in all the other publications of the SOCIETY, and <u>in all versions of the Bible</u>. It could not be expected otherwise, because each one is prepared by imperfect instruments; and God has permitted these things as a test of our love and loyalty for him. (w1926 10/1 295)

> Sometimes a member of a class will refuse to engage in the canvassing for

> the books because there are some mistakes in the books… As everyone knows, there are mistakes in the Bible…" (w1928 4/15 126)

The implication here is that "mistakes" in the Bible are the same sort of mistakes the WTS makes and therefore the WTS's mistakes are alright. However, JWs also believe that the Bible's "mistakes" consist of spelling and verbal differences in ancient manuscripts and also errors of translation into modern languages. The Bible's mistakes, therefore, are not mistakes of doctrine or prophecy whereas WTS mistakes are mistakes of doctrine and prophecy. Modern textual research attempts to get modern Bibles closer to the original. This is different to what happens with WTS publications which, over time, get ever further away from the original doctrines and prophecies of C.T. Russell!

If God tests people by inspiring lies, how can anyone find the religion that is "approved of by God" which JWs say we must do to get salvation? Should people look for the most false and fraudulent religion and assume God is testing it? (James 1:13; Numbers 23:19)

4. Followers blamed

Another excuse is to blame error on the followers. Regarding Armageddon in the 1940s we read, "as some had expected…" (w1970 1/15 52) The reason they "expected", however, is that Rutherford claimed the JWs preaching was virtually over and only "months" remained until Armageddon.

Regarding 1914 and 1925 we read:

> Some of them set their hearts on going to heaven in 1914 and, this failing, they were disappointed and the test was too great for them…They no longer loved God's organization, but, being selfish began to try to disrupt the Society and obtain followers for themselves. (Light I 1930, 18)

> The year 1925 was one of particular expectancy, as many of the anointed thought that the remaining members of the body of Christ were then due to be changed to heavenly glory. But, as it proved to be, there was yet much work for them to do on earth to aid those who were still to be gathered out. Nevertheless, 1925 turned out to be a marked year in that a flood of new spiritual truths came to Jehovah's people. (w1955 6/1 335)

> 1925 was a sad year for many brothers. Some of them were stumbled; their hopes were dashed. They had hoped to see some of the ancient worthies (men of old like Abraham) resurrected. Instead of its being considered a probability they read into it that it was a 'certainty,' and some prepared for their own loved ones with expectancy of their resurrection. (Yearbook 1975, 146)

Again responsibility is shifted to the victims by blaming them for their "expectation" or "hope". Many WTS predictions were not, as now claimed, "probabilities" or "suggestions" (w1970 1/15 52-53) or "merely an expressed opinion". Such toning-down statements were made when prophetic dates neared or after the predictions failed. (Yearbook 1980, 62, 42) (See: *DATES*)

Rutherford claimed that his publications contained "no human opinions". (See: *OPINION*) Furthermore, if the false predictions were "suggestions" then why were all followers obligated to sell books containing them? Are Christians under Divine obligation to promulgate "suggestions"? If not then why were people who refused to sell "suggestions" labelled "selfish", "unfaithful" and "disloyal"?

5. The Apostles wrong

Based on Acts 1:6 JWs claim that first-century Christians had "some wrong expectations" too:

> For 38 years prior to 1914, the Bible Students, as Jehovah's Witnesses were then called, pointed to that date as the year when the Gentile Times would end. What outstanding proof that is that they were true servants of Jehovah! Yet, like first-century servants of God, they also had some wrong expectations. For example, they expected that the full number of anointed Christians would be raised to heaven by October 1914. They also thought that the war that started in 1914 would lead directly on to the end of Satan's world. (w1990 10/15 19)

The *Proclaimers* book (p.78) quotes the false prophecy for 1925 in *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1920) and then quotes a JW who said:

> …unrealized hopes are not unique to our day. The apostles themselves had similar misplaced expectations… Jehovah is worthy of loyal service and praise with or without ultimate reward.—Compare Acts 1:6, 7"

However, in Acts 1:6-7 the Apostles asked Jesus a question. They did not set false dates and compel everyone to preach them for decades under threat of excommunication. There was nothing "similar" to JWs about it; nor does false prophecy demonstrate "loyal service" or "praise". (Luke 21:8) It is weird logic to imply that the Apostles promoted false prophecy and therefore false predictions today likewise point to the truth.

Nor do Christians call false prophecies "unrealized hopes" and regard then as part of "loyal service and praise".

In Acts 1:6 the apostles merely asked a question. They did not insist that people accept thousands of errors as "divine truth".

6. God's mercy

This excuse portrays false prophecy as God's mercy. In 1914, for example, Armageddon delayed:

> … because Jehovah mercifully provided an interval so that warning could be proclaimed... (Convention Report 1950, Day 2 p.4)

After Armageddon failed in 1975 the JWs leaders rationalized:

> Should we not be glad that Jehovah has held off the 'great tribulation' to this hour so that more precious 'sheep' might be gathered? (Yearbook 1979 Text November 10)

The Bible presents God as merciful but not as a liar. (Deuteronomy 18:22) Anyone who makes false prophecies and attributes them to God would "take up the name of Jehovah your God in a worthless way..." (Exodus 20:7)

7. & 8. We're Not infallible; Other religions are worse

The following paragraph has two excuses firstly that JWs are "not infallible" or "inspired" and secondly that "Christendom's" errors are even worse because it has "failed to highlight even basic Bible truths":

> True, the brothers preparing these publications are <u>not infallible</u>. Their writings are <u>not inspired</u> as are those of Paul and the other Bible writers. (2 Tim. 3:16) And so, at times, it has been necessary, as understanding became clearer, to correct views. (Prov. 4:18) However, this has resulted in a continual refining of the body of Bible-based truth to which Jehovah's Witnesses subscribe. Over the years, as adjustments have been made to that body of truth, it has become ever more wonderful and applicable to our lives in these "last days." Bible commentators of Christendom are not inspired either. Despite their claims to great knowledge, they have failed to highlight even basic Bible truths—such as the coming Paradise earth, the importance of God's name, and the condition of the dead. (w1981 2/15 19)

The excuse that they are neither "inspired nor infallible" are repeate regularly (Studies IV 1897, 613):

> First of all I hasten to assure you that I have never laid claim to infallibility. (w1906 3/15 3745)

> However, we claim no infallibility. We claim there is no direct inspiration from God since the days of the apostles. (w1916 3/1 5867)

> Jehovah's Witnesses, in their eagerness for Jesus' second coming, have suggested dates that turned out to be incorrect. Because of this, some have called them false prophets. Never in these instances, however, did they presume to originate predictions 'in the name of Jehovah.' *The Watchtower*, the official journal of Jehovah's Witnesses, has said: "We have not the gift of prophecy." (January 1883, page 425) "Nor would we have our writings reverenced or regarded as infallible." (December 15, 1896, page 306) *The Watchtower* has also said that the fact that some have Jehovah's spirit "does not mean those now serving as Jehovah's witnesses are inspired. It does not mean that the writings in this magazine *The Watchtower* are inspired and infallible and without mistakes." (May 15, 1947, page 157) "*The Watchtower* does not claim to be inspired in its utterances, nor is it dogmatic." (August 15, 1950, page 263) "The brothers preparing these publications are not infallible. Their writings are not inspired as are

> those of Paul and the other Bible writers. (2 Tim. 3:16) And so, at times, it has been necessary, as understanding became clearer, to correct views. (Prov. 4:18)— February15, 1981, page 19. (g1993 3/22 4)

Despite stating they are not infallible the JWs leaders make claims and enforce policies that imply they are infallible. They claim they promulgate "Bible truth", "true Christianity", "God's Word" and "the Bible". Russell called his prophetic dates "God's dates", Rutherford claimed *The Watchtower* contained "no man's opinion", and Frederick Franz claimed Jehovah is the editor of *The Watchtower* and directs what is published in it. From such premises it follows that all WTS doctrines would have to be correct i.e. infallible. (See: *INFALLIBLE*)

Furthermore JWs who reject WTS teaching are called "blind", "apostate", rebellious", "foolish", "deceived", "puffed up" and "stiff necked" and are excommunicated and condemned to "everlasting punishment". Such merciless labels and treatment are only valid if the doctrines the "apostates" oppose are correct and infallible.

The JWs leaders demand obedience and doctrinal conformity as if they are infallible**.** Their explanations in *The Watchtower* have to be accepted as "the TRUTH" without equivocation, literally as Jehovah's communication through his channel. To disagree with what is published is apostasy. All comment about "apostates" in the WTS publications comes with the presumption that every "apostate" is wrong. Such presumption is only valid if the Governing Body is assumed to be infallible. (See: *DISFELLOWSHIPPING*; *INFALLIBLE*)

9. Sailboat tacking

The ninth excuse is comparison with a sailing boat that turns or "tacks" but on average goes "forward". (w1981 12/1 27) Such an illustration is non-biblical because:

> …we should no longer be babes, tossed about as by waves and carried hither and thither by every wind of teaching by means of the trickery of men, by means of cunning in contriving error. (Ephesians 4:14. See also: 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 4:3-4)

10. Increasing light

Excuse number ten is "increasing light" — which to JWs means getting more details. (See: *LIGHT*) The claim is that adjustments have been minor so that overall the "light increases":

> …the basic truths themselves have never changed in the Society's viewpoint and understanding... (Divine Purpose 1959, 10)

However, the following are all basic doctrines and all have changed:

- The Kingdom;
- The Gentile Times;
- Armageddon;
- Christ's Second Coming;
- The Memorial;
- Miraculous healing;
- The resurrection;
- The Organization;
- Creation vs evolution;
- The unity or trinity of God;
- The Holy Spirit;
- "This generation";
- Separation of the "Sheep" and "goats".

11. Understanding at the "due time"

Another approach is to claim that certain things could not be understood until the "due time" where the "due time" always means the date on which an alteration in doctrine is/was made. The "due time", however, is a meaningless idea unless we're told in advance when something is "due" — only then can we confirm the alteration was made when it was "due".

When Rutherford altered Russell's interpretation of Daniel's 2300 days he reasoned:

> Clearly this means that an understanding of the prophecy of Daniel could not be had before 1918, and the facts show that no man did understand it until after that time. (w1933 7 /15 216)

Russell too had claimed to "understand" Daniel but in his case the due time for understanding was 1878. Hundreds of points that Rutherford claimed to "understand" in God's "due time" after 1918 were later again altered — including his dates for the 2,300 days. (See: *DAYS*; *TWO THOUSANDS THREE HUNDRED DAYS*)

12. Eagerness

Another excuse is "eagerness":

> With this prospect ahead, no wonder many have such eagerness for

> Jehovah's new world of righteousness to hurry up and replace this old one filled with sorrow, crime, sickness, and death! No wonder their eagerness is so great that they are prone to set early dates for its arrival! Now, however, there are not just bits and pieces of the sign of its incoming to tempt us into sounding false alarms. Now we can see the complete composite sign unfolding to give solid foundation for our eager expectation of this wicked world's end and Jehovah's new world to supplant it. (g1993 3/22 11)

False prophecy is made to appear good because it shows "eagerness"! Note, however, "Now we can see the complete composite sign…" With the "complete sign" seen there should have been no more false "eagerness". Nevertheless Armageddon in to occur inthe twentieth century failed as did the "Creator's promise" to the people of 1914! (See: *TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

JWs leaders make excuses for false prophecies instead of admitting that they "apostatized" yet claim that Trinitarians, because they teach the Trinity doctrine, "grossly misrepresent God" and have "apostatized from true Christianity." (w1984 2/1 8)

However, "misrepresent God" and "apostatize" is what the Governing Body do when they publish false prophecies and other errors, and include these in the "truth" "revealed" by God, and then make unbiblical excuses for failure.

JWs want the entire world torn down because it is like a "house built on a bad foundation" but don't do the "sensible thing" and tear down their own bad "house":

> The entire system of things is thus like a house built on a bad foundation, according to poor plans, and constructed with defective materials. What good will it do to rearrange the furniture or to remodel the house? As long as it stands, the problems will continue, and the house will keep deteriorating. The only sensible thing to do is to tear down the house and build another, on a good foundation. (True Peace and Security 1986, p.38)

13. Probability

The false predictions were a "probability". The JWs leaders sometimes state this directly; at other times they quote someone who has read their "probability" claim and obligingly repeats it:

> "The year 1925 came and went. Jesus' anointed followers were still on earth as a class. The faithful men of old time - Abraham, David and others - had not been resurrected to become princes in the earth. (Ps. 45:16) So, as Anna MacDonald recalls: '1925 was a sad year for many brothers. Some of them were stumbled; their hopes were dashed...Instead of it's being considered a 'probability,' they read into it that it was a 'certainty.' and some prepared for their loved ones with expectations of their resurrection." (Yearbook, 1975, p.146)

The resurrection in 1925 was taught as biblical truth — see the entry *NINETEEN TWENTY FIVE*.

14. Selfishness

JWs urge people of all other religions to leave their religion when they see false teaching. But when JWs leave the sect or lose zeal because of false prophecy the leaders call them "selfish". Here is an example from 1926:

> It is a well-known fact that at the conventions held by those of present truth during the past several years, while the friends have talked much about the kingdom the common theme of conversation has been: *"When* are we going home? When shall we be relieved of earth's woes and enter the kingdom and rule with the Lord?" Has not the motive of both the classes above mentioned, of those in present truth, been largely selfish? There have been some among each group, however, who have been really devoted to the Lord because they love the Lord, and who above all things desire to do his will. These have gone forward in the service of the Lord because they unselfishly desire to glorify his name. (w1926 11/1 325)

Notice in this quote that those who stay in the cult are "devoted to the Lord", "do his will", "in the service of the Lord", and "glorify his name". That's not how the Bible describes people deceived by false prophecy. Correct is what Jesus said:

> If in reality the light that is in you is darkness, how great that darkness is! (Matthew 6:23)

More Excuses on the Internet

Individual JWs also attempt to formulate excuses such as this one on the Internet:

> Has science ever change their theory? Through research, cigarettes became classified as harmful in the 70's. Babies were fed soda until research says it causes obesity in children and today can be a contributor to diabetes. Cooking with black coals was the best way to grill your steaks, now, through research too much is a carcinogen. Through research it was discovered that broccoli prevents colon cancer. We all remember about Vitamin C and through research it was discovered this aiding in combating many diseases. Scientist are a bunch of idiots with their ever changing theories or contradictions. Or should we say - thank goodness they keep doing research for it seems to better our lives! Why should it stop there?

The difference is that scientists do not claim to be God's sole channel and demand conformity in return for salvation, otherwise death at Armageddon. Science makes hypotheses to explain observations and tests the hypotheses by controlled experiments. Anyone with the means and facilities can do research and discover new things or check previous findings. Research is not confined to a "Governing Body" whom every one has to obey and who excommunicate anyone who discovers something different. Science has produced millions of discoveries that survived further tests and improved living standards and knowledge worldwide, but the JWs a heap of theological nonsense like the world has rarely seen.

EXECUTION

Armageddon, when all non-JWs are destroyed, is called an "execution":

> Should we be fearful that we now stand face to face with this final execution of judgment? (w1978 1/1 16)

The destruction of all other religions just prior to Armageddon is also an "execution":

> And already, yes, *right now,* events are taking place that are preparing the way for that execution! (w1980 10/15 17)

EXPECTED/EXPECTATION

A word used to pass responsibility for error to ordinary JWs.

World War II leading into Armageddon was, for example, what "some had expected". (w1970 1/15 52) Unstated is that they "expected" it because of predictions in WTS publications and would have been disfellowshipped had they openly disagreed.

To pretend that failed predictions were events "expected" rather than false predictions is a trick Russell used already in the 1880s and was repeated throughout the history of JWs:

> Coming to the spring of 1878...we naturally and not unreasonably <u>expected</u> some change of our condition, and all were more or less disappointed when nothing supernatural occurred. (wr1881 February p.189)

EZEKIEL

A biblical prophet around 600 BC who, JWs claim, pictured God's modern-day prophet appointed in 1919, the remnant of the 144,000. (w1932 6/15 179)

The book *The Nations Shall Know...* (1971) applies the message of Ezekiel to the 20th century and teaches that:

- Ezekiel was a prophet and watchman to Israel;
- Ezekiel's prophecies have a second fulfilment in the 20th century;
- The man Ezekiel has a 20th century counterpart in the "Ezekiel class" or "watchman class" which is the JWs "remnant" of the 144,000 (pp 56-66, 292);
- The Ezekiel class or remnant is collectively God's modern-day prophet;
- The Ezekiel class was appointed by God in 1919. (pp 58, 61)
- God's alleged modern prophet predicted Christendom's destruction and the Day of Jehovah [i.e. Armageddon] would occur "Shortly, within our twentieth century" (pp 216; 255; 113).

When Armageddon did not take place in the 20th century many JWs recognized Ezekiel's alleged 20th-century counterpart to be either a false prophet or a front for the actual false prophets the Governing Body in Brooklyn, and left this false religion to go elsewhere.

See: *TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

Russellites and JWs in Rutherford's time believed there is intelligent life on other planets.

The Golden Age in 1921 stated:

> In February last, mysterious repetitions of the letter "G" were picked up by wireless stations in Australia and many other parts of the world, on a wave length from four to six times the wave length of any other wireless messages transmitted on earth, so far as known. Because of the regularity with which these messages came, they are believed to have emanated from some intelligent source; and it has been imagined that they may be the first efforts of supposed dwellers on Mars in attempts to communicate with the earth.
>
> Somewhere in the universe, we have reason to believe, there are one hundred planes of intelligent beings. Our Lord seems to refer to these when he speaks of "the ninety and nine" which went not astray and therefore "need no repentance. (Luke 13:3-7; Matthew 18; 12, 13) One thing is sure: "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53 :6) and all have need of the redemption obtained through the death of "the Good Shepherd [that] giveth his life for the sheep". (John 10:11) Therefore, the ninety and nine sheep that never sinned are not to be found on this planet. They must be found elsewhere if, at all; and since we humans are all compared to the one sheep that went astray it is imagined that there may be Martians (dwellers on Mars), as its long canals and rows of vegetation seem to indicate, and that they may wish to communicate with us.
>
> In the Golden Age the Lord will no doubt permit communication between some of the planes of intelligence; and if it is done, it may be done by the wireless method, for no other means seems more probable. (g1921 2/2 261)

REFERENCES:

Anonymous 1992 *Jehovah's Witnesses*: *A Statistical Survey*, Pussywillow Press

Bergman, J. Why President Eisenhower Hid His Jehovah's Witness Upbringing, *JW Research Journal*, Volume 6, No. 2, July-December, 1999

Franz, R. 1983 *Crisis of Conscience*, Commentary Press

Green, M. 1978 *Evangelism in the Early Church*, Eerdmans, p.281

Harlow, R.V. & Blake, N.M. (1965) *The United States From Wilderness to World Power*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston

Jonsson, C.C. & Herbst, W. 1987 *The Sign Of The Last Days When?* Commentary Press

Rammerstorfer, B. 2004 (Hardcover), 2006 (Paperback) *Unbroken Will: The Extraordinary Courage of an Ordinary Man*, Grammaton

Service Year Reports of JWs Worldwide [since 2017] https://jw.org/

Slosson, P.W. (1958) *The Great Crusade And After*, Quadrangle Paperbacks

Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses (various dates) WBTS

Websites:

Eason, J.*A. Jehovah's Witness Finds the Truth* (1999)
https://sites.google.com/view/channelc2-experiences/experiences/jean-eason
www.tutorsforchrist.org/Documents/JW_Finds_Truth.pdf

Everett, L.
ourcatholicconversion.wordpress.com/about/lou-everett/

https://ed5015.tripod.com/

https://investigatormagazine.net