DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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NAME
C.T. Russell wanted his cult to be called "Christians" and therefore avoided a specific name for it. Commentators often called his followers Millennial Dawn(ists) or Russellites.

NAMIBIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Namibia (formerly South-West Africa) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	226	2,699		
1975	322	1,894		
1980	331	2,683	737	1,205
1985	355	2,907	777	1,328
1990	644	2,064	1,481	1,132
1995	819	1,722	2,438	578
2000	1,053	1,714	2,943	613
2005	1,308	1,399	3,675	498
2010	1,898	1,152	6,113	358
2015	2,306	1,066	7,726	318
2018	2,476	1,050	8,202	317
	Ave.			
2019	2,477	1,007	8,629	289
2020	2,515	1,010	6,782	375
2021	2,535	1,021	8,457	306
2022	2,496	1,055	7,539	349
2023	2,603	1,030	8,793	305
2024	2,800	1,079	9,706	311
2025	2,961	1,045	9,736	318

NAOMI
In the Old Testament the mother-in-law of Ruth.

Russell claimed that the Bible book of Ruth was non-prophetic:

> While the book of Ruth is not prophetical, but merely historical, it is valuable to us in various ways. (wr1902 11/15 3110)

> Manifestly the chief object in the brief narrative of Ruth and Naomi was to preserve an authentic record of a link in the chain of our Lord's human ancestry. (wr1907 11/15 4089)

Rutherford rejected this and claimed the preservation of Jesus' ancestry was "not the real purpose of the book." Rather:

> We must conclude that the book of Ruth was…a prophecy for the special benefit of the remnant in the last days. (Preservation1932, 169-177; w1932 9/15 276-277)

The story of Ruth and Naomi became one of Rutherford's "pictures" where Old Testament characters pictured 20th century JWs history. The good guys usually pictured the "remnant" of the 144,000 and the bad guys the Catholics, ex JWs, Nazis, Christendom or "big business".

Naomi, according to Rutherford, pictured the Russellites who went through 1917-1919 and then became followers of Rutherford. Ruth pictured the new converts from 1922. (Preservation 1932, 195, 255; w1972 2/1 79, 85)

Some of the "Naomi class" would, according to the picture, survive Armageddon. The WTS president Frederick W. Franz, who was baptized in 1913 and died in 1992, was among the last of the Naomi Class and Armageddon had not occurred. (See: *MORDECAI*)

From this JWs perspective the Bible book of Ruth looks like a scheme by God to mislead people in the 20th century!

JWs interpret at least 100 biblical characters and events as prophetic "pictures" with 20th century parallels or fulfilments.

NATION
The alleged remnant of the 144,000 is called "God's holy nation". (w1944 11/1 339) This "nation" was born in 1919 when Rutherford and seven supporters were released from prison and took control of the WTS.

The word "nation" is now applied collectively to all of JWs, the entire Organization:

> Jehovah's united servants are well on their way to becoming a 'mighty nation'. (w1984 3/15 18)

It's a "growing nation" that will "fill the whole earth." (ibid p.19)

NATIONAL ANTHEM
An official song to honour or show respect for a country but regarded by JWs as Satan-

worship. JWs don't stand up in respect when the anthem is played and often used to encounter abuse for their attitude.

NATIONS

JWs leaders claim that their message will go, "to all nations without exceptions, before the end of this system of things comes." (w1973 11/1 659) But they also believe that no entire nations will be converted. Hence they changed "all nations" in Matthew 28:19 (where Jesus said "make disciples of all nations") to "make disciples of people of all the nations".

With their recovery from the fiasco of 1975 the leaders occasionally suggested that "all nations" in Matthew 28:19 might indeed mean "all nations".

Apostolic Christianity has always had the goal of bringing all nations to Christ. (Romans 15:7-15; Ephesians 1:9-10)

NATIONS SHALL KNOW THAT I AM JEHOVAH"—HOW?, THE (1971)

An official WTS book explaining the biblical book of Ezekiel and updating Rutherford's interpretation published in 1931-1932.

The author, F.W. Franz, argues that the prophet Ezekiel corresponds to the "remnant" of the 144,000, and idolatrous Israel corresponds to Christendom.

Franz predicted the "Day of Jehovah" including the destruction of all Christian churches would take place "within our twentieth century" (pp 216; 255; 113) which was another false prophecy.

NAURU

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1985	7	857	27	222
1990	5	1,200	33	182
1995	7	919	35	184
2000	7	1,514	85	125
2005	4	2,650	45	236
2010	13	848	136	81
2015	14	745	92	113
2018	19	595	83	136
	Ave.			
2019	17	647	102	108
2020	13	846	76	145
2021	15	733	109	101
2022	16	688	100	110
2023	15	733	85	129
2024	14	857	154	80
2025	15	800	150	80

NAZI GERMANY and JWs

During WWII the refusal of JWs to salute the flag, assist in war or defense efforts, recite the Pledge of Allegiance or its equivalent, work in war industries or vote added to their unpopularity in some countries.

Their religion was banned in many countries with men jailed or sent to work camps, and children sometimes expelled from schools or put in foster homes.

Probably most serious was in Nazi Germany. In the early 1930s there were as many JWs in Germany (the Weimer Republic) as in the USA. About 20,000 went door to door in 1933 and were referred to as Ernste Bibelforscher (Earnest Bible Students). At that time the sect did not emphasize sending children door to door; that started about 1940. Therefore, allowing for children, JWs numbered 25,000 or more in 1933 in Germany.

In early 1933 Adolf Hitler became Chancellor followed by the Enabling Law which transferred legislative power to his cabinet and made Germany a dictatorship.

JWs conflict with the State

In Germany the equivalent to the American and British corporations of the WTS was the Internationale Bibelforscher Vereinigung (International Bible Students Association). To reduce suspicions over their "International" connections they founded the Northern German Bible Students Association and the Southern German Bible Students Association in February-March, 1933.

Nevertheless JWs began to experience legal repression which became progressively more severe as the Nazi Party consolidated its power.

On April 24 their headquarters, the Magdeburg Bible House, was occupied by the police. Since the occupation involved American property JWs appealed to the U.S. Department of State and on April 29 the police left.

Civil liberties progressively declined throughout Germany. Sectors of the population that cooperated least such as Communists, various Christian groups and JWs came under the most pressure.

JWs began to be banned in individual German states, an action presented by authorities as a protective measure. The June 14 ban in Württemburg was explained as follows:

> Particularly on Sundays and Christian holidays, people sent by the "Earnest Bible Students" go from house to house and bother people by imposing upon them the journals of the Magdeburg Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, which contains malicious attacks on the major Christian churches and their institutions... This demoralizing activity, which represents a misuse of the right of freedom of expression, causes dissension not only in individual families but also in entire communities. It is incompatible with the idea of a Christian people's community [*Volksgemeinschaft*] in Germany and can therefore no longer be permitted. (Garbe 2008, p.82)

On June 24 the sect was officially banned in Prussia and during June either banned or restricted in most states of Germany.

On June 28 SA storm troopers arrived at the Magdeburg Headquarters and deactivated the printing presses and shut the premises. In August 25 truckloads of WTS publication were publicly burned at the outskirts of Magdeburg. After the American ambassador filed a complaint JWs again (on October 7) got their Bible House back but were banned from printing literature or conducting meetings there.

What peeved the Nazis was that JWs:

- Refused to give the *Heil Hitler* salute or vote in elections;
- Refused to display the Nazi flag;
- Kept their children from joining the Hitler Youth;
- Ignored a 1934 law which required salaried workers to join the German Labor Front;
- Refused to obey a 1935 law that required compulsory military service;
- Continued to receive WTS publications often via the mail from Czechoslovakia or mimeographed them.

The Fuehrer Principle demanded that everyone's primary allegiance and obedience belonged to Adolf Hitler — God and religion were acceptable to the extent they did not interfere.

All sects that were considered troublesome because they persisted in proselytizing were proscribed. JWs were thus part of a general development but, being the most vocal, got the most attention.

Proselytizing and public meetings were now illegal and many JWs stopped preaching and either ceased meeting attendance or held small gatherings in private homes (which was also illegal.)

A letter in February 1934 by Rutherford to the Reich chancellor requested that all government authorities be instructed to allow JWs freedom of assembly and worship or the facts would be advertised worldwide and be "brought to the attention of Jehovah God, and, through Jesus Christ, He would punish in His own way those responsible for the mistreatment." (Garbe p.105) Considered together with the doctrine of Armageddon being imminent this was an implied death threat to Hitler and the Nazi regime.

At a convention in Basel, Switzerland, in September 1934, attended by 3500 JWs including 1000 from Germany, JWs issued a statement:

> We have no interest in political affairs, but are wholly devoted to God's Kingdom under Christ as King. We will do no injury or harm to anyone. We would delight to dwell in peace and do good will to all men as we have opportunity, but since your government and its officers continue in the attempt to force us to disobey the highest law of the universe, we are compelled to now give the notice that we will, by His Grace, Obey Jehovah-God and fully trust Him to deliver us from all oppression and oppressors.

In April 1935 the German Branch of the WTS was banned. Being married to a JW was now grounds for divorce. In 1936 a unit of the Gestapo (secret police) was established to find and arrest active JWs. Adult JWs lost their jobs, had pensions or welfare cancelled, spent periods in prisons, and their children were fostered out, more than 800 were removed over several years.

A pamphlet campaign by JWs in 1936-1937 led to severe reaction by the Gestapo followed in 1937-1938 by a wave of arrests that virtually destroyed JWs as an organization, but underground activities continued on a small scale.

Numbers

Of the original 20,000 JWs in Germany in 1933 about half discontinued their activities for the sect.

Of the remainder about 6000, according to the *1974 Yearbook of J Ws*, were arrested, and 2000 went to concentration camps: "A total of 635 had died in prison, 253 had been sentenced to death and 203 of these had actually been executed." (p.212) This means that 432 "died from starvation, disease, and other brutal mistreatment." (p.192) The numbers are "according to incomplete reports". (ibid)

Garbe (2008) cites one author who claimed that "one out of every three Jehovah's Witnesses were killed" and other writers used this overestimate to make their own high estimates. (pp 477-481)

Garbe (2008) concludes that about 10,000 JWs were imprisoned, 1100 to 1200 died in concentration camps of whom 700-800 were Germans and the rest from other countries. Some JWs also died in penal institutions. Therefore the total German JWs "killed without due process of law" Garbe estimates at almost 1000. (pp 483-484) The *Yearbook* estimate of 635 was conservative.

Prisoners in the camps had colored patches on their clothing to identify why they were there — JWs had purple. JWs were offered freedom if they signed a declaration to renounce their beliefs, take no further part in promoting JWs, and promised to defend the Fatherland.

Survival

JWs survived the persecutions due to their social solidarity, expectation of imminent Armageddon which would annihilate the Nazis, and by being model prisoners, doing their best in any work or activity not in conflict with their beliefs, and by avoiding confrontation as far as possible with other inmates and guards.

Rigid prophetic beliefs of JWs, instilled by years of indoctrination, sustained many JWs until their release in 1945.

Rutherford predicted that the greater part of the JWs ministry was completed, even stating several times that only "months" remained and Armageddon was about to strike. JWs were therefore caught between two totalitarian, uncompromising, anti-liberal ideologies, each demanding total conformity and threatening death for non-compliance. Many JWs feared destruction at Armageddon more than they feared execution by the Nazi regime because the former was believed to be permanent death, but the latter temporary death resulting in resurrection. Sadly each ideology was as false as the other. In that sense it was a no-win choice.

Nor was either allegiance safer than the other if measured by the survival rate. About 10% of loyal JWs died in concentration camps or prisons. For Germany as a whole about 6-7 million troops and civilians died in WWII — which was about 10% of Germany's total population.

About 40 other sects besides JWs were banned in Germany including the *Confessing Church* led by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Niemueller, and Karl Barth. Of Catholic priests far more died in concentration camps, up to about 3000, than JWs. And the Church as a whole suffered brutal repression especially in Poland. Nevertheless Catholic bishops in Germany opposed the Nazi euthanasia program against the intellectually/mentally disabled and got it cancelled in August 1941. (Lifton 1986) JWs publications don't mention the persecution of the Catholic Church because it conflicts with their official position of a "Nazi Catholic combine" working together to enslave the world.

NAZI/FASCIST AMERICA

JWs leaders predicted that the Vatican would use Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy to take over America. Calling the League of Nations the "beast" and the Roman Catholic Hierarchy the "old whore" and "harlot", they taught:

> The activity of the old "whore" in committing harlotry with all the kingdoms of the world appears to be more than merely establishing diplomatic relationship with all nations and being recognized as a temporal power. It surely means the carrying out of the objective of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy to set up a Fascist government controlling the nations of the earth, that the Hierarchy may arbitrarily rule the nations in a dictatorial manner…
>
> The combination of the League of Nations is made up of religion, politics, commerce, religion being the binding tie and riding on the back of the "beast" and claiming the right to rule. The old "whore" gains the dominating position in this combine when she 'returns to her hire' or traffic and 'plays the harlot with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth'… (Enemies 1937, 288-289)
>
> The United States is not supposed to be a member of the League of Nations; but the prophecy (*R.V.*) says: "She … shall play

the harlot with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth," and this necessarily includes the United States of America. It is well known, by every person in America who really thinks, that the determination of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy is to take control of the United States and make it a government similar to that of Germany and Italy…

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… (ibid 291)

When the hierarchy has gained complete temporal power 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… (ibid 292)

NAZI, FASCIST, CATHOLIC COMBINE

Rutherford upset Catholics and tried to stir up trouble by promoting the claim that Nazis and the Catholic Church were acting together to enslave America and would shortly succeed. (Face the Facts, 1938)

NEAR/NEARLY/NEARING

Adjectives with which JWs indicate the closeness of Armageddon, the culmination of their preaching-work, and the imminence of Paradise on Earth:

…the great battle of Armageddon … is near … it will quickly follow the world war. (w1920 3/1 77)

In recent months God has made known to his people the meaning of much that has heretoforth been hidden, and may not those things be taken as proof that Armageddon is near, and that the publication business concerning it and the kingdom of God requires hasty diligence and perseverance on the part of the remnant? (Preservation 1932, 153)

That work of witnessing to the establishment of God's kingdom, and proclaiming His great day of vengeance at Armageddon, is nearly at an end. (g1940 2/7 21 Australian edition)

But the end is near and this handmaiden of the devil, due to go down at Armageddon, is in reality, tottering on the verge of its abysmal destruction by the hands of Jehovah's great executioner, Christ Jesus. (g1940 3/6 11 Australian edition)

Under the rule of the King of THE THEOCRACY marriage will become sacred and to the glory of God.… Since Armageddon is near at hand it would seem wise for those who hope to be of the "great multitude", and therefore to fulfill the divine mandate, to wait upon the Lord and seek his direction and ask him to guide them and make selection of a companion. (w1941 9/1 264)

It is a fact, not only are the religions of Christendom and those outside of Christendom nearing their end, but also this entire system of things faces imminent destruction. (g1969 4/22 18)

As World Calamity Nears—Consider Jesus (w1983 2/15 16)

The Watchtower 1984 11/15 pp 21-26 uses "near" five times and other expressions of imminence almost 20 times. Repetitions that the end is "near" keeps many JWs hanging on whenever prophetic dates fail and thousands leave the sect. There's always the fear of missing out on eternal life because the latest prediction might be right.

In 1984 the book *Crisis of Conscience* by former Governing Body member Raymond Franz was causing some JWs to leave the sect. Also the generation of 1914, generally assumed to be 70 years, was becoming implausibly long. To counteract the loss of publishers, the JWs leaders repeated numerous times that "the end is near" and most JWs again fell for it.

Sometimes the end is "very near" or "perilously near":

Worsening world conditions since 1914 are proof that John's vision has become a reality and that the end of all humans who refuse to submit to God's sovereignty is drawing perilously near… How thrilling it is to be alive at this wonderful time when Jehovah God, the Almighty, will settle the great issue of his sovereignty over the earth! (w1990 10/15 19)

By 1990 the Governing Body **knew** that "the end of all humans who refuse to submit" was **not** "perilously near" but continued to claim it is. The proof that they knew is that *The Watchtower*, in the single-issue copies, referred to the completion of the preaching work in the 20th century but in the bound volume this

was altered to "in our day". (w1989 1/1 12)

So the Governing Body **knew** in 1990, and further confirmed this in 1995 when they altered the "creator's promise" regarding the generation of 1914, yet continued to excite and spur the "publishers" with "the end is near" claims — resulting in millions more wasting their lives in following fantasy.

What great things JWs might have done if, instead of spending 5000 hours or more to make each convert, the leaders allowed them to go to university and become specialists in something useful.

(See: *HOURS*; *TIME IS NEAR; TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

To JWs the bad guys in the Old Testament picture either Satan or a category of Satan's followers such as governments, clergy or ex JWs. Nebuchadnezzar is included in these "pictures":

> Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon would picture Satan himself, while Belshazzar, being his son would represent the earthly seed of Satan, particularly the rulers of Christendom… (w1934 11/1 323)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Daniel 4 tells of Nebuchadnezzar's dream wherein a tree was cut down and left to itself for a period of "seven times".

Daniel interpreted the tree as symbolizing Nebuchadnezzar himself: "The tree is you … O King…" (4:20-22) It being chopped down represented Nebuchadnezzar's loss of kingship for seven years. Its regrowth represented Nebuchadnezzar regaining his power. Daniel emphasized, "This is <u>the</u> interpretation." (4:24)

In the 19th century J.A. Brown and later C.T. Russell and others added to "**the** interpretation". The "seven times", they claimed, were seven years of 360 days each — a total of 2,520 days. They also claimed a day represented a year and so they got 2520 years.

Russell taught that these 2,520 years began in 606 BCE and would terminate in 1913, 1914 or 1915. He connected Jesus' phrase "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24) to the 2,520 years and called them the "times of the Gentiles". Jesus himself did not link his phrase "times of the Gentiles" to Daniel. Rather "times of the gentiles" appears to refer to the Jewish expulsion from Jerusalem and their dispersal starting 70 CE.

The JWs leaders have repeatedly changed the interpretation of their second fulfilment of Daniel Chapter 4.

The tree that Daniel said pictured Nebuchadnezzar (a pagan king) today's JWs believe pictures "divine rulership". (w1984 4/1 7) The tree chopped down pictures Babylon's conquest of God's Kingdom of Judah in (supposedly) 607 BCE. The tree's regrowth pictures Jesus becoming king in 1914:

> …divine rulership was restored when Jesus Christ began to rule in God's heavenly government in 1914. (w1984 4/1 7)

Russell, in contrast, taught that what would be restored is what was destroyed — which was the nation of Israel. The Jews, Russell predicted, would return to Israel. Then would follow worldwide rule centred in Jerusalem and headed by a government composed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other Old Testament "worthies".

Additional problems:

1. The starting date — 607 BCE. Historians put Jerusalem's conquest by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE, 21 years later than JWs. (See: *SEVENTY YEARS*)
2. The Bible gives no instruction to convert "seven times" to seven years and the 7 years to 2,520 days and these days to 2,520 years. And if no such instruction is given, why stop the process at 2,520 years? Why not change the 2,520 years to 2,520 x 360 days and the resulting days to as many years again?

Some other religious cults besides JWs have also given Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of madness a 2,520-year greater fulfilment. However, every prediction based on the 2,520 years calculation by every cult has failed.

If "Divine rulership" was chopped down, how is it that God still sat on his thrown? (Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 12:2) The whole Bible is about the rule of God!

(See also: *GENTILE TIMES*)

NEED IS GREAT(ER), WHERE THE

"Where the need is greater" refers to geographical areas where active JWs are too few in number to regularly visit all houses.

The 1960s and 1970s saw an ongoing WTS campaign to persuade JWs to "move to where the need is greater" to reach all people before Armageddon. Some financed their move by selling their house, farm or other real-estate, and lost badly due to inflation caused by the oil shock of 1973. The WTS, although predicting Armageddon for the 1970s, continued adding to its properties and became wealthier.

NELSON, DON

A former JW whose testimony is at: www.towerwatch.com/Testimonies/don_nelson.htm

In 1951 Nelson "was a math major at U.C. Berkeley" when his brother converted to JWs and described a:

> …breathtaking, green-leafy paradise where there would be no death, sorrow, or pain. We could live forever on this rejuvenated earth, if only we were faithful Jehovah's Witnesses — attending meetings, and going from door to door with the message of the kingdom…

Nelson was baptized in 1952 and entered the full-time pioneer ministry:

> And, of course, one had to accept everything one was taught, or one would be disfellowshipped. No Witness is allowed to have any opinion other than that expressed in the Watchtower publications, for these publications contain "the truth." These publications were considered Jehovah's sole "channel of communication" for His people in the last days.

He attended Gilead missionary school in 1955 and became a circuit overseer in Brazil. He began to read the New Testament, which he found to be "a Jesus book", and began to preach Jesus in the Kingdom Halls.

He left the mission field and "talked to hundreds of JWs about the Lord."

Nelson also held Bible studies in his home and in 1974 "about twenty of us were excommunicated." He and his wife lost family and friends but found, "the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3:7)

NEPAL

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	4	2,500,000		
1975	16	781,000		
1980	18	778,000	53	264,000
1985	35	457,000	102	157,000
1990	63	281,000	220	80,500
1995	204	108,000	844	26,083
2000	430	54,400	1,177	19,868
2005	739	37,451	2,644	10,468
2010	1,413	20,619	4,607	6,324
2015	2,251	12,063	7,268	3,736
2018	2,629	10,818	8,097	3,512
	Ave.			
2019	2,627	10,890	6,995	4,090
2020	2,699	10,966	6,524	4,466
2021	2,769	10,717	9,378	3,164
2022	2,803	10,415	7,529	3,877
2023	2,787	10,465	8,064	3,617
2024	2,872	10,324	7,477	3,966
2025	2,957	10,103	7,756	3,852

NEPHILIM

Rutherford claimed the Nephilim were angels i.e. spirits who materialized as human-shaped giants in Noah's time and had sex with women. (w1934 9/1 263) Franz changed this and made the Nephilim the offspring of the angels:

> The disobedient materialized angels had sexual relations with women, and the women bore children. These were not ordinary children. They were Nephilim, half human and half angel. (w2000 4/15 27)

NETHERLANDS

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	18,261	710		
1975	29,057	468		
1980	26,600	531	46,400	304
1985	28,700	504	48,400	299
1990	31,400	475	52,488	284
1995	32,800	470	55,100	280
2000	31,100	510	52,300	303
2005	30,700	531	52,000	314
2010	30,400	546	51,459	322
2015	30,000	564	51,700	327
2018	29,603	582	49,600	347
	Ave.			
2019	29,305	583	49,200	348
2020	28,234	607	41,700	411
2021	28,669	611	51,700	339
2022	29,078	609	49,200	360
2023	29,234	612	49,100	364
2024	29,425	610	48,800	368

2025	29,341	616	48,200	375

NETHINIM

A word that means "given ones", and referred to non-Israelite workers at the Temple in Jerusalem.

The nethinim supposedly foreshadowed JWs "who are not spiritual Israelites [but who] would associate themselves with the remnant of spiritual Israel and promote the worship of Jehovah God." (w1992 4/15 12-17)

The first identified modern "given ones" apparently are 16 Bethel overseers appointed in 1992 as assistants to the Governing Body. (ibid p.31)

NEUTRALITY

Neutrality refers to non-participation in disputes and refusal to judge who in those disputes is right or wrong.

When JWs claim to be "neutral", they refer to non-participation in wars, political elections, conscription, and alternative service performed in lieu of conscription.

Russell recommended to his followers to avoid voting, military service and conscription. (Studies VI 1904, 595; wr1893 8/1 1563) He advocated they join the army if drafted, but "we need not shoot to kill" (wr1898 8/1 2345) and "we … need not shoot anybody." (wr1898 7/1 2332)

In 1915 in Germany 300 Russellites joined the army. (Convention Report Supplement 1915, 142) However, because World War I was predicted to merge into Armageddon in which all armies would be destroyed, it was inconsistent for Russell to let further followers become soldiers. Hence he stressed neutrality, writing that one cannot serve both the prince of peace and Satan. (wr1916 1/1 5825)

Rutherford required his followers to obey him and the WTS first and foremost. This included non-involvement in national and local politics, and not joining the military. JWs still worked in munitions in some countries (e.g. Australia) during World War II, but Knorr and Franz banned such employment to them afterwards.

Neutrality was an essential component in Rutherford's goal of creating one global religion united with one global government. His doctrine of neutrality demolished divisions of class, race, religion, caste, tribe and nation. By it Rutherford separated his cult from the wider world. Since no JWs could have secular authority all had to depend on the WTS if they wanted authority or influence.

Neutrality would also avoid the stigma and prejudice of labels such as Zionist, Communist, Nazi, Jew, Colonialist and Imperialist. Each label has stigma value somewhere but neutrality avoids every label and was a lure to draw multitudes to the Organization.

Although their "neutrality" contributed to JWs getting banned in scores of countries it is now paying off and has become an attraction.

However, JWs do take part in air-raid drills and in building fallout shelters. (w1960 1/1 17) Since 1984 they have also been allowed to sign petitions of a non-political nature such as "saving the whale".

A serious inconsistency is highlighted by R.V. Franz in *Crisis of Conscience* (1983), chapter 6. In Malawi there were waves of violence against JWs in 1964, 1967, 1972 and 1975. Some were killed, hundreds beaten or raped, and 20,000 became refugees. The problem was that JWs refused to buy a 25-cent card that made them members of the country's single political party. Yet, in Mexico JWs purchased cards that certify they have done military training. JWs got the cards by bribery without doing the military training. The card, however, made them members of the army reserve and committed them to fight in the event of war — a definite loss of neutrality.

Why the JWs leaders compromised neutrality in Mexico but not Malawi is unclear.

NEVER FAILS

> "You well know with all your hearts and with all your souls that <u>not one word out of all the good words that Jehovah your God has spoken to you has failed</u>. They have all come true for you. Not one word of them has failed." (Joshua 23:14)

The Governing Body's indoctrination process employs repetition, revisionist history and false generalizations to imply that "Not one word of them has failed" is true of the JWs religion. All this is seen in the article "The Word of God never fails" where failed prophecies and thousands of revisions in doctrine are whitewashed into something that "never failed".

The Word of God Never Fails

The article "The Word of God Never Fails" (w2007 12/15) quotes Joshua 23:14 and argues

the same is true of JWs i.e. "Not one word … has failed."

> Paragraph 4
> What words of Jehovah had come true in Joshua's lifetime? We will consider three assurances that Jehovah gave the Israelites. First, God would deliver them from bondage. Second, he would protect them. Third, he would sustain them. Jehovah has given similar assurances to his modern-day people, and we have seen them come true during our lifetime.

Paragraph 11 gives an alleged modern example of how "The Word Never Fails":

> What of our time? On Friday morning, October 2, 1914, Charles Taze Russell, who took the lead at that time among the Bible Students, strode into the dining room at Bethel in Brooklyn, New York. "Good morning, all," he said cheerily. Then, before taking his seat, he joyfully announced: "The Gentile times have ended; their kings have had their day." Once again, the time had come for Jehovah, the Sovereign of the universe, to act in behalf of his people. And act he did!

This dining room anecdote omits to explain what Russell meant by "Gentile times". In Russell's theology the termination of the Gentile Times referred to Armageddon, Israel's restoration, and worldwide rule by Hebrew prophets resurrected out of death:

> The battle of the great day of God Almighty (Rev.16:14) which will end in 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present day rulership, is already commenced. (Studies II 1889, 101)

Thus *The Watchtower* example to show "The Word Never Fails" relied on readers not knowing that the phrase "Gentile times" has been redefined and that Armageddon failed to "end in 1914". What *The Watchtower* calls "The Word" did in fact fail.

Paragraphs 12 & 13 claim the sect had deliverance from "false religion" in 1919 and "pure worship" was re-established:

> Paragraph 12
> Just five years later; <u>Jehovah delivered his people from "Babylon the Great," the mighty world empire of false religion</u>. (Revelation 18:2) Few of us are old enough to have witnessed that exciting deliverance. Yet, we plainly see the results. <u>Jehovah reestablished pure worship</u> and united those who yearned to worship him. This had been foretold through the prophet Isaiah: "It must occur in the final part of the days that the mountain of the house of Jehovah will become firmly established above the top of the mountains, and it will certainly be lifted up above the hills; and to it all the nations must stream."-Isaiah 2:2.

Let's take a look at least of some examples of "reestablished pure worship".

> Paragraph 13
> Isaiah's words did not fail to come true. In 1919 the anointed remnant began a bold worldwide witnessing campaign that raised the worship of the true God on high. In the 1930's, it became evident that the "other sheep" were being gathered in. (John 10:16) First came thousands, then hundreds of thousands, and now millions are taking a stand for pure worship! … By delivering his people from Babylon the Great, Jehovah opened the way for the thrilling increase that we now see on a global scale.

Rather than representing "pure worship" and deliverance the WTS book *The Finished Mystery* (1917) has an estimated 1300 interpretations of Bible verses that JWs today would call "apostasy" plus false predictions such as:

> In one short year, 1917-1918, the vast and complicated system of sectarianism reaches its zenith of power, only to be suddenly dashed into oblivion. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 285, 128, 485)

In hundreds of points, therefore, the WTS promoted false religion, not "pure worship". And the falsehoods kept multiplying in 1918, 1919 and beyond:

> Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old. (Millions 1920, 88)

> The indisputable facts, therefore, show that the "time of the end" began in 1799; that the Lord's second presence began in 1874; that the harvest followed thereafter (w1922 3/1 73)

Although eight WTS leaders were released from prison in 1919 this was no "deliverance … from false religion" considering the shonky doctrines, and failed prophecies they imposed on their followers!

What about the "great crowd"? Great numbers demonstrate proselytizing methods were

effective, advertising successful, and propaganda skilful but do not prove truth. Pentecostals, Adventists, Mormons and others have expanded faster than JWs!

Jesus foretold: "False prophets will arise and deceive many." The false predictions of the Governing Body continued and did deceive many, in fact millions:

> That now-operating kingdom in heaven will, within the twentieth century, cleanse the entire earth of wickedness… (g1961 2/22 7)

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away. ("Why Awake! is published" in pre-October 1995 editions)

Compare Deuteronomy 18:20-22:

> But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die…

The men whom JWs trust to lead them to salvation are men who in Bible times would have suffered execution because when a prophet misused God's name to prophesy falsely "that prophet shall die."

The next argument in w2007 12/14 is "protection":

> Paragraph 15
> As we have seen, the Israelites of Joshua's day needed Jehovah's protection. Are Jehovah's people in modern times any different? Hardly! Jesus warned his followers: "People will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be objects of hatred by all the nations on account of my name." (Matthew 24:9) Over the years, Jehovah's Witnesses in many lands have endured bitter opposition and cruel persecution. Yet, Jehovah has proved to be with his people. (Romans 8:31) His Word assures us that nothing … will stop our Kingdom-preaching and teaching work. -Isaiah 54:17.

> Paragraph 16
> Despite the world's hatred, Jehovah's people have prospered. Jehovah's Witnesses are flourishing in 236 lands — compelling evidence, indeed, that Jehovah is with us to protect us from those who wish to crush or silence us. Can you recall the names of mighty political or religious leaders who during your lifetime bitterly oppressed God's people? What has happened to them? Where are they now? Most have been brought to nothing, just like Pharaoh in the days of Moses and Joshua. And what of God's modern day servants who died faithful? They are protected in Jehovah's memory. There is no safer place for them to be. Clearly, in the matter of protection, Jehovah's words have proved true.

Numerous religions, not just JWs, survived the 20th century — even the Russellites from whom JWs split off!

The JWs leaders still designate Russellites as true Christianity and God's people yet continually tried to suppress Russell's message by labelling its post WWI people "the unfaithful slave class", doing so to cover up their own apostasy from Russellism.

But the leaders who instigated the cover-up – Rutherford, Woodworth, Macmillan, Van Amburgh, Knorr, Franz etc — are gone. They fit *The Watchtower*'s words: "Can you recall the names of mighty … religious leaders who during your lifetime bitterly oppressed God's people? What has happened to them?"

Also, how "protected" are deceased JWs in "Jehovah's memory" if Jehovah's memory could not remember to fulfil his "promise" to bring world peace in the generation of 1914 and the 20th century? Such a claim made by JWs leaders, considering their record of deceit, is vacuous nonsense. (See: CREATOR'S PROMISE)

Next an argument based on "knowledge":

> Paragraph 17
> Jehovah sustained his people in the wilderness, and he sustains them today. We are spiritually fed by "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matthew 24:45) We receive knowledge of spiritual truths that were kept secret for centuries. The angel told Daniel: "Make secret the words and seal up the book, until the time of the end. Many will rove about, and the true knowledge will become abundant."- Daniel 12:4.

Hundreds of items of alleged "true knowledge" taught by the alleged "slave" is no better than this:

> Shortly, within our twentieth century, the "battle in the day of Jehovah" will begin against the modern antitype of

Jerusalem, Christendom. (The Nations Shall Know… 1971, 216)

Furthermore, the Governing Body dismissed "the faithful and discreet slave" in 2012 after proclaiming for about 90 years that the "faithful slave" is the "remnant of the 144,000". The very "slave" that supposedly provided "knowledge of spiritual truths" was itself dismissed in 2012!

The next argument is "true knowledge" and "apostate Christendom":

> Paragraph 18
> We are now living in the time of the end, and true knowledge is indeed abundant. Worldwide, holy spirit has led lovers of truth to an accurate knowledge of the true God and his purposes. Bibles abound in the earth today, and so do publications that help people understand the precious truths that the Bible contains… Even after centuries of ignorance and Christendom's apostate teaching, God's Word prevails, sustaining all who yearn to serve Jehovah.

If "true knowledge" is "indeed abundant" why do the JWs leaders keep changing it? The identity of the so-called "faithful slave" was "true knowledge" rejection of which led to many excommunications, then in 2012. became false knowledge, but was only one of thousands of falsehoods in the20th century taught as "Bible truth". Having made thousands of errors and promoted them as "true knowledge" what bombastic men the JWs leaders must be to lump all Christians together as "apostate Christendom" and call them "false Christians".

The next argument is that no promise failed:

> Paragraph 19
> Jehovah delivers, protects, and sustains his servants. Can you point to any promise of his that failed to be fulfilled at his appointed time? It is impossible to do so. We wisely trust in the reliable Word of God.

The Bible presents God as faithful. But *The Watchtower* casts doubt on God's faithfulness when it claims the same is true of JWs although every prophecy of JWs for twenty or more dates has failed! Any JW who responds to "Can you point to any promise of his that failed" by quoting failed promises in older WTS publications would beexcommunicated!

Three "assurances", three failures

The "three assurances" to Joshua of deliverance from bondage, of protection, and of being sustained, which paragraph 4 says are true of JWs, are not true of JWs.

The bondage of JWs to false prophecy has become so painful that millions have sought freedom by leaving the sect. "Protection" as indicated by survival during the 20th century is no greater among JWs than other religions which also survived the 20th century. Nor are JWs "sustained" by "accurate knowledge" since they've discarded thousands of points which were neither accurate nor knowledge.

*The Watch*tower argument to show "The Word of God Never Fails" was addressed to indoctrinated audiences ignorant of the Organization's history. By conflating Biblical stories of God never failing Israel with the JWs history of failed prophecies, the Governing Body has rubbished the Bible while appearing to affirm it. The *Watchtower* article "The Word of God never fails" is self-justifying propaganda which promotes revisionist history to an uninformed audience. The situation fits the words of Jeremiah:

> Then the LORD said to me: The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. (Jeremiah 14:14)

(See also: *INDOCTRINATION*; *VITUPERATION*)

NEVIS

Peak publishers and Memorial attendance on Nevis (an island in the Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	31	412		
1975	42	267		
1980	28	401	70	160
1985	41	378	118	131
1990	39	246	94	102
1995	41	246	122	83
2000	59	171	190	53
2005	53	190	136	74
2010	59	209	230	54
2015	64	189	213	57
2018	65	185	225	53
	Ave.			
2019	68	176	223	54
2020	68	191	160	81
2021	71	197	266	53
2022	71	197	249	56
2023	76	145	234	47

2024	73	137	265	38
2025	78	167	252	52

NEW CALEDONIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance on New Caledonia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
1970	162	621		
1975	315	418		
1980	379	369	964	145
1985	738	207	2,079	73
1990	1,165	141	3,198	51
1995	1,570	116	4,051	45
2000	1,657	128	4,952	43
2005	1,675	138	5,271	44
2010	1,944	128	5,822	43
2015	2,277	119	6,473	42
2018	2,489	114	7,255	39
	Ave.			
2019	2,458	115	7,050	40
2020	2,532	113	6,459	44
2021	2,586	105	8,112	33
2022	2,573	105	7,265	37
2023	2,631	103	7,604	36
2024	2,660	101	7,833	34
2025	2,688	99	7,606	35

NEW COVENANT (HEBREWS 8:7-13)

In his early days Russell taught that Christ Jesus died as a ransom sacrifice for humanity and that the 144,000 share in the ransoming work. (wr1906 7/15 3824-3825) It followed from this doctrine that some members of the church, those still living on Earth, could not be part of the New Covenant that replaced the Old Covenant with Israel.

The New Covenant, according to Russell would apply to all mankind only after the ransom sacrifice was complete i.e. after all members of the 144,000 had died and been resurrected to heaven.

In 1881 Russell apparently altered this understanding and accepted the traditional belief that the New Covenant was already in force and all Christians are part of it. (wr1881 September, p.283)

In 1907-1909 Russell returned to (with additions) the doctrine of 1880. He taught that the church, the 144,000, was not within the New Covenant and did not have Christ as mediator. The New Covenant applied to the future when God ruled the world and the church i.e. the 144,000 would then be heirs with Christ and a collective mediator together with him.

Therefore in 1909: "It [the New Covenant] should not be misconstrued as being God's covenant with us — "the seed"…" (w1909 4/1 4371)

But in the future:

> A mediator is necessary, and the Messiah, Head and members, will be that Mediator… (wr1909 1/1 4310)

E.C. Henninges, Branch manager in Melbourne, wrote a letter in protest but Russell refused to reconsider.

Led by "pilgrim" M.L. McPhail in Chicago, A.E. Williamson in Brooklyn and E.C. Henninges in Australia about 300 of Russell's 4000 followers left and called themselves New Covenant Believers.

Put briefly, in 1880 Russell taught that the Church is not under the new covenant. In 1881 he said it is. In 1909 he again said it is not and this time a major split in the cult resulted.

The 1920s

In the 1920s Rutherford "reserved" the new covenant for "the natural Jews regathered to Palestine" but was wrong:

> At that time [the 1920s] the Bible Students thought that the new covenant as foretold in Jeremiah 31:31-34 did not apply to the 144,000 spiritual Israelites but was to be made with the natural Jews after the battle of Armageddon. Lectures were given to large public audiences on "Jews Returning to Palestine," and in October of 1925 the book *Comfort for the Jews* was published. Under the subheading "The New Covenant," pages 97-103 discussed this covenant and reserved it for the natural Jews regathered to Palestine. (w1966 2/15 117)

Doctrine revised

In the 1930s Rutherford changed the doctrine again — the new covenant did not refer to the natural Jews. Rutherford distinguished the "making" of the new covenant in the 1st century from its "inauguration" toward the JWs "remnant" in 1918 or toward Rutherford's followers:

> Much has been said and written concerning the new covenant, and it has been emphasized in most of such writings that the new covenant belongs to the millennial reign of Christ, under which all the families of the earth shall be blessed. The following quotation is the

gist of what has been held and taught for many years, to wit: "The new covenant is an arrangement which God provides by and through which he can have mercy upon the fallen race." (Studies in *the Scriptures,* Volume 5, page 455) The Scriptures do not support that conclusion. From about 1907 to 1909 a great deal was published about the new covenant, and a shaking amongst the consecrated occurred and a division resulted by reason of a disagreement as to the *new* covenant. For the two *reasons* hereinbefore named the purpose of the new covenant was not then understood ; but now in the day of the Lord, when he is at the temple enlightening his people, the purpose may be understood by those who are devoted to him, and who are of the temple, and for this reason The *Watchtower* now considers again the question of the covenants...

The new covenant is not for the direct purpose of saving any creature, but is for a far higher and greater purpose. The new covenant is not a restitution covenant, to be employed by the Lord during the millennial reign. In fact, it has nothing to do with the regeneration of the human race. The blood of Christ Jesus is the purchase price of the human race, and a covenant is not required in order for God to have mercy on those who come to Jesus in God's appointed way.—John 6 : 37-40....

What is the purpose of the new covenant? It is Jehovah's instrument to gather unto himself a people for his name, to be used for the vindication of his name. It therefore applies to the church, and not to the world at all. (w1934 4/1 101)

The law covenant therefore shows absolutely the necessity for the great ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ and for a sin-offering to be made by him first in behalf of the members of the "seed" and then in behalf of mankind in general. Also, that covenant foreshadowed a new and better covenant thereafter to be made; and the ceremonies in connection therewith bore testimony to the fact that there would be a long period of time elapsing between the making of that new covenant and the time of its confirmation or inauguration. (w1934 2/15 60)

Because of the blood of the new covenant, shed by Jehovah's Son, that covenant was inaugurated toward the company of the Lord's people who were found faithful at the coming of the Lord Jesus to the temple in 1918. (w1935 10/1 293)

The "new covenant" thus referred to and applied to Rutherford's cult from 1918onwards.

1950

In 1950 the new covenant changed again and was now inaugurated at Pentecost and applied to the New Testament Christians who in the JWs view number 144,000:

> On the day of Pentecost A.D. 33 the resurrected and glorified Jesus in heaven inaugurated the new covenant toward his faithful followers on earth. There the Christian disciples were begotten by God's outpoured spirit and became spiritual Israelites, or Jews inwardly. (w1950 11/1 410)

> So on the day of Pentecost, A.D. 33, Jehovah God inaugurated the new covenant through Jesus Christ as his Mediator. (w1955 11/1 658)

This affirmed what Russell had denied, that the new covenant applied to "the church" from Pentecost onward. The New Covenant Believers, the so-called "apostates", had been correct but never received an apology, and the so-called "truth" or "God's organization" had been the real "apostates".

NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH (1953)
An official WTS book which new converts to JWs in the 1950s studied after completing *Let God Be True* (1952).

New Heavens and A New Earth presents standard JWs interpretations, mixed with negative value judgments against "imitation Christians" of "Christendom". JWs in contrast to "apostate Christendom" are "faithful", "theocratic", "righteous", "clean", "fearless", "obedient", etc.

The JWs Organization's near demise in 1918 is not attributed to the false predictions for 1914-1918 but because, "selfish traitors worked within the organization to try to disrupt it". (p.252) Because of these "traitors" and the "religious clergy":

...the voice of Jehovah's witnesses in free, uncensored proclamation of God's kingdom became subdued and restricted. (p.252)

However, "God's kingdom" proclaimed in 1918 was the kingdom of 1878 which

Rutherford predicted would rule the world in 1925. The fake kingdom of 1878, however, was discarded in 1925-1926 and replaced with a kingdom that started in 1914. Therefore, even from the JWs viewpoint, there never was, before 1926, any "free … uncensored proclamation of God's kingdom"! (See: *KINGDOM*; *THE FINISHED MYSTERY*; *DATES*)

JWs leaders constantly urge people to leave their churches because of their churches' supposed apostasy, but when JWs themselves follow this counsel and leave their sect because of its apostasy, they are "traitors". The Bible, however, opposes such double standards as an "abomination":

> Diverse weights and diverse measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD. (Proverbs 20:10, 23)

Referring still to 1918, *New Heavens* continues:

> Also in all the nations the good news has to be preached first." (Mark 13:10, NW)… The nations tried to prevent this witness from being given to the rightful universal Government of the earth… (p.253)

"This witness … being given" is unrecognizable from the JWs preaching of 20 years later because the interpretations of thousands of Bible verses were getting changed. Also the "rightful universal Government" in 1918 would have been the 1878 kingdom which Rutherford discarded in 1925

Where *New Heavens and A New Earth* deals with JWs history it systematically rewrites it, and at the same time inculcates hate against Christianity.

NEW LIGHT
A phrase referring to new interpretations i.e. revised teachings that replace previous views.

The phrase "new light" was already used in 1881 when Russell argued that new light adds to, never replaces, earlier light:

> A new view of truth can never 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 it is with the light of truth; the true increase is by adding to, not by substituting one for another. (wr1881 February p.188)

In practice "older light" has been extinguished countless times and replaced with "new light".

Some of the "new light" was later extinguished and "old light" re-taught and called "new light". In some cases the "light" has gone on and off five or six times. See for example the entries: *SODOM* and *RESURRECTION*.

NEW LIGHT, SOURCES OF
JW leaders teach that:

> Christians turn to Jehovah and his Word while rejecting as foolishness "the wisdom of this world". (w1996 2/1 22-23)

Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias, however, may be used with care by accepting only material that conforms to "Theocratic Bible helps":

> Non-Theocratic references … are not to be given the weight or consideration or confidence as are the Theocratic Bible helps published by the Society…
>
> This means that the first reference works that the Theocratic minister will consult will be Theocratic ones, the Watchtower publications. (Theocratic Aid to Kingdom Publishers 1945, 220, 223)
>
> The Society's publications have gleaned from these other sources the best they have to offer, and <u>in this compiling work Jehovah's spirit has directed</u> those of his "faithful and wise servant" body. Hence, the <u>Watchtower Bible helps are the best available today</u>. (ibid 227)

Besides declaring their own publications "the best", JWs leaders routinely condemn "apostate Christendom" for its alleged "false teachings". It is strange, therefore, that JWs often use "apostate" works to support JW doctrines! Even stranger that "apostates of Christendom" often had correct understanding long before the "best Bible helps" of the WTS were available and got things wrong!

For example, when the Governing Body changed the interpretation of "this generation" (w1995 11/1) they cited four scholars for support — Bauer, Vine, Thayer and Kittle.

Bauer was a German lexicographer who taught at Gottingen in 1916 to 1945. Walter Bauer (1877-1960) produced the *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.*

William E. Vine (1873-1949) produced *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. He opposed JWs and called their doctrine of conditional salvation and denial of the Trinity "heresies". Yet *Insight On The Scriptures* Volumes 1 & 2 (1988) refer to Vine over 50 times!

Vine was a scholar of biblical Greek, educator, editor, pastor and author. He obtained his MA in "Ancient Classics" from the University of London and was a pastor for 40 years. He celebrated Christmas, believed in Hell, and that Christ is God, and that all believers should partake of the Lord's Supper — beliefs that JWs reject.

Joseph Henry Thayer (1828-1901) produced Thayer's *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (1889). He was an American New Testament lexicographer, ordained pastor in the Congregational Church, professor of sacred literature in Andover Theological Seminary (1864-1882 and lecturer at Harvard Divinity School (1883-1901).

Gerhard Kittle (1888-1948) edited *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (1964). He was a German Biblical scholar and professor of New Testament.

Insight On The Scriptures Volume 1, p.440, cites Strong and Robinson regarding the translation of a Greek word.

James Strong (1822-1894) authored *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (1890). He was a Methodist biblical scholar and a member of the Anglo-American Bible Revision Committee. B Edward Robinson (1794-1863) was an American biblical scholar who produced the *Greek and English Lexicon.*

All the above authorities were college educated in theology including Greek and Hebrew by "apostate Christendom", and knew nothing of numerous later doctrines JWs called "Bible truth". Yet, these men are authorities for "new light"!

NEW ORDER
The post-Armageddon world-wide paradise inhabited only by JWs.

NEW PERSONALITY
The improved conduct, changed thought patterns, new vocabulary, and unqualified obedience to the Governing Body that results from WTS indoctrination.

NEW SYSTEM
The post-Armageddon worldwide paradise inhabited only by JWs.

NEW TESTAMENT
The Bible books from Matthew to Revelation which JWs refer to as the "Christian Greek Scriptures".

NEW TESTAMENT 2
Officially JWs believe the New Testament is "inspired of God". They believe the New Testament is addressed to the 144,000 and applies directly only to the 144,000. Most JWs who read the New Testament are therefore in the position of reading other peoples' mail.

JWs regard post 1st-century Christianity as apostate and as giving rise to "apostate Christendom". Yet JWs accept the Canon — the list of books regarded as Scripture — as decided by so-called "apostates" from the 2nd to the 4th century. (Douglas 1982; See also: *CANON*)

JWs leaders claim they can tell that the Canon is correct because all the books are mutually consistent! If, however, the JWs leaders are so smart that they can identify the Canon by its consistency, why have they had to change thousands of their teachings? Why have they been wrong in every prophecy for up to 30 dates? (See: *ERRORS*)

If JWs leaders are so informed that they **know** that the New Testament is totally consistent, then all the errors they promoted since the 1870s must have been promoted **knowingly**! The JWs leaders, it follows, did not misunderstand the Bible, but understood it all along, nevertheless ignored their own understanding to teach falsehood!

NEW TRUTH
Revisions to previous explanations of Bible verses as well as completely novel teachings are all "new truth".

NEW WORLD
The "new world" or "new order" is the post Armageddon world of peace, security and health with everlasting life, where people (i.e. JWs) study biology, astronomy, music and crafts, and where God's Organization provides a united global educational system. (w1985 1/15 17)

NEW WORLD SOCIETY
A phrase which refers to the JWs Organization of corporations, branches, congregations and people. It is a "world society" because it will keep growing and be the only organization and people to survive Armageddon.

The phrase is listed 2134 times on the *Watchtower Library* CD (2007). It was very common in the 1950s either upper case "New World society" or lower case "new world society". The phrase became rare after 1967 except when reference was made to the "New World Society Assembly" of 1953 or to films made by the WTS which have the phrase in the title.

The phrase has a double meaning in that it could imply a goal of world control achieved by continued proselytising and advertising. Hence we're told that "the new world society has begun" and "witnesses are working for the new world". (Yearbook 1952, 33-34)

The few uses of the phrase in recent decades have it lower case except when used as heading: For example:

> Among them can be seen unmistakable evidence that a new world society is actually being formed. (g1991 12/22 24)
>
> We are laying the basis for a new world society. (Yearbook 1996, 255)
>
> A New World Society in the Making (w2001 6/1 18)

[See also: *GOAL OF WORLD RULE*)

NEW WORLD SOCIETY IN ACTION, THE (1954)
A film about JWs prepared by the WTS and shown around the world in the 1950s and 1960s:

> It conveys a true picture of the theocratic organization, showing that the New World society is not a small, insignificant denomination, but rather a world-embracing preaching organization… (w1955 6/15 361-364)

NEW WORLD BIBLE TRANSLATION COMMITTEE
The anonymous group of men who produced the English *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. Although "anonymous" they were F.W. Franz, N.H. Knorr, A. Shroeder, and G.D. Gangas.

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION (NWT)
The WTS version of the Bible was released in six volumes between 1950 and 1960.

A revised one-volume edition came out in 1961. Further revised editions appeared in 1970, 1971 and 1984, and 2013. The 1984 revision included 125,000 marginal and cross references and 11,400 footnotes, and 43 Appendix sections.

The Old Testament NWT has "Jehovah" 6,973 times.

JWs leaders claim that translators of other Bible translations have: "watered down the very thoughts of God". (All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial 1963, 325) But the New World Translation (NWT) is outstanding in its "faithful consistency", "faithfulness", "literalness", etc. It is a "fresh translation", "faithful", "valuable", "unsectarian", "invaluable", "clear", "living", etc. (ibid 323-330) It lacks, "inconsistencies or unsatisfactory renderings infected with sectarian traditions not in full harmony with the sacred truths". (ibid 323)

Furthermore:

> We offer no paraphrase of the Scriptures. Our endeavor throughout has been to give as literal a translation as possible where the modern English idiom allows for it or where the thought content is not hidden due to any awkwardness in the literal rendition… To each major word we have assigned one meaning and have held to that meaning as far as context permitted. (Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures 1985, 9-10; 1969, 10)
>
> A translation committee of experienced anointed Christians was organized to produce the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* in English. (w1997 10/15 11)

The committee remained anonymous because:

> It is the truth rather than its servant that should be honored and proclaimed. (g1989 10/22 20)
>
> When presenting as a gift the publishing rights to their translation, the New World Bible Translation Committee requested that its members remain anonymous. (Reasoning from the Scriptures 1989, 277)

In 1989 the complete NWT was available in 11 language and 56,000,000 had been printed. As

of July 2007 the complete NWT was available in 43 languages and three Braille scripts, and the NWT New Testament in 81 languages, with a total printing since 1950 of 143,459,000 copies. (g2007 11 p.30) Copies printed reached about 240,000,000 in 2020.

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION — ASSESSMENT

A useful feature of the English NWT is that it distinguishes "you" in the singular from "YOU" in the plural by capitalizing the latter. Moses, when addressing all Israel, regularly switched from singular to plural and back again, which goes unnoticed in most Bible translations.

Translating Committee

w1997 10/15 11-12 says "a translation committee of experienced anointed Christians was organized to produce the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures in English."

Actually the committee members were all officers and directors in the WBTS of the JWs sect. William Cetnar who worked at WTS headquarters in the 1950s and Raymond Franz, a former Governing Body member, have identified them as Frederick W. Franz, Nathan H. Knorr, Albert Schroeder, George D. Gangas, and Milton Henschel. (Crisis of Conscience 2004, 56)

None were scholars in biblical languages. Fredrick W. Franz, the most able of them, studied 21 semester hours of biblical Greek at the University of Cincinnati but was self taught in biblical Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin.

George Gangas came from Turkey and spoke modern Greek but had no training in ancient Greek or other biblical languages. Neither did the others. Albert Schroeder studied mechanical engineering at university for three years.

Three of the five had a high-school education and none were scholars in Greek or Hebrew.

This lack of expertise does not imply the result is incompetent. Anyone of above average IQ and basic background in Bible study, who uses existing translations of the Bible including interlinear versions as a guide, and investigates controversial verses with the *Englishman's Greek Concordance*, *Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance* and *Young's Analytical Concordance*, and works daily for some years, could come up with a passable new Bible "translation".

Some observations

Often the NWT smuggles JWs interpretations into the text, and is therefore sectarian. The Hebrew "ruach" meaning "Spirit" "or "wind" is translated "active force" in Genesis 1:2. Rather than translate "ruach" as "spirit" the translators added their interpretation of what the Spirit is, i.e. a "force". "Ruach", however, also means "wind" and the phrase "wind of God", as in Genesis 1:2, elsewhere refers to strong winds. Since Genesis 1:2 is a physical description of "earth" before creation "ruach" in that verse literally means "wind". (See the NRSV Bible)

Acts 5:3 "lie to the Holy Spirit" is changed in the NWT to "play false to the holy spirit" — since one cannot "lie" to a force.

"Spirit" and "Holy Spirit" are lower case in the NWT whereas titles of Christ such as "Word", "Son", "King", etc, are capitalized except when Christ is called "God". Then he is only "god". Even in passages where the Spirit speaks and is equated with God and uses the pronouns "me", "my" and "I", the word is still not capitalized. (Hebrews 3:7-11; Psalm 95:7-11)

Dispute centres over the pronouns "it", "him" and "he" when applied to the Holy Spirit. The NWT uses the pronoun "it" to reflect the belief the Spirit is a force. Most other Bible translations — a few literal ones excepting — use "he" or "him" in reference to the Spirit to suggest personhood.

In Greek, nouns have a gender — i.e. they are masculine, feminine or neuter — and pronouns have to agree with the nouns. "Spirit" (pneuma) is neuter and hence the Greek uses the Greek equivalent of the pronoun "it" to refer to the Spirit. "Advocate" or "helper" is masculine and hence the Greek uses the equivalent of "he". Neither pronoun implies anything about the personality of the Spirit — it's just grammar. In English we sometimes refer to a ship by the pronoun "she" but this does not imply that the ship is a woman. A baby is often referred to as "it" but we don't thereby imply the baby is an inanimate object.

The NWT plays down or alters references to Christ as God. In Colossians 2:9 the NWT has "divine quality" instead of "divinity", "godship" or "godhead". In John 1:1 "God" (which is the rendering in most translations) becomes "a god" (lower case "g") in the NWT!

"God" rather than "a god" is correct but this does not win for Trinitarians since Moses, David and others in the Old Testament are called "God". Therefore in John 1:1 the question remains — "God" in what sense?"

Titus 2:13 which in most translations reads "our great God and saviour Jesus Christ" is altered so that "God" and "Christ" appear as two persons rather than one. Arguments for such rendering are presented in Appendix 6E of the 1984 edition. However, that one person rather than two is meant is seen by the various singular words in 2:13-14 — "manifestation", "himself" and "his" are singular.

In Exodus 3:14 many translations have God's name as "I am" and Trinitarians connect this to Jesus' words, "Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58) The NWT in Exodus 3:14 says: "I SHALL PROVE TO BE WHAT I SHALL PROVE TO BE" and John 8:58 is changed to: "Before Abraham came into existence, I have been." Thus the Greek "ego eimi" meaning "I am" is changed to "I have been".

Opinions regarding Exodus 3 vary. The NRSV Bible has "I AM WHO I AM" with a footnote giving the alternatives "I AM WHAT I AM" and "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE."

Sometimes Bible interpretation is affected by paragraph divisions, and inverted commas. In Revelation 22 the NWT separates verses 12-15 from verse 16 by a separate set of inverted commas and by having them as separate paragraphs. The reason is that verse 12-15 is about the Alpha and the Omega, i.e. God the Father, whereas verse 16 is about Jesus, and JWs want to keep the two distinct from each other.

When the "three wise men" or Magi visited Jesus they, "fell down and worshipped Him." (Matthew 2:11) The King James Bible consistently translates "proskuneo" as worship. The NWT renders Matthew 2:11 as, "falling down, they did obeisance…" In every passage where "proskuneo" is toward Jesus the NWT has "obeisance". (Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 28:9, 17; Mark 5:6; 15:19; Luke 24:52; John 9:38) The reason for this rendering is that the Old Testament commands "worship" of Jehovah exclusively. JWs wish to keep Jesus and Jehovah distinct from each other and therefore oppose "worship" of Jesus.

In the Old Testament, however, the Hebrew "shachah", the equivalent of "proskuneo", sometimes refers to bowing down in homage, respect or courtesy. (Genesis 23:7)

The early editions of the NWT translate Hebrews 1:6, "But when He again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says: 'And let all God's angels worship him'." (1950, 1961, 1970) The revised 1971 edition reads "do obeisance" rather than "worship".

Acts 20:28 says, "…the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood." (KJV) The NWT has, "…with the blood of his own [son]." Trinitarians criticise this change, but it's a valid alternative and the NRSV has it too.

JWs do not believe in a conscious spirit or soul that departs at death. They regard the "spirit" inside humans and animals as a "force" or energy of life. Therefore in pre-1971 editions of the NWT Jesus gave up his "breath" rather than his "spirit" when he died. (Matthew 27:50)

In Ecclesiastes 12:7 "The spirit shall return unto God who gave it" the NWT has "the spirit itself returns…" Perhaps "itself" is added to make "spirit" more impersonal.

Sometimes the NWT English is inelegant, even weird. For example: "…who although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely that he should be equal to God." (Philippians 2:6) Compare this with the better English of the Weymouth version: "He had the nature of God. Yet He did not regard equality with God as something at which he should grasp."

Until 1971 the JWs leaders denied that "elders" in the New Testament refers to men holding official positions in the Christian Church. Therefore they hid the doctrine by translating "presbyteros" as "older man". No JW could tell from the phrase "older man" that it meant someone holding an official position. However, in Revelation, where it did not affect the anti-elder stance, "presbyteros" was accurately rendered "elders". (Comprehensive Concordance 1973, 287, 783)

When the NWT has clarifying words added to the Biblical text, the extra words are in brackets — or so it is claimed. (1970 edition p.6) Yet in Matthew 28:19 "all nations" is expanded to "people of all the nations" but "people of" lacks brackets.

The 1970 edition of the NWT added the words "to office" in Acts 14:23 again without brackets.

The Greek "en" meaning "in" is often translated "in union with" in the NWT and in some other translations. In the NWT we expect brackets around "union with" but the brackets are omitted. A few times "en" is translated "by means of" (Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:14, 16) again without the brackets.

Matthew 5:19 "Least in the kingdom of heaven", becomes in the NWT "least in relation to the kingdom of the heaven." The

words "relation to" are added without brackets.

JWs believe that unrepentant sinners will be destroyed i.e. put out of existence. Therefore in Matthew 25:46 "eternal punishment" is changed to "everlasting cutting-off". The Greek is "kolasis" which appears only twice in the New Testament. The other occasion is I John 4:18 where the KJV "fear hath torment" becomes "fear exercises a restraint" in the NWT.

Romans 8:23 says in part, "waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body." (KJV) JWs believe that 144,000 will go to heaven and exist as ghost-like spirits without a their physical body. Many Christians, in contrast, believe in the "resurrection of the body" or — if they are alive at Christ's return — the glorification and perfection of the body. To make Romans 8:23 reflect the JWs view that physical bodies will be discarded, the NWT says, "waiting for adoption as sons, the release from our bodies by ransom."

JWs claim God's Kingdom commenced in 1914. Jesus, in contrast, spoke of "this good news of the kingdom" — implying the kingdom was "news" and existed when Jesus preached. Christians received the Kingdom in the 1st century: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved..." (Hebrews 12:28) The NWT allows for the 1914 by substituting, "Wherefore, seeing that we are to receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken..."

Jehovah in the Old Testament

The Tetragrammaton (Hebrew: יהוה), which refers to the letters YHWH, appears in the NWT Old Testament as *Jehovah* 6,979 times instead of as LORD like in the King James Version.

A few other modern translations have "Jehovah" in the Old Testament, for example *Young's Literal Translation* (Third Edition 1898) and *The Bible in Living English* (1972 S.T. Byington). "Yahweh" is used in *The Emphasized Bible* (1959, J.B. Rotherham) and *The Jerusalem Bible* (first published in English in 1966). The pronunciation "Jehovah" has been in the English language for about six centuries and appears in some Christian hymns and in some movies, but "Yahweh" is believed to be nearer to the ancient Jewish pronunciation.

Besides "Yahweh" the Old Testament employs also the terms "adonai" meaning Lord and "elohim" meaning god(s). These terms often refer to Yahweh but can, depending on context, refer to other gods (i.e. idols), but "Yahweh" is employed in the Bible of the one God whom the Jews worshipped. (Young 1939, 616-621)

Jehovah in the New Testament

The name "Jehovah" is not used by Westcott & Hort in *The New Testament in the Original Greek* (1881) but occurs in the NWT New Testament 237 times.

Many critics state: "But there is absolutely no warrant for introducing any form of the divine name into the New Testament." (Coffey 1979, 161)

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 NWT has not just one exception to substituting "Jehovah" for kyrios but about 470 exceptions!

One justification for introducing "Jehovah" into the New Testament is that a number of Greek-to-Hebrew translations of the New Testament contain the name. (The Kingdom Interlinear 1969, 28-31; NWT 1984, p.1564) This evidence is weak because the Hebrew translations were translated from Greek manuscripts that lack "Jehovah" — the translators added the name without warrant.

The earliest known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament are 2nd century, and these lack the name "Jehovah". JWs claim that the name occurred in earlier manuscripts now lost and was edited out as new copies were made:

> Why, then, is the name absent from the extant manuscripts of the Christian Greek Scriptures or the so called 'New Testament'? Evidently because by the time those extant copies were made (from the third century C.E. onward) the original text of the writings of the apostles and disciples had been altered. The divine name in the Tetragrammaton form was undoubtedly replaced with 'Kyrios' and 'Ho Theos' by later copyists. (Aid to Bible Understanding 1971, 887)

The words "evidently" and "undoubtedly" show that the JWs writers are guessing. How would they know the name was removed if the manuscripts are lost and unavailable?

George Howard (1977) argues that the name occurred in early copies of the New Testament Scriptures but only in quotations from the Old Testament. Howard calls this a "theory" (p.63) and something "we can imagine". (p.77) JWs leaders, however, are dogmatic and call it, "a presentation of the facts of history…" (NWT 1984, 1564) Yet they don't cite further evidence.

Howard's theory at best supports putting "Jehovah" into the New Testament when the name occurs in quotations from the Old Testament. But of the 237 occurrences of "Jehovah" in the NWT New Testament only about 70 are quotes from the Old Testament. Therefore, even if Howard's theory gets confirmed at some future date, over 160 of the NWT's 237 interpolations would still be biased, sectarian mischief.

History of progress

In 1946 Nathan H. Knorr, president of the WTS proposed a fresh translation of the New Testament.

JWs at the time used mainly the Authorized Version (King James) which has archaic English and some words no longer in public use. Linguists had also made much progress in understanding the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages, and more of the ancient manuscripts had been discovered and become available.

Work began in December, 1947 when the "New World Bible Translation Committee" was formed composed of WTS directors. The committee agreed to turn over its translation to the WTS for publication. From the phrase "agreed to turn over" ordinary JWs concluded that the Committee consisted of, or at least included, non-JWs scholars. Actually all were directors in the WTS.

In September 1949, Knorr convened a joint meeting of the boards of directors of the WTS's New York and Pennsylvania corporations, announced the existence of the translating committee, which most of them had known for two years, and that printing its English translation of the Greek Scriptures could start.

The *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* was released at a JWs convention at Yankee Stadium, New York, in August, 1950. The New Testament in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish was issued in 1963.

Their translation of the Old Testament (the *Hebrew Scriptures*) was released in five volumes in 1953, 1955, 1957, 1958, and 1960, and the complete *New World Translation* as a single volume in English in 1961.

Revised editions followed in 1970, 1981, 1984, and 2013.

In 1989 a Translation Services Department was established at the JWs world headquarters to speed up Bible translation with computer technology. Translation into a new language previously took a decade or two, but could now be done in two years.

The 2013 revised edition has outdated terms replaced, and John 7:53 – 8:11 and Mark 16:8–20 removed because some ancient manuscripts lack these portions. The 2013 NWT was also added to the *JW Library* CD.

By 2017 the total printed copies of the NWS numbered 222,000,000 in part or whole in 160 languages.

Textual Basis

The textual basis for the NWT's Old Testament is the Biblia Hebraica, and New Testament Wescott and Hort.

Wikipedia says:

> The master text used for translating the Old Testament into English was Kittel's Biblia Hebraica. The Hebrew texts, Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia and Biblia Hebraica Quinta, were used for preparing the latest version of this translation. Other works consulted in preparing the translation include Aramaic Targums, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Samaritan Torah, the Greek Septuagint, the Latin Vulgate, the Masoretic Text, the Cairo Codex, the Aleppo Codex, Christian David Ginsburg's Hebrew Text, and the Leningrad Codex.

For translating the New Testament into English the JWs Committee relied principally on the Greek master text by Cambridge University scholars B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort (1881):

> A Greek master text of the Christian Greek Scriptures that attained wide acceptance is that produced in 1881 by Cambridge University scholars B. F. Westcott and F. J. A. Hort. It was the product of 28 years of independent labor, though they compared notes regularly. Like Griesbach, they divided manuscripts into families and leaned heavily on what they termed the "neutral text," which included the renowned Sinaitic Manuscript and the Vatican Manuscript No. 1209, both of the fourth

century C.E. While Westcott and Hort viewed matters as quite conclusive when these manuscripts agreed and especially when they were supported by other ancient uncial manuscripts, they were not bound to that position. They took every conceivable factor into consideration in endeavoring to solve problems presented by conflicting texts; and when two readings were of equal weight, that, too, was indicated in their master text. The Westcott and Hort text was the one used principally in translating the Christian Greek Scriptures into English in the *New World Translation.* However, the New World Bible Translation Committee also consulted other excellent Greek texts, among them Nestle's Greek text (1948).
(Insight on the Scriptures Volume 2, 1988, p.314)

Wikipedia adds:

> The committee also referred to the Novum Testamentum Graece (18th edition, 1948) and to works by Catholic Jesuit scholars José M. Bover (1943) and Augustinus Merk (1948). The United Bible Societies' text (1975) and the Nestle-Aland text (1979) were used to update the footnotes in the 1984 version. Additional works consulted in preparing the *New World Translation* include the Armenian Version, Coptic Versions, the Latin Vulgate, Sixtine and Clementine Revised Latin Texts, Textus Receptus, the Johann Jakob Griesbach's Greek text, the Emphatic Diaglott, and various papyri.

Kingdom Interlinear

The English text of the NWT Greek Scriptures is incorporated in the WTS's two editions of the *Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* (1969; 1985).

These have the Westcott and Hort Greek text (*The New Testament in the Original Greek*, 1881) as well as the word-for-word English rendering beneath each line or row of Greek.

Other editions

English audio versions of the NWT New Testament and Old Testament were produced in the 1980s and then progressively in many languages. In the 1980s also in English Braille and by 2010 the New Testament in American Sign Language.

Self praise

The Governing Body claim the NWT was produced by "anointed Christians" and is without "inconsistencies or unsatisfactory renderings infected with sectarian traditions not in full harmony with the sacred truths."

JWs do not recognize scholars of other religions as "anointed Christians" — the Governing Body is referring to itself, self-praising and recommending themselves.

The obvious question is: "How could men who participated in or inherited thousands of doctrinal changes to their so-called Bible truth, who changed their "sacred truths" more often than some people change their underwear, possibly recognize "inconsistencies or unsatisfactory renderings infected with sectarian traditions not in full harmony with the sacred truths"? How could such fellows even identify an "anointed Christian"?

Endorsement from scholars

A few people have commented on the NWT favourably.

J.D. Phillips (1904-1981), a Church of Christ evangelist, wrote to the WTS in 1951:

> Last week I purchased a copy of your New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures of which I take pride in being an owner. You have done a marvelous work…
> I was happy, indeed, to see the name Jehovah in it. It would have made me happier if you had given the name as precisely as possible and so used the word Yahweh...
> But you have made a marvelous step in the right direction, and I pray God that your Version will be used to His glory. What you have done for the Name alone is worth all the effort and cost!
> (w1951 7/15 427)

This comment does not represent scholarly study nor full endorsement since it was made a **week** after purchase.

The WTS also quotes Benjamin Kedar, professor and Hebrew scholar at the University of Haifa, who commented on the Old Testament of the NWT:

> In my linguistic research in connection with the Hebrew Bible and translations, I often refer to the English edition of what is known as the New World Translation. In so doing, I find my feeling repeatedly confirmed that this work reflects an honest endeavor to achieve an understanding of the text that is as

> accurate as possible. Giving evidence of a broad command of the original language, it renders the original words into a second language understandably without deviating unnecessarily from the specific structure of the Hebrew… Every statement of language allows for a certain latitude in interpreting or translation. So the linguistic solution in any given case may be open to debate. But I have never discovered in the New World Translation any biased intent to read something into the text that it does not contain. (w1991 3/1 30)

Charles F. Potter, a former Baptist minister who became Unitarian, writes regarding the NWT New Testament: "the anonymous translators have certainly rendered the best manuscript texts … with scholarly ability and acumen." (The Faith Men Live By,1954, page 239)

At least a dozen such positive quotes are circulating. It is doubtful, however, that any of these commentators studied JWs doctrinal changes and noticed that new editions of the NWT have changes that reflect "new light" (i.e. revisions in doctrine). One critic writes:

> The New World Translation is unique in one thing – it is the first intentional systematic effort at producing a complete version of the Bible that is edited and revised for the specific purpose of agreeing with a group's doctrine…

Other commentators on the NWT New Testament mentioned in *Wikipedia* include:

> Theologian and televangelist John Ankerberg accused the NWT's translators of renderings that conform "to their own preconceived and unbiblical theology." John Weldon and Ankerberg cite several examples wherein they consider the NWT to support theological views overriding appropriate translation. Julius R. Mantey, co-author of *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament* and *A Hellenistic Greek Reader*, who also criticized the NWT, calling it "a shocking mistranslation."
>
> William Barclay, Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism, concluded that "the deliberate distortion of truth by this sect is seen in the New Testament translation... It is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest."
>
> In his review in *Andover Newton Quarterly* Robert M. McCoy reported, "The translation of the New Testament is evidence of the presence in the movement of scholars qualified to deal intelligently with the many problems of Biblical translation. One could question why the translators have not stayed closer to the original meaning, as do most translators... In not a few instances the *New World Translation* contains passages which must be considered as 'theological translations.' *McCoy, Robert (January 1963). "Jehovah's Witnesses and Their New Testament". Andover Newton Quarterly. **3** (3): 15–31.*
>
> Hebrew and Greek scholar Alexander Thomson wrote: "The translation is evidently the work of skilled and clever scholars, who have sought to bring out as much of the true sense of the Greek text as the English language is capable of expressing."—*The Differentiator,* April 1952, pages 52-7.

Johannes Greber

The WTS used Johannes Greber's translation to support their rendering of John 1:1, but discontinued because of its "close rapport with spiritism":

> This translation was used occasionally in support of renderings of Matthew 27:52, 53 and John 1:1, as given in the *New World Translation* and other authoritative Bible versions. But as indicated in a foreword to the 1980 edition of *The New Testament* by Johannes Greber, this translator relied on "God's Spirit World" to clarify for him how he should translate difficult passages. It is stated: "His wife, a medium of God's Spiritworld was often instrumental in conveying the correct answers from God's Messengers to Pastor Greber." *The Watchtower* has deemed it improper to make use of a translation that has such a close rapport with spiritism. (w1983 4/1 31)

Greber's religion was, however, already known to the WTS by the 1950s (w1955 10/1 603) but his Bible was cited for support until the 1970s. This demonstrates the readiness of JWs leaders to cite anything that supports their views, even sources of dubious merit, until too many people notice.

NEW YORK WORLD MAGAZINE

See: *WORLD, THE*

NEW ZEALAND
Publishers and Memorial attendance in New Zealand and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	5,574	506		
1975	7,588	409		
1980	6,958	446	15,385	202
1985	9,143	356	18,587	175
1990	11,515	291	22,656	148
1995	13,340	266	25,626	138
2000	13,168	291	26,144	147
2005	13,427	306	25,639	160
2010	14,382	305	26,952	163
2015	14,224	325	26,008	178
2018	14,301	332	26,513	179
	Ave.			
2019	14,027	341	26,856	178
2020	13,902	347	23,847	202
2021	14,337	339	26,983	180
2022	14,542	337	26,131	187
2023	14,430	360	26,669	195
2024	14,576	366	27,088	197
2025	14,652	364	27,066	197

NICARAGUA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Nicaragua and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,446	1,343		
1975	3,101	677		
1980	3,522	710	11,470	218
1995	11,920	378	58,800	77
2000	14,862	333	58,400	85
2005	19,003	297	74,300	76
2010	22,848	251	82,600	69
2015	27,707	213	88,800	66
2018	29,243	215	88,300	71
	Ave.			
2019	28,896	227	87,700	75
2020	28,859	230	70,700	94
2021	29,176	230	86,800	77
2022	28,857	235	81,200	83
2023	28,545	240	81,800	84
2024	28,536	242	79,300	87
2025	28,880	243	78,200	90

NICHOLSON, R.E.B.
The new Russellite branch servant in Melbourne after Henninges defected in 1910.

In 1915 Nicholson gave public speeches responding to critiques of Russellism by Australian ministers. In part he argued:

> The Romish Church sought to defame the Reformer Luther and others, and in recent years Father Chiniquy. It is the usual method of the unprincipled, when unable to logically or scripturally meet the teachings of those they oppose, they seek to "kill the man" by slander and defamation through "false witnesses." The method, however, did not kill the Reformation and it will not kill the present movement. (The Bunyip 1915, Friday June 11)

Nicholson defected in 1918 after reading *The Finished Mystery* (1917) and founded the Berean Bible students Association.

NICHOLSON, VIV (1937-)
A Castleford (Yorkshire) factory worker and mother of four who in 1961 became Britain's biggest Pools winner and collected £152,000.

For 15 years she partied and shopped, remarried three times, travelled the world, spent all her money, and then worked in a strip club and turned to alcohol.

She joined JWs in 1978 and in the 1990s worked as a perfume sales assistant.

The musical *Spend, Spend, Spend* is based on Viv's life.

NIGER
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Niger and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	27	106,300		
1975	61	47,000		
1980	67	74,478	114	43,800
1985	82	74,200	232	26,220
1990	141	52,800	514	14,475
1995	226	33,100	600	12,483
2000	235	31,900	1,336	5,605
2005	243	48,000	1,248	9,348
2010	318	36,000	1,073	10,674
2015	282	70,600	805	24,719
2018	332	67,200	860	25,943
	Ave.			
2019	305	76,400	924	25,228
2020	300	80,700	616	39,300
2021	284	88,489	731	34,400
2022	305	85,521	804	32,400
2023	323	83,800	881	30,700
2024	320	82,200	897	29,333
2025	340	82,100	976	28,605

NIGERIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Nigeria and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	85,400	652		
1975	112,200	711		
1980	95,900	832	252,000	317
1985	121,700	786	371,900	257
1990	142,100	811	426,100	270
1995	191,400	512	508,000	193
2000	236,800	481	576,000	198
2005	276,800	465	601,000	214
2010	320,300	437	662,000	212
2015	367,100	496	739,000	246
2018	390,250	502	806,000	243
	Ave.			
2019	367,900	546	836,000	240
2020	341,900	603	677,000	306
2021	324,464	652	699,000	303
2022	351,700	616	743,000	292
2023	377,200	589	821,000	271
2024	390,600	596	857,000	271
2025	403,500	589	818,800	290

NIGHTINGALE, L. (1957-)
Australian writer who researched the JWs in the 1980s and authored *Millennial Dawn: The Story of Jehovah and his Witnesses*.

NINETEEN EIGHTEEN (1918)
Russell wrote:

> It still seems clear that the prophetic period known as the Times of the Gentiles ended chronologically in October, 1914. The fact that the great day of wrath upon the nation began there marks a good fulfilment of our expectations. The Gentile nations were guaranteed a certain amount of possession and control for a certain period of time. That time having expired, dispossession proceedings are now in process…
>
> It is possible that the war may continue for quite a while yet, before the nations shall have been weakened and humbled sufficiently to desire peace. Then will come other troubles. Revolutions will threaten; the governments will associate themselves still more firmly with the nominal church systems, both seeking protection and strength. Next we may expect the great collapse of spiritual Babylon, leading on to the great revolution-earthquake of Revelation, "So mighty an earthquake as was not since men were upon the earth." (Revelation 16:18)
>
> This in turn will lead on, according to our understanding of the Bible, to the terrible anarchy, in which all present institutions will succumb before the fire of human passion, prejudice, etc. Then, at the auspicious moment, the Gentile dominions having passed away, Messiah's kingdom will manifest itself for the blessing of the whole world, and will prove to be "the desire of all peoples."—Haggai 2:7.
>
> We see no reason for doubting, therefore, that the times of the Gentiles ended in October, 1914; and that a <u>few more years</u> will witness their utter collapse and the full establishment of God's kingdom in the hands of Messiah. But by that time, the Elijah class will have passed beyond the Veil; for "when he [Jesus] shall appear in his glory, we [the church] also shall appear with him." (wr1916 9/1 5950)

The phrase "a few more years" taken literally would suggest 1918. Russell went on:

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

The Finished Mystery (1917) taught that the "harvest of the Gospel Age" would last 40 years from 1878 to 1918. (p.418) After that:

> As the fleshly-minded apostates from Christianity, siding with the radicals and revolutionaries, will rejoice at the inheritance of desolation that will be Christendom's after 1918, so will God do to the successful revolutionary movement; it shall be utterly destroyed, "even all of it." Not one vestige of it shall survive the ravages of world-wide all-embracing anarchy, in the fall of 1920. (542)

Revelation 17:10 speaks of seven kings and says: "five are fallen, one is, and the other is not yet come." *The Finished Mystery* interpreted the seven kings as "Seven forms of government of the Holy Roman Empire". (267) The seventh would be when the Papacy regains power from 1917 to 1918:

> **Is not yet come.—**But is due to make its appearance with the close of the war, some time about October 1st, 1917…

> **And when he commeth, he must continue a short space.**— From the summer or fall of 1917 to the spring or summer of 1918. (p.268)
>
> **For in one hour thy judgment is come.**—In one year 1917-1918.—Rev. 17:12. (p.282)
>
> In one short year, 1917-1918, the vast and complicated system of sectarianism reaches its zenith of power, only to be suddenly dashed into oblivion.—Rev. 18:10. (p.285)

Other events predicted for 1918 included materializations and visions of demons (254, 128), Christendom's membership annihilated by war and famine (398-399), world anarchy (404-405)

Important also was the "glorification of the Little Flock" i.e. the ascent of the Russellite "saints" to heaven:

> Our proposition is that the glorification of the Little Flock in the Spring of 1918 A.D. will be half way (three and one-half years each way) between the close of the Gentile Times and the close of the heavenly way. A.D. 1921. (p.64)

NINETEEN EIGHTEEN (1918) PLUS "A LITTLE MORE"

In a letter to the brethren Rutherford wrote:

> Brother Russell's last expression concerning the harvest was that it would end in the spring of 1918. We believed this; and believing it, we felt time the Seventh Volume must go out before the harvest closed...
>
> The spring of 1918 came; and the evidences began to increase that the harvest was closing... Rejoice now, Beloved; the work of harvesting the church is done. The dark night is coming rapidly on, and soon we shall be home. <u>There may be a little more work</u> for the faithful to do in calling the world's attention to the message and in aiding the Elisha class. (w1919 2/15 6392)

NINETEEN EIGHTIES (1980s)

Unofficially many JWs speculated on 1984, i.e. 70 years from 1914, with 70 being the expected human lifespan — Psalm 70:10.

Unofficial speculation for 1984 was fuelled by official comment such as:

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

The following statement raised hopes for 1989:

> J. A. Bengel states in his New Testament Word Studies: "The Hebrews … reckon seventy-five years as one generation, and the words, shall not pass away, intimate that the greater part of that generation [of Jesus' day] indeed, but not the whole of it, should have passed away before all should be fulfilled." This became true by the year 70 C.E. when Jerusalem was destroyed.
>
> Likewise today, most of the generation of 1914 has passed away. However, there are still millions on earth who were born in that year or prior to it. And although their numbers are dwindling, Jesus' words will come true, "This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." (g1988 4/8 14)

The prediction of "peace and security" (I Thessalonians 5:3) which would be followed by "sudden destruction" added to the anticipation because in October 1985 the UN declared 1986 "the International Year of Peace". *The Watchtower* stated:

> Christians watch the event with interest. But they cannot say in advance whether this will prove to be the fulfilment of Paul's words… (w1985 10/1 18)

However, the book *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* (1986) refers to the UN declaration of 1986 as the "Year of Peace" and says:

> This, no doubt, is a step toward the fulfilment…" (p.85)

And w1990 4/1 says "it will be very soon". (p.9)

JWs of the 1980s also had the firm prediction that: "Armageddon … will come in the twentieth century". (g1961 2/22 8) Few believed Armageddon would delay until the very last year of the 20th century and most JWs awaited it in the 1980s. They had support such as:

> Some of that "generation" could survive until the end of the century. But there are

> many indications that "the end" is much closer than that! (w1984 3/1 18-19)

NINETEEN FIFTEEN (1915)

Russell realized that if there was no year zero then his calculations for 1914 could be wrong by one year. His conclusion based on this insight was:

> The parallel between the Jewish harvest and the present harvest corroborate the thought that the trouble to the full will be accomplished by October, 1915... The lease of power to the Gentiles may end in October, 1914, or in October, 1915. (wr1912 12/1 5141)

Furthermore, in 1904 Russell had altered the date for the "awful anarchy" of Armageddon from commencing before 1914 to commencing "after October, 1914". (wr1904 7/1 3389) The phrase "after October 1914" was usually considered as 1915. There were many comments such as:

> From the foregoing it will be seen that to our understanding Christendom entered upon the final seven years of harvest in October, 1907. Promptly on time the present panic gave Christendom a convulsive tremor, and it is our anticipation that the entire seven years thus started will witness a succession of panics and difficulties, each pressing a little more upon the interests of mankind, the rich as well as the poor, and each bringing conditions to a little harder plane than its predecessor, until, with the close of the seven years, during 1915, according to the Bible, we expect that anarchy will gain the upper hand of control throughout Christendom, overthrowing present institutions, civil and religious, financial and social, and in a general way plunging the poor world into the most awful trouble is has ever experienced—a trouble so dark, so terrible, that in referring to it the Master said, "Except those days be shortened there would no flesh survive." (wr1908 1/1 4110)

> …it is selfishness that will be to blame for the final collapse which the Scriptures predict and which we expect in 1915. (wr1908 1/1 4111)

The Russellite cult, therefore, had two reasons for focussing on 1915 — the problem with the year zero and the idea of "immediately after" 1914.

When World War I broke out in 1914 Russell wrote:

> It seems to us possible that one year might work all this great change that we are expecting. But perhaps it will not be so. We must wait and see. We're merely suggesting the possibility that in one year all these things will come. (wr1914 11/1 5569)

> So far as at present may be discerned, nothing very decisive may be expected before Spring. (w1915 1/1 5601)

One problem was that the Gentile Times were supposed to end with the Jews and the resurrected "Princes" in charge of Israel but there were no news reports of such events occurring. Regarding this, Russell wrote:

> When we have the opportunity, we intend to call the attention of our Jewish friends to the fact that the time of their disfavour and the times of the Gentiles have expired, and that they may now re-establish their kingdom in Palestine for their is nothing now that intervenes. (w1914 11/1 5568)

In February 1915, Russell reaffirmed, "the time for the setting up of the Kingdom was on September 21, 1914." The war was under Kingdom control and would end in anarchy:

> …the whole cataclysm of trouble may be upon the world during the next ten months or it may be longer deferred. (w1915 2/15 5632)

The *CONVENTION REPORT* of 1915 contains statements by convention speakers to the effect that the Kingdom in Israel was being set up and that Armageddon and Kingdom (of Israel) intervention in world affairs was starting.

During 1915 and 1916 Russell continued to regard the Great War as the war he had predicted for 1906 which would merge into Armageddon:

> We pointed out that according to the Scriptures the 2520 years of Gentile dominion ended in September, 1914; and that the war is the one predicted in the Scriptures as associated with the great day of Almighty God—"the day of vengeance of our God." (wr1915 1/1 5601)

> We believe that the dates have proven to be quite right. We believe that Gentile Times have ended, and that God is now

allowing the Gentile Governments to destroy themselves, in order to prepare the way for Messiah's kingdom. (wr 1916 4/15 5888)

We see no reason for doubting, therefore, that the Times of the Gentiles ended in October, 1914; and that a few more years will witness their utter collapse and the full establishment of God's kingdom in the hands of Messiah. (wr1916 9/1 5950)

NINETEEN FIFTY (1950)

In February 1925 Rutherford toned down the predictions for 1925 by making them iffy and by pointing to 1926:

If we have correctly interpreted the matter, 1926 is still the year for God's blessings to begin toward the Gentiles. (w1925 /2 56, 58)

He then added that the establishment of the Kingdom in Palestine and the start of the resurrection might delay a further 25 years:

It does not seem unreasonable, therefore, to think that twenty five years, possibly more, will pass before the awakening of the dead shall begin. (w1925 2/15 58)

Twenty five years later, at the International Convention for 1950, Fred Franz announced that the faithful men of old were present in the audience.

The excitement was electrifying and some people fainted. Then Franz declared that the princes are not ancient Hebrews but the JWs overseers. Twenty-five years of waiting ended with the word "princes" getting a different meaning!

NINETEEN FORTIES (1940s)

Russell stated at various times that if Armageddon or the ascent to heaven delayed by five or ten or more years beyond 1914/1915, Christians should want that too. The longest extension that he suggested is 25 years:

We shall be as glad as any one if we shall all experience our change from earthly to spirit conditions before 1915, and this is our expectation; but if this should not be the Lord's will, then it would not be our will. If in the Lord's providence the time should come twenty-five years later, then that would be our will. (wr1914 1/1 5374)

A 25-year extension gives 1940. This along with the outbreak of WWII explains why Rutherford predicted the end for the early 1940s.

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

The day of preparation [began 1918] for Armageddon has been in progress for some time. There is now a short period of grace until the battle of God Almighty, and which time brings all creation to the greatest climax ever known. God has shortened the day of tribulation and afforded time and opportunity for his warning to be sounded (Matt. 24: 21, 22), and all the Scriptures and all the physical facts relating thereto clearly indicate that the final conflict at Armageddon is very near. (w1940 5/15 149)
[Note: "The day of preparation", which began in 1918, "has been in progress for some time" i.e. 22 years, and this is contrasted with "There is now a short period…" hence much less than 22 years.]

"God's visitation upon the nations will reach a climax in the great time of trouble, Armageddon, now near. Jehovah's strange work" of judgment now fast reaching its climax among all nations. (w1941 1/1 15)

Satan and his chief officer Gog, know that the great climax is at hand, even though millions of hangers-on do not realize that fact. It is certain that the Devil knows that his time is short (Rev. 12:12), and, knowing this, he musters all his forces in his efforts to destroy those who support THE THEOCRACY. (w1941 3/15 90)

For the covenant people of God, both of the remnant and their companions, the Lord's "other sheep", the time of climax is here. (w1941 6/15 186)

The climax is now here. Satan knows that his time is short, and hence he increases the woes upon the people before the final showdown. (w1941 8/1 228)

God's visitation upon the nations will reach a climax in the great time of trouble, Armageddon, now near. (w1941 11/15 351)

> Since the climax is here… (w1943 4/15 222)

NINETEEN FOURTEEN (1914)

The JWs leaders regularly imply that Russell's predictions for 1914 were correct:

> With conviction the remnant pointed forward to the year 1914 and showed by the Scripture prophecies that it would be a year of unprecedented trouble for the world, betokening that its end was at hand. As regards world trouble in 1914, they were not disappointed… (w1951 11/1 655)

> Moreover, in keeping watch, this journal's early issues pointed to 1914 C.E. as a climactic year. (w1979 7/1 5)

> For over three decades before 1914, Jehovah's Witnesses called attention to the significance of this date. (w1986 11/1 7)

> Yet today … historians do indeed say that 1914 was a turning point in human history. (w1986 11/1 7)

> According to all the evidence, in the latter part of that year, Jesus received the crown of kingship... In 1914 … right on schedule... (w1988 1/1 10)

C.T. Russell, until 1904, predicted the following events to occur by 1914. (Studies II 1889, 76-78)

- Armageddon would start before 1914;
- Worthy men from Abel to John the Baptist would rise from the dead;
- The resurrected "ancient worthies" would rule the Jews in a restored Israel;
- The "harvest work" i.e. proselytizing by Russell's cult would stop;
- Russell's followers would ascend physically to heaven;
- All religions and governments would perish by 1914;
- In 1914 Armageddon will have peaked. The world would then surrender to the resurrected Bible heroes such as Abraham and Samson who would govern the planet from Jerusalem in Israel.

Regarding the dates and timing Russell wrote:

> They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble. (wr1894 July, p.1677)

In 1904 Russell changed the timing of events that were to occur by 1914 to "immediately after 1914". (wr1904 7/1 3389) Hence attention gradually shifted to 1915.

In 1907 Russell noticed that things were not happening as predicted. He had written that the Russo/Japanese War that started in 1904 would probably draw in the great powers of Europe and even the USA. (w1904 3/1 3327) This suggestion followed from his previous prediction (in 1894) that a European War (beginning about 1906) would weaken Europe and make it ready for Armageddon. But in 1906 the Russo/Japanese War ended and no great European War had broken out. Also Israel was not being restored.

Therefore Russell claimed:

> …we have never claimed our calculations to be infallibly correct. (w1907 10/1 4069)

He repeated the expectation of his church rising to heaven "before 1915" and of global anarchy at that time with the kingdom in Israel gradually extending its rule worldwide. But he added:

> We are not prophesying... We do not even aver that there is no mistake in our interpretation of prophecy and our calculations of chronology. (wr1908 1/1 4110-4111)

However, he still stuck to 1914/1915 for end of the present world. In 1912 he wrote:

> A little more than two years remain before the climax of trouble we anticipate if we are exactly right about the time. If we are not exactly right, surely we are not far astray, our enemies themselves being the witnesses. Look at the state of the world. (wr1912 7/15 5061)

As 1914 got closer and the Jewish return to Israel did not accelerate, warnings of possible disappointment became more frequent. (wr1910 12/15 4726; wr1911 1/1 4736; wr1911 2/15 4751; wr1911 8/1 4867; wr1913 10/15 5328-5329; wr1913 12/15 5367-5368; Convention Report 1913, 230)

There were even suggestions that nothing extraordinary at all might happen in 1914 and that the Kingdom in Israel and the rising of the Russellites to heaven might delay one year, five, ten, 18 or 25 years. (wr1911 8/1 4867; wr1912 12/1 5141-5142)

In 1913 Russell expressed himself as follows:

> …we understand that the Gentile times will close in October 1914, and that consequently we expect, speedily following that date, the transfer of the rulership of the earth to the great King of Glory, in a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."…
> Indeed, as respects the date 1914, which we have emphasized, and respecting which we have repeatedly expressed our faith, our conviction—even respecting this date we have never knowingly spoken in infallible terms…
> We see no reason for disparaging the date and convictions associated with it… Although only one and a half years remain for the accomplishment of great things in the work, we should not forget that in our wonderful day as much can be accomplished in one year as previously would have been accomplished in five years. (wr1913 6/15 249)

After WWI started in 1914 Russell suggested there might be a slow transition to the Kingdom-ruled world but he also suggested otherwise:

> …we might expect the transition to run on a good many years. We might expect it to be five, ten or twenty years. But there is something, on the other hand, that leads us to anticipate that it will not be very long. (w1914 11/1 5567; Pastor Russell's Sermons 1916, 480)

In December Russell suggested ten years:

> Even if the time of our change should not come within ten years, what more should we ask? Are we not a blessed, happy people? (wr1914 12/15 5595)

Russell's stance therefore had shifted from definite predictions for 1907-1914 made between 1881 and 1904, to fulfilment "immediately after" 1914, to the possibility of nothing eventful happening for one year, ten years, 20 years or longer! The latter examples are what JWs leaders quote today when they white-wash Russell's prophecies by claiming they were suggestions.

The rank and file Russellites believed Russell's pre-1904 stance, namely that all nations would perish in 1912-1914 (or in 1915). The annual *Convention Reports* from 1901-1916 contain transcripts of convention speeches. Numerous statements like this occur:

> From the leisurely manner in which some are going about matters it would seem that they expect about fifty years more of harvest. We expect that harvest will be ended in about a year from now. (Convention Report 1913, 320)

When World War I broke out Russell interpreted it as the war he had awaited for 1907 which would lead into Armageddon. (w1914 8/15 5516; w1914 9/1 5526-5527; w1914 10 /15 5554; w1914 11 /1 5567)

The gentile times, Russell said, "probably" ended September 29th but transition to kingdom rule might take:

> … five, ten or twenty years. But there is something on the other hand, that leads us to anticipate that it will not be very long. (wr1914 11/1 5565-5567)

So how short might it be?

> While it is possible that Armageddon may begin next Spring, yet it is purely speculation to attempt to say just when. (wr1914 10/15 5555)

Russell also wondered, "if there are not six months more of the harvest." (w1914 10/15 5555) [See: *NINETEEN FIFTEEN*]

JWs writers sometimes quote politicians who think 1914 was a "turning point in history" (w1985 5/1 5-6; g1986 4/8 32) or a "marked date" and imply that the Russellites predicted only a "turning point" or "marked date":

> Why did they point forward to 1914—the very year historians now say was the "turning point" of modern history—as a marked date? Bible prophecy led them to do so. (g1973 10/8 17)

Russell, however, never predicted 1914 as merely a "marked date".

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND…? (1905-1907)

Russell anticipated a major war prior to 1914 that would draw in many major nations and weaken them for the worldwide uprisings in 1914 that form part of Armageddon.

When Russia and Japan went to war in 1904 Russell reasoned:

> Our expectations respecting a war have been realized. We based that expectation not on any private information, nor on prophecy, but upon the thought that unless war intervened to prolong the commercial prosperity of Christendom a great financial depression would be sure to come speedily : and because we could not see time enough

for such a depression and recovery from it and a subsequent depression, all before October, 1914, when prophecy teaches us to expect the great climax of earth's troubles…

The present outlook that the success of the Japanese thus early in their war will prolong the conflict and quite probably draw into it many other civilized nations. (wr1904 3/1 3327)

Russell then goes on to give reasons for "why we incline to expect a general war…" which reasons include:

…the Scriptures seem to imply some sort of a general war preceding or connected with the great time of trouble—anarchy—with which this age will close and usher in the Millennial period.

Russell anticipated a "general war" because he saw it as necessary before 1914 to weaken the nations for their destruction in 1914.

NINETEEN SEVENTEEN (1917)
The end of the World War expected:

The three days of terrible darkness over the land of Egypt [Moses' 9th plague—Exodus 21] represent the three years of the great war, and indicate its close shortly after the publication of this final witness of the church. While this plague was still in progress, Moses said to Pharoah, "I will see thy face again no more." It is even so; Pastor Russell passed forever out of reach of the antitypical Pharoah, Satan, in the fall of 1916. But in steadfast belief that "his works do follow him," we hold that he supervises, by the Lord's arrangement, the work yet to be done. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 256)

NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE (1975) Part 1

Are we to assume from this study that the Battle of Armageddon will be over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ will begin by then? … It may involve only a difference of weeks or months, not years. (w1968 8/15 494, 499)

JWs leaders calculated that 6000 years from the creation of Adam terminate on October 1, 1975. In 1966 they linked the termination of 6000 years with Armageddon and the start of the Millennium as "appropriate" and "fitting":

In this twentieth century an independent study has been carried on that does not blindly follow some traditional chronological calculations of Christendom, and the published timetables resulting from this independent study gives the date of man's creation as 4026 B.C.E. According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E…

So in not many years within our own generation we are reaching what Jehovah God could view as the seventh day of man's existence.

How appropriate it would be for Jehovah God to make of this coming seventh period of a thousand years a sabbath period of rest and release… 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… It would not be by mere chance or accident but would be according to the loving purpose of Jehovah God for the reign of Jesus Christ, the "Lord of the sabbath,' to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence.
(Life Everlasting—In Freedom of the Sons of God 1966, 28-30)

Adam and Eve created in the same year?

Whether Armageddon would be over in1975 and Christ's millennial reign in operation depended on whether Adam and Eve were created in the same year i.e. in 4026 BCE.

Three WTS references indicate that Adam and Eve were created in the same year:

- w1968 5/1 271 strongly implied a same-year:
"Thus, Adam's naming of the animals and his realizing that he needed a counterpart would have occupied only a brief time after his creation. Since it was also Jehovah's purpose for man to multiply and fill the earth, it is logical that he would create Eve soon after Adam, perhaps just a few weeks or months later in the same year, 4026 B.C.E. After her creation, God's rest day, the seventh period, immediately followed.

Therefore, God's seventh day and the time man has been on earth apparently run parallel. To calculate where man is in the

stream of time relative to God's seventh day of 7,000 years, we need to determine how long a time has elapsed from the year of Adam and Eve's creation in 4026 B.C.E."

- g1968 10/8 14 says "Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E."

- *Aid to Bible Understanding* (1971) p.538 says "Eve's son, Seth, was born when Eve was 130, which was also Adam's age (Genesis 5:3) at their son's birth, hence Adam and Eve were created in the same year."

In 1975 when no Armageddon was in sight *The Watchtower* reneged on Adam and Eve being created in the same year. (w1975 10/1 579)

Prior to 1975

Prior to the failure of the prophecy for 1975 it was supported with statements such as:

> The immediate future is certain to be filled with climactic events, for this old system is nearing its complete end. Within a few years at most, the final parts of Bible prophecy relative to these "last days" will undergo fulfillment, resulting in the liberation of surviving mankind into Christ's glorious 1,000-year reign. What difficult days, but, at the same time, what grand days are just ahead! (w1968 5/1 272)

> …a few years, at most, remain… (g1968 10/8 13)

> If you are a young person, you also need to face the fact that you will never grow old in this present system of things. Why not? Because all the evidence in fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates that this corrupt system is due to end in a few years. Of the generation that observed the beginning of the "last days" in 1914, Jesus foretold: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur."—Matt. 24:34.
> Therefore, as a young person, you will never fulfill any career that this system offers. (g1969 5/22 15)

> Yes, the end of this system is so very near! Is that not reason to increase our activity? In this regard we can learn something from a runner who puts on a final burst of speed near the finish of a race. Look at Jesus, who apparently stepped up his activity during his final days on earth…

> By carefully and prayerfully examining our own circumstances, we also may find that we can spend more time and energy in preaching during this final period before the present system ends. Many of our brothers and sisters are doing just that. This is evident from the rapidly increasing number of pioneers…

> Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end. (Kingdom Ministry USA, May 1974, p.3)

> According to the Bible's reliable timetable, we are near the end of six thousand years of human history, and Christ's royal reign for the relief and rehabilitation of mankind to perfection is at our doors. (w1974 1/1 8)

Blame and continuation

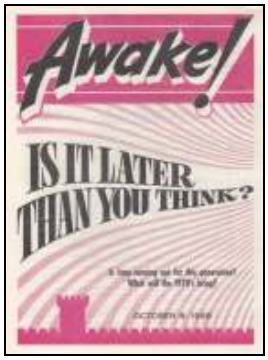
After the predictions for the mid 1970s failed and about 500,000 people left the sect in five years, the Governing Body blamed ex JWs:

> Likely the presence of a small number of apostates had contributed to the slowing down of Jehovah's work during the last half of the 1970s. (w1986 12/15 20)

The Governing Body distracted JWs from the 1975 failure by initiating a building campaign of assembly halls and new and larger branch headquarters and printeries. This recommitted many followers by their physical effort as volunteer labourers and by giving money. The construction process:

a. Offered an alternative activity to JWs whose zeal in ministry declined;
b. Was a means of advertising the Organization;
c. Bought time to convert people to replace losses;
d. Provided Bethel workers incentive by giving them better accommodation;
e. Gave all JWs renewed pride in the Organization due to its material success.

NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE (1975) Part 2



Whether Armageddon would come in 1975 depended on whether Adam and Eve were created in the same year i.e. 4026 BCE. Any difference would have to be added to October 1975.

Aid to Bible Understanding (1971) says Eve's son, Seth, was born when Eve was 130, which was also Adam's age. (Genesis 5:3) Hence both were created in the same year (p.538) — and this meant Armageddon in 1975.

Below are further quotes showing how the JWs leaders fueled the anticipation:

Between Adam's creation and Eve's

> Another speaker, F. W. Franz, the Society's vice-president, forcefully impressed on the audience the urgency of the Christian preaching work. He stressed that, according to dependable Bible chronology, 6,000 years of human history will end this coming September according to the lunar calendar…
>
> Does this mean that we know exactly when God will destroy this old system and establish a new one? Franz showed that we do not, for we do not know how short was the time interval between Adam's creation and the creation of Eve, at which point God's rest day of seven thousand years began (w1975 5/1 285)

The time difference Eve was created after Adam had to be added to 1975 to get Armageddon and the "new system" but this difference was unknown. Russell estimated 2 years; Franz repeatedly suggested it may be only weeks or months:

> Does this mean, then, that by 1963 we had progressed 5,988 years into the 'day' on which Jehovah 'has been resting from all his work'? (Gen. 2:3) No, for the creation of Adam does not correspond with the beginning of Jehovah's rest day. Following Adam's creation, and still within the sixth creative day, Jehovah appears to have been forming further animal and bird creations. Also, he had Adam name the animals, which would take some time, and he proceeded to create Eve. (Gen. 2:18-22; see also NW, 1953 Ed., footnote on Ge 2 vs. 19) Whatever time elapsed between Adam's creation and the end of the 'sixth day' must be subtracted from the 5,988 years in order to give the actual length of time from the beginning of the 'seventh day' until [1963]. It does no good to use Bible chronology for speculating on dates that are still future in the stream of time.-Matt. 24:36. (All Scripture is inspired of God and Beneficial 1963, 286-287)

6,000 Years Completed in 1975

There is another chronological indication that we are rapidly nearing the closing time for this wicked system of things. It is the fact that shortly, according to reliable Bible chronology, 6,000 years of human history will come to an end. After six thousand years of toil and bondage to sin, sickness, death and Satan, mankind is due to enjoy a rest and is in dire need of a rest. (Heb. 4:1-11) Hence, the fact that we are nearing the end of the first 6,000 years of man's existence is of great significance. In what year, then, would the first 6,000 years of man's existence and also the first 6,000 years of God's rest day come to an end? The year 1975.

This is worthy of notice, particularly in view of the fact that the 'last days' began in 1914, and that the physical facts of our day in fulfillment of prophecy mark this as the last generation of this wicked world. So we can expect the immediate future to be filled with thrilling events for those who rest their faith in God and his promises. It means that within relatively few years we will witness the fulfillment of the remaining prophecies that have to do with the 'time of the end.' (g1966 10/8 19-20)

"It could! It could!"

At the Baltimore assembly Brother Franz in his closing remarks made some interesting comments regarding the year 1975… In part, Brother Franz went on to say: 'You have noticed the chart [on pages 31-35 in the book *Life Everlasting-in Freedom of the Sons of God*]. It shows that 6,000 years of human experience will end in 1975, about nine years from now. What does that mean? Does it mean that God's rest day began 4026 B.C.E.? It could have. The Life Everlasting book does not say it did not. The book merely

presents the chronology. You can accept it or reject it. If that is the case, what does that mean to us? [He went into some length showing the feasibility of the 4026 B.C.E. date as being the beginning of God's rest day.]

'What about the year 1975? What is it going to mean, dear friends?' asked Brother Franz. 'Does it mean that Armageddon is going to be finished, with Satan bound, by 1975? It could! It could! All things are possible with God. Does it mean that Babylon the Great is going to go down by 1975? It could. Does it mean that the attack of Gog of Magog is going to be made on Jehovah's witnesses to wipe them out, then Gog himself will be put out of action? It could. But we are not saying. All things are possible with God. But we are not saying. And don't any of you be specific in saying anything that is going to happen between now and 1975. But the big point of it all is this, dear friends: Time is short. Time is running out, no question about that. (w1966 10/15 631)

"It very well could"

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

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

"Within a few years at most"

[4]According to reliable Bible chronology Adam was created in the year 4026 B.C.E., likely in the autumn of the year, at the end of the sixth day of creation. Then God brought the animals to man to name. Yet, of Adam, Genesis states these words of Jehovah: "It is not good for the man to continue by himself." (Gen. 2:18) Adam would realize this lonely condition very quickly, perhaps in just a few days or a few weeks. He would realize he needed another earthling with whom he could communicate, share his experiences, and his life. Nor would his naming the animals take an unduly long time… Thus, Adam's naming of the animals and his realizing that he needed a counterpart would have occupied only a brief time after his creation. Since it was also Jehovah's purpose for man to multiply and fill the earth, it is logical that he would create Eve soon after Adam, perhaps just a few weeks or months later in the same year, 4026 B.C.E. After her creation, God's rest day, the seventh period, immediately followed.

[5]Therefore, God's seventh day and the time man has been on earth apparently run parallel. To calculate where man is in the stream of time relative to God's seventh day of 7,000 years, we need to determine how long a time has elapsed from the year of Adam and Eve's creation in 4026 B.C.E.… Thus, eight years remain to account for a full 6,000 years of the seventh day. Eight years from the autumn of 1967 would bring us to the autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day.

[6]After 6,000 years of misery, toil, trouble, sickness and death under Satan's rule, mankind is indeed in dire need of relief, a rest. The seventh day of the Jewish week, the sabbath, would well picture the final 1,000-year reign of God's kingdom under Christ when mankind would be uplifted from 6,000 years of sin and death. (Rev. 20:6) Hence, when Christians note from God's timetable the approaching end of 6,000 years of human history, it fills them with anticipation. Particularly is this true because the great

sign of the "last days" has been in the course of fulfillment since the beginning of the "time of the end" in 1914. And, as Jesus said, "this generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matt. 24:34) Some of the generation that discerned the beginning of the time of the end in 1914 will still be alive on earth to witness the end of this present wicked system of things at the battle of Armageddon.-Rev. 16:14, 16.

[7]The immediate future is certain to be filled with climactic events, for this old system is nearing its complete end. Within a few years at most the final parts of Bible prophecy relative to these "last days" will undergo fulfillment, resulting in the liberation of surviving mankind into Christ's glorious 1,000-year reign. What difficult days, but, at the same time, what grand days are just ahead!

[8]Does this mean that the year 1975 will bring the battle of Armageddon? No one can say with certainty what any particular year will bring. Jesus said: "Concerning that day or the hour nobody knows." (Mark 13:32) (w1968 5/1 271-273)

Comparatively short period

[29]Well, for one thing, if 4,026 is added to 1,968 (allowing for the lack of a zero year between C.E. and B.C.E.) one gets a total of 5,993 years, come this autumn, since Adam's creation. That means, in the fall of the year 1975, a little over seven years from now (and not in 1997 as would be the case if Ussher's figures were correct), it will be 6,000 years since the creation of Adam, the father of all mankind!

[30]Are we to assume from this study that the battle of Armageddon will be all over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ will begin by then? Possibly, but we wait to see how closely the seventh thousand-year period of man's existence coincides with the Sabbath-like thousand-year reign of Christ. If these two periods run parallel with each other as to the calendar year, it will not be by mere chance or accident but will be according to Jehovah's loving and timely purposes. Our chronology, however, which is reasonably accurate (but admittedly not infallible), at the best only points to the autumn of 1975 as the end of 6,000 years of man's existence on earth. It does not necessarily mean that 1975 marks the end of the first 6,000 years of Jehovah's seventh creative "day." Why not? Because after his creation Adam lived some time during the "sixth day," which unknown amount of time would need to be subtracted from Adam's 930 years, to determine when the sixth seven-thousand-year period or "day" ended, and how long Adam lived into the "seventh day." And yet the end of that sixth creative "day" could end within the same Gregorian calendar year of Adam's creation. It may involve only a difference of weeks or months, not years…

[33]This time between Adam's creation and the beginning of the seventh day, the day of rest, let it be noted, need not have been a long time. It could have been a rather short one. The naming of the animals by Adam, and his discovery that there was no complement for himself, required no great length of time. The animals were in subjection to Adam; they were peaceful; they came under God's leading; they were not needing to be chased down and caught. It took Noah only seven days to get the same kinds of animals, male and female, into the Ark. (Gen. 7:1-4) Eve's creation was quickly accomplished, 'while Adam was sleeping.' (Gen. 2:21) So the lapse of time between Adam's creation and the end of the sixth creative day, though unknown, was a comparatively short period of time. The pronouncement at the end of the sixth day, "God saw everything he had made and, look! it was very good," proves that the beginning of the great seventh day of the creative week did not wait until after Adam and Eve sinned and were expelled from the Garden of Eden… (w1968 8/15 494-501)

"A few years at most"

The fact that fifty-four years of the period called the "last days" have already gone by is highly significant. It means that only a few years, at most, remain before the corrupt system of things dominating the earth is destroyed by God…

Hence, the first six thousand years since man's creation could be likened to the first six days of the week in ancient Israel. The seventh one-thousand-year period could be likened to the seventh day, the Sabbath, of that week.—2 Pet. 3:8.

How fitting it would be for God, following this pattern, to end man's misery after six thousand years of human rule and follow it with His glorious Kingdom rule for a thousand years! …

How can it be determined when 6,000 years of human history will end? According to reliable Bible chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E. (g1968 10/8 13 & 14)

1975 — "the fitting time"

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

"**Only a short time then remains"**

How close we may exactly be to the end of the present divisive system of things cannot be predicted, as Jesus reported that even he did not know the day or the hour at the time of his earthly ministry. (Matt. 24:36) However, Bible chronology which indicates that Adam was created in the fall of the year 4026 B.C.E. would bring us down to the year 1975 C.E. as the date marking 6,000 years of human history with yet 1,000 years to come for Christ's Kingdom rule. So whatever the date for the end of this system, it is clear that the time left is reduced, with only approximately six years left until the end of 6,000 years of human history. (1 Cor. 7:29) This corroborates the understanding of Jesus' words that the generation alive in 1914 with the outbreak of World War I would not pass away until the end comes. Only a short time, then, remains for persons who love righteousness to show God that they want to be in his "ark" of protection and live to see the blessings of the new system of things.--Matt. 24:34-42. (w1970 5/1 273)

"The publications have never said..."

The publications of Jehovah's witnesses have shown that, according to Bible chronology, it appears that 6,000 years of man's existence will be completed in the mid-1970's. But these publications have never said that the world's end would come then. Nevertheless, there has been considerable individual speculation on the matter. So the assembly presentation "Why We Have Not Been Told 'That Day and Hour'" was very timely. It emphasized that we do not know the exact time when God will bring the end. All we know is that the end will come within the generation that sees fulfilled on it the sign that Jesus Christ said would then be in evidence. (See Matthew chapters 24, 25.) All indications are that the fulfillment of this sign began in 1914. (w1974 10/15 635)

1975 "Realizing that joyful prospect"

[36] Only from the end of the year 1928 was the prospect opened up to the spiritual understanding of the anointed remnant of the "Israel of God" to survive the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" at Har-Magedon and enter here on earth into Jehovah's righteous new order. (See The Watch Tower under date of December 15, 1928, page 376, paragraphs 35, 36.) And now, as the year 1975 opens up, some thousands of the anointed remnant, still alive on this earth, look ahead to realizing that joyful prospect... w1974 12/15 766)

SINCE a new Jewish lunar year began in September 1975 a significant point in human history was reached. What was that? According to the Bible's count of time, mankind then completed 6,000 years of existence on earth. Yes, the first man Adam, if he had chosen to remain obedient under God's rulership, would have still been alive and 6,000 years old in September of this year.

Does this mean, then, that mankind has now reached 6,000 years into the 7,000-year period that God 'blessed and made sacred' as his great "rest day"? Does it mean that Christ's millennial Kingdom rule, as the final 1,000 years of that "rest day," is to be reckoned from September 1975?—Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:2, 3; Rev. 20:1-6.

No, it does not mean that. Why not? Well, the Bible record shows that God's creations on the "day" just preceding that 7,000-year "rest day" did not end with Adam's creation. It shows a time lapse between the creation of Adam and that of his wife, Eve. During that time, God had Adam name the animals. Whether that period amounted to weeks or months or years, we do not know. So we do not know exactly when Jehovah's great "rest day" began, nor do we know exactly when it will end. The same applies to the beginning of Christ's millennial reign. The Bible provides us no way to fix the date, and so it does us no good to speculate when that date may be.--Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 24:42, 44.

However, the Bible's time clock does indicate to us that 6,000 years of human history end in this year 1975. (w1975 10/1 579)

"A few months, a year or even more"

[17]There are reasons why we cannot know this. For one thing, even though Bible chronology clearly indicates that we have reached the mark of six thousand years since the time of the creation of the first human, Adam, it does not tell us just how long after that event the sixth creative day came to its close and the seventh creative period or "day," God's great rest day, began. Genesis chapter two, verse three, says that Jehovah blessed and made sacred that "day," and it therefore seems reasonable that it will see within its bounds the removal of the wicked old order and the establishment of God's righteous new order by means of the thousand-year reign of God's Son. Thus there is reason for believing that that thousand-year period will form the closing part of that great rest day and will restore the earth and its inhabitants to a perfect state. That would enable God to say of that seventh day and its results-as he did of other creative days-that "it was good."—Gen.1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31.

[18] But that great rest day did not begin immediately after Adam's creation. Other events took place after Adam's creation but before the close of the sixth creative day. One of these is of great importance to all of us. That is the creation of the first woman, Eve. Without that none of us would be alive today, for, as the apostle Paul states at 1 Corinthians 11:12, "just as the woman is out of the man, so also the man is through the woman," all of us needing a human mother to be born.

[19]How much time elapsed between the creation of the man and that of the woman? The Bible does not reveal this. It could have been a relatively short time. Adam was created-not as a child or an adolescent-but as a full-grown, fully mature man, both physically and mentally. He did not have to crawl first to learn to walk, nor babble sounds until able to speak. He was created with these abilities and could communicate with his heavenly Creator and could be set to work to cultivate and care for his garden home. He could comprehend divine instructions and also the prohibition concerning the proscribed tree of the knowledge of good and bad. (Gen. 2:15-17) In those respects, then, he would have been in position to receive a wife at any time…

[25]What, then, does this mean? Simply this: That these factors, and the possibilities for which they allow, prevent us from saying with any positiveness how much time elapsed between Adam's creation and that of the first woman. We do not know whether it was a brief time such as a month or a few months, a year or even more. <u>But whatever time elapsed would have to be added to the time that has passed since Adam's creation in order for us to know how far along we are within God's seventh "day," his grand day of rest. So our having advanced six thousand years from the start of human existence is one thing. Advancing six thousand years into God's seventh creative "day" is quite another. And we do not know just how far along in the stream of time we are in this regard.</u> (w1976 7/15 435-437)

1975 APOLOGY?

The nearest the JWs leaders came to an apology for 1975 was the following which in effect blamed the victims for acting on the information in WTS publications:

[11]It may be that some who have been serving God have planned their lives according to a mistaken view of just what was to happen on a certain date or in a certain year. They may have, for this reason, put off or neglected things that they otherwise would have cared for. But they have missed the point of the Bible's warnings concerning the end of this system of things, thinking that Bible chronology reveals the specific date…

[15] But it is not advisable for us to set our sights on a certain date, neglecting everyday things we would ordinarily care for as Christians, such as things that we and our families really need, may be forgetting that, when the "day" comes, it will not change the principle that Christians must at all times take care of all their responsibilities. If anyone has been disappointed through not following this line of thought, he should now concentrate on adjusting his viewpoint, seeing that it was not the word of God that failed or deceived him and brought disappointment, but that his own understanding was based on wrong premises. (w1976 7/15 441)

NINETEEN TEN (1910)
Until 1904 Russell taught that Armageddon would start about 1910:

> The culmination of the trouble in October, 1914, is clearly marked in the Scriptures; and we are bound therefore to expect a beginning of that *severe* trouble not later than 1910;—with severe spasms between now and then. (wr1901 9/15 2876)

This was changed in w1904 7/1 3389 — instead of the nations disappearing and God taking over **by** 1914, such events would occur "immediately after 1914".

However, to the Russellites the 1910 date still remained valid since it was also discussed in *Studies* Volume 3 (1891) in connection with the Great Pyramid:

> The four years from 1910 to 1914, indicated thus in the Great Pyramid, will doubtless be a time of "fiery trial" upon the Church (1 Cor. 3:15) preceding the anarchy of the world, which cannot last long… (Studies III 1891, 364)

When 1910 arrived, Russell defused anticipation as follows:

> Respecting the fulfillment of prophecy it seems to be natural for us, and for all humanity to be impatient and to expect things to be done more rapidly than they usually come to pass.

In 1913 Russell reasoned:

> We did in discussing the Great Pyramid—STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES SERIES—suggest that possibly a certain measurement of the step at the upper end of the Grand Gallery might signify something important by the end of 1910. But we hope that we made it clear that we built nothing on that suggestion—that it was merely a suggestion, a guess only, but a pointer that 1911 might be looked to with interest. (wr1913 6/1 5249)

NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE-SIX (1935/1936)
1935 to 1936 was another date for Armageddon and the start of global paradise.

In 1904 Russell altered his definite forecasts for 1914 to "immediately after 1914". To his followers this meant 1915. But when 1915 neared he suggested the delay could be 20 years i.e. until the mid 1930s.

In the 1920s the year 1935 became a new "carrot on the stick" to get the cult past 1925:

> Suppose we should be wrong in the chronology and that the kingdom will not be fully set up in 1925. Suppose that we were ten years off, and it would be 1935 before restitution blessings began. Without a doubt there are now millions of people on the earth who will be living fifteen years from now; and we could with equal confidence say that 'Millions Now Living will Never Die'. Whether it be 1925 or 1935, restitution blessings must soon begin... (w1920 10/15, 310)

> 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… (Light I 1930, 196)

In 1934 the world had reached its "few remaining months":

> In the very near future a far greater event will come to pass and which will involve the entire universe. The war of 1914 was the greatest war up to that time. The universal war that is near will be far more stupendous, and only a few persons, comparatively, will survive. Those who do survive will be the ones who receive a knowledge of and who obey the truth…
>
> During the few remaining months until the breaking of that universal cataclysm the powers that rule the nations of the earth will continue to make treaties and tell the people that by such means they

will keep the world peace and bring about prosperity. (Universal War Near 1935, 3 & 27)

The statements in *Light I* and *w1920* are not outright predictions but nevertheless indicate the time frame the sect believed in and its leaders promoted. The statement "we are not a prophet" is rejected in *The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah—How?* (1971, p.58) which says the entire "remnant" is God's prophet, appointed as prophet in 1919. Therefore according to later "light" Rutherford and his helpers were a prophet when they made their predictions.

Gleaning from 1918

Another reason for the date 1935 followed from the prophecy failures of 1914 and 1918.

The Russellites had predicted:

> The harvest [to find the remainder of the 144,000] will occupy forty years for its full accomplishment, ending with A.D. 1914. (Studies 4, 1889, 180)

> But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble. (wr 1894 July, p.1677)

When the harvest did not finish in 1914 the Russellites changed its start to 1878 and its finish to 1918 — thus retaining its length at 40 years.

When 1918 failed too, their explanation was that God wanted them to do a "gleaning" work to find the final few members of the 144,000:

> While it is true that the harvest work is closed, yet there is doubtless a gleaning work that will continue for a while. (wr 1919, May 1, p.6429)

By 1930 the so-called "gleaning" looked bigger than the entire "harvest" and if it got even bigger it would refute the doctrine that only 144,000 would reign with Christ in heaven.

Therefore a cut-off point was needed to terminate the "gleaning" of the 144,000, and Rutherford chose 1935. He probably selected 1935 because of the false anticipation attached to it – by making 1935 seem prophetically important he implied the date was right, only the anticipated event was wrong, and this reduced the disappointment.

1935 abandoned

With 1935 abandoned as a date for Armageddon it became the year when:

- The "high calling" to join the 144,000 closed;
- The "harvest" or gathering of the "great Crowd" (Revelation 7) who will live forever on Earth commenced

Around 2005 the "memorial partakers" i.e. the supposed "remnant of the 144,000" began to increase in number. This means that the door to the "high calling" had not closed in 1935 after all, and the excuse for the prophetic failure of 1918 — that God wanted a "gleaning" to be done — was a worthless excuse.

NINETEEN THIRTY TWO (1932)

The year when the Kingdom of God will have created peace on Earth and ruled in every way — civil, religious and spiritual — after wars and revolutions had ceased:

> This vision of the prophet Ezekiel depicts the established theocratic Kingdom of God on earth, civil and religious, spiritual and earthly…after the wars, revolutions and anarchy of the period from 1914 to 1925 have passed.

> The Time of the establishment of the Kingdom in power is indicated as "in the fourteenth year after that the city (Christendom) was smitten—or fourteen years after 1918, viz, in 1932.—Ezek. 40:1. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 569)

Around 1925 the 1878 Kingdom was discarded and replaced with the 1914 Kingdom.

Nevertheless, anticipation for 1932 briefly returned when Rutherford in 1931 wrote "God will no longer delay [Armageddon]…"

> God's kingdom has begun to operate. His day of vengeance is here, and Armageddon is at hand and certain to fall upon Christendom, and that within an early date. God's judgment is upon Christendom and must shortly be executed. That <u>God will not longer delay this</u> he says: "Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God." (Vindication I 1931, 147)

"God will no longer delay" was abandoned when God again delayed and 1932 was forgotten.

NINETEEN TWENTY (1920)

> The year 1918, with its fearful revolutions, and succeeding anarchy, is at the door. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 405)

Anarchy and revolutions would destroy Christendom in 1918 and every other authority on Earth in 1920:

> As the fleshly-minded apostates from Christianity, siding with the radicals and revolutionaries, will rejoice at the inheritance of desolation that will be Christendom's after 1918, so will God do to the successful revolutionary movement; it shall be utterly destroyed, "even all of it." Not one vestige of it shall survive the ravages of world-wide all-embracing anarchy, in the fall of 1920. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 542)

> Even the republics will disappear in the fall of 1920… Every kingdom of earth will pass away, be swallowed up in anarchy. (ibid, 258)

NINETEEN TWENTY EIGHT (1928)

In 1913 Rutherford argued that a generation is 36 or 37 years and that one generation from 1878 will see the Kingdom in Palestine fully functional:

> So the generation now upon the earth is the generation that was on earth in 1878, and many of them must abide until God's favor is fully returned to the Jews, and the Kingdom set up. (Souvenir Notes Bible Students Conventions 1913, 235)

This agreed with Russell's dates of 1914 and 1915 but turned out false.

Rutherford redefined a generation as 50 years:

> Because the time has come for the fulfillment of these great truths, because the Lords kingdom is at hand, and because <u>a generation of people exists upon the earth in ordinary times for fifty years or more</u>... (The Standard for the People 1926, 50)

Fifty years added to 1878 implied 1928!

The phrase "several years more", written in early 1925, also implied 1928:

> Suppose the Lord should say to his people in 1925 words to the effect that <u>several years more will be required</u> to give the witness to the nations before all the body members shall be changed into glorious spirit beings. Would not the truly loyal ones respond in effect thus? "Gracious Lord, thy will be done." (w1924 7/15 211)

> We know the work of restitution must come to the Jews first, and through them to the rest of the world. As the Scriptures state that Jerusalem is to be the capital of the world and that the ancient worthies are to be princes in all the earth, we are warranted in expecting that the kingdom work will begin at Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2: 3; 27: 13; Zechariah 14: 17) Jerusalem will need a great deal of cleansing before it will be in condition to be the capital of the world. The city may be undergoing changes during all the Millennial Age, <u>but it will take several</u> years to do some necessary preliminary work. (w1925 2/15 57)

The phrase "several years" helped to get Rutherford's followers through the false predictions for 1925. But since "several" usually means two or three or perhaps four it set them up for further disillusionment in 1928-1929.

When 1928 came and passed Rutherford gave it prophetic significance by making it the year when the seventh of the "seven last plagues" was poured out.

NINETEEN TWENTY FIVE (1925)

The Finished Mystery (1917) said:

> …there is evidence that the establishment of the Kingdom in Palestine will probably be in 1925, ten years later than we once calculated. (p.128)

> The French Revolution is Divinely provided as a picture of events now at hand, and we therefore expect three and a half years of proscription of the Truth, from the spring of 1918 to the fall of 1921. This will give the great company splendid opportunities for martyrdom and allow another three and a half years, to the spring of 1925, for the world to think the matter over, by which time, doubtless, they will be quite ready to listen to the voice that speaketh from Heaven. (p.177)

Millions Now Living

The resurrection of the "faithful men of old" (the Bible heroes listed in Hebrews 11) was to occur in 1925 when they would establish the earthly part of God's Kingdom in Palestine,

take worldwide control, and bring about worldwide paradise. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 128; Millions 1920 88, 97; w1922 6/16; 1923 4/1)

> A simple calculation of these jubilees brings us to this important fact: Seventy jubilees of fifty years each would be a total of 3500 years. That period of time beginning 1575 before A. D. 1 of necessity would end in the fall of the year 1925, at which time the type ends and the great antitype must begin. What, then, should we expect to take place? In the type there must be a full restoration; therefore the great antitype must mark the beginning of restoration of all things. The chief thing to be restored is the human race to life; and since other Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favor, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order of things on earth. (Millions 1920, 88)

A JW reading this today might point to the words "may expect" and claim the prediction was presented as a possibility. However, the reason that people "may expect" was: "1925, at which time the type ends and the great antitype must begin." They "may expect" because "the great antitype must begin". Subsequent pages state the prediction categorically:

> As we have heretofore stated, the great jubilee cycle is due to begin in 1925. At that time the earthly phase of the kingdom shall be recognized… Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the faithful prophets of old... (p.89)

> Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then, based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die. (p.97)

The Watch Tower in 1921 suggested that only a few months or years remained:

> Seeing, then, that we have come to the end of the gospel dispensation and that the time for the exaltation of the church is at hand, and that there are probably only a few remaining months or years at best, before the last one is glorified, we do well to take a view of the divine arrangement and diligently to put forth honest endeavors to comply with it… (w1921 5/1 133)

In *The Harp of God* (1921) Rutherford supported 1925 as follows:

> The proof cited herein shows that the old world (social and political order) ended and began to pass away in 1914, and that this will be completed in a few years and righteousness fully established. (pp 333, 340)

Normally "a few years" means two or three or occasionally four or five. Measured from the publication date of *The Harp of God* "a few years" agrees with the 1925 date predicted in *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*.

Comfort for the Jews

During the year 1925 it became obvious the predictions for that year were false.

However, whenever prophecy fails the WTS/JWs leaders distract their followers from the failure by introducing a new "harvest", a new "work", or a new "proclamation". Therefore with 1925 abandoned as the date for the ancient "worthies" to rule the world, the year 1925 then marked God's call to the Jews to accept Christ. This call or "proclamation" came via the book C*omfort for the Jews* (1925) and the new work was to distribute this book.

In *Comfort for the Jews* Rutherford argued that each of Israel's jubilees began with a trumpet blast, and similarly the good things of the millennium had to begin with a proclamation to inform all people of what to expect.

The "proclamation" was the distribution of the book. The *Comfort* book ignores the fact that the ancient "worthies" had not appeared and calls 1925 a "marked year" because the Jewish University in Jerusalem was dedicated that year. (pp 78-88)

Proclamation abandoned but 1925 "fixed"

The call to the Jews was in turn abandoned in 1931 when Rutherford removed the Jews from

Bible prophecy and claimed that the Bible prophecies of Israel's restoration applied to the "remnant" of the 144,000, including the JWs Organization, from 1919 onwards.

Nevertheless, according to *Vindication* I (1931) the year 1925 was still "fixed in the Scriptures":

> There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918 and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time. Later the faithful learned that these dates were definitely fixed in the Scriptures... (Vindication I, 1931, 338)

In what way was 1925 "definitely fixed"?

> The year 606 B.C. would correspond with 1925, when the "organized religions" were plainly seen to be in bondage to Satan, and a part of Satan's organization, and to have been for ever cast away from the Lord. (Vindication 1 1931, 21)

This interpretation of 1925 is similar to Russell's revised interpretation for 1878 as the year when God rejected Christendom. Then, in the 1930s, JWs abandoned the reinterpretation of 1925, and abandoned both 1878 and 1925 as prophetic dates although "definitely fixed in the Scriptures".

After the "proclamation" to the Jews had distracted cult-members for five years from the 1925 fiasco, the proclamation too was abandoned. It was replaced with the doctrine that Bible prophecies of Israel's restoration are fulfilled by the "remnant" and their WTS.

Then in 2012 the "remnant" too was abandoned or dismissed as God's "faithful and discreet slave class" and apparently as "God's prophet", making it unclear whether they still fulfil the Old Testament's restoration predictions. With doctrines and "truth" constantly changing the WTS itself is often "plainly seen to be in bondage to Satan ... forever cast away from the Lord."

NINETEEN TWENTY FOUR (1924)

Rutherford wrote:

> If we assume that the harvest of the wheat class, namely, the saints, began with the beginning of the second presence of our Lord in 1874, then would it be unreasonable to conclude that the harvest must continue for fifty symbolic days, or fifty years? If so, then we might expect the harvest to end fifty years after 1874, or with the year 1924. If this be true, what a wonderful incentive for the saints to be watchful, prayerful, active, and rejoicing in their privileges to have a part in the Lord's work in these concluding days of the harvest. That would mean that the selection of the royal family would be completed with the end of 1924. If this be true, then surely with confidence the saints now on earth can announce with the opening of this year, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand," because all the members of the royal line are about completed for the kingdom.
>
> ITS MEANING TO THE CHURCH
>
> Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874; that the harvest has been in progress during that time; that most of the saints have now been gathered. Therefore, can there be a reasonable doubt about the early completion of the church and its glorification in view of the fulfilment of prophecy? Do not all the physical facts about us indicate just exactly what we expected during the concluding hours of the church's earthy pilgrimage? (w1924 1/1 5)

Notice that measuring from 1874 the gathering of the "saints" or "royal family" (i.e. the 144,000) was "about completed" and "most have been gathered" and the "concluding hours" of their "earthly pilgrimage" had arrived!

Accompanying such arguments for the shortness of the time, Rutherford urged hard work at distributing WTS publications:

> Therefore let every member of the Lord's consecrated on earth keep in mind that 1924 is, and must be, a year of strenuous activity. (ibid p.7)

To promote false hope and on that basis urge "strenuous activity" is a policy that has remained constant even as all the prophecies foundered and doctrines changed.

NINETEEN TWENTY ONE (1921)

> It may be that these worldly systems will go down in the Fall of 1921. (Millions Now Living... 1920, 114)
>
> It has long been thought of the consecrated that this year would be an important year. (w1921 3/15 93)

NINETEEN TWENTY SIX (1926)
Van Amburgh, the secretary/treasurer of the WBTS, wrote:

> We should, therefore, expect shortly after 1925 to see the awakening of Abel, Jacob, Melchisedec… Let us suppose that you are living after the kingdom is established and the blessings have begun to flow out to the people in abundant measure. Of course it will take some time to get things in smoothly running order after the great stress between now and 1926. It may be ten years before you get your house all fixed up…
> (The Way to paradise 1924, 224, 228)

The "great stress" meant Armageddon. The cult-members of 1924 who hoped to get their "house all fixed up" after Armageddon are now dead. They trusted the WTS and sold its publications door-to-door in vain. They ignored Jesus who said, "Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray." (Matthew 24:11)

NIUE
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Niue (a Pacific island NE of New Zealand) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	13	404		
1975	11	361		
1980	10	323	58	56
1985	19	116	72	31
1990	21	95	70	29
1995	35	66	91	25
2000	28	75	75	28
2005	30	59	71	25
2010	31	45	77	18
2015	26	46	54	22
2018	22	74	52	31
	Ave.			
2019	20	100	53	38
2020	21	95	83	24
2021	20	100	50	40
2022	20	100	74	27
2023	19	105	78	26
2024	19	105	68	29
2025	19	105	47	43

NO BLOOD CARD
A card JWs carry with them which states that transfusions of blood or blood components are not to be administered them The card is dated and witnessed with signatures of two other JWs and is intended to prevent the administration of blood in an emergency.

NO TIME TO LOSE
"No time to lose" is one of many implied death-threats employed to make JWs zealous in preaching, working voluntarily for the Organization, and donating money, and to entice interested persons to join JWs. For example:

> Nevertheless, world events make it evident that the appointed time is near—dangerously near for many. There is no time to lose. So take lifesaving action, and seek out those who are heeding the global sign of the last days. These are easily identifiable, for they alone are obeying Jesus' command to preach the good news of the Kingdom worldwide. (w1993 3/1 7)

> All need to be concerned about learning and speaking the pure language, for only those doing so will survive Armageddon. There is no time to lose in heeding the counsel of Zephaniah 2:1-3. (w1991 1/15 29)

> Those who recall events from 1914 are becoming ever fewer. Thus, we need to be alert; there is no time to lose. (Matthew 24:42) All who want to survive the end of Satan's world must act now… (w1990 10/15 20)

> …there is no time to lose… God's justice demands that this wicked system will soon be destroyed. (w1989 3/1 29)

> Certainly now, when more than 57 years have passed by since 1919, there is no time to lose. (w1977 12/15 759)

> Since the time is short before God takes action against those ruining the earth, the time is also short in which to make these changes in your life. You have no time to lose. (g1975 12/22 12)

> …you have no time to lose. You must act quickly if you are to stand before Jehovah's executional forces with the work of true Christian identification. (w1974 3/15 496)

> The day for Jehovah to assert his sovereignty draws on apace. There is no time to lose. To escape annihilation with the enemies of Jehovah's sovereignty we must prove our loyalty to it… (w1960 7/1 392)

The time is short, much shorter than when this proclamation began, and there is no time to lose. Armageddon draws on apace. It is now almost forty years since Satan was cast out of heaven down to this earth. The climax of all ages is fast approaching. Jehovah's word and name are about to be completely vindicated. (w1956 3/1 474)

There is no time to lose. This is a most urgent message. Time is fast running out for Satan and his system of things… (w1954 8/1 478)

There is no time now to lose. The world is weighed in the balances and is found wanting. Her days are numbered. The final day and hour for Armageddon draws near. (w1951 9/15 29)

The world's end is upon us. There is no time to lose. Your life and the life of others is at stake. So "preach the word"! (w1950 12/1 494)

NORFOLK ISLAND

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Norfolk Island (an external territory of Australia 1000 km east of NSW) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1990	6	300	14	129
1995	16	120	24	80
2000	17	111	22	86
2005	19	96	18	101
2010	10	186	14	133
2015	6	222	19	70
2018	9	194	26	67
	Ave.			
2019	6	333	23	87
2020	6	333	11	182

NORTH MACEDONIA, REPUBLIC OF

Formerly, until February 2019, called Macedonia. It gained independence in 1991 as one of the countries that previously composed Yugoslavia.

Publishers and Memorial attendance in North Macedonia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	544	3,560	2,262	856
2000	1,024	1,953	2,740	730
2005	1,129	1,800	3,160	643
2010	1,363	1,491	3,460	587
2015	1,318	1,600	2,903	726
2017	1,320	1,570	2,831	732
2018	1,281	1,630	2,870	728
	Av.			
2019	1,270	1,640	2,752	757
2020	1,251	1,665	3,044	684
2021	1,254	1,661	3,888	536
2022	1,243	1,478	2,859	643
2023	1,216	1,505	2,540	720
2024	1,242	1,473	2,529	724
2025	1,258	1,452	2,310	790

NORWAY

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	5,555	696		
1975	7,445	538		
1980	6,845	597	12,920	316
1985	7,938	523	14,590	285
1990	9,671	439	16,294	261
1995	10,181	428	16,409	272
2000	9,940	452	16,303	276
2005	9,953	464	16,283	284
2010	10,883	449	17,445	280
2015	11,598	447	17,889	290
2018	11,745	452	17,235	308
	Ave.			
2019	11,727	456	17,536	305
2020	11,684	460	17,471	308
2021	11,848	456	19,196	281
2022	11,794	461	17,681	307
2023	11,869	464	17,728	310
2024	11,997	464	17,986	309
2025	12,020	466	17,583	319

NOT AT HOME RECORD

A printed slip for recording addresses where no one answered the door.

NOT AT HOMES

Doors where no one answers when JWs visit during their door to door work. These "not at homes" are written down and will be called on, repeatedly if necessary, before the territory is reworked.

NOTE TAKING

Taking notes at JWs meetings was common in the1950s but gradually declined. Occasionally it again gets recommended. (w1985 5/1 19)

NOW NEAR

Another phrase used in WTS publications to remind JWs of the imminence of Armageddon and stimulate JWs to zeal and obedience. The

98 occurrences of "now near" listed on the *Watchtower Library CD* (2007) refer mainly to Armageddon and/or the post Armageddon global paradise.

NOYES, BURT (1963-)

A JW who left the sect after 35 years and put his story on the Worldwide Web: www,towerwatch.com/Testimonies/burt_noyes.htm

Noyes became an elder in 1994 by which time he was married and had four children. Events that contributed to his exit from JWs included:

- The end of the "system of things" in 1975.
- A congregation that had "entrenched incest, rape, adultery and drunkenness" and the presiding overseer covered it up.
- Noyes had rejected college because "To go to college would have been viewed as a lack of faith that we were in the last days" and resented that he missed out.
- The WTS changed two "linchpin teachings", the "generation" of Matthew 24:34, and the "judgment" of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46. "How Jehovah could use his spirit to direct his organization to preach a falsehood was beyond me."
- The WTS covered up its 1934 appeal to Hitler.
- Noyes met a "born-again woman" with a much used Bible which contrasted with the Kingdom Hall where "few people had bothered to prepare for the study."
- He felt like a hypocrite when a householder accepted a WTS tract from him and offered a tract in return but "I was obligated to not accept…"
- "In the field service, we regularly encouraged the householders to compare their religion to the Bible [but] the WTS forbids us from doing research on its background. Our study was restricted to what the WTS published."
- He served on a judicial committee but found no biblical support for it and "the clandestine nature of these hearings released the elders from any accountability".
- He uncovered "many half truths and outright lies" in the WTS's book *Life—How did it get here? By Evolution or Creation?*
- The WTS's alleged true prophecy (in 1942) that the League of Nations would rise again was actually common knowledge: "The United Nations was actually proposed Jan. 1, 1942, when FDR gave a nationally broadcast speech entitled 'Declaration of United nations'."

Noyes realized the religion of the WTS is a "sham", a "usurper" of Christ's authority.

NUCLEAR WAR

Russell regarded smokeless powder, which made bullets go twice as far, as evidence for the preparation for Armageddon. (Studies IV 1897, 139-140) After 1945 JWs leaders found nuclear weapons useful for the same reason — frequent mention promoted anxiety and anticipation and stimulated greater door to door activity.

In the 1950s JWs believed that nuclear war between Communist and Capitalist nations would be a prelude to the greater destruction of Armageddon. (Your Will 1958, 257)

Around 1970 when nuclear weapons became sufficient to destroy every city on earth the JWs viewpoint became that nuclear weapons will not be used. The analogy of Moses capturing intact Canaanite cities suggested to JWs that 20th century cities would remain largely intact during Armageddon. Nevertheless the JWs leaders preferred to quote extreme claims that nuclear weapons could end life on Earth fifty times over rather than more modest estimates that a full-scale nuclear war would kill half a billion people.

Around 1980 the new JWs view became that there would be no nuclear holocaust but limited nuclear wars could occur. (g1983 12/22 7) Rather than repeating the 50-times overkill estimate the Governing Body cited the "possibility" of destruction of humanity. (w1984 5/1 4)

Through the 1980s reminders of the threat of nuclear war continued. For example: g1982 1/8 26; g1982 9/27 3-11; g1982 11/15 26; g1983 12/22; w19831/8 6; w1983 7/15 5.

JWs regard Christian opposition to nuclear war as "reprehensible" for the reason that such opposition is inconsistent with Christian support of conventional war "down through the centuries." (g1984 9/22 28)

However, making present-day individuals responsible for events "down through the centuries" is a dubious principle. It would make every JW responsible for 380 Russellites joining the German Army in 1915, and for the Millennial riots in Africa in 1915, and for the numerous false prophecies of previous JWs leaders. Note also that JWs are descendants of past generations as surely as Christians are and would be as much to blame for the past as Christians are — if the principle is valid.

NWT
Abbreviation for *The New World Translation*.

NYIRENDA, TOMO
A native of Rhodesia influenced in his theology by preachers of Kamwana's Watchtower Movement. He called himself Son of God and founded the Mwana Lesa movement.

He declared that Americans would expel the Europeans from Africa and divide all the wealth among Africans, and taxation would end, and food would drop from heaven. He taught that baptism prevents death, makes old people young, and exposes witches because they could not be completely immersed in water.

In 1925-1926 the cult killed about 200 witches mostly by confinement in cages and starvation. Nyirenda was hanged in 1926. (Roberts 1976; Rotberg 1965; Yearbook of JWs 1972, 236)

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