DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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GABON
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Gabon and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	302	1,987		
1975	331	1,813		
1980	393	1,527	884	679
1985	498	1,807	2,005	449
1990	908	1,322	5,182	232
1995	1,511	671	7,363	138
2000	2,237	536	8,980	134
2005	2,818	493	9,356	148
2010	3,797	399	11,404	133
2015	4,216	417	11,646	151
2018	4,604	403	11,002	169
	Ave.			
2019	4,410	493	13,288	164
2020	4,351	514	9,311	240
2021	4,360	523	14,452	158
2022	4,356	535	11,657	200
2023	4,434	538	12,446	192
2024	4,629	515	13,343	179
2025	4,862	498	10,917	222

GAMBIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Gambia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	9	35,111		
1975	13	25,000	13	25,000
1980	13	46,227	32	18,780
1985	18	38,660	84	8,284
1990	31	25,452	92	8,576
1995	57	19,474	216	5,139
2000	144	9,028	405	3,210
2005	167	9,540	406	3,924
2010	195	9,118	588	3,024
2015	252	7,900	579	3,348
2018	246	8,796	597	3,624
	Ave,			
2019	227	10,344	637	3,686
2020	253	9,533	577	4,189
2021	261	9,529	806	3,086
2022	268	9,545	582	4,395
2023	294	8,949	687	3,830
2024	314	8,790	774	3,566
2025	346	8,156	761	3,708

GAMBLING
JWs regard gambling as a serious wrong. (w1980 9/1 29)

GANGAS, G.D. (1896-1998)
Governing Body member born in Turkey.

Gangas was a choirboy in the Orthodox Church; attended business-school on the island of Chios 1907-1910; moved to Athens in 1914; then France; then in 1920 to the USA. He sold counter lunches in Marietta, Ohio; then washed dishes in Wheeling.

Gangas was attracted to meetings of the Rutherford cult and was baptized although he still spoke only Greek. He was invited to Bethel in 1928 and worked as a translator, becoming in 1948 one of the translators of the New World Translation. In 1971 he was invited to join the Governing Body.

GARBE, DETLEF
The author of *Zwischen Widerstand und Martyrium: Die Zeugen Jehovah im "Dritten Reich"* (1993), a book about JWs in Germany's Third Reich. The English translation is titled *Between Resistance & Martyrdom* (2008).

GEHENNA
The same as the "lake of fire" and "second death" (Revelation 21) interpreted by JWs as the annihilation of one's body this being "everlasting punishment".

Gehenna is the Greek for the Hebrew *Geh Hinnom* meaning Valley of Hinnom.

The Valley of Hinnom ran along the outside southern wall of ancient Jerusalem. Several Judean kings used the valley for worship of idols including burning of human sacrifices. Later the Valley was used for dumping and burning of refuse.

Jesus used "Gehenna fire" to illustrate eternal punishment. (Mark 9:47-48)

JWs deny that the Bible teaches that the punishment is conscious and claim the "fire" represents instant and permanent annihilation:

> …the symbolic picture here is not one of torture but, rather, of complete

destruction… (Insight 1988 Volume I, 906)

They further claim: "Therefore, the Biblical evidence concerning Gehenna generally parallels the traditional view presented by rabbinic and other sources." (ibid, 906)

Actually, Rabbinic sources at the time of Christ used the word gehenna in the theological sense to describe eternal torment:

> Substantially the same, as regards Eternity of Punishment, is the view of the School of Hillel… In regard to sinners of Israel and of the Gentiles it teaches, indeed, that they are tormented in Gehenna for twelve months, after which their bodies and souls are burnt up and scattered as dust under the feet of the righteous; but it significantly excepts from this number certain classes of transgressors 'who go down to Gehinnom and are punished there to ages of ages.'
>
> But, since the Schools of Shammai and Hillel represented the theological teachings in the time of Christ and His Apostles, it follows, that the doctrine of Eternal Punishment was that held in the days of our Lord, however it may afterwards have been modified. (Edersheim 1993)

GENERATION (Matthew 24:34)

Jesus spoke of "this generation" that sees, "all these things". JW leaders taught:

> Which generation is this? Why, the one that saw the beginning of the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy. That means people alive in the year 1914. How many remain? Based on the most recent statistics available, in 1980 only 259 million people 65 years or older were alive. Many of these have died since 1918. Those born around the historic year 1914 are now 70 years old, and others alive in 1914 are in their 80's, 90's and even a few in their 100's. But their number is dwindling fast…
>
> In the United States, Great Britain and Japan, about one third of the people who were alive in 1914 died between the years 1970 and 1980.
>
> Of all the people alive in 1914, only about 15 percent worldwide were still alive in 1980. How much time can possibly be left before 'this generation passes away'? (g1984 10/22 7)

Russell and 1833 and 1878

Russell had two interpretations both different to the above:

- People who saw various "signs" between 1780 and 1833 would still be alive in 1914 — hence "this generation" started in 1780!
- Many people who witnessed 1878 would survive until world rule by God started in 1915. (Studies IV 1897, 603-605)

Russell wrote:

> A 'generation' might be reckoned as equivalent to a century (practically the present limit) or one hundred and twenty years... Or...it would not be inconsistent to reckon the 'generation' from 1878 to 1914—36 1/2 years... (Studies IV 1897, 604-605)

Rutherford's generation of 1878

Rutherford also commenced "this generation" in 1878::

> In 1878, according to chronology, was the time for favor to return to the Jews. In A. D. 33 favor began be withdrawn from them, but it was 37 years before favor was fully cut off. In calculating the parallel that same 37 years must be added to 1878, and where will that bring us to? You can calculate that. We see this Scripture being fulfilled. The world sees it, but they understand it not. Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your cars for they hear.
>
> But, mark you, Jesus said, "O ye of little faith." If there are any such here let them hear what He said in this connection. "Verily I say unto you that this generation shall not pass away until all these things be fulfilled." Generation usually refers to the length of human life. According to the latest authorities the average human life is between 36 and 37 years. Therefore Jesus said, when you see these things coming to pass know that it is at the doors; the generation of those standing here shall not pass away until these things have been fulfilled. So the generation now upon earth is the generation that was on earth in 1878, and many of them must abide until God's favor is fully returned to the Jews, and the Kingdom set up.
> (Convention Report 1913, 235)

From 1919 to 1925 the message *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* predicted the physical

resurrection of the ancient Bible heroes in 1925. Although 1914/1915 was disappointing; 1925 was still in the generation of 1878.

The *Millions* prophecy failed but the slogan "millions now living" continued in use:

> The faithful shall live forever, receiving from the Lord the right to live. This blessing is now about to begin, hence it may properly be said that millions now living will never die; because the presumption is that millions, after knowing of the fact of God's love, will be willing to avail themselves of the opportunity for live. (Deliverance 1926, 352)

> There are on earth millions of people of good will who desire to know and do what is right, and those who follow the instructions given to them in the Word of God may be hid in the time of the great tribulation, and be carried through in safety, and then live for ever on earth and never die. (Zeph. 2:2, 3) Hence it can truly be said, "Millions now living will never die."—John 8:51 (Jehovah 1934, 25)

So, the "Millions…now living" in the 1920s would live to be "carried through in safety" through "the great tribulation". The starting point of "this generation" is left unstated in *Jehovah* but presumably it was 1878. This means that all are now dead and not one person was "carried through in safety, and then live for ever on earth and never die".

In 1926 Rutherford defined a generation as "fifty years or more". (Standard for the People 1926, 50) Measured from 1878 this implied Armageddon followed by paradise would occur in 1928 or soon afterwards.

In 1927 Rutherford explained "generation" to mean the "new creation", i.e. the New Testament Christians, who since Russell's time consisted solely of Russellites:

> At the Jordan Jehovah started a new generation, a new creation, of which Jesus is the Head. Jesus selected twelve disciples, who were with him for three and on-half years. Eleven of these we have every reason to believe constitute a part of the new creation… The irresistible conclusion therefore is that Jesus referred to the new creation when he said: "This generation shall not pass away until all these things be fulfilled." This then would be a strong indication that some members of the new creation will be on the earth at the time of Armageddon. (w1927 2/15 62)

"Generation", therefore, referred to members of Rutherford's cult, a generation without a measurable end.

In the 1930s and early 1940s the phrase "this generation" was occasionally used in print but without mentioning a starting date.

In 1930 the date of Christ's return was switched from 1874 to 1914. (See: *RETURN OF CHRIST*) Thereafter Rutherford wrote:

> There must be a change from Satan's rule to that by Jesus Christ. That change is impending and will take place within this generation. (Jehovah 1934, 9)

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

Thus "generation" in the 1930s was not an indefinitely long era but had a measureable "length". But no date for its start whether 1878 or otherwise is given.

Russell's "generation" of 1833 and 1878 died out long ago. All the world's adults of 1920 when the "millions" campaign began are also dead. "Millions now living will never die" was a false prophecy as false as 1914/1915.

Generation of 1914

When did the JWs stop believing that "this generation" meant the "new creation" (i.e. the 144,000), and rejected 1878 as the start of this generation, and interpreted "this generation" as the people alive in 1914?

The change came during the 1940s. In 1942 *The Watchtower* linked the phrase "this generation" to 1914 as follows:

> Pointing to the events of our time since 1914 Jesus said … "Verily I say unto you, This generation [including the remnant] shall not pass away till all be fulfilled." (w1942 7/1 204)

Chapter 9 of *The Kingdom Is At Hand!* (1944) says:

> The above-noticed harmony of prophecy with the history-making events since 1914 proves that Jesus was and is a true prophet… Luke 21:31, 32 rounds out Jesus statement for the benefit of this generation, saying: "So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God I nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This

generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." (p.344)

In the context of the whole chapter "this generation" refers to people who experienced 1914 but this is not explicitly stated.

In 1946 the link to 1914 was implied as follows:

> But what about when we refer to the Bible to compare its predictions long ago made with the happenings of recent years, from A.D. 1914 onward? … The Bible foretells what is to come upon this generation at Jehovah's hands, putting an end to all the inhuman acts, woes and destructions brought upon our race by demons and men. (w1946 1/1 4)

In 1949 came a clear statement:

> The generation of Jesus' earthly days did not thus see him arriving in Kingdom power. But that generation was a prophetic illustration. It has its modern counterpart in our generation from A.D. 1914 forward. This generation is the one that sees the Son of man coming with the clouds of heaven as foretold by Daniel, because in 1914, the year marking the end of the Gentile times, Jehovah God gave the Kingdom. (w1949 7/15 215)

Generation of 40 years

The Watchtower around 1950 seems to imply that "generation" meant the biblical sense of 40 years:

> …This separating work has been going on since A.D. 1919 as a result of the Kingdom testimony delivered by Jehovah's witnesses in all nations of the earth. The fact now that the weeping and gnashing of the teeth of the rejected unworthy ones has begun proves we are near the climax of the dividing work and that the accomplished end is near upon this world…
>
> So nineteen centuries ago the end arrived upon that system of Mosaic law and its animal sacrifices and oblations offered by priests of the tribe of Levi. How? By Jesus' death on the torture stake, then his resurrection and his ascending to heaven to offer the value of his human sacrifice to God. More proof that such system had ended was given thirty-seven years later when the Jewish priests were forcibly deprived of their sacrificial work by the destruction of their typical temple, which has continued unrestored till this very day…
>
> A dividing work is today taking place world-wide at this consummation of Satan's wicked system. To foreshadow this, there was a separating work carried on among the Jewish nation in Palestine until fiery destruction came upon their capital and its temple in the year 70…
>
> …Today, after more than thirty years of similar harvest work, how well we see prefigured in that Jewish harvesting and threshing what is in progress in Christendom today! When we call to mind the horrible end that came upon the Jewish capital and its besieged inhabitants back there, we shudder at the more terrible end that is shortly to come upon hypocritical Christendom (w1950 11/1 406-408)
>
> Counting from the end of the "appointed times of the nations" in 1914, we are 37 years into the "time of the end" of this world. (Luke 21:24, Dan. 12:4) During these crucial years Jehovah's witnesses have sought shelter and strength in him, and they can confess for themselves that he is a "well-proved help in trouble". If it were not for this, they would not be here today nor increasing in numbers. But we are entering the most serious and trialsome years of this "time of the end". The final conflict of Armageddon draws near." (w1951 2/15 179)

In 1952 a generation meant "in the ordinary sense" and "the average life of man":

> A time certain was decreed in which to bring about the complete end of the great nations now ruling on earth, and this time began A.D. 1914 and will terminate with the mighty battle of Armageddon… During this fixed period, the length of a generation, tremendous wonders will happen…
>
> The length of time is indicated by him when he said, "Truly I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matt. 24:34, *NW*) The actual meaning of these words is, beyond question, that which takes a "generation" in the ordinary sense, as at Mark 8:12 and Acts 13:36, or for those who are living at the given period. So it was on "this generation" that the accumulated judgments were to fall. (Matt. 23:36) This therefore means that from 1914 a generation shall not pass till all is fulfilled, and amidst a great time of trouble. (w1951 7/1 pp 400 & 404

Questions From Readers

● Your publications point out that the battle of Armageddon will come in this generation, and that this generation began A.D. 1914. Scripturally, how long is a generation?—G. P., Liberia.

Webster's unabridged dictionary gives, in part, this definition of generation: "The average lifetime of man, or the ordinary period of time at which one rank follows another, or father is succeeded by child; an age. A generation is usually taken to be about 33 years." But the Bible is not so specific. It gives no number of years for a generation. And in Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30 and Luke 21:32, the texts mentioning the generation the question refers to, we are not to take generation as meaning the average time for one generation to be succeeded by the next, as Webster's does in its 33-year approximation; but rather more like Webster's first-quoted definition, "the average lifetime of man." Three or even four generations may be living at the same time, their lives overlapping. (Ps. 78:4; 145:4) Before the Noachian flood the life span was hundreds of years. Down through the centuries since, it has varied, and even now is different in different countries. The Bible does speak of a man's days as being threescore and ten or fourscore years; but it assigns no specific number of years to a generation.—Ps. 90:10.

Even if it did, we could not calculate from such a figure the date of Armageddon, for the texts here under discussion do not say God's battle comes right at the end of this generation, but before its end. To try to say how many years before its end would be speculative. The texts merely set a limit that is sufficiently definite for all present practical purposes. Some persons living A.D. 1914 when the series of foretold events began will also be living when the series ends with Armageddon. All the events will come within the span of a generation. There are hundreds of millions of persons living now that were living in 1914, and many millions of these persons could yet live a score or more years. (w1952 9/1 542-543)

Seventy to eighty years

The preceeding quote, finishing with "millions of these persons could yet live a score or more years" reset JWs anticipation to the 1970s:

According to Bible chronology, we are already over fifty-two years into the wicked system of things' "time of the end." That time began in the autumn of 1914 C.E., at the termination of the "appointed times of the nations," and it is already far advanced. Jesus said that "this generation" that saw the beginning of this time period in 1914 would also see its end. The generation that was old enough to view those events with understanding in 1914 is no longer young. It no longer has many years to run. Already many of its members have died. But Jesus showed that there would still be members of "this generation" alive at the time of the passing away of this wicked system of things in both heaven and earth. (Luke 21:32, 33) How much longer will it be, then, before God takes action to destroy the wicked and usher in the blessings of his Kingdom rule?

Interestingly, the autumn of the year 1975 marks the end of 6,000 years of human experience. This is ascertainable from reliable chronology preserved in the Bible itself. What will that year mean for humankind? Will it be the time when God executes the wicked and starts off the thousand-year reign of his Son Jesus Christ? It very well could, but we will have to wait to see. Yet of this we can be certain: the generation that Jesus said would witness those events is nearing its close. The time is close at hand. (w1967 5/1 262)

To see the events of 1914 required that the observer be at least 9 years old (g1966 10/8 19) and possibly 15 years:

Jesus was obviously speaking about those who were old enough to witness with understanding what took place when the 'last days' began... Even if we presume that youngsters 15 years of age would be perceptive enough to realize the import of what happened in 1914, it would still make the youngest of "this generation" nearly 70 years old today. (g1968 10/8 13)

Psalm 90 became the basis for a 70-80 year generation:

By foretelling that this good news of the established kingdom must first be preached, Jesus indicated urgency. And so Jehovah's witnesses must be urgent about preaching the good news, for the remaining time is reduced. Satan is working hard, for he knows that he has

> but a short period of time left. (Rev. 12:12) How much more so should Jesus' true followers be working extra hard, since they too know that the time left for preaching this good news of the Kingdom is getting ever shorter! It is not reasonable to expect that present favorable conditions for preaching the good news will continue indefinitely. Besides, did not Jesus say that this generation will not pass away until all things are fulfilled? A generation, according to Psalm 90:10, is from seventy to eighty years. The generation that witnessed the end of the Gentile Times in 1914 does not have many more years left.—Luke 21:24, 32-36. (w1968 12/1 715)

Adding the higher value (80 years) for the maximum length of a generation to the lowest age required to observe 1914 with "understanding" i.e. 9 years give the most-distant date for Armageddon as 1905 + 80 = 1985.

WTS publications of the 1950s and 1960s rarely quoted Psalm 90:10 with its seventy or eighty years. But as 1914 survivors thinned out the reference to Psalm 90:10 increased. The *Watchtower Library CD* (2007) has 33 citations to Psalm 90:10 in the 1970s and 60 in the 1980s.

Babies of 1914

In 1978 "this generation" still excluded babies born during WWI:

> Thus, when it comes to the application in our time, the "generation" logically would not apply to babies born during World War I. It applies to Christ's followers and others who were able to observe that war and the other things that have occurred in fulfillment of Jesus' composite "sign." (w1978 10/1 31)

In 1984 the babies of 1914 were included:

> The Greek word rendered "generation" in the Bible has been defined as, "Those born at the same time… Associated with this is the meaning: the body of one's contemporaries, an age." (*The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*) "The sum total of those born at the same time, expanded to include all those living at a given time *generation, contemporaries."* (*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* from Walter Bauer's Fifth Edition, 1958) These definitions embrace both those born around the time of a historic event and all those alive at that time.
>
> If Jesus used "generation" in that sense and we apply it to 1914, then the babies of that generation are now 70 years old or older. And others alive in 1914 are in their 80's or 90's, a few even having reached a hundred. There are still many millions of that generation alive. Some of them "will by no means pass away until all things occur."—Luke 21:32. (w1984 5/15 5)
>
> From a purely human viewpoint, it could appear that these developments could hardly take place before the generation of 1914 disappears from the scene. But fulfillment of all the foretold events affecting the generation of 1914 does not depend on comparatively slow human action. Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: "This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 21:32) And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment of his Son's words in a relatively short time. (ibid p.6)
>
> Just as Jesus prophecies regarding Jerusalem were fulfilled within the life span of the generation of the year 33 C.E., so his prophecies regarding "the time of the end" will be fulfilled within the life span of the generation of 1914. (ibid p.7)

Generation still living

JW leaders gave regular evidence that "this generation" still had living members. In 1973, for example, 15,000 Americans were aged 100 or over and 250,000 were aged 90 or more. (g1973 1/22 10) In 1980 they reasoned:

> If you assume that ten is the age at which an event creates a lasting impression on a person's memory, then there are today more than 13 million Americans have a recollection of World War I. (w1980 10/15 31)

In West Germany 1,598,000 people were born in 1900 or earlier (w1985 5/1 4) and 250 living JWs were baptized 60 years or more ago. (w1984 9/15 25) South Africa had 50,000 people born before 1914. (w1983 10/1 24, 19) In Guyana lived two male JWs baptized in 1915 and 1916. (w1983 6/1 10) In Japan 10% of the population was 65 or older. (g1985 12/8 31)

The booklet *Copenhagen Income And Outcome* (Published 1986 by the Office of The Chief

Burgomaster, Copenhagen, Denmark) showed that in this modern city with top-quality health care and food, the pre-1914 population was thinning out in the 1980s:

Actual Population on January 1 1980 and Estimated Population for January 1 1990

AGE GROUP	1980	1990
All people	498,850	460,898
70-74 years	32,667	25,542
75-84 years	38,561	39,672
85+ years	8,940	11,396

In 1990 only 11,396 of 460,898 people (= 2.5%) in Copenhagen, a city where long life is common, were members of the JWs' "generation" that would see Armageddon.

The geneticist Strickberger (1976) wrote: "2 percent of the population reaches 90 years and only 1 per 1000 individuals reaches 100."

Regular reminders

The "this generation" doctrine was mentioned in most JWs books from the 1950s to the 1990s as well as regularly in the *Kingdom Ministry*, *Watchtower*, *Awake!,* and tracts and pamphlets to stimulate door-to-door activity by suggesting "time is running out". Here is a sample:

> All of us know that this generation is going to come to an end soon. Time is running out. (Kingdom Ministry, Australia 1962 March p.7)

> …that generation's numbers have considerably diminished. (g1971 10/8 26)

> Hence, some of the generation alive in 1914 C.E. must be among the people to witness Jesus' completing his conquest and taking full control of earth's affairs. That also means that many now living have the opportunity never to die. (Is This Life All There Is? 1974, 163)

> First of all, Bible chronology shows that since the autumn of 1914 C.E. we have been living in the "last days" of this system of things. Jesus Christ indicated that these "last days" would not extend beyond the life-span of the generation seeing their start. (Matt. 24:34) Hence, at least some people who witnessed the horrors of World War I will see the complete end of government by imperfect men and the bringing in of prosperity under the kingdom of God. (w1972 10/1 582-583)

> These prophesied events began to take place some 70 years ago. Yet Jesus said that they would all happen during the lifetime of one generation… Obviously, we are a *long way into that generation*. (w1984 6/1 17)

> The countdown that has proceeded for some six millenniums now nears its zero hour. So close is it that people who were alive in 1914, and who are now well along in years, will not all pass off the scene before the thrilling events marking the vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty come to pass. (Survival Into a New Earth, 1984, 184)

> We also know that the 19I4 generation is well into the evening of its existence, thus allowing only a little time for this prophecy yet to be fulfilled. (w1985 5/1 7)

> The Bible clearly describes events <u>of this 20th century</u>…
> Prophetic information in the Bible about our day details the following: (1) The *specific year* when God would give "the kingdom of mankind" to "the one whom he wants to." (2) *Significant events* that would take place during the period known as "the conclusion of the system of things." (3) Noteworthy *religious developments* at that time. (4) The *survival of at least some* of the generation that saw the beginning of "the conclusion of the system of things." (5) A striking development in world affairs as *a final signal* that world destruction is imminent… (True Peace and Security 1986, pp 70 & 76)

God's prophetic word and promise

The doctrine of the 1914 generation was taught as "Jesus words", "God's word", "the Creator's promise", and "Jehovah's prophetic word":

The cover of *The Watchtower* for May 15 1984 says "1914 The Generation That Will Not Pass Away". Inside it says:

> <u>Jehovah's prophetic word</u> through Christ Jesus is: "This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 12:32) And <u>Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment</u> of his Son's words in a relatively short time… Just as Jesus prophecies regarding Jerusalem were fulfilled within the life span of the generation of the year

33 C.E., so his prophecies regarding "the time of the end" will be fulfilled within the life span of the generation of 1914. (w1984 5/15 6-7)

Besides knowing when the time period for divine judgment would come, Jesus was able to put a limit on its length… Thus judgment would be executed sometime during the life span of people seeing the first evidence of the time period foretold by Jesus. The start of this time period would mark the beginning of the end for Satan's world, against which God's newly established Kingdom in heaven would execute divine judgment. Bible chronology and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy provide ample proof that this time period began in 1914.

Thus before the 1914 generation completely dies out, God's judgment must be executed… In promising that "this generation will *by no means* pass away," Jesus used the two Greek negatives *ou* and *me. The Companion Bible* explains this usage as follows: "The two negatives when combined lose their distinctive meanings, and form the strongest and most emphatic asseveration [affirmation]." Only now, at a time when it appears that the generation *could* pass away before all is fulfilled, do Jesus' words "by no means" take on real significance…

There is no reason to worry that God's Word will go unfulfilled. It has never failed. (w1985 5/1 4-5)

Commencing January, 1982, on the "Why *Awake!* Is Published" page, the prophecy is called the "Creator's promise":

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

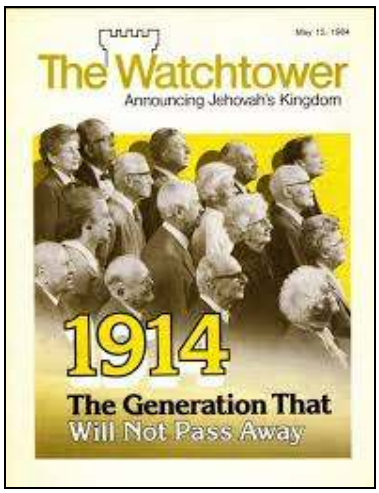
In *Awake!* of January 1987 the reference to the generation of 1914 was dropped but reinstated in March 1988 and continued until October 1995.

Watchtower 1985 May 15 Front Cover

The 16 individuals pictured on the cover of w1985 5/15 to represent "The Generation That Will Not Pass Away" were all prominent JWs.

In the top row from left to right are Clarence Ulrich (1908-1989), Arthur Worsely (1907-1996), George Gangas (1896-1994), John Errichetti (1912-1997);
Second row: Louise Steiman, Dickran Derderian (1892-1984), Ann Rose (1910-2000), Aquilla Zook (1898-1993);

Third row: Sophie Yuchniewicz (1906-2008), Dr Willis Steiman, Bernice Henschel (1909-2001), Mary Hannan (1898-1995);
Fourth row: Martin Poetzinger (1904-1988), George Hannan (1899-1992), Robert Hatzfeld (1903-2001), Babette Herrlinger (1894-1995).



All sixteen have "passed away" as also has the entire "generation" although "promised" by the "creator", God, that they would not. The self-proclaimed only "true religion", which declares that it alone understands the Bible, presents God as a promise-breaking liar!

1995 — "Generation" becomes indefinitely long

In 1994 the 80-year limit, calculated by counting the 1914 babies, expired. Even though the Governing Body had stressed "There is no reason to worry that God's Word will go unfulfilled" they redefined "generation". It no longer meant a number of years comparable to the Western human life-span, but became an era and refers to:

…the peoples of earth who see the sign of Christ's presence but fail to mend their ways. (w1995 11/1 19)

The Watchtower explained:

Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah's people have at times speculated about the time when the "great tribulation" would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914. However, we "bring a heart of wisdom

in," not by speculating about how many years or days make up a generation, but by thinking about how we "count our days" in bringing joyful praise to Jehovah. (Psalm 90:12) Rather than provide a rule for measuring time, the term "generation" as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical period, with their identifying characteristics.

In line with the above, professor of history Robert Wohl wrote in his book *The Generation of 1914:* "A historical generation is not defined by its chronological limits… It is not a zone of dates." But he pointed out that World War I created "an overwhelming sense of rupture with the past," and he added: "Those who lived through the war could never rid themselves of the belief that one world had ended and another begun in August 1914." How true that is! It focuses on the crux of the matter. "This generation" of mankind since 1914 has experienced appalling changes. It has seen the earth drenched with the blood of millions. Warfare, genocide, terrorism, crime, and lawlessness have erupted worldwide. Famine, disease, and immorality have stalked our globe. Jesus prophesied: "You also, when you [his disciples] see these things occurring, know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, This generation will by no means pass away until all things occur."—Luke 21:31, 32. (w1995 11/1 17-18)

The above phrase "Jehovah's people have at times speculated" blames the victims who would have been excommunicated had they criticized the false predictions. Also misleading is the word "speculated" because the prediction was never taught as a speculation but as "the Creator's promise" and "God's word" and was conveyed by "the only Organization that understands the deep things of God." (w1973 7/1 402) And are people who promote false prophecy really "Jehovah's people", or are they spiritual fools misled by false prophets?

If "Jehovah's people … speculated" on the length of a generation it was because the Governing Body lit the fires of speculation and fanned the fires for 50 years.

At the *Peace On Earth International Convention* (Melbourne, Australia) in 1969 Nathan Knorr, WTS President, in one of his speeches, rejected the idea that "this generation" referred to a race or era. He said that such an interpretation contradicted Christ's intention, which was to emphasize the urgency and shortness of time. JWs, he said, were right and would not alter their teaching. These comments were not published and the doctrine was altered 26 years later to what Knorr had declared erroneous!

Not "further than we had thought"

The Watchtower called the new interpretation a "more precise viewpoint" but adds that Armageddon is <u>not</u> "further away than we had thought:

> Does our more precise viewpoint of "this generation" mean that Armageddon is further away than we had thought? Not at all! (w1995 11/1 20)

How far away had JWs "thought" Armageddon was? Answer: "within our twentieth century" and within the lifetime of people old enough in 1914 to understand current events.

Therefore, despite the revision, JWs after 1995 still awaited Armageddon within the lifetime of people who experienced 1914! Those people are now (in 2022) at least 115 years old (assuming that kids 7 years old in 1914 could understand current events).

The article concluded:

> Yes, a <u>righteous</u> "generation" of mankind is even now being gathered. Today the anointed "<u>faithful</u> and discreet slave" is providing <u>divine education</u> in line with the words of Psalm 78:1, 4… (w1995 11/1 21)

Only JWs associate false prophecy with "righteousness", "faithfulness" and "divine education" — other people don't.

The "this generation" prophecy failed in the same way Russell's interpretation based on 1780-1833 had failed — by time running out. In both instances the leaders used the false prophecy as long as possible for the maximum stimulating effect.

Along with the revised interpretation the "Creator's promise" in *Awake!* was discontinued and replaced with a different "Creator's promise":

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things. (g1995 11/8 4)

Since the "Creator's promise" failed the conclusions to choose between are:

- God the Creator is a liar;
- The Governing Body is claiming to be the "Creator", which would make JWs man-worshippers i.e. idolaters;
- Governing Body members are false prophets who misrepresent God.

Anointed Generation

In 2008 the Governing Body altered the interpretation yet again and "this generation" referred to the 144,000 or "slave class".

Since 1935 JWs had believed that the 144,000 "anointed" were all chosen prior to 1935, at which time the calling closed except for a few additions to replace unfaithful ones:

> Logically, the calling of the little flock would draw to a close when the number was nearing completion, and the evidence is that the general gathering of these specially blessed ones ended in 1935. (w1995 2/15 19)

> Hence especially after 1966 it was believed that the heavenly calling ceased in 1935… Thereafter, any called to the heavenly hope were believed to be replacements for anointed Christians who had proved unfaithful. (w2007 5/1 30-31)

In 2007 the cut-off date of 1935 was dismissed:

> Thus it appears that we can not set a specific date for when the calling of Christians to the heavenly hope ends. (w2007 5/1 31)

The reason for discarding the theological importance of 1935 was to yet again redefine "this generation":

> Previously, this journal has explained that in the first century, "this generation" mentioned at Matthew 24:34 meant "the contemporaneous generation of unbelieving Jews…
>
> …As a class, these anointed ones make up the modern-day "generation" of contemporaries that will not pass away "until all these things occur." This suggests that some who are Christ's anointed brothers will still be alive on earth when the foretold great tribulation begins. (w2008 2/15 23-24)

With the 1935 cut-off year for joining the "anointed" removed the "generation" of "anointed" could go for centuries, and JWs would lose their sense of urgency. Therefore, a further change in 2010 limited "this generation" to two over-lapping generations:

> He [Jesus] evidently meant that the lives of the anointed who were on hand when the sign began to become evident in 1914 would overlap with the lives of other anointed ones who would see the start of the great tribulation. (w2010 4/15 10)

However, if ever more people joined the "anointed", i.e. the "slave class" who dispense "food in due season", the newcomers might want a say in future doctrinal innovations. The Governing Body could face conflict over doctrine with others claiming to be "anointed" like they are. To avoid this outcome the Governing Body admitted what critics have long pointed out — that over 99% of the "slave class" provides **no input** to JWs theology. Along with this admission, however, came the argument that it was that way also in the 1st century — only a few anointed wrote the New Testament. (See: *GOVERNING BODY REPRESENTS*)

GENERATION QUOTES

The Governing Body routinely reminded JWs that "this generation", i.e. people living before 1914, will still be alive at Armageddon.

The importance of the prophecy is seen by the frequency of the following phrases on *Watchtower Library* CD (2007):

• this generation	884
• our generation	259
• generation of 1914	58
• 1914 generation	21
• the last generation	8
• this 20th century generation	3
• the final generation	2

Here are some additional quotes:

> The thirty-six intervening years since 1914, instead of postponing Armageddon, have only made it nearer than most people think. Do not forget: "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." (Matt. 24:34) Consequently, the important question is: What is the most profitable way in which to use the remaining time? (w1950 11/1 419)

> Some persons living A.D. 1914 when the series of foretold events began will also be living when the series ends with Armageddon. All the events will come within the span of a generation. There are hundreds of millions of

persons living now that were living in 1914, and many millions of these persons could yet live a score or more years. (w1952 9/1 543)

The generation that sees the start of these foretold events will live to see the end, as Jesus said… In other words, since these things began to take place in 1914 and have continued from then till now, some living then will also be living when the end comes at Armageddon… (Basis For Belief in a New World 1953, 51-52)

The foretold events having begun A.D. 1914, the generation of mankind that is still alive from that year is the generation meant by Jesus Christ… The occurrence of these things since 1914 is within the knowledge of millions of this generation… We, then, are the generation that will not pass away… (w1962 4/15 236)

Even if we were to use seventy or eighty years as the length of a generation, this would not enable us to determine the time for Armageddon's commencement. Why? Because this war of God is not scheduled to occur exactly at the end of this generation. It comes within the generation. (g1962 9/22 28)

It is to be carefully noted that **the youngest** of those who saw with understanding the developing sign of the end of this system of things from its start in 1914 **are now well over 60 years of age!** In fact, the greater part of the adult generation that experienced the start of the "last days" has already passed away in death. (g1966 10/8 18)

"Well over 60 years of age" would mean born "well before" 1905. Now (in 2021) the youngest person of the last generation would, by this reckoning, be "well over" 115 years of age!

In 2013 a few people born before 1905 still lived, but not now:

"Oldest Man dies, age 112
The world's oldest man has died at the age of 112 in New York. Salustiano Sanchez-Blazquez died on the weekend at a nursing home in Grand Island… Mr Sanchez Blazquez became the world's oldest man when Jiroemon Kimura died on June 12 at the age of 116…" (The Advertiser September 16, 2013 p.24)

Continuing with more quotes:

It is to come within the generation that has already seen two world wars and is only a few short years ahead of us. (w1967 4/15 244)

We of "this generation" have seen these foretold things "start to occur" in 1914, and now for the last fifty-four years we have seen them occurring. So our convictions have been confirmed. From a long train of foretold events we know that the kingdom of God is getting near to its act of destroying this system of things and its supporters at Armageddon and bringing about our glorious deliverance. (w1968 12/15 754)

How soon will that be? God's own Son, Jesus Christ, gives the answer. After drawing attention to the many things that mark the period from 1914 onward as the "time of the end," Jesus said: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matt. 24:34) Which generation did he mean?

Jesus had just referred to persons who would "see all these things." "These things" are the events that have taken place since 1914 and those yet to occur down to the end of this wicked system. (Matt. 24:33) Persons born even as much as fifty years ago could not see "*all* these things". They came on the scene after the foretold events were already under way. However, there are people still living who were alive in 1914 and saw what was happening then and who were old enough that they still remember those events. This generation is getting up in years now. A great number of them have already passed away in death. Yet Jesus very pointedly said: "This generation will *by no means* pass away until all things occur." Some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. This means that only a short time is left before the end comes. (w1969 2/15 101)

People who were only just old enough to understand what was happening to the world in 1914 are now approaching seventy years of age. Yes, the numbers of that generation are dwindling fast, but before they all pass away this system must meet its end in the war of Armageddon. Surely this highlights what a very short time now remains to return to Jehovah. (w1969 7/1 395)

And time is certainly limited, with about 56 years already gone of the generation

witnessing the sign of the "time of the end." (Matt. 24:34) (w1970 9/1 536)

The generation seeing the start of "the sign" in 1914 is now far along in years. Time is obviously running out! (Is Time Running Out for Mankind? [a 4-page pamphlet] 1973)

For these things to take place within a generation would mean that persons who were on hand to observe what happened in 1914 C.E., at the beginning of the "conclusion of the system of things," would still have to be alive at the end of this period, when the "great tribulation" strikes. Those who remember the events of 1914 are getting up in years now. Many of their number have already died. But, Jesus assures us, within "this generation," before they have all died, destruction of this wicked system of things will come. (True Peace and Security—From What Source? 1973, 88)

The generation that saw the beginning of "these things" in 1914 is now well up in years and, in fact, is near to 'passing away.' (w1974 6/15 359)

The general time period is clearly marked in God's Word. The "generation" that Jesus foretold would see not only the events of the year 1914 but also the "great tribulation" is now well up in years. (w1975 5/1 278-279)

Today, we are more than 60 years into the "conclusion of the system of things," and we rejoice that there are still with us some of the generation of 1914 who, like the apostle John, are living examples of faithful endurance. (w1977 12/1 734)

This helps us to understand "generation" in Matthew 24:34. In common English usage today "generation" might be used for (1) all persons who were born and who live about the same time, or (2) the average span between the birth of parents and that of their children, usually 20 to 30 years. Which generation did Jesus mean? Obviously not the latter, for in its first application the "generation" ran from 33 C.E. until 70 C.E., or at least 37 years.

Also, it is evident that by the word "generation" Jesus did not mean just the Jewish children born in 33 C.E. Luke relates that after being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom was coming, Jesus told his disciples: "[The Son of Man] must undergo many sufferings and be rejected by this generation." (Luke 17:20-25) That rejection certainly was not by newborn babies. Likewise, the way things worked out shows that the "generation" he spoke of in Matthew 24:34 included his listeners and others who could discern the fulfillment of his words from 33 C.E. onward until Jerusalem's destruction.

Thus, when it comes to the application in our time, the "generation" logically would not apply to babies born during World War I. It applies to Christ's followers and others who were able to observe that war and the other things that have occurred in fulfillment of Jesus' composite "sign." Some of such persons "will by no means pass away" until all of what Christ prophesied occurs, including the end of the present wicked system. (w1978 10/1 31)

In 1980 children aged ten in 1914 were considered old enough to understand current events and be of the final generation:

What, then, is the "generation" that "will by no means pass away until all these things occur?" It does not refer to a period of time, which some have tried to interpret as 30, 40, 70 or even 120 years, but, rather, it refers to people, the people living at the "beginning of pangs of distress" for this condemned world system. It is the "generation" of people who saw the catastrophic events that broke forth in connection with World War I from 1914 onward.

As indicated by an article on page 56 of *U.S. News & World Report* of January 14, 1980, "If you assume that 10 is the age at which an event creates a lasting impression on a person's memory," then there are today more than 13 million Americans who have a "recollection of World War I." And if the wicked system of this world survived until the turn of the century, which is highly improbable in view of world trends and fulfillment of Bible prophecy, there would still be survivors of the World War I generation. However, the fact that their number is dwindling is one more indication that "the conclusion of the system of things" is moving fast toward its end…

We can be happy, therefore, for Jesus' assurance that there will be survivors of "the generation of 1914"—that this generation will not have completely passed away—when the "great

tribulation" rings down the curtain on this wicked world. (w1980 10/15 31)

In Jesus' day, some of the disciples who heard his words, and others of his contemporaries, survived to live through the final "tribulation" on the Jewish system of things. They were the "generation" of Jesus' time. At this writing, in the United States alone there are more than 10,000,000 persons still living who were old enough to observe "a beginning of pangs of distress" in 1914-1918. Some of these may still survive quite a number of years. Yet Jesus assures us that, before "this generation" passes away, he will come as "Son of man" to execute judgment on Satan's system of things. (Let Your Kingdom Come 1981, 140)

So before the "generation" that saw "these things" begin in 1914 'passes away,' dies off, God will bring in a secure new order of righteousness. Since those of that "generation" are up in years, the foretold change is very near.-Matt.24:35 (g1981 7/22 4)

Jesus foretold that some of those who were alive when the "last days" began would live to see this system's end. Already 67 years have passed since the "generation" of 1914 saw the start of these troubles. (Matt. 24:34) (w1981 11/15 11)

Which generation did Jesus mean? He meant the generation of people who were living in 1914. Those persons yet remaining of that generation are now very old. However, some of them will live to see the end of this wicked system. So of this we can be certain: Shortly now there will be a sudden end to all wickedness and wicked people at Armageddon. (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth 1982, 154)

He [Jesus] has told us that the "generation" of 1914 – the year that the sign began to be fulfilled – "will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matthew 24:34) Some of that "generation" could survive until the end of the century. But there are many indications that "the end" is much closer than that! (w1984 3/1 18-19)

Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: "This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 12:32) And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment of his Son's words in a relatively short time… Just as Jesus prophecies regarding Jerusalem were fulfilled within the life span of the generation of the year 33 C.E., so his prophecies regarding "the time of the end" will be fulfilled within the life span of the generation of 1914. (w1984, 5/15 6-7)

And others alive in 1914 are in their 80's or 90's, a few even having reached a hundred. There are still many millions of that generation alive. Some of them "will by no means pass away until all things occur…

From a purely human viewpoint, it could appear that these developments could hardly take place before the generation of 1914 disappears from the scene. But fulfillment of all the foretold events affecting the generation of 1914 does not depend on comparatively slow human action. Jehovah's prophetic word through Jesus Christ is: This generation [of 1914] will be no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 21:32) And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment of his Son's words in a relatively short time…

True, the "generation" contemporaneous with the Kingdom's establishment in1914 is moving along in years. But Jesus' words indicate that it "will by no means pass away" before the "great tribulation" has brought an end to this world of unrighteous human society… How soon will that occur? Surely before long, this is the 70th year of Kingdom rule! (w1984 7/15 16)

This judgment would be executed some time during the life span of people seeing the first evidence of the time period foretold by Jesus. The start of this time period would mark the beginning of the end for Satan's world, against which God's newly established Kingdom in heaven would execute divine judgment. Bible chronology and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy provide ample proof that this time period began in 1914.

Thus before the 1914 generation completely dies out, God's judgment must be executed. This generation still exists in goodly numbers. For example,

in 1980 there were still 1,597,700 persons alive in the Federal Republic of Germany who were born in 1900 or before. The figure would be even larger had not millions of its citizens experienced premature death during two world wars.
In promising that "this generation will by no means pass away," Jesus used the two Greek negatives *ou* and *me*. The Companion Bible explains this usage as follows: "The two negatives when combined lose their distinctive meanings, and form the strongest and most emphatic asseveration [affirmation]." Only now, at a time when it appears that the generation could pass away before all is fulfilled, do Jesus' words "by all means" take on real significance.

A Test of Faith
Habakkuk's warning words indicate that there would be an apparent delay in Jehovah's judgment, serving as a test of faith. Logically, this test could not arise until late in the generation of which Jesus spoke. In reference to the example at the beginning of this article, consider this: When would you begin seriously doubting that your visitor was coming? Certainly not at nine o'clock in the morning, nor at noon, possibly not even in the late afternoon. But likely your faith would be tested once evening had set in. However, remember that even at 11.30 p.m. your visitor still would have sufficient time to come in fulfillment of his promise!

There is no reason to worry that God's Word will go unfulfilled. It has never failed. (w1985 5/1 4-5)

"God's Word", however, has obviously has "failed" by now! More quotes:

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

The "generation" that was alive at the beginning of fulfillment of the sign in1914 is now well along in years. (Reasoning From the Scriptures 1985, 239)

Yes, as this magazine has drawn to the attention of its readers over the years, the evidence points to the 1914 generation as the generation spoken of by Jesus… Even though more than 70 years have gone by since 1914, there are still individuals around who lived through that era. (w1986 2/15 5)

Since the "generation" of 1914 is now well advanced in years, **God's promise** is really up-to-date news for young people today. (g1986 11/8 8)

Why "God's" false "promise" is up-to-date news is not explained. More quotes:

J.A. Bengel states in his *New Testament Word Studies*: "The Hebrews…reckon seventy-five years as one generation, and the words, shall not pass away, intimate that the greater part of that generation [of Jesus' day] indeed, but not the whole of it, should have passed away before all should be fulfilled." This became true by the year 70 C.E. when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Likewise today, most of the generation of 1914 has passed away. However, there are still millions on earth who were born in that year or prior to it. And although their numbers are dwindling, Jesus' words will come true, "This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." (g1988 4/8 14)

God's time to bring deliverance is very near! The attitudes and events that Jesus foretold as the sign of his presence and of the conclusion of the system of things are clearly in evidence. The features of that sign first began to appear over 75 years ago, and Jesus said that "this generation" would by no means pass away before God's execution of judgment on this ungodly world occurred. (w1990 4/15 20)

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

Remember, Jesus said of those living through the last days, starting in 1914: "Truly I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matthew 24:34) Yes, peace will really come within this generation but not through the nations' efforts. (w1991 4/15 7

However, the generation that was foretold to witness and experience "the conclusion of the system of things" is now well advanced in years. (w1991 11/1 13)

Today, a small percentage of mankind can still recall the dramatic events of 1914. Will that elderly generation pass away before God saves the earth from

ruin? Not according to Bible prophecy. "When you see all these things," Jesus promised, "know that he is near at the doors. Truly I say to you that *this* generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur."—Matthew 24:33, 34 (w1992 5/1 3)

Jesus also indicated that this composite sign would be completed during the life of the generation that saw it begin in 1914. (g1993 3/22 11)

GENTILE TIMES

A phrase that occurs only once in the Bible when Jesus said: "Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:24) A literal reading of Luke suggests that the "times of the Gentiles" extend from Jerusalem's destruction in 70 C.E. until Jerusalem is restored to the Jews.

JWs today prefer to say "appointed times of the nations" rather than "Gentile Times". Today JWs interpret these "times" as 2520 years from 607 B.C.E. when King David's kingdom in Jerusalem was destroyed, to 1914 when it was restored in heaven under Christ.

C.T. Russell wrote about the Gentile Times in 1876 and JWs have claimed ever since that what he wrote was correct:

That year—1914 what of it? Over a century ago, C.T. Russell (who became the first president of the Watch Tower Society) linked the Gentile Times with the "seven times" mentioned in the book of Daniel. (Daniel 4:16, 23, 25, 32; Luke 21:24, *Authorized Version*) Writing in the *Bible Examiner* of October 1876, Russell said: "The seven times will end in A.D. 1914." He also was a joint publisher of the 1877 book *Three Worlds, and the Harvest of This World*, which showed (on pages 83 and 189) that the 2,520-year period of Gentile world domination without interference by any kingdom of God began with the Babylonian overthrow of the kingdom of Judah in the late seventh century B.C.E. and would end in 1914 C.E. Similarly, the *Watch Tower* issue of March 1880 stated: "The Times of the Gentiles' extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have full sway till then." (w1984 4/1 16)

Prior to Russell, John Aquila Brown of England in his book *The Even-Tide* (1823) claimed that the "seven times" of Daniel 4 were a period of 2520 years running from the start of Nebuchadnezzar's reign in 604 BCE to 1917 CE.

He gave the "seven times" of King Nebuchadnezzar's madness a second fulfilment, arguing the "seven times" refer to seven years of 360 days which add up to 2520 days which in turn refer to 2520 years. Brown commenced the 2520 years in 604 BCE and calculated 1917. He apparently did not equate the 2520 years with the Gentile Times mentioned in Luke 21 but other writers later did.

Nelson H. Barbour came across Brown's argument in the 1860s and in 1875 calculated the Gentile Times run from 606 BCE to 1914 CE. (Herald of the Morning 1875 June)

Russell, in turn, got the calculation from Barbour and believed the Gentile Times extended 606 BC to October 1914 AD. He viewed the Gentile Times as the period when no Israeli kingdom of God existed to challenge Gentile domination.

Mainline Christian theology points out that the Bible does not give Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of madness a second fulfilment and does not connect Nebuchadnezzar or the 7 "times" to Luke 21!

There was confusion also over whether there was a year "0" and its effect on the calculation. Russell thought the Gentile Times could also end in 1913. (wr1912 12/1 5141)

However, if there was no year "0" the 2,520 years from 606 BCE should conclude in 1915. Hence the editions of Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures* published just before and after 1914 had the Gentile Times end in 1915.

There is another reason why later editions of Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures* placed the end of the Gentile Times in 1915. Until 1904 Russell's prophetic scheme predicted a great European War starting somewhere near 1906/1907, then Armageddon about 1910-1912, and world peace in 1914 when the Gentile Times ended. In 1904, however, Russell emended this scheme so that the Gentile Times would end "immediately after 1914". Taken literally "immediately after 1914" meant 1915!

Editions of *Studies in the Scriptures* printed near 1914 retained the 606-1914 calculation, but also emphasized 1915.

The 1915 printing of Volume II of *Studies in the Scriptures* said that 1914 would see God's kingdom in power on earth, all nations crushed and the papacy extinguished (pp 77-

78; 356), the national reorganization of Israel (93), the end of Gentile dominion and power (76; 90), overthrow of Gentile power (234), the disintegration of present institutions (77), all governments overthrown and dissolved (98-99; 242), and the civil power of the Gentiles given fully to the true church (278).

And by the end of 1915 would occur: The full restoration of fleshly Israel (90; 81), and the whole earth filled with righteousness and peace. (p.99) Specific prophecies for 1914 and 1915 are mentioned on pages 81, 87, 90, 91, 93, 101, 140 and 170-171.

To Russell the Gentile Times therefore referred to literal Israel from Jerusalem's destruction in 606 BCE until world rule by resurrected Bible heroes based in Jerusalem in 1915. His prophetic system also included an invisible Kingdom in heaven in 1878, Armageddon 1910-1912 and world peace in 1915. In this way the Gentile Times would end. However, it all failed.

In the 1920s Rutherford interpreted the Gentile Times as 2,520 years of punishment upon the Jews from 606 BCE until August 1, 1914 at which time God's favour to the Jews increased and punishment upon the Gentiles began. (Comfort for the Jews 1925, 58ff)

Rutherford ignored the fact that 606 BCE to 1914 CE add up to 2519 years and not 2520 and insisted on August 1, 1914 as their end point (Life 1929, 130) to coincide with the outbreak of World War I. In 1926 Rutherford relocated God's invisible Kingdom to 1914.

In 1943 Knorr and Franz corrected the one-year error by changing the beginning of the period from to 607 BCE. They still made it end in 1914, in October. (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 239)

586 BCE not 607 BCE

Secular texts place Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BCE, not 607 BCE. For example *The Macmillan Dictionary of Biography* (1989):

> **Nebuchadnezzar** (or Nebuchadrezzar) **II** (died 652 B.C.). King of Babylonia (from 605). He recovered many of the lost provinces of the empire and added more. In 597 he took Jerusalem and in 586, after a Jewish revolt, destroyed the city and took most of the people into captivity in Babylonia….

Unable to get 607 BC from secular sources JWs leaders sometimes work backwards from supposed "fulfilled prophecy". They claim the post-1914 world fulfils prophecy, so they calculate back 2520 years before 1914 and get 607 BC! (Is the Bible Really The Word of God? 1974, 158)

A Swedish JWs elder, C.O. Jonsson, studied the secular evidence in the 1970s and sent his findings to the Governing Body. His manuscript showed that 607 BCE is wrong and 587/586 BCE correct. Raymond Franz, who had prepared the chronology entry in *Aid to Bible Understanding* was one of two Governing Body members assigned to study Jonsson's work. Franz searched New York libraries but, "We found absolutely nothing in support of 607 B.C.E."

This was one of several conflicts that got Franz ousted from the Governing Body who afterwards reaffirmed:

> …the ending of the Gentile Times in the latter half of 1914 still stands on a historical basis as one of the fundamental Kingdom truths which we must hold today. (w1983 1/1 12)

(See also: *GENERATION*)

GENTILE TIMES — 606 to 607 BC

From 1877 C.T. Russell taught that the 2520-year-long Gentile Times began in October 606 BCE and end in October 1914.

October 606 BCE to October 1914 is actually 2519 years because the modern calendar does not have a year zero "0" between 1 BCE and CE 1! The cult got its addition wrong until 1943 when, instead of changing 1914 to 1915, it moved the commencement date back one year to October 607 BCE.

The Truth Shall Make You Free (1943) explains the change:

> In Nebuchadnezzar's time the year began counting from the fall of the year, or about October 1, our time. Since he destroyed Jerusalem in the summer of 606 B.C., that year had its beginning in the fall of 607 B.C. and its ending in the fall of 606 B.C.
> Inasmuch as the count of the Gentile "seven times" began its first year at the fall of 607 B.C., it is simple to calculate when they end. From the fall of 607 B.C., to the fall of B.C. 1 is exactly 605 years. (p.239)

The Kingdom Is At Hand (1944) quoted the previous book's explanation:

> …the ancient reckoning of the vulgar year began in the fall. In other words, the vulgar year 606 B.C. really began in the

> fall of 607 B.C. As stated on page 239 of *"The Truth Shall Make You Free":* "Inasmuch as the count of the Gentile "seven times" began its first year at the fall of 607 B.C., it is simple to calculate when they end. From the fall of 607 B.C. to the fall of B.C. 1 is exactly 606 years. (p171)

It is unclear what the author (Fred Franz) was getting at because:

- The 1943 book places Jerusalem's destruction in 606 BC (e.g. pp 231, 237) but measures 2520 years from 607 BC.
- The 1944 book places Jerusalem's destruction in 607 BC not 606 BC but also measures 2520 years from 607 BC. (pp 169, 171, 175, 176)

While writing *The Truth Shall Make You Free* Franz realized that adding 2520 to 606 BC gives 1915, not 1914. Wanting to retain both 606 and 1914 he apparently counted 2520 years from one year before Jerusalem was destroyed. Although the 1944 book refers to the 1943 book to explain the change from 606 to 607 BC, no understandable explanation is given in that book.

Translators of the 1943 book into other languages were confused too and tried to reconcile matters by introducing yet another date, 608 BC. German, Norwegian and other translations of *The Truth Shall Make You Free* say:

> In Nebuchadnezzar's time the year began counting from the fall of the year, or about October 1, our time. Since he destroyed Jerusalem in the summer of 607 B.C., that year had its beginning in the fall of 608 B.C. and its ending in the fall of 607 B.C.
> [German: Zur Zeit Nebukadnezars wurde das Jahr vom Herbst an gerechnet, ungefähr vom 1. Oktober unserer Zeit an. Da er Jerusalem im Sommer 607 v. Chr. zerstörte, fiel der Beginn jenes Jahres auf den Herbst 608 v. Chr. und endete im Herbst 607 v. Chr.]

GENTILE TIMES — FULFILLED?

WTS publications routinely imply that Russell's predictions regarding the "gentile times" were fulfilled and correct.

The publications state that Russell predicted "the times of the Gentiles would end in the latter half of 1914" but they don't point out that what Russell meant by Gentile times is different to what it later meant to JWs.

For example:

> C.T. Russell … wrote the following in *The Watch Tower*, May 15, 1911: "We were surprised to find so many evidences of prosperity everywhere… Our readers know that for some years we have been expecting this Age to close with an awful time of trouble, and we expect it to break out with suddenness and force not long after October, 1914, which, so far as we can understand the Scriptures, is the date at which the Times of the Gentiles—the lease of earth's dominions to the Gentiles—will expire; the time, therefore, when Messiah's kingdom will be due to begin its exercise of power." Was this expectation fulfilled? (w1990 10/15 15)

This reference goes on to recapitulate the JWs calculation for the 1914 Kingdom, based on giving Nebuchadnezzar's seven years (2520 days) of madness a second fulfillment and converting days to years. Page 19 then says:

> 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.

Naïve readers therefore believe "this expectation was fulfilled". The fact that every prediction for 1914 failed and that the definition of Gentile times was changed is not mentioned in WTS publications. And to discourage further questions there are implied death threats:

> …the end of all humans who refuse to submit to God's sovereignty is drawing perilously near. (p.19)

> Those able to recall events from 1914 are becoming ever fewer. Thus, we need to be alert; there is no time to lose… All who want to survive the end of Satan's world must act now… (p.20)

Misleading quotes

When the Governing Body quote Russell on "Gentile times" they know that present-day JWs assume the phrase has the same meaning. In this way they exploit readers' ignorance to deceive them. Here are more examples:

> The Kingdom's birth has been given wide publicity. Long prior to it, *The Watchtower* as of March, 1880, page 2, said: "The Times of the Gentiles' extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have full sway till then." (Let God Be True 1952, 255)

[JWs reading this comment would think of the alleged kingdom of 1914 whereas the kingdom "given wide publicity] was the imaginary, false, kingdom of 1878.]

This book [*Three Worlds* 1877] set forth their belief that Christ's second presence began invisibly in the fall of 1874 and thereby commenced a forty-year period. Then remarkably accurate, they set forth the year 1914 as the end of the Gentile Times… (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 300)
[Every prediction failed — Israel wasn't restored; the Russellites didn't ascend physically to heaven; Armageddon didn't come; the Old Testament "worthies" weren't resurrected; world peace under their rule didn't come in 1914-1915; and much more failed. Nothing was "remarkably accurate"!]!

However, long before this public declaration by the clergy in 1917 Jehovah's witnesses had been directing the attention of the people to the fact that each one of these "times" equalled 360 solar years and that, therefore, the seven "times of the Gentiles" amounted to 2,520 years. Counting these years from the overthrow of Jehovah's typical kingdom in 607 B.C., they were due to expire in 1914. "'The Times of the Gentiles' extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have full sway till then," explained Zion's Watch Tower of March, 1880.
But have the events since 1914 corroborated the accuracy of this prediction based on Daniel's prophecy? Yes! (g1963 5/8 7)

For decades in advance, by means of the Watch Tower publications, the Christian witnesses of Jehovah were pointing ahead, not to the year 1917, but to 1914 as being the close of "the times of the Gentiles." (w1971 10/15 621)

As early as 1876 they were publishing that the Gentile Times of 2,520 years would terminate in the year 1914. Events that have taken place from that year onward prove they were not wrong. (God's Eternal Purpose Now Triumphing For Man's Good 1974, pp 178-179)

Today, Jehovah's Witnesses point to the "sign" given by Jesus and look back upon 1914 as the year when his invisible presence in Kingdom power became a reality. But how could they have had advance knowledge of such a momentous event? Not because of extraordinary human wisdom. No, but because they have prayerfully studied the Scriptures, heeded God's prophetic word and paid more than the usual attention to what God's son foretold… Grateful that Jehovah has 'told them fresh things before they have appeared,' the Witnesses are delighted to be spreading this knowledge earth wide. (w1984 4/1 16)
[The study question to this paragraph in *The Watchtower* is: "How could Jehovah's Witnesses have known in advance about the significance of 1914?"]

Direction by God's spirit enables Jehovah's servants to have divine light in a world of spiritual darkness. (2 Cor. 4:4) For instance, long ago they understood that 1914 C.E. would mark the end of the Gentile Times or "appointed times of the nations," during which the Gentile nations were allowed uninterrupted rulership of the earth. (Luke 21:24) This 2,520-year period began with the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple by the Babylonians in the late seventh century B.C.E. For example, Zion's Watch Tower of March 1880 had declared: "'The Times of the Gentiles' extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have full sway till then." Only God by his holy spirit could have revealed this to those early Bible students so far in advance. (w1973 7/1 402).
[By relying on the ignorance of readers the JW leaders can smugly proclaim "advanced knowledge", "Direction of God's spirit"; and "divine light" on prophecy that was almost 100% wrong!]

We remind you that as far back as 1876 the Bible Student who became the first president of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society stated in print that the Biblical "times of the Gentiles" would expire in the autumn of 1914 resulting in unparalleled trouble for the whole world. Where did he get his information? From God's Word, the Holy Bible and particularly from Daniel… (w1975 11/15 686)

The year 1914 C.E. is marked by Bible prophecy as a time when major events in the heavens would have far-reaching effects on human affairs. As far back as 1876 Jehovah's witnesses (then known a "Bible Students") realized that fact and gave it wide publicity. (*True Peace and Security—From What Source?* 1973, p73)
[*True Peace and Security* then on pages 72-76 details the modern JWs doctrine of the Gentile Times.]

> Who were the ones that, many years beforehand, pointed out to the whole world that "the times of the Gentiles" would end in the latter half of 1914? It was the International Bible Students, using the columns of the Watch Tower magazine and other publications of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. Today they are known as Jehovah's Witnesses. Have world events vindicated them? Yes! (w1983 1/1 11)
>
> They understood that the "seven times" … would run out in 1914, this marking the end of the Gentile nations' rule over the earth without interruption by God." (w1983 3/15 20)
>
> As early as 1880, the *Watch Tower* magazine said that the Gentile Times would extend to the year 1914. Then with the publication of the book The Time Is at hand in 1889, Bible students earth wide were further alerted to the fact that the Gentile Times would end in the autumn of 1914. (w1985 2/1 11)
>
> By means of his written Word and his holy spirit, God revealed to his modern-day servants that the year 1914 marked the end of uninterrupted rule by Gentile nations and also the heavenly enthronement of the glorified Jesus Christ… (w1985 6/1 17)
>
> 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. (w1990 10/15 19)
>
> What about Jehovah's people? They had long declared that "the appointed times of the nations" would end in 1914. (Luke 21:24) God's Kingdom in the hands of King David's Heir, Jesus Christ, was established in the heavens. (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Luke 22:28, 29) As far back as March 1880, the *Watch Tower* magazine linked the rule of God's Kingdom with the ending of "the appointed times of the nations," or "the times of the Gentiles." (Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy 1999, 261)

Such misleading quotes are examples of the Governing Body practicing "theocratic war strategy" — i.e. deception to promote the religion — on their own followers! The repeated claim that "Jehovah's people" got it right is false; and by bringing "his [God's] holy spirit" into it they accuse the "holy spirit" of false prophecy. And while lying about their history, whitewashing it to make it glorious, they simultaneously elevate themselves by claiming "Only God by his holy spirit could have revealed this…"

Russell refutes Governing Body

C.T. Russell himself refutes Governing Body claims that his predictions were right:

> Let us suppose a case far from our expectations : that A. D. 1915 should pass with the world's affairs all serene and with evidence that the "very elect" had not all been "changed" and without the restoration of natural Israel to favor under the New Covenant. (Rom. 11:12, 15.) What then? Would not that prove our chronology wrong? Yes, surely! (wr1907 10/1 4067)

Informed decision

JWs who study old WTS books discover that none of Russell's prophecies for 1914 came true. Only the date 1914 and the phrase "Gentile Times" is retained but without the former meaning or context. All informed JWs, therefore, decide at some point in their lives to either collude in this deceit and spend their lives as liars or they decide to leave their religion.

GENTILE TIMES — HISTORY OF THE DOCTRINE

Nelson H. Barbour published his calculations in his monthly magazine *Herald of the Morning* (September, 1875) where he calculated 606 BCE to 1914 CE as 2520 years. He did not realize that there was no year "0" — that 1 BCE is followed by 1 CE — and 606 BCE until 1914 is therefore 2519 years! He also put Christ's second coming in 1874 and the beginning of the "day of the Lord" in 1873.

In 1876 Russell read Barbour's paper, accepted the calculations, and became a co-editor of Barbour's magazine.

Russell published the calculation (i.e. 606 BCE to 1914 CE = 2520) in t*he Bible Examiner* (October, 1876), a magazine published by George Storrs who was influential among Second Adventists.

In 1912 Russell wrote:

> Many of our readers will recall our reference to this subject in a sermon preached at Allegheny, Pa., January 11, 1904, and published in the Pittsburgh

Gazette. We make an extract from that sermon as follows:
We find, then, that the Seven Times of Israel's punishment and the Seven Times of Gentile dominion are the same; and that they began with the captivity of Zedekiah, and, as will be seen from the Chart, they terminate with the year 1915. According to the best obtainable evidences on the subject, synchronized with the Scriptural testimony, Zedekiah's captivity took place in October, 605 1/4 years before A.D. 1. If we will add to this 1914 1/4 years, we will have the year, October, 1915, as the date for the end of Gentile supremacy in the world — the end of the lease of 2,520 years, which will not be renewed. Instead, he whose right the kingdom is, shall take possession of it. This, therefore, marks when the Lord himself shall assume control of the world's affairs, to end its reign of sin and death, and to bring in the True Light.

There surely is room for slight differences of opinion on this subject and it behoves us to grant each other the widest latitude. The lease of power to the Gentiles may end in October, 1914, or in October, 1915. And the period of intense strife and anarchy "such as never was since there was a nation" may be the final ending of the Gentile Times or the beginning of Messiah's reign. (w1912 12/1)

Thus in 1904 Russell realized the calculation might be 1 year out.

In 1943-1944 Frederick Franz corrected the start date to 607.

GEOLOGY
JWs claim that palaeontology and geology, including the geological eras, agree with the Bible:

The first geologic era has been called the Azoic because no fossils are found in it. Then comes the Paleozoic era, starting with the Cambrian period, where we find the first fossils. In the Mesozoic era we find the dinosaur skeletons, as well as the first birds and small mammals. In the last era, the Cenozoic, the large mammals predominate. Finally, in the Pleistocene, human artefacts and fossil bones are found.

It is intensely interesting to Bible readers to note that the order in which living things appear in the geologic column corresponds closely with the Genesis record of the order in which God created them. For example, the small crustaceans, a few inches long, which appear in such variety and abundance in the Cambrian layer, are not mentioned in the Bible. The geologist tells us that these sea creatures came before land vegetation, but since they are not included in the Bible record there is no conflict.

However, those who reject the Bible account of creation and support evolution discount this evidence. Instead of seeing that paleontology is in harmony with the Bible, they appeal to the fossil record for proof of evolution of one species into another. (g1983 2/22 19)

GEORGIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Georgia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2005	15,748	290	31,000	147
2010	18,951	234	36,300	122
2013	18,265	245	32,800	136
2015	18,531	201	32,600	114
2018	18,173	205	31,900	117
	Ave.			
2019	17,865	208	31,451	118
2020	17,900	208	33,200	112
2021	18,524	201	40,300	92
2022	18,653	198	35,000	105
2023	18,752	199	34,200	109
2024	19,130	193	33,700	110
2025	19,439	191	32,044	116

GERMANY
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Germany and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	86,300	698		
1975	100,400	597		
1980	99,800	587	170,400	344
1985	115,600	528	194,700	313
1990	132,900	468	227,000	274
1995	170,300	479	287,300	284
2000	165,900	495	276,300	297
2005	164,600	501	275,200	300
2010	165,600	494	270,200	303
2015	165,800	489	270,447	300
2018	165,870	499	262,628	315
	Ave.			
2019	164,400	508	267,600	312
2020	161,900	514	246,900	337
2021	165,600	502	284,000	293

2022	167,200	498	267,452	311
2023	173,000	488	273,200	308
2024	175,700	475	277,100	301
2025	175,700	476	270,200	309

The sudden increase between 1990 and 1995 was due to Germany's reunification and the addition of East German publishers to the West German total. The stagnation since 1995 occurred in many countries and reflects the falseness of the "creator's promise" regarding the 1914 generation.

GERMS — WTS DENIED GERM-THEORY

From the 1880s to the 1950s the WTS conducted a crusade against medical science, rejecting many discoveries and advocating alternative treatments.

Under Rutherford the cult promoted a milk diet as "the greatest curative food known", claiming that it cured or ameliorated almost every illness. (g1920 12/8 145-146)

The cult also opposed vaccinations; opposed the use of aluminium cooking pots (claiming they promote cancer); advocated enemas for many sicknesses; opposed pasteurization of milk; opposed fluoridation and chlorination of water; opposed quarantine for infectious disease; and taught that cancer is not a growth to be excised but the "accumulation of old wornout material" requiring "inner cleaning" though fasting and warm enemas.

There are no disease germs

In particular the WTS denied that germs cause disease:

> It has never been proven that a single disease is due to germs. (g1924 1/16 250)

Watchtower writer Herbert M. Shelton denied the existence of syphilis and wrote:

> We do well to bear in mind that among the drugs, serums, vaccines, surgical operations, etc., of the medical profession, there is nothing of value save in an occasional surgical procedure. Their whole so-called 'science' grew out of Egyptian black magic and has not lost its demonological character. By their own admission, more deaths are caused by their practices every year in this country than from any other cause. We shall be in a sad plight when we place the welfare of the race in their hand.
>
> Readers of *The Golden Age* know the unpleasant truth about the clergy; they should also know the truth about the medical profession, which sprang from the same demon-worshiping shamans (doctor-priest) as did the "doctors of divinity"…
>
> Medicine originated in demonology and spent its time until the last century and a half trying to exorcise demons. During the past half century it has tried to exorcise germs. Its methods are the same in both efforts at exorcism, and instead of injuring the demon or the germ, the injury is often to the patient. (g1931 8/5 727-728)

Pasteurization of milk

In 1920 *Consolation* magazine taught regarding milk:

> The best way of so preserving it as to assure its wholesomeness for a short period is pasteurization. (g1920 12/8 145)

Pasteurization refers to the heating of milk to kill bacteria which is inconsistent with the denial that germs cause disease.

In 1926 J.F. Dodge implied that milk must <u>not</u> be pasteurized:

> The devitamizing and demineralizing of wheat in the roller mills, the polishing of rice, and the pasteurizing of milk and other foods, are responsible for nearly all the physical ills of humanity today. (g1926 6/30 623)

A report in 1928 implied pasteurization is effective:

> In cities where pasteurization is required there has been a reduction in deaths from diphtheria and tuberculosis to about half the former number, and a still greater reduction in the number of deaths from typhoid fever, scarlet fever and diarrheal diseases. (g1928 7/24 679)

Most WTS comment about pasteurization, however, opposed it. The following opposed both vaccination of cows and pasteurization:

> Added to this is the fact that they are compelled to drink milk from cows that have also been subjected to a liberal injection of tuberculin, a most terrible deadly poison. This poison enters directly into the blood circulation. Hence the milk. Then this milk is sterilized, or

> scalded to the boiling point or nearly so, destroying much of the life-giving nourishment of the milk, but not injuring the poison therein. Scalded milk, for either adults or children, is very constipating. This in turn causes more deaths and resulting ailments than do all other causes combined, I surely believe. Oh, how badly we need the kingdom! (g1929 7/25 682)

In 1929 it was argued that pasteurization is a con by which middlemen make money:

> Once upon a time when the milkmaid and her Father milked and delivered the milk before breakfast, one farmer added water to his milk, or took some of the cream off, or kept his stable so unsanitary that bacteria made a swimming pool of his milk can. Dr. Science found this out, published the news, and scare-headline reporters magnified it its worth.
>
> And a bright dairyman who was more interested in money than in milk, and in selfishness than in service, cashed in on that publicity. In. fact, he built a business by warning the people about the other fellow's milk. By and by he spent more money in advertising in one month than his fellow dairymen earned in a year. The inference was that the average farmer's milk was unreliable.
>
> His (the dairyman's) milk was the only dependable product, and to get pure milk you must buy through him. Of course the big dairyman had to buy the milk from the farmer, which we formerly bought, in order to supply all his new-found customers. (g1929 11/27 137)
>
> Do you know the germ theory has never been proven? And it cannot be proven, either. If it had been proven, it would not be a theory. It has been truly said that 'knowledge without evidence is superstition'; and that applies to the germ theory also. It is a leftover superstition of a past age, when men feared that the earth was inhabited with hideous monsters that were hiding everywhere, in the air, in the sea, in the darkness, etc., always ready to jump out and devour him or make life otherwise miserable for him…
>
> Germs do not cause disease as most of you have been led to believe… It has been advanced by the medical profession. They realize that the average layman knows little or nothing about this subject… (g1931 3/18 404-406)
>
> If you examine the standard works on bacteriology you find no positive proofs given, that germs, if taken in food or drink, are harmful… Today there is a mass of evidence that cannot be broken down that the germs are the product not the cause of disease. (g 1939 3/8 26)

Consolation magazine once called vaccinators "poison squirters". And in an article titled "Pasteur The Fake" *Consolation* vilified Louis Pasteur as a "gasbag", claiming he increased the death rate for some diseases and was motivated by money. (g1936 9/23 814) We read: "Pasteur does not cure hydrophobia [rabies]; he gives it."

Intestines cause disease

Consolation repeatedly taught the erroneous idea that "all man's bodily troubles originate in his intestines":

> From a little book by Melville C. Keith, M.D., published by W. H. Webb, medical herbalist, Southport, England, we print a few extracts. This little book, published away back in 1907, supports the view often mentioned in these columns, that all man's bodily troubles originate in his intestines. (g1929 10/30 79)

Fasting

Consolation promoted the "Ehret system of elimination" which blamed diseases on the "ten pounds of uneliminated fecal matter which most persons carry around with them throughout life":

> Professor Ehret believed that "the entire effect or benefit from raw food is the rough fiber of uncooked vegetables which relieves constipation and acts as an ideal 'mucus broom' in the intestines". Benefits from the milk diet he ascribed to the fact that abandoning three 'square' meals a day gave the intestines a chance to partially rest and eliminate some of the obstructions. (g1929 3/20 400)
>
> *The Golden Age,* gives fine support to Professor Arnold Ehret's well-grounded dictum, that there is but one disease, and that is constipation. Dr. Ehret's definition of constipation is not confined to a clogged colon, but discloses the fact that the entire system of veins, arteries, pores, atoms, tissues, etc., are clogged with waste matter taken into the system from childhood.

He declares that the so-called healthy man carries about with him as much as ten pounds of unusable waste matter, poisoning the blood stream and the brain. To quote:
Every disease, no matter by what name it is known, is CONSTIPATION, a clogging up of the entire pipe system of the human body. Any special symptom is therefore merely an extraordinary accumulation of mucus at this particular place. (g1929 4/3 434)

Based on Eret's theory *Consolation* promoted fasting, and "inner cleaning" with warm enemas to solve most health problems.

JWs now believe in germs

WTS publications eventually ceased publishing medical quackery. Louis Pasteur was even commended but without admitting to the previous silliness:

Pasteur's research into fermentation enabled him to conclude that the majority of problems of contamination in the food industry were caused by microbes. Microbes were present in the air or in improperly washed containers…

This process, called pasteurization … revolutionized the food industry… Since fermentation requires the presence of microbes, Pasteur reasoned that the same had to be true of contagious diseases….

He was also successful with a vaccination against anthrax, an infectious disease of warm-blooded animals…
Following this, he went on to wage his last and most famous battle, against rabies… In the meantime, Pasteur was giving thought to hospital hygiene. Perpetual fever was causing the deaths of large numbers of women each year at the maternity hospital of Paris. Pasteur suggested aseptic techniques and strict hygiene, especially of the hands. Later investigations by the English surgeon Joseph Lister and others proved the accuracy of Pasteur's conclusions. (g1996 12/8 24-27).

Summary

The WTS condemned germ theory and opposed vaccinations with comment such as:

If one is vaccinated with sterile smallpox virus, it may result in smallpox or varioloid. Unfortunately this hideous practice of injecting filth into the body may also result in blood poisoning, ulcers, Bright's disease, scrofula or tuberculosis. (g1926 8/25 753)

Even before the JWs officially opposed blood transfusions many must have died due to following the bad advice published.

The WTS has has never apologized for any of its denigration of medical science or taken responsibility for the suffering this may have caused people who acted on it.

GHANA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Ghana and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	14,223	601		
1975	21,483	446		
1980	22,037	491	77,300	140
1985	28,635	437	101,900	123
1990	33,520	425	66,600	214
1995	48,400	334	174,200	93
2000	65,800	280	230,469	80
2005	78,000	268	244,900	85
2010	104,300	229	291,100	82
2013	118,300	222	315,000	83
2015	129,000	213	353,900	78
2018	140,300	210	387,138	76
	Ave.			
2019	139,800	218	381,200	80
2020	141,000	220	284,600	109
2021	147,100	216	346,100	92
2022	147,047	220	322,900	100
2023	150,300	220	368,400	90
2024	155,000	213	402,000	82
2025	160,400	210	387,400	87

GIBB, GEORGE
An Australian JW who operated a clandestine printing press in Australia when the sect was under restrictions during WWII.

Printing included *The Watchtower*, *Consolation*, booklets, leaflets, and even books such as *The New World* (1942). Page-numbering differed to the American versions but the text was the same. Copyright was by the WBTS but the last page would state "Printed by George Gibb, Strathfield, N.S.W."

Gibb joined the Branch Office staff around 1930 and reportedly was still there 60 years later, aged in his late 80s.

GIBRALTAR
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Gibraltar and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	39	718		
1975	83	361		
1980	92	325	137	218
1985	130	218	197	144
1990	134	229	211	145
1995	116	234	192	141
2000	126	216	159	171
2005	98	293	145	198
2010	110	264	171	170
2015	129	231	174	171
2018	128	271	156	222
	Ave.			
2019	129	264	162	210
2020	130	262	171	199
2021	122	279	177	192
2022	137	248	179	190
2023	154	221	213	160
2024	164	207	225	151
2025	166	241	224	179

GILMER, LISA A. (b.1960)
A third-generation JW — her grandmother joined JWs in 1940 — who left in 1994 and shared her story via the Internet.

Under the heading "God's Amazing Grace" Gilmer says: "Today, as a Christian, I look back on my life as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and I realize how very, very blessed I am to be free from the chains that once held me captive to the Watchtower Society…"

Describing her adjustments after attending a church she writes:

> I was shocked by the love I felt from these people toward me and toward each other. The first time I heard real Christian hymns, I cried and cried…
>
> The period of moving beyond thinking like a JW to thinking like a Christian took about six months for me. During this time, I was very emotional. I cried almost constantly. I was dealing with so many things. First and foremost, I was comprehending what Jesus had done for me. I had such immense gratitude for what he had done on the Cross, and for the fact that he had opened my eyes to the false teachings of the Society. At the same time, however, I was very angry at the Society for everything they had put me through, and angry at myself for allowing the Society to control my life.
> www.exmormon.org/d6/drupal/exjw5

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
More correctly called "manifestations of the spirit" and listed in 1 Corinthians 12. They include speaking in tongues, prophesying and healing.

JWs believe the "gifts" were transmitted in the presence of the Apostles to establish the early Christian congregation. When the Apostles died the "gifts" died out too. (w1971 8/15)

> Therefore, when the apostles died, and when those who had received the miraculous gifts through them passed from the earthly scene, the supernatural gifts of the spirit, including speaking in tongues, ceased. (g1969 4/8 28)

GILEAD
An Old Testament character who pictured Jesus Christ and JWs. (w1935 1/1 4)

GILEAD/GILEAD SCHOOL
Name of the missionary training school set up 1943 at Kingdom Farm near South Lansing, New York State. It was at first called Watchtower Bible College of Gilead. The original three-story building was built in 1941 as a refuge for the Brooklyn Bethel family in the event of persecution reaching Brooklyn.

In most years two consecutive classes of about 100 students did the five-month course. Students are selected from JW "special pioneers".

In 1961, after 35 classes and 3,700 students, the school was moved to Columbia Heights, Brooklyn. The original buildings of Gilead on Kingdom Farm were sold in 1966.

Branches of Gilead were set up in Mexico (1980) for the training of Spanish students to be sent to Latin America, and in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1982.

The course consists of seven 40-minute lessons daily, five days a week for 20 weeks. Subjects studied include English grammar, arithmetic, public speaking, a language, Bible basics, how Branch Offices function, international law, and dealing with government officials. The students also do domestic duties for three hours a day and go door-knocking at weekends. The 20-week course finishes with a convention in which Governing Body members give speeches, the students perform a Bible drama and music, and all who passed are assigned to a country or location where they will "serve".

Gilead Classes

1943-60: School located at South Lansing, New York. In 35 classes, 3,639 students from 95 lands graduated, most being assigned to missionary service. Circuit and district overseers serving in the United States were also included in the classes.

1961-65: School in Brooklyn, New York. In 5 classes, 514 students graduated and were sent to lands where the Watch Tower Society had branch offices; most of the graduates were entrusted with administrative assignments. Four of these classes had 10-month courses; one, an 8-month course.

1965-88: School in Brooklyn, New York. In 45 classes, each with a 20-week course, another 2,198 students were trained, most of these for missionary service.

1977-80: School in Brooklyn, New York. Five-week Gilead course for Branch Committee members. Fourteen classes were held.

1980-81: Gilead Cultural School of Mexico; 10-week course; three classes; 72 Spanish-speaking graduates prepared for service in Latin America.

1981-82, 1984, 1992: Gilead Extension School in Germany; 10-week course; four classes; 98 German-speaking students from European lands.

1983: Classes in India; 10-week course, conducted in English; 3 groups; 70 students.

GLORIFICATION

The situation when all the saints (the 144,000) are together in heaven. This event was originally predicted for 1878 when the followers of C.T. Russell expected to rise physically to heaven. When this failed the new date was the Autumn of 1881, and after that 1914 (Studies II 1889, 76-78), and after that1925.

Since about 1930 JWs have believed that the dead saints — those of the 144,000 who had died — went to heaven in 1918 and the living ones go to heaven one by one when they die.

GLUTTONY

A disfellowshipping offence:

> Manifestly the person who gorges himself whenever given the opportunity is not brining glory to God…and he brings reproach upon Jehovah God. That is why one who persists in making a glutton of himself has no place in the organization of God's people. (w1974 3/15 168)

GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION

The 1916 *Convention Report* implied that preaching will bring the downfall of all other churches:

> As the education of the people along the lines of truth increases, the people will see the Truth more and more. Consequently and eventually, there will come a division of the people and the fall of great Babylon… But through the spread of the Truth and the consequent division of the waters, churchianity will collapse. (p.308)

In 1918 J.F. Rutherford was imprisoned which he blamed on Christian ministers. Referring to the Christian churches he stated: "I'll rip the innards out of old Babylon." (Yearbook 1975, 115) This expresses Rutherford's plan to get multitudes of people to exit the churches and join the Russellites.

Joining the Russellites or the sect they changed into, i.e. JWs, is equivalent to submitting to God's sovereignty and necessary for salvation:

> Worsening world conditions since 1914 are proof … that the end of all humans who refuse to submit to God's sovereignty is drawing perilously near. (w1990 10/15 19)

WTS publications contain statements that suggest the goal of the top JWs leaders is world rule by people submitting to God's sovereignty as represented in the Governing Body and WTS.

Reorganized for world takeover

Released from prison in 1919 Rutherford reorganized the Russellite cult. Bethel headquarters was reopened, *The Golden Age* magazine inaugurated, the message *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* proclaimed, and large conventions held at Cedar Point, Ohio, in 1919 and 1922. Over 1000 Russellite congregations joined Rutherford resulting in 10,000 distributors of books and other literature in 1922. Year by year the push to "Advertise the King and Kingdom" became stronger.

In 1922 Rutherford predicted his "new movement…will sweep all countries." He declared:

> You [the political and church leaders] have failed; Christ's reign has come; join us in the great movement that will prevent further bloodshed and

> revolution and usher in the new world. (Peoples Pulpit 1922, December 1, p.1)

In the early 1920s Rutherford taught that the ancient Bible heroes would be resurrected in 1925 and rule the world. But the churches did not empty that fast and the "ancient worthies" did not show up. WTS leaders, however, always suggest new dates before current prophecies fail. In 1904, for example, Russell suggested the present world might not end in 1914, instead "immediately after" 1914. (wr1904 7/1 3389) This strategy of new time-periods and dates gives the "brethren" time to adjust to the failure and then, having invested years of their lives, the majority stay in the Organization. Rutherford used this strategy too and in 1920 implied a possible delay until 1935. (w1920 10/15 310)

William Schnell (1971) recalled Rutherford's visit to the German Branch Office in Magdeburg in 1925:

> …he began to tell us that we should not selfishly anticipate going to heaven in 1925, when there was so much work still to be done on earth … and he showed us a great world organization. He pictured vast billions coming out of all the kingdoms of the world, person after person and class after class, slowly learning the kingdom.

Rutherford wanted everyone to flee out of other religions into "God's Organization". The call to "flee" applied to whole nations, clergy, rulers and common people:

> The Lord's kingdom must now be established. If the nations of the earth would peaceably surrender and render obedience to the Lord, the kingdom would be established WITHOUT TROUBLE. If not, then trouble must follow to oust Satan and the unrighteousness of earth. (Peoples Pulpit 1922, December 1, p.2)

The appeal to "flee" was increasingly directed at ordinary people, the poor, the downtrodden the masses. The message *Freedom For The Peoples* (1927) went on radio in the "Greatest Radio hook-Up On Earth." Rutherford asked:

> Did the common peoples of the nations of earth vote on the question as whether or not they should go to war? No, not one of them. (p.10)

Rutherford blamed oppression, poverty and misery on "Big Business", "statesmen", and the "clergy". These three groups, he claimed, were in alliance to keep the masses ignorant, subservient and poor. His solution was:

> Without the support of the common peoples that wicked system called Christendom could not survive. When the peoples withdraw their support therefrom, organized Christianity, which is a part of Babylon or the Devil's organization, will fall like a great millstone into the sea. (pp 31-32)

> The Word of God and the physical facts prove that organized Christianity or Christendom is a failure. She is even worse than that. She is a menace to peace and prosperity. She is an instrument of Satan the Devil. Abandon her and flee from her as rats flee from a sinking ship. (p.37)

> The people desire peace, freedom, prosperity, life and happiness. All thinking persons must now see these can come only from God's kingdom through Christ… Let the multitude of peoples completely and entirely withdraw all support morally, financially and otherwise from Christendom or organized Christianity, so called. (p.40)

Rutherford wanted nations to "surrender to the Lord" by leaving their religions and governments and rushing into "God's Organization". In 1929 he wrote:

> Man's effort to convert the world prior to the establishment of that kingdom is not only without authority but very foolish, and will result in complete and abject failure. The kingdom of Christ will not fail, however…
>
> The creeds teach that man is to convert the world before the second coming of Christ, while the Bible teaches that Christ comes for the purpose of converting the world. (w1929 5/1 140)
>
> Since the Bible clearly teaches that the world is to be converted, a proper question to ask at this point is, How does God intend to do the Work? The answer is found in the Bible. In 1Corinthians 1:21 we read: After that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe...
>
> After the wise men have failed to convert the world, God purposes to do it by the simple and seemingly foolish method of preaching. It is comforting to know that

> the time has come, and the work of preaching has begun. (w1929 10/15 316

In Rutherford's view the Kingdom and "second coming" of Christ, both in 1914, inaugurated the beginning of world conversion "by preaching".

Rutherford also introduced what he previously called "Babylon's method":

> Babylon's method is to take all power and authority out of the hands of the people of God and put it into the hands of one person or a clique of preachers or bishops or elders. (wr1916 11/1 5983)

The process of taking "all power" began in 1917 when Rutherford expelled four directors of the WBTS. Russell's Will and Testament stipulated that an Editorial Committee control the content of *The Watchtower* but Rutherford increasingly ignored the Committee and in 1929 dismissed it. In 1932 the elected elders in the "companies" (congregations) were also dismissed and replaced with overseers appointed by Rutherford.

Everything that might hinder unity was abolished. This included celebration of Christmas and birthdays, involvement in politics, higher education and sports. Even marriage and love were discouraged. All congregations were ordered to avoid internal disputes and instead declare the "judgments" of God.

The unified organization that resulted Rutherford called "Theocracy" (i.e. rule by God) and "Theocratic organization". To achieve totalitarian control took Rutherford 20 years which he compared to King Solomon's 20-year building program of the Temple and other buildings. (w1938 6/15 183-187)

Until about 1930 Armageddon was interpreted as a Marxist-type uprising of the masses:

> …peasant against prince, pew against pulpit, labor against capital the oppressed in arms against injustice and tyranny of every kind… (Studies IV 1897, 541)

> Anarchists, Socialists and hot blooded radicals ... will be in the forefront of the Battle. (Pastor Russell's Sermons 1917, 191, 237)

Rutherford's doctrine that "big business", religion and government oppress the masses, together with his attacks on clergy as "frauds" and his calls to the public to leave their religions, look like attempts to spark the Armageddon uprising.

In Russell's theology God set up a Kingdom in heaven in 1878. The resurrected Bible heroes such as Abraham, Moses and Daniel would establish an "earthly phase of the kingdom" in 1914 to which the whole world would during the Armageddon uprising submit. In that way Jesus and the saints, who constitute the "heavenly kingdom", would rule the world in 1915 by proxy through the "earthly kingdom".

The resurrection of the "ancient worthies" failed in 1914 and 1925. There was no "earthly phase" of God's Kingdom to rule the world.

That is why Rutherford created his "Theocracy". His **Organization would take the place of the "earthly phase of the Kingdom"**.

In 1925 Rutherford also shifted the 1878 Kingdom in heaven to 1914. The phrase "God is setting up a kingdom" (present tense) continued in use because the setting up, or establishment, would be completed after Armageddon when "God's Organization" controlled the world. For example:

> …the God of heaven is setting up his kingdom… (w1924 9/1 367)

> God's kingdom is now in the course of establishment... (g1930 3/19 400)

The theme of submitting continued. *Vindication Volume 1* (1931) says Christendom should have been, "fully submissive to his King at his coming in 1914."

In *World Recovery* (1934) political leaders are urged to:

> …sever connection with the ecclesiastical leaders, who form a part of this unhappy world, and to act under the Lord's leadership. (p.19)

By "Lord's leadership" is meant the leadership of Rutherford's Organization! (pp 51-56)

Rutherford's predicted: "That water of life or truth ... continues to rise until it has filled the entire earth." (Light II 1930, 255)

Because the Organization replaced the "earthly phase of the kingdom" the doctrine that Israel would be restored became unnecessary and was discarded in 1931.

To separate the common people from clergy and governments Rutherford pushed his Organisation into ever-greater effort:

- Distributions of tracts and booklets in tens of millions;
- Use of hundreds of radio stations;
- 20,000 wind-up "gramophones" on which speeches were played in public places;
- Provocative preaching methods that provoked conflict with police, law courts and other authorities, and led to media coverage.

When Rutherford died in 1942 his Organization was known worldwide.

World Control Theme Continued

Power passed to N.H. Knorr (the new WBTS President), H.C. Covington (Vice President), and F.W. Franz. Franz had, since 1929, assisted Rutherford in preparing new doctrines. In 1945 he replaced Covington as Vice President.

The theme of world control continued in booklets about government and the "new world":
- *Hope in A Righteous World* (1942);
- *Freedom In The New World* (1943);
- *The Coming World Regeneration* (1944);
- *The Kingdom Is Nigh* (1944);
- *One World One Government* (1944);
- *The Commander to the Peoples* (1945)

These booklets taught that the clergy and political rulers were controlled by the Devil, and people who wanted salvation needed to:

> …flee from religion and Satan's organization and hasten into the mountains of The THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENT for refuge. (Hope in a Righteous New World 1942, 60)

JWs believe in the "utter failure of man to govern himself successfully". (w1982 3/1 21) The message based on such belief is continually that people should desert their religions and political parties and come under the authority of "God's Organization" and the "Theocratic Government". They must then preach until Armageddon removes all opposition and JWs become the only religion on Earth.

Knorr and Franz implemented training programs to "educate" JWs. Until 1943 JWs showed householders "testimony cards" which offered books, or they stood mute on streets and displayed magazines, or they played records on phonographs. Now they were to be trained as "ministers" and speak.

Training manuals included:
- *Theocratic Aid to Kingdom Publishers* (1945);
- *Equipped for Every Good Work* (1946);
- *Qualified To Be Ministers* (1955).

JWs meetings became practice sessions in speech and presentation to make JWs "adequately qualified".

Gilead Missionary School was inaugurated in 1943 and added to the new impact.

In four years, 1942 to 1946, JWs doubled in number. In another five years they doubled again. Such dramatic increase led Franz to calculate in *Let God Be True* (1946; 1952) that Armageddon will occur within 6,000 years of Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden. *Let God Be True* starts the 6,000 years approximately in 4,000 BCE therefore terminating in the 20th century. Franz also linked the final "generation" before Armageddon to 1914.

It is significant, therefore, that in the late 1940s all congregations were set a quota of 20% increase per year. This was reduced to 10% in the 1950s. If the 1950 Memorial figure of 511,000 had increased 20% yearly it would have exceeded the 1950 world population of 2.7 billion in 47 years i.e. within one generation!

It seems, therefore, that when Franz predicted Armageddon by 2000 CE he extrapolated JWs growth rates and estimated when "God's Organization" would be big enough to rule the planet.

However, in the 1960s growth rates slowed to 5%. But even this lower rate could if continued for a century bring "billions coming out of all the kingdoms of the world…"

Unlimited increase

The leaders continued to predict unlimited increase:

> His government in the heavens is now born and is ready to take over earth's rule, regardless of the combined opposition of men who fight against God. Earth and the people's way of existence are soon due for a wonderful transformation. This denotes a new world of God's creation. (w1950 8/15 243)

> In Theocratic obedience and faithfulness we will march on toward the New World, rejoicing in all further expansion of his kingdom, for there will be no end to its increase even this side of Armageddon. (w1950 8/15 257)

> Of the increase of God's government and peace there will be no end. (w1950 12/1 496

> …the New World Society will go through Armageddon fully organized and will expand until it covers the entire earth. (Qualified To Be Ministers 1955, 360)

> …the comparatively small voice emanating from these modest quarters of the Society could one day fill the earth with such power and strength that the very foundations on which the massive structure of Satan's entire world rested would be shaken. (Divine Purpose 1959, 53)

> …world government will not be established unless, first there is present in the minds and hearts of many millions of the people in various countries of the world a consensus, common desire or group consciousness to form a base for world control... (World Government on the Shoulders of the Prince of Peace 1965, 4)

> Brazil will certainly go on from one grand increase to still more and more… What tremendous prospects for future expansion... Therefore, let all who love Jehovah exult in the tremendous theocratic expansion that is now occurring. (Yearbook 1985, 47, 57, 61)

> There is still much work to be done. (w1987 11/15 29)

Not trying to convert the world

JWs leaders deny that their Organization will destroy "false religion" or convert the world:

> It must be remembered that this work of giving the testimony is not for the purpose of converting the people of the world and bringing them into some organization, but it is to make known the fact that those who desire to flee from the wicked organization of Christendom may do so and declare themselves on the Lord's side… (Vindication I, 1931, 111)

> The efforts of Jehovah's Witnesses in all nations do not have as their goal the setting up one man on earth as the chief spiritual authority over all believers throughout the earth. Jehovah's witnesses are not trying to ape the Roman Catholic Hierarchy or any other religious group in this respect. (w1944 12/15 375)

> Jehovah's witnesses are not trying to convert the world. (Theocracy 1941, 56)

> Not that they intend to convert the world. (Yearbook 1946, 14)

> And nobody wants a one-man government world wide a one-man dictatorship with an imperfect human individual as the absolute ruler. (w1971 12/15 741)

> Today the Christian witnesses of Jehovah could do all the preaching that they wanted to do throughout tho world concerning Jehovah's kingdom and the day of his vengeance, but this would never bring on the crash of the world empire of false religion. (w1980 7/1 17)

Such denials of world conversion are true in the sense that JWs believe many will die at Armageddon and of course executed ones won't be converted.

The second quote — denying any intention to "set up one man … over all believers" — follows from the belief that it is the 1914 Kingdom that governs. Policies originate from the Governing Body but JWs believe this is God's channel. Therefore if the Governing Body ruled the world, JWs would see it as rule by God and his Kingdom.

The reliance on the 1914 Kingdom is what supposedly makes the rule of JWs different to "bringing all men into subjection to the religious pontiff at the Vatican." However, the "religious pontiff" does not claim that the hierarchy stops with him. He claims to represent powers in Heaven which is what JWs leaders claim. The supposed difference is not really a difference except in which religion does the ruling!

The Watchtower (1989 9/1) argues that Clergy Rule is a horrible prospect because when the Church ruled Europe long ago: "No one was free to worship as he pleased." (p.3) Among JWs, however, "no one is free to worship as he pleases" either, but is excommunicated if they persist in disagreement.

However, a difference is alleged:

> Earthly representatives of God's rule will be like men who now reflect Jesus' loving qualities as overseers in the true Christian congregation. Unlike the tyrannical clergy, these men show loving concern for the flock as did Jesus Christ. (w1989 9/1 6)

The article discusses the destruction of the United Nations and "Organizing Now for the Thousand Years to Come". All false religion, it says, will be destroyed after which "…all earth becomes a populated paradise to Jehovah's praise." (p.20) The JWs elders will do the ruling. (pp 21-22)

Transfer of Sovereignty

In his booklet *World Recovery* (1934) Rutherford argued 1914: "marks the date for the coming of earth's righteous ruler as shown by all the facts…" Political leaders are urged "to sever connection with the ecclesiastical leaders ... and act under the Lord's leadership". (p.19) This appears to be Rutherford's leadership and the WBTS. (pp 51-56)

That the nations should transfer their sovereignty to God's Kingdom, or should have done so in 1914 — which implies putting the JWs leaders in charge of all nations — is regularly suggested or implied in WBTS publications. For example in 1979 we read:

> The political rulers, particularly those of Christendom, have been notified by numerous proclamations made by the anointed Jeremiah class, but the rulers prefer to stay in the United Nations... They tightly hold onto their national sovereignties and flatly refuse to bring their necks under the royal yoke of Jehovah's Servant-King. Not taking seriously the end of the Gentile Times in 1914, the political rulers do not acknowledge that they are in a global conspiracy against the global rulership of Jehovah's Servant-King. (w1979 11/1 22)

> According to the count of time in the Creator's book, the Bible, the time that he allotted for world domination by the earthly nations, including those of Christendom, expired in early autumn of 1914... Now is the time for Gentile nations to yield their sovereignty to Jehovah. (ibid p.24)

> Still the clergy ... do not urge the nations to turn over their national sovereignty to Jehovah's now reigning Servant-King, Jesus Christ... Rather, the clergy approve of man-made schemes and support the United Nations, not God's rule. (ibid p.28)

What if JWs become numerous enough?

What if Armageddon keeps delaying until JWs become really numerous? JWs believe that angels are in charge of the preaching, but the actual preaching is done by people, not by angels. Angels, JWs also believe, will fight at Armageddon. Therefore JWs, when numerous enough, could become the angels' agents at Armageddon similar to them being the angel's agents in the preaching. Sociologist Bryan Wilson observed, "Witnesses are not pacifists, since they would fight at Christ's command."

JWs deny such a possibility and Rutherford stated that JWs will watch Armageddon but not fight. The book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* (1988), similarly says JWs will be "eyewitnesses" and, "they will have no part in overturning the powers of this world." (pp 281-282)

However, the program of ending "national divisions" among JWs by avoiding voting and other involvement in politics seems like a long-range "political" agenda aiming at getting "uncontested rule of mankind":

> Before God's Kingdom takes over uncontested rule of mankind, a great change must take place. This change will bring an end to national divisions. Instead of many conflicting human governments, there will be one righteous heavenly government uniting mankind as one people living in peace. Foretelling this, the prophet Daniel wrote: "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms [human governments], and it itself will stand to times indefinite."—Daniel 2:44. (w1989 9/1 6)

Why Denied?

The "Theocratic Organization" currently governs about 20 million people. Denial of any plan to produce world-wide "theocratic rule" is necessary because schemes to supplant governments can be construed as treason.

Consider Turkey. In 1984 JWs:

> …were found guilty of violating article 163 of the Turkish Penal Code. According to this, it is a crime to make religious propaganda with the aim of changing the social, economic, political, or legal order of the state. So it was claimed that a very small number—a mere handfull—of Jehovah's Witnesses were trying to change the existing governmental order in Turkey. (w1985 4/1 28)

The Watchtower went on:

> …the Directorate of Religious Affairs claimed that Jehovah's Witnesses engage in an activity to establish a Bible-based religious order over the entire world. Under the appearance of the Kingdom of God they lay a foundation for some political developments in an unknown future. (p.30)

Peak publishers in Turkey increased as follows:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1947	6			
1950	60			
1960	c.400			
1970	c.600			
1980	857	53,500	1,349	34,000
1985	805	62,100	1,262	39,600
1990	912	60,300	1,692	32,500
1995	1,229	48,800	2,409	24,907
2000	1,594	42,700	2,864	23,743
2005	1,765	38,400	3,287	20,628
2010	2,074	34,474	3,862	18,513
2014	2,465	30,700	4,619	16,367
2015	2,611	29,800	4,546	17,092
2019	4,221	19,800	7,786	10,715
2020	4,875	17,300	8,658	9,741
2021	5,141	16,506	9,309	9,116
2022	5,438	15,734	9,244	9,256
2023	5,692	15,101	8,873	9,687
2024	5,318	16,053	8,239	10,362
2025	4,615	19,716	7,447	11,503

Note: The publisher ratios for 2019 to 2023 are here based on **Peak** publishers, therefore differs to the WTS which since 2019 bases the ratios on **Average** publishers.

This "handful" may seem insignificant <u>but</u> was even smaller in America in 1918. Nowadays, however, 2½ million attend the Memorial in the USA, 1½ million in Brazil, 2 million in Mexico, over 1 million in Democratic Republic of Congo, and some other countries over half a million.

The much-trumpeted political "neutrality" of JWs could be a cover for the political scheme of creating a world dictatorship in which religion and politics are united in the government of a small clique of JW men.

The accusation in Turkey that "Jehovah's Witnesses were trying to change the existing governmental order in Turkey" and "establish a Bible-based religious order over the entire world" is correct. The proviso is that JWs don't know it yet, only a few top leaders — and these portray world takeover in supernatural terms.

Maintaining a sense of urgency

In summary:
1. JWs predict a global Theocracy;
2. Armageddon keeps delaying;
3.JWs predict unlimited increase.

These features imply a goal of world rule by the Governing Body. This goal, however, is denied to avoid conflict with governments and so that the "publishers" don't lose their sense of urgency. Many JWs discontinue employment or schooling because of Armageddon's alleged nearness and would otherwise be discouraged. If they realize that like previous generations of JWs they will have to go door to door until they die without their promised reward of everlasting life on a paradise Earth they might slow down or quit the Organization.

And so the leaders keep prodding the followers with comment such as:

> The time is short, the opportunity is great, and blessed is he that has a part in it... Lose no time at all. (Yearbook 1943 Text for July 1)

> Jehovah adds a third part to his promise: 'I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time. As we stand at the brink of the 'great tribulation' the time for this is NOW. (Mark 13:10, 18, 19) The rapid acceleration of the Kingdom work during the past two years bears this out. This speeding up is to be observed earth wide… (w1985 3/1 21)

> The evidence from fulfilled Bible prophecy shows that we are very, very late in the 'last days' of this wicked system of things. (w1977 4/1 198)

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

Global theocracy — can it happen?

In 1928 Rutherford in his book *Government* wrote: "The great theocracy, when seen and appreciated by the people will be the joy of the whole earth." (p.250)

Chapter 9 says the "great multitude" of Revelation 7 will "pull down … Satan's organization upon their own heads" and thus destroy "Satan's organization".

Present-day JWs would respond that the doctrine of the "great crowd" pulling down Satan's world has been changed. In 1928 the "great crowd" was interpreted as nominal Christians but from 1935 onwards the "great multitude" was interpreted as JWs who get eternal life on Earth. But that's the point — the "truth" keeps changing. The teaching that the "great crowd" destroys Satan's world could therefore be restored, defined as "bright light", and no JW would dare criticize.

The Organization has had many major doctrinal and policy changes. Russell, for example, taught, "Beware of organization. It is wholly unnecessary." (w1895 p216) By 1931, however, the belief was:

> Only Jehovah's Witnesses as a united organization have any Scriptural hope of surviving the impending end of this doomed system. (w1989 9/1 19)

False prophecies of Armageddon "within our twentieth century" slowed but did not stop JWs expansion. The leaders keep JWs too busy to examine their own religion, and old excuses such as "the light gets brighter" get re-used. But the "information age", exemplified by the Internet, is a hurdle because the Internet is revealing the WTS's errors and history to anyone who cares to look.

Until 1995 JWs believed that people old enough to experience 1914 "with understanding" will see Armageddon. In 1980, however, *The Watchtower* hinted at a future change in interpretation:

> It [This generation] does not refer to a period of time, which some have tried to interpret as 30, 40, 70 or even 120 years, but rather, it refers to people, the people living at the 'beginning of pangs of distress' for this condemned world system. (w1981 10/15 31)

This statement prepared the way for the new interpretation in 1995 which redefined "generation" as an era of indefinite length.

Such gradual introduction of a new doctrine allows JWs to adapt. They will have invested many years in the sect before realizing what's happening. By that time it is easier to conform to further "new truth" than to leave the sect and be shunned and have re-examine all of one's beliefs from scratch.

JWs furthermore, never learn how to do research as individuals, how to use concordances to help analyse every Bible verse on specific topics. Their "search" and "research" is limited to looking up recent WTS publications; therefore when they leave the sect most are spiritually helpless. Most JWs therefore take the easy path and accept the Governing Body's excuses for failed prophecies and stay trapped.. And meanwhile the Organization gets bigger and bigger.

The need to be useful

For a religion to become really big it must, however, do more than promise paradise. It must also be useful on a day to day basis. Fourth-century Christianity promoted care-programs for the poor, the sick and widows and orphans. Many 20th-century denominations established schools, hospitals, clinics, dispensaries and charities. Christianity is useful whereas JWs offer promises that routinely turn out false, which is not useful at all.

To JWs "ministry" and "charity" always meant distributing publications and tracts and therefore they despised organized charitable works. In recent decades, however, the Organization has given assistance after natural disasters. Assistance goes first to JWs but sometimes the wider community benefits.

JWs have the advantage that their political and theological unity enables them to act cohesively on a wide scale. In 1973 the "Key 73" evangelizing effort in the USA involved 150 denominations and required five years preparation. It reached the majority of households in the USA and distributed 50 million Bibles. In the same year JWs renewed their *Kingdom News* distributions but without years of preparation. They too covered the USA but extended their effort to more than 100 other countries. JWs were more efficient than 150 denominations combined!

The same centralised control enabled JW leaders to initiate extensive building projects of printeries, offices, Bethel Homes and Assembly Halls in the 1970s. This distracted the membership from the then failing predictions, renewed their commitment, generated a sense of pride in "God's Organization", and prepared for renewed growth after the disappointment faded. Another extensive building program, with similar psychological advantages, was initiated in the mid-1980s. This consisted of building new Kingdom Halls around the world. After that (2004-2017) came the relocation of the American WTS headquarters from Brooklyn, New York, to Warwick about 50 miles north-west.

The Governing Body can give orders and start new programs and millions of people in 200

lands jump into action. Divisiveness has been eliminated.

There have been instances of JWs or their property being spared during terrorist activity or when rival clans fought each other. (e.g. w1987 1/1 14; w1991 1/1 26) JWs believe:

> Known neutrality is often the best defence, as has proved true in Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, and other lands. (w1965 7/1 23)

If such "best defence" becomes widely effective it will pull people to the Organization wherever there is political instability and insecurity.

JW political neutrality in the past hindered their expansion, but now the Organization is big and its policy widely known. Amnesty International publicises discrimination against JWs and the UN may intervene if their human rights are infringed.

The international unity of JWs could be their greatest asset if integration of national economies and communication networks produce a "global village" since the achievement of "one world" might be assisted if linked to a big, peaceful, united religion! A global religion politically united in 240 countries might also be what the world needs to act unitedly against climate change!

Constantine

In 313 CE Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan which recognised Christianity, intending that cooperation between Church and State would strengthen the Roman Empire. Christians existed throughout the Empire, were cohesive, and were expanding in rural areas where it mattered since many cities were in decline.

When Constantine became Emperor 5% of the Empire's population were Christians, about 2 million people out of 40 million. This doubled to 10% during Constantine's reign. Under Emperor Theodosius (378-395) pagan gods were outlawed. Centuries later the Church developed into a corrupt hierarchy which controlled nations.

Today, only 30% of the world's population is Christian or nominally so, and most of these are Roman Catholic. At no stage has Christianity looked like taking over the whole world. Islam is six centuries younger than Christianity. Its armies spread the faith from Spain to India. Islam, however, also failed to take over the world because Europe modernized and fought back effectively. No religion has yet had the power or right method.

Rutherford's right method was: "God purposes to do it by the simple and seemingly foolish method of preaching."

Better theology and acceptance of science

The JWs hierarchy will in future have to produce theology or as they call it "Bible truth" with greater care. Prophecies make people zealous for a while but slow membership growth when they turn out false. To discard Israel from the JWs prophetic scheme in 1930 and claim "Israel … will never be restored as a nation" currently seems a mistake. The existence of Israel has been a major impetus to Pentecostal growth.

To challenge medical science by opposing vaccinations, blood transfusions and tissue transplants was also bad for credibility. To advertise higher education as a "waste of time" in an industrialized world that needs university graduates, while also accepting the technological innovations that higher education produces, is another inconsistency.

But history shows that the Organization can take heavy losses and recover. This happened when the Russellites failed to ascend to heaven in 1878, 1881 and 1914. It happened under Rutherford after the false predictions for 1925. Failures are explained as "increasing light" and people who disagree are dismissed as malcontents who reflect the mind of Satan.

Armageddon upon Apostates?

What would a future JWs hierarchy do with "apostates" if "One World One Government" comes about?

In her testimony on the Internet Sharon Kennedy wrote:

> In April, 1999 … I was diagnosed with breast cancer… I was told recently, that a "sister" in the local congregation had made a comment that it's "too bad Sharon is not in good standing with the congregation, because there is a Witness in Oregon, who has had good success in helping cure this kind of cancer, **but she would never treat a disfellowshipped person**."
> www.towerwatch.com/Testimonies/sharon_kennedy.htm

The preceding paragraph is hearsay but represents the experience of many who left the sect. If an "apostate" manages a business, JWs will withdraw their patronage. If he has

hired a JW plumber or electrician and the tradesman realizes he is dealing with an "apostate" he will renege on doing the job. Such treatment bodes badly for dissenters if JWs become numerous enough to take over government — dissenters will suffer discrimination, exclusion and rejection in every area of life until they conform or die.

The Watchtower says:

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

If, however, the nations become "theocratic nations" the "theocracy" would no longer be "limited by the laws of the worldly nations". Would ancient Israel and Moses then become the model to follow and dissenters exterminated? Israel has been the JWs model for many policies — recall, for example, the parallel between Solomon's 20-year building program and the change from Democracy to Totalitarianism in "God's Organization" from 1918 to 1938. (w1984 1/1 11)

Great unity can defeat great opposition

Small groups of voters agreeing to vote as a "block" can decide the outcome of elections. Small armies well-trained and united under an inspiring commander can overcome much larger forces and win wars. "Judge" Rutherford recognized this principle when he reorganized the Russellites into a united, ever expanding Organization with the goal of world domination.

GOALS

JWs used to have official monthly "goals" to aim for in their ministry. In the late 1950s to 1972 publishers strove for 10 hours, ten backcalls (i.e. return visits) and ten magazine placements per month. Pioneers strove for 100 hours, one hundred backcalls and 100 magazine placements per month, special pioneers for 150 hours and 150 magazine placements.

Goals for publishers were discontinued in 1972 and in their stead publishers were urged to set the example in being zealous. "Mature" publishers who demonstrate "appreciation" therefore still strove for the previous targets. Pioneers still had hour-goals to meet but these were reduced from the previous levels.

In Rutherford's time there were "quotas" and these were much more draconian than the "goals" that came later.

(See: *QUOTAS*)

GOATS

JWs label people who reject their religion as "goats" or "goatlike".

This is based on Jesus' separation of the "sheep" from the "goats" in Matthew 25:41-46.

JWs used to teach that Jesus separates the "sheep" from the "goats" (Mathew 25) between 1914 and Armageddon by means of the JWs preaching. This belief was changed in 1995 and the separation transferred to the future. (See: *SHEEP AND GOATS*)

GOD

To JWs Jehovah God is the eternal, almighty creator and Jesus his first creation and son. The Trinity doctrine is a "senseless God-dishonouring doctrine." (w1932 10/15 318) JWs consider "Jehovah" as God's personal name like Steve and Susan are personal names.

The "holy spirit", which JWs spell in lower case, is God's "active force" and was in previous editions of the *New World Translation* even translated as such.

JWs claim they get all their doctrines from God even false doctrines like the doctrine that the "higher powers" (Romans 13) are God and Jesus: "God enlightened his people and made known to them that the "Higher Powers" are Jehovah and Christ Jesus…" (Riches 1936, 322)

This enlightenment was discarded in 1961 when the "high powers" were reinterpreted as human governments.

JWs disagree with Christians who believe God is omnipresent and omniscient:

> The true God is not omnipresent, for he is spoken of as having a location. (Insight I 1988, 969)

(See also: *JEHOVAH; TRINITY*)

GOD AND THE STATE (1941)

Booklet by Rutherford.

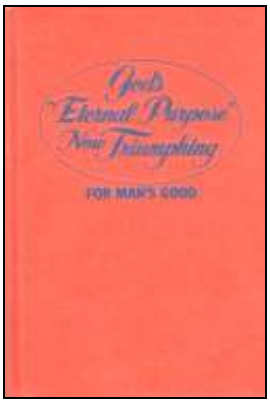
GOD — JESUS
Sometimes JWs claim to believe in the "divinity" or "deity" of Jesus. When they state this, they use the terms differently than Trinitarians do.

When JWs call Jesus "deity" they mean that Jesus is "a god" in the sense of being supernatural and god-like like the angels, except that he is the chief of the angels, and ranks second after Jehovah.

GOD-GIVEN ASSIGNMENT
Any work in a Branch Office or the work of preaching and teaching, assigned to JWs by higher-ups in the hierarchy.

The preaching work as a whole is a "God-given assignment". (w1984 2/1 15)

GOD'S "ETERNAL PURPOSE NOW TRIUMPHING FOR MAN'S GOOD (1974)



A pocket-size WBTS book that outlines God's "eternal purpose", which is "to sanctify himself before the eyes of all the nations." (p.22) This "purpose" includes Jesus Christ and how he purchased salvation; the kingdom of God; the JWs preaching in the 20th century; completing the full number of the 144,000 who are to reign with Jesus in heaven; Armageddon; and paradise on Earth during the last 1000 years of the seventh creative day:

> After God created Adam and Eve and gave them their commission of work, setting before them their purpose in life in Paradise, the sixth creative "day" of God ended and the seventh creative "day" began, about six thousand years ago...
>
> By means of the thousand-year reign of his Son Jesus Christ, Jehovah God will uplift the human race ... back to human perfection...(p.189)
>
> God's seventh creative "day" will end up blessed, sacred, sanctified. Jehovah's having blessed that "day" six thousand years ago and his then making it sacred will not have been counteracted to his eternal reproach. (p.190)

GOD'S KINGDOM RULES IS THE WORLD'S END NEAR? (1958)
An official WTS booklet.

GOD'S [EARTHLY] ORGANIZATION
The phrase "God's organization" designates the corporations of the WTS together with the branch offices, congregations, assembly halls, personnel and positions from Governing Body down to congregation publisher, and the rules and laws to regulate it all.

Watchtower Library (2007) lists the phrase 10,364 times — the concept is obviously very important.

Russell rarely used the concept of organization and wrote:

> But as that work of organizing the church of the new Gospel dispensation was not part of the harvest work of the old Jewish dispensation, so the present harvest or reaping of the Gospel dispensation is also separate and distinct from the work of the new Millennial dispensation now drawing on... It is plain that the forming of a visible organization of such gathered out ones would be out of harmony with the spirit of the divine plan and if done would seem to indicate on the part of the church a desire to conform to the now popular idea of organization or confederacy. (See Isa. 8:12) The work now is not organization, but division, just as it was in the Jewish harvest proper. (Matt. 10:34-36) (w1894 12/1 quoted in w1985 3/15 10)

The phrase "God's organization" was first used by Rutherford in prison in 1919 and "thrilled" his followers. (w1985 1/1 16; w1985 3/15 10)

JW's also believe in a "heavenly" part of "God's Organization" which consists of Jehovah, Jesus, angels and those of the 144,000 who died and have gone to heaven. The earthly part consists of the Governing Body, the Corporations, the Branch Offices, Printeries, Congregations, and the various positions of service. Salvation of people during the Time of the End is only in "God's Organization".

(See also: *ORGANIZATION*)

GOD'S REVEALED TRUTH
Any theology endorsed by the Governing Body and published by the WTS.
(See: *REVEALED*)

GOD'S TRUTH
A phrase listed 550 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007) which refers to WTS teachings whether still accepted or not. Even Russellite errors which JWs now reject are "God's truth". (w1972 3/1 747)

GOD'S WAY IS LOVE (1952)
A 32-page WTS booklet.

GOD'S WOMAN
An expression derived from Galatians 4:26 and Isaiah 54:1, 13 and said to refer to God's Organization in heaven including the angels in their different ranks. (w1983 3/15 23) The expression "God's wifely organization" is also used.

GOD'S UNIVERSAL ORGANIZATION
God Universal Organization is Christ, the angels, the 144,000 in heaven, and JWs on Earth all functioning under divine rule which on Earth is expressed through the Governing Body and WTS.

GOD'S WORD
To JWs the phrase "God's word" refers to both the Bible and to doctrines in WTS publications.

GOD'S WORD IS ALIVE
A monthly item in *The Watchtower* from 3/1980 to 3/1985.

GOG (Ezekiel 38)
Rutherford claimed that Gog refers to the ruler of the demons, "Satan's chief field marshal" (His Vengeance 1934, 18) and is to be distinguished from Satan who is the "general". (w1932 6/15 179)

This was changed by Franz at the 1953 Convention on July 23 when Gog became identical with Satan. (Yearbook 1975, 215; w1985 1/15 3)

Gog's attack (Ezekiel 38) occurs after Babylon is destroyed. (Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand 1975, 257) This is "in our generation" (God's Eternal Purpose Now Triumphing For Man's Good, 1974, p.22) meaning the generation that lived through 1914; and "within our twentieth century". (The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah—How? 1971, p.216)

> Jehovah's people can have confidence that he will come to their rescue at the war of Armageddon. The worshippers of Jehovah at that time will be under international attack by all the worldly nations, all of which are by then atheistic. Why are they atheistic? Because the nations will have turned against organized false religion and will have wiped it from the face of the earth. Thus this attack on God's true worshippers takes place after the surprising destruction of "Babylon the Great," the world empire of false religion, including Christendom. (w1981 8/1 29)

GOLDEN AGE
After Russell's prediction of a "golden age" of peace in 1915 failed to come the Russellites in 1919 got a magazine by that name instead.

The Golden Age was issued 1919-1937. The editor and major writer was C.W. Woodworth. The magazine criticised governments, interest on loans, clergymen, sex and marriage, soft drinks, aluminium cooking pots, vaccinations, germ theory and much more. Insults, sarcasm and disparagement toward opponents of Rutherford were constant with individuals often named. The most lurid ridicule went to Catholic clerics who were called "girls" and their garb "petticoats".

GOLDEN AGE A B C, THE (1920)
Booklet for children with pictures of Bible scenes explained in verse such as:

A is for Adam
Not heeding the Lord,
Was kept from his home by
A bright flaming sword.

GOLIATH
Goliath pictured the totalitarian rule of, "Fascists, Nazis, Communists and the leading religionists of which the Roman Catholic Hierarchy is chief." (Yearbook 1939, 23; Salvation 1939, 119)

GOLLER, LANCE (c.1971 -)
A Gilead-trained missionary who left JWs in 2008 and posted an essay on the Internet in 2009 titled "The Evolution of the Governing Body".

Lance's family joined JWs when he was three years old. He was baptized at 14, spent three years at the New York headquarters, and later attended Gilead missionary school. At age 37 Goller gave up his Bible beliefs and adopted atheism.

GOOD HOPES
"Good Hopes" were conditional promises sent to Russell by cult members of how much money they intended to donate the following year. Started in November 1891. (wr1892 1/1 1361)

The practice continued into the 1950s:

> Having received an understanding of Jehovah God, his marvelous attributes and his purposes, Jehovah's witnesses feel impelled to do something to show their appreciation and so they give willingly. They know that now is their opportunity to make friends of Jehovah God and Christ Jesus by proper use of unrighteous riches, which sooner or later will fail, whereas the friendship of God and Christ will guarantee everlasting dwelling-places…
>
> They further appreciate that just as their study, their attendance at meetings and their ministry work must be done systematically if it is to be effective, so their contributing to the expansion of true worship in a monetary way is best done systematically, in keeping with Paul's admonition: "Every first day of the week let each of you at his own house set something aside in store as he may be prospering."—1 Cor. 16:2, *NW.*
>
> The expansion of true worship in the earth depends in no small degree upon voluntary contributions. Jehovah's witnesses therefore appreciate that it is a help to those directing this work to have some indication from them as to what to expect in the way of contributions during the coming year. For this reason they gladly co-operate with the suggestion of the Society to indicate each year what they want to contribute during the coming twelve months. Such is in no sense of the word a pledge, but merely an expression of what they hope to be able to do, and it is termed "Good Hopes". (w1952 5/1 283)

Observe that JWs "feel impelled", they "show their appreciation", they "give willingly", etc. These are really commands or imperatives presented as statements of fact, whjch is a style common in WTS writings. Instead of "you should feel impelled", "you must show appreciation", "you have to give willingly" the words "should", "must", "ought" or "have to" are omitted and JWs are told how they feel or how they act.

GOOD LUCK
JWs do not wish each other "Good luck". Their equivalent expressions include "God be with you" or "May it work out for you" or "If Jehovah wills it, you'll succeed."

GOOD NEWS (1932)
Booklet by Rutherford.

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL NATIONS (1983)
A booklet published in 60 languages promising life everlasting and happiness on Earth.

GOOD NEWS TO MAKE YOU HAPPY (1976)
An official WTS book written by Governing Body member Lloyd Barry.

GOOD STANDING
The status of JWs who are not under accusation or reproof and not disfellowshipped is referred to as "in good standing".

GOSPEL/GOOD NEWS
The charter of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society states its purpose is, "to preach the gospel of God's Kingdom under Jesus Christ... (g1984 12/8 3, 8)

The JW gospel is that in1914 Jesus set up an invisible kingdom in heaven which will destroy all earthly kingdoms at Armageddon within one generation followed by a paradise earth filled only with JWs. (Matthew 24:14)

The "gospel of the kingdom" of C.T. Russell had these elements:
1. Jesus returned in 1874.
2. Jesus established an invisible Kingdom in heaven in 1878.
3. The resurrection of the saints occurred 1878.
4. Armageddon would start around 1910-1912.
5. A visible Kingdom led by Abraham, Isaac and other Hebrews would rule the world from Israel by 1915.
6. There would be world peace in 1915.

Russell lamented: "Protestants and Catholics ... do not expect such a kingdom, and hence they are not preaching it..." (w1892 1/1 8)

Russell's gospel replaced although "truth"

Subsequent JWs leaders changed and replaced Russell's "gospel" but nevertheless refer to it as "the truth of the gospel shining forth" and "the light of the truth". (Yearbook 1984, 36) They claim:

> Russell saw the real need of getting this good news of the Kingdom preached because it was not being done. (Yearbook 1968, 10)

"This good news" that Russell saw the "need of getting preached" is not now being preached by anyone — not even by JWs.

Rutherford's gospel

Rutherford retained Russell's Kingdom scheme until the mid-1920s, changing only the date for the "earthly phase of the Kingdom" from 1915 to 1925. When the "earthly phase" failed in 1925 he discarded the invisible Kingdom of 1878 and invented an invisible kingdom of 1914.

The doctrine of God's invisible Kingdom of 1914 became the "good news" JWs preach. They call it the gospel "of Jehovah's Kingdom under Christ." (g1985 5/22 25) and boast that it is different to the Christian gospel:

> Let the honest-hearted person compare the kind of preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom done by the religious systems of Christendom during all the centuries with that done by Jehovah's Witnesses since the end of World War I in 1918. They are not one and the same kind. That of Jehovah's Witnesses is really "gospel," or "good news," as of God's heavenly kingdom that was established by the enthronement of his Son Jesus Christ at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914. (w1981 5/1 17)

> They [JWs] are the only Christian group that is in fact preaching the good news of God's Kingdom in, all the earth before the end comes. (g1984 12/8 4)

> This good news of the kingdom is the most thrilling news that has ever been proclaimed to humans. It is the glorious good news concerning which religious sects of Christendom are completely silent. They have no Kingdom hope for the future. No wonder they fail to witness. They have failed to take note of the most exciting event in all history—the arrival in Kingdom glory of the Son of man to sit down on his glorious throne and judge the nations and peoples of earth… (Matthew 25:31-33) (w1985 1/1 19)

Sheep and goats error – gospel a "sham"

The preceding quote — linking the "arrival in Kingdom glory" in 1914 with "judge the nations and peoples of earth…" — became false in 1995 when the Governing Body shifted the judging of the "sheep and goats" from 1914 to Armageddon or later! (w1995 10/15 21-23) [See: *SHEEP & GOATS*]

This shift suggests the whole JWs gospel is as erroneous as Russell's gospel. The revision proves that JWs fail to "put up a hard fight against any sham good news", succumb to "deception" and either "add to or take away from the teaching of Jehovah's refined, inspired Word":

> In Jude's day false teachers professing Christianity were endeavoring to foist a counterfeit good news upon God's people. Such teachings threatened their faith and salvation… If we, as present-day Christian witnesses of Jehovah, are to remain loyal to God and escape deception and loss of salvation, we, too, must "put up a hard fight" against any sham good news, earnestly resisting, wrestling against, attempts to add to or take away from the teaching of Jehovah's refined, inspired Word. (w1982 8/15 22)

A further "sham" aspect is that 1914 Kingdom is calculated by adding 2,520 years to 607 BC, a date critics have debunked. (See: *GENTILE TIMES*) The 1914 Kingdom is therefore imaginary like the kingdoms of 1878 and 1925.

The Bible's Gospel

What the Bible means by "gospel" is very different to the gospels of Russell and Rutherford. The Bible's "gospel" is about reconciliation of people with God through Christ — see I Corinthians 15:1-5. And the Bible warns: "Whoever it is that is declaring to you as good news something beyond what You accepted, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1)

Occasionally JWs superficially agree with the biblical gospel: "And a prominent feature of that good news is that Jesus Christ died for the whole world of mankind." (w1982 8/15 22) But due to the accretions to their "gospel", revisions, and its association with repeated failed predictions, their "gospel" fits the warning in Galatians 1:7

…there are certain ones among you who are causing you trouble and wanting to pervert the good news about the Christ.

GOSPEL AGE
The period from 29 AD to 1914 according to Russell, but extended by Rutherford to 1918, then to 1924, 1925, 1935 and the 1940s.

GOSPEL TRUTH, THE
A four-page pamphlet published by former JW Elder David Reed, commencing in January 1989. Reed also publishes the magazine *Comments from the Friends*.

GOSSIP
Officially JWs oppose gossip and slander because "gossip brings reproach upon the organization." (w1957 5/1 285)

Another reason to be on guard is that damaging gossip may make a liar out of you. "The words of a slanderer are like things to be swallowed greedily, which do go down into the innermost parts of the belly." (Proverbs 26:22) What if you swallow lies and repeat them? Well, even if you think the lies are true, you are lying when you spread them. When their falsity is revealed, you may be considered a liar. Do you want that to happen? Does not God hold false teachers responsible for religious lies? Yes, and he also holds slanderers accountable. Jesus warned: "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall account for at the day of judgment…" (w1989 10/15 13)

GOUGH, EMMA
A 22-year-old JW mother in England who "bled to death" after rejecting a blood transfusion. Reported in the *Daily Mail* (November 5, 2002) under the heading "Jehovah's Witness mother dies after refusing blood transfusion after giving birth to twins".

GOUGH, GRACE (1930-)
An ex JW who, on her website in 2011, wrote she was a JW for 25 years and brought ten others into the sect, but was disfellowshipped for not believing that "Jesus came invisibly in 1914":

My daughter and grand-child stopped speaking to me. I was thinking of suicide because I missed my friends & family so much. I had also just lost my husband to cancer.

She read Ray Franz's book *Crisis of Conscience* and attended a convention of former JWs: "the Lord Jesus, found me there… I have never ever felt the PEACE I do now..."

GOUX, ARTHUR
Secretary to Charles T Russell.

GOVERNING BODY
In 1944 *The Watchtower* declared the seven directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania "the governing body of Jehovah's witnesses".

They claimed to be appointed "…only by Jehovah God the Supreme Ruler, and Christ Jesus the Head of His church." (w1944 11/1 330)

The importance the "Governing Body" attaches to itself is indicated by how often the phrase appears on *Watchtower Library* (2007) — 2,740 times.

The phrase "first-century governing body" was introduced in 1978 and appears 51 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007).

Origin and appointment

The original seven members of the 1944 governing body had gained authority in Rutherford's Organization and appointment as directors in the WBTS through many years of obedience and service. In 1944 they invented the new title "governing body" by which they wished to be known. The GB did not have a legal corporate existence and has always operated through the WTS.

The "Body" is based in New York and is the supreme ruling council of JWs. It formulates policy and doctrines, produces information for publication, and oversees the branch offices and staff.

From 1944-1971 the composition of the GB remained the same, it consisted of the same seven men. The same seven were also the board of directors of the WBTS:

So really the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses is the board of directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. (Yearbook 1970)

This governing body has through the years been associated with the publishers of the *Watchtower* magazine and the board of directors of the legal

> religious corporation now known as Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania." (w1971 12/15 755)

In 1971 the GB expanded to 11, reached a peak of 18 in 1975 (w1975 1/15 60), and was down to nine in 2007. Its membership is not elected. Existing members select new members by invitation. Most remain members until death. Two, Ewart Chitty and Leo Greenlees resigned, apparently following sexual misconduct, while Raymond Franz resigned in 1980 for doctrinal reasons.

Not biblical

"Governing Body" is not a term unique to JWs and is not in the Bible.

It is a quasi-legal term often used interchangeably with the terms "governing board" and "board of directors". Directors in business corporations are people elected to serve on the managerial board. They are responsible for policy formation and control of the company or corporation and manage it on behalf of the shareholders. The same is true of non-profit organizations. Religions, charities and schools often have a board of directors or governing body.

In this legal sense the Russellites and JWs had a governing body managing the WBTS since 1884 although rarely mentioned in the publications prior to 1944.

In 1944 the WBTS directors expanded the meaning of "governing body" to refer to their role as religious heads or leaders of all JWs.

The phrase "governing body of Jehovah's witnesses" appears 398 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007), the first time in 1950 where the governing body is identified as the WBTS:

> The Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, the governing body of Jehovah's witnesses… (w1950 1/1 10)

Soon the same term "governing body" was applied to 1st century Christianity with claims like:

> The apostle Paul belonged to the governing body in the first century" (w1951 4/15 235)

With the same word "governing body" applied to 1st-century Christianity and 20th-century JWs, it became easy to claim that the "Governing Body" had existed since the 1st century! There was, however, no historical sequence or continuation, and no mention of a Governing Body in charge of Christianity, prior to 1944

Spelling

Until 1975 "**g**overning **b**ody" was spelt in lower case (except when part of a heading). In 1976 came the move to upper case, "**G**overning **B**ody", when referring to the leaders of JWs. Lower case, however, remained for the so-called "first century "**g**overning **b**ody".

A further distinction

> These 'goods' [JW interests] have been placed under the jurisdiction of the anointed remnant with its legal governing body operating through the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. (w1950 8/1 232)

GB members are of the so-called "anointed remnant" or "faithful and wise servant" class. (Theocratic Aid to Kingdom Publishers 1945, 227)

They meet weekly (Yearbook 1974, 257) in closed session. According to Raymond Franz in *Crisis of Conscience* (1983) decisions are made by vote and were required to be unanimous until 1975. From 1975 a two-thirds majority of the total membership (regardless of the number present) was sufficient to allow proposals to be carried. For example, when the membership numbered 17, motions were carried if 12 agreed; if only 14 were present it was still necessary for at least 12 to agree.

The official WTS publications omit such voting details and state:

> Christian experience, guidance from the Bible, and the leadings of Jehovah's spirit direct this group of anointed Witnesses to theocratic conclusions on matters of great concern to the congregation. (w1985 1/1 11)

Until 1976 the idea of a Governing Body that shares power equally was official doctrine but also a fiction. In practice the president and vice president controlled doctrines, publications and policies and other WTS directors had to defer to them.

Russell and Rutherford not GB Members

The GB deny having begun in 1944, claiming the body existed in "the last quarter of the nineteenth century" and that C.T. Russell was of that body. (w1971 12/15 760-761) They say that Russell: "…for the Society's first 32 years

was foremost among the governing body." (w1944 11/1 331)

However, when Russell organized Zion's Watch Tower Tract in 1884 he knew nothing of any GB. Of the original six directors (including three officers) only two were in charge:

> Sister Russell and myself, of course, elect the officers, and thus control the Society; and this was fully understood by the Directors from the first. Their usefulness, it was understood, would come to the front in the event of our death. (wr1891 January p.1312; w1891 January p.16)

When his wife defected, Russell was solely in charge as "God's mouthpiece": "No, the truths I present, as God's mouthpiece, were not revealed in visions or dreams…" (wr1906 7/15 3821; w1906 7/15 229)

Russell transferred his publications to the WTS:

> …with the explicit understanding that I should have full control of all the interests of these publications during my lifetime, and that after my decease they should be conducted according to my wishes. (w1916 12 /1 5999)

Clearly there was no GB in Russell's time since only one man was in charge and one man is not a "body" of men.

Rutherford likewise acted unilaterally. In 1917 he ejected four directors (whom Russell had appointed for life) because they opposed publication of *The Finished Mystery*. Marley Cole, a WTS-approved writer, explains:

> As things stood the president was the administration. He was not consulting them. He was letting them know what he was doing only after it was done. He was putting them in the position of advisers on legal corporate matters. Rutherford made no bones about "going ahead". The Pastor before him had worked that way. The Pastor made decisions. The Pastor issued administrative orders without that Board's prior sanction. (Cole 1955, pp 86-89)

Rutherford ousted the four directors under a legal technicality — they had been appointed but the appointment had not been confirmed at the annual corporation meeting. If the directors, in 1917, were "the Lord's chosen governing body" then the "Lord's choice" was thrown out by Rutherford on a legal technicality!

Russell selected an editorial committee that was to control *The Watch Tower* and its content after his death. The committee, however, was not a GB either. They had little authority and Rutherford eliminated them when they disagreed with his replacing the Kingdom of 1878 with a Kingdom of 1914. (w1938 6/15 185)

In the 1930s Rutherford appointed congregation servants directly or confirmed selections and appointments made by his representatives.

Governing Body identified in 1944

The GB declared its existence in 1944 in *The Watchtower* and identified itself as the seven directors of the WBTS. The Corporations and GB's control of them was offered as proof of the GB's authenticity:

> Reasonably, those who were entrusted with the publication of the revealed Bible truths were looked to as the Lord's chosen governing body to guide all those who desired to worship God in spirit in truth...
>
> The Watchtower Society being the publishers of the truths for his consecrated people, the governing body of Jehovah's consecrated servants was logically and of necessity associated with it. (w1944 11/1 331)

The WBTS president was elected for life and was the only officer to hold positions in all three of the original Corporations. (Yearbook 1927, 11; Yearbook 1933, 11) He: "directs the affairs of all three corporations." (Yearbook 1944, 25)

Governing Body 1944 – 1971 and the Corporations in which they were Directors

1944-1971	WBTS	New York	ISBA
Knorr, N.H.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Franz, F.W.	Yes	Yes	
Suiter, G.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Groh, J.O.	Yes	Yes	
Sullivan, T.J.	Yes		
Swingle, L.A.	Yes		
Henschel, M.	Yes		

The leading writer of books during Knorr's presidency (1942-1976) was Frederick W. Franz the vice president. Knorr himself edited the yearbooks. Until 1971 Knorr and Franz made most of the major decisions on doctrine and policy. The other directors of the Pennsylvania Corporation were consulted but had to conform to Knorr and Franz. In 1950, for example, some of the directors didn't know

about the planned *New World Translation* until Knorr announced the existence of a translation committee. (w1950 9/15 315-316) Meetings on corporate matters and meetings to consider material to be published were summoned by Knorr and he set the agenda.

In 1975 two-thirds of the GB objected to calling the "Kingdom of the heavens" of Matthew 13:31 a "fake" and "counterfeit". Knorr and Franz nevertheless had the material published. (Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand 1975, 206-215; w1975 1/11 589-608; Franz 1983, 64-65) Thus, although there was a governing "body", power rested with two men.

The power structure, however, changed in 1976.

The Body voted (December 1975) to elevate its role in decision-making and bring the WTS and JWs congregations under its supervision. This reduced the power of the president. Six committees were formed to oversee different administrative requirements of the Organization that had formerly been the domain of the president. The change took effect January 1, 1976, and was described in the book *Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* as, "one of the most significant organizational readjustments in the modern-day history of Jehovah's Witnesses". Since that time "Governing Body" has been written in upper case "G" and "B".

F.W. Franz addressed the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Corporation on October 1, and argued that the WBTS was an "agency" or "temporary instrument" used by the GB on behalf of the "faithful and discreet slave". Three weeks later, on October 20, four additional men joined the Governing Body. The GB now met weekly to make branch office appointments and discuss doctrine.

Thus in 1976 the "body" resembled what Russell's Will and Testament had stipulated and for which the four directors who had sought such a set-up in 1917 had been expelled and accused of "rebellion". (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 313; Divine Purpose 1959, 70-73)

Spokesman for the "slave class"?

The GB calls itself the "spokesman" for God's "faithful and discreet slave class" (the "anointed remnant" of the 144,000). JWs therefore assumed the GB takes surveys to ascertain the views of the "anointed" worldwide, or that the anointed post their views to Brooklyn Headquarters.

Raymond Franz, however, wrote that no such surveys are done; not even those "anointed" who reside in Brooklyn (i.e. at or near the world headquarters) are consulted. Letters from the "anointed" get no more attention than letters from anyone else, and the GB makes no attempt at contact to get their Bible-based observations.

Much of the research and writing of the WTS is delegated by the GB to others, but the GB decides what to accept and publish. From the late 1970s some publications were even written by the "other sheep" class. The GB's self-description as spokesman for the "faithful and discreet slave class" was a fiction to divert attention from their monopolisation of power. (See: *GOVERNING BODY REPRESENTS*)

From Seven to Eleven — 1971

In 1971 the GB was increased to 11 to identify it less closely with the directors — that is to:

> …further accentuate the difference between the governing body and the board of directors. (w1971 12 /15 759)

A "difference" between directors and GB needed to be demonstrated because the directors are voted in annually but, "the governing body ... is not appointed by any man... It is appointed by ... Jesus." (ibid)

Fred Franz argued that a corporation is an instrument of "Caesar" and therefore could not be the administrative body for Christianity. The GB, furthermore, supposedly represented the "faithful and discreet slave class" and had created the WBTS. But as things stood in 1971 the created thing, the WBTS, controlled its creator! To solve this dilemma the GB and directors had to be distinguished. (ibid 754-760)

Franz's argument ignored the fact that the Society commenced in 1884 but the GB in 1944 which therefore was never the WBTS's creator!

Distinguishing the GB from the WBTS's directors may also have been a safeguard in the event of a future government take-over of the Corporations and installing non-JWs directors. If that happened the GB could retain control of JWs by emphasizing spiritual authority over the legal authority:

> In modern times the Governing Body has been closely identified with the editorial staff of the Watch Tower Society and its board of directors. But the Governing Body differs from that legal corporation, as the speaker pointed out: “Since the corporation’s existence is purely legal,

with a fixed geographic headquarters, it can be dissolved by Caesar, the State." Not so the Governing Body, which is not a legal instrument but the members of which "are appointed through the holy spirit under the direction of Jehovah and Christ." Thus, the Governing Body continues to function and to receive the unqualified support of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. (w1990 1/15 26)

Each WTS Corporation has a voting membership appointed by the president. In the New York Corporation the voters are limited in number to 500. The voters elected (actually re-elected) the seven directors/GB members of each Corporation unanimously every two or three years. The vote is unanimous because the voters are selected by the president in the first place. After their re-election the seven directors met separately and re-elected three or four among them to be "officers" (i.e. president, vice president and secretary/treasurer).

GB resign from Corporations

In 2000 the GB members who were directors in the WTS resigned from that position. The GB and WTS directors were now separate groups.

The reason for this change may be to reduce WTS liability for GB policies or to prepare for a future "separation of church and state" if/when JWs increase to the extent of taking over whole countries.

(See: *GOVERNING BODY SHAKE-UP*)

GB Members

Most GB members hold this position until death, the exceptions are noted in the following table with an *.

Governing Body Members 1944-2014

Member		In office
Knorr, N.H.	1905-1977	1944-1977
Covington, H.C.*	1911-1978	1944-1945
Franz F.W.	1893-1992	1945-1992
Suiter, G.	1908-1983	1944-1983
Groh J.O.	1906-1975	1944-1975
Sullivan T.J.	1888-1974	1944-1973
Swingle L.A.	1911-2001	1944-2001
Henschel, M.	1920-2003	1944-2003
Franz R.V. *	1922-2010	1971-1980
Gangas G.D.	1896-1998	1971-1994
Greenlees L.K.*		1971-1984
Jackson W.K.	1901-1981	1971-1981
Barry L.W.	1917-1999	1974-1999
Booth J.C.	1903-1996	1974-1996
Chitty E.W.*	1898-	1974-1979
Fekel C.J.	1897-1977	1974-1977
Klein T.E.	1906-2001	1974-2001
Shroeder A.D.	1911-2006	1974-2006
Sydlic, D.	1919-2006	1974-2006
Barber C.W.	1905-2007	1977-2007
Barr J.E.	1913-2010	1977-2010
Jaracz, T.	1925-2010	1974-2010
Pötzinger M.	1900-1988	1977-1988
Adams D.A.	1925-	1986?-
Lösch, G.	1941-	1994-
Herd, S.	1935-	1999-
Lett, S.	1949-	1999-
Pearce, G.	1934-	1999-
Splane, D.	1944-	1999-
Jackson, G.W.	1955-	2005-
Morris, A.*	1950-	2005-2023
Sanderson, D.M.		2012 -
Cook, K.E. Jr.		2018 -
Fleegle, G		2023 -
Winder, J.		2023 -

References:
Sullivan T.J. w1965 8/15 500-504; Swingle L.A. w1958 10/1 593; w1953 10/1 587; w1950 6/15 362; Gangas G.D. w1966 10/15 636; Jackson W.K. g1960 11/22 13; Barry L.W. w1960 9/15 552; Booth J.C. w1996 6/15 32; Fekel C.J. w1969 3/1 153; w1977 7/1 399; Klein T.E. w1957 6/1 329; Chitty E.E. w1963 15/2 118-120; Pötzinger M. w1969 12/1 729.

Number of GB Members

1944	7	1992	12
1970	7	1999	13
1971	11	2004	10
1975	18	2008	9
1980	17		
1986	15	2023	9

GB members numbered only nine in May 2008 aged as follows:

- John E. Barr (96)
- Samuel F. Herd (74)
- Geoffrey Jackson (53)
- Theodore Jaracz (83)
- M. Stephen Lett (59
- Gerrit Lösch (68)
- Anthony Morris (58)
- Guy H. Pierce (74)
- David H. Splane (65)

In 2023 there were again nine a follows:

- Kenneth Cook, Jr.
- Gage Fleegle
- Samuel Herd
- Geoffrey Jackson
- Stephen Lett
- Gerrit Lösch
- Mark Sanderson
- David Splane
- Jeffrey Winder.

GB members are selected from among the alleged 144,000. (w1958 1/15 45-46) But the door to joining this group was shut in 1935 and therefore it steadily decreased from about 50,000 in the early 1930s to about 6000 seventy years later. By the 1990s the pool for providing GB-replacements was drying up. (See: *GOVERNING BODY TIMEBOMB*) The solution the GB found was to cancel the 1935 limit and let the "remnant" of the 144,000 increase again.

Governing Body's traits and perks

Franz (1983) reports that the GB do not devote themselves to prayer like the Apostles. (Acts 6:4) Outwardly they follow the morality they advocate. They abstain from adultery, thievery, politics and pornography but don't abstain from misrepresenting JWs history. They have privileges other Bethelites lack. They have private apartments, have access to instant medical attention, make world tours first-class, and use Society-owned cars and Society-owned yachts, and all their expenses are paid. They get gifts from followers, "warm receptions" everywhere, and rule millions of people who regard them as God-appointed.

Unlike scholars who earn the praise of critics the GB praise themselves. They, for example, use money donations with "heavenly wisdom". (w1945 12/1 360) They are "above party squabbles, prejudice, greed, propaganda…" They are "not narrow or short sighted" but take "an overall view" and are "farsighted". (w1950 8/15 261-262) They give "inspiring talks". (w1984 12/1 27) They "provide superb spiritual provisions" which they claim to get from God:

- To the Great Theocrat goes the credit… (w1984 5/15 18)
- Thanks be to Jehovah for providing us with such wonderful cards... (w1984 12/1 26)

The GB boast that only their Organization understands the "deep things of God". (w1973 7/1 402) They are "faithful and wise" and produce publications more accurate than *Young's Concordance*: "Being a non-Theocratic work, however, the concordance is not always right in its comments." (Theocratic Aid to Kingdom Publishers 1945, p.237) They are "divinely constituted authority" (w1983 4/1 29) whose interpretations have "nothing lacking". (w1981 8/15 28-29) They quote followers who call the publications "special" and "wonderful". (Yearbook 1975, 199)

They continuously repeat how grand their religion is with phrases such as "divine education", "good news received from Jesus Christ", "Jehovah's teaching", "Lord's organization", "God given commission", "spiritual sustenance from God", "flashes of light".

They write anonymously to better promote the illusion that God is behind it all. And JWs have to: "…show respect for the counsel and decisions of those whom God places in positions of responsibility." (w1980 1/15 18) Waiting for new GB interpretations is, "waiting on Jehovah." (w1982 6/1 16-26) Dissent is not allowed, and JWs have to "refuse to listen to criticism" (w1984 5/15 17):

> 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 GB claim that pointing out the errors of other religions demonstrates love and kindness. But when anyone shows such love to them the GB calls them "apostate", "blind guides" and "puffed up" and claim that books by ex JWs are "for the sake of dishonest gain." (w1983 6/15 15)

Life as a Governing Body member or elsewhere near the top of the hierarchy comes with all the material goods anyone would want, as well all the affirmation, praise, acceptance, power and other emotional satisfactions that make life pleasant.

There is also the "joy" when the boom-bust cycles in JWs recruitment based on prophecy and failed prophecy enter a "boom" phase. In 1982 the numerical decrease in JWs caused by the failed prophecies for 1975 had been made good. We read of "grand increase", "thrilling increase", "marvellous increase", "tremendous theocratic explosion" and "great joy", "bubbling joy", and hearts "trembling with joy":

> We certainly have become radiant with joy over what we see. Our hearts are quivering and expanding with happiness because of the marvelous theocratic enlargement... (Yearbook 1985, 3-61)

Committees

From 1976 the GB functioned by means of six committees composed of members of the Body, which carried out various administrative functions:

- The **Personnel Committee** arranged for volunteers to serve in the organization's headquarters and branch offices. It oversaw arrangements for the personal assistance of Bethel-family members, as well as the selection of new members.
- The **Publishing Committee** supervised the printing, publishing and shipping of literature, as well as legal matters involved in printing. It was responsible for factories, properties, and financial operations of corporations.
- The **Service Committee** supervised the evangelical activity of JWs including travelling overseers, pioneers, and congregation publishers. It examined annual reports from the branches dealing with field activity worldwide. It is responsible for inviting members to attend the Gilead school, the Ministerial Training School, and for assigning graduate students to their places of service.
- The **Teaching Committee** arranged congregation meetings, conventions and various schools for elders, ministerial servants, pioneers, and missionaries. It supervised preparation of teaching material including new audio and video programs.
- The **Writing Committee** supervised the writing and translation of all material that the WTS publishes and responded to questions about scriptural, doctrinal, and moral issues and problems in the congregations.
- The **Coordinator's Committee** dealt with emergencies, disaster relief and other matters. It was made up of the coordinator, or a representative, from each of the other GB committees and was responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of the other committees.

GOVERNING BODY BIBLICAL?

Upon it inception in 1944 the Governing Body (GB) justified its existence from the Bible:

> It was respecting such governing body that the apostle Peter wrote to those within the Theocratic organization: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance [creation] of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king [Christ Jesus], as supreme [Head of the church]; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.—1 Pet. 2:13, 14. (w1944 11/1 328)

This argument fails because "king" and "governors" of 1 Peter 2 refer to secular authorities, not to a "Theocratic ... governing body".

The GB derive the word "governing" from the Greek word "legoumenon" (or "heegeomai") meaning "rule" or "take the lead" in Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24.

It is true that elders led individual congregations in the 1st century. But JWs take this further and claim that all 1st-century congregations were governed from Jerusalem by elders and Apostles located there. (w1972 11/15 703)

Another argument is that Christians were "one body" and therefore the Holy Spirit does not direct congregations individually. (w1984 11/1 16) Christians were also an "international brotherhood" and therefore:

> When there were doctrinal questions, Christians did not make their own decisions. For an authoritative answer, they looked to the elders of the Jerusalem congregation. (w1984 1/1 16)

In rebuttal critics reply:

- The Greek "legoumenon" is used of Christian leadership within individual congregations, not of men "governing" all congregations everywhere.
- The only "governing one" over all Christianity is Jesus. (Matthew 2:6; 28:18; Ephesians 1:22)
- The "Holy Spirit" appointed Apostles in Antioch without consulting elders in Jerusalem. (Acts 13:1-3)
- In every congregation the "Spirit" distributed "gifts" without any governing body deciding who got what "gift". (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
- Paul wrote 13 letters of the New Testament without consulting Jerusalem and sent out travelling representatives to appoint elders. (Titus 7:5; II Timothy 2:2)
- First-century communications were too slow to refer everything back to Jerusalem.
- The Jerusalem congregation followed the Mosaic Law (Acts 21:15-25) but the congregations established by Paul did not. (Romans 7:4-10; Ephesians 2:15)
- At no time did any governing body in Jerusalem, or from a 1st century continuation of a governing body, move to New York to rule JWs.

The GB's appointment and authority was not confirmed by miracles as was Moses, Elijah, Jesus and others. The "Body" claimed

authenticity by virtue of their control of the WTS and its publishing which published:

- "truths which God through Christ provided";
- "hunger satisfying spiritual food";
- "revealed truths".

Hundreds of Russell's interpretations, however, have been discarded, prophecies for over twenty dates have failed, and many WTS books are hidden from public scrutiny (and excess copies destroyed because of the rubbish taught in them. The main credential identifying "the Lord's chosen governing body" — i.e. their "revealed truths" — is in fact a fiction and an indictment!

From Russell and Rutherford onwards the WTS leaders have always done what they accuse other religions of doing:

> The ecclesiastics ... have claimed the exclusive right to interpret the scriptures and deny the right of any one to preach the gospel except such as are ordained by them. Ecclesiastics have fraudulently claimed to be the successors of the apostles and thereby have arrogated to themselves great authority and have attempted to deceive, and have deceived, the people. (Peoples Paper 1924, November 1, p.2)

GOVERNING BODY IN JERUSALEM?

JWs interpret the "Council" that convened in Jerusalem around 50 CE (Acts 15) as a "Governing Body" which had James as chairman and which sent out "spiritual food" from Jerusalem to every other congregation.

Comparing Acts 15 with Galatians 2, however, indicates the meeting was dominated by Paul and Barnabas who were sent from Antioch to correct error in Jerusalem. The Antioch teaching that Gentile Christians need not be circumcised prevailed, and the elders and apostles in Jerusalem conformed.

Paul and Barnabas were appointed to ministry in Antioch by the "Holy Spirit". (Acts 13:1-3) They did not automatically comply with teachings in Jerusalem. Nor did Paul consult with Jerusalem when writing his 13 letters — firstly he never mentions any input from Jerusalem, and travel in the 1st century was too slow for regular consultation over great distances.

In the 1st century, the individual congregations independently appointed evangelists, elders and apostles without consulting Jerusalem and sent them on preaching missions. The JWs Governing Body does not accept this as it would threaten their centralized authority in New York State.

GOVERNMENT BODY COMMITTEES

The Governing Body perform some of their duties as heads of six committees. The following from "JW Leaks" lists the committee members in October 2014 with GB members identified by *:

Cordinators	Personnel
Stephen Lett*	Gerrit Lösch*
Anthony Morris*	Geoffrey Jackson*
Mark Sanderson	David Splane*
John Ekrann	Gerald Grizzle
Robert Wallen	Patrick LaFranca
	Daniel Molchan
	Ralph Walls

Publishing	Service
Samuel Herd*	Samuel Herd*
Stephen Lett*	Gerrit Lösch*
David Splane*	Anthony Morris*
Don Adams*	Mark Sanderson
Robert Butler	Gary Breaux
Harold Corkern	Joel Dellinger
Donald Gordon	Seth Hyatt
Robert Luccioni	Christopher Mavor
Alex Reinmueller	Baltasar Perla
David Sinclair	William Turner, Jr.
	Robert Wallen
	Leon Weaver, Jr.

Teaching	Writing
Geoffrey Jackson*	Samuel Herd*
Stephen Lett*	Geoffrey Jackson*
Anthony Morris*	Mark Sanderson
Ken Flodin	David Splane)*
William Malenfant	Robert Ciranko
Mark Noumair	James Mantz
David Schafer	Izak Marais
	Gene Smalley
	John Wischuk

GOVERNING BODY REPRESENTS

Since the 1940s JWs have believed that the Governing Body represents the "anointed ones" or "slave class" or "remnant of the 144,000" on earth.

This meant that the entire "slave class" contributes "spiritual food" (information) which the Governing Body collates and publishes:

> All the corporations branch offices and printeries and their personnel serve under the direction of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, a body that represents and acts for all the spirit

annointed worshippers of Jehovah God on earth. (w1976 5/1 266)

We accept the teaching that all of the annointed ones living on earth at any given time constitute the faithful and discreet slave that Jesus said would provide timely food for his domestics. (w2007 11/1 30)

In 2009 came the admission that some of the "anointed ones" do not provide spiritual food:

Although as a composite body the slave class is responsible for feeding the spiritual household, not all individuals of the slave class have the same responsibilities for work assignments (Read 1 Corinthians 12: 14-18.) As noted earlier in the first century, all were involved in the vital preaching work. But only a very limited number were used to write the books of the Bible and oversee the Christian Congregation. (w2009 6/15 24)

Are all of these annointed ones throughout the earth part of a global network that is somehow involved in revealing new spiritual truths? No. (w2011 8/15 24)

The Governing Body does not maintain a global network of annointed ones. (w2011 8/15 22)

This change tightened Governing Body control by making it even harder for other JWs including members of the "slave class" to challenge their authority or their new interpretations.

GOVERNING BODY SHAKEUP

In 2000 CE, the Governing Body members who were also in the 7-member corporate board of directors resigned from the latter positions. This included Milton Henschel, president since 1993 of the WBTS, who henceforth was no longer either president or a member of the board of directors.

Furthermore, three new corporations were set up in the USA to control legal and administrative operations.

Henschel's replacement as president of the WTS was Don Adams, 75, a longtime insider who had spent 54 years at the Brooklyn Headquarters.

A report on the Internet said:

By The Associated Press
October 10, 2000
NEW YORK (AP) -- An organizational shakeup under way among the Jehovah's Witnesses may have been ordered by the faith's leaders to shield themselves from lawsuits over the group's religious practices…

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania … had been run by a Governing Body. But on Saturday, president Milton Henschel, 80, and the six other board members resigned, and it was announced that religious and administrative duties will be divided, with three newly formed corporations running U.S. operations…

A Web page operated by former Witness Randall Watters of Manhattan Beach, Calif., said … that the new structure "clearly is meant to provide isolation of guilt" in light of "the litigious days ahead for the Watch Tower organization."

James N. Pellechia, public affairs director for the religion … said the Governing Body is simply being relieved of administrative tasks so it can "concentrate more on the ministry of the Word."

Pros and Cons

Both reasons for the "shake up" — to reduce vulnerability to lawsuits and focus on other tasks — are probably correct. If the GB is sued the Society's factories cannot be taken in a settlement, because the factories are owned by a corporation. If a WTS Corporation is found criminally liable, the GB members are safe because they are not directors in that corporation.

Furthermore if the Corporations were ever extinguished by government decree the Organization is not destroyed because the GB would still retain spiritual authority.

The downside is that the office or position of GB-member is no longer protected by law. The GB won't have legal recourse if future presidents and directors of the Corporations were to dismiss them and create a new ruling body.

GOVERNING BODY TIME-BOMB

In the 1990s observers speculated about "An Unfolding Governing Body Time Bomb".

In 1935 Rutherford announced that the 144,000 who go to heaven at death were complete —

there were no further vacancies in heaven. Future converts to JWs would belong to the "great multitude" or "great crowd" who get eternal life on Earth.

At the formation of the Governing Body in 1944 it became official doctrine that its members had to belong to the "remnant" of the 144,000. The vice president at the time, H.C. Covington, resigned his vice-presidency allegedly because he was of the "earthly class".

By 1990 the "remnant" of the 144,000 were down to about 9000. Most of them were old and feeble and lacked the expertise to run the WTS, and many were women barred by their gender. The GB faced extinction because official doctrine had led to the pool of potential GB members drying up.

However, JWs also believe that some of the 144,000 become "apostates" whom God replaces to keep the final number at exactly 144,000. Therefore, even after 1935 a few not-so-old adults could still get "anointed".

Hence the GB could groom potential additions to their group from the "great crowd" and encourage them to declare themselves "anointed" i.e. of the "remnant". This may be what lay behind the following announcement:

> In view of the tremendous increase worldwide, it seems appropriate at this time to provide the Governing Body with some additional assistance. Therefore it has been decided to invite several helpers, mainly from among the great crowd, to share in the meetings of each of the Governing Body Committees, that is, the Personnel, Publishing, Service, Teaching, and Writing Committees. Thus, the number attending the meetings of each of these committees will be increased to seven or eight. Under the direction of the Governing Body committee members, these assistants will take part in discussions and will carry out various assignments given them by the committee. This new arrangement goes into effect May 1, 1992. (w1992 4/15 31)

In addition to this "new arrangement" the door to heaven which Rutherford closed in 1935, and which JWs for 70 years accepted as Bible truth, was re-opened:

> Thus it appears that we can not set a specific date for when the calling of Christians to the heavenly hope ends. (w2007 5/1 31)

Why heaven was re-opened

The "anointed remnant" increased from about 8500 in 2005 to 14,000 in 2014 to 21,000 in 2020. The reversal from continual decrease to increase was necessary to prevent them, and hence the GB who supposedly represent them and draw new members from them, from dying out — this being a dilemma that arose from erroneous theology and false prophecy introduced 60 or more years earlier:

The sect teaches that after Jesus returned invisibly in 1914 he inspected all churches in 1919 and picked the Russellites as the only ones faithful to him. Jesus appointed them in 1919 over "all the spiritual assets on earth that have become Christ's property in connection with his authority as heavenly King." (w1993 5/1 17)

In other words the Russellites of 1919 were the only true Christians and the end-time "faithful and discreet slave class" that would lead the final preaching until Armageddon.

If the "slave class" died out then:

- The Governing Body would die out too;
- The WTS directors (who also had to be of the "slave class") could not be replaced;
- The Organization would be theologically leaderless, and therefore
- The end-time preaching would be without guidance or strategy.

The solution to these dilemmas was to re-open the door to heaven which Rutherford had shut in 1935.

GOVERNMENT (1928)

Until 1927 the Watchtower cult believed that the fulfilment of Matthew 24 started in the 19th century. In *Government* Rutherford reset the start to 1914.

He also advanced the claim that human governments are in league with commerce to exploit the citizens. This exploitation would end when the "great multitude" rises up and destroys all the governments.

The world would then submit to a new righteous Government composed of resurrected Bible heroes working together with Rutherford's Organization. This Government would in turn be guided by a Kingdom in heaven composed of 144,000 individuals.

GOVERNMENTS

JWs criticise human governments for dishonesty, warfare, economic failures,

criminal politicians, famines, false political promises, bribery, and for failing to end evils such as death, tax evasion, sickness, crime, suicide, etc.

However, in 1920 the leaders of the WTS sect promised the following would start in 1925:

- "righteousness", "peace", "plenty", "liberty", "life", "happiness";
- "old men ... restored to perfection … to youth";
- deserts made fruitful;
- pain and sorrow ended forever; and
- war oppression and pestilence ended. (Millions 1920, 94-111)

These blessings were "for all mankind". (p.107)

The JWs leaders have made similar promises for many dates and were wrong every time. Politicians who make false promises often lose office. But no politician has failed so greatly as the Governing Body who nevertheless remain in power.

The JWs leaders are therefore in no moral position to criticise governments. The governments do deliver, if only partially, many things the JWs leaders repeatedly promised but always reneged on.

People who studied at universities have produced "bionic ears" which cure the deaf, anaesthetics to conquer pain, chemicals that attack cancer, painless repair of decayed teeth, lasers which clear blocked arteries, etc. Research in food production goes on world wide including biological control of insects, weeds and other pests, water desalination, crops that grow in sea water, food plants that produce their own insecticides, etc. In the future cloning may be used to repair damaged human bodies and "nanotechnology" — tiny molecule-sized machines — may repair damaged bodies internally or physically destroy bacteria.

For centuries scientific progress in science, medicine, electronics, astronomy, biology, transport, etc, was led by Christians. Even in the late 20th century one of the two main instigators of the "green revolution" that saved the world from famine was a church-goer.

The JWs leaders benefit from all this scientific research, but contributed nothing. They even criticized higher education and persuaded school children to drop out of high school.

Although Jesus said his disciples would be a "light to the world" the JWs suppressed knowledge of child abuse in their sect. In Australia alone they failed to properly protect their children until the Government's Royal Commission found that 1000 perpetrators among JWs had abused 1800 children and began to force the sect to take better precautions. The Government — which JWs constantly claim is led by the Devil — in this way became a "light" to JWs.

GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BRING PARADISE ON EARTH, THE (1985)

A pictorial brochure in which various Old Testament prophecies are linked to the 1914 Kingdom. The brochure emphasizes the need to leave "false religion" and join "God's organization" or perish.

GRACE

The *New World Translation* substitutes "undeserved kindness" for "grace" and JWs speak of "undeserved kindness" instead of "grace".

What JWs view as "undeserved kindness" by God such as eternal life is, however, largely earned because gaining it depends on fulfilling the work programs of the WTS especially the door-to-door work. The "kindness" therefore is largely earned rather than "undeserved".

Sometimes we get the confusing idea of people deserving what's undeserved:

> We want to give deserving ones the opportunity to learn of Jehovah's undeserved kindness and the Kingdom hope. (Our Kingdom Ministry, December 1993, p.7, USA edition)

GRANT, DELROY EASTON (1959-)

A JW rapist known as the "Night Stalker" who terrorized London by committing about 100 sexual assaults on elderly women between 1991 and 2009.

In 1998, the Metropolitan Police launched Operation Minstead which became the largest rape investigation ever undertaken by London Police.

In March 2011 Jamaican-born Delroy Grant, a JW father of eight and carer for his disabled former wife, was found guilty and ordered to serve a minimum of 27 years in prison.

Grant broke into the homes of over 90 elderly women aged between 68 and 93 after watching their homes for days, and cutting telephone lines before striking. He was positively linked to four rapes and about 30

other sexual assaults. Other victims were too traumatized to make official allegations. The injuries hastened the deaths of some of his victims.

To his neighbors Grant seemed a charming, decent church-goer who cared for his disabled ex-wife.

Grant arrived in Britain at age 16 with his father. Although separated from Jennifer, his second wife, he was employed as her full-time carer — she had multiple sclerosis and is paralysed — and they attended at the same Kingdom Hall.

During the later years of his crime spree Grant had a relationship with another woman at whose house he regularly stayed overnight.

GRAVES, TERESA (1948-2002)
Hollywood actress, singer, and nightclub performer who joined JWs in 1974.

Graves toured with Bob Hope in Vietnam and in 1974 starred with David Niven in *Old Dracula*. She also became the first African-American actress to star in her own one-hour TV drama — *Get Christie Love!*

After joining JWs Graves left show business. She told *TV Guide* "Jehovah is first. My job is second." In 1977 her story appeared *Awake!*

GREAT CLIMAX
Another phrase employed to make JWs zealous in going door to door.

The "climax" or "great climax" may refer either to the climax of the preaching work or to Armageddon. Either way it is always "near" or "at hand":

> …everything that continues to exist shall be put under the control of Christ. *The great climax is at hand*. (Light 2 1930, 327)

GREAT CROWD (Revelation 7)
The majority of JWs who expect to live forever on Earth are the "great crowd" — based on Revelation 7:9.

Revelation 7 introduces a "great crowd" or "great multitude" which worships God "before the throne of God … within his temple." (7:9, 15)

Russell considered the "great multitude" a lower category of Christians who turn to God fully during the tribulation of Armageddon at which time they die and go to heaven but are of lower status than the 144,000. (Studies VI 1904, 168-179; Pastor Russell's Sermons 1916; 726-727)

> Thus, though the "great company" will be the companions of the Bride, spiritual beings … there will be a very great difference in the degrees of glory. (wr1883 March, p.458)

> They lose the prize of the throne and the divine nature, but will finally reach birth as spirit beings of an order lower than the divine nature. Though these are truly consecrated, they are overcome by the worldly spirit to such an extent that they fail to render their lives in sacrifice. (Studies 1 1886, 240; Revelation It's Grand Climax At Hand! 1988, 120)

The "great company" will enter heaven after being purified by suffering in the great tribulation:

> … but the "great company," although the Lord's people, in that they have not rejected him, must be treated like the hypocrites and pass through the great tribulation in order to their purification. (wr1897, 6/1 2161)

Russell added that: "Probably the majority of this "great company" of tribulation saints are living today…" (ibid) That is, the majority of the "great crowd" were alive in 1897!

Rutherford, until 1934, taught similarly to Russell:

> They must go into death as human creatures in order to be raised out of death on the spirit plane. (w1932 3/15 87)

The "great multitude", said Rutherford, will rise up against the governments and destroy them but die in the process. Their self-destruction was prefigured by Samson bringing the house down and killing himself and 3000 Philistines. (Government 1928, 262-271) In the resurrection the "great multitude" will live in the constellation of stars known as the Pleiades. (Reconciliation 1928, 261-263, 308-309)

Rutherford changed the doctrine in 1934-1935 and announced that the great multitude must be converted and preach and sell his publications. If they preach zealously they may survive Armageddon and live on Earth in "this generation". (Riches 1936, 224-225) The various doctrinal changes from 1918 to 1935 leading up to the new identity of the great crowd is called: "This divinely maneuvered program of preparation…" (w1984 2/1 24)

The new doctrine was promoted by drawing parallels with Old Testament characters who supposedly pictured the great crowd. *Salvation* (1939) taught that pictures of the great crowd included Lot (74), Jonadab (66-67), Rahab (83-91), Joseph's brothers (97), Queen of Sheba (134-136), the sailors who threw Jonah overboard (138), repentant people of Nineveh (138), Persian converts to Judaism (149), Jonathan (354).

A problem with the "live on earth" doctrine is that Revelation puts the great crowd — "before the throne of God … within his temple" where the "temple" symbolizes heaven. (See: *TEMPLE*)

The WTS book *Survival into a New Earth* (1984) says:

> Especially beginning in 1935, when the identity of the "great multitude," or "great crowd," was clearly understood, large numbers of these began to manifest themselves. At first there were hundreds, then thousands, later hundreds of thousands, and now there are millions spread around the globe. God's infallible Word depicts this group as 'coming out of the great tribulation,' being survivors of it, living right on into God's New Order without ever having to die. (Revelation 7:9, 10, 14; John 11:26) The early members of this group are now in their 60's or 70's or older. Jehovah did not allow the ingathering of this group to begin too soon. <u>The great crowd, including many of the earliest members thereof, will survive into the "new earth."</u> (p.184)

Thus "many of the earliest members" of the great crowd which appeared in 1935 – and who in 1984 were "in their 60's or 70's or older" — will live on to survive Armageddon. Today, 37 years after 1984, the very youngest of those "earliest members" would be 60+37=97. This looks like another prediction that will soon face disconfirmation!

GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT, THE

The Great Disappointment was the failure of the prophecy of Christ's return on October 22, 1844, propounded by the American sect known as the Millerite movement.

Based on his interpretations of the book of Daniel, William Miller (a Baptist preacher) proposed that Jesus Christ would return during 1844. The specific date October 22, 1844, was preached by Samuel S. Snow. Up to 100,000 followers waited expectantly.

Starting in 1831 William Miller interpreted Daniel 8:14 "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" to refer to 2300 years that extend to 1843 when Earth would be purified by fire and Jesus Christ return.

Miller believed the period started in 457 BC with the decree by Artaxerxes I of Persia to rebuild the Jewish temple.

Miller did not announce an exact date for Christ's Second Advent but stated: "My principles in brief, are, that Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, cleanse, purify, and take possession of the same, with all the saints, sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844."

Miller and his followers settled on April 18, 1844. After their expectations failed he wrote: "I confess my error, and acknowledge my disappointment; yet I still believe that the day of the Lord is near, even at the door."

At a camp meeting in August in New Hampshire, Samuel S. Snow presented the "seventh-month message" stating that Christ would return on "the tenth day of the seventh month of the present year, 1844." He used the calendar of the Karaite Jews [= Jews who recognize the Hebrew Bible alone without the Oral Law] to determine this date to be October 22, 1844.

The message" spread rapidly and led to the "great disappointment" when October 22, 1844 passed without incident. The Millerites had to deal with their shattered expectations, as well as criticism, ridicule and, in some locations, violence.

One, Henry Emmons, later wrote, that he waited all Tuesday (October 22) and Wednesday morning: "but after 12 o'clock I began to feel faint, and before dark I needed someone to help me up to my chamber, as my natural strength was leaving me very fast, and I lay prostrate for 2 days without any pain — sick with disappointment." (Wikipedia)

Some Millerites continued to expect Christ's imminent return. Others predicted new dates such as April, July and October 1845. Some believed that the world had entered the seventh millennium, the "Great Sabbath" and therefore the saved should not work. The majority simply gave up and rebuilt their lives by returning to their previous denominations or joining another.

By late 1845 three main Millerite groups had survived and were developing doctrinal differences:

Joseph Turner popularized the "shut door" belief based on the parable of the ten virgins. (Matthew 25:1-13) The shut door (25:11-12) was interpreted as the close of probation. The wise virgins were the true believers and no more people would be saved — the door was shut. This belief lost ground because nothing of note seemed to have occurred on October 22, 1844, in which case there could be no shut door.

Another faction was led by Joshua Himes and got the support of William Miller. They gained influence by staging the Albany Conference. The Advent Christian Church has its roots in this group.

The third major Millerite group claimed that the date, October 22 date, was correct but event expected was mistaken.

Hiram Edson, O.R.L. Crosier and F.B. Hahn came to the conclusion that October 22, 1844 marked an event in heaven — the sanctuary in heaven was cleansed. Out of this group arose the Seventh-day Adventists and their doctrine of the investigative judgment, published in the *Day Dawn* in 1845.

Members of the Bahá'í Faith believe that Miller's interpretation of the coming of Jesus was fulfilled in the "Bab", the forerunner to the Bahai religion. The "Spirit" entered the Bab's heart on April 4, 1844, and he declared himself the "Promised One" on May 23.

In the 1870s and 1880s most of C.T. Russell's initial followers came from sects that from out of the "great disappointment".

(See also: *SNOW, SAMUEL S*; *SEVENTH MONTH MOVEMENT*)

GREAT SIGNFICANCE

JWs propaganda regularly tries to impress people by claiming that "careful students of the Bible" or "true Christians" — which means the 19th century Russellites — pointed to 1914 as a "year…of great significance" or a "marked date"

> Furthermore, Bible prophecy pinpoints the year 1914. as one of **great significance**. That is why, over thirty years before that date, Jehovah's witnesses, careful students of the Bible, widely announced this.
> What do historians now say? Recently, University Professor D. F. Fleming wrote: "More and more historians look back upon World War I [starting in 1914] as the turning point of modern history, the catastrophic collapse which opened the way for others, perhaps the final one." (Kingdom News 16, 1973, p.3)

Descriptions such as "year of great significance" and "marked date" give uninformed readers the impression that the 19th prophecies for 1910-1914/1915 came true. The fact is that every prediction of those so-called "careful students of the Bible" was false and failed.

(See more detail under: *MARKED DATE*)

GREAT TRIBULATION

God's two-part execution of the world. First Babylon the Great (i.e. all religions except JWs) will be destroyed; second, all governments and their armies and citizens except JWs.

The doctrine is based on Matthew 24 and Revelation 7. To JWs the phrases "great tribulation" and "the time of trouble" are synonymous.

In the Bible the great tribulation refers to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jews beginning in 70 C.E. (Matthew 24:15-18; Luke 21:20-24) JWs give the prophecy a second fulfilment although Jesus nowhere mentioned a second fulfilment.

Russell --- pre-WWI doctrine

Using the word "trouble" rather than "tribulation" Russell initially taught that the trouble is the 40-year period 1874-1914.:

> The close of 1874 was the beginning of the time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation… (Studies III 1891, 3, 42)

The 1907 edition of Studies III has this altered to:

> The close of 1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble…

Russell indicated the tribulation/trouble would start around 1910-1912, last about three years, and end in October 1914 with the end of the "Gentile Times". (Studies VI 1904, 579; Studies II 1889, 76-78)

In 1913 we read:

> The day of trouble is called the day of Jehovah… Therefore the Scriptures

> indicate that a great time of trouble similar to that which came upon the Jewish nation will now come upon all Christendom. The experiences of Israel in the year 70 will be paralleled in the experiences of the year 1915. (wr1913 6/15 5255-5256)

The cause of the "trouble" was the unequal sharing of the fruits of technology. The poorer classes would revolt and destroy all churches, governments and other institutions. (Studies I 1886, 168-170)

To Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures* the tribulation/trouble in its entirety was synonymous with Armageddon. (Studies III 1891, 363-364; Studies IV 1897, 570, 578, 558, 622) They are the same event.

Interpretation during WWI

In April 1914 Russell wrote:

> The Scriptures indicate that this time of trouble will be upon us in 1915, and will be gradually approaching in the meantime. (wr1914 4/15 5443)

After WWI broke Russell taught this was the start of the tribulation:

> We think that the present distress amongst the nations is merely the beginning of this time of trouble. (wr1914 11/ 1 5567)

> So in the issue of *The Watch Tower* of October 15, 1914, more than two months after World War I had started, there was published the opening article "View from the Watch Tower." Under the heading "Shortening of the Days of Trouble" it expressed the view that the world war was the opening phase of a world tribulation that would worsen until its most crucial stage, wrecking the unity of human society. That *Watch Tower* article said:
> [7] "That will be the time mentioned by our Savior, saying, 'Unless those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.' (Matthew 24:22) The Master tells us, however, that those days of anarchy and general strife—'every man's hand against his brother, against his neighbor, and no peace to him that goeth out or to him that cometh in'—*shall be shortened.* The establishment of the church in glory, the bringing of the elect into control of the world, will shorten those days and inaugurate the reign of the Prince of Peace."—Page 307. (w1970 11/15 686)

Russell claimed the Great War would merge into Armageddon with a worldwide uprising of oppressed people. (People's Pulpit 1915, September 15, p.2)

Apparently, the great tribulation which had already been altered from 1874-1914 to 1914-1915 was now altered again to occur a little later.

When Rutherford replaced Russell as WBTS president *The Finished Mystery* (1917) implied the "great time of trouble" began in 1914:

> Some interesting developments in connection with the setting up of the Kingdom may occur in 1920, six years after the great Time of Trouble began. (p.178

After WWI until 1921

Although WWI ended in 1918 the interpretation that the tribulation was in progress remained:

> Again referring to the great time of trouble that is now afflicting mankind, the prophet of the Lord wrote… (g1919 11/26 156-157

> The trouble is now on the world. (Millions Now Living Will Never Die 1920, 94)

The cutting short of the tribulation (Matthew 24:21-22) was at this time believed to be a future event, only a few years away around 1925/1926, but future.

Rutherford — after WWI

In the 1920s Rutherford taught that the "great tribulation" is in two parts. It began in 1914 and was "cut short" by God in 1918 to give an interval of peace to finish the preaching work. After the preaching is finished the "great tribulation" would resume:

> Our contention is that the time of trouble, which really began in 1914 was stopped for a time; that there was a period of comparative peace; and thus that the Lord held back the trouble and thereby shortened it, and this for a specific purpose…

> Summing up, then, we see that the time of trouble began in 1914 with the World War; that had the war gone on, ere this practically all flesh on earth would have been destroyed; that the Lord held back this great trouble and shortened it for the elect's sake; that the nations now are preparing feverishly for the great

> destructive trouble; that the final conflict is between God's organization and the devil's organization, and that the cause of righteousness will triumph; that during the interim of comparative peace following 1918 and the final trouble the Lord commands his elect to advertise the King and his kingdom and to comfort those that mourn. (w1925 5/1 134, 137)

It's unclear whether the entire tribulation, both the initial part until 1918 and the future part, was at this time regarded as Armageddon:

> On account of his "chosen ones" he cuts short the days. How? Back in the year 1925 the suggestion was set out in the leading article of the Watch Tower issue of May 1, entitled "For the Elect's Sake," that "those days" of the "great tribulation" were cut short in the middle. The explanation was given that the "great tribulation" had begun in 1914 C.E. and that it was not allowed to run its full course then but God stopped World War I in November of 1918.
>
> From then on God was allowing an interval for the activity of his anointed remnant of elect Christians before he let the final part of the "great tribulation" resume at the battle of Armageddon and come to its termination… This explanation sounded good and reasonable back there in 1925, just seven years after World War I... (w1970 1/15 52).

Deliverance (1926) seems to regard only the future part of the tribulation as Armageddon. (pp 297, 303-304)

In 1933 Rutherford decisively identified Armageddon as being only the resumed portion of the great tribulation, which he also called the "climax of the tribulation":

> The year 1914 marks the beginning of sorrows, which sorrows include the World War, and which are a part of the great tribulation but not the greatest part. Jehovah shortened that great tribulation for the elect's sake, and the clear inference is that when the elect have finished the work assigned to them by Jehovah there will be much tribulation… Satan sends forth his forces under Gog against the assembled troops of Jehovah at Armageddon… The great battle that is about to be fought is called 'the battle of God Almighty'… (w1933 3/1 71-72)
>
> …the greatest of all tribulations mentioned in the Scriptures must come as stated by Jesus at Matthew 24:21 above. That "tribulation" period began in A.D. 1914, when the "war in heaven" started against Satan's organization in heaven and was accompanied by the World War on earth. (Rev. 12:7-10) That tribulation period reaches its climax at the time of the battle of Armageddon, "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." In harmony with this, Revelation 7:14 calls it "great tribulation".
>
> Had the tribulation, which began in 1914, continued without interruption to its finality in the complete destruction of Satan's organization visible and invisible, all flesh on earth would have been destroyed. However, the tribulation was shortened by the Lord Jehovah approximately when the World War ended, in 1918… Thus Jehovah shortened "those days" of "great tribulation" by this cessation of hostilities for a time, to wit, by this in-between period of enforced peace for preaching the Kingdom gospel before the final end comes at Armageddon. (w1939 4/1 110-111)

Rutherford originated his two-part tribulation doctrine to make Russell's false predictions for 1914-1915 seem partly correct. Russell believed that Armageddon would be over in 1915; when this failed his followers expected WWI to merge into Armageddon which would and finish around 1918-1921. Instead WWI stopped in 1918. Rutherford needed an explanation and came up with the tribulation "shortened" in 1918 to be later resumed.

This remained "the truth" and was restated many times until further revision in 1969.

Revised again in 1969

In 1969 at the famous "Peace on Earth" conventions F.W. Franz declared that WWI was no part of the "great tribulation". The tribulation would be cut short at its end, not in the middle. (w1970 1/15 52-53)

The revised doctrine states:

> The "great tribulation" will come with astounding suddenness… Its outbreak will be marked by God's execution of judgment on all false religion, which God's Word calls "Babylon the Great."… The "Great tribulation" begins when the political elements suddenly turn on "Babylon the Great." …

> Having destroyed false religion, the political elements turn on Jehovah's servants… (w1997 4/1 14)

At some point after the "great tribulation" begins, but before Jehovah executes his judgment upon the rest of this world, super-natural events will occur:

> Jehovah then delivers the death blow to Satan's system… The entire human society of God-ignoring people is annihilated. That is the Armageddon climax of the "great tribulation…" (w1996 4/1 14-15)

The tribulation is again in two parts, but both parts are future, the first part is the annihilation of the world's religions, the second part is a supernatural Armageddon:

> God's war of Armageddon will be the final part of a period of time called the 'great tribulation'. (w1980 10/15 13)

Only JWs saved

Only people who join JWs before the <u>initial</u> part of the tribulation will survive:

> We can refer to no prophetic Bible Scriptures to show that after the modern counterpart of ancient Jerusalem goes down in the oncoming "great tribulation," unnumbered former adherents of Christendom will get converted and line up with … Jehovah's Witnesses. (w1980 3/1 18)

> [3]Any person who wants to survive into God's righteous new order urgently needs to come into a right relationship with Jehovah and His earthly organization *now*… Yes, any people of the nations who want to live in God's paradisaic new order must *now* stream to Jehovah's mountain, his true worship… (w1981 11/15 16)

Armageddon When?

The JWs date for Armageddon from the 1940s was within the generation of 1914. From 1946 onwards it was in the twentieth century. For a time Armageddon was also anticipated in 1975/1976

(See: *TWENTIETH CENTURY; DATES*)

GREBER, JOHANNES

In the 1960s and 1970s the WTS used the translation of the New Testament by Johannes Greber to support their rendering of John 1:1 and Matthew 27:52, 53.

The *New World Translation* of John 1:1 "The Word was a god" is widely disputed. The WTS therefore sought support wherever they found it AND quoted Greber's translation in:

- *The Word Who Is He According to John*, 1962, p5;
- The Watchtower 1962 9/15 554;
- *Make Sure of all Things*, 1965, 489;
- *Aid to Bible Understanding*, 1971, 1669.

Greber's New Testament was also used by the WTS to support their translation of Matthew 27:52, 53. These verses, in most other translations, describe "saints" rising out of their graves when Jesus died and entering Jerusalem. The *New World Translation* suggests that an earthquake threw dead bodies out of graves. Greber is quoted regarding Matthew 27:52, 53 in:

- w1961 1/1 30;
- Aid to Bible Understanding, 1971, 1134;
- w1975 10/15, 640;
- w1976 4/15 231.

By 1980 the WTS had stopped citing Greber because he believed in contact with the dead and claimed spirits had helped him to translate the New Testament:

> This translation was used occasionally in support of renderings of Matthew 27:52, 53 and John 1:1, as given in the *New World Translation* and other authoritative Bible versions. But as indicated in a foreword to the 1980 edition of *The New Testament* by Johannes Greber, this translator relied on "God's Spirit World" to clarify for him how he should translate difficult passages. It is stated: "His wife, a medium of God's Spiritworld was often instrumental in conveying the correct answers from God's Messengers to Pastor Greber." *The Watchtower* has deemed it improper to make use of a translation that has such a close rapport with spiritism. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). (w1983 4/1 3

The Governing Body, however, already knew about Greber's spiritualism in the 1950s if not before:

> It comes as no surprise that one Johannes Greber, a former Catholic clergyman, has become a spiritualist and has published the book entitled "Communi-cation with the Spirit World, Its laws and Its Purpose." (1932, Macoy Publishing Company, New York) In its Foreword he makes the typical misstatement: "The most significant spiritualistic book is the Bible; for its principal contents hinge

upon the messages of the beyond to those existing in the present." (What Do the Scriptures Say About Survival After Death? 1955, 88; w1955 10/1 603)

Says Johannes Greber in the introduction of his translation of The New Testament, copyrighted in 1937: "I myself was a Catholic priest, and until I was forty-eight years old had never as much as believed in the possibility of communicating with the world of God's spirits. The day came, however, when I involuntarily took my first step toward such communication, and experienced things that shook me to the depths of my soul… My experiences are related in a book that has appeared in both German and English and bears the title, "Communication with the Spirit-World: Its Laws and Its Purpose." (Page 15, ¶ 2, 3) In keeping with his Roman Catholic extraction Greber's translation is bound with a gold-leaf cross on its stiff front cover. In the Foreword of his aforementioned book ex-priest Greber says: "The most significant spiritualistic book is the Bible." Under this impression Greber endeavors to make his New Testament translation read very spiritualistic. (w1956 2/15 110-111)

Thus Greber's translation was cited for support for at least 20 years after his and its connection with Spiritualism was known.

GREECE

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	14,622	598		
1975	18,348	491		
1980	18,604	484	32,900	274
1985	22,466	434	39,000	250
1990	24,348	409	42,750	233
1995	26,266	390	44,800	228
2000	27,575	372	43,400	236
2005	28,055	376	44,400	238
2010	29,058	363	48,000	220
2015	28,816	374	46,800	230
2018	28,254	383	44,800	242
	Ave.			
2019	28,089	382	45,600	235
2020	28,005	382	43,700	245
2021	28,133	381	53,200	201
2022	27,887	374	43,600	239
2023	27,644	379	43,600	241
2024	27,661	379	43,600	241
2025	27,542	378	42,145	247

GREEK SCRIPTURES

See: *CHRISTIAN GREEK SCRIPTURES*

GREENLAND

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	27	1,667		
1975	92	538		
1980	86	579	122	408
1985	104	509	160	331
1990	126	441	246	226
1995	152	367	339	165
2000	144	389	289	194
2005	121	470	270	211
2010	170	331	316	178
2015	155	361	351	159
2018	165	339	318	176
	Ave.			
2019	144	389	315	178
2020	134	418	297	189
2021	136	412	352	159
2022	125	456	297	192
2023	114	500	278	205
2024	124	460	330	173
2025	135	422	252	226

GREENLEES, LEO K.

A Governing Body member allegedly forced to resign in 1984 for homosexual conduct.

Greenlees entered the Toronto, Canada Bethel in 1936 eventually becoming treasurer of the Canadian branch and of the IBSA of Canada. In 1964 he transferred to Brooklyn Bethel, and in 1965 was elected as a director of the Society's New York Corporation, which made him also a Governing Body member. He often spoke at Gilead graduations. A 1982 *Watchtower* mentions him as being on the Teaching Committee of the Governing Body. Greenlees' last mention in Watchtower publications is in w1984 12/1 28 where he is said to have passed out diplomas at the September Gilead graduation.

Ex JWs claim Greenlees was dismissed for molesting boys but base this on third-hand sources that cannot be checked. Some see a connection with the following:

> Shocking as it is, even some who have been prominent in Jehovah's organization have succumbed to immoral practices, including homosexuality, wife swapping, and child molesting. (w1986 1/1 13)

WTS publications made no further mention of him after 1984. Ex JWs claim he served as a

special pioneer and elder in New Orleans, Louisiana, and died in the late 1980s.

GRENADA
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Grenada (an island in the Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	194	546		
1975	299	330		
1980	317	351	1,043	107
1985	353	317	1,075	104
1990	409	272	1,219	91
1995	545	169	1,729	53
2000	603	159	1,445	66
2005	568	157	1,455	61
2010	576	181	1,696	61
2015	602	182	1,534	71
2018	595	198	1,215	95
	Ave.			
2019	526	213	1,487	75
2020	523	216	1,116	101
2021	529	214	1,656	68
2022	528	214	1,470	77
2023	523	218	1,388	82
2024	514	247	1,408	90
2025	512	229	1,414	83

GREW, HENRY (1781-1862)
A former Baptist who rejected some standard doctrines such as the Trinity, immortality of the soul, and eternal torment, and whose writings influenced George Storrs and C.T. Russell.

Born in Birmingham, England, Henry Grew and family sailed to America in 1795 and settled in Providence, Rhode Island.

In 1807, at age 25, Grew served as pastor in the Baptist Church in Hartford, Connecticut. He objected to non-church members handling the Church's business affairs, voting on church matters, and leading the singing. In 1811 he and others of similar views left and started a separate Bible group.

In 1824 Grew wrote against the doctrine of the Trinity, in 1828 against Christians engaging in warfare, and in 1835 a pamphlet arguing that immortality of the soul and hellfire are against the Bible.

In the 1830s Grew joined the New England Anti-Slavery Society.

In 1837 George Storrs (1796-1879), living in Utica, New York, and minister in the Methodist-Episcopal Church, read Grew's pamphlet. He resigned from the Methodist Church in 1840, moved to Albany, New York, and spread Grew's views.

In 1842, Storrs gave six lectures on the subject "An Inquiry—Are the Wicked Immortal?" A revised version was published and 200,000 circulated in the USA and Great Britain.

From 1842 Storrs was also an important figure in the Millerite movement, which preached the visible return of Jesus in 1943 and in 1844. The Millerites subsequently formed various sects with which Storrs disagreed on the date for Christ's return, the immortality of the soul, the burning up of the world, and other doctrines.

Many Millerites adopted variants of Grew's/Storrs' views, which later entered Seventh Day Adventist and Russellite doctrine.

Storrs and Grew met in 1844 when both lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and collaborated in debates against the doctrine of the immortal soul.

Grew also wrote *An Examination Of The Divine Testimony Concerning The Character Of The Son of God* (1824) expounding a Christology later adopted by Russell.

(w2000 10/15 25-30)

GRIZZUTI, BARBARA
See: *HARRISON*

GROH, J.O. (July 1906 – January 1975)
John Otto Groh was one of the seven directors in the Pennsylvania Corporation from 1944 to 1975 (usually assistant secretary-treasurer and apparently 4th in the JWs hierarchy) hence also a member of the Governing Body during the same period. (Yearbook 1970, 322; 1972, 258; 1973, 257)

Groh was born in North Dakota and became a "university trained metallurgist". He was baptized in April 1934 and entered full time door to door work with his wife Helen in 1942 in the Pittsburgh area. Groh was often "convention servant" supervising 1940s and 1950s JWs conventions in the USA. (w1975 3/15 190)

GROENVELD, JAN (1945-2002)
A former Mormon and former JW who hosted the *Freedom in Christ* ministry in Queensland, and the *Cult Awareness and Information Center* (CAIC) website.

GROOMING
JWs elders monitor the hairstyles, beards and moustaches of male publishers. Beards were common in Russell's time but opposed by Rutherford.

More recently beards, moustaches, certain hair styles, and hair over the collar or covering the ears were at times unacceptable and led to loss of "privileges" in the congregation.

GROWTH AND EXPANSION
See: *INCREASE*

GRUNDY, PAUL (c.1970-)
A former JW who worked at the Australian headquarters but now exposes the sect on his website — www.jwfacts.com/

He writes:

> In 1993, while at Bethel, I started to wonder what would happen if the end did not come before the generation [of 1914] had all died... Here was an Organization in control of billions of dollars. Would it be given back to the members once the truth had been proven untrue?
>
> ...I was raised a Jehovah's Witness, my aunty and uncle, many cousins and grandparents are Jehovah's Witnesses. My father is a Circuit Overseer... I grew up in an old-fashioned congregation that was strict and fundamental — Jehovah personally directed the Organization and soon would destroy anyone that was not a Jehovah's Witness... I thought I was never going to die, I did not even expect to finish school prior to Armageddon. However, Armageddon had not arrived by the time I matriculated so, unusually for a Witness, I obtained a University degree....

After leaving "Bethel" in 1994 Grundy overcame his fears (that every JW has) of researching the Organization's history:

> I went through posttraumatic shock... I realized that I could not trust any of my beliefs. Virtually everything I believed had been dictated from birth...

GRUSS, Edmund C. (c.1933-)
Professor Emeritus at The Master's College in Santa Clarita, California. Gruss was a JW from the age of 7 to 17. After converting to evangelical Christianity he researched "cults" and the occult and wrote numerous books including some on JWs.

GUADELOUPE
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Guadeloupe (an island in the Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,435	209		
1975	2,393	135		
1980	2,700	120	7,021	46
1985	4,064	81	11,658	28
1990	6,288	59	15,625	24
1995	7,664	50	18,109	21
2000	7,767	54	17,764	24
2005	7,713	57	18,691	24
2010	8,497	54	20,797	22
2015	8,192	50	19,763	21
2018	8,332	48	19,065	21
	Ave.			
2019	8,143	49	19,385	21
2020	8,015	50	16,992	24
2021	8,278	48	21,858	18
2022	8,323	48	20,016	20
2023	8,352	47	19,549	20
2024	8,407	45	19,236	20
2025	8,551	44	18,901	20

GUAM
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Guam and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	83	1,188		
1975	131	753		
1980	153	692	467	227
1985	241	491	782	151
1990	379	396	1,080	139
1995	551	272	1,836	82
2000	616	265	2,048	80
2005	622	249	1,987	78
2010	746	239	1,893	94
2015	790	202	1,943	82
2018	745	214	1,878	85
	Ave.			
2019	748	223	1,900	88
2020	754	224	1,627	104
2021	756	225	2,174	78
2022	730	236	1,892	87
2023	692	250	1,622	107
2024	726	240	1,650	105
2025	755	224	1,760	96

GUATEMALA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	2,250	2,298		
1975	4,876	1,106		
1980	5,686	1,231	19,394	361
1985	8,135	922	27,912	269
1990	12,230	715	41,300	212
1995	16,176	587	49,300	192
2000	20,866	470	57,463	171
2005	24,008	531	68,700	186
2010	30,000	478	85,000	169
2015	38,800	385	97,100	154
2018	40,490	429	96,600	180
	Ave.			
2919	40,200	438	98,200	179
2020	39,800	450	95,300	188
2021	39,600	461	111,350	164
2022	39,000	477	98,300	189
2023	38,800	488	93,900	201
2024	38,900	459	94,600	189
2025	39,200	461	92,100	196

GUINEA

Publishers and Memorial attendance In Guinea and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	166	21,735		
1975	375	13,715		
1980	228	22,558	857	6,001
1985	204	25,212	732	7,026
1990	278	27,000	960	7,819
1995	684	9,591	3,540	1,853
2000	707	10,560	3,261	2,289
2005	883	10,648	3,255	2,889
2010	686	15,039	3,337	3,092
2015	835	14,072	3,136	3,747
2018	1,015	13,538	4,059	3,385
	Ave.			
2019	1,012	12,620	4,243	3,010
2020	1,042	12,604	2,687	4,888
2021	1,082	12,474	4,076	3,311
2022	1,095	12,663	3,913	3,544
2023	1,148	12,403	4,616	3,085
2024	1,252	11,605	5,018	2,895
2025	1,339	11,227	4,917	3,071

GUINEA-BISSAU

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Guinea-Bissau (formerly Portuguese Guinea) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1	625,000		
1980	5	106,000	15	35,300
1985	5	106,000	16	33,100
1990	10	95,000	18	52,800
1995	40	27,560	190	5,800
2000	76	15,789	475	2,526
2005	114	12,421	906	1,563
2010	124	12,485	564	2,745
2015	149	12,378	701	2,631
2018	171	11,154	642	2,971
	Ave.			
2019	184	10,440	699	2,748
2020	201	9,791	729	2,700
2021	199	10,126	1,163	1,733
2022	194	10,634	592	3,485
2023	192	11,000	719	2,937
2024	206	10,665	792	2,774
2025	209	10,766	677	3,323

GUYANA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,079	658		
1975	1,420	521		
1980	1,211	695	3,792	222
1985	1,360	619	4,792	176
1990	1,651	458	5,778	131
1995	2,005	378	8,386	90
2000	2,185	356	9,831	79
2005	2,192	355	9,930	78
2010	2,575	302	11,843	66
2015	3,013	260	12,837	61
2018	3,121	249	13,330	58
	Ave.			
2019	3,155	248	13,942	56
2020	3,211	245	9,263	85
2021	3,334	237	14,394	55
2022	3,284	242	12,471	64
2023	3,201	249	12,125	66
2024	3,238	253	12,288	67
2025	3,259	257	11,782	71

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