DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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LAKE OF FIRE (Revelation 20:14; 21:8)
Interpreted by JWs as symbolic of annihilation:

> [The Lake of fire] has been used by some persons to support the belief in a literal place of fire and torment. Revelation 20:10 has been appealed to, because it speaks of the Devil, the wild beast, and the false prophet as being "tormented day and night forever and ever" in the lake of fire. However, this cannot refer to actual conscious torment. Those thrown into the lake of fire undergo "the second death" (Re 20:14) In death there is no consciousness and, hence, no feeling of pain or suffering.—Ec 9:5…
>
> In the Scriptures fiery torment is associated with destruction and death. For example, in the Greek *Septuagint* translation of the Hebrew Scriptures the word for torment (*basanos*) is several times used with reference to punishment by death...
>
> ...The related Greek word *basanistes* is translated 'jailer' in Matthew 18:34. (*RS, NW, ED*; compare vs 30.) Thus those hurled into the lake of fire will be held under restraint, or 'jailed,' in death throughout eternity. (Insight II, 1988, 190)

This argument denies what Revelation states which is, "They will be tormented for ever and ever…"

The Bible book of Ecclesiastes describes what a researcher could find out "under the sun" i.e. by observing the world around him. What he observes is that people die like animals and their "thoughts perish". Taken out of their context of what can be found out by experience and observation these words contradict not just hell but also heaven, paradise, salvation, Jesus' resurrection, and life everlasting.

In Matthew 18:34 the noun *basanistes* means literally "tormentor" but is translated "jailor". W.E. Vine (1981) says of *basanistes*: "properly, a torturer … one who elicits information by torture, is used of jailers, Matt. 18:34."

"Torment" implies a conscious afterlife since torment is experienced by conscious minds. Its basis can be emotional or physical or both.

LANDS
Statistics published in JWs Yearbooks include the number of "lands" in which JWs were active during the year. The lands are not all independent countries but include some territories and colonies.

Number of Lands in which JWs are active

1879	1	1955	158	2005	235
1881	2	1960	179	2010	236
1900	5?	1965	197	2015	240
1918	14	1970	206	2020	240
1928	32	1975	210	2021	239
1938	52	1980	205	2022	239
1939	61	1985	205	2023	239
1940	56	1990	212	2024	240
1945	68	1995	232	2025	241
1950	115	2000	235	------	----

LANGBROEK, KATE (1965-)
Australian writer and television personality born in Queensland of JW parents who met in Gilead Missionary School.

Langbroek:
- Obtained a degree in journalism from the University of Technology, Queensland;
- Co-presented a breakfast show in Melbourne;
- Appeared weekly on *The Panel* (Channel 10);
- Was a script-writer for the TV show *Neighbours*;
- Co-edited *Dear Jack* (a book about relationship break-ups).

The Langbroek family migrated from Holland to Australia in 1964. In the 1960s and 1970s the Governing Body urged JWs to "move to where the need is greater" so as to promote the truth (i.e JWs doctrine) widely before Armageddon. In 1966 the Langbroeks therefore moved to New Guinea for four years.

Kate left JWs at 18, followed by her brother and then her parents. Her brother John Paul became a dentist. Before leaving JWs he was a "ministerial servant". (Summut 1999; Van Tiggelen 2002)

LANGUAGE OF TRUTH
The phrases "language of truth" and "pure language of truth" refer to JWs doctrines collectively. The *Watchtower Library CD* (2007) lists 28 occurrences of "language of truth" from 1951 to 1995.

LANGUAGES

In 1992 the languages into which the WTS had published at least some material numbered 200 but the only language in which **all** of it appeared was English. (w1993 1/1 20)

LANZ, EMILE
A Swiss dentist who was in charge of the WTS Branch Office in Geneva but became disappointed by Russell's failed prophecies for 1914-1915. In 1916 Russell sent C. Binkele to remove him.

A self biography by a Fred Germann, born 1885, tells about the WTS cult in Switzerland before WWI:

> ...the Thun Congregation was mainly under the oversight of two fleshly brothers, both very gifted at teaching. One of them had been to the "Bible House" ... and had shared in the work of translating the fifth volume of *Studies in the Scriptures* into German.
>
> Unfortunately, both these brothers stopped following the great Guide, Jesus Christ, and started 'leaning upon their own understanding.' (Prov. 3:5) They gradually developed a critical spirit...
>
> I ... was baptized by Brother Emile Lanz in his apartment in Bern. At that time Dr. Lanz was in charge of the work in Switzerland and France....
>
> Brother Lanz, who had baptized me in 1915, began to manifest a rebellious spirit toward the Watch Tower Society's president, Charles T. Russell. Puffed up with pride at being "Doctor" Lanz and convinced that his methods were the best, he allowed an embittered heart to develop within him...
>
> During his talk he said that the Society was in the wrong, and he proposed "another sort of good news." (Gal. 1:6) ... Many left Jehovah's mountain of light at that time and soon found themselves in "the darkness outside." (w1981 11/15 24-25)

After WWI

> ...the talk on the subject "Millions Now Living Will Never Die" was a magnificent witness...
>
> Back there in that early postwar period, zealous Christians sought out the "sheep" in every nook and cranny, and led them to Jehovah's "mountain" of true worship where they found nourishing spiritual food. (ibid)

Note the expressions that imply Russellism was completely correct — "following the great Guide, Jesus"; "Jehovah's mountain of light"; "magnificent witness"; "mountain of true worship"; "nourishing spiritual food". Contrast these with the dissenters — "leaning upon their own understanding"; "critical spirit"; "rebellious spirit"; "puffed up with pride"; "embittered heart"; "another sort of good news"; "the darkness outside".

Watchtower biographies are propaganda pieces to convince newcomers that the leadership has always right and dissenters always misled by Satan.

However, as is shown in this dictionary the JWs leaders have progressively changed thousands of their interpretations of Bible verses and every major doctrine. Russell's "good news" of the 1878 kingdom that would bring world peace in 1915, and Rutherford's "good news" of the resurrected "worthies" who would inaugurate paradise on Earth in 1925 when "millions now living will never die", were not "a magnificent witness" or "following the great guide, Jesus" as Germann puts it, but sectarian garbage — as were hundreds of other doctrines and interpretations that came and went or got revised.

Germann and other biography-contributors were propagandists for the alleged unfailing truthfulness of the WTS leaders. Although claiming to follow the Bible they ignored its teaching that God will judge every word and unrepentant liars suffer eternal punishment. (Matthew 12:36-37; Revelation 21:8)

Lanz gets a mention in the book *God's Generals* (2011). The Welsh Pentecostal evangelist George Jeffreys (1889-1962) held healing revivals in France and Switzerland in the mid 1930s and we read:

> Dr. Emile Lanz, one of Jeffrey's interpreters, wrote about the healing revivals on the continent, saying, "A mighty wave of Foursquare revival has just rolled over Switzerland sweeping thousands of precious souls into the Kingdom of heaven and bringing encouragement and bodily healing of all kinds of disease and infirmity to thousands of stricken folk.

LARSON, MAX (1915-2011)
Max Larson became vice president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York in January 1977. He became its president in 2000 when the Governing Body resigned from holding positions in the corporations.

Larson was born in South Dakota, USA, of Lutheran immigrants from Denmark. The family moved to a farm in Montana where the

mother was baptized by the Rutherford cult in 1925.

After a further move to Washington, Larson worked driving logging-trucks. Living near Seattle in 1938 he joined his mother at a JWs convention, got baptized the next day, June 5, and quit his job to sell Rutherford's book *Enemies* and *Riches*. His brother Norman also joined JWs and pioneered.

Larson moved into Brooklyn Bethel in January 1939 and operated a printing press. He is listed in the 1940 *Yearbook* list of "Ordained Ministers". He became factory overseer in 1942. In 1949 he was assigned to oversee construction and real-estate purchases in Brooklyn. He married in 1956 after Bethel rules against marriage were relaxed. (w1989 9/1 23-30)

LAST (LATTER) DAYS
A phrase that occurs 19 times in the Bible.

The "last days" had begun by the time of Pentecost, 33 CE. (Acts 2:14-17) JWs, however, call this interpretation "apostasy". (w1984 12/1 18) It **is** apostasy from the JWs viewpoint but the JWs viewpoint is itself apostasy from early Christianity which believed they were living "in **these** last days". (Hebrews 1:2)

Russell taught that the last days began in 1799 and would extend to the end of the harvest in 1914.

In 1930 Rutherford transferred the start of the last days to 1914:

> These "latter days" must refer to the "day of the Lord", which means the time beginning when God places his King upon his holy hill in Zion. (Ps. 2:6) That event occurred in 1914… (w1930 8/1 229)

In 1986 the last days approached their "finale":

> So as we progress toward the finale of these "last days," we can expect some outstanding attention to be given to "Peace and security!" in fulfillment of Paul's words. (w1986 2/15 6)

In 1995 the "finale" was delayed indefinitely when "the generation of 1914" was redefined.

Nevertheless in 1997 the "last days" period was "nearing its end" and the great tribulation "fast approaching":

> In 1914 this world entered its "last days." (2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13) We are now 83 years into that period and are nearing its end when, as Jesus foretold, the following will take place: "There will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." (Matthew 24:21) Yes, worse than even World War II, when some 50 million lives were taken. What a world-shaking time is fast approaching! (w1997 4/1 14)

(See: *GENERATION*)

LATE DATE
Another Governing Body phrase to keep their followers faithful and active by reminding them that time has almost run out. The *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD lists 74 instances. For example:

> Still exercising loving kindness at this late date, Jehovah sounds out a loud alarm to awaken the sleepers. (w1957 3/1 146)

> Yet the time that he has set for the accomplishment of his righteous purpose toward the earth is scheduled to run out within the coming years of this generation. So we do not want to fall now at this late date in man's history into Satan's trap of unbelief and lack of faith. (w1969 1/15 45)

> Even at this late date persons of honest heart who have a love for what is right may yet separate themselves from Satan's system of things… (w1970 8/1 463)

> But today, at this late date in the "time of the end" of this system of things… (Man's Salvation Out Of World Distress At Hand! 1975, 61)

> What a grievous error it would be to look for security in the wrong direction at this late date! (w1977 4/1 201)

> Today, at this late date, no spiritual 'balsam of Gilead' exists, able to heal Christendom. So now, before destruction strikes her "suddenly", let all lovers of true and lasting peace with Jehovah God flee from her. (w1979 8/1 21)

> At this late date, in the closing days of Christendom and all the rest of this doomed system of things, there is the greatest need for action. (w1981 2/1 25)

> At this late date there is a mere remnant of this "prophet" class yet on earth. (w1982 10/1 27)

> At this late date in "the conclusion of the system of things" since 1914, there is need for concerted action on the part of Jehovah's Witnesses… (w1982 12/15 24)

> Those words of the Bridegroom Jesus Christ are very timely, especially now, 71 years into this "conclusion of the system of things." Even at this late date, the remnant of the 'discreet virgin' class does not know the day or hour when "the door" will be shut… (w1985 2/1 19)

LATVIA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	981	2,579	3,164	800
2000	2,129	1,135	4,276	565
2005	2,403	957	4,035	570
2010	2,379	941	4,118	544
2013	2,340	860	3,742	538
2015	2,303	868	3,750	533
2018	2,216	869	3,288	586
	Ave.			
2019	2,142	896	3,367	570
2020	2,120	900	3,227	591
2021	2,097	903	3,960	478
2022	2,067	915	3,537	535
2023	2,098	898	3,279	574
2024	2,082	899	3,301	567
2025	2,077	894	3,188	582

LAW

s distinguish Caesar's laws, the Law of Moses, and laws of the new covenant.

Caesar's laws, i.e. the laws of the nations, should be obeyed except when in conflict with the WTS and/or the Bible.

God's laws are any commands of God in the Bible that apply now. JWs believe the Law of Moses was a covenant between God and Israel and no longer applies. Yet they use Moses' condemnation of eating blood to support their anti-blood transfusion doctrine. They accept certain commands of Moses' law such as "You must love Jehovah your God with all your heart..." as "fundamental requirements [which] have not gone out of date." (w1984 9/1 12) Apparently the commands that have "not gone out of date" include not eating blood. But Moses wrote over 600 commands and JWs have not provided a list dividing them into fundamental and non-fundamental.

JWs do not even accept all the commands in the New Testament but rely on their leaders to interpret the New Testament and tell them what to obey or disregard. (w1984 9/1 14)

This is because JWs believe that the New Testament letters are addressed to the "heavenly class" i.e. the 144,000 of whom in 2005 only 8500 still lived on Earth. There are no commands in the Bible directly written for the majority of JWs i.e. the "great crowd", who therefore rely on the Governing Body to tell them which biblical ethics they should obey.

LAW AND FREEDOM

According to the book *Judging Jehovah's Witnesses* (Shawn Francis Peters, University Press of Kansas: 2000), "the Witnesses have helped to widen the definition of civil liberties in most western societies, hence broadening the rights of millions of people, due to their firm stand and determination."

According to William Kaplan (1989):

> One of the results of the Witnesses' legal battles was the long process of discussion and debate that led to the Charter of Rights, which is now part of the fundamental law of Canada. Other battles in countries around the world have involved the rights to decline military service or martial arts training, to decline to participate in political parties or governmental elections, to exercise free and anonymous speech, to exercise freedom of association, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, medical self-determination, etc. Witnesses continue to, in their words, 'defend and legally establish the Good News' around the world.

Freedoms gained are not applied internally

The JWs Organization has defended its claimed "legal rights, Human Rights, and Freedoms of Speech" by passive resistance, disobedience to prevailing laws, and argumentation in courts. Observers, therefore, have expressed concern over the Organization's refusal to extend these same Human Rights and basic freedoms to its members.

Critics contend that views expressed by baptized members that disagree with official doctrines, or disagree with its policy of whitewashing its failed prophecies, will result in disfellowshipping on the grounds of "apostasy".

Apostates and apostasy

The Organization defines apostates as: "Persons who deliberately spread (stubbornly hold to and speak about) teachings contrary to Bible truth as taught by Jehovah's Witnesses."

And apostasy is: "…teaching false doctrines; supporting or promoting false religion and its holidays; interfaith activities."

A letter to Circuit and District Overseers stated:

> Keep in mind that to be disfellowshipped, an apostate does not have to be a promoter of apostate views… Therefore, if a baptized "Christian" abandons the teachings of Jehovah, as presented by the faithful and discreet slave, and persists in believing other doctrines … then he is apostatizing... (1 September 1980)

"Bible truth", "false doctrine", "false religion" and "apostate views", however, are not objective concepts because the JWs leaders have discarded or revised thousands of their own interpretations, doctrines and prophecies. Hundreds of former so-called "Bible truths" would if affirmed today constitute apostasy.

Rights violated

Some commentators therefore conclude that the JWs Organization denies its own members the same basic human rights and freedoms which the courts and governments had granted them.

In the 1940s when the WTS legal team won many of its legal battles for increased freedom for JWs, most JWs were ex-members of other religions. They were, therefore, "apostates" from those religions yet still wanted freedom of speech, thought, and association so as to preach to the religions that they apostatized from.

However, "apostates" from JWs, even those with good reasons for leaving, such as finding out about the false prophecies, cannot share this information with other JWs. If we imagine a future world in which majorities in whole nations follow the WTS there will be no freedom for minorities to preach to them.

(See also: *COURT/STATE CONFLICTS WITH JWs*; *DISFELLOWSHIPPING*)

LAW COURTS AND ARRESTS

Russell established the precedent of recourse to law courts. There were legal disputes with against his wife in 1903 and 1906; the Baptist minister J.J. Ross in 1912; and with *The Eagle* newspaper in 1912.

On May 7, 1918 eight WBTS leaders, including Rutherford, were arrested, prosecuted under the Espionage Act of 1917, and sentenced in July to 20 years imprisonment. The timing of their arrest and the near demise of the WBTS was ironic because the cult had predicted:

> In the 1918…Christendom shall go down as a system to oblivion… the realization that Christendom is smitten by the onslaughts of revolution, might be expected to flash throughout the world on or about April 27, 1918… (The Finished Mystery 1917, 513, 530)

In March 1919 the case was appealed, the defendants released on bail, and a new trial ordered. However, with World War I over the US Government decided against going ahead and in May 1920 charges were dropped.

Rutherford's booklet *Intolerance* (1933) features the arrest of about 50 JWs in the town of Plainsfield, New Jersey, USA.

Most arrests of JWs in the USA in the 1930s and 1940s were for violation of peddling laws. During World War II about 4300 were also imprisoned for rejection of military service. Alternatives to military service were available to conscientious objectors but JWs leaders argued that to do alternative service endorses military service and therefore banned their followers from doing the alternative. They revoked this interpretation in the 1990s and permitted JWs to do alternative service. (See: *ALTERNATIVE SERVICE*)

WTS sources put the total arrests of JWs in the USA for all reasons from 1933 to 1951 at 18,866. A partial year-by-year breakdown is:

1933	269	1942	3,000
1936	1,149	1945	100
1940	3,000	1946	50
1941	3,000		

(Divine Purpose1959, 175, 181; Yearbook 1942, 64)

Many appeals reached higher courts. Bergman (1984) listed 112 Supreme Court and State Court cases.

Large numbers of arrests of JWs also occurred in some other countries. Arrests in Germany in the 1920s for "violation of peddling laws" numbered:

1927	1,169
1928	1,660
1929	1,694
1930	434

In Germany's Nazi era 6019 JWs were arrested, some of them two or three times, giving a total of 8917 arrests. (Yearbook 1974) In Communist East Germany 1016 JWs were in prison in 1953.

In England 1593 JWs were imprisoned 1939-1945 for refusing alternative service as conscientious objectors. (Divine Purpose 1959 157) About 1000 were in prison during 1988 in France and Italy. (Amnesty International Report 1988, pp 199, 206)

In the Soviet Union in April 1951 7000 JWs were rounded up and transported east including 2000 to the infamous prison camp of Vorkuta.

In Greece there were 19,147 arrests from 1938 to 1992. Many of these were repeat-arrests, including one person arrested 40 times. (w1996 9/1 27)

In Canada some 1700 cases were pending in court in Quebec in 1947 mainly on the door-to-door proselytizing issue.

JWs exist in over 200 lands, therefore the above statistics are only part of the story.

Often the so-called "persecution" of JWs was deliberately provoked, hence self imposed. To flood religiously conservative towns with booklets and magazines that called Christian denominations a "racket" does not promote good will. Include false prophecy, accuse churches of worshipping "the devil", claim to represent "Jehovah's organization", call this mixture "the gospel", and even put one's foot in the door or proselytize when intoxicated — which occurred in the 1930s — and normally placid churchgoers can become incensed.
[In recent years ex-JWs sometimes raided meetings at Kingdom Halls to publicly complain of child abuse or false prophecies and the elders act much like the religiously conservative towns did in the 1930s and 1940s — they either call the police or push the intruders out.]

For JWs to violate peddling laws was unnecessary since Jesus never commanded his followers to sell books. A list of 129 cases pertaining to doorstep book-selling appears in *Defending and Legally Establishing the Good News* (1950) authored by WTS lawyer Hayden Covington. In the 1970s and 1980s JWs collected and destroyed as many of their old publications as they could or put them in their branch-office or assembly-hall libraries and then denied people access to them. Publications that JWs previously sold as part of their work to confirm their salvation, and which provoked much of the trouble in the 1930s and 1940s, were now kept hidden!

To attack totalitarian regimes like Nazism with mass tract distributions — which Rutherford insisted be done — invited tough response. In the 1950s onwards the JWs leaders permitted followers to "witness" more cautiously in such countries.

In the late 20th century many West European countries offered "alternative service" in lieu of military service. JWs, however, rejected alternative service such as hospital duties because the Governing Body viewed it as "equivalent" to military service. This view reached stupidity levels in European lands where "alternative service" could sometimes consist of one's own secular employment, in which case the JW would resign from his job! (Compare what the Bible says — Matthew 5:41; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

In the early 1990s the JWs Legal Department in Brooklyn, New York had a staff of forty. (Yearbook 1992, 14)

In the 1960s blood transfusion cases regularly made headlines but the 1980s child custody disputes came to the fore:

> The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, the Jehovah's Witnesses parent organization, received 1,030 inquiries from February 1987 to January 1988 from Jehovah's Witnesses facing religion-based attacks in child custody or visitation disputes. (w1988 11/1 33)

By the early 21st century another major issue was child-abuse with the WTS accused of possessing a secret file of 20,000 JWs pedophiles. (See also: *CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE; CRIME AND COURTS; LEGAL DISPUTES — UNUSUAL JW CASES*)

LAWRENCE, RONALD

A former JW elder charged in 2013 in Pittsburg County Oklahoma District Court with "19 felony counts, including 11 of molestation, seven of forcible sodomy, and one of rape by instrumentation against two preteen girls and one 5-year-old boy."

The elders had allegedly not informed the police, merely disfellowshipped Lawrence for a while, then reinstated him.

Lawrence was arrested in 2013:

> MCALESTER, Okla. - A 76-year-old McAlester man was arrested Tuesday on 19 counts of sexual abuse after police received claims he molested several children while in a position of authority more than 30 years ago....
> https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2013/11_12/2013_11_26_Dunn_JehovahsWitness

A motion filed in the State of Oklahoma in January, 2014, alleged that "the top leadership of the Jehovah's Witness Church knew about claims of child rape and molestation and deliberately concealed them."

The charges against Lawrence, were later dismissed because of the statute of limitations", but two of the alleged victims appeared in a two-part documentary — *The Witnesses* – on the Oxygen television channel in February, 2020.

https://people.com/crime/survivors-of-alleged-sexual-abuse-inside-jehovahs-witnesses-hope-for-justice-and-change/

LAYMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY MOVEMENT (LHMM)
Sect founded by former Russellite P.S.L. Johnson (1873-1950) in 1919 and published the magazine *The Present Truth*. He was assisted by Raymond G. Jolly. Both men were proficient in biblical Greek; Johnson a former Lutheran pastor until 1903, also in Hebrew.

Johnson served until his death in 1950 as the LHMM Director and edited its magazine *The Herald of the Epiphany*, later changed to *The Bible Standard*.

Johnson was succeeded by Jolly who died in 1979; followed by August Gohlke until 1985; Bernard Hedman until 2004; Ralph M. Herzig until 2016; and Leon J. Snyder.

The LHMM claims to be a worldwide non-sectarian, non-profit religious movement which distributes magazines, books, booklets and free tracts, in various languages. The additional name Bible Standard Ministries was adopted in 2005.

https://www.biblestandard.com/our-work

(See also: *DIVISIONS/SPLINTER GROUPS; JOHNSON, P.S.L.*)

LAZARUS.
See: *RICH MAN AND LAZARUS*

LEADER
JWs believe Jesus is their leader and the leader of the WTS. (Matthew 23:8-10) JWs refer to the Governing Body and other elders as "those who take the lead" basing this on Hebrews 13:17 yet refuse to call any such men "leader".

The leadership of Jesus is supposedly what distinguishes JWs from a sect:

> They are not a sect, inasmuch as they are neither the disciples of some human teacher or leader nor an offshoot of any one church or sect. (w1983 9/15 9)

Most JWs doctrines have been revised and thousands of Bible verses reinterpreted. This makes JWs "disciples of some human teacher or leader" because they accept and promote whatever interpretations come and go. JWs who don't conform suffer excommunication.

The main founders of JWs were C.T. Russell and J.F. Rutherford both of whom published many prophecies which they claimed came from God but turned out false. It is clear therefore that Jesus who eschewed false prophecy (Matthew 24:11; Luke 21:8) is not the leader of JWs.

LEAFLETS
WTS leaflets are called "Advertising Leaflets". They are usually small (9cm by 14cm), consist of one sheet printed on both sides, and are distributed to advertise public talks being given at congregations or conventions, or to generally advertise a range of meetings.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS
JWs leaders often remind their followers that on December 12 1918 the Federal Council of Churches endorsed the League of Nations as "the political expression of God's Kingdom on earth". JWs leaders claim that such endorsement was "presumptuous sin":

> In January, 1919, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which claims to represent God on earth and to speak for Him, came forward with the bold and arrogant announcement that 'the League of Nations is the political expression of God's kingdom on earth'. In other words, that the nations of the earth banded together in a League had assumed the obligation to outlaw war and to establish lasting peace on earth in the name of God and of His Christ. Never was a more presumptuous sin committed… (g1930 7/9 666) [See also: *IMAGE]*

The words "political expression of God's kingdom on earth" are cited in:

Creation 1927, 312); *Light I* 1930, 295; *Prohibition and League of Nations* 1930, 46; g1934 3/28 389; *Righteous Ruler* 1934, 50; g1936 1/1 220; *Riches* 1936, 351; g1938 10/19 9; w1938 10/15 316; *The Truth Shall Make You Free* 1943, 333; g1947 9/8 9; w1949 11/1 323; *New Heavens and a New Earth* 1953, 8; g1954 9/8 10; *God's Kingdom Rules—Is the World's End Near?* 1958, 14; *Your Will Be Done on Earth* 1958, 7; w1958 10/15 630; *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* 1959, 93; w1959 9/15 574; g1962 10/8 16; *Babylon the Great has Fallen!* 1963, 510, 531; *Then is Finished the Mystery of God* 1969, 345; w1966 8/15 499; *The Nations Shall Know…* 1971, 60; w1971 9/15 560; *Paradise Restored to Mankind by Theocracy* 1972, 138; w1972 3/15 189; w1972 4/1 198; w1974 3/1 135; w1979 7/1 7; w1979 10/15 14; *Revelation Its Grand Climax Near At hand!* 1989, 242.

Rutherford wrote:

> …the clergy of Christendom and the counterpart of the Pharisees, rejected

> Christ Jesus as King. They joined with others of Satan's organization to set up the League of Nations and fully allied themselves openly with Satan's organization. (Light II 1930, 325)

WTS publications have, since the 1920s, castigated all churches for the pro-League statement issued by the Federal Council of Churches. Yet *The Watch Tower*, in an article approved by its Editorial Committee, issued a similar endorsement in 1919:

> We cannot but admire the high principles embodied in the League of Nations, formulated undoubtedly by those who have no knowledge of the great plan of God. This fact makes all the more wonderful the ideals which they express. For instance, it has been made plain by President Wilson and the advocates of his ideas that the proposed League of Nations is more than merely a league to enforce peace… The President's idea seems to be that the League of Nations which he proposes should stand for world service rather than mere world regulation in the military sense, and that the very smallest of nations shall be participants in its very arrangement… Truly this is idealistic, and approximates in a small way that which God has foretold that he will bring about after this great time of trouble. (w1919 2/15 51)

This is not so different to the announcement of the Federal Council of Churches!

The League of Nations embodied many laudable principles and programs such as its suppression of slavery; and the Bible nowhere declares that efforts to do good are "presumptuous sin".

These points matter because the JWs leaders claim Jesus appointed "the faithful and discreet slave class" (i.e. the "remnant" of the 144,000) in 1919 because the "slave" was doing and teaching true Christianity whereas other churches were not:

> Jesus expected anointed Christians collectively to be acting as a faithful steward, giving his body of attendants "their measure of food supplies at the proper time."… Whom did Jesus find doing so when he returned with kingly power in 1914 and proceeded to inspect in 1918?… Do you think it was Christendom's churches? Certainly not, for they were deeply involved in politics. They had been willing tools of colonial expansion and had tried to outdo one another to prove their patriotism…
>
> In 1918, when Jesus inspected those claiming to be his slaves, he found an international group of Christians publishing Bible truths for use both inside the congregation and outside in the preaching work. In 1919 it truly turned out to be as Christ foretold: "Happy is that slave if his master, on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings." (Matthew 24:46, 47) These true Christians entered into the joy of their Master. Having shown themselves "faithful over a few things," they were appointed by the Master to be "over many things." (Matthew 25:21 The faithful slave and its Governing Body were in place, ready for a widened assignment." (w1990 3/15 13-14, 15-21)

Those "true Christians … publishing Bible truths" were almost as positive about the League as mainstream churches! Their so-called "Bible truths", however, were inferior and included thousands of points later rejected or revised such as the Kingdom of 1878 which they predicted would resurrect Moses, Abraham and other Bible heroes in 1925! (See: *DATES; BETH SARIM; NINETEEN TWENTY FIVE*) This point needs repetition — the gripe JW leaders had with the League is that it supposedly substituted for God's Kingdom, yet the WTS kingdoms of 1878, 1914 and 1925 were substitutes.

As regards their "joy" — about 70%-80% of them stopped attending the cult's meetings in the late 1920s which suggests disgust rather than joy. Nor was there a "Governing Body … in place" — that came in 1944! (See: *GOVERNING BODY*)

WTS anti-League propaganda functioned to distract JWs from:

- Their many false predictions;
- Their "revolving door" membership turnover;
- Their own "presumptuous sin" of preaching for over 40 years the non-existent Kingdom of 1878.

(See: *KINGDOM*; *GENTILE TIMES*)

LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN PROPHECY

> It is the last and final attempt of Satan to perfect an organization that will blind the people, turn their minds away from God and his kingdom, and keep them in subjection to the wicked one. (Deliverance 1926, 277)
>
> The United States is not supposed to be a member of the League of Nations, but the prophecy says: "She … shall play the harlot with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth" (R.V.), and this necessarily includes the United States of America…

> The question is, Will Great Britain and America become Fascist under the dominating control of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy? The Scriptures and the facts appear to fully support that conclusion. Within the borders of the British Empire and the United States of America the truth of God's kingdom has had its greatest proclamation and witness, and that is exactly what the Roman Catholic Hierarchy hates. It is the truth of and concerning the kingdom of God, when proclaimed, that "shocks the religious susceptibilities" of the Hierarchy crowd, because they hate that which lets God's light shine and exposes them. For that reason the Hierarchy attempts to suppress the use of radio and all other means of publication of God's kingdom message. The prophecy of the Lord shows that modern Tyre, the Catholic organization, commits fornication with all the nations and gains her desire. When the Hierarchy has gained complete temporal control of the earth, that will in her mind fully establish the conclusion that her desire has been fully accomplished, and then she will say: "Peace and safety"; and then the "ten horns", that is, all the ruling powers of the nations, receive power with the "beast", the League of Nations combine being, in fact, a league of Fascism or combined Fascist governments, dominated by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. (w1937 5/1 137)

These claims and predictions became nonsense when the League of Nations ended in the 1940s. After that JWs reapplied some of the same claims and predictions to the United Nations, and predicted its annihilation at Armageddon within the 20th century. That failed too.

(See: Beasts and Kingdoms, *Investigator Magazine* #117, November 2007)

LEAGUE OF NATIONS SUCCESSES and FAILURES

The primary function of the League of Nations was to prevent the outbreak of wars by settling the sorts of quarrels and territorial disputes between States which might result in a war.

The League settled about 12 such disputes and possibly prevented war between:

- Sweden and Finland over the Aaland Islands in 1921;
- Germany and Poland over Silesia in 1921;
- Italy and Greece over the Island of Corfu in 1923;
- Greece and Bulgaria in 1924-1925 over their border dispute.

The League outlawed war between the Great Powers by the Locarno Treaties (1925) and Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) and limited the relative sizes of major navies and of Germany's army but without long term success, and Disarmament Conferences ended in failure.

While successful in preventing war between militarily weak countries the League failed with powerful nations that had agendas of conquest and did not fear boycotts or sanctions such as:

- Italy which invaded and annexed Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in 1936;
- Japan which took over Manchuria in 1931-1933 and invaded China in 1937;
- Germany which took Czechoslovakia in 1938-1939.

Abyssinia and China were members of the League but the League did little more than impose sanctions on Italy.

The League of Nations, however, had some important social and humanitarian achievements:

- The League set up refugee camps and helped prisoners of war return home.
- The Health Committee fought diseases such as malaria, syphilis, tuberculosis and leprosy and promoted the use of vaccinations.
- The League reduced the trade in opium and, by the 1925 Geneva Agreement, made the import, sale and distribution of opium the responsibility of governments.
- The League opposed slavery and set free hundreds of thousands of slaves especially in Sierra Leone and Burma. The Convention to Suppress the Slave Trade and Slavery (Geneva, 1926) was an international treaty created under the auspices of the League of Nations. The objective was to advance the suppression of the slave trade and slavery.
- The League's Permanent Committee on Arts and Letters helped preserve literary masterpieces.
- The League formed the International Labour Organisation which dealt with relations between employers and workers.

The failures of the League of Nations especially in preventing aggression by Great Nations were due to its lack of coercive power. It was a voluntary, non-sovereign organization without an army or police force and therefore could not force sovereign nations that had an army, navy and police force to follow its resolutions, especially after such nations withdrew from the League. When such nations felt that the League's decisions were contrary to their own national interests they merely ignored them.

Colonial powers such as Britain, France, Holland and Portugal wanted to retain and economically exploit their colonies, and rising nations like Italy and Japan wanted the same advantages, and the result was rivalry beyond the League's power to control. The League was created to maintain the status quo but could not prevent the armaments race that ensued when Japan, Italy and Germany were not content with the status quo.

JWs have badmouthed the League of Nations since the 1920s as a worthless human counterfeit of God' Kingdom of 1914, set up to oppose and prevent God's rule. JWs have probably never published one positive statement about the League or its achievements although their own alleged "kingdoms" of 1878, 1914 and 1925 truly did nothing to improve living standards anywhere. They justified their do-nothing disdain toward charity, scientific progress and programs to raise living standards by claiming everything will be solved by God's 1914 Kingdom after it has destroyed human works and structures at Armageddon.

(See also: *KINGDOM*)

LEARNING

WTS publications regularly stress the great learning of JWs compared with "apostate" Christians. For example regarding a Lutheran minister in Africa: "…in one year he had learnt more about the Bible than in all his years as a minister." (Yearbook 1961, 190)

WTS publications include stories of JWs children refuting Christian ministers.

LEARN TO READ AND WRITE (1967)

A WTS booklet.

LEAVING JWs

Millions of people have left JWs since 1975 and hundreds of journalists have reported the internal dissension, disfellowshipping, child abuse and failed prophecies.

Newsweek, for example, reported:

> …at least five times in this century their leaders have targeted Armageddon for particular years—most recently, 1975—and now time may be running out on their credibility…
>
> But there are signs, too, that the movement itself is in serious trouble. Although baptisms are up in many countries, the Society's own statistics indicate that a million sheep drifted out of the fold between 1973 and 1983. Many dissident and former members are becoming militant in their criticism of the Society; last week, in an unprecedented public protest, 40 of them showed up outside the Witnesses' Brooklyn home, waving placards, complaining of oppression and demanding the resignation of the Governing Body. More important, dissidents have formed networks of former Witnesses who have been shunned by families and friends. One result is a growing body of damning literature, much of it compiled from Watchtower files, depicting a closed, almost Orwellian society. (Woodward & Conant 1984)

The Governing Body promotes the view that when people leave, drift away or are disfellowshipped it is always for immorality or/and rejecting "Scriptural teaching".

A former American circuit overseer Ronald Frye noted: "As no one can be viewed as walking away from the organization in good faith they are slandered as either immoral persons or apostates."

It is true that many are disfellowshipped for immorality but also true that many leave because the doctrines and prophecies don't stand up to scrutiny.

JWs who left for the latter reason point to the WTS's record of publishing false predictions and bad theology.

To stem the spread of this information the Governing Body instituted the policy whereby loyalty to the Organization, including acceptance of all current doctrines, is the supreme criterion for "good standing". Disloyalty by non-acceptance of any doctrines means expulsion for apostasy and ostracism by family (if they are JWs) and friends. The idea is that the psychological pain will force them (or many of them) to come back and conform.

However, if the Governing Body are making false predictions it begs the question: "Who are the apostates"? Long before the doctrine of the "generation of 1914" was revised in 1995 many JWs knew it was wrong and that millions would suffer disappointment. Those JWs who knew this had to choose between leaving voluntarily or speaking out and being expelled. Either decision, according to official doctrine, leads to "everlasting punishment". Another option was to be silent and complicit which JWs call "waiting on Jehovah". But it is also taught that people who observe false doctrine in any religion should leave that religion. These inconsistent requirements create dilemmas which can ruin lives, but new converts are not warned that this is what they will face.

Getting out is emotionally difficult

Leaving the JWs often begins with doubt. If the person keeps his doubt to himself there is no backlash from others. The problem occurs when he asks questions and gets misinformed answers and responds by explaining why he is dissatisfied.

At that stage he may be accused of substituting human reasoning for faith in God; of pitting his wisdom against the wisdom of the 2000-year-old "faithful and discreet slave"; of being tempted by Satan; of not being active enough in the ministry; of reading apostate material; of lack of appreciation; of having secret sins; of giving in to pride; of lacking humility; etc.

He'll likely be asked: "Do you believe this is Jehovah's Organization?" If "Yes" then he is told his obligation is to be loyal and wait for further understanding. If "No" then he is disloyal and "against the truth" and faces expulsion. If he tries to evade a plain "yes" or "no" by pointing out that JWs urge people to be open minded and examine their religion for themselves and that's what he's doing, he'll be told that it's the "faithful and discreet slave" who are charged by Christ to examine. If some else does it, he's being presumptuous and self-willed.

A person emotionally blackmailed in this way to remain loyal feels alienated. He must keep his views to himself; his mouth has to speak what his mind doubts; he has to preach to others although his own questions remain unanswered.

Eventually his situation may feel so intolerable that he abandons the Organization despite the ostracism that follows. The situation is similar to Nazi Germany or Communist Russia where people who concluded the regime is wrong and tried to live apart from it risked heavy costs including imprisonment and sometimes death.

(See also: APOSTACY; APOSTATE; *DISFELLOWSHIPPING*)

LEAVING JWs 2

An article titled "Successfully Leaving the Watchtower" (March, 2014) by former JW Cynthia Hampton on a Los Angeles website says:

> There are four main ways that people leave the Watchtower organization. They are the "fade aways", the "disfellowshipped", those who leave because they are "burned out", and those who leave because they have stumbled upon false doctrines that the Watchtower teaches.
>
> *Fading Away*
>
> Those who just fade away gradually stop attending meetings. They may just start off not attending field service and bring their hours down to one hour per month and then finally do not turn in time at all. Their meeting attendance will gradually wane and the fader will maybe attend a Sunday morning public talk only... The downside to this is that if the person is still under mind control and still believes what the Watchtower teaches, the person can may still lead a fear filled life with depression. Sometimes depression leads to destructive tendencies because in the forefront of their minds, they believe that they could never measure up to the Watchtower's requirements so they might as well live it up any which way. Sometimes this leads to the self-fulfilling prophecy that the Watchtower teaches: All those who leave will turn to drugs, alcohol, and promiscuity...
>
> *Disfellowshipped/Excommunicated*
>
> Disfellowshipped members are literally kicked out of the Watchtower against their will. The disfellowshipped members are often kicked out for failing to live up to the Watchtower's moral standards with no forgiveness. Sometimes an "errant" member is kicked out for questioning the Watchtower doctrine or questioning the elders' authority. Elders meet with the errant member and whether or not the member is repentant, impose punishment. Disfellowshipping involves shunning the errant member and no other member, including family, is allowed to speak to the disfellowshipped. Many times the disfellowshipped member feels grief and guilt which again may lead to destructive behavior...
>
> *Burning Out*
>
> People who are burned out from the Watchtower faith often feel very spiritually, emotionally, and mentally abused. They feel confused and often cannot trust anyone because of the abuse. Many women leaving the Watchtower faith have been physically abused by their husbands. Men in the Watchtower are told that since they are the "head of the house" that they have full authority over their wives. This mentality leads men to believe that abusing one's wife is permissible... When those who leave are so burned out from this cult, many times they suffer post-traumatic stress syndrome. These people are in dire need of counseling and therapy to overcome their fears, confusion and traumas.
>
> *Finding Out*
>
> Those people who stumble upon the fact that what they have been taught all these

years is not the truth may experience anger about the situation. But even though they are angry about having been lied to for so many years, finding out that the Watchtower is a lie is more conducive to healthy leaving. When a person realizes that the Watchtower system is nothing but lies and false prophecies designed to control the members, one bypasses the guilt, grief, and shame along the way. It may take several years to adjust to normal living and having a changed attitude toward life and the real world. Education, both secular and religious, making new friends, and finding a new environment to grow and establish new relationships are all very helpful...

Cynthia Hampton's article goes on to describe ten stages in the process of leaving JWs:

Stage One
Realizing that something is wrong — perhaps just a gut feeling.

Stage Two
Some real doubts that the person tries to suppress. The Watchtower teaches that it is wrong to have doubts or to question anything but their feelings and their conscience continue to bother them.

Stage Three
The person still gives lip service but leads a double life leading to guilt and resolves to try to get it right.

Stage Four
The person notices real discrepancies between what the organization teaches and what Scripture says, and may also notice scandals such as sexual abuse, but may reason that God will take care of the problem.

Stage Five
The person finds out the history of the Watchtower organization and realizes he was lied to regarding its history. The person knows that to voice doubt is unacceptable and keeps quiet about his findings.

Stage Six
The person has feelings of denial and attempts to ignore what he has discovered and perhaps feels angry toward others who expose the organization.

Stage Seven
The person does not know what to think and distrusts friends and family but also does not trust Christianity or the Bible. The ongoing stress can lead to anxiety, illness and nightmares. Some still stay with JWs, believing they can help bring about change in the organization by reasoning with elders and writing letters to the WTS or Governing Body.

.
Stage Eight
The actual decision to leave is made, often with anger toward God and drifting toward agnosticism or atheism. Some start their own new spiritual search and some return to the organization and even go in and out repeatedly.

Stage Nine
The make-over stage when former Watchtower followers may discard their Watchtower literature and other things associated with their old self-concept and develop new interests. There is still a healing process that may go on for years but the world begins to look new and beautiful.

Stage Ten
The ex JW feels sorry for members left behind but also rejoices in his new improved life.

LEBANON
Peak publishers and Memorial attendance in Lebanon and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,267	2,036		
1975	1,882	1,707		
1980	1,783	1,851	3,776	874
1985	2,178	1,377	4,638	647
1990	2,726	1,046	5,034	566
1995	3,458	1,047	7,158	506
2000	3,589	993	6,733	529
2005	3,585	1,054	6,547	577
2010	3,603	1,115	6,594	609
2013	3,674	1,312	6,563	734
2015	3,734	1,353	6,533	773
2016	3,684	1,635	6,458	933
2017	----	----	----	----

LECTURES
JWs use the term "lectures" or "talks" rather than "sermons", and invite people to come and hear a "public talk" or a "Bible lecture".

During the 1930s and early 1940s the WTS produced about 70 "lectures" by Rutherford on records, each playing about 4½ minutes, which JWs played at doors and in public places on portable "phonographs" (record players).

LEE, BRENDA
Author of *Out of the Cocoon* (2006).

The author lived her childhood as a JW and was disfellowshipped in 1981 after which her parents, sister, brother, five nephews and a niece shunned her. The book describes: "…how a single visit from two seemingly 'nice' strangers nearly cost her everything… In time,

she learns to forgive not only those who tormented her, but also the mother who disowned her."

LEE, DOUGLAS
Author of *The End is Nigh…Again! But this time we really mean it* (2010).

LEHMAN, CAL
A JW in Ohio baptized in 1964, who served as an elder for 25 of his 35 years in the sect and published the story of his life as a JW on the Internet in 2006:

> I loved giving the Sunday public lectures, and once a month I traveled to another Jehovah's Witness congregation in the central Ohio area to give a public talk as a guest speaker. I also served on the hospital visitation committee and sat on countless judicial committees (3 Elders who decide the guilt or innocence of a Jehovah's Witness who has broken a Watchtower Bible and Tract Society rule)...

In 1975 Lehman quit his fulltime job and became a full time pioneer for two years:

> I was so convinced that the end was coming in 1975 that I wanted to be doing all I could so that we could survive into the new system as a family... Every Jehovah's Witness I knew was convinced that the New World would be here by October 1975. Those that doubted were considered apostates. I remember the saying among Jehovah's Witnesses at that time was "Stay alive till 75".

Lehman left JWs after his grandmother needed "around the clock care" and he missed meetings and resigned as an elder. This resulted in him reading the Bible instead of Watchtower publications and:

> Soon I began to doubt that they were the one true religion as they claimed... My grandmother passed away in 1994 but I did not return to the meetings, I had simply found too many errors in their teachings, past and present.

He terminated his affiliation in 1999 and:

> I am very pleased to tell you that my wife and all four of our children have also left the Witnesses and have accepted Christ as their Savior...
>
> www.towerwatch.com/Testimonies/cal_lehman

LEGAL DEPARTMENT of the WBTS
JWs believe all governments are controlled by the Devil and therefore avoid involvement in most political processes, but use the legal system to change civil law to better accommodate their beliefs and practices.

The WBTS Legal Department had six attorneys living at the New York headquarters in the 1990s and 14 in 2003.

A copy of the "Amended and Restated Charter of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania" (April 8, 2003) is available on the Internet. Page 2 lists "The names and addresses of attorneys admitted to practice in the State of New York who have, in the past year, made commitments to Watch Tower to provide legal services…"

Fourteen lived at the Society's headquarters at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY, 12506

- Philip Brumley
- William R. Bell
- Max Custer
- Lisa Douglas
- Robert C. James
- Richard King
- Adam Linett
- John Miller III,
- Richard Moake
- Mario F. Moreno
- Erna Neufeld
- Paul D. Polidoro
- Donald T. Ridley
- Carolyn R. Wah

Three lived elsewhere:

- Christine Benham — Guilford, Connecticut
- Michelle Dickinson — Ossining, New York
- James M. McCabe — San Diego, California

Attorney Brumley was among those who had represented the WBTS the longest and was in charge of the Legal Department.

The WBTS also has other attorneys throughout the USA whom it can call on to do work for it in their area.

A web page by Paul Moses dated July 20, 2002 titled "Going Door To Door" says:

> A 70-person staff in Brooklyn, including 10 to 12 lawyers, helps attorneys around

the globe use the law to confront mob violence, to free members jailed for refusing military service and to gain the right to worship freely…

Last month, the Witnesses won a significant victory when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, 8-1, that an ordinance requiring all door-to-door "canvassers" to get a permit from the mayor was unconstitutional…

(See also: *COURT/STATE CONFLICTS WITH JWs*)

LEGAL DISPUTES — UNUSUAL JWs CASES

Michael and Helen Zebroski of Calgary, Canada, claimed damages against JWs because:

- They were disfellowshipped after 30 years which endangered their hope for paradise after death;
- They suffered from social ostracism;
- Their disfellowshipping had denied them opportunity to defend themselves and was not impartial;
- They had no children this being in obedience to JWs doctrine;
- They suffered property loss through contributions to JWs.

The court ruled the Zebroskis' decisions had had been voluntary and it could not intervene. (Calgary Herald 1988, July 5)

Joseph Reed, 56, of British Columbia was convicted of causing a disturbance in a public place by "shouting" insults outside a convention of Jehovah's Witnesses. His alleged "shouting" included "The Watchtower is a snare and a racket", "Jesus is Lord" and "Jehovah is Beelzebub the ruler of the Demons".

The Criminal Code defines a disturbance as being caused by "fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing or using insulting language." Reed, however, had not shouted but used a "bullhorn" to amplify his normal speaking voice. Nor had he fought or sworn or interfered with the "ordinary and customary use of the premises by the public." The British Columbia Court of Appeals overturned his conviction. (The Vancouver Sun 1992, October 1; Times Colonist 1992, October 2)

A South Australian JW who entered a gate marked "Private—Keep Out" was knocked down by a four-year-old ram and suffered a broken shin. The JW claimed the injury forced him to sell his business and he sued the property owner. He also sued the Adelaide Company of JWs "for failing to provide proper instructions about doorknocking in rural areas." The property owner argued that the ram had never before attacked anyone and the JWs had entered "uninvited, unwanted and without notice." The Adelaide Company in its own defense claimed that doorknocking is "voluntary and followers are not obliged to do it." (Herald Sun, January 23, 2003, p.14)

In California Gary D. McCready, 39, was physically assaulted by several JWs led by elder Thomas Moore while placing leaflets on cars outside a kingdom hall. The JWs broke McCready's camera and a window of his camper. In a civil suit he was awarded damages of $553:

The judge said, "The literature appears non-violent…"
The leaflet includes an advertisement for a "J.W. Buster Kit"…
(The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, California, 1985, September 24)

Rollason (1993) reported about a JW who wanted his estate returned to him in the resurrection after he rose from the dead and made provision for its maintenance in the meantime:

The Court of Appeal ruled unanimously that Peter Tucker, described as a devout Jehovah's Witness, cannot direct from the grave that his farm will be looked after by his neighbour until the day he returns from the other side…

Tucker believed his body would be resurrected and he would return to his farm. Consequently his will directed his son to live in the house, while his neighbour, Fred Faucher, would look after the farm, pay all taxes and utilities from the farm's income and mow the lawn.
(Rollason, K. It's a one-way trip court says, *Winnipeg Free Press*, December 1, 1993)

(See also: *CRIME AND COURTS*)

LEGAL END OF THE WORLD

When the "end" of Christendom and world take-over by God failed in 1914-1922, Rutherford referred to 1914 as the "legal end":

The facts show that 1914 marked the legal end of the Gentile times and therefore the end of the world… (Creation 1927, 304)

LEIGHTON, GORDON

The Mirror (UK) reported:

A Jehovah's Witness whose church covered up his sex abuse of a child was jailed for 13 years yesterday.

> Gordon Leighton, 53 … confessed to [the elders] in 2010 but they refused to co-operate with a police probe, Newcastle crown court heard…
>
> Leighton, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, refused to answer any questions when interviewed by detectives...
>
> He was found guilty on two counts of indecency with a child, and six of indecent assault after a six-day trial.
>
> Judge Moreland … jailed him for 13 years… (August 24, 2013)

Leighton was previously in the news in 1993 when his first wife Yvonne, 28, needed surgical intervention after giving birth to a baby boy. But she had signed a form stating she was not to receive a blood transfusion and died.

(See also: *CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE*)

LENGTAT, REINHARD

Author of the official WTS book *Is This Life All There Is?* (1974)

LESOTHO

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	406	2,180		
1975	688	1,445		
1980	619	1,966	2,690	452
1985	784	1,937	3,266	465
1990	1,304	1,341	4,979	351
1995	2,099	980	7,056	292
2000	2,612	821	6,422	334
2005	3,133	763	8,039	297
2010	3,632	521	8,802	215
2013	3,800	546	8,242	252
2015	4,123	518	10,266	208
2018	4,248	534	10,919	208
	Ave.			
2019	4,202	506	12,087	176
2020	3,748	572	8,471	253
2021	3,665	589	10,270	210
2022	3,619	601	8,348	261
2023	3,875	566	10,221	214
2024	4,104	569	11,737	199
2025	4,404	537	11,900	199

LESSER ONE

A phrase used to promote conformity and obedience among JWs: "…unwillingness to conduct oneself as a lesser one is folly." (Yearbook 1982, Text March 18)

The JWs leaders in contrast conduct themselves as greater ones by imposing whatever restrictions, obligations and doctrines they choose on their followers and never apologize for the harm caused when proved wrong.

LET GOD BE TRUE (1946; 1952)

A WTS book that reached a printing of 19,000,000.

The book's purported stance is:

> To let God be found true means to let God have the say as to what is the truth that sets men free. It means to accept his Word, the Bible, as the truth. Hence, in this book, our appeal is to the Bible for truth. (1952 edition p.9)

The book misrepresents JWs history as follows:

> For many years prior to 1914 earnest Bible students understood that the year 1914 marked the end of the Gentile Times or the "appointed times of the nations". That date marked the beginning of the "time of the end" of Satan's rule. (p.201)
>
> 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." (p.255)
> (See: *KINGDOM*; *GENTILE TIMES; TIME OF THE END*)

Chapter 15 *The Sabbath: In Shadow and Reality* implies that Armageddon, the Millennium, and paradise on Earth would come in the 20th century.

Chapter 15 does not state exactly the date of Adam's creation but *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1943) gave B.C. 4029/4028 with 6000 years ending at the end of 1972. (p.152) Adding this information to Chapter 15 of *Let God Be True* implied Armageddon and the Millennium would come by 1972/1973. However, Adam's creation was recalculated to BC 4026 in the 1950s which reset Armageddon to 1975. (See: *TWO THOUSAND AD; ARMAGEDDON; DATES*)

Much of *Let God Be True* reveals God as false.

LET YOUR KINGDOM COME (1981)

An official WTS book written by Governing Body member Lloyd Barry.

LET YOUR NAME BE SANCTIFIED (1961)

An official WTS book written by Frederick W. Franz.

LETT, M. STEPHEN (1949-)
A former circuit overseer added to the Governing Body, along with three others, on October 2, 1999. This increased the Governing Body from 9 to 13.

Lett was appointed as a pioneer in December 1966, served at Brooklyn Bethel 1967-1971, married "Susan" in October 1971 and entered the special pioneer service, and served as circuit overseer 1979-1998. He was called to Brooklyn Bethel in 1998 where he worked in the Service Department. (w2000 1/1 29)

LETTERS (Published in The Watchtower or Awake!)
Letters published in *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are mostly commendatory of JWs:

> I have read Volume 1 of your Millennial Dawn and am near reading Vol. II. This work seems to open up Scriptures in a manner which no work ever did. I am more than delighted with it. To me it is the very truth of God, and I cannot but exclaim: "O! the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" (wr1889 August p.1134)

> I have with an open Bible figured out substantially the same plan of Salvation, as set forth by your felicitous pen and warm hearted intelligence. (wr1889 October p.1153)

In Rutherford's time the policy of publishing positive letters praising the WBTS continued. Some letters refuted doctrines Rutherford was changing or about to change and supported the new version.

The few critical letters published are usually uninformed and easily refuted. Knocking the occasional "straw man" argument promotes the impression that the WTS teaches truth, is open to criticism, and its critics are always wrong.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
A Bible phrase which refers to the Corinthian congregation (II Corinthians 3:2-3), and is used by JWs of their new converts. (w1984 5/1 28)

LETTERS TO "JEHOVAH" (1990)
A book privately published in Australia with reproductions of letters about the JWs religion.

LIBEL
Rutherford published occasional libelous cartoons and libelous statements. *Consolation* (1940 10/1 4), for example, has several defamatory cartoons. Rutherford's intention in publishing libel was apparently to provoke conflict for its publicity value.

LIBERATION THEOLOGY
The theological position fathered by Gustavo Gutierrez (*The Power of the Poor in History* 1983) which says that Christianity is obligated to reduce third-world poverty and promote a more-equal re-distribution of wealth, and may do so politically and, in some viewpoints, even by violence.

JWs oppose Liberation Theology, arguing: "Jesus Christ did not get involved in the world's social movements" and that the Bible's alternative is "God's Kingdom".

In other words the solution to poverty is to join JWs and preach their current doctrines while waiting for God "to rid the earth not just of poverty, oppression, and international struggle but of 'tears, death, mourning, and sadness.'" (g1987 11/8 10-11)

However the current "God's Kingdom" of JWs completely failed in 1975, the "generation of 1914", and "within our twentieth century". (See: *DATES*)

LIBERIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Liberia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	645	1,705		
1975	1,027	1,266		
1980	1,055	1,706	3,931	458
1985	1,272	1,415	6,149	293
1990	1,914	1,149	7,811	282
1995	1,422	1,758	7,013	356
2000	3,425	864	16,875	175
2005	4,581	740	26,777	126
2010	6,198	561	81,457	43
2013	6,184	692	81,762	52
2015	6,475	647	44,716	94
2018	7,286	671	46,011	106
	Ave.			
2019	6,904	715	52,616	94
2020	6,752	749	19,341	262
2021	6,726	770	27,494	188
2022	6,702	792	28,935	183
2023	7,296	745	39,700	137
2024	7,954	706	42,400	132
2025	8,693	659	41,600	138

LIBERTY

The Watchtower, reporting on the "God's Sons of Liberty" District Assemblies of JWs in 1966, stated:

> Liberty is a compelling desire of all men, irrespective of their race, religion or nationality. Yet satisfying fulfillment of this desire has eluded the vast majority of the world's inhabitants…
>
> Jehovah's witnesses are a liberated people, a free people, spiritually speaking…
>
> Jehovah, the God of freedom and liberty, has freed his people from Babylonish bondage and has given them a work of liberation to do. That work of liberation and salvation must go on to the finish! (w1966 10/15 628)

Liberty and the claim to possess it is a common topic in JWs publications. The word appears 1079 times in the publications on the *Watchtower Library* 2007 CD and "freedom" 7599 times.

JWs who uncover the many doctrines and interpretations that were formerly taught as "Bible truth" but then discarded, and find they have to keep quiet about it or be disfellowshipped, often conclude that their "liberty" is a delusion and that JWs are in the words of Hebrews 1:15 "subject to slavery all through their lives."

(See also: *FREEDOM*)

LIBRARY

Kingdom halls, assembly halls and branch offices usually have a library with books of the WTS and sometimes basic reference works such as *Young's Concordance*.

Large collections as occur in some branch offices and some assembly-hall libraries have restricted access to older publications to prevent research into "old light" i.e. previous so-called "Bible truth" including failed prophecies.

With the completion of the Assembly Hall in Adelaide in the late 1970s came calls for JWs to donate their old WTS publications to the library to make them available to everyone. After this was done access to the library became increasingly difficult and was finally banned to everyone without special permission.

LIECHTENSTEIN

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	9	2,418		
1975	20	1,188		
1980	30	860	58	445
1985	45	593	89	300
1990	51	588	94	319
1995	63	486	112	273
2000	55	582	102	314
2005	59	587	80	433
2010	71	506	103	349
2013	92	391	152	237
2015	91	411	135	277
2018	90	423	132	288
	Ave.			
2019	89	427	159	239
2020	88	432	137	277
2021	87	437	175	217
2022	91	429	157	248
2023	94	415	146	267
2024	102	392	181	221
2025	105	381	166	241

LIES

Lying is deceiving someone entitled to know the truth.

The importance JWs attach to truthfulness and not telling lies, is seen in the frequency of these words on the *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD:

- Truth 33,262
- Truthfulness 647
- Lies 2,739
- Liars 219
- Deception 838
- Deceit 257

Rutherford accused Catholic and Protestant clergy of being liars:

> The press, under the control of the Hierarchy, advocates a unity with any political movement that will further the interests of the Hierarchy, and hesitates not to resort to all manner of lies to cover up their wrongful course and to ease their conscience. The fact that the Hierarchy and their dupes resort to lies is further proof that it is the Devil and his associated demons that are back of the world-movement of religion, politics and commerce to now bring about a peace and the rulership of the world. Satan is the chief amongst all liars. He is the father of lies, and in him there is no truth, and his supporters and dupes follow exactly his lead. (Religion 1940, 96)

Doctrines that JWs disagree with such as the continuation of personal existence after death they call "religious lies". (g1997 2/22 18)

> [6] In these days there are many wicked men who speak lies, identifying themselves as of their father the Devil.

> "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies." (Ps. 58:3, *AS*) Some of them, like the Devil, try to be bearers of light and they try to add to God's Word in order to make themselves appear to be right and truthful. But Jehovah does not allow these men to get away with their wicked schemes. He turns the light of truth from his Word upon what they say and his Word of truth reproves wicked men and shows them up to be liars. "Every word of God is tried: he is a shield unto them that take refuge in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."— Prov. 30:5, 6, *AS.* (w1954 10/1 587)

JWs writers routinely ignore the WTS's many doctrinal revisions and tell "lies" to cover them up. An example is that JWs preached about the1914 Kingdom prior to 1914:

> Of all people only the Witnesses pointed to 1914 as the year for God's Kingdom to be fully set up in heaven. (Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained 1959, 170)
>
> [See: *KINGDOM*]

The Governing Body even implies that God and Jesus are liars. For example, they called their prophecy of a post-Armageddon global paradise to come within the lifetime of people who experienced 1914 "the creator's promise", "God's prophetic word" and Jesus' "promise". (See: *GENERATION*) But the "creator's promise", Jesus' "promise" and "God's word" failed.

JWs use deception to preserve their own physical safety when under threat as well as to promote the interests of their religion. Telling lies for either of these reasons is called "theocratic war strategy".

[See: *THEOCRATIC WAR STRATEGY*]

LIFE

JWs teach that God created life and that Satan, the demons and evolution cannot create life.

LIFE (1929)

A book by Rutherford about the imminent restoration of Israel:

> This … book … sets before men the truth. (p.9)
>
> ...God has declared that Israel is to be restored to his favour... (p.42)

Israel's restoration based on Jeremiah 24:4-7; 32:37-44 and Ezekiel 11:16-17; 34:24-30; 36:21-24 is, says *Life*, a "certainty" (pp 120-124) and "in fulfillment of prophecy". (p. 141)

Rutherford argued that Israel had experienced God's favor for 1845 years ending in 33 AD. (pp 151-57) And:

> The irresistible conclusion is that the period of God's disfavor upon the Jews would be the same length of time… (pp 151-155)

That came to 1878 when: "the first favor toward the Jew was manifested." (p.155)

Another parallel or "double" is the 40 years 33-73 AD and 1878-1918 AD:

> It should be expected then that some time in 1918 some official recognition would be taken by the governing factors toward the reestablishment of the Jews in Palestine. (p.157)
>
> 1925 A.D. is another marked date in favor of the Jews. (p.158)

1925 was calculated by counting 70 jubilees (a jubilee is the end of a 50-year period) from 1575 BC when Israel supposedly entered the Promised Land:

> If the end of 1925 marks the end of the last fifty-year period, then it follows that we should expect the people to begin to receive some knowledge concerning God's great plan of restoration. (p.170)

In 1931 Rutherford rejected much of the content of *Life*. He reinterpreted Bible prophecies of Israel's restoration as being fulfilled in his Organization commencing from its recovery in 1919. Thus he discarded his own "irresistible conclusion". Unsold copies of *Life*, however, continued to be sold.

Rutherford attributed the book despite its errors to God: "…the Lord caused the publication of the book *Life*, in 1929." (w1934 10/15 308-309)

LIFE AND ADVENT UNION

George Storrs, editor of the *Bible Examiner* and J.T. Walsh, the associate editor, became convinced that wicked persons would not be resurrected — only people who had accepted Christ would.

This disagreed with the Advent Christian Church and led to the formation, in Massachusetts, of the Life and Advent Union in August 1863.

The new group started the magazine *The Herald of Life and of the Coming Kingdom* which George Storrs edited from October 1863 to August 1871.

Jonas Wendel a preacher of the Advent Christian Church rejuvenated C.T. Russell's faith in 1869 after which Russell received further help from Storrs, the Life and Advent Union and the Advent Christian Church before forming a separate Bible class.

In 1916 membership of the Life and Advent Union in Maine was 37, in Massachusetts 92, in Connecticut 155, and in New York 130.

Approximate membership of the Life and Advent Union

Year	Churches	Members
1925	11	650
1935	6	300
1945	5	300
1960	3	300
1963	3	250

In 1964 the Life and Advent Union merged with the Advent Christian Church.

(See also: *ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH; WALSH, JOHN T.*)

LIFE DOES HAVE A PURPOSE (1977)
An official WTS book written by Ed Dunlap, who was one of the four instructors at Gilead School in the 1960s.

LIFE EVERLASTING IN FREEDOM OF THE SONS OF GOD (1966)
An official WTS book written by F.W. Franz.

The book inspired the anticipation among JWs that Armageddon would take place around 1975. Noteworthy is this paragraph:

> How appropriate it would be for Jehovah God to make this coming seventh period of a thousand years a Sabbath period of rest and release, a great Jubilee Sabbath for the proclaiming of liberty throughout the earth to all its inhabitants! This would be most timely for mankind. It would also be most fitting on God's part, for, remember, mankind has yet ahead of it what the last book of the Holy Bible speaks of as the reign of Jesus Christ over earth for a thousand years, the millennial reign of Christ. Prophetically Jesus Christ, when on earth nineteen centuries ago, said concerning himself: "For Lord of the sabbath is what the son of man is." (Matthew 12:8) It would not be by mere chance or accident but would be according to the loving purpose of Jehovah God for the reign of Jesus Christ, the "Lord of the sabbath," to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence. (p.30)

LIFE FORCE

JWs regard the "spirit" which leaves people when they die as "life force" or energy that keeps creatures in heaven and on Earth alive.

LIFEGIVING KNOWLEDGE
A phrase which refers to JWs doctrines and is sometimes used together with the threat of death at Armageddon to encourage acceptance of official interpretations:

> The time is now very near for the arrival of Jehovah's "new earth". The alarm is sounding, signaling the fast-approaching destruction of this wicked system of things by God's hand. The opportunity to take in **life-giving knowledge** from God's Word is still before you like the open door of the ark built by Noah before the Flood. But it will soon swing shut. Therefore, now is the time to show that you really want life. (Zephaniah 2:2, 3) Use the remaining time wisely so that when time finally runs out for this system you will be one who has the happy prospect of survival. (g1984 10/22 11)

The phrase appears on the *Watchtower Library* CD (2007) 123 times with "life-giving" hyphenated, and 5 times without a hyphen.

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS
Russell suggested that after the "saints" had ordered the affairs on Earth, they would do similarly on other planets including Mars and Jupiter. (Convention Report 1913, 309) Nowadays JWs leaders deny life exists on other planets.

LIFE—HOW DID IT GET HERE? (1986)
An official WTS book of 256 pages. In praise of this book *The Watchtower* quotes JWs:

> This book should receive an Oscar… (w1987 7/15 32)
>
> It's absolutely captivating. (w1986 9/1 32)
>
> I've learned more accurate science from this book than from all my schooldays put together. (w1986 9/15, 31)

JWs are "old earth creationists". They accept the Genesis story of origins as true but in 1986 still interpreted the "days" of creation as being 7,000 years long with the 7th day starting at Adam's creation. The first 6,000 years of the 7th "day" were supposed to end in 1975.

Nowadays, JWs believe that the seven days are each of different lengths with the starting year unknown.

JWs along with many other creationists argue from "probability." *Life—How Did It Get Here?*

says the odds against "a simple protein molecule forming at random in an organic soup" is a one followed by 113 zeros. The book adds that the odds of enzymes in a cell all forming by chance are 1 in $10^{40,000}$. (p.44)

However, readers are not told how these numbers were calculated. The odds of a particular result when a six-sided die is rolled, is one in six because there are six equally probable results. For the above calculation to be valid requires that we know of $10^{40,000}$ equally-probable results — but we don't.

Furthermore, if the die is "loaded" then the six possible results are not equally probable. Chemical reactions are "loaded" in that some results are more likely than others. Also relevant is the number of attempts. Throw a die repeatedly and the odds of getting a particular result increases.

Life—How Did it Get Here? concludes with an interpretation of Matthew 24 and the date 1914, and says that evil on Earth will be replaced by paradise "very shortly" (p.235) and "immediately ahead" (p.246). These statements are addressed to readers living in 1986 who are urged to take "the wise and urgent course … while there is yet time, to learn the Creator's will…" (p.251)

LIGHT

A collective term for all WTS teachings, doctrines, interpretations, and policies

Russell presented his *Watchtower* articles and books as truth and new truth and claimed that material already published was never abandoned, merely clarified and added to. It was not a mixture of "light" and "darkness" but only light since: "Light hath no concord with darkness." (wr1891 April, p.1294)

> If we were following a *man* undoubtedly it would be different with us; undoubtedly one human idea would contradict another and that which was light one or two or six years ago would be regarded as darkness now: But with God there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, and so it is with *truth*; any knowledge or light coming from God must be like its author. A new view of truth never can contradict a former truth. "*New light*" never extinguishes older "*light*," but adds to it. If you were lighting up a building containing seven gas jets you would not extinguish one every time you lighted another, but would add one light to another and they would be in harmony and thus give increase of light : So is it with the light of truth; the true increase is by adding to, not by substituting one for another. (wr1881 February, p.188)

After Rutherford's predictions for 1924-1925 failed he employed the "light shineth more and more" excuse as follows:

> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17) The helmet fitted over the head and therefore is a symbol of intellectual appreciation of the truth as it is revealed. Some foolishly have thought that all the truth was given to the church several years ago. These should remember the promise of the Lord that "the path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day". (Proverbs 4:18) The truth is the Lord's and he will give it to his people in his own good time and in his own good way. The Christian must keep his mind alert and see to it that he does not become a dreamer but that his vision is clear; and this will enable his heart to rejoice. (w1926 2/1 38)

Thousands of revisions

In the 20th century, revisions to WTS "truth" and abandonment of previous beliefs numbered thousands. To portray these changes positively the JWs leaders called them "new light", "brighter light" and "flashes of light". Proverbs 4:18 is regularly quoted in support:

> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.
>
> Meditation can help you through tests of your faith. For example, occasionally there are changes in our understanding of certain Bible passages or prophecies. "The path of the righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established," says the Bible at Proverbs 4:18. Some, however, are disturbed by these refinements. But the "righteous ones" take the time to meditate and absorb these new Biblical truths, instead of hastily concluding that the 'faithful slave' has erred. (w1984 2/1 29)

The Hebrew word for "righteous" occurs almost 50 times in Proverbs. Taken in context the "righteous" are those who obey the Proverbs since the Proverbs are: "for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity…" (1:3) The light for the righteous is "bright" because the Proverbs bring personal benefits if they are followed.

Proverbs 4:18 therefore does not endorse false prophecy, lies or errors. To see this consider the following proverbs with the JWs situation contrasted in brackets:

> The hope of the righteous ends in gladness, but the expectation of the wicked comes to nothing. (10:28)
> [JWs "expectation" "comes to nothing" whenever prophecy fails.]
>
> The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked is perverse. (10:32)
> [JWs have a "perverse mouth" when they justify failed prophecies with excuses].
>
> The thoughts of the righteous are just; but the advice of the wicked is treacherous. (12:5)
> [The "treacherous" advice of the JWs leaders has included advising followers to sell their homes, reject vaccinations, and drop out of high school.]
>
> Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness speaks deceitfully. (12:17)
> [JWs leaders are false witnesses, speaking "deceitfully" whenever they present major revisions to doctrines as minor, call error "light", and deny the extent of past revisions.]
>
> Whoever says to the wicked, "You are innocent," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations… (24:24)
> [JWs leaders call themselves "faithful and discreet", in effect "innocent", rather than admit their false predictions, and many people they deceived already "abhor" them.]
>
> Proverbs 13:13 says "Those who despise the word bring destruction on themselves…"
> [JWs leaders "despise the word" when they wrongly use Proverbs 4:18 to whitewash false prophecies.]

LIGHT Book One (1930)
A book by Rutherford interpreting Revelation chapters 1 to 14.

Page 194 refers to the disappointment in 1914 and suggests it fulfilled Isaiah 20:2:

> Isaiah represented God's people on earth and he prophesied in sackcloth." (Isa. 20:2)…
>
> All of the Lord's people looked forward to 1914 with joyful expectation. When that time came and passed there was much disappointment, chagrin and mourning… (p.194)

He quotes *The Watchtower* of 1914:

> The human mind seems to have a natural tendency … to expect matters to culminate more rapidly, fulfillments to come more suddenly, than they ever do come. (w1914 11/1)

Page 196 of *Light* says:

> Since the fulfillment of the various time prophecies demonstrate that God's methods of operating are slow, may it not be that the kingdom will not be ushered in for five, ten or even twenty-five years? Our reply is, we are not a prophet; we merely believe that we have come to the place where the Gentile Times have ended. If the Lord has five more years for us here, we shall be very glad to be on this side of the veil…

The New Testament never calls false prophets or their followers "the Lord's people" or "God's children" but warns against joining them. (Matthew 24:11, 23)

The excuse that "The human mind seems to have a natural tendency … to expect matters to culminate more rapidly" ignores Russell's plain predictions which he made as "God's mouthpiece" for 1914. (See: *DATES*)

The excuse "we are not a prophet" disagrees with the later doctrine that the "remnant" collectively are God's prophet, appointed in 1919. (The Nations Shall Know That I am Jehovah—How? 1971, 58)

The suggestion "If the Lord has five more years for us here…" coming from the man who had all authority in the WTS and wrote all major *Watchtower* articles, would have become the normal viewpoint in the cult until the five years were over. The cult members would have looked forward to 1935 as the culmination.

LIGHT Book Two (1930)
A WTS book in which Rutherford interprets Revelation 15 to 21 and Daniel 2. The book says: "…everything that continues to exist shall be put under the control of Christ. The great climax is at hand." (p.327)

Defectors from Rutherford's cult will die at Armageddon:

> Many of these men have come in contact with present truth disclosing the presence of the Lord and his kingdom and have selfishly used the literature that the Lord has provided, claiming the authorship of certain truths, and have mixed these with their false doctrines to deceive the people, and have deceived many. That they will die in Armageddon is certain. (p.215)

"That they will die in Armageddon" is, however, **not** "certain" because all of them, who had left Rutherford's cult by 1930, have died already from other causes!

Light II interprets the "scarlet coloured beast" of Revelation 17 as the International Court of Arbitration established in 1899 and as the League of Nations established in 1920, and predicted that the League would destroy all the Christian churches of Christendom. (pp 106-114) This, however, did not happen [and in 1942 the destruction was allocated to the United Nations]. (Investigator Magazine #117)

LIGHT OF TRUTH
A phrase by which JWs leaders sum up their Bible interpretations.

The *WT Library CD* (2007) lists the phrase "light of truth" 235 times. Governing Body member Klein repeatedly used it in his biography. (w1984 10/1)

Russellism, too, is called "light of truth". (e.g. Yearbook 1984, 56, 38) JWs therefore need to explain why they have rejected thousands of Russell's interpretations of Bible verses. His interpretations cannot be "light of truth" if what is taught now is "light of truth" and disagrees with it.

LIGHT SHINE
Rutherford claimed that JWs fulfill Jesus instruction to "let your light shine" by selling WTS books and by criticizing other religions. (w1941 5/1 138)

Any JWs, however, who today let their "light shine" by promoting Rutherford's books and teachings — which "True Faith Jehovah's Witnesses" in Europe still do — would be excommunicated!

LIGHTBEARER
A two-mast, 16-metre, yacht owned by the WTS in Australia, whose crew of seven or eight distributed WTS books in the islands of Dutch-ruled Indonesia from 1935 to 1941.

LIGHTNING (Job 37:2-3)
Lightning represents illumination from the Bible, including the illumination in Rutherford's book *Life*. (Life 1929, 295)

LINGLE, WILBUR
Author of:
- *Approaching Jehovah's Witnesses In Love* (2004);
- *20 Important Questions for Jehovah's Witnesses* (2007); and
- *What the Watchtower Society Doesn't Want You To Know* (2009).

LISTEN AND OBEY
A phrase used in JWs publications and at conventions to remind JWs that to deviate from Governing Body teaching invites death at Armageddon. For example, the death of Lot's wife when she failed to obey (Genesis 19:26) is given a modern application:

> For earnest Bible students the events since 1914 indicate that we are rapidly approaching that time for execution of judgment. Soon Jehovah and Christ will act to rid the earth of all gross sinners.—Revelation 19:11-21…
> She [Lot's wife] lost out because she did not wholeheartedly trust in God. She did not move forward with confidence. (Luke 17:31, 32) Maybe some today hold back from a fuller participation in Christian service, even though their circumstances allow for it. …
> For Christians today this is no time for hesitation. This corrupt system of things is doomed. Why, then, look back in doubt? Be ready, always, to listen and obey. (w1984 5/1 10)

The point is clear — the JWs of 1984 should more fully obey their leaders by preaching more or die "soon" in the "rapidly approaching … execution".

LISTENING TO THE GREAT TEACHER (1971)
An official WTS book intended for children.

LITERARY CLASSES
JWs commenced literary classes for converts and fellow believers in West Africa in 1948.

LITERATURE
WTS publications offered to the public are often referred as "literature". JWs after finishing field service might ask one another "Did you place any literature today?"

Congregations have a "literature servant" who maintains the stocks of publications other than the magazines and dispenses them to the congregation publishers and places orders for more literature to the branch office through the congregation's secretary.

LITHUANIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Lithuania and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio

		1 to		1 to
1995	1,648	2,256	4,738	785
2000	2,458	1,505	5,404	685
2005	2,916	1,200	5,613	623
2010	3,110	1,070	5,644	590
2013	3,155	942	5,285	562
2015	3,140	923	5,018	578
2018	3,026	925	4,661	601
	Ave.			
2019	2,948	948	4,602	597
2020	2,871	973	4,340	644
2021	2,852	976	5,467	509
2022	2,857	982	4,895	573
2023	2,919	963	4,761	590
2024	2,899	998	4,601	629
2025	2,887	1,001	4,541	637

LITTLE FLOCK
The "little flock" refers to persons who go to heaven in the resurrection. (Studies II 1889, 212-213) In JWs theology they are the same as the 144,000 of whom a "remnant" still live on Earth.

Originally Russell taught that the living members of the little flock would rise physically to heaven in 1878 which was wrong. Then he tried 1881 which was again wrong. So he taught that God's general call to this position ended in 1878 (Studies II 1889, 235) which was wrong too.

Then he changed the end of the general call to 1881. (Studies III, 216-219) New individuals could only be added to the little flock to replace unfaithful ones who dropped out. (wr1901 11/1 2901; w1900 8/1 2676) This too turned out wrong. The little flock would, however, rise to heaven by 1914. Wrong again. So Russell made it "soon after" 1914. (Studies III 1891, 228) Rutherford made this more specific — 1918! (The Finished Mystery 1917, 64) Yes, wrong again.

When no one ascended skywards in 1918 Rutherford argued that the harvest of the little flock was over. Wrong again since afterwards he announced that a gleaning work remained. The "little flock" failed again to rise skywards in 1924 and 1925. However, in 1935 the harvest of them was definitely over. Wrong again, since every year after that a few more JWs have claimed to be of the "little flock".

Since 1935 most new converts to JWs have claimed to be of the "great crowd". Therefore surviving members of the little flock, the "remnant", got progressively fewer. After 1928 they no longer expected to rise together physically to heaven. The new teaching was that they go to heaven as ghostly spirits when they die.

The repeated changes to the "little flock" doctrine including their ascent to heaven illustrate how the JWs leaders cover their tracks when prophecies and doctrines fail. The trick is to spiritualize the doctrine i.e. make the fulfillment invisible or apply it to a new group. If something is spiritual and invisible then it is also irrefutable.

Since the door to heaven was shut in 1935 the "remnant" should have died out by about 2000 — but instead they began to increase in number!

(See: *REMNANT*)

LITTLE ONE WILL BECOME A THOUSAND (Isaiah 60:22)
JWs believe that this scripture refers to increase in their numbers. (w1985 1/1 22)

LIVING IN HOPE OF A RIGHTEOUS NEW WORLD (1963)
An official WTS booklet.

LLOYD, WALTER MAXWELL
A name known to many Australian JWs in the late 20th century — Lloyd was a director of the WBTS of Australia 1985-2002.

LOCUSTS (Joel 2:1-11; Revelation 9:1-11)
In 1917 the WTS leaders identified the Methodist movement, founded by John Wesley (1703-1791), as the fulfillment of Revelation 9:1-11 which describes locusts from the "bottomless pit".

Every detail in Revelation 9:1-11 received a negative explanation and linked the Methodist "locusts" to Satan the Devil. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 155-159)

In 1930 Rutherford changed the interpretation, and the locusts thenceforth represented JWs and their propaganda from 1926 onwards. (Light I 1930, 145-156; Religion 1940, 174-75)

All of the formerly negative interpretations of specific points now became positive.

In 1930s America the JWs "locusts" were organized into 78 motorized battalions totaling 12,600 volunteers who swarmed into communities opposed to JWs and swamped them with tracts before the police could react.

(See also: *WITNESSES FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT*)

LOGIC
For the JWs leaders to have misinterpreted hundreds of Bible verses, and revised them and often getting it wrong again, would have required numerous false premises and errors in logic.

A recurring error in logic is to derive a negative conclusion from the absence or lack of a biblical injunction.

Rutherford, for example, tried to ban sex, marriage and procreation among JWs:

> It would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or Scriptural injunction to bring children into the world immediately before Armageddon, where we now are. (Salvation 1939, 337)

This comment is silly in that from the lack of a Biblical injunction Rutherford drew a negative conclusion. This is like requesting people to avoid light bulbs, tooth brushes, study of *The Watchtower* and socks because The Bible gives no command to use such things.

The JWs leaders employ this fallacy whenever it helps them get the conclusion they want. In the 1940s they argued against building halls and places of worship since the Bible makes no mention of Jesus building such things. In the 1970s they concluded from lack of Bible comment on whether Timothy was married that Timothy was unmarried.

Further examples are:

> If Jesus wanted his followers to celebrate his birthday why did he not instruct them? (w1984 12/15 6)

> Did Jesus and the apostles recite creeds? Does the Bible mention them? The fact is that nowhere in the Bible can we find any reference to Jesus' using or instructing anyone to use creeds in worship. (g1985 10/8 22)

> God's law on tithing was not listed among the 'necessary things' for Christians. (g1985 12/8 15)

Creeds are concise summaries of essential beliefs. And concise summaries occur in the Bible — Paul's summary of the "good news" for example in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

The "necessary things" listed in Acts 15 referred to four abstentions that were at the time "necessary" to maintain peace with Jews — "Abstain from things strangled, from things sacrificed to idols, from fornication and from blood."

It does not follow that the four abstentions constitute everything Christians must avoid. The omission of tithing from the list is therefore irrelevant to whether or not tithing is necessary for Christians.

LOGICALLY

To JWs the word "logically" is synonymous with "reasonably".

The two words are, however, better kept with separate meanings. If reasons and facts are presented to support a belief or conclusion then the belief or conclusion follows "reasonably". Logic and conclusions that follow "logically", however, depend not on facts but on rules of logic and grammar.

Consider the following:
All B is C; D is B; Therefore D is C.

We can substitute any words for the letters B, C and D, and the conclusion — the third sentence — will still follow "logically" from the first two sentences (the premises). For example if B represents the word "bone" and C "white" and D "rib", then the reasoning runs: All bones are white. Ribs are bones. Therefore ribs are white.

However, a conclusion that follows "logically" can also be false. If B stands for "bin", C for "made of iron" and D for "plastic bin", then we get:
All bins are made of iron. Plastic bins are bins. Therefore plastic bins are made of iron.

The conclusion is false but nevertheless follows logically from the two premises. In other words, a conclusion can be "valid" meaning it follows "logically" from the premises, but can still be false because one of the premises is false.

When, however, the JWs writers use the word "logically" they do not wish to suggest that their conclusion might be false. Their intention in using the word "logically" is to affirm their conclusion or belief as correct:

> Just as Jehovah inspired men to write, it <u>logically</u> follows that he would direct and watch over the collecting and preserving of these inspired writings... (Aid to Bible Understanding 1971, 290 last paragraph)

The writer here meant "reasonably" not "logically". Consider a school teacher who influences his class to write. Although influencing his students to write, the teacher does not collect and preserve everything they write — since such an action does not follow "logically".

Sometimes WTS writers also use the word "logical" to mean "consistent". For example w1984 8/1 13 paragraph 4 says: "Is it not logical that we should have the same durable Christian qualities that we wish to build in others?" Here "consistent" is meant and not "logical". Consistency is only one criterion for identifying statements as logical.

LONG, LESLIE R.
A prominent WBTS attorney in America 1960s-1990s.

LONGO, CHRISTIAN (1974-)
A JW who, at age 27, murdered his wife and three children, stole the identity of a journalist, and went on the run. He is the topic of the book *Love, Daddy* (2003) by Carlton Smith.

Two drowned children, who had been weighed down with rocks, floated up in December 2001 near the coastal town of Newport, Oregon. In April, 2003 Longo was found guilty of murdering Zachery and Sadie and sentenced to death by lethal injection.

Longo committed his crimes to solve debt problems and escape to a simpler life. His parents divorced when he and his brother were kids. The mother remarried and settled in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where the family became JWs. At 17 Longo met Mary Jane Baker who was 7 years older and they married.

Longo started a cleaning business. To impress his wife and friends and show himself successful he purchased new cars and created debt by "conning, scamming, stealing and forging checks."

In July 2000 the court sentenced him to probation and ordered him to pay restitution. JWs disfellowshipped and shunned him. Longo then killed his wife and three children and took on the name and identity of Michael Finkel, a former journalist of *The New York Times*, and went to Mexico. He shacked up with a Germany female photographer and lived the highlife — beer, marijuana, snorkeling and disco.

In 2001 Longo was added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list and was found and arrested.

Longo became the subject of a TV documentary and is listed on "Murderpedia", the online encyclopedia of murderers.

LOOK! I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW (1959)



LOOSE CONDUCT
A Bible phrase which JWs quote to criticize intimate petting by two people not married to each other.

w1973 9/15 574-576 discusses the term "Loose conduct" in Galatians 5:19

> One might assume that this term (from the Greek word a·sel'gei·a) refers to conduct that is immoral but in a minor or not so serious way. This, however, is not the case according to the available evidence in Scripture and also in the ancient secular Greek writings in which this word appears. It is not limited to acts of sexual immorality. And, rather than relating to bad conduct of a somewhat petty or minor nature, it apparently describes acts that reflect a brazen attitude, one that betrays disrespect, disregard or even contempt for standards, laws and authority. The 'looseness' of the conduct, therefore, is not due principally to weakness but results from an attitude of disrespect, insolence or shamelessness.

Loose conduct is a disfellowshipping offense but excludes hand-holding by unmarried couples which, although not approved, does not merit disfellowshipping.

LORD
A number of Hebrew words are translated "Lord" in the Old Testament including "ahdohn" and "adohn-nahy". (Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance. 5th Edition, Bagster, pp 15, 22)

"Adohn-nahy" (or "adonai") is plural i.e. it literally means "Lords". When the plural, however, is applied to an individual lord, then "Adohn-nahy" denotes not plurality but excellence or glory. (Comprehensive Concordance 1973, 1080-1081) Hence the *New World Translation* translates "adohn-nahy" as "Sovereign Lord". The plural "adohn-nahy" is used in the Old Testament only of Jehovah.

The Greek word "kyrios" meaning "Lord" occurs about 720 times in the New Testament. "Kyrios" is used of God the Father, Abraham, God Almighty, slave owners, and Jesus. The *New Catholic Encyclopaedia* (1967) states:

> In their so called New world Translation, the term Kyrios is rendered Jehovah instead of Lord everywhere in the New Testament (237 times) except at Philippians 2:11, where St. Paul refers the word to Christ. (p.864)

The *Encyclopedia* is in error since 237 times out of 720 times is not "everywhere".

WTS writers are unclear about the following two points:

1. Jesus is called "Lord of Lords." (Revelation 19:6) This seems to be an equivalent to the plural of excellence i.e. to "Adohn-nahy" thus making Jesus in some sense equivalent to Jehovah.

2. "Kyrios" is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew "ahdohn" as can be seen from New Testament verses quoted from the Old Testament where "ahdohn" is translated "kyrios". (e.g. Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:43-44) Jesus is the "**one** Lord" of Christians. (1 Corinthians 8:6) Hence, if Christians have **one** "kyrios", and Jehovah is also "kyrios" i.e. "ahdohn", then Jesus is in some sense Jehovah.

However, Jesus appears to identify his Father as Jehovah in John 8:54 which JWs agree with.

LORD IT OVER
JWs regard the clergy as "tyrannical" and believe that the clergy as well as the rulers of the nations "lord it over" their congregations and citizens. JWs elders, in contrast, are "not to lord it over their fellow believers…" (w2006 7/15 5; w1996 1/15 15; United in Worship 1983, 123)

However, JWs who discover false prophecies in WTS publications may want to talk about them. But to discuss these errors is contrary to "Jehovah's interests". JWs elders handle such conflict between truthfulness and Jehovah's interests by requesting "fault finders" to shut their mouth. If this fails the faultfinder is disfellowshipped. These events seem a more severe form of "lording it over" than occurs in other religions.

LORD'S COMING TO THE TEMPLE (Malachi 3:1)
A Scripture seen by Christians as fulfilled when Jesus went to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Rutherford applied the verse to the splinter groups from Russell's cult in 1918. The "temple" was the Watchtower cult which Jesus inspected in 1918 to remove the bad guys. This interpretation was, supposedly, "disclosed" by "the Lord". (Vindication I 1931, 24-27)

LORD'S DAY
The Lord's Day is the same as the "Day of Jehovah", the period "since 1914". (w1981 12/1 17)

This interpretation has changed and the "day of Jehovah" is now identified with Armageddon. (Live With Jehovah's Day In Mind, 2006, 31-35)

[See also: *DAY OF JEHOVAH*]

LORD'S EVENING MEAL
The "Memorial" commemorating Christ's death which JWs celebrate once yearly on the Jewish date Nisan 14, which usually corresponds to the full Moon at Easter.

Among JWs only the "remnant" partake of the "emblems" i.e. the wine and unleavened bread. The remnant (or "remaining ones" Revelation 12:17 NWT) are the "remnant of the 144,000" who at present still live on Earth but go to Heaven at death. Everyone else who gets salvation gets eternal life on Earth.

To become a member of the "remnant" occurs officially as follows:

> The Scriptures say that God will provide, through his holy spirit, evidence and assurance to those qualified to partake of the emblems as 'heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ,' that they are God's sons. (Insight II 1988, 270)

In practice the main criteria are obedience to the JWs leaders, full agreement with them, and zeal in proselytizing.

The theological cutting-off point to join the 144,000 was 1935. New candidates appeared or joined but allegedly only to replace individuals who had defected. Belief in the 1935 cut-off date apparently changed in 2005 at which time the "remnant" began to increase.

"Remnant" implies a minority. Therefore if the "remnant" continues to increase it will at some stage make up the majority of the 144,000 and no longer be a "remnant". Before then "new light" may come out.

LÖSCH, GARIT (1941-)
A Governing Body member appointed to that position on July 1, 1994.

Lösch became a pioneer in November 1961, was a circuit and district overseer in Austria 1963 to 1976, and went to Gilead, 41st class, in 1965. He married "Merete" in 1967 and served at Bethel, Vienna 1967-1981. He was called to Brooklyn headquarters in 1993 and worked for the Service Committee. He speaks German, English, Rumanian and Italian. (w1994 11/1 29)

LOT
Lot and his daughters were Bible persons who escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. They supposedly picture people of goodwill toward JWs. (Salvation 1939, 74)

LOUD VOICE (Revelation 7:2)
This Bible verse about an angel with a "loud voice" has been reinterpreted by WTS leaders several times.

In *The Finished Mystery* (1917) the angel was Jesus and the voice was C.T. Russell's voice:

> Pastor Russell was the voice used. Beautiful voice of the Lord: strong, humble, wise, loving, gentle, just, merciful, faithful, self-sacrificing; one of the noblest, grandest characters of all history. "I lift my pen, not in defense of any doctrine, creed or dogma, but in defense of a man, in defense of fairness, justice and righteousness. Pastor C. T. Russell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., stands out prominently as a target for the pulpits and religious press of the country today. I believe there is no one more bitterly persecuted, harshly condemned, woefully misrepresented and misunderstood than this fearless, conscientious man of God. No infidel writer, such as Hume, Voltaire or Ingersoll, ever suffered such ruthless attacks as have been made upon Mr. Russell. Whether this persecution and misrepresentation is due to prejudice or ignorance of this man's real character and writing, is not for me to say, but I believe both are elements that play a part in the widespread criticism uttered both from the pulpit and the press. Naturally, men will resent any attack made upon the creed of their persuasion, for they hold to their religious creed and affiliations with more tenacity than they realize, until some strong mind, backed by Scripture proof, begins to uproot their doctrine by showing their inconsistencies and errors. This is what Mr. Russell proceeds to do. As a logician and theologian he is doubtless without peer today. In his research for Biblical truth and harmony he is without a parallel in this Age. Without a blemish in his character, with the loftiest ideals of God, and the possibilities of man, he towers like a giant, unmatched. His defects fade into insignificance. He has been too busy spreading Divine Truth, as he honesty sees it, to waste time in frivolous speculation in matters not in some way connected with man's future state, as outlined in 'The Plan of the Ages.' Unselfish, liberal and courteous to Christians of all denominations, but fearlessly condemning, in unmeasured terms, the errors and inconsistencies in their creeds, as he sees them, he ranks with immortal benefactors, and is stamping his opinion on the world as no other man has. (p.125)

Russell's "Divine Truth" was largely discarded by 1931 and in the 1940s JWs were told not to enquire about the founders of their faith. The writings of their "theologian … without peer" were sidelined, officially ignored..

LOVE.
See: *AGAPE*

LOVE (ROMANTIC)
Rutherford viewed the sort of love that leads to marriage as "selfishness".
(See: *MARRIAGE*; *DIVINE MANDATE*)

LOVE OF THE GREATER NUMBER WILL COOL OFF (Matthew 24:12)
A Scripture JWs apply to 1st-century Jews and to 20th-century Christianity. (w1984 12/15 30)

LOVE, CHARLES
Author of *20 Questions Jehovah's Witnesses Cannot* Answer. (2005)

LOVEGROVE, JENNIFER (c.1970-)
Canadian poet and novelist, reared in the JWs sect but not baptized, who left at age 14. Author of *Watch How We Walk* (2013) a novel about Emily, a JW girl whose ambitions conflict with her strict sectarian upbringing.

LOVER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
A label that describes God but also applies to the good guys of the Old and New Testament and to JWs obedient to the Organization. The phrase appears 508 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007).

LOVERS OF TRUTH
A phrase denoting people who uncritically accept all published writings of the Governing Body as "the truth". Although in use in Rutherford's time the phrase entered common use only afterwards and appears 94 times on

the Watchtower Library CD (2007). Much of the "truth" that JWs were "lovers of" in Rutherford's time would get them disfellowhipped today.

LOYALTY

JWs publications regularly call for loyalty to the Governing Body, the Society, the Organization, Jehovah and Jesus. All these loyalties are in practice synonymous and mean obedience to the Governing Body.

The importance of loyalty is seen by how often the word appears in WTS publications. "Loyalty" is listed 2945 times in the Watchtower Library CD (2007) and "loyally" 717 times.

Loyalty, however, is not a virtue if loyalty is to an evil cause. Of the German generals during World War II we read: "No word was used by their class more frequently than "loyalty"… all used it to kill their doubts." (Seaton 1983)

Many JWs who exposed the Organization's tolerance of child abuse, or opposed false prophecy, or objected to labeling countless changes in theology as "Bible truth" were counted as disloyal and disfellowshipped.

In putting the demand for loyalty ahead of ethics, the Bible and conscience the JWs religion is like other organizations.

Michael Bond (2012), reviewing the book *Beautiful Souls* which is about "whistle blowers", writes:

> People who blow the whistle on unethical practices…are rarely cast as heroes in their time. More often they are judged on their disloyalty to their colleagues rather than their contribution to the greater good… They may be heroic, but … often face isolation.

LUCK

JWs avoid saying "lucky" or "luck" to avoid acknowledging "the god of Good Luck." (Isaiah 65:11 NWT) They do, however, sometimes wish one another "good fortune" or express the hope that "everything will go well."

LUXEMBOURG

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	544	622		
1975	790	534		
1980	946	457	2,153	201
1985	1,230	350	2,784	155
1990	1,541	296	3,322	137
1995	1,839	259	3,622	132
2000	1,850	273	3,428	147
2005	1,835	286	3,634	144
2010	2,019	293	3,999	148
2013	2,043	252	3,841	134
2015	2,058	274	3,895	145
2018	2,141	281	3,861	156
	Ave.			
2019	2,123	290	3,802	162
2020	2,123	295	3,853	162
2021	2,184	291	4,666	136
2022	2,170	297	4,054	159
2023	2,165	300	3,954	164
2024	2,209	304	4,116	163
2025	2,227	306	4,029	169

The seeming inconsistency between 2010 and 2013 where the Memorial attendance declined but the ratio improved occurs in many *Yearbooks* statistics and is probably due to revised population figures. In this instance the *Yearbook* used the population figure for Luxembourg of 591,791 in 2010 but 514,000 in 2013.

LYING

JWs believe lying and cheating are wrong. (You Can Live Forever… 1982, 155), and that the greatest liars are priests:

> These priests have been at the business of lying for so long that it does not seem to occur to them that there is a limit to human gullibility. (g1936 7/1 619)

The same words seem true of the JWs leaders: They have lied so long to deny their false predictions, and given flawed excuses for them so often, "that it does not seem to occur to them that there is a limit to human gullibility."

(See also: *LIES; THEOCRATIC WAR STRATEGY*)

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