DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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PAGAN ORIGINS
JWs reject the cross as a symbol because of its supposed Pagan associations, and because Jesus they claim was crucified on a stake. (See: *CROSS*)

In 1926 Rutherford banned Christmas celebrations at his headquarters on grounds of the supposed Pagan origin of Christmas. Clayton J. Woodworth, editor of *The Golden Age*, extended the principle of rejecting customs associated with Paganism to the names of the months and days of the calendar. *Yearbook* 1935 introduced a calendar with new names for the months based on biblical ideas. (See: *CALENDAR*)

Although JWs have rejected a number of popular customs because of supposed connections to false religion they have done this selectively. Rutherford rejected the new calendar and JWs never adopted it. Some national holidays have religious origins but JWs take those days off from work like other employees and accept their wages for those days.

To reject all practices associated with ancient religion would be extremely disruptive. Anderson (1981) in *Riches of the Earth* says that many precious and semi-precious stones including quartz and crystals had religious, magical, pagan and superstitious associations. 5000 years ago saw the beginning of the use of gems for medicine, worship and fortune telling. In Medieval times crosses and crucifixes were often decorated with jewels. Consider also writing. The oldest writing had religious uses including keeping copies of hymns, prayers and sacred books.

However, despite Pagan connections, jewels were used in the religion of Israel (Exodus 28:15ff) and to describe the glory of New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9-21), and writing was used to record the history and religion of Israel and early Christianity.

Early Christians could buy and eat meat sold in public markets although it may have been sacrificed to idols in Pagan temples. (I Corinthians 8)

Nevertheless arguments about Pagan or religious origins sometimes disrupted congregations when individual JWs sought to extend their rejection of Christmas, birthdays and crosses to other areas:

> What should be a Christian's attitude toward shapes and designs that have at some time or place been connected with false religion? … So the Christian needs to be primarily concerned about what? Not what a certain symbol or design possibly meant thousands of years ago or how it might be thought of on the other side of the world, but what it means now to most people where he lives... With so many different designs having been used in false worship, if a person went to the trouble and took the time he might find an undesirable connection with almost every design he sees around him. But why do that? Would it not be needlessly upsetting? And is that the best use of one's time and attention?" (g1976 12/22 12-15)

Ancient former meanings behind holidays and customs are of course now of no consequence to people today who have different reasons for observing them and might not even know the reasons the ancient people had.

PAKISTAN
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Pakistan and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	159	----------		
1975	184	359,000		
1980	188	425,500	545	146,800
1985	241	398,300	719	133,500
1990	281	377,200	1,061	99,900
1995	368	350,500	1,602	80,500
2000	554	245,487	2,016	67,460
2005	1,032	157,400	2,897	56,100
2010	967	183,300	4,460	39,700
2015	1,021	185,000	4,035	46,800
2018	1,140	172,900	3,622	54,400
	Ave.			
2019	1,031	210,100	4,259	50,900
2020	997	221,600	3,825	57,700
2021	1,064	211,700	4,357	51,700
2022	1,095	209,600	3,615	63,482
2023	1,125	207,800	4,378	53,400
2024	1,166	207,100	4,389	55,000
2025	1,221	209,000	4,811	53,000

PALAU
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Palau (an island country in the western Pacific also called Belau) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	15	819		
1975	27	469		
1980	40	325	161	81
1985	58	224	193	67
1990	62	250	238	65
1995	60	285	257	67
2000	86	219	349	54
2005	96	210	405	50
2010	100	205	307	67
2015	89	237	233	91
2017	85	248	231	91
	Ave.			
2019	77	234	239	75
2020	78	231	209	86
2021	73	247	241	75
2022	67	269	164	110
2024	72	250	205	88
2024	70	257	182	99
2025	70	257	194	93

PALEGO, ANGELO (1935-2021)
Angelo Palego is a JW in Italy who claims he made 11 trips, spanning 35 years, to Mount Ararat and in 1989 discovered Noah's Ark on the Western Plateau at 4300 metres. Archaeologists are not convinced.

Palego authored the 27-page booklet *The Way I Found Noah's Ark* (1999). Critics claim Palego's photos do not accurately portray conditions on Mount Ararat and pictures of archaeological objects were digitally inserted.

He is buried at a cemetery on Mount Ararat.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Palestinian Territory and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2015	74	63,200	167	28,000
2018	68	70,300	147	32,517
	Ave.			
2019	60	83,000	130	38,300
2020	57	89,491	173	29,486
2021	59	88,525	186	28,100
2022	61	91,800	131	42,700
2023	76	72,200	213	25,775
2024	78	72,000	201	27,925
2025	80	71,800	204	28,162

PALO, MARK H.
American ex JW born into the sect whose story is on the Internet. His father served at Bethel during the Rutherford era, his mother was a special pioneer, an aunt was a JW missionary in Chile, and his uncle worked on Kingdom Farm in New York.

He claims:

> At a very young age I was raped repeatedly by members of the Bethel family and then again by a young Black man who later became an elder in Queens, NYC. I never spoke a word since I was terrorized into silence.

Palo eventually disassociated himself, attended the Baptist church, and went to college.

PAMPHLETS
Tabernacle Teachings (1891) and *Food For Thinking Christians* (1891) were called "pamphlets" but were small books.

Kingdom News pamphlets are 4-page publications of which 37 have been issued since World War I.

Other pamphlets include:
- *How Has Christendom Failed All Mankind?* (1958)
- *A Visit To Watchtower Farms*
- *Blood Transfusions—Why Not for Jehovah's Witnesses?*

Pamphlets differ from "leaflets" in usually being larger and having multiple pages (multiples of four) whereas leaflets are usually single pages printed on both sides.

PANAMA
Peak publishers and Memorial attendance in Panama and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,905	748		
1975	2,880	579		
1980	3,165	578	12,440	147
1985	4,355	501	15,532	141
1990	6,454	359	21,366	108
1995	8,214	320	28,558	92
2000	9,804	294	30,700	94
2005	11,704	276	36,500	88
2010	13,225	265	44,700	78
2015	16,572	221	54,200	68
2018	17,780	232	53,238	77
	Ave.			
2019	17,662	240	54,900	77
2020	17,911	241	48,400	89
2021	18,433	238	63,600	69
2022	12,291	`243	57,464	77
2023	18,288	247	53,400	86
2024	18,663	218	53,600	76
2025	19,044	240	54,400	84

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Papua New Guinea and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	554	1,084		
1975	697	1,061		
1980	1,501	1,873	5,520	509
1985	1,704	1,765	7,276	413
1990	2,471	1,218	11,880	253
1995	3,345	1,260	15,682	269
2000	3,509	1,346	16,347	289
2005	3,506	1,692	19,333	307
2010	4,105	1,690	25,875	268
2015	4,228	1,823	34,700	222
2018	5,141	1,637	39,086	215
	Ave.			
2019	4,797	1,829	43,300	203
2020	5,111	1,751	38,787	231
2021	5,105	1,786	34,000	268
2022	4,677	1,987	35,400	262
2023	4,735	1,999	41,600	227
2024	4,921	2,394	42,600	277
2025	5,196	2,071	40,043	269

PARADISE
The 1st century rabbinical schools of Shammai and Hillel believed in a paradise to where the souls of the righteous went at death until the resurrection. This paradise may have been called "Abraham's bosom". (Luke 16:22) Jesus used the same words the rabbis used — hades, soul, paradise and resurrection — and probably meant what the rabbis meant since he did not define alternative meanings.

To JWs "paradise" refers to:

1. The Garden of Eden;
2. The realm in Heaven where dwell God, Christ, angels and the 144,000;
3. The New World after Armageddon where all the people are JWs;
4. "God's Organization" on Earth along with its supposed "accurate knowledge of the Bible", biblical ethics, and leadership of the "faithful slave", are together referred to as "our [or the] spiritual paradise".

Paradise "Today"

Jesus told the convict on the cross beside him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43) This suggests an immediate transfer to "paradise" or heaven after death. *The New World Translation* has the comma after "today" instead of after "you" because JWs teach that the resurrection to heaven started not in the 1st century but in 1918.

There is no Bible basis for a resurrection in 1918, but JWs seem to be correct regarding the comma. The footnote in the *Companion Bible* says:

> Today. Connect this with "I say", to emphasize the solemnity of the occasion; not with "shalt thou be". See the Hebraism in note on Deut. 4:26.

The *Companion Bible* comment for Deuteronomy 4:26, lists 42 examples of "this day" in Deuteronomy and says:

> This day. A solemn idiom, used for great emphasis… It is this Old Testament idiom in Luke 23:43.

Physical paradise

The physical post-Armageddon global paradise was foretold to start in 1915, 1925, the 1940s, 1975, the generation of 1914, and the twentieth century and failed to show up every time.

Instead JWs got increasing numbers of glossy, brightly colored pictures in their publications of idyllic garden picnics, riverside homes, and children cuddling lions. They show such pictures to people at the doors and ask, "Would you like to live in a place like this?" And, forgetting how often their leaders have been wrong, they might add, "It's very near now" or similar words.

Absent in such pictures are less-pretty things such as power stations for electricity, mines to get copper for wiring and iron for roofs, factories to make glass or manufacture shoes, and abattoirs and tanneries to skin dead animals and tan leather for those shoes.

Information on how everything that their paradise requires to be functional will be produced, would be helpful.

(See also: *SPIRITUAL PARADISE*)

PARAGUAY
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Paraguay and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	803	2,963		
1975	1,374	1,881		
1980	1,632	1,763	2,916	987
1985	2,713	1,508	4,695	871
1990	3,501	1,070	7,346	510
1995	5,121	943	12,267	394
2000	7,280	755	14,777	372
2005	7,943	786	19,622	318
2010	8,679	806	19,981	350
2015	10,023	690	24,298	285
2018	10,750	645	22,796	304
	Ave.			
2019	10,738	656	25,805	273

2020	10,958	653	25,792	277
2021	11,180	646	31,600	229
2022	10,996	664	25,946	282
2023	10,932	676	22,816	324
2024	11,285	678	24,613	311
2025	11,599	553	23,502	273

PAROUSIA

A Greek word which occurs 24 times in the Greek New Testament and means "presence" or "arrival".

In New Testament times "parousia" was used for the arrival of an official, governor or head of a household.

In the King James Bible "parousia" is mistranslated "coming" 22 times including some verses that forecast Christ's "parousia". The *Concordant Literal New Testament* says, "Why use *coming* when BESIDE-BEING clearly denotes *presence*?" (1966 p.625)

Nelson H. Barbour predicted the "coming" and "return" of Jesus in 1873, 1874 and again 1875. After Jesus failed to show up a member of the cult discovered that "parousia" can mean "presence". Barbour therefore claimed he was correct regarding Jesus' coming in 1874 but no one saw Jesus because he came invisibly!

Thus began the doctrine of Christ's "invisible second presence". In 1930 Rutherford transferred Christ's invisible presence to 1914.

However, Barbour and Russell had introduced a serious confusion. Most Scriptures about Christ's future coming do not use the word "parousia" but "erkomai". (Matthew 24:30, 42, 44, 46, 48) "Erkomai" really does mean "coming".

The focus on "parousia" as "presence" when it was the "erkomai" or "coming" that failed introduced confusion between "parousia" and "erkomai" that continued in the publications throughout the 20th century.

Since 1930 JWs have believed that Christ's "presence" (parousia) started in 1914. Usually they referred to this as Christ's "coming" because they didn't know about the other Greek word — "erkomai". Furthermore, it seemed self-evident that someone's "coming" precedes his presence. Rutherford, for example, wrote:

> The true followers of Christ Jesus are therefore not looking for the coming of the Lord and the end of the world, because such is an accomplished fact. The world has ended and Christ Jesus has come. (Choosing Riches Or Ruin 1936, 6)

Since the 1940s WTS publications have occasionally referred to Christ "coming" at Armageddon which is not 1914 but in the future. However, this means that Christ "comes" long after the start of his 1914 "presence" whereas common sense suggests that someone "comes" before he is present.

(See: *RETURN OF CHRIST*)

PAROUSIA (PRESENCE) CHANGED

In 1929 Christ's second presence was still taught as beginning in 1874:

> The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D. This proof is specifically set out in the booklet entitled *Our Lord's Return.* (Prophecy 1929, 65)

When was 1874 changed to 1914?

Changed in 1943 or 1930?

A WTS book authored by Frederick Franz in 1973 implied the change was made in 1943:

> In the year 1943 the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society published the book "The Truth Shall Make You Free." In its chapter 11, entitled "The Count of Time," it did away with the year 1874 C.E. as the date of return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the beginning of his invisible presence or parousia.
> (God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached 1973, pp 209-210)

Actually, Christ had his presence transferred from 1874 to 1914 in 1930:

> In Matthew 24, Jesus gives His disciples some proofs that He would be present ... These tangible evidences will be the beginning of the work of destroying the present evil conditions and systems. This work of destruction began in 1914 ...
> If it is true that Jesus has been present since the year 1914, then it must be admitted that nobody has seen Him with his natural eyes. (g1930 4/30 503)

Frederick Franz was Rutherford's proof-reader since 1927:

Q. Were you proofreading all that time?
A. Yes sir - no, not all that time. Since 1927.
Q. You told us you checked every article that was prepared?
A. Yes.
(Court Transcript, Olin R. Moyle vs. Fred W. Franz, Nathan H. Knorr, et al. New York Supreme Court 1940, p.845)

As proof-reader Franz would have known the revision occurred in 1930/1934 and not in 1943. However, 1943 (in the book *The Truth*

Shall Make You Free) is when the WTS published a revised chronology. In 1930 Christ's presence had been brought forward to 1914 without chronological calculations — the revised chronology came in 1943. Perhaps this is what Franz had in mind.

In 1926?

Was the change to 1914 made in 1926?:

> Christ, at his first advent, was anointed to be King. He took his power and began his operations as God's anointed during his second advent, in 1914. (w1926 9/15 277)

This statement is a little ambiguous but still allows for the parousia to have started in 1874. It is not the "second advent" that began in 1914, but Christ operating as king is what began in 1914.

This was clarified in 1927:

> [6]We understand that the presence of the Lord began to be made manifest about 1874, that he took his great power and began his reign in 1914, and that he came to his temple in 1918...
> [9] From the time shortly following 1874 forward the truly consecrated, begotten and anointed ones, could discern the presence of the Lord.
> [10]...The end of the world came in 1914. Jesus was then present and had been since 1874. (w1927 6/1 163)

1874/1875 confirmed again in 1930

> [17] With the beginning of the second presence of the Lord, approximately A. D. 1875, there was a change in the work. The restitution of the truth there began and progressed. The work which was begun at Pentecost was again taken up, and continued after the beginning of the Lord's second presence, looking to the bringing of the church to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. (w1930 9/1 261-262)

> [8]The second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ dates from about A. D. 1875, when he began to 'prepare the way before the Lord'. (w1930 10/15 308)

1878

In 1931 the parousia was transferred to 1878 (which was originally Russell's date for Christ becoming king in God's kingdom):

> The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ is invisible and began approximately in the year eighteen hundred and seventy eight (A.D.). (w1931 9/15 283-284)

In 1933, the parousia was again in 1874:

> The second and invisible presence of Christ dates from about eighteen hundred and seventy-four. (w1933 6/1 174)

1874-change to 1914 confirmed in 1934

In 1934 *The Golden Age* repeated its 1930 statement regarding Christ's presence since 1914:

> Prior to 1914 and years thereafter we thought that our Lord's return dated from 1874; and we took it for granted that the *parousia* or presence of our Lord dated from that time. An examination of the scriptures containing the word *parousia* shows that the presence of the Lord could not date prior to 1914. (g1934 3/14 380)

What was going on?

The date for changing Christ's presence from 1874 to 1914 looks like a disagreement between *The Golden Age* which was edited by Clayton J. Woodworth and *The Watchtower* written mainly by Rutherford.

Since Woodworth was also a director in the WTS's three main corporations it looks like a disgreement on doctrine was occurring between the two top leaders of JWs.

In 1926 Rutherford implied ambiguously or unintentionally that Christ's presence began in 1914, but in 1927 he clearly retained 1874. Woodworth opted for 1914 in 1930; Rutherford rejected this and until 1933 affirmed 1874/1875/1878. Then in 1934 the two fellows agreed on 1914

Why Franz got the date for the revision wrong in 1973 remains mysterious.

(See also: *PRESENCE*)

PARTAKER

A "partaker" is a JW who professes to be one of the "anointed remnant" of the 144,000 and affirms this by sipping the wine and chewing a piece of unleavened bread at the annual Memorial service.

PASTOR

JWs employ the term "pastor" with regard to C.T. Russell or when discussing a pastor of another, but otherwise avoid the word.

The JWs equivalent of a pastor is the presiding overseer but he is referred as "elder".

PASTOR RUSSELL (1852-1916)
The president of the WBTS from its incorporation in 1884 and founder of the cult commonly called Millennial Dawn and "Russellites" which morphed into Jehovah's Witnesses.


C.T. Russell aged 27
when he was elected Pastor

Russell associated with Second Adventists for ten years, was apparently baptized by them in 1874, jointly edited an Adventist magazine for several years, and then led a breakaway group which in the late 1870s elected him as their pastor.

"Pastor" Russell used the Bible and the length of passages in the Great Pyramid of Egypt to predict the future. All his predictions failed and he died in 1916. His grave in a Pittsburgh cemetery is marked by a stone pyramid.

JWs still refer to Russell as "Pastor" but otherwise don't apply the title to any other member, regarding it as belonging to "apostate Christendom".

(See: *RUSSELL, CHARLES TAZE*)

PASTORAL BIBLE INSTITUTE
An organization founded in 1918 by the Associated Bible Students led by former WBTS directors who withdrew their support and were dismissed by Rutherford.

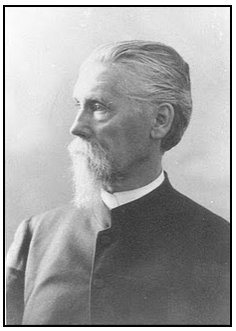
The first Bible Student Convention held independently of the WBTS took place on July 26-29, 1918, in Asbury Park, New Jersey. In November 300 people attended the second convention on Rhode Island and formed the Pastoral Bible Institute to resume Pastor Russell's work.

In December 1918 they published the first issue of their magazine *The Herald of Christ's Kingdom* which followed Russell's Will & Testament in having an editorial committee of five

The Herald of 1921 April 15 argued that the end of the Gentile Times would be 1933 this being 2520 years from Jerusalem's destruction in 587 BCE. Therefore the prophecies previously applied to 1914 would, they believed, be fulfilled around 1933.

The Pastoral Bible Institute is now less active but still publishes *The Herald* and sells reprints of Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures*.

PATON, JOHN H. (1843-1922)
John H. Paton was one of six or seven people who were significant in helping Charles T. Russell start the Watchtower movement. He is listed in the first edition of *Zion's Watch Tower* as a literary contributor and in some early editions wrote more than Russell.



In 1872 Paton left the Baptist Church and formed an independent church with fifteen members modelled on the Advent Christian Church. They built a small chapel where Paton was the pastor.

Around 1873 Paton teamed up with Nelson H. Barbour whose group also was connected to the Advent Christian Church and at the time preached that Jesus would come in 1873.

The prediction failed and Barbour founded the monthly magazine *The Midnight Cry* to which Paton became assistant editor. They predicted Christ's coming for 1874 and achieved a circulation of 15,000. Jesus again failed to arrive whereupon cult tried 1875. This too failed after which Barbour and Paton clamed Jesus had returned in 1874 but invisibly. *The Midnight Cry* circulation dropped to a few hundred.

At this stage Charles T. Russell entered the scene. Russell too had Advent Christian Church connections having been converted in 1869 by Advent Christian Church pastor Jonas Wendel, and attended meetings of George Storrs. By 1876 Russell led a Bible group of perhaps 20 people and believed in an invisible return of Jesus. Because Paton and Barbour had a similar idea Russell contacted them.

Barbour and Russell jointly authored the book *Three Worlds* (1877) wherein they implied that Christians would rise to heaven in 1878. The prediction failed and produced tensions and disagreements that led to Barbour and Russell

separating. Paton stayed with the Russell faction.

Russell now taught that the saints would ascend to heaven in 1881. As late as January 1881 *Zion's Watch Tower* taught: "we would expect our change by or before the fall of 1881…" (wr pp 180-181)

Such latest false prophecy may be the reason Paton left the cult. He wanted to place the "translation of the living church" nearer to 1914 rather than in 1881, writing in his 333-page book, *Day Dawn* (1880):

> The exact time when the resurrection of the dead, or the translation of the living church is due, we do not pretend to know, but think we have good reason for believing that they will have taken place before 'The time of the end' has expired, or before 1914. (p.73)

Day Dawn was promoted in *Zion's Watch Tower* and its 4000 copies sold mainly to Watch *Tower* subscribers. (wr1880 June, p.111)

Paton also taught universal salvation with which Russell disagreed and believed in the Trinity which Russell in 1880 began to oppose. In 1881 Paton and Russell separated. Some of the literary contributors to *Zion's Watch Tower* (such as W.I. Mann, B.W. Keith, and L.A. Allen) left Russell and joined Paton and contributed to Paton's magazine *The World's Hope*.

Paton formed the *Larger Hope Association* in 1903, himself as president.

In *The World's Hope (Supplement)* 1890, February 1, Paton wrote:

> From the year 1875 to 1879 my time was given to proclaiming in several states the principles of Bible truth as later developed in *Day Dawn*. In the Autumn of 1879, Bro. A. D. Jones, then of Pittsburgh, urged me to write the substance of my lectures and have them published in a book form.
>
> He said, "we need such a book, to give the people who hear these lectures the evidence in permanent form, as well as to reach many who have not the opportunity of hearing; and I am convinced that you are the one to write it. Have you not thought of writing such a book?"
>
> I confessed that I had thought of it, having realized the need of it in my work, and having often been moved in spirit to write these things, but had never ventured even to speak of it, because, for certain reasons, it seemed impracticable.
> "Are the reasons of a financial nature?" he asked.
> I admitted that such was the case; that being dependent on the fruit of my labor for the support of myself and family, I had no means to invest in publishing.
> "Well," he said, "I am willing to publish such a book, paying all the expense, if you will write it."
>
> It seemed to be of the Lord, and after further deliberation, I decided to make the effort. I left off traveling, except to fill my regular Sunday appointments, and devoted myself five days in each week to writing for the book, and in about seven weeks, *Day Dawn* was ready for the press. Then followed the care of proof-reading, while it was being printed.
>
> The book was completed and ready for circulation about the month of May, 1880. This was the first edition, of which 4,000 copies were printed. It was arranged that I should have all the books I could sell, and that we should give them to the Lord's poor–those unable to pay. I disposed of five hundred copies, but always found it easer to give, than to sell. The book was freely advertised in *Zion's Watch Tower*, for which I was then a constant writer, but for some reason, my Post Office address was not given, so that orders for the book did not come to me as a result of that advertising.
>
> The first edition was nearly all disposed of in less than two years. My publisher came to Almont in August 1881, and said that we would soon need another edition, and offered to publish it on the same terms as before. To this I consented, as I was still unable to publish it myself. He suggested that I should revise the book, making such changes as seemed best to myself. Since sending out the first edition, by a careful examination of the Word, my mind had undergone a change as to the nature of Christ's sacrifice, and the Atonement. I did not deny the Ransom, as some have positively affirmed, but only denied the correctness of their, and my own former theory of the matter. I now saw that the idea of Substitution, or that Christ died instead of mankind, was unscriptural and untrue, as we all die. The unity of Christ, as the Second Man, with the whole race, I saw to be the Apostolic idea, so that all died and rose in him. So this fundamental and vital union with Christ, as the basis of a practical and experimental at-one-ment with, or reconciliation to God, took the place of substitution in *Day Dawn*, when revised.
>
> Out of this Scriptural idea that Christ is the "head of every man," and that all were reconciled to God in him, grew the

idea that every man would, indeed must, in due time, be personally and practically reconciled to God through him. These two ideas, related to each other as cause and effect, and clearly sustained by many scriptures, constitute the chief, if not the only, difference between the first and second editions of *Day Dawn*. Those who understand the position taken, can see that so far from ignoring or belittling Christ as the Redeemer of men, it emphasizes his work as the Life-Giver, so that, "as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

About the time of the revision of *Day Dawn*, my articles, on account of the change above noted, were excluded from the columns of Z.W.T., its Editor regarding the doctrine as dangerous and "damnable heresy," and those who accepted the change as unpardonable sinners, and therefore doomed to annihilation at death. I personally endeavored to disabuse the brother's mind of such a gross misconception of the idea; but it seemed to no avail.

About the same time, for some other reason, my publisher had also been shut out from the pages of Z.W.T., and the publication of *Zion's Day Star* had commenced. Its Editor requested me to write for his paper. This I did for a few issues, but to my great surprise, an article on the "atonement," was rejected and returned…

Soon my publisher sent me word that he wanted to see me in reference to the republication of *Day Dawn*, and suggested that we meet at Dansville, N.Y. As its matter of republication had been arranged at the time of his visit to Almont, before the re-writing of the book, which was now done, I thought I knew what this proposed visit meant. We met at Dansville in the early winter, in the presence of two others, and after canvassing the situation for about twenty-four hours, I was informed that he could not conscientiously publish the revised edition.

Paton wrote his biography in 1915 but makes no mention therein of his involvement with Barbour or Russell. He left no organization to carry on his ministry but lived long enough to see Russellism undergo many of the doctrinal changes, power struggles and additional prophetic failures that transformed it into JWs.

PATTERN OF HEALTHFUL WORDS
A phrase from the *New World Translation* (II Timothy 1:13) employed by JWs as a description of their doctrines.

PATTERSON
Patterson 60 miles (90 km) NE of Brooklyn is the location of the Watchtower Education Centre and Missionary Training School. WTS land purchases at Patterson began in 1984 and eventually totalled 750 acres used mainly for farming but with 50 acres occupied by 27 buildings constructed from 1990 to 1996.

PAUL JOHNSON MOVEMENT
See: *LAYMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY MOVEMENT*

PAVEMENT WITNESSING
An advertising method which JWs commenced in February 1939, which consisted of them wearing sandwich posters while offering booklets in busy thoroughfares. (Yearbook 1940, 79)

PAY ATTENTION TO YOURSELVES AND TO ALL THE FLOCK (1977; 1979; 1981; 1991)
This book, the title of which is quoted from Acts 20:28, was provided to elders/overseers who attend a WTS refresher course called "Kingdom Ministry School". (Yearbook 1978, 22)

The intention behind the book and the course is to ensure that the elders are always seen to be "cooperating together and striving to maintain unity" (pp 65-66) and "basing all their decisions on God's Word". (p.67)

Pay Attention is also referred to as the "Elders Manual". It is not for public distribution and even most JWs are unaware of its existence. Beneath the title it says:

> A copy of his textbook is issued to each appointed elder, and he may retain it as long as he continues to serve as an elder in any congregation. At such time as he should cease to serve in that capacity, his copy of the book must be handed over to the Congregation Service Committee, since this publication is congregation property. No copies are to be made of any part of this publication.

Businessman Kent Steinhaug, a former JW in Norway, made the book available on the Internet in the 1990s but in 1996 the WTS forced him to remove it from his website.

Chapters

The 1991 edition has the following chapters:

- The Purpose of the Textbook

- Imitate Jehovah, the Shepherd and Overseer of Our Souls
- Loving Overseers Working With the Congregation
- Hew Overseers Teach
- Teaching at Congregation Meetings
- Be Whole-Souled in the Evangelizing Work
- Help Your Brothers to Reach All by Evangelizing
- How the Elders Work Together as a Body
- Our Loving Heavenly Overseer Provides Counsel and Discipline for All
- Overseers 'Ruling for Justice Itself'
- Sharing on a Judicial Committee
- Handling Cases of Wrongdoing With Wisdom and Mercy
- Jehovah's People Theocratically Organized for His Name
- Under "the Law of the Christ"

Uncleanness and sex

Much of *Pay Attention…* deals with regulating the behaviour of the congregation. The chapter on "Overseers Ruling for Justice Itself" outlines the standards that overseers are to enforce and how to do it.

Sexual misconduct, for example, comes in three distinct categories. Elders learn to distinguish sexual misadventures that require a "judicial hearing" from those that don't:

1. Uncleanness: This is "an intentional touching of sexual parts or momentary caressing of breasts [and] can be handled at the discretion of an elder or two; it does not require a judicial hearing." (pp 92-93)

2. Loose Conduct: This is more serious and refers to "a shocking, flagrant disregard for Jehovah's moral standards." The focus is still on breasts but includes the "willful practice of heavy petting or the **fondling** of breasts." Here judicial action is definitely required! (p.93)

3. Pornea: *Porneia* is more serious still because it involves manipulation: "It is not a casual touching of the sex organs between persons but involves the manipulation of genitals". It refers to all forms of sexual intercourse including: "oral and anal sex or mutual masturbation between persons not married to each other, homosexuality, lesbianism, fornication, adultery, incest, and bestiality." (p.93)

"Copulation" and "sexual climax" are not necessary to constitute *porneia*. However solitary masturbation even with a sexual climax is excluded; so is being the victim of rape or of child-abuse.

Pornea when discovered leads to a judicial hearing followed by either disfellowshipping or restrictions and monitoring.

Discipline

About 30% of *Pay Attention* deals with procedures for forming judicial committees and holding judicial hearings to investigate offenses.

JWs who are not elders are not permitted any discussion about an offense with accused or disfellowshipped individuals and can in their turn be disfellowshipped for non compliance. This confines information about alleged offenses to the individual punished whom other JWs have to ostracize without evidence that the accusations are true. Judgment is not public like in today's courts where observers can watch, or like ancient Israel where legal procedures were public including at city gates.

Individual JWs are required to report to the elders if they have "definite knowledge of wrongdoing that could contaminate the congregation". (p.97) JWs who work with confidential files in hospitals or counseling organizations and uncover dirt on another JW have to break confidence and report it. These policies guarantee that any "wrongdoing" is uncovered and investigated by elders.

Judicial committees punish sins "that have brought the congregation into public disrepute or those of a more private nature" and sins that constitute a "clear threat of contaminating the congregation". p.103)

The accused is not permitted any written or recorded copy of the judicial proceedings. (p.110) If a written "invitation" to the hearing is necessary the elders state the time and place of the hearing but not what the accusation is. (p.110) Nor may the accused bring outside observers or recording equipment. (p.110) Verdicts are spoken but official forms (S-77 and S-79) are used for reporting disfellowshipping details to headquarters. (pp 121-122) The accused therefore has nothing with which to verify anything.

Judicial committees consult eyewitnesses, oral or written confessions, witnesses to separate but similar incidents, and also consider "strong circumstantial evidence" (p.111)

The Judicial Committee's decision is announced to the congregation if a successful appeal is not registered within seven days at which point disfellowshipping takes effect upon announcement. (p.122)

Disfellowshipping (Excommunication)

Disfellowshipping — or self disassociation as it's now called — is inflicted for:

- Immorality ("Porneia")
- Apostasy
- Accepting a blood transfusion
- Causing divisions
- Practice of spiritism
- Idolatry
- Drunkenness
- Stealing, thievery, fraud
- Malicious lying
- Reviling and slander
- Obscene speech
- Greed, gambling, extortion
- Refusal to provide materially for wife or children
- Politically non-neutral activities
- Fits of anger, violence
- Misuse of tobacco or addictive drugs (pp 95-96)

With sins so clearly outlined, elders are able to take swift decisive action.

Announcements of "disfellowshipping" with the person and his offense named are not done nowadays. The congregation is merely told that such a one has "disassociated himself." The whole congregation knows without explicit instruction that the offender must be ostracized:

> We need to be especially cautious about contact with disfellowshipped persons who have apostatized and those who continue in their immoral conduct. (Titus 3:10, 11; 1 John 2:19) These can contaminate the congregation <u>like gangrene</u>. (2 Tim. 2:16-18) (p.103)

Note the assumption, the implication — that the status-quo, the will of Governing Body, is always right and the dissenters always wrong. This is the language or wording always used in *Pay Attention* and other publications — wording that implies that dissent from official belief is always erroneous.

The "gangrene" comment in II Timothy refers to people, "who have <u>swerved from the truth</u> by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place." That is what the Watchtower religion itself did — claimed "the resurrection has already taken place". Russell claimed the resurrection of the 144,000 began in 1878. Rutherford and the Governing Body claimed the same for 1918 — and "their talk spread like gangrene" contaminating the entire Russell-JWs sect.

If an elder attending the Kingdom Ministry School were to point out that the Governing Body "swerved from the truth" and therefore requires examination instead of starry-eyed subservience he would be removed and shunned.

Apostasy

Apostasy is the most serious offense and "involves teaching false doctrines, supporting or promoting false religion and its holidays *or* interfaith activities." (p.94)

[*Pay Attention* fails to mention the many discarded doctrines and false prophecies of JWs, or explain why these are not "false religion" and "apostasy".]

Blood

On the blood issue elders learn that:

> Individuals with medical problems who are facing the blood issue need special assistance. Even before they enter the hospital, some may need help in making sure that medical and legal papers are fitting and that the necessary medical personnel have been spoken to in order to avoid a transfusion. (p.21)
>
> On rare occasions a situation requires a 24-hour watch. The Hospital Liaison Committee should be called only when the patient needs a cooperative doctor, when a confrontation develops, or when a threat to force blood on a patient is unresolved. (pp 21-22)

[Visits by congregation elders and the Liaison Committee assure that fewer JWs patients waver when doctors insist blood transfusion is necessary. Instances in the past of JWs patients accepting blood numbered about 5% of occasions when surgeons recommended it.]

Marking

"Marking" occurs when a JW is non-compliant or "disorderly" in minor matters not meriting disfellowshipping:

> If individuals persist in 'walking, disorderly' in serious violation of well-established Bible principles, but not yet to a degree warranting judicial action, they may be *marked* by members of the congregation. (p.100)

Marked individuals get isolated from social contact with other JWs outside the Kingdom Hall except to "reprove" and instruct him. (w1985 4/15 31)

Treatment associated with marking often pushes "marked" ones over the edge toward disfellowshipping.

Pay Attention

Central notions that elders have to "Pay Attention" to include:

- "Jehovah has been a Guardian and Protector of his people both physically and spiritually… "Elders should also be guardians and protectors of His people." (p.11)
- "Jehovah is the Grand Instructor of his people. (Job 6:22; Isa. 30:20, 21)" (p.12)
- "Above all, adhere to God's Word in your teaching." (p.32)
- "The faithful and discreet slave is used by Jehovah to give us good counsel... This slave class not only helps us to understand the meaning of Scripture texts but also gives us valuable counsel and suggestions. (p.83)
- "Avoid imposing personal viewpoints, opinions, *or* arbitrary rules on the congregation or the body of elders." (p.65)

[How elders can possibly regard Jehovah as "Grand Instructor" or "adhere to God's Word", and avoid "imposing personal viewpoints", when they cannot deviate from the Governing Body which so often promotes unbiblical personal viewpoints is not addressed.

Even the identity of the "faithful and discreet slave", identified for 80 years as the "remnant of the 144,000", criticism of which viewpoint was apostasy, was changed in 2010 and now refers solely to the Governing Body!]

Exercise of power

Pay Attention, by instructing the elders on their duties, particularly procedures for punishing offenses and maintaining unity, is about preservation of power.

Firstly, all decisions by congregation elders must be made according to the stipulations of the Governing Body.

Secondly, the elders' authority, even within this framework, is restricted and monitored. Elders who counsel congregation members have to report it to the presiding elder, and difficult issues have to be referred to the Governing Body. And thrice yearly the "circuit overseer" visits for a week and checks everything.

These restrictions curtail elders from accruing power and assure the Governing Body retains absolute power.

No challenge

The *Pay Attention* manual fosters deeper indoctrination of elders than ordinary publishers experience and trains them to enforce unity within congregations and submission to the Governing Body.

The Watchtower derides others who are on a "worldly quest (greed) for power" such as "worldly managers or bosses" who:

> …surround themselves with yes-men, who offer no dissenting views and who do not challenge their superiors' worldly quest (greed) for power. (w1993 8/113)

The Governing Body, however, has done the same, and to a greater degree than almost anyone, as is seen throughout the *Pay Attention* manual. Myriads of elder "yes men" never challenge anything — neither the numerous regulations that enforce the Governing Body's "worldly quest (greed) for power" nor their false predictions or reversals to their "Bible truth".

Failure to pay attention

Pay Attention doesn't pay proper attention to secular requirements to report child sexual abuse to the police. Former JW elder William H. Bowen, who founded "Silent Lambs" to publicize thousands of sexual abuse cases in JWs congregations, wrote and sent this letter to the Governing Body in 2001:

> Dear Brothers,
>
> When I wrote my first letter to you around one year ago I was very upset at a problem that presented itself to me in the congregation. As a local shepherd I felt my hands were tied to prevent a child from being molested. How could I be a good "shepherd" and not protect a little lamb that was in danger? I was instructed to "leave it in Jehovah's hands," yet would Jehovah wait one day if he knew a child was being hurt? I do not believe so, nor could I wait. As the scripture says in Acts, "Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has appointed YOU overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son]. (Acts 20:27-28) In serving as an elder would I be "paying attention" if I ignored the needs of a child in danger? (2001, December 20)

Elders who "pay attention" to the Bible instead of the Governing Body get disfellowshipped as was W.H. Bowen.

PAY ATTENTION VIDEO (2015)

This video produced by the WTS was "slammed" for threatening kids with death if they don't pay attention at JWs meetings.

In the video a father tells his boy: "Noah paid attention and it saved his life. Paying attention at the meetings can help save your life, too."

Lee Moran (2015) reported:

> NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
> A Jehovah's Witness promotional cartoon has been slammed for appearing to threaten children who don't pay attention in church with death.
> Viewers have dubbed the controversial animated clip, posted to YouTube by JW.org, as "stupid," "dumb" and "mind control."
> It begins with two youngsters attending a service with their parents.
> A little boy plays with his car, while his sister almost falls asleep. Both are then told off for not focusing on what the preacher is saying.
> The family arrives home... Their father then explains exactly why they should pay attention. "Imagine if Noah didn't pay attention when Jehovah explained how to build the Ark," he says... (New York Daily News, February 16, 2015)
> http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/jehovah-witnesses-video-slammed-threats-kids-article-1.2116873

PEACE
(w1959 10/15 612-618

PEACE AMONG MEN OF GOOD WILL (1964)
A WTS booklet.

PEACE AND SECURITY

> Whenever it is that they are saying: 'Peace and security!' then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of distress upon a pregnant woman; and they will by no means escape. (I Thessalonians 5:3 NWT)

JWs believe in a global "peace and security" announcement which signals the start of Armageddon but their leaders keep changing their minds on whether the announcement is near, here or future.

The JWs interpretation is:

> This prophecy makes it clear that, just prior to the end of this system of things, 'peace and security' will be declared in some exceptional way, whether by the United Nations or independently by political and religious leaders. What will follow that declaration? Paul said: 'Then sudden destruction will be instantly upon them.'—1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3 (w1984 5/15 6)

According to the JWs leaders the proclamation will be:

> …the signal for God to move into action … an unmistakable signal that world destruction is imminent. (g1988 4/8 14; True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It? 1986, 85)

By the 1980s the JWs doctrine that "the generation that saw 1914" would live to see Armageddon was wearing thin. However, Gorbachev's 'glasnost' policy of relaxation of tension between the great powers and the fall of dictatorships in Eastern Europe kept the "peace and security" expectation and "1914 generation" prophecy alive.

Russell

How "unmistakable" is the "signal" that JWs look for? For a century their leaders have repeatedly proclaimed that "peace and security" is about to start or has started. Each time the "unmistakable signal" was mistaken!

Until 1904 C.T. Russell predicted the destruction of Christendom and all nations by 1914. (See: *DATES*) Hence, in Russell's original prophetic scheme the "peace and safety" cry was due before 1914.

In 1915 Russell implied that I Thessalonians 5:3 had undergone fulfilment since 1899. L.W. Jones, a prominent member in Russell's cult, authored the book *What Pastor Russell Said* which records Russell's replies at "Question Meetings". Regarding "peace and security" Russell said:

> We think that this saying of 'peace! peace!' has been going on for some years. The Church systems and everybody have been claiming, ever since the first Peace Conference at The Hague [1899], that war had to come to an end, that we were having the time of peace that the Bible tells us about. They thought this was true; but those of us who had a better knowledge of the Bible knew it was not true. A great Time of Trouble must first come. The Lord long ago pointed out this great Time of Trouble, which has already begun and which will culminate in an awful period of anarchy, the Armageddon of the Scriptures. So they have been saying, Peace. Peace! When there is no peace, and no ground for peace. (What Pastor Russell Said, p.529)

Rutherford

Rutherford reinterpreted "peace and security" and anticipated it at the end of World War I.

(wr1917 1/1 6026; w1917 1/1 4-5; w1917 12/1 358) The World War would be followed by "a short period of peace" after which the end would come.

The short period was to terminate before 1925/1926 when Abraham and other Bible heroes returned from the dead.

In 1930 Rutherford reapplied the peace prediction to "**The nations of this day**". (Light Volume 2 1930, 327) In 1936, he wrote:

> This is the time of the fulfillment of the prophetic words recorded in I Thessalonians 5:3… (Choosing Riches or Ruin? 1936, 32)

In 1937 Rutherford predicted that the nations, headed by religious leaders, would shortly suppress the JWs preaching and then proclaim "Peace and security" worldwide:

> The old 'whore' (Roman Catholic Church) sitting upon the back of the beast may soon be expected to say: 'Peace and safety; we have silenced all opponents.' Then Jehovah's 'strange act' will begin, and sudden destruction comes upon her 'as travail upon a woman with child'. (Enemies 1937, 291-294)

In 1940 Rutherford predicted that "peace and security" referred to a negotiated peace between England and Germany mediated by the Pope at which time JWs would be fully suppressed. (Yearbook 1940, 41; w1940 8/15 243-249; w1941 11/1 327; w1941 12/15 371) The World War would be followed by a brief peace and then Armageddon. (w1940 8/15 246; w1940 9/1 259, 260, 265, 266)

The peace announcement would be the "sign" that Armageddon was about to start:

> What, then does it mean that THE THEOCRACY is now suppressed in many nations? It means that the hour is rapidly approaching when the "sign" of Armageddon will be clearly revealed and all who are on the side of Jehovah will see and appreciate it. That "sign" will be the announcement "peace and safety"; which sign cannot fully appear as long as this world-wide witness work of THE THEOCRACY is carried on in the earth. (w1940 9/1 265)

N.H. Knorr

Rutherford's successor, N.H. Knorr, initially stuck to the then-current interpretation. The post-war peace period "will be very short-lived" and followed by Armageddon. (Peace—Can it Last? 1942, 26)

However, the post 1945 peace period was not "short-lived" but has continued into the 21st century without Armageddon taking place!

The so-called "cold war" between the Soviet Union and the democratic nations began to ease in the 1970s and was with hindsight a **long** peace.

Such a long-lasting peace between great powers is almost unique. Historian Robert Jervis (1988) observed:

> Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the postwar world is just that—it can be called "postwar" because the major powers have not fought each other since 1945. Such a long period of peace among the most powerful states is unprecedented.

1975

JWs publications forecast that 6000 years from Adam would arrive in 1975.

Therefore, in a special edition of *Awake!* on "World Peace Coming—Will it Last?" the Governing Body interpreted the easing of political tensions around 1970 as an important sign and claimed that the "present-day peace efforts" would: "soon … become the slogan of the day…" Referring to the "Peace and Security" prophecy the magazine said: "This prophecy seems to be rapidly nearing its fulfillment." (g1972 10/8 4, 12, 14)

The book *True Peace and Security—From What Source?* (1973) likewise linked current events to the "peace and security" prophecy.

God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached (1973), said:

> The current world events appear to be flowing toward the situation when men in control of affairs will jubilantly cry out in a self-congratulating way: 'Peace and security!' (p.364)

After 1975

When Armageddon failed in 1975/1976 the peace cry fulfilment had to be postponed again. But in 1978 the peace cry had started:

> Already, the cry for peace and security is rising in a crescendo. And it can be expected that, while the nations are making a significant cry of "peace and security," then suddenly, "Jehovah's day" will break forth in all its fury. (w1978 4/1 5)

In 1981 the Governing Body rescheduled the prophetic peace cry yet again:

> …none of these efforts fit the description

at 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3." (w1981 11/15 14)

In October 1985 the United Nations declared 1986 the International Year of Peace. *The Watchtower* stated that JWs "watch the event with interest" but "cannot say in advance whether this will prove to be the fulfilment of Paul's words…" (w1985 10/1 18)

Nevertheless, the Society published *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* (1986) wherein they referred to the UN declaration of 1986 as the "Year of Peace", and quoted I Thessalonians 5:3 and said: "…this, no doubt, is a step toward the fulfilment of Paul's above-quoted words." (p.85)

A little delay; then "before our eyes"

In 1986 and 1989 *The Watchtower* implied the peace event may delay a little:

> So as we progress toward the finale of these "last days," we can expect some outstanding attention to be given to "Peace and security!" in fulfillment of Paul's words. Then what? Bible prophecies indicate that world religion described as "Babylon the Great," will suddenly be attacked by earthly political powers and will come to an abrupt end! (w1986 2/15 6)

Awake! (1989 12/8) asked if recent world events could be a fulfilment of 1 Thessalonians 5:3:

> We cannot say. Nevertheless, it is obvious that today, in December 1989, 'peace and security' is closer to realization than before. (p.24)

In 1990 *The Watchtower* (April 1 & 15) carried articles on "world peace" but showed caution, and merely forecast that I Thessalonians 5:3 will be fulfilled "very soon" (w1990 4/1 9).

This caution was short-lived:

> Already, another outstanding Bible prophecy is approaching fulfillment before our eyes. (Mankind's Search for God 1990, 371)

Another generation has now since 1990 passed, which by human standards is not "very soon" or "approaching fulfilment before our eyes".

Assessment of the prophecy

Since the 19th century JWs leaders repeatedly proclaimed that Paul's prophecy of "peace and security" is close to fulfilment. They were wrong every time. But instead of adopting biblical humility they became more presumptuous, and emphasized more than ever that they speak for God, and will "continue to give timely warnings":

> We are confident that Jehovah will keep his people well informed. (w1987 5/15 19)

> To help you keep on guard, the Watch Tower Society will continue issuing in its publications **timely warnings** to the reading public, so that you will not be caught off guard by the coming pretentious proclamation 'Peace and security', as devised by the nations of this old system of things. (w1987 5/15 22)

This begs the question — How can "warnings" that are always wrong be "timely" or help people not to be "caught off guard"?

What does I Thessalonians 5:1-3 mean?

What then does I Thessalonians 5:1-3 mean?

Probably the apostle Paul was summarizing Jesus' words at Matthew 24:36-44, Luke 17:26-30 and 21:34-36. Jesus said that he would come like a thief in the night. It would be as in the days of Noah when the people were occupied with daily activities and sudden destruction came. Paul sums up Jesus' words:

> Now concerning the times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well [from Jesus' words] that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them…

A thief does not announce his coming in advance. He comes unexpectedly when people feel secure, which is why Jesus urged his disciples to keep "awake", "ready" and "sober". (Matthew 24:42, 44; Luke 21:34, 36)

To keep awake would not mean to look for a final signal but to, "keep our senses and have on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation". (I Thessalonians 5:8)

PEACE CAN IT LAST? (1942)

A speech by N.H. Knorr on September 20, 1942 subsequently released as a booklet.

Knorr predicted a new post-World-War-II alignment of nations to form "an international world peace beast" to replace the League of Nations.

JWs allege that Knorr's prediction was made before politicians planned to create the United Nations. Their book *Your Will* (1958, 282)

mentions the August 1944 Dumbarton Oaks Conference of foreign ministers of America, Britain, Russia and China where proposals for the United Nations were discussed.

However, the United Nations was conceived in Washington on January 1, 1942, with 26 signatories and was common knowledge in the US. Dan Plesch (2010) writes:

> June 14th, 1942 was the first United Nations Day … celebrated around the world … A Gallup poll taken after the June 1942 celebrations indicated that 73 per cent of the American public now supported a postwar League of Nations…

The Axis powers also schemed to establish — in Knorr's words — an "international peace beast". Knorr's prediction, therefore, would be fulfilled in some way whichever side won the World War. His "peace beast" prediction was, furthermore, theologically necessary because Rutherford had predicted that the League of Nations would destroy all Christian religions, but the League itself was now impotent, itself destroyed. The obvious way to answer charges of "false prophets" was for the JWs leaders to transfer the fulfilment from the League to the U.N.

PEDOPHILE POLICY

The law in many countries requires that child molesters be reported to the police. However, the Governing Body requires JWs to report "wrongdoing" among JWs to the congregation elders, and until 2002 this policy was applied to JWs pedophiles.

If a congregation member reported sexual molestation, **and at least two witnesses saw it**, the culprit was disfellowshipped if he didn't repent. If lacking two witnesses, the accuser was told to keep quiet and not "gossip". Either way the police were not involved.

JWs who discussed another JW's wrongdoing with each other or with outsiders, including the police, faced disfellowshipping. It's in *The Watchtower* for 1997:

> What should we do if we come to know about serious wrongdoing in the congregation?
>
> When elders learn about serious wrongdoing, they approach the individual involved to give needed help and correction. It is the elders' responsibility to judge such ones inside the Christian congregation. Keeping a close watch on its spiritual condition, they assist and admonish anyone who is taking an unwise or wrong step.—1 Corinthians 5:12, 13; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 5:1, 2.

But what if you are not an elder and you come to know about some serious wrongdoing on the part of another Christian? Guidelines are found in the Law that Jehovah gave to the nation of Israel. The Law stated that if a person was a witness to apostate acts, sedition, murder, or certain other serious crimes, it was his responsibility to report it and to testify to what he knew. Leviticus 5:1 states: "Now in case a soul sins in that he has heard public cursing and he is a witness or he has seen it or has come to know of it, if he does not report it, then he must answer for his error."—Compare Deuteronomy 13:6-8; Esther 6:2; Proverbs 29:24.

Though not under the Mosaic Law, Christians today can be guided by the principles behind it. (Psalm 19:7, 8) So if you learn about the serious wrongdoing of a fellow Christian, what should you do?

Handling the Matter

First of all, it is important that there is valid reason to believe that serious wrongdoing has really occurred. "Do not become a witness against your fellowman without grounds," stated the wise man. "Then you would have to be foolish with your lips."—Proverbs 24:28.

You may decide to go directly to the elders. It is not wrong to do so. Usually, however, the most loving course is to approach the person involved. Perhaps the facts are not as they appear to be. Or perhaps the situation is already being handled by the elders. Calmly discuss the matter with the person. If there remains reason to believe that a serious wrong has been committed, encourage him or her to approach the elders for help, and explain the wisdom of doing so. Do not talk to others about the matter, for that would be gossip.

If the person does not report to the elders within a reasonable period of time, then you should. One or two elders will then discuss the matter with the accused. The elders need to "search and investigate and inquire thoroughly" to see if wrong has been done. If it has, they will handle the case according to Scriptural guidelines.—Deuteronomy 13:12 -14.

At least two witnesses are required to establish a charge of wrongdoing. (John 8:17; Hebrews 10:28) If the person denies the charge and your testimony is the only one, the matter will be left in Jehovah's hands. (I Timothy 5:19, 24, 25) This is done in the knowledge that all things are

"openly exposed" to Jehovah and that if the person is guilty, eventually his sins will "catch up" with him.—Hebrews 4:13 ; Numbers 32:23. (w1997 8/15 26-30)

Inadequate in child molestation cases

To apply the "two witnesses to establish a charge" criterion to a child sexual abuse allegation is mistaken and does not acknowledge reality, because perpetrators don't abuse children when people are watching. If a JWs child complained of sexual molestation but lacked confirmation from other people who saw it, the matter was "left in Jehovah's hands" and nothing was done.

A JW who observed wrongdoing but was also the sole observer could not discuss it further after reporting to the elders because that would be slander:

> But suppose the person does deny the charge and you are the only witness against him. Could you now be open to a countercharge of slander? No, not unless you have gossiped to those not involved in the matter. It is not slanderous to report conditions affecting a congregation to those having authority and responsibility to oversee and correct matters. It is, in fact, in line with our desire always to do what is correct and loyal.—Compare Luke 1:74, 75. (ibid p.28)

Thus parents who "gossiped" about their child being molested faced being charged with slander and disfellowshipped.

Briefly, the Governing Body required JWs to:

1. Report suspected wrongdoing to the elders;
2. Obey whatever the elders decided;
3. Keep other JWs and outsiders, including the police, uninformed.

Pedophiles in leadership positions?

Seemingly repentant pedophiles should preach door to door:

> Depending on the law of the land where he lives, the molester may well have to serve a prison term or face other sanctions from the State… If he seems to be repentant, he will be encouraged to make spiritual progress, share in the field service… (w1997 1/1 29)

However, even though repentant the pedophile "does not qualify for a position of responsibility in the congregation. Moreover, he cannot be a pioneer or serve in any other special, full-time service." (w1997 1/1 28-29)

A WTS letter to the Bodies of Elders several months later adjusted this matter:

> It may be possible that some who were guilty of child molestation were or are now serving as elders, ministerial servants, or regular or special pioneers. Others may have been guilty of child molestation before they were baptized. The bodies of elders should not query individuals.

A further letter in 2001 to elders in England advised:

> The elders may have written to the branch office and given full details about a former child abuser who is currently serving as an elder or ministerial servant. In such a case, if the branch office has decided that he can be appointed or continue serving in a position of trust because the sin occurred many years ago and because he has lived an exemplary life since then, his name should not appear on the List, nor is it necessary to pass on information about the brother's past sin if he moves to another congregation unless contrary instructions have been given by the branch.

Revised policy

The WTS policy of handling child abuse internally without police involvement endangered children. Ex JWs exposed this policy, and the media began reporting prosecutions of JWs pedophiles and WTS payouts to victims.

Reacting to public outrage the Governing Body formulated a new policy in 2002 which permitted victims or their parents to report the alleged offense to the police, provided the alleged offence occurred in a state or country in which it was by law mandatory to report it.

The new policy, however, also required JWs child molesters released from prison to display their "spiritual progress" by going door to door where they often meet children.

(See also: *CHILD ABUSE*)

PELOYAN, HARRY

Editor of *Awake!* magazine in the 1970s-1980s.

Peloyan was a Harvard graduate who joined the Bethel staff in Brooklyn in 1957 and was disinherited by his father for refusing to leave JWs. His wife, Rose, died in 2005.

Barbara Andersen, former research assistant at Brooklyn headquarters, writes:

> I realized many *Awake!* articles were written by men and women outside of the

Writing Department and edited by staff writers. Harry, whose desk always seemed to be clear of work, frequently used outside authors for articles assigned to him which he put through the system under his own name.

PENDLEY, MICHAEL R.
A former JW of 38 years who in 1996 wrote a disassociation letter, later posted on the Internet, in which he says: "It is a humbling experience to realize that I was serving a false god all that time. That god is a human organization..."

PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATION
The original corporation of the WTS.
(See also: *WATCHTOWER BIBLE and TRACT SOCIETY of PENNSYLVANIA*)

PENNY PARABLE (Matthew 20:1-9)
A parable told by Jesus where the "penny" was a denarius, a Roman silver coin, the pay for a 12-hour day's work.

The parable features:
- A landowner (or householder)
- His vineyard
- Groups of workers the landowner hired at dawn, the third hour (= nine o'clock), the sixth hour (noon), and the ninth and eleventh hours
- His steward (= the foreman) who paid the wages (Matthew 20:1-16)
- Workers who had started early and therefore wanted more than a penny.

The WBTS interpretation in 1917 was that the penny represents the book *The Finished Mystery* (1917).

In 1933 Rutherford's interpreted the penny as the name "Jehovah's witnesses" adopted in 1931.

In 1967 another new interpretation made the close of the 12-hour working day the 1918 interruption of the WTS-led preaching, and the penny represents its revival in 1919.

Interpretation in 1917

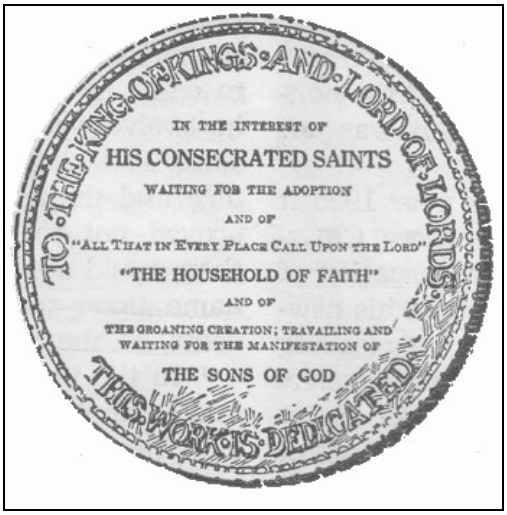
In August 1917 Clayton Woodworth (one of the compilers of *The Finished Mystery*) gave a convention talk at Boston, Massachusetts, which was published as a 5-page pamphlet titled *The Parable of the Penny*.

Woodworth's interpretation (with Rutherford's consent) was:
- The landowner = Christ
- The steward = Judge Rutherford
- The penny = The WTS book *The Finished Mystery* (1917)
- All-day workers who wanted extra pay = WBTS directors whom Rutherford dismissed from this position.

Rutherford's 1931 Interpretation

Rutherford's 1931 interpretation of the parable:

- The householder = Jehovah
- The labourers = The "remnant" on Earth of the 144,000



Picture of the "penny" from *The Finished Mystery*. In the book, underneath the picture, is a reference to Matthew 20:9

- The 12-hour workday = 12 years 1919-1931
- The morning = 1919 and the Cedar Point, Ohio, convention of that year
- The third hour or 9 a.m. = 1922, especially September 8 at the Cedar Point convention of that year
- The 6th hour = 1925-1926; the extra workers is the increase in the number of "pioneers" to 727 in 1926
- The 9th hour = 1928
- The 12th hour or pay-time = 1931
- The "penny" wage = The new name "Jehovah's witnesses". (w1933 11/15 339-345; w1939 3/15 89)

1967 Interpretation

In w1967 1/15 the JWs leaders gave the parable a first and second fulfilment.

In the first fulfilment:
- The Landowner = God/Jehovah
- Vineyard = Israel
- Foreman = Jesus
- Workers = Israelites under the law covenant of Moses
- The dawn (6 a.m.) labourers = The Jewish religious leaders in the days of the apostles

- The 11th hour workers = Jesus' followers until his death
- The penny = The "holy spirit" poured out at Pentecost

In "The Modern Fulfillment" (page 50):

- The dawn workers = the "clergy of Christendom"
- The later workers = the followers of C.T. Russell in the late 19th century
- The end of the 12-hour day = during WW1
- The penny = "the honor of serving as anointed ambassadors of God's newborn Messianic Kingdom from that time on till … Armageddon." (p.56)

The Watchtower 1967

w1967 1/15 52ff describes the changing interpretations of the "penny":

[7] So in July of the mid-war year of 1917 the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society published (only in English) the book entitled "The Finished Mystery," this book being the seventh and last one of a series of seven volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures.* Because the heavenly glorification of the faithful remnant of the Christian church was believed near, this Bible-study aid *The Finished Mystery* along with accompanying service privileges was thought to be the symbolic "penny," coming as a reward to the faithful "vineyard" laborers before they departed from this earth. In fact, on page 2, the Publishers' page, of this book there was printed an enlargement of a coin like a penny. The inscription on it read: "To the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords This Work Is Dedicated in the Interest of His Consecrated Saints Waiting for the Adoption and of 'all that in every place call upon the Lord,' 'the household of faith' and of the groaning creation; travailing and waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God." Also, in that same year, the October 1, 1917, issue of *The Watch Tower,* on page 293, carried a heading that said "The Penny" and it spoke of the book *The Finished Mystery* and the associated "honor" as the symbolic "penny."

[8] However, when that meaning of the "penny" was given to *The Finished Mystery,* the Seventh Volume, no one expected or foresaw that World War I would end in the following year (1918) and that there would be an extended peace period thereafter with the anointed remnant down here on earth, instead of up in heavenly glory. An organization of 7,000 Bible students was built up for distributing *The Finished Mystery* from house to house. But by the spring of 1918 this book was banned both in the United States and in Canada. Yes, this book was used by the United States government, then at war with Germany, to put the leading ones of the International Bible Students in Federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia.

[9] Thus the work of these Christian Bible students was badly crippled by government action, clergy opposition, religious persecution and wartime disruptions. In the spring of 1919 the imprisoned representatives of the Watch Tower Society were permanently released from Federal prison, connections with the Watch Tower Society's branch offices were reestablished, and in 1920 the ban was removed from the Seventh Volume and thus *The Finished Mystery* was allowed to be circulated again in the United States of America. But in 1927 *The Finished Mystery* and the other six volumes of the *Studies in the Scriptures* ceased to be published, and they were replaced by new, postwar Bible-study aids. So in ten years' time it became manifest that the Seventh Volume and the honorable service that went with it was not really the *penny.*

[10] In the meanwhile, in the year 1925 it began to be appreciated by these Christian Bible students that the vindication of God's name Jehovah by means of his newborn Messianic kingdom was God's leading purpose. In fact, from 1922 onward reference was repeatedly made to Isaiah 43:10-12 to prove that they must be witnesses of the Lord God during the remainder of their days on earth. The work of bearing witness to his name became more dominant among them. This reached a grand climax in the year 1931, when, at the international convention in Columbus, Ohio, these much-maligned Bible students adopted a resolution by which they embraced the name suggested by Isaiah 43:10-12 (*AS*), namely, "Jehovah's witnesses."

[11] The work of gathering the anointed remnant of the heirs of God's heavenly kingdom appeared to be nearing completion. Hence, this bestowal of a Biblically supported name upon them in 1931 seemed to come as a reward for having engaged in twelve years of hard Christian work since 1919...

[15] ...Today our understanding of the "penny" can be cleared up by looking back at the first fulfillment of Jesus' parable of the vineyard in the days of his apostles nineteen centuries ago. In the

modern-day fulfillment of the parable, the "evening" and the close of the twelve-hour day's work came during World War I, which war marked the close of the Gentile Times in the autumn of 1914. The full-time laborers, the ones "first" hired, the clergy of Christendom, turned their efforts to the war activities of the nations at war. The work of the ones hired "last" was crippled and practically stopped in 1918 by the banning of Watch Tower literature and the imprisonment of the official representatives of the International Bible Students. This stoppage corresponded with Jesus' death and scattering of his disciples.

USE OF THE "PENNY" TILL NOW

[16] World War I stopped on November 11, 1918, and now world attention turned to peace and reorganization in the postwar period... The spring of 1919 was like a day of Pentecost for those hired "last" to work in the "vineyard." For the Christian international Bible students it was like a resurrection of the dead...

[17] Here, then, as on the day of Pentecost nineteen centuries ago, was the payment of the "penny" to those last hired in Jehovah's spiritual "vineyard." God's Messianic kingdom had been born in the heavens at the close of the Gentile Times in 1914, and the "penny" paid to the vineyard laborers was the privilege and honor of serving as anointed ambassadors of God's newborn Messianic kingdom from that time on till the coming "battle of the great day of God the Almighty" at Armageddon...
(w1967 1/15 52-56)

Conclusion

The "penny" is an example of how "the "Bible truth" of JWs has constantly changed. What remains the same throughout all the changes is that JWs are always portrayed as the centre of Bible prophecy, always the good guys, God's only genuine representatives on Earth, "Christian Bible students", and always in the right no matter how trashy, stupid or false their beliefs and prophecies at the time were.

PENTON, M. JAMES (1932 -)
James Penton was a JW elder in Canada, professor emeritus at the University of Lethbridge, and president of the Canadian Society of Church History.

Penton's great grandfather became a Bible Student of the WBTS in 1900 followed by his grandmother and parents.

Penton moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1948 and in 1951 married Marilyn Kling a JW pioneer from Pennsylvania. He:

- Received his Ph.D., 1965, in history at the State University of Iowa. Taught at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, 1967-1990.
- Became a JW elder in 1973.
- Authored *Jehovah's Witnesses in Canada* (1975) which told the history of JWs' fight for civil liberties under Canadian law.
- Began to partake of the unleavened bread and wine at the Memorial.
- Disbelieved the predictions for 1975.
- Became distressed over the WTS's refusal to admit fault, its methods of cajoling JWs into going door to door, and its lack of concern for ordinary persons.

Penton sent a letter of protest to the WTS in 1979 and was disfellowshipped resulting in a schism in southern Alberta. Eighty persons left the Lethbridge congregations. This revolt was publicized throughout Canada and is described in *Crisis of Allegiance* (1986, J.A. Beverley).

He became active in Christian ministry, edited two journals, wrote articles on JWs for the *Canadian Encyclopedia* and the *Americana*, and wrote the book *Apocalypse Delayed: The Story of Jehovah's Witnesses* (1985; 2001; 2015)



Penton retired from teaching in 1990, moved with his wife to Mexico in 1998, and wrote *Jehovah's Witnesses and the Third Reich* (2003)

PEOPLE'S FRIEND, THE (1928)
Booklet by Rutherford.

PEOPLES PAPER
A bi-monthly journal of the Berean Bible Students.

PEOPLES PULPIT, THE
A pamphlet published by Russellites in USA starting in 1909, and in Melbourne, Australia, from 1910, until 1926. The name was changed to *Bible Students Monthly*.

PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION
The New York Corporation of the WTS set up on February 23, 1909. The name was changed in 1939 to Watchtower Bible & Tract Society Inc. and in 1956 to Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc.

PEREZ, JOSE MARTIN
A physically disabled JW in Spain unable to walk, stand or use his hands, baptized in 1975, whose story appeared in *Awake!* (1988 11/8)

Perez left JWs in 2001 and updated his *Awake!* story on the Internet and titled it "22 years serving a human project, believing that it was Divine", a summary of which appeared in *Investigator Magazine* #113.

Pérez describes his "real happiness" from preaching and converting ten people and becoming an elder.

He says that biographies of physically disabled converts in JWs magazines emphasize their zeal to imply that the able-bodied should be doing more, thus shaming them to be more active. His original article in *Awake!* describes his "pride". His update explains that accusing people of pride helps the JWs leadership to control them by making them feel inadequate and heightening their need for approval. A JW who studies a lot and asks awkward questions will likely be told he's "giving in to pride" and that "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up."

Perez explains his reasons for leaving the sect. The main reason is the teaching of "progressive truth", this being a notion to justify changes to doctrines and to excuse false prophecies, and despite ever more changes no one is permitted to doubt or question anything. He gives as examples the generation-of-1914 and the sheep-and-goats doctrines which got people who had questioned previous interpretations "unforgivably disfellowshiped". *The Watchtower* (1986 May 15) even claimed the sheep and goats doctrine was "**properly understood**" in 1923 — but in 1995 what was "properly understood" was altered! (w1995 5/15 17-18)

Perez knew that if he left JWs he would be shunned like other ex JWs and his business boycotted despite his physical disabilities. Nevertheless he left.

PERFECT; PERFECTION
To JWs "perfection" is the state of complete health and sinlessness that obedient people will obtain during Christ's thousand-year reign i.e. during the Millennium. Based on Matthew 5:48 sect members are supposed to achieve a relative perfection in their current life by full and loyal obedience to the Governing Body and their interpretation of Scripture.

PERFETTO, JONATHAN
A JW sex offender in New Hampshire, USA.

The *Concord Monitor* of New Hampshire reported in 2010:

Sex offender can't worship with minors
Religious freedom appeal rejected

The state Supreme Court has denied the appeal of a sex offender who wanted to worship with a Manchester congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses after he was released from prison in 2008.

In an opinion issued yesterday, the justices rejected 36-year-old Jonathan Perfetto's argument that the conditions of his suspended prison sentences — which require he have no contact with minors under age 17 — had violated his right to religious freedom.

"The defendant's freedom of belief has not been restricted," the justices wrote. "He may still practice his religion in ways that do not violate the condition of his sentences," including the use of books and video and audio recordings.

Perfetto could also participate in Bible study sessions or meet with congregation elders when children weren't present, the justices said.

And the justices agreed with the state that restrictions prohibiting Perfetto's contact with minors were justified if they were reasonable to his rehabilitation and to protecting public safety — rather than the least restrictive conditions possible, as Perfetto had argued.

In Perfetto's case, the restrictions were reasonable, the justices said. Perfetto pleaded guilty in 2002 to 61 counts of possessing child pornography, and "prohibiting him from having contact with children provides protection to the class of individuals exploited by him and furthers his rehabilitation by limiting the circumstances which could lead to his reoffending," the justices wrote.

The appeal marked the first time the court had considered whether restrict-

tions barring a sex offender from attending religious meetings where children are present violated that person's constitutional rights to freedom of religion…

The sentence he received in 2002 for the child pornography convictions included four consecutive 3½ to 7-year sentences, which were suspended under certain conditions, one of which was that Perfetto have no contact with children under 17.
(By Maddie Hanna, September 18, 2010)

(See also: *CHILD ABUSE*; PEDOPOHILE POLICY; *SILENT LAMBS*)

PERSECUTION

Imprisonment in Nazi concentration camps because of one's religious views was a form of "persecution".

JWs also regard as persecution, speech or actions directed at them which they perceive as hostile. They also consider it "persecution" when a judge issues a court order for a blood transfusion for a child who would die without it, or when a householder awakened by a JW on Sunday morning swears at him.

JWs consider persecution to be provoked by Satan the devil and see it as proof that theirs is the one true religion.

Beliefs engender controversy

The beliefs and practices of JWs throughout their history have engendered controversy and opposition from governments, communities, and other religions.

Christian denominations consider JWs and their doctrines heretical. The sect attracted attention and repression in the 1930s when their numbers noticeably increased. Their proselytizing and condemnations of other religions led to mob actions and government restrictions. Their doctrine of political neutrality led to imprisonment of members who refused conscription.

During the World Wars JWs were targeted in many countries for refusing to help with war efforts. In the USA they were interned in camps along with political dissidents and people of Japanese and Chinese origin.

After WWII their activities were banned in the Soviet Union and in Spain due in part to their refusal to perform military service.

The journal *Social Compass* says: "Viewed globally, this persecution has been so persistent and of such an intensity that it would not be inaccurate to regard Jehovah's witnesses as the most persecuted religion of the twentieth century". (Jubber, 1977)

This claim is exaggerated since JW deaths from persecution during the 20th century number a few thousand but of Christians in all denominations millions!

Persecution in specific countries

Australia

JWs were declared illegal in Australia from 1941 to 1943 and their radio stations closed. (See: *BAN IN AUSTRALIA*)

Benin

During the first presidency of Mathieu Kérékou (1972-1991) the activities of JWs were banned.

Bulgaria

JWs in Bulgaria have occasionally been targets of violence by right wing nationalist groups such as the Bulgarian National Movement. On April 17, 2011, a group of about sixty hooded men besieged a Kingdom Hall in Burgas, threw stones, damaged furniture, and injured five of the people inside. JWs in Bulgaria have been fined for proselytizing without government permits, and some municipalities have legislation to prohibit their preaching.

Cuba

Under Fidel Castro's Communist regime JWs were considered "social deviants" along with groups such as homosexuals and vagrants, and sent to forced labor camps. JWs were officially banned in July, 1974 after which members who refused military service were sentenced to three years in prison.

Canada

During both world wars JWs were persecuted for non-participation in patriotic exercises and conscientious objection to military service.

The federal government in secret reports in 1942 described JWs as subversive and offensive "religious zealots", and stated that, "probably no other organization is so offensive in its methods, working as it does under the guise of Christianity."

Eritrea

The government of Eritrea stripped JWs of their civil and political rights in 1994 after they refused to engage in voting and military service. Members of all ages have been arrested for participating in religious meetings. International rights groups have repeatedly called on Eritrean authorities to end the persecution.

France

JWs were banned in France during WWII and had to vacate the offices of the WTS. After the war JWs renewed their religious activities but *The Watchtower* magazine was banned from 1952 to1974.

France's Ministry of Finance opposed official recognition of JWs until 2000 when France's highest administrative court, the Council of State, ruled that JWs qualify as a religion under French law.

France's Ministry of the Interior then sought to collect 60% of donations made to JWs but the WTS appealed to the European Court of Human Rights which on June 30, 2011 ruled that France's actions violated the religious freedom of JWs.

Georgia

In 1996 Georgia's Ministry of Internal Affairs began to detain the religious literature of JWs, and Government officials refused permits to JWs to organize assemblies. In September 2000 Georgian police and security officials disperse an outdoor gathering of 700 JWs in the town of Natulik.

In May 2007 the European Court of Human Rights ruled against the government of Georgia for its toleration of religious violence and ordered that JW victims be compensated for damages and legal costs.

Germany

In 1931-1932 many JWs were dismissed from employment and 2000 legal actions were instigated against JWs in Germany.

Persecution intensified after Hitler's appointment as chancellor in 1933. A "Declaration of Facts" was issued by the WTS at a JW convention in Berlin on June 25, 1933 calling for an end to government opposition and 2 million copies were distributed. This prompted renewed persecution because most JWs refused to give the Hitler salute, join Nazi organizations or perform military service.

In total, during the Nazi era in Germany, about 10,000 JWs were imprisoned including 2000 in concentration camps, where they were identified by purple cloth triangles. About 1100-1200 died during their incarceration including 250 by execution. (See: *NAZI GERMANY and JWs*)

JWs were granted nationwide legal recognition in Germany in 2006.

Greece

About 1000 JWs were arrested in the early 1980s and some JW meetings and conventions were disrupted.

India

The JW "Office of Public Information" has documented a few mob attacks in India.

One mob confronted two female JWs in the city of Davangere in December 2010 and broke into a house where the women had taken refuge. When the police arrived they arrested and charged the two females with blasphemy.

Another incident occurred in December 2011, when a mob attacked three JWs in Madikeri in the state of Karnataka. In another attack in Madikeri in July 2012 fifteen men assaulted four JWs.

JWs call such events "persecution" and they are correct. To put it in perspective, however, no JWs died whereas in 2008 Hindu nationalists murdered 60 non-JW Christians in Orissa State and 60,000 fled their homes. *The Guardian* reported:

> The persecution of Christians shames India
>
> Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh today made a heartfelt plea over the spread of anti-Christian violence in India. The sight of Hindu mobs smashing churches and prayer halls while Christians in the country are killed or left cowering under tarpaulin sheets in refugee camps is, as Dr Singh rightly described, a "national shame". There are calls from within the ruling Congress party, which relies on the votes of Christians and Muslims in India, to ban Hindu extremist organisations such as the Bajrang Dal, which uses force… (Randeep Ramesh, 29 September, 2008)

Islamic States

JW religious activities are restricted in many Islamic countries where proselytizing of Muslims is illegal. To avoid state wrath in such countries JWs mainly target Christian minorities.

Malawi

In 1967 thousands of JWs in Malawi were beaten by police and other citizens for refusing to purchase political party cards and become members of the Malawi Congress Party.

The government viewed their stand of non-involvement in politics as treason and declared their Organization illegal and expelled foreign members from the country. Persecution, both economic and physical, was intensified after a September 1972 Malawi Congress Party meeting which ruled that, "all Witnesses should be dismissed from their employment; any firm that failed to comply would have its license cancelled." By November 1973 21,000 JWs had fled to neighboring Zambia.

In January 1974 they were repatriated to Malawi where the policies toward them had not changed. JWs fled to Mozambique where Portuguese authorities supplied land and resettled 35,000 JWs. However, Mozambique gained independence that year from Portugal

and the pro-Communist government returned the JWs to Malawi.

In 1993, during the transition to a multiparty system the Malawi government's ban on the organization was lifted.

Mozambique

Upon achieving independence from Portugal in 1975 Mozambique arrested 7000 Mozambique JWs and committed them to re-education camps.

Singapore

In 1972 the Singapore government de-registered JWs and banned their activities on the grounds that its members refuse to perform military service, salute the flag, or swear oaths of allegiance to the state. Singapore banned written materials published by the WTS.

Singapore police have sometimes raided private homes where JWs held meetings; secondary schools have expelled students who refused to participate in flag ceremonies; and JWs who refused military service have been incarcerated in detention barracks.

South Africa

In June 1967 the South African government passed the Defense Amendment Bill which made it compulsory for all white males of eligible age to participate in the armed forces.

Young JWs men who refused conscription were sentenced to military detention barracks for 12 months or more. Conscription officially ended in August 1993 after the Constitution of South Africa had been adjusted to allow for alternative civilian service.

South Ossetia

In July 2017 the Supreme Court of the Republic of South Ossetia (an area in Georgia in the Caucasus) ruled that JWs are an extreme organization and declared a penalty of ten years imprisonment for "any religious activities such as assembly and distributing literature."

Soviet Union/Russia

JWs increased in numbers in the Soviet Union after 1939 when the Soviet Union took over eastern Poland, Moldavia, and Lithuania, each of which had a JWs movement.

Starting in 1951 JWs were rounded up and about 9,000 deported to Siberia under a plan called "Operation North". The importation of WTS literature into the Soviet Union was forbidden but still got through illegally.

In 1968 the KGB estimated the number of JWs in the USSR at 20,000. Estimates based on figures in JWs Yearbooks suggest 30,000 in 1970, 40,000 in 1985 and 78,000 in 1995.

Relative freedom from government restrictions after Communism collapsed saw publisher-peaks in **Russia** of 114,000 in 2000 and 172,000 in 2016, and the Memorial attendance in 2016 of 294,000.

JWs were banned in the Russian city of Taganrog in 2009 after a local court ruled the organization guilty of inciting religious hatred by "propagating the exclusivity and supremacy" of their religious beliefs. In December 2009 the Supreme Court of Russia upheld the ruling which had pronounced JWs literature extremist and upheld the confiscation of JW property in Taganrog.

In July 2015 the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice added the official JWs Russian website to the Federal List of Extremist Materials thereby making it a criminal offense to promote the website within Russia.

The official American JWs website reported:

> December 2, 2015
>
> After a retrial spanning 11 months, the Taganrog City Court convicted 16 of Jehovah's Witnesses on criminal charges for organizing and attending peaceful religious meetings. The court based its decision on a criminal law that punishes individuals who organize and participate in extremist activity…
>
> However, the judge immediately suspended the sentences and waived the fines…
>
> Over 800 Witnesses living in Taganrog are concerned about the consequences for meeting together peacefully to discuss the Bible and pray…
>
> In the past year, Russian officials have declared two local legal entities of the Witnesses to be extremist. Since March 2015, authorities have refused to allow the Witnesses to import any religious literature—even Bibles. In July, Russia earned the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world to ban the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses, jw.org.
> https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/russia/religious-extremism-taganrog-decision/

On March 23, 2017, the Russian News Agency TASS reported that Russia's Justice Ministry had suspended the activities of the Administrative Center of JWs in Russia.

In April 2017, The Supreme Court of Russia upheld the claim made by the country's Justice Ministry that JWs' activity violated laws on "extremism." The ruling liquidated their headquarters in St. Petersburg and 395 local

congregations and ordered the seizure of their property by the state.

Turkmenistan

JWs in Turkmenistan have been prosecuted and imprisoned for refusing compulsory military service.

The UN Human Rights Committee has indicated that, "The State party should take all necessary measures to review its legislation with a view to providing for alternative military service. The State party should also ensure that the law clearly stipulates that individuals have the right to conscientious objection to military service."

United States

During the 1930s and 1940s some US states passed laws that made it illegal for JWs to distribute their literature. Children of JWs were in some states banned from attending state schools for not saluting the flag.

Mob violence against JWs became common. The American Civil Liberties Union reported that by the end of 1940, "more than 1,500 Witnesses in the United States had been victimized in 335 separate attacks." From 1933 to 1951 there were 18,886 arrests of JWs in the United States. (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 330)

After drawn-out litigation in state courts and lower federal courts, the Supreme Court issued a series of First Amendment rulings that confirmed their right to be excused from military service and from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The persecution of JWs for their refusal to salute the flag became a test of the liberties for which the flag stands, namely the freedom to worship according to one's conscience. It was found in *Minersville School District v. Gobitis* (1940) that compulsory flag saluting impinged upon the individual's right to worship according to their choice — a violation of the First Amendment Free Exercise Clause in the Constitution.

In *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943), the Court declared that the state could not impinge on the First Amendment by compelling the observance of rituals.

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

PERSECUTION AND CRITICISM

JWs believe that to expose other religions as false is not persecution:

> It is not a form of religious persecution for anyone to *say* and to *show* that another religion is false. <u>It is not religious persecution for an informed person to expose publicly a certain religion as being false, thus allowing persons to see the difference between false religion and true religion</u>. But in order to make the exposure and show the wrong religions to be false, the true worshiper will have to use an authoritative means of judgment, a rule of measurement that cannot be proved faulty. To make a public exposure of false religion is certainly of more value than exposing a news report as being untrue; it is a public service instead of a religious persecution and it has to do with the eternal life and happiness of the public. (w1963 11/15 686)

This paragraph presumes that JWs are "informed people" who know "the difference between false religion and true religion" and can therefore capably perform a "public service" by exposing the false.

However, if JWs are truly capable why did they and their Russellite forbears make thousands of errors in interpreting the Bible, many of which required further revision because previous revisions were wrong?

The fact is that JWs are told to avoid "independent thinking" and therefore have little expertise in distinguishing true from false in their own sect let alone others.

PERSECUTION FOR FAITHFULLY PREACHING "THE TRUTH"

Rutherford and subsequent WTS leaders promoted the fiction that JWs are persecuted because they are the only true Christians and faithfully preach "the truth":

> The reproaches and persecution that come upon the faithful followers of Christ Jesus are <u>due to the fact that they bear testimony to the truth</u>… (Riches 1936, 46)
>
> Jehovah's witnesses of today <u>herald forth the same message of truth</u> and meet up with the same opposition, because the truth concerning Jehovah's kingdom is not according to the teachings of the governments of this world…
>
> For the very simple reason of <u>preaching God's Word of truth</u> in lands throughout the world, Jehovah's witnesses have received the worst kind of treatment…
>
> It was <u>because they proclaimed the truth</u>… (Yearbook 1946, 5, 6, 8)

1918 — "the plain truth"

In particular the "persecutions" in 1918 including Rutherford's imprisonment had such

a powerful effect that Rutherford centred much of his alleged "fulfilled Bible prophecy" around 1918-1919.

Rutherford and Governing Body propaganda says that the Russellites of 1918 were "anointed Christians" and "true Christians" peacefully preaching the true gospel like Jesus. But the clergy hated Christian truth and hated the Kingdom and therefore wanted the true gospel stopped. This is the basic myth often repeated. For example:

> In these days the clergy are the ones who oppose all persons who try to teach the people the plain truth of the Bible. They do not want the people to know the truth, because it would interfere with their wrongful course. During the World War they caused many faithful Christians to be imprisoned and beaten because they were telling the truth… Books explaining the Bible, and which enable the people to understand God's Word of Truth, were gathered up by the preachers during the War and since and burned. The preachers strut about assuming great wisdom and warn the people to read nothing that is printed concerning the Bible unless it is endorsed by the clergymen. (Judgment 1929, 18)

> Persecutions, restrictive bans, imprisonments she heaped upon these conscientious Bible Students, and by early summer of 1918 she had the president of the International Bible Students Association and seven other associates in the Watch Tower Society behind bars in the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., denied bail and appeal.

> [7] Certainly that was a tearing down of the worship of Jehovah! By whom? By modern Babylon the Great, this world empire of false religion while being dominated over by its most populous and powerful part, namely, Christendom. Yes, Christendom, which has the complete Bible in which the name Jehovah occurs, was serving fore mostly as the agent of Babylon the Great in desolating the worship of the Most High God Jehovah. Christendom was laying His worship waste within her own self. She was devastating it among the International Bible Students, who had been reviving the worship of Jehovah as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, by the close of World War I at mid-autumn of 1918, not only were many parts of the literal earth desolated by the ravages of war, but also the earthly spiritual estate of the worshipers of Jehovah was desolated...

> [12] ... Well timed, in the first postwar year, namely, in 1919, came the divine release of the worshipers of Jehovah who had faithfully survived the crushing experiences of World War I...

> [13] Like that restored Jewish remnant who engaged in rebuilding Jehovah's house on the mountaintop of Jerusalem, so this modern-day remnant of Jehovah's worshipers engaged in promoting His pure worship, elevating it above all other interests of earthly life. This worthy worship of the only true God must be the most highly exalted thing in their lives. No other worship, regardless of how highly exalted by men, must be allowed to be higher than the worship of the Most High God, Jehovah. Its elevation must be established firmly above all other forms of human worship, no matter how highly extolled and boosted up by men and demons. w1972 12/15 749)

> In time, though, anointed Christians realized that there was much work for them to do on earth. Because of their persistence in public witnessing during World War I, they experienced vicious persecution from the political authorities, urged on by Christendom's clergy. (Psalm 2:1-6) The activities of true Christians was dealt a severe blow on June 21, 1918…

> An unexpected period of peace opened up for those faithful anointed Christians, similar to the opportunities that presented themselves to Christ's early disciples after they were empowered by the holy spirit in 33 C.E. (w1990 10/15 20)

Were they really "true" and "faithful"?

The question that requires an answer is: If JWs in 1918 and afterwards were "true Christians", "faithful Christians", teaching "the plain truth of the Bible", why aren't their prophecies of those days being preached now? Why have the JW leaders discarded or revised thousands of interpretations and doctrines? If they were "faithful" Christians in the 1920s then JWs would today have to be, because of thousands of alterations in doctrine, frauds, liars and unfaithful.

And if the clergy "warn the people to read nothing that is printed concerning the Bible unless it is endorsed by the clergymen" and if this is wrong, why do the JW "clergy" do the same i.e. ban JWs from reading mainstream religious works?

The conspiracy hypothesis which implies that "Christendom" — hundreds of denominations — "urged on by Christendom's clergy" is nonsense. The WTS leaders were lawfully

imprisoned under the Espionage Act along with other offenders.

JWs leaders orchestrate persecution

Historically, JWs themselves provoked much of the so-called persecution as follows:

Rutherford distracted his followers from the failed prophecies of 1914-1915, 1918 and 1925 by launching them on campaigns of distributing tracts and booklets criticising other religions.

Householders were confronted by "irrational crackpots" who often used abusive language and peddled literature that called other religions a "racket" and pastors and ministers agents of Satan. Many normally peaceful householders were in this way deliberately provoked. JWs themselves are provoked by much less when they "loathe", "hate" and ostracize ex members who left the sect because of its false prophecies (See: *APOSTATES*)

The main WTS textbook in 1918 was *The Finished Mystery*. This book had false prophecies for various dates and an estimated 1300 interpretations of Bible verses that the WTS itself later rejected. The book is crammed with anti-Christian statements including that Christendom's destruction would start in 1918 and all "republics" would be overthrown in 1920 by mass uprisings. Rutherford evidently hoped his anti-Christian propaganda would spark the Armageddon uprising which Russell had predicted for 1914 and which would destroy Christendom.

(See: *FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

How serious; How many?

Some people reacted physically and assaulted Rutherford's followers. (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 314) However, accusations such as "urged on by Christendom's clergy", when few ministers had any contact with Russellites, are nonsense.

Rutherford suggested that Luke 21:12-13 — "they shall … persecute you" — refers to 1917-1919. (The harp Of God 1921, 246) With the severer persecution of World War II this interpretation had to be revised.

Consider actual numbers. Active American Russellites in 1918 numbered under 1000. Any "persecution" was therefore directed at very few people.

Compare this with hundreds of thousands of JWs expelled from the JW sect since 1970, many for querying failed predictions. It's a story of disfellowshipping, shunning, break-up of families, destroyed careers, destroyed reputations, spying and stalking, and suicides — with the JWs Governing Body behind it all. Such "persecution" of ex JWs **by JWs** vastly exceeds the events of 1918 and 1920s. (See: *APOSTATES*)

Renewed persecution summoned

In 1925 WTS predictions failed again (See: *DATES*) and major membership losses followed. Rutherford stemmed the outflow and stiffened the resolve of his cult by provoking renewed "persecution", again by criticising religious ministers via million of copies of tracts and booklets.

In 1927 Rutherford made "Sunday witnessing" by his followers mandatory. On Sunday mornings Catholics had WTS publications thrust at them that compared their religion to a whore and a racket. To spread his message further Rutherford had his followers disobeyed Sabbath laws, peddling laws, and laws against ringing door-bells on Sunday mornings. When individual JWs were arrested Rutherford sent hundreds more to such "hot spots" to swamp local law-enforcement facilities. Arrests of JWs escalated.

In the 1930s JWs paraded with placards reading "Religion Is A Snare And A Racket". (Yearbook 1975, 160-161) They handed out anti-church leaflets at church doors and broadcast Rutherford's anti-church lectures from "sound cars" and with gramophones.

Rutherford's campaign of "denunciation" continued until his death in 1942 and is largely responsible for several thousand mob attacks on JWs in North American in the 1940s.

In addition JWs predicted that the democracies would lose WWII and go totalitarian. This teaching often got JWs regarded as traitors and their activities restricted in Western countries.

After WWII

Frederick Franz, the main JW ideologue after Rutherford, continued the myth that "persecution" resulted simply from "preaching God's Word of Truth":

> …for the very simple reason of preaching God's Word of truth in lands throughout the world Jehovah's witnesses have received the worst kind of treatment. (Yearbook 1946, 6)

Since World War II JWs have experienced bans or restrictions at various times in about fifty countries. Generally the reasons centred on JWs opposition to joining the army and, again, on their public denunciation of other religions.

After World War II newly independent African nations faced mammoth tasks of modernization and of providing education. JWs remained aloof from community, educational and political developments and taught that behind every government is Satan the Devil. Sometimes newly-trained teachers, trained from limited government resources, converted to JWs and left their jobs and sold WTS publications that denounced all governments. If JWs became numerous, it was feared, greater economic backwardness would follow. This fear together with the divisiveness created when JWs criticised established churches moved some African governments to suppress JWs. The tragedy of the early 20th-century Watchtower movement in Nyasaland implied disturbing possibilities if JWs became numerous. (See: *KITIWALA*)

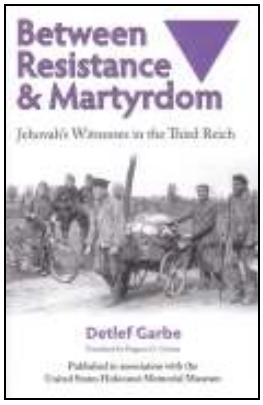
In brief, much of the "persecution" of JWs was stage-managed by the JWs leaders because they knew that: "…persecution stimulates progress." (Yearbook 1983, 222) Persecution was also useful whenever prophecy failed because it "closed their ranks" and made JWs so embattled and emotionally aroused that the failed prophecies receded from consciousness.

(See also: *BANS; CONCENTRATION CAMPS; NEUTRALITY; PERSECUTION IN NAZI GERMANY; WAR*)

PERSECUTION IN GERMANY

JWs suffered persecution in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. The number of JWs peaked at 19,000 in 1933 but about half withdrew as state pressure increased.

An estimated 10,000 were imprisoned, including 2000 in concentration camps. About 1200 died in custody including 250 who were executed.



Detlef Garbe in *Between Resistance & Martyrdom* (2008) provides a fair account of their experience. His book and Penton (2004) are probably the two books to read on this topic.

Pre-Nazi era

JWs developed from the Russellites who opened a German branch office of the Watch Tower Society in Germany in 1902. In 1933 Germany had almost as many JWs as the USA and were known as *Ernste Bibelforscher*, or Earnest Bible Students.

The German Bible Students were increasingly arrested on charges of illegal peddling when they sold WTS literature door to door. From 1927 to 1930 about 5000 charges were pressed against members but most were acquitted.

On March 1931 Reich president Paul von Hindenburg issued the Decree for the Resistance of Political Acts of Violence, which provided for action to be taken when religious organizations, institutions or customs were "maliciously disparaged". Under this decree the "Bible Students" had 2300 charges against them pending by late 1932.

After Hitler became chancellor in 1933 the persecution of JWs intensified because they refused to perform the Nazi salute, join Nazi organizations, do air raid duties, participate in Nazi rallies, or vote.

JW activities were banned in the states of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Bavaria in April 1933. JWs responded with a nationwide house-to-house booklet distribution campaign. Many were arrested.

In April police seized the JW headquarters at Magdeburg but withdrew after US diplomatic efforts. In June JWs were banned in almost every state of Germany, part of the rational being their "malicious attacks" in their publications on the major Christian religions.

In Prussia, Germany's biggest state, the Bible students were accused of harboring subversive former members of Communist and Marxist parties and being:

> ... involved in agitation against political and religious institutions in word and written form. By declaring both institutions as agencies of Satan, they undermine the very foundation of life in the people's community… (Wikipedia)

On June 25th 7000 JWs assembled in Berlin and issued a "Declaration of Facts" written by Rutherford. The document asserted their political neutrality, appealed for the right to publicly preach, and claimed JWs were victims of misinformation by other religions. Two million copies of the four-page pamphlet were distributed throughout Germany.

Hitler received a copy along with a letter assuring him that JWs were "not in opposition

to the national government of the German Reich" and "the entirely religious, nonpolitical objectives and efforts of the Bible Students" were "completely in agreement with the corresponding goals of the national government."

On June 28 storm-troopers occupied the JW branch office the second time, closed the factory, and confiscated WTS literature for public burning. Preaching and meetings (in private homes) continued but the threat of Gestapo raids caused many believers to withdraw.

In February 1934 Rutherford sent Hitler a letter asking that JWs be allowed to assemble, otherwise the organization would publicize the "unjust treatment" worldwide. JWs working in post offices, railway stations and other civil service jobs began to be dismissed for refusing to give the Hitler salute or take an official oath swearing loyalty and obedience to Hitler.

In September 1934 a convention of 3500 JWs in Switzerland, attended by Rutherford, passed a resolution of protest, a copy of which was sent to Hitler with the warning: "Refrain from further persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses; otherwise God will destroy you and your national party." In October an international campaign flooded the Reich chancellery with telegrams and letters of protest.

State bans against JWs were replaced with a prohibition at the Reich level and a number of leaders were sentenced to jail.

Military service

In 1935 Germany reintroduced universal military service for all men aged 18 to 45. No exemptions were provided for religious or conscientious reasons. JWs who refused to serve or to take the oath of allegiance were sent to prison or concentration camps for terms of one or two years.

Gestapo officers began to offer JWs a document to sign to indicate renouncement of their faith, submission to state authority, and support of the German military. Garbe writes that a "relatively high number" signed the statement before the war, but "extremely low numbers" did so in concentration camps in later years.

In 1936 Bible Students were being evicted from their homes, self-employed members were denied licenses to carry out their work, motor vehicles used for business were confiscated, and pensions were cancelled. Children of JWs also suffered, expelled from school, or taken from their parents and sent to orphanages or private homes.

Bible Students deemed to be "an imminent danger to the National Socialist state" were no longer handed to the courts but sent directly to concentration camps.

More protest

Following another convention in Switzerland in September 1936 JWs sent 3000 copies of a resolution of protest to government and clerical leaders. The Gestapo arrested 1000 JWs.

In December JWs responded by distributing 200,000 copies of the recent resolution. Arrests now resulted in sentences of up to two years in prison. A further letterbox campaign was carried out in June 1937.

Between August 1939 and September 1940, 152 Bible Students appeared before the highest military court of the Wehrmacht charged with demoralization of the armed forces and 112 executed. (Wikipedia)

Concentration camps

About 2000 JWs were eventually sent to concentration camps where they were identified by purple triangular badges.

In 1938-1939 they briefly accounted for 12% of prisoners at Buchenwald concentration camp and 40% at Schloss Lichentenburg, the central concentration camp for women.

Garbe writes that JWs were special objects of hatred by the SS, receiving beatings and public humiliation and given the dirtiest and most laborious work. Some were subjected to jets of ice-cold water from fire hydrants; others were forced to stand still for an entire day in the heat or cold; or were refused medical treatment when sick.

Conditions improved in 1942 with many JWs being assigned to farming, gardening, unloading goods, or as housekeepers for Nazi officials.

Causes of the Nazi-JW Conflict

The animosity between Nazis and JWs was rooted in:

1. Both sides were authoritarian systems that believed its view of the world to be reality and truth, and each required full unquestioning submission from adherents, leaving no middle position for compromise.

2. Supporters of each side gave up their individual identity for the objectives and beliefs of the leaders and the system. The Nazis had their Führer State; JWs had their Organization headed theoretically by Jehovah, in practice by Rutherford. Each

side anticipated achieving world domination, the Nazis by winning the world war, JWs after Armageddon.

3. Rutherford was determined that JWs would continue their religious activities openly and aggressively, but Nazi authorities were equally determined to suppress them. This led to action and reaction that escalated in severity and violence.

4. The widespread JW disobedience to Nazi authority, even threatening Hitler with death, was reckless and provocative and increased their suffering. The post-Rutherford leadership pursued a more-subdued, "underground" strategy when confronted with Communist opposition in the 1950s.

5. Penton writes: "No movement can constantly heap insults on all other religions, the business community and national governments in the way that the Bible Student Jehovah's Witnesses did from 1918 onward without provoking a reaction."

Survival

The faith of JWs survived due to effective indoctrination and fear of Armageddon.

For ten or fifteen years many had read almost nothing beyond the publications of Rutherford. Meetings allowed for no unplanned discussion — *Watchtower* studies consisted of reading the paragraphs and answering set questions by quoting the paragraphs without alternative comment.

Also Armageddon was believed to be imminent. *The Watchtower* contained anxiety-arousing descriptions of Armageddon and regularly stated that the preaching was almost finished. Several times WTS publications even claimed only "months" remained.

With this prophetic background JWs in Germany went further and calculated specific dates for their rescue. Garbe (2008) gives an example reported by a Protestant pastor when JWs in the concentration camp anticipated Armageddon on a specific day:

> Over and over again, the Bible Students look to the sky, eagerly anticipating the coming events. Around noon, there are a few clouds — but nothing happens. During the afternoon, their enthusiasm begins to wane. In the evening, under the usual screams and shouts of the SS, they despondently march back to the camp. After evening roll call, their elders can be seen sitting together in heated discussions. The next morning, the problem is solved: Some figures from the Old and New Testaments had been incorrectly combined. A mathematical error was to blame for miscalculating the date for the return of the Lord. (p.425)

For indoctrinated JWs the choice was between enduring the persecution inflicted by Nazis, or suffering "everlasting destruction" inflicted within months at Armageddon by Jehovah.

Are JWs a model to follow?

Lest we consider JWs to be the model for emulation, consider what Garbe (2008) writes:

> …we should take into consideration that Jehovah's Witnesses struggled for their (own) organizational and religious freedom in this conflict with the NS regime. They certainly did not fight for freedom in a more comprehensive and political sense; their resistance of this dictatorship was not based on a democratic disposition. From that perspective, their courageous attitude in the Third Reich merits respect and recognition. However, it cannot be used as a model for a democratically oriented society. (540-541)

PERSECUTION OF "APOSTATES"

In 1986 *The Watchtower* discussed *Religious Liberty Under Attack in Greece*. In one incident a mob tried to disrupt a JW convention of 700 people but the convention continued under police protection. *The Watchtower* reasoned:

> Do you value liberty? Most people do. They want the freedom to have different opinions on such things as politics, economics, and religion within the bounds of law and order, of course…
>
> Such persecution is not just an isolated incident. There have been hundreds of arrests of non-orthodox believers in the past few years, 'including 890 Jehovah's Witnesses in 1983 alone,' said The Wall Street Journal. (pp 3 & 4)

Under the next subheading, *Dark Ages Mentality*, the cause of the problem is attributed to representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church who claim JWs are not Christians. After that the writer says:

> Nowhere did Jesus instruct Christians to persecute, imprison, assault or take mob action against those who disagree with them. Thus, in the first century the real Christians were the persecuted, not the persecutors. The persecutors were the clergy and those incited by them. It is the same in Greece today… (p.5)
>
> Jehovah's Witnesses, well known and granted legal recognition internationally,

uphold those democratic principles. They want Greece to uphold them too and not let any church impose its Inquisition mentality on others by persecuting those who do not agree with them. (p.7)

Such appeals to democracy, freedom of opinion, and freedom from persecution are insincere, a mere means to an end, because they are values that JWs oppose:

- JWs are anti-democratic. They do not vote in national elections or have voting within their Organization (except by the Governing Body which passes decisions by 2/3-majority vote of its members).

- There is no freedom of opinion or of speech in the JW Organization. Everything said must agree with what's published by the WTS and dissent leads to excommunication and shunning.

- JWs rarely, perhaps never, discuss or care about the persecution of Christians of mainline denominations. Nearly all the references to persecution listed in the W*atch Tower Publications Index* refer to JWs. Mainline Christians, however, are persecuted in numerous countries and millions were killed in the 20th century. But JWs remain disinterested and regularly publish slurs and express contempt. It is difficult to find any positive comment about other denominations in JW publications despite the work of thousands of Christian charities, the Christian contribution to scientific progress, and the establishment of hundreds of hospitals.

Therefore, when JW leaders criticise the "persecution" of JWs they appeal to principles and values of democracy which they themselves do not accept and are not guided by in their treatment of former JWs.

Persecution includes "verbal abuse"

The Watchtower says:

> Throughout the Scriptures we read of many kinds of persecution used by the adversary against Jehovah's faithful servants, all of which are still used by him today. One of the milder forms of persecution is verbal abuse. The purpose of this is not only to cause the servant of God to shrink back but to poison the minds of others so that they will not listen to the preaching… (w1966 10/1 5-6)

JWs use scores of defamatory labels such as "antichrist", "lawless", "like Satan", "corrupt", "mentally diseased", etc, to describe people who leave the JW religion:

> Such ones wilfully abandoning the Christian congregation thereby become part of the 'antichrist'. (w1986 4/1 31)

JWs are required to ostracize ex JWs who in many cases left because of the false prophecies. JW employers won't hire ex JWs; and if a JW is hired by an ex JW he won't continue the job upon finding this out. JWs themselves, therefore, "persecute" people on the basis of religion.

Pressures and stresses ex JWs face include:

1. The difficult and stressful process of readjusting their lives, beliefs and values;
2. Being friendless and isolated because joining JWs meant giving up former friendships, and leaving JWs results in rejection by their JW "friends";
3. Ostracism by JWs including family members still in the sect;
4. Poverty due to having donated to the WTS, worked for it as a volunteer, or having left one's work or career to "pioneer" because Armageddon is imminent;
5. Lack of job qualifications due to having heeded WTS counsel to avoid post high-school education;
6. Defamatory accusations with the Governing Body urging JWs to "loathe" ex members because they are "disloyal" and follow "their father the Devil".

The stress inflicted can be so great that it kills by impelling some toward suicide.

Obviously JWs not only suffer persecution but also persecute! If we regard "shunning" as a form of "mob action", the resulting isolation as a form of imprisonment, and being defamed and loathed as a form of assault we can paraphrase *The Watchtower* quoted above as follows:

> Nowhere did Jesus instruct Christians to persecute, imprison, assault or take mob action against those who disagree with them. Thus, in the first century the real Christians were the persecuted, not the persecutors. The persecutors were the organizational elders and those incited by them. It is the same in the Watchtower organization today … it imposes its inquisition mentality on others by persecuting those who do not agree with them.

(See also: *APOSTATES*)

PERSON OF GOODWILL

A person who regularly buys WTS publications or otherwise shows approval.

PERSONAL DECISION
A decision left to the individual conscience without a Governing Body directive. It is also referred to as a "conscience matter".

Often, however, the claim that something is a "personal decision", or "up to the individual to decide", or a "conscience matter" is hedged with so much counsel, constraints, and things to be wary of that the supposed "personal decision" is forced.

Accepting a blood transfusion, for example, is nowadays claimed to be a "personal decision", but if a transfusion is accepted the person is disfellowshipped and shunned. Or rather, he is said to "remove himself from the Christian congregation" although that's not the "personal decision" he wanted to make. His "personal decision" was to accept medical treatment that would save his life.

Another example of a "personal decision" which among JWs is virtually a forced decision is whether to do compulsory military service:

> What, though, if the Christian lives in a land where exemption is not granted to ministers of religion? Then he will have to make a personal decision following his Bible-trained conscience. (Galatians 6:5) While taking the authority of Caesar into account, he will weigh carefully what he owes to Jehovah. (Psalm 36:9; 116:12-14; Acts 17:28) The Christian will remember that the mark of a true Christian is love for all his fellow believers, even those who live in other lands or those belonging to other tribes. (John 13:34, 35; 1 Peter 2:17) Further, he will not forget the Scriptural principles found in texts such as Isaiah 2:2-4; Matthew 26:52; Romans 12:18; 14:19; 2 Corinthians 10:4; and Hebrews 12:14. (w1996 5/1 19)

This reads as if JWs have a free personal decision. But if they decide wrongly, i.e. contrary to the interpretations of the Governing Body, they'll be expelled and ostracized i.e. lose their family, friends, social life, and perhaps their livelihood (if they run a business which has a substantial JW client-base).

Sometimes, however, a "personal decision" is truly a personal decision. Nowadays, for example, JWs can decide without official censure to get married (but only to another JW), and to report child abuse to the police.

PERSONAL FILES

Congregations of JWs as well as the branch offices and the world headquarters collect and store a variety of documents that record members' personal details.

Included are ministry report cards; applications to pioneer or otherwise volunteer; judicial cases and discipline administered; disfellowshipping details; copies of letters sent to headquarters; copies of letters elders sent to the next congregation if someone relocates; legal correspondence; files on individuals accused of child molestation; judicial reports; etc.

The files are retained for many years even if a person leaves the sect.

Getting one's personal files

To retrieve one's files from the WTS can be fraught with difficulty.

Paul Grundy, a former worker at Bethel (i.e. headquarters), was disfellowshipped in 2006 and wanted to obtain the files concerning him. He writes:

> It took three years, but in the end the Watchtower Society was forced by the Australian legal system to release my documents. It needs to be noted that I was only able to receive copies and the originals are still stored by the Watchtower Corporation. Furthermore, the laws drawn upon are specific to Australia and may not apply in other countries...

PERSONAL OPINION
"Personal opinion", "opinion of man" and sometimes "expressed opinion" are pejorative phrases which refer to ideas, theories or beliefs that disagree with the current official "truth" of JWs:

> The opinion of man, unsupported authoritative proof, only tends to raise doubts in the minds of thoughtful men... The word of God used by Jehovah's witnesses, the remnant, is not the message of any man, nor the expressed opinion of man, but is the authoritative truth of God's Word, and does away with all doubt as to the final solution of the world situation. Those who believe and rely upon God's Word know what is coming to pass shortly; and when they speak thereof they speak with authority from the Lord. (w1933 11/15 341)

> *The Watchtower* is not giving any man's opinion but, on the contrary, is setting forth the physical facts.... (w1940 8/1 230)

The WTS allegedly never publishes "personal opinion" but only truth:

> We should eat and digest and assimilate what is set before us, without shying away from part of the food because it may not suit the fancy of our mental taste. The truths we are to publish are the ones provided through the discreet-slave organization, not some personal opinions contrary to what the slave has provided as timely food. (w1952 2/1 79)

The Watchtower advises: "Make sure that your counsel is firmly based on God's Word and not simply on personal opinion." (w1999 1/15 22) JWs readers, reading this and similar statements, would conclude that this is what the WTS and Governing Body have always done. The hundreds of instances where the word "opinion" appears in WTS publications apparently include not a single admission that the WTS ever published a "personal opinion".

Even the errors in old WTS publications of Russell's time were "God's revealed truths" distinct from "personal opinions". *Yearbook* 1984, for example, discussing the Russellites in Belgium in 1914-1919, calls them "faithful" and contrasts them with others who "put more emphasis on personal opinions than on God's revealed truths". They showed they were "faithful", the *Yearbook* says, by proclaiming "Millions Now Living Will Never Die"! (pp 43-44) However, a "faithful" person who insists on preaching the "Millions" message now would be expelled!

PERSONAL STUDY

To read WTS books and magazines privately, i.e. other than at meetings, is "personal study". If the publication has study questions at the bottom of the page then personal study includes finding in each paragraph the answers to the printed questions.

PERSUASION TECHNIQUES USED BY JWs

This is the title of a 16,400-word report submitted to Tabor College by Nathan Charles Beel for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Christian Counselling in 1997.
[Beel later became a lecturer for Bachelor of Human Services (Counselling) at a Queensland university.]

His introduction says:

> The Watchtower Society utilises manipulative techniques and environment to recruit and maintain their membership including similar mind-control techniques to those used in Communist China...
>
> The publications have persuasive, complicated, factual and philosophical arguments to justify their beliefs but are really repetitious propaganda to mislead the uninformed, seductive and filled with half-truths and loaded language.

Beel accepted a "Bible study" and:

> The Jehovah's Witness (JW) went out of his way to criticise Church doctrine but when asked if he had ever studied any doctrines of the Church through sources other than Watchtower publications he admitted that he had not. He discussed church history pointing out all the negative things of the Church to prove it was not from God then proceeded to compare it with a specially prepared history of the JW's to show their sincerity and faithfulness to God's Word in direct contrast to the Christian Church. He spent most of his time criticizing the Church [and] could not name any positive things the Church and its members had achieved....

Thought reform methods

Beel's report goes into "Lifton's Criteria for Thought Reform", and argues that the JW organization fits the criteria, these being:

- Milieu Control
- Mystical Manipulation
- Loading the Language
- Doctrine over Person
- Sacred Science
- The Cult of Confession
- The Demand for Purity
- The Dispensing of Existence

Hassan's Criteria for Mind Control

Beel next considers Steven Hassan and his book *Combatting Cult Mind Control* which describes four main categories of mind control:

- Behaviour Control
- Information Control
- Thought Control
- Emotional Control

Propaganda

Beel goes on to discuss propaganda.

The propagandist encourages people to reach preconceived conclusions by offering no desirable alternative. A teacher in contrast helps students make informed decisions based on adequate understanding of alternatives. The teacher shows people how to think, the propagandist tells people what to think.

Beel continues by describing techniques that propagandists use, these being:

- The Use of Stereotypes
- The Substitution of Names
- Selection and Card-Stacking
- Deception and Lying
- Repetition
- Glittering Generalities and Name-Calling
- Pinpointing the Enemy
- The Appeal to Authority and Testimonial

Cognitive Dissonance

Beel goes on to explain Cognitive Dissonance theory and applies it to JWs. The theory was proposed by Leon Festinger in *A Theory of Cognitive Dissonance*. Festinger's idea is that people who experience conflict between their beliefs, group opinion or behaviour, will feel discomfiture or "dissonance" and will become motivated to reduce it.

Information alone often does not persuade people to change, but if their behavior can be changed first, their thoughts will often follow. An outsider who goes to JW meetings or other functions may find that this behavior is inconsistent with his beliefs about JWs. Eventually he will change something to reduce the dissonance — either stop meeting with them or start to agree with them.

PERU

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	4,518	3,007		
1975	11,721	1,285		
1980	13,411	1,305	46,000	380
1985	21,389	930	84,400	236
1990	35,000	629	128,200	172
1995	53,500	440	178,300	132
2000	74,600	344	233,400	110
2005	95,100	294	312,000	90
2010	112,400	262	324,900	91
2015	124,900	249	383,300	81
2018	131,624	237	370,882	84
	Ave.			
2019	128,800	252	398,300	82
2020	129,700	252	355,900	92
2021	130,800	253	497,700	66
2022	129,200	258	420,400	79
2023	130,200	261	372,000	91
2024	134,300	254	380,481	89
2025	138,496	248	378,800	91

PETERS, SHAWN FRANCIS

Author of *Judging Jehovah's Witnesses Religious Persecution and the Dawn of the Rights Revolution* (2000/2002).

In this prize-winning book Peters cites primary sources, first-hand testimony and legal briefs to tell the story of the persecution of JWs in 1930s-1940s USA and the JW legal campaign.

Peters starts with Walter Gobitas whose children refused to salute the flag at school and the hundreds of mob assaults on JWs after the Court ruled against Gobitas.

Peters' book is flawed because he has uncritically sided with the official story presented by the WTS. *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* (1959) presents WTS court actions in 1940s USA as a struggle of peaceful, freedom loving, truth-speaking JWs against the forces of false religion trying to suppress freedom and truth. Peters takes no issue with this view although it is essentially JW propaganda.

JWs did suffer several thousand mob actions in part for refusing to salute the flag and serve in the armed forces. And JWs did wage a legal campaign which led to 23 Supreme Court rulings between 1938 and 1946. But the reason for their legal campaign was not to produce, "a turning point in the nation's constitutional commitment to individual rights", nor "to inaugurate an era in which individual and minority rights emerged as matters of concern for the Supreme Court…"

The JWs contribution to the improved protection of individual and minority rights was an unintended side effect of Rutherford's agenda. His agenda was to proclaim on the greatest possible scale his religion as God's Organization and other religions as frauds and liars about to be annihilated, and courts were merely another avenue to do this.

Allen Rostron (2003-2004), in a *Book Review* of Peters' book, writes:

> Peters' book shares a fundamental flaw with previous accounts of the legal history of the Jehovah's Witnesses. He has chosen to passionately and unequivocally support the Witnesses' side of each and every one of the legal battles he describes. In Peters' hands every episode in the Witnesses' legal struggles becomes a story about how an extraordinary brave and dedicated Witness challenged an indefensible rule of law, and how every case ultimately resulted in either a watershed victory for liberty, or a disheartening judicial failure to protect our freedom.

PEW

Benches used in churches for seating parishioners. JW halls mostly use rows of

linked-together seats or sometimes, in small congregations, individual chairs. JWs will use benches if other seating is unavailable but would not refer to them as a "pew".

PHILIPPINES
Publishers and Memorial attendance in the Philippines and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	54,800	675		
1975	78,452	535		
1980	61,200	768	183,000	257
1985	83,700	645	268,500	201
1990	104,500	574	317,600	189
1995	121,000	554	378,600	177
2000	136,400	550	413,000	182
2005	146,600	580	453,900	187
2010	171,900	541	493,300	189
2015	201,800	499	577,000	175
2018	217,200	484	601,000	175
	Ave.			
2019	221,000	489	613,000	176
2020	225,300	486	563,000	195
2021	228,300	486	739,000	150
2022	233,488	482	665,000	169
2023	245,475	464	665,000	171
2024	257,600	439	680,400	166
2025	268,300	424	646,500	176

PHILISTINES
Philistines were one of the main enemy nations opposed to ancient Israel. According to Rutherford the Philistines pictured modern religionists, especially the Catholic Hierarchy. (w1936 6/15; w1940 9/15 279, 293; w1942 1/1 6)

PHILOSOPHY
In the early 1920s Rutherford sometimes wrote of "the philosophy of the ransom sacrifice".

Later, the word "philosophy" became almost a dirty word among JWs. Disparaging phrases employed by JWs include "vain philosophies", "philosophies of men", "deceptive philosophies", and "human philosophy".

A philosophical question in scholarly circles is one which can't be settled by experiment, observation or current evidence. By disparaging other views as "philosophy" the JW leaders keep more of the followers away from issues that require deep thought and might influence them to question the WTS.

PHONOGRAPH
Wind-up record players weighing 20 kilos, manufactured at WTS headquarters, sold to publishers, and used house to house to play 78rpm discs of 4½-minute speeches of Rutherford. They were used 1933 to 1943.

Several successive models came out. In 1938 almost 19,700 phonographs were in use with talks in 17 languages. In 1939 about 38,000 were in use. Phonographs were Rutherford's response to being forced off US radio.

Until 1944 JWs did little face to face preaching — they sold publications, distributed tracts, showed householders testimony cards, and let the phonograph speak.

PHOTO DRAMA OF CREATION
An eight-hour movie/slide show, with synchronized sound and words on 96 phonograph records, produced by Russellites in 1912-1914.

Two million people viewed the production in 1914. Numerous copies were made and were still shown by JWs in the 1930s when starting up in new areas. Some breakaway groups also used the Photo Drama in their preaching until the 1930s.

PHYSICAL FACTS
A phrase often used by Rutherford to support his prophecies and interpretations which he claimed were proved or supported by the "physical facts":

> The apostle Peter emphatically says : "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." (2 Pet. 1:20) The interpretation comes from the Lord in his own due time. When his due time arrives to bring about the **physical facts** of history by which facts those devoted to him can see that these facts are in fulfillment of prophecy, then the prophecy can be understood. We apply the physical facts (well known to be true) to the texts of the Bible, and thereby readily see whether the same agree or not; and if they agree, they are true. The truth does not belong to any man or any other creature. God's Word is truth. (John 17:17) In his due time he makes it clear to those devoted to him, and not before. (w1939 10/15 318)

Many interpretations although based on alleged "physical facts" were nevertheless discarded or changed.

For example, in Rutherford's book *Comfort for the Jews*, interpreting the restoration of Israel as fulfilment of Bible prophecy was based on "physical facts":

> When a prophecy is fulfilled we describe the facts of its fulfillment as **physical facts**. (Comfort for the Jews 1925, 9)

In *Comfort for the Jews* the "physical facts" supposedly proved that Israel's restoration, as prophesied in the Bible, was occurring and coming true. However, the "physical facts" were ignored when in 1932 Rutherford spiritualised the Bible's prophecies about Israel and claimed they are fulfilled by events in the WTS Organization.

In 1922 we read:

> Bible prophecy shows that the Lord was due to appear for the second time in the year 1874. Fulfilled prophecy shows beyond a doubt that he did appear in 1874. Fulfilled prophecy is otherwise designated the **physical facts**; and those facts are indisputable. (w1922 11/1 333)

Although Christ's return in 1874 was backed by the "indisputable" "physical facts" of fulfilled prophecy, and therefore "beyond a doubt", Rutherford himself, around 1930, demolished the (1874) second coming.

The "physical facts" proving that the time of the end started in 1799 were also shoved aside after 1930. In the JWs sect even "indisputable" "physical facts", "beyond a doubt", and established by the top-ranking leaders, cannot be trusted!

PICTURES

Rutherford interpreted numerous Bible events, places, and characters as prophetic of 20th century events. The lives of Bible characters, Bible events, and Bible places were given modern parallels. The Bible stories were said to "picture" the 20th century parallels and so were called "pictures" and "prophetic dramas"

Like other doctrines and prophecies promoted through the WTS the "pictures" were supposedly not private interpretations but came from Christ Jesus:

> Christ Jesus has caused the understanding of the prophetic dramas and pictures to be clear and set forth in the Watchtower publications. (w1942 12/15 376)

The good guys in every "picture" represented pre-1918 or post-1918 Russellites or sometimes both categories. The bad guys represented clergymen, Big Business, Christendom, Protestants, Totalitarianism, and WTS break-away groups.

The notion of "pictures" occurs in Russell's writings. (Studies II, 203; Convention Report 1915 Supplement p.62) Rutherford, however, developed the approach beyond anything imagined by Russell. (Life 1929, 228, 240)

The purposes behind Rutherford's "pictures" were to:

1. Give weight to the charge that clergymen do not understand the Bible;
2. Explain Russellism's near disintegration in 1918 and conflicts within the cult by claiming it was all prophetically pictured;
3. Counteract Christian critique of Russellism by paralleling the Russellites to the Bible's good guys like Mordecai and Naomi;
4. Distinguish Rutherford's followers from all other religions;
5. Motivate book and tract distribution;
6. Emphasize Armageddon;
7. Provide theology that was hard to refute (although itself unprovable);
8. Justify changes in policy and theology.

The pictures provided vivid imagery by relating Bible stories to JWs history and circumstances. The approach was irrefutable since the Bible events could be made to mean anything that Rutherford chose. He argued:

> Each prophetic picture or drama is separate and distinct ... and the chronological happening thereof has nothing to do with the real meaning of the picture. (w1942 1/1 6)

People trying to convert JWs had to not only refute false reasoning, but also remove images and fantasy from their minds — a hard thing to do!

JW leaders have repeatedly re-interpreted their "pictures" and this recalls a cautionary word from Russell:

> …many well-meaning people … run to the extreme of treating every Bible character and incident as typical, and are thus led into error… (Studies II, 174)

(See also: *PICTURES 2*)

PICTURES 2

A "picture" and its modern parallel so weird that the WTS never published an illustration of it, is Joshua circumcising the Israelites and producing a "hill of foreskins". (Joshua 5:3)

The hill of foreskins supposedly pictured the "cleansing" of Rutherford's Organization when he dismissed the Editorial Committee of *The Watchtower* and abolished the office of "elective elder":

> In fulfillment of this part of the drama, the facts show that it took place after the giving of the "new name", which was revealed to God's people in 1931… The October 15, 1931, issue of *The*

Watchtower announced that the "Editorial Committee", provided for by a man, had been discontinued, and the acknowledgment was publicly made that Jehovah God and Jesus Christ are the Teachers of the church, instead of men. This made a number very sore, and the soreness did not heal. The November 1, 1931, *Watchtower* brought forth the article "Taught of God", emphasising the fact that Jehovah and Christ are the Teachers, and not men. Those of right condition of heart were quickly healed. The clearing out of self-important individuals as "elective elders" followed, and they did not get healed. *The Watchtower* of August 15 and September 1, 1932, in the articles "Jehovah's Organization", brought forward the Scriptural proof showing that the office of "elective elder" was a human invention and should be discredited. *The Watchtower* of October 15, 1932, published a resolution adopted, and which served as a collective announcement by Jehovah's people, that 'the sanctuary had been cleansed'. (Dan. 8:14) The result was the purging and cleansing of the organization preparatory to carrying on the witness work of warfare against the enemy. Only those circumcised in heart, that is, wholly devoted to God, would go forward in the warfare just before them. (w1939 3/15 86)

PICTURE/PHOTO REVISIONS IN WTS PUBLICATIONS

Some later printings of WTS publications have some illustrations or photos of previous editions replaced or revised.

An example is *You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth* (1982; 1989). An early printing of the first edition illustrates the idea of "Seeking Your Mate's Pleasure" with a picture of a woman by herself, in dressing gown, looking seductive. (p.244)

A later printing of the first edition, as well as the 1989 edition, has the wife fully dressed, looking demure, and accompanied by a man.

Photos of JWs in *The Watchtower or Awake!* may be replaced in the bound volume if the person leaves the sect before the bound volume is published.

The WTS does not publicise such picture/photo alterations but so-called "apostates" call attention to them.

PIERCE, GUY H. (1934-2014)

A member of the "anointed" added to the Governing Body, along with three others, on October 2, 1999. This increased the Governing Body at the time from nine to13.

Guy Hollis Pierce was born in Auburn, California on November 6, 1934, was baptized in 1955, married Penelope Wong in 1977, entered the pioneer service with his wife in 1982, and was a circuit overseer 1986-1997, and was invited to Brooklyn headquarters in 1997. (w2000 1/1 29) Pierce was the chairman for the 129th annual meeting of the WBTS on October 5-6, 2013 attended by 1.4 million in 31 countries via the Internet.

Pierce is survived by six adult children. His death on March 18, 2014 at age 79 reduced the Governing Body to seven members.

PILESO, LIEBY (?-1997)

A younger sister of Nelson Mandela (1922-2013) the President of South Africa.

Mandela's father had four wives; therefore Pileso may have been a half-sister. She was a Jehovah's Witness for 20 years living in a remote village in the Eastern Cape.

Her funeral, conducted at Mount Frere, 150km north of Umtata, by JWs was attended by President Mandela, security officers, police, local chiefs and kings, many JWs, and 3000 onlookers. President Mandela afterwards told JWs: "You have conducted beautifully the funeral of my sister."

PILGRIMS

Russell's full-time travelling representatives from 1897 who visited ecclesias (congregations) to give talks and enforce use of Russell's books.

From 1890-1896 part-time representatives had performed similar functions.

wr1901 page 2829 lists a cumulative total up to that year of 140 pilgrims. There were 25 in 1905 and 93 in 1917. In 1918 the pilgrim work ceased but was restarted after Rutherford's release from prison.

In 1928 pilgrims were replaced with "regional-service men" who in turn were eventually replaced with "circuit servants" followed (in the 1970s) by "circuit overseers".

PIONEER

A publisher appointed by the WTS to proselytize "full-time" either temporarily or indefinitely.

Until 1931 Russell's and Rutherford's full-time book salespersons were called colporteurs. In 1931 full-timers were relabelled "pioneers".

This name was chosen because until 1931 Rutherford predicted the imminent restoration of Israel, and Jews doing the work of rebuilding Israel were called "chaluzim" meaning "pioneers". In 1931/1932 Rutherford discarded the doctrine of literal Israel's restoration and applied the Bible's prophecies about Israel to the restoration of his own sect after its near-disintegration in 1918. In changing his prophecies from literal to "spiritual Israel" Rutherford retained some of the terminology but with meanings changed.

Apparently in the 1930s pioneers had to put in 200 hours per month. (w1999 12/1 22; w2000 3/1 23)

In 1943 the WTS introduced "irregular pioneers" who "pioneered" in some months only, and "vacation pioneers" who applied to "pioneer" during vacations. "General pioneers" at this time had monthly quotas of 150 hours. (Yearbook 1945, 60) And "special pioneers" put in 175 hours per month and received a monthly stipend or allowance from the WTS.

If a pioneer fell behind due to sickness he had to make up the hours when he got well or be removed from the list. From the 1950s to the 1970s the goal was 100 hours for general pioneers. Around 1980 this became 90 hours and in 1999 70 hours. (Australian Kingdom Ministry 1999 January)

The hours required of Special pioneers were reduced to 150 (possibly in the 1950s) and reduced further in the 1980s.

Pioneering is glamorized as "happy", "joyful" work for "mature" persons of real spirituality who appreciate sacred things and desire a worthwhile "career". Many takers, however, find disillusionment including poverty especially as old age approaches without preparation for it.

PIONEER RATE
A phrase now obsolete which referred to the discounted price pioneers paid for WTS publications which they resold to the public at profit. This was intended to assist pioneers financially.

Publishers until the 1990s used to pay about 80% of the "contribution" they asked from the public, but pioneers about 20%.

PIONEERING
Pioneering is what "pioneer publishers" do which is go door to door "fulltime" or rather, in most cases, 70 hours per month.

(See: *PIONEER; PIONEERS STATISTICS*)

PIONEERS SERVICE SCHOOLS
Started in 1977 for pioneers as a two-week course on JW doctrines and proselytising methods.

PIONEERS STATISTICS
Pioneers are "fulltime" publishers enrolled indefinitely i.e. until they choose to stop. Temporary or auxiliary pioneers are full-timers enrolled for short periods usually a month.

The WTS sometimes publishes figures for the peak number (i.e. best month of the year) of auxiliary pioneers and peak number of regular pioneers combined:

> Notice too, the new **peak** of auxiliary and regular pioneers: 650,095. (w1988 1/1 17)

At other times it publishes the average for the 12 months.

Also sometimes published, are statistics for "fulltime workers", but whether these refer only to pioneers and missionaries or sometimes includes workers in branch offices, printeries and farms is unclear.

Average number of pioneers

1918	600
1928	1,900
1938	4,100
1945	6,700
1948	9,000
1955	17,000
1960	30,600
1965	47,900
1970	99,900
1975	132,700
1981	151,200
1985	322,800
1990	536,500
1993	623,000
1998	698,800
2000	805,200

Since about 2005 the WTS has separated the figures for pioneers and auxiliary (temporary) pioneers. Pioneers since about 2018 are reported as "Pioneer Publishers"::

	Average Pioneers	and Auxiliaries
2005	623,300	219,900
2006	642,200	269,600
2007	678,600	312,700
2009	794,300	304,600

2010	844,900	288,000
2011	895,800	466,900
2014	1,089,400	
2015	1,135,200	443,500
2016	1,157,000	459,400
2017	1,250,000	
2018	1,268,000	447,000
2019	1,278,000	465,000
2020	1,300,000	338,600
2021	1,350,000	398,500
2022	1,465,000	381,310
2024	1,679,000	867,502

The difference between the peak month and average for the 12 months is sometimes huge. In 2011 the peak "auxiliary pioneers" numbered 2,657,400. However, this included 16,300 out of 20,300 "Bethel family" members (i.e. the branch workers). (Yearbook 2012, 5, 7)

PLACE
When JWs sold publications door to door (until the 1990s) they used the words "place" and "placements" rather than "sell", "sold" or "sales".. This avoided the issues of taxation, peddling licenses, and comparison with sales people who are insured for work-related injuries. The WTS does not insure JWs "publishers" for injuries suffered while going door to door.

PLACEMENTS
WTS publications sold or given to the public or to non-baptized children of JWs are "placements".

PLAN
Russell's first book in the Millennial Dawn series was *The Divine Plan of the Ages* (1886).

Today JWs distinguish "plan" from "purpose". Humans make plans but God has a "purpose". In 1974 the WTS for example published the book *God's Eternal* ***Purpose*** *Now Triumphing for Man's Good*.

PLATFORM
The elevated front area in kingdom halls and assembly halls, or the speakers' stand at conventions, from which speakers address the audience, is "the platform" or "speakers' platform".

PLATONIC FRIENDSHIPS
These are opposed by the Governing Body as "Not very wise at all." (g1985 6/8 13-15)

PLEIADES
A constellation of stars which JWs declared to be the location of God's throne and the place where the "great multitude" would live after their resurrection:

> Alcyone, then, as far as science has been able to perceive, would seem to be 'the midnight throne' in which the whole system of gravitation has its central seat, and from which the Almighty governs his universe… (Studies 3, 1891, 327)

> The Pleiades, the center of the universe, are located in Taurus, and as though to emphasize the foundation, the original meaning of Alcyone, one of the chief stars of the Pleiades, is "foundation". How significant that the whole universe should throughout the ages swing about that constellation and that star which alone picture so clearly the Ransom!
> (Convention Report 1914, 252-253)

> The face of the deep, of course, would be toward the Pleiades, which are claimed to be the habitation of Jehovah. (Creation 1927, 94)

> But the greatness in size of other stars or planets is small when compared with the Pleiades in importance, because the Pleiades is the place of the eternal throne of God. (Reconciliation 1928, 14)

The doctrine about Alcyone and the Pleiades was discarded in 1953:

> Some attribute striking qualities to these constellations or star groups and on the basis of such they then offer private interpretations of Job 38:31, 32 that amaze their hearers… when viewed scripturally they are completely without foundation. (w1953 11/15 703)
>
> (See also: *Investigator* 31, 1995 March)

POETZINGER, MARTIN (1904-1988)
Governing Body member appointed in September 1977.

Poetzinger was originally a Catholic from Munich, Germany. In 1926 he was introduced by his brother to a Watch Tower study group which he calls, "my first encounter with genuine Bible truth." He began to sell Rutherford's books and was baptised later that 1926.

He became a "pioneer" in 1930 and was assigned to Bulgaria in 1933. Deported in 1934 he moved to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, returned to Germany 1936 and preached "underground" and wedded a German JW named Gertrude.

Poetzinger was arrested and imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp, later in Mauthausen, Austria. Meanwhile Gertrude spent four years at Ravensbrück concentration camp.

Poetzinger returned to Munich after WW II to re-organize JWs proselytising efforts.

He attended Gilead Missionary School in New York in 1959 and returned again to Germany but moved with his wife to Brooklyn headquarters after joining the Governing Body. (w1969 12/1 729-732)

POHNPEI

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Pohnpei (formerly Ponape) an island in the Western Pacific and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	67	324		
1975	139	167		
1980	62	355	221	
1985	78	359	418	67
1990	70	484	356	95
1995	74	505	533	70
2000	72	568	517	79
2005	80	497	400	99
2010	107	324	265	131
2015	73	493	212	170
2018	67	537	183	197
	Ave.			
2019	52	692	170	212
2020	55	673	120	308
2021	55	618	197	173
2022	53	698	138	268
2023	50	680	145	234
2024	53	642	226	150
2025	56	661	143	259

POLAND

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1990	96,800	400	188,900	205
1995	123,900	311	240,400	160
2000	125,300	309	235,200	165
2005	128,500	297	224,400	171
2010	126,488	301	212,000	180
2015	122,000	315	191,500	201
2018	116,300	330	180,600	213
	Ave.			
2019	114,500	332	177,400	214
2020	111,200	345	170,200	226
2021	112,200	341	201,300	190
2022	113,300	337	191,600	199
2023	115,100	328	185,900	203
2024	114,400	328	181,300	207
2025	113,600	329	175,500	213

In the USA around 1918 Polish members of Russellism were one of the largest national groups represented in the cult but many left after Rutherford took over.

The first Pole to join in the USA was Hipolit Oleszyński (1857-1930). He remained in the cult 1893-1918 and translated parts of *Studies in the Scriptures* into Polish including (in 1910) all of *Divine Plan of the Ages*, and in 1915 *The Watch Tower*.

Russell several times sent Oleszyński to Poland which at that time was partitioned between Russia, Austria and Prussia. When Russell visited Warsaw in 1910 some 20 believers met him and three applied to become colporteurs. By 1913 meetings were held in Lodz and other places.

In the USA *The Finished Mystery* (1917) split the Russell cult into many divisions including in 1918 "The Polish Congregation of Explorers in America" led by Oleszyński.

Bible Students independent of the WTS (including Oleszyńsk) visited Poland during the 1920s and founded the Association of Free Bible Students.

Rutherford sent C. Kasprzykowski (1886-1961) to Poland in 1920 to establish a Polish branch of the WTS. He deserted in 1925 and founded three Bible Students groups.

The rapid change in doctrine during Rutherford's presidency of the WTS, along with delays in translating his books, often led to non-English JWs receiving old "truth" years after it was discarded. For example, the book *Prophecy* (1929) taught that Christ's second presence began in 1874. This date was altered in 1930 but remained in the Polish edition of *Prophecy* published in 1934.

JWs were banned in Poland from 1950. During Poland's Communist era little was published by critics about JWs because officially JWs did not exist. This absence of criticism assisted their rapid increase after WWII, and after 1989 when Communism collapsed

In 1958 Poland's JWs ranked second in number after the USA:

- USA Peak 226,797 (Yearbook 1959)
- Poland Peak 84,559 (Yearbook 1994, p.234)

After the fall of Communism critical books about JWs appeared in Polish including translations of W.J. Schnell, R. Franz, D. Reed, J. Bergman, C.O. Jonnson, and others. Many websites critical of JWs were created.

The activity of critics explains, at least partly, the decline in baptisms after 1990 and more-so

after 1996:

Baptisms in Poland

1989	6,175	1995	8,177
1990	11,387	1996	7,502
1991	10,842	1997	6,161
1992	8,376	1998	4,516
1993	8,164	---------	--------
1994	8,131	2001	3,741

The steady decline of publishers and Memorial attendance, which began in 1998, stopped in 2021 with renewed increase probably because the Covid-19 pandemic brought fears of Armageddon.

Wars, pandemics and famines influence inactive JWs to return to the sect out of fear that Armageddon is about to strike and they'll miss out on God's protection and eternal life in paradise. People being indoctrinated at home, i.e. "home Bible studies", are likewise likely to decide to start going door to door at times of national crisis in case Armageddon is coming and they'll be exterminated.

A history of Polish JWs is in the *Yearbook* (1994).

POLEMIC WORK

Individual JWs sometimes predict a final all-out burst of effort when JWs use all their resources to denounce religions and governments as the prelude to Armageddon, and call this the "polemic work".

However, *The Watchtower* describes the entire ministry since 1919 as polemic and refers to: "the polemic aspect of the work that Jehovah's witnesses have carried on throughout the earth since 1919." (w1968 3/1 151)

The idea of a final global condemnation is based on Revelation 16:21.

(See: *HAILSTONE STORM*)

POLITICAL PROMISES

JWs distinguish "political promises" from the "truth" where the phrase "the truth" designates or refers to all the doctrines and teachings of JWs. (e.g. Yearbook 1985, 55)

POLLINA, SERGIO

A JW in Italy from 1968 to 1988 who was an elder, circuit overseer, *Awake!* correspondent for Italy, and marriage celebrant.

Pollina left the JWs sect along with 40 other JWs including a number of elders after reading Ray Franz's *Crisis of Conscience* (1983).

He translated *Crisis of Conscience* and *In Search of Christian Freedom* into Italian and also Carl Olof Jonsson's books — *The Sign of the Last Days* and *The Gentile Times Reconsidered*.

POLLOCK, F.J.

A critic of Russell who authored: *Millennial Dawnism Briefly Tested by Scripture*, Third edition (1917), Claxton Press, England.

The booklet has concise statements of "Pastor" Russell's major beliefs followed by Bible verses that refute him, and concluding:

> He was, however, no pastor of Christ, but in reality a wolf in sheep's clothing, bent on the destruction of the flock. (p.22)

The "Forward" mentions Russell's attempts to avoid paying his wife alimony and to "get her pronounced insane in order to put her away."

Page 4 quotes Russell's infamous *Watch Tower* claim that:

> …the six volumes of 'Scripture Studies' are practically the Bible, topically arranged … not merely comments on the Bible, but are practically the Bible itself…
>
> Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the Divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see also that if anyone lays the 'Scripture Studies' aside … and goes to the Bible alone … within two years he, goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the *'Scripture Studies'* with the reference and had not read a page of the Bible as such he would be in the light at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures. (w1910 9/15 298)

Pollock says regarding this claim:

> No wonder that such a shocking statement led to some of Russell's dupes getting their eyes opened and leaving him. One group of the secessionists comments very justly upon this:—
> "When man thus belittles God's Word and makes his own superior to that of God, it seems to be nothing short of blasphemy. Reflect upon it! To confine one's self to the Bible means outer darkness—to take the work of this one man and never read a page of the Bible means to be in the light."

On pages 5-8 Pollock disagrees with Russell on the second coming of Christ in 1874 and the destruction of all nations in 1914, quoting Russell's Volume II:

> The harvest of this age began with the presence of the Lord at the beginning of earth's great Jubilee in 1874 … and ends with the overthrow of Gentile Power in A.D. 1914—a period of forty years. (Vol. ii, page 234)

Pollock continues with Russell's "unsoundness" in his teachings on "Verbal Inspiration", "Person of Christ", "Resurrection of Christ", "immortality", "Universalism", and "Annihilationism".

POLLUTION
Until the 1970s environmental pollution as a "sign of the end" was ignored by the WTS. Nowadays JWs view the degradation of the environment and industrial pollution as additional evidence that Armageddon is impending.

POLYGAMY
Until 1947 the JWs leaders permitted polygamous converts to retain their multiple wives.

Beginning in 1947 JWs refused baptism to polygamists and baptized them only after they dismissed all their wives except one and dissolved the other marriages. (w1956 9/15 571) A further refinement based on Proverbs 5:18-19 required polygamists to retain only their first wife.

Regarding polygamy permitted by Moses, JWs argue that the Mosaic Law did not introduce polygamy but regulated an existing institution. (g1985 3/8 9-12)

POPE
Rutherford called the popes, past and present, "the personal representative of Satan". (The Finished Mystery 1917, 106)

The popes are much misrepresented in WTS publications. For example the Pope allegedly tried to re-establish the Holy Roman Empire and seek world rule under the Catholic Church via Hitler and the German Kaiser. (World Conquest Soon 1955, 9, 17)

PORNOGRAPHY
Witnesses are instructed to stay clear of pornography. (w1984 9/15 21)

PORTUGAL
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Portugal and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	7,498	1263		
1975	16,183	525		
1980	21,117	440	56,600	164
1985	29,984	324	73,100	128
1990	37,300	268	83,800	119
1995	44,700	211	91,600	103
2000	47,600	200	92,100	103
2005	48,200	209	94,600	106
2010	49,489	205	97,200	104
2015	48,800	202	91,472	108
2018	49,300	199	86,200	114
	Ave.			
2019	49,300	198	88,100	111
2020	49,600	198	81,800	120
2021	50,700	195	102,467	96
2022	51,100	193	86,400	114
2023	52,000	192	93,400	107
2024	53,700	189	97,200	104
2025	55,600	184	99,200	103

POSTCARDS
The WTS sometimes publishes postcards of major conventions, branch buildings, and assembly halls.

In Russell's time some WTS postcards had poems. For example:

WAIT ON THE LORD

When clouds hang heavy o'er thy way
And darker grows the weary day,
And thou oppressed by anxious care
Art almost tempted to despair,
Still wait upon the Lord.

When friends betray thy loving trust,
And thou art humbled in the dust,
When dearest joys from thee have fled,
And hope within thy heart lies dead,
Still wait upon the Lord.

When Death comes knocking at thy door,
And in thy home are sorrows sore,
Though age comes on and eyes grow dim,
Still look at Christ, still trust in Him,
And wait upon the Lord.

Whate'er thy care, believe his Word;
In joy or grief, trust in the Lord.
Good courage He will give to thee,
And strong, indeed, thy heart shall be,
By waiting on the Lord.

POVERTY
Russell believed that the poor were not fully to blame for their poverty and that the rich did not get rich entirely on their own merits but both groups were influenced into poverty or wealth by the social/economic system. (Studies IV, 283-302)

JWs disapprove of churches that work to reduce poverty and claim their own work of

preaching the "truth" of the Bible is of greater value and importance. (See: *CHARITY*)

POWER OF ATTORNEY
A legal document many JWs prepare which gives authority to another JW to make life-and-death medical decisions on their behalf. Usually a spouse or an elder is selected.

PRAYER
Russell held special meetings for praise, testimony and prayer but Rutherford discontinued such meetings.

Rutherford was so busy fighting for power, criticising the clergy, battling "apostates", revising his prophecies and announcing Armageddon, that his writings barely mentioned prayer. An exception is the misinformation that people of other faiths "pray unto, priests, preachers and rabbis". (Preparation 1933, 140)

Many religions have prayer meetings; and persons requiring prayer may be listed in church magazines. But to JWs prayer is not so important. Little individual response to prayer from God is expected since God deals through the Organization and not with individuals. Sometimes God "answers" via an article in a WTS publication.

At JWs meetings prayers are brief and formalistic. One person is assigned to pray at the start of a meeting and another – if more than one "mature brother" is present — at the end. What they say in prayer will include some or all of the following:

- Thanks for the meeting, spiritual food and Organization; ;
- Request for "holy spirit" in witnessing or study;
- Request for understanding;
- Request for forgiveness of sin if God sees anything amiss;
- May God be with the sick;
- May God bless and help the brothers; the organization; and the persecuted;
- May God be with the Congregation as they go their various ways;
- May God bless the door-to-door work;
- May God be with the brothers at Bethel.

Occasional articles in the literature give advice on making prayers "richer" and more varied. (w1984 5/1 12-16)

JWs don't join in prayer with other religions or with ex JWs:

> A difficult situation arises where the husband has been disfellowshipped from the Christian congregation and is still in a disfellowshipped state. While the wife is still subject to him as her husband, yet, in harmony with the Scriptures, she can have no spiritual fellowship with him. (Rom. 16:17) How might this affect the matter of prayer at mealtimes? If he insisted on praying at the meal table, the wife could not in any way acknowledge his prayer, either by a silent or an audible "Amen." She can offer her own prayer silently to Jehovah while he is praying or afterward as she feels is suitable. If the disfellowshipped husband asked his wife to pray for the family in his presence, she would have to refuse. However, she could pray silently for herself and for the children even though he were present, but not at his direction. (w1964 4/1 203-204)

JWs believe that those holding back from baptism do not have "the wonderful privilege of prayer", and only baptized believers have "an unrestricted privilege of approaching the King Eternal in prayer." (w1990 5/15 12)

PREACH THE WORD (1953)
A 32-page booklet with a one-page testimony in 30 languages. Its usefulness was that JWs who met householders who spoke a different language could show them the booklet's testimony in their language.

PREACHER
JWs do not refer to each other as "preachers" or to their activity as "preaching".

At the Sunday public meeting the speaker does not give a sermon or preach but delivers a "public talk" or "public lecture".

Door-knocking activity is mostly called "witnessing", "service work", "service", or "going to the doors"; rarely "preaching".

PREACHING
Rutherford and subsequent leaders claim(ed) that the New Testament makes preaching a prerequisite for salvation:

> This preaching activity was…a requisite to the gaining of salvation.
> (Aid To Bible Understanding 1971, 1332)

In 1930 Rutherford quoted Acts 20:20, "I have <u>taught</u> you publicly and from house to house." (w1930 4/1 106) Rutherford paraphrased this as: "…his apostles went from house to house in their mission of <u>preaching</u> the gospel."

In Acts 20:20, however, it is Paul the Apostle and not every Christian who "taught". Note the word is "<u>taught</u>", not "preached". And the "you" in Acts 20:20 were the Christian elders

and not the public. Paul taught "from house to house" by going to houses where elders and others had gathered to hear him.

Paul also had a special ministry given only to him not to everyone: "The preaching with which **I** was entrusted." (Acts 9:15; 13:3-4; I Timothy 1:12; 2:7; Ephesians 3:7-8; Titus 1:3).

Go therefore

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations…" w1982 11/1 21 claims: "…the command is laid upon each one of Christ's followers…

However, "Go therefore" in Matthew 28:19 is not in the imperative i.e. it is not a command and is better translated "while you go" or "as you are going". The words were also addressed to the apostles who qualified to be evangelists, which only some Christians qualify for.

Biblical way

The biblical method allows for Christians who have different abilities and gifts to contribute to the Christian ministry in different ways. (1 Corinthians 12)

Evangelists preach publicly (Ephesians 4:11), but all Christians "confess Jesus is Lord". (Romans 10:9)

All Christians should also be: "ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you…" (I Peter 3:15)

(See also: *PUBLIC DECLARATION; EVANGELIZER*)

PREACHING TO ALL NATIONS (MATTHEW 24:14)

> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

The JWs leaders have altered their interpretation of Matthew 24:14 many times.

Russell tried to fulfil Matthew 24:14 and finish the end-time preaching by means of his around-the-the-world boat trip in 1912.

Rutherford, in the 1920s, implied his *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* campaign is the fulfilment of Matthew 24:14:

> Jesus furthermore said: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come". (Matthew 24:14) In the year 1919 many of the Bible Students in different part of the earth, emerging from army camps and prison dungeons, rejoicing in their privileges, again assembled together and with united action went forth to <u>proclaim the message of the presence of the Lord</u>; and <u>particularly the message, "The World Has Ended—Millions Now Living Will Never Die," clearly in fulfillment</u> of the words of the Master in the text last above quoted. (The Harp of God 1922, 248)

The "presence of the Lord" proclaimed in the 1920s was the false presence of 1874. (See: *PRESENCE*) And the *Millions* message stated that the "ancient worthies" – the Old Testament heroes such as Abraham, Moses and Samson – would be resurrected in 1925 and rule the world, which was also false.

To call false prophecy for 1925 and the 1874-return of Jesus the "gospel" offended Christians (Galatians 1:6-9) and increased the divide between Christianity and the WTS.

There followed the doctrine that in 1919 God examined all religions and found only the WTS religion "faithful and true", and therefore made its people his "faithful and discreet slave class" to act collectively as his prophet and watchman, and preach worldwide.

The "faithful and discreet slave class" doctrine in turn was also changed — in 2010 — and the title is now reserved for the Governing Body. About 10,000 of the so-called "anointed" were thus instantly demoted, losing their "faithful slave" status.

Rutherford interpreted the magazine, booklet, tract and radio campaigns of his cult as announcing judgment prior to Armageddon. In 1935 he introduced another purpose for preaching, namely to gather out a "great multitude" who would survive Armageddon.

(See: *FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE; WATCHMAN*)

PREACHING AND TEACHING IN PEACE AND UNITY (1960)

A 64-page booklet with instructions on organizing and running JWs congregations.

PREDESTINATION

The doctrine that some people are infallibly guided to salvation by Divine decree.

JWs leaders reject this doctrine, arguing that predestination is incompatible with freewill. Scriptures that seem to predict future behaviour or future choices are interpreted as applying to groups, not to individuals. The individuals are said to be "free" regarding their joining or not joining any group predicted to act out a prophecy.

PREJUDICE
Prejudice is to judge another without giving him the benefit of a fair trial (g1984 11/8 4), or to make a negative prejudgement and retain that opinion irrespective of new evidence.

A spate of articles on prejudice and intolerance appeared in JWs publications in the 1980s following the expulsion of former Governing Body member Raymond Franz.

The JWs leaders claim to be unprejudiced toward other religions.

PREPARATION (1933)
A book containing Rutherford's interpretation of Zechariah.

The "preparation" referred to is the preparation for Armageddon which includes raising up the JWs Organization, cleansing it, and announcing through it God's message of doom to the world:

> The great war [of Armageddon] is just ahead, and Jehovah will have warning served upon the enemy and the people notified that they must take their stand on Jehovah's side if they would live. (p.280)

In *Preparation* the elders dismissed in 1932 are insulted as "false prophets" and liars to whom no one should listen. (p.244) The clergy are called "allies of Satan", "ashamed of their false predictions", "monstrosities", "shamefaced prophets", "diviners", "false preachers", "religious frauds", "deceivers", "hypocritical", "wicked", "vicious", "rebellious", "malicious", etc.

PREPARTION, DAY OF
Russell defined the "day of preparation" as equivalent to the "time of the end" i.e. 1799-1914. (Studies III, 59)

Rutherford re-defined it as the period from 1914 to Armageddon. (w1936 5/1 132) In 1942 that period was "about up" and "about done":

> The Day of God's Preparation is about up, The Final End of Satan's rule is very nigh, the maneuvering of all enemies into the position for their destruction is about done… (w1942 4/15 119)

PREPARING THE WAY BEFORE JEHOVAH (Malachi 3)
A Scripture which according to JWs, had its second fulfilment during 1878-1918 in the work of Russell.

Through this work God prepared the way for certain persons to qualify to become JWs. (w1936 11/1 325-324)

PRESENCE
"Presence" translates the Greek word "parousia" which referred to the visit of a king, ruler or official.

C.T. Russell preached that Jesus returned in 1874 and was present invisibly. In 1930 *The Golden Age* contradicted this doctrine and taught that Jesus' invisible presence started in 1914. The new teaching was, however, rarely mentioned until 1943.

In *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1943) the WTS published a revised chronology which terminated 6000 years from Adam's creation in 1972, rather than 1872 as Russell taught. This in turn ended any lingering prophetic significance of 1874.

Therefore in the 1940s Christ's 1914 "invisible presence" became clearly linked to the alleged 1914 kingdom and is still a necessary belief for anyone indoctrinated to join the sect.

How the doctrine began

The doctrine of an invisible presence began in 1875. N.H. Barbour, leader of an Adventist cult, had predicted the Second Coming (erkomai) of Jesus for 1873. This failed so he tried 1874, which also failed, so he tried 1875, which also failed.

A member of the cult, B.W. Keith, then noticed that "parousia" which is often translated "coming" means "presence". Barbour concluded that Jesus did indeed come in 1874 but invisibly. Russell also concluded, apparently independently, that Jesus' second coming is invisible and accepted Barbour's date, 1874. This date was retained by the WTS until 1930 when it was moved forward to 1914. (Prophecy 1929 65; Our Lord's Return 1929 27, 33, 37; g1930 4/30 503)

The rationalization for the false prediction that Christ's return is invisible introduced long-lasting confusion between "coming" and "presence" which continues to this day. The failure of the coming or "erkomai" was explained by claiming "parousia" means "presence". Yet the Bible associates the coming or "erkomai" with judgment and punishment which "every eye…will see". This clearly did not happen in 1874 or 1914.

Many JWs at the end of the 20th century still thought that Christ's "coming in the clouds" was fulfilled in 1914 but they were confused. The WTS now applies to Armageddon period, many of the Scriptures of Christ "coming". Acts

1:11 is an exception — the word there is "erkomai" but JWs still apply it to 1914.

The doctrine as it currently stands is that Christ's "presence" and Kingdom began in 1914 but his "coming" will be at Armageddon. This, however, reverses the ordinary meaning of words whereby somebody comes and is then present, rather than being present before he comes! (See also: PAROUSIA; *RETURN OF CHRIST*)

PRESENT TRUTH
A Russellite phrase based on faulty translation of 2 Peter 1:12.

The phrase "present truth" referred to Russellite doctrines with the implication that points may be added — hence "present truth" meaning the body of "truth" already published in their publications.

The word "present" did not anticipate reversals in doctrine or that some "truth" would be discarded. It meant the sum total of truths already discovered, and merely implied there would be more.

The phrase "present truth" occurs about 98 times in Russell's seven volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*, 61 instances alone in the Seventh Volume, *The Finished Mystery*. Occasionally JWs still use the phrase — e.g. *Revelation Its Grand Climax Near At Hand!* (1989, p.8)

The phrase was sometimes extended to include particular doctrines — for example "present truth chronology". This phrase (in *The Watch Tower,* 1922 June 15 & July 15) referred to the chronology that the cult believed in. The word "present" did not imply that the chronology was doubtful and might change in future. After all, Russell had proclaimed his belief that the chronology consisted of "God's dates".

Nevertheless by 1930 Russell's prophetic "present truth chronology" became defunct as did much of his other "present truth".
(See also: *LIGHT GETS BRIGHTER*)

PRESENTATION
A prepared sales pitch suggested in *Our Kingdom Ministry* or developed independently by publishers and used when offering literature door-to-door.

PRESERVATION (1932)
A book by Rutherford explaining the Bible books of Esther and Ruth.

The Watchtower previously taught that:

> …the book of Ruth is not prophetical, but merely historical… (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. (w1907 11/15 4089)

Rutherford contradicted this:

> While it is true, as stated in the foregoing comments, that the book of Ruth is historical and genealogical, and furnishes some beautiful illustrations yet if such is God's purpose in giving the book to his people it is of little value to the remnant. Such then is not the real purpose of the book. (Preservation 1932, 175)

Rutherford, in *Preservation*, interprets Ruth as: "a striking dramatic picture of God's provision for the care of his own people." (p.167) Mordecai (in the book of Esther) and Naomi (in Ruth) pictured the "remnant" (i.e. followers who anticipate going to heaven when they die) and who stayed loyal to the WTS through 1917-1919 and continued in the cult.

Esther and Ruth pictured the new members of the "remnant" who joined up after 1919. (p.195) Various nasty guys in both books pictured Russellites who dropped away and formed separate organizations.

Rutherford states that members of the "remnant" would survive Armageddon. Did this include the "Mordecai class" — the Russellites who had joined the cult before 1919 and continued loyal?

Pre-1919 Russellites at Armageddon

Preservation does not state directly that pre-1919 Russellites would live until Armageddon. But indirectly it does. In the book of Esther the Jews in Persia defended themselves and killed those who sought to kill them. Rutherford in *Preservation* claims this pictured Armageddon and explains:

> On the day of battle fighting took place in the immediate vicinity of the palace where Esther **and Mordedai** were. (9:6) This seems to picture that the great battle of the day of God Almighty will center around God's people and that the chief objective of the enemy will be to destroy those who are on the side of Jehovah, but instead the enemy will suffer complete defeat. (p.158)

Just as Esther and Mordecai were alive during the fighting, so also the Esther class **and Mordecai class** should be alive at Armageddon — that's the obvious implication.

After the Jews slaughtered their enemies Mordecai and Esther organized a feast day. Rutherford explained:

> The feast of jubilation of the Jews seems to foreshadow that some of the remnant will be on the earth even after Armageddon, and that they will greatly rejoice because of the complete vindication of Jehovah's name. Also that the remnant will then be used to help the people that have been brought through that terrible time. (p.134)

Since both Mordecai and Esther were present at the original feast we have the implication that the two classes which they pictured – the pre and post 1919 "remnant" – would live up to and beyond Armageddon.

Since all pre-1919 Russellites are now dead, and Armageddon has not occurred, Rutherford's prophetic "picture" was nonsense.

PRESIDENT
Most corporations of the WTS have seven directors of whom three or four are officers and of these one is "president".

Until the late 20th century the three original corporations had the same man for president. This was Russell until 1916, Rutherford until 1942, Knorr until 1976, Franz until 1992, Henschel until 2000.

From 1944 until 2000 the president was also the leading member of the Governing Body.

In 2000 all Governing Body members resigned as directors from the corporations and became a separate governing group. Not only were additional corporations created at that time in the USA but all the corporations have each since 2000 had different presidents who have no special spiritual influence. By resigning as directors the Governing Body relinquished legal protections of their authority, which they protected thenceforth via "rule by division" in which many men have limited power for set time periods in small parts of the Organization.

The first president of the first corporation — originally called Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society — was Pittsburgh businessman William Henry Conley (1840-1897). Conley was president from 1881 to 1884 prior to its incorporation. C.T. Russell was the first president **from** its incorporation.

(See also: *WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA; CORPORATIONS*)

PRESIDING ELDER
The chairman of the elders in a congregation, considered the first among equals.

PRESIDING OVERSEER
The elder who presides over meetings of the body of elders in a JWs congregation.

PRICES
The Organization's publications were cheaper for publishers and much cheaper for pioneers than for the public. In the 1930s and 1940s approximate rates for a book of c.300 pages in the USA were 4c production-cost, 8c for pioneers, 25c for publishers and 35c for the public. In the 1970s the rates were 10c for pioneers, 25c for publishers and 50c for the public. Magazine subsciptions cost the public $1 in the USA in the 1960s and 1970s.

Yearbooks cost 50c in the 1950s and in the 1970s. Generally speaking, the price increases were below the inflation rate until the 1970s and rose above it in the 1980s.

Since the 1990s WTS publications are distributed for a "donation". JWs pay a "donation" to the WTS and in turn ask the public for a "donation".

(See also: *WATCHTOWER COST LIST*)

PRIDE
JWs believe:

> Satan succumbed to the temptation of pride… Throughout the history of humankind, Satan has been able to use as tools those who are proud—such men as Nimrod, the Pharoah of Egypt in Moses' day and Assyrian King Sennacherib… Today Satan holds multitudes in his grasp through pride: pride of race, pride of nationality, pride of education, pride of social status, and so forth. All of this serves the Devil's purpose by causing people to turn a deaf ear to God's message. (w1984 10/15 13)

PRINCE, R.G. (1959-2016)
The most famous JW convert is Prince Rogers Nelson who was born in Minneapolis (USA) of African American parents.

Prince was a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, musical innovator, record producer, and film director. His father John Nelson was a bandleader and pianist.

Prince was known for his flamboyant stage presence, wild parties, womanizing, extravagant dress and makeup, sexual lyrics (including the praising of incest), wide vocal range, and blending of funk, dance, rock, pop and soul music. He won seven Grammy

Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award for his film Purple Rain.

He secured a recording contract with Warner Bros. at age 18 and with Arista Records in 1998 and by 2015 had released 30 albums.

After his hit *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World* (1994) Prince withdrew from the spotlight and released further music via the Internet. He re-emerged in 2004 as a JW and Columbia released his new record *Musicology*.

When Prince was baptized by JWs in 2003 many were baffled because his songs and behaviour often conflicted with JWs beliefs. He attended meetings and door-knocked accompanied by bodyguards.

Prince's conversion is not inexplicable. He was raised as a Seventh Day Adventist, a religion of similar origin to JWs. His mother, jazz singer Mattie Shaw, was a JW and wanted him to be one. Significant was the influence of guitarist Larry Graham who joined JWs in 1975. Graham performed on stage with Prince in 1998 after which they had regular religious discussions for two years.

Over the years Prince was romantically linked to dozens of celebrities but married his young backup singer/dancer Mayte Jannell Garcia (b.1973) in 1996. In 2000 the marriage was annulled.

In 2001, Prince married Canadian charity worker Manuela Testolini (b.1976) who joined JWs with him at about the time when Prince's parents both died. Manuela grew up in Toronto and completed a university degree. She filed for divorce in 2006 and seems to have abandoned JWs.

In 2007 singer Brenda Fuentes (b.1977), stage name Bria Valente, became Prince's girlfriend and converted to JWs. Valente contributed to the vocals in Prince's album *Planet Earth* (2007) and Prince produced her debut album, *Elixer* in 2009. Valente later broke up with Prince.

PRINCES (Psalm 45:16)
The "princes" were the "ancient worthies" such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other patriarchs and prophets who would rise physically from the dead in Israel and rule the world after Armageddon.

Predictions for the return of these princes failed in 1914, 1915 and 1925. In 1925 Rutherford suggested 1950. (See: *DATES*)

In 1929 JWs built a mansion in California named "Beth Sarim" to accommodate the princes upon their arrival, which thereafter until 1950 was continuously anticipated.

At the 1950 International Convention Franz announced that the "princes" were present and in the stadium. Then he gave a new interpretation — the princes henceforth were the overseers and servants in JWs congregations. (See also: *BETH SARIM*)

PRINTING
C.T. Russell's first book (co-authored with N.H. Barbour) was printed commercially as were the first tracts of the Watch Tower Society.

For the first quarter century the magazine *Zion's Watch Tower* was owned by Russell personally. He also owned Tower Publishing Company, which was a business and made profits.

Zion's Watch Tower was not owned or published by the WTS until Russell donated his business assets to the WTS to stop his wife benefiting financially from divorcing him.

The WTS often gave free literature to cult members for free distribution. Whenever such "free literature" was supplied by Russell's Tower Publishing Company it was paid for by transfer of funds from the WTS. Tower Company profits profited Russell and were an indirect way of pocketing money people donated to the WTS.

In the 1890s colporteurs sold Russell's books which they received on credit and therefore ran up substantial debt to Tower Publishing. Russell would pay this debt using money donated to the religious work of the WTS. He even charged the WTS 6% interest on colporteur debt.

By controlling both the WTS **and** Tower Publishing Russell could pocket contributions/donations, in effect running a "religious financial racket". However, the financial racket was incidental to Russell's prior motivation which, judged by his life as a whole, was to win widespread acceptance of his prophecies and doctrines and prove himself to be "God's mouthpiece".

In 1920 Rutherford established a printery at the WTS headquarters in New York, where his followers printed the cult's magazines. Printing was extended to books and booklets in 1922.

As the Watchtower cult grew, printeries were established in Magdeburg (Germany), Britain, Canada, Australia and round the world. The work was done by "volunteers" who lived in Bethel Homes and ate food produced by other volunteers on WTS-owned farms.

The major printing locations are today often decided by costs and profits. Printing for Australia and Asia, for example, used to be done in Japan, using paper from Italy.

Paperback books rather than hardcover became the norm in the 1990s because they're cheaper.

PRINTING STATISTICS
Printing-statistics differ to distribution-statistics and are substantially greater because "distribution" is what goes to the non-JW public and therefore excludes publications JWs purchased/received for their own use and also items that are destroyed.

(See: *WATCHTOWER*; *AWAKE!; BOOKS*; *BOOKLETS*; *TRACTS; MISCELLANEOUS PRINTING*)

PRISONERS
"Prisoners" in Rutherford's time referred to the "great multitude" or "great crowd" of Christians in Christendom's denominations.

Until 1935 the WTS taught that the "great multitude" would die at Armageddon and be raised as spirits to live in the Pleiades constellation near the throne of God. (Reconciliation 1928, 261-263)

PRISON KEEPERS
Slanderous term for Christian ministers:

> By threats and coercion and false statements these clergymen, as prison-keepers, hold the timid Christian in their prison houses. These timid ones are put in fear of the clergymen and are thus held in the enemy's snare. (Reconciliation 1928, 262)

With JWs being forced to conform to ever-changing "Bible truth", and terrified of dying at Armageddon and of "disfellowshipping" if they are insufficiently obedient, the above words fit them:

> By threats and coercion and false statements the Governing Body and other elders, as prison-keepers, hold the timid JWs in their prison houses. These timid ones are put in fear of the elders and are thus held in the enemy's snare.

PRIVILEGE
1. Any position, assignment, or responsibility in the organization, such as pioneering, serving as an overseer, or handing microphones to audience members at a Kingdom Hall meeting.

2. The word is sometimes used sarcastically to describe an undesirable assignment such as cleaning toilets.

PROFITS
In the mid-1930s Rutherford advertised his books at 25 cents each and booklets at 5 cents each.

The advertising page of the booklet *Who Shall Rule the World?* (1935) said there is: "No commercial transaction or profit." (p.64)

In subsequent decades JWs continued to claim their Organization is "non profit" even though it continually grew bigger and richer.

PROGRAM
A printed list of speakers, speaking assignments and songs scheduled for meetings and conventions.

At conventions JWs and visitors get a printed "program" which lists the speeches and other events.

Circuit Convention programs are usually single-page leaflets given to people who attend and also be distributed door to door.

Programs for International Conventions come in small booklets, often twenty or more pages which list the speakers and speeches and provide information on car-parking, checkrooms, first aid, food/drinks availability, orchestra, and statistics of the Organization.

PROGRESSIVE UNDERSTANDING
The organization's changing doctrines.

Few JWs who repeat the term "progressive understanding" know about the thousands of revisions involving every major doctrine and the numerous failed predictions which JWs called "Bible prophecy".

To JWs "progressive" means that more "truth" is being revealed as time passes and long-established truth is gaining in detail. Individuals who try to confirm this by reading old WTS publications are often shocked by what they find and leave the sect.

(See also: *LIGHT*)

PROHIBITION
Prohibition refers to the USA's legislation to prohibit the production and sale of alcoholic drinks which went into effect in January 1920.

It was preceded by a century of agitation, controversy and local legislation so that by 1914 almost half the population lived in areas that had "outlawed the saloon." (Slosson 1958)

Wartime regulations and rationing, and lobbying by the Anti-Saloon League, further restricted the use of alcohol. Safety concerns as industrialization progressed and workers

operated complex machinery, and the increasing popularity of cars, were further factors. Henry Ford who pioneered assembly-line mass production of automobiles said, "The speed at which we run our motor cars, operate our intricate machinery, and generally live would be impossible with liquor."

"Judge" Rutherford was a heavy drinker and an opponent of Prohibition. Some JWs who worked at the Brooklyn headquarters in the 1930s and subsequently defected have claimed that Rutherford regularly had liquor smuggled from the Canadian branch office to Brooklyn during the Prohibition period.

PROHIBITION AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS (1930)

A Rutherford booklet which attacks America's prohibition against alcohol:

> The Anti-Saloon League is composed largely of professional religious leaders who claim to preach the Word of God but never do so. (p.10)
>
> Satan and his ministers appear as reformers and messengers of light to deceive the people. I have no hesitancy, therefore, in saying that Prohibition in America is a scheme of Satan the Devil, the purpose of which is to alienate the people from Jehovah God. (p.17)

Rutherford also attacks the League of Nations:

> Satan, knowing that his time is short, puts it into the minds of the rulers of earth to form a combine called the League of Nations, and employ the clergymen as the chief advocates thereof, and Satan's purpose is to draw all "Christendom" into the League and turn the people away from Jehovah God, preparatory for Armageddon. The Federal Council of Churches, in advocating the League of Nations, is therefore playing into the hands of the Devil. (p.53)

However, time is short:

> The next great act on the part of Christ is to completely destroy Satan's cruel and wicked organization which now dominates the earth. That climax the Scriptures declare will come in the battle of Armageddon, to which all the powers are now rapidly approaching. (p.16)

PROMISE

From 1982 to 1995 the inside front cover of *Awake!* referred to the official prophecy of paradise on Earth occurring within one generation from 1914 as the "Creator's promise":

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

To JWs the "creator's promise" applied to people who were at least 10 or 15 years old in 1914:

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

Thus "the end of this wicked system would come *before*" people aged 69 and above in 1968 passed away.

The promise is not only the "Creator's promise" but also a "promise" of Jesus:

> This judgment would be executed sometime during the life span of people seeing the first evidence of the time period foretold by Jesus. The start of this time period would mark the beginning of the end for Satan's world, against which God's newly established Kingdom in heaven would execute divine judgment. Bible chronology and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy provide ample proof that this time period began in 1914.
>
> Thus before the 1914 generation completely dies out, God's judgment must be executed. This generation still exists in goodly numbers. For example, in 1980 there were still 1,597,000 persons in the Federal Republic of Germany who were born in 1900 or before…
>
> In **promising** that "this generation will *by no means pass away*," Jesus used the two Greek negatives *ou* and *me*. *The Companion Bible* explains this usage as follows: "The two negatives when combined lose their distinctive meanings, and form the strongest and most emphatic asseveration [affirmation]." Only now, at a time when it appears that the generation *could* pass away before all is fulfilled, do Jesus' words "by no means" take on real significance. (w1985 5/1 4)

In this way the JWs religion officially accuses God and Jesus of being liars who break promises.

PROOF OF THE BIBLE

> Thus when evaluating their finds, archaeologists have at times disagreed with the Bible. Should this cast doubt on the Bible's authenticity? Not at all. A faith that depends only on the interpretation of archaeological finds is a shaking one indeed. Proof that the Bible is divinely inspired is found within the Bible itself, and not in archaeology. (Insight on the Scriptures Volume 1, 1988, p.959)

Substitute "Book of Mormon" or "Koran" or even "idol worship" for "Bible" in the above quotation and see whether the logic and reasoning is logical, reasonable and convincing.

The following argument has been used by various religions for centuries:

> *You can trust the Bible because its promises and prophecies always come true.* Here is just one example. Unbelievable though it might have seemed to captive Israel, Jehovah God, the author of the Bible, had promised that he would liberate them from captivity to mighty Babylon and restore them to Jerusalem. It seemed an unlikely hope because Babylon was the dominant world power of the day and had totally devastated Jerusalem. But about two hundred years in advance, Jehovah had even named the Persian ruler Cyrus as the one who would overthrow Babylon and free His people and predicted how the river defenses of Babylon would fail. You can read the account at Isaiah 44:24–45:4. (g1996 2/8 8-9)

The problem here is that the oldest copy of Isaiah is 2nd century BCE and critics argue that the prophecies regarding Cyrus and Babylon were written after the events occurred. The JW writer is therefore trying to "prove" that the Bible is true by assuming it to be true. You can test whether this is a valid method by assuming the Moon is made of cheese and then see whether it gets confirmed.

PROPAGANDA AND INDOCTRINATION

Philosopher I.A. Snook (1972) defined indoctrination as teaching with the intention that the pupil(s) believe regardless of the evidence.

An educator will change his or her conclusions and teach differently, or teach two views concurrently and let his class choose which one to accept, if a student presents convincing new evidence. An indoctrinator will not.

The indoctrinator may listen. But he cannot change his message because he has a job to do, namely to get people to accept certain conclusions. At the end of his discussion the indoctrinator wants predetermined conclusions accepted irrespective of the evidence. He also opposes presenting alternative positions to new students.

Indoctrinators teach people **what** to think, not **how** to evaluate evidence. (Snook, 1972) Pre-chosen conclusions immune to evidence are "propaganda" and their inculcation is "indoctrination".

From this definition it follows that the Governing Body and WTS are indoctrinators and much of what they publish is propaganda. In their group study sessions JWs use WTS publications and participants are required to answer questions by repeating or paraphrasing what's written without disagreeing on any point.

The insistence of JWs leaders on unity centred on <u>their</u> views and acceptance of all <u>their</u> published material, despite thousands of past errors, makes it impossible for JWs to be other than indoctrinators.

In this matter the writer had personal experiences:

In 1968 a JW acquaintance, explaining Matthew 24:22, argued that the "great tribulation" was interrupted in 1918 by God stopping World War I, otherwise all humans would have perished. Contrary evidence did not sway him. Yet a year later he changed his mind instantly when *The Watchtower* revised the doctrine of the "great tribulation" and switched its outbreak from 1914-1918 to the mid 1970s. Clearly that "teacher" did not care about evidence but wanted the predetermined conclusions of his sect accepted.

The same JW argued that tissue transplants were "cannibalism" although dictionary definitions of cannibalism say nothing about tissue transplants. He changed his mind quickly in 1980 when the JW Governing Body stopped opposing tissue transplants. JWs also, at the time, believed that the heart and not the brain or head has thinking and reasoning functions. Scientific evidence to the contrary was clear, but until 1984 JWs had to indoctrinate others with this error irrespective of evidence.

There are hundreds of further examples — doctrines and interpretations plainly false being presented as "Bible truth" — which JWs and their "Bible students" had to accept irrespective of evidence.

Propaganda Can Be Deadly

Awake! in 2000 said:

> Widespread, profound, unquestioned, and virulent anti-Semitism led many to regard the Jews as enemies whose extermination was not only necessary but just. In that case, propaganda proved to be a weapon of mass extermination.
>
> Yes, propaganda can be displayed openly by the use of such emblems of hate as the swastika or subtly by the telling of a tasteless joke. Its persuasive techniques are regularly applied by dictators, politicians, clergymen, advertisers, marketers, journalists, radio and TV personalities, publicists, and others who are interested in influencing thought and behavior.
>
> Of course, propagandistic messages can be used to accomplish positive social ends, as in campaigns to reduce drunk driving. But propaganda may also be used to promote hatred for ethnic or religious minorities or to entice people to buy cigarettes. "Every day we are bombarded with one persuasive communication after another," point out researchers Anthony Pratkanis and Elliot Aronson. "These appeals persuade not through the give-and-take of argument and debate, but through the manipulation of symbols and of our most basic human emotions. For better or worse, ours is an age of propaganda." (g2000 6/22 3)

Because this quote concedes that propaganda can lead to "mass extermination" any JW reader will conclude the WTS literature is different, it is objective truth, never propaganda and never deadly.

However, WTS literature labels former JWs as "corrupt", "dishonest", "selfish", "haters of God", "attached to badness", "rebellious", "deceivers", "mentally diseased", "unfaithful", etc. Since 1951 JWs have been told to "loathe" and "hate" their apostates because "They are from their father the Devil", speak "twisted things", and "target people of integrity".

No individuals of the millions who have left JWs have ever been mentioned as having any positive traits.

In 2013 these words were spoken at a JWs convention:

> Like Satan, human apostates are unruly men who cook up wicked reasonings and season their brew with poisonous lies that deceive minds. They push away from the table of Jehovah. Their preference is to partake at the table of demons... Human apostates are mentally diseased and they try to infect others with their disloyal teachings.

Such an attitude indoctrinated into millions of followers decade after decade raises the spectre of the Governing Body, if ever it gains political power, ordering the extermination of "apostates" and a future historian may report:

> Widespread, profound, unquestioned, and virulent anti-apostate-ism led many to regard the ex JWs as enemies whose extermination was not only necessary but just.

PROPHECY

In the Bible a "prophecy" is a prediction or warning uttered or written by a prophet. If the prophet is, in the biblical context, appointed by God the prophecy comes true, if by an imposter or "false prophet" it fails.

JWs do not refer to their failed predictions as prophecies or predictions but, after they fail, call them "suggestions":

> Jehovah's Witnesses, in their eagerness for Jesus' second coming, have suggested dates that turned out to be incorrect. (g1993 3/22 4)

However, people who openly rejected predictions during the time the cult taught them as "Bible truth", suffered disfellowhipping or were otherwise expelled — i.e. they were punished as if what they opposed was infallible Bible truth.

From 1982 to 1995 *Awake!* on the "Why Awake! Is Published" page stated:

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

Anyone who openly challenged the "Creator's promise" would have been shunned. Nowadays this prediction would, if mentioned at all, be called a "suggestion".

PROPHECY — HAS ANY JW PREDICTION COME TRUE?

The Watchtower says:

> The Bible itself provides the key in identifying the source of true prophecy. Three points are involved:
> (1) The message should promote pure worship,
> (2) the prophet must speak in Jehovah's name, and

(3) the things foretold must come true. (w1980 4/1 3)

JWs believe that "inspired prophesying" ended with the death of the Apostles but "correct understanding of Bible prophecy" continues today via the WTS publications:

> However, in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he shows that the miraculous gifts, including that of inspired prophesying, were due to be done away with…
>
> ...it is reasonable that correct understanding of prophecy would still be made available by God through the congregation, particularly in the foretold 'time of the end,' not miraculously, but as the result of their diligent investigation and study and comparison of prophecy with circumstances and events taking place. (Insight Volume II, 693-694)

Failure

Every prediction published by the WTS for about 30 dates has failed. (See: *DATES)*

Predictions without a specific year or date such as "the nation of Israel or Jews will never be restored as a nation" (g1939 11/29 17 Australian edition) have also failed.

In 1916 Rutherford predicted of *Zion's Watch Tower* that*:*

> It will continue to publish only that which is in harmony with what that servant [C.T. Russell] has heretofore given to the household of faith…
>
> Should we now disregard the food contained in the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and other publications of THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY it would mean that we were repudiating or disregarding that which the Lord has graciously provided for our benefit. (w1916 15/12 6024)

During the 1920s the *Studies in the Scriptures* were removed from use and hundreds of points revised or reinterpreted thereby, repudiating or disregarding "that which the Lord has graciously provided" and falsifying the prediction that this won't happen.

Successful predictions?

JWs sometimes point to two predictions, they regard as successful.

One is the prediction that the JWs will increase in numbers and that the increase will not stop. That prediction was, however, fairly safe since religions that both proselytise and procreate increase in membership.

The other prediction, made in September 1942, was the restoration of the League of Nations after World War II.

However, President Wilson and Winston Churchill already planned such a restoration from 1941. JWs called it the "international peace beast" but the correct designation is "United Nations". And JWs claimed its existence would be "short", whereas its existence has now been long. Furthermore, Knorr's new interpretation in 1942 was necessary because in 1930 the WTS book *Light* predicted that the League would annihilate all Christian religion, which by 1942 it could no longer do because the League was itself defunct.

(See: *SCARLET BEAST*; *LEAGUE OF NATIONS; PEACE CAN IT LAST?*)

Russell's predictions

JWs leaders often imply that the 19th-century predictions for 1914 by their founder, C.T. Russell, were correct. For example:

> Jehovah's witnesses pointed to the year 1914, decades in advance, as marking the start of "the conclusion of the system of things". (g1973 1/22 8)
>
> Right on time, in the fall of 1914, the kingdom of our God in the hands of his Christ began ruling in the heaven. **It was just as Jehovah's spirit had moved his devoted slave to warn in advance**. (w1967 2/15 110)

Such claims are lies that whitewash false prophecy. Read Russell's words:

> Be not surprised then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14) which will end in A.D. 1915, with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. (Studies II, 101)
>
> The beginning of the earthly phase of the Kingdom in the end of A.D. 1914 will, we understand, consist wholly of the resurrected holy ones of olden time, from John the Baptizer back to Abel. (Studies IV, 625)
>
> By … (1914) … the new system…will be thoroughly introduced. (wr1883 p.534)

> The time appointed for the harvest is only forty years—from 1874 to 1914. (wr1886 p.885)

Numerous similar quotes for 1914 and other dates such as 1878, 1881, 1915 and 1918 prove that Russell's predictions for every date failed, and in no instance did events take place "just as Jehovah's spirit had moved his devoted slave to warn in advance."

The Governing Body often advises JWs about how to avoid doubting their faith. (e.g. w1980 8/1 12-15) Such advice never addresses the problem that the main source of doubt is the Organization's false predictions!

1925 A false prediction by Jehovah

The *Millions* book (1920) predicted that:

> 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of the reconstruction. (p.101)

Decades after this message was exposed as false, the JWs leaders claimed that: Jehovah "caused" it to be preached":

> Jehovah caused to be preached from 1918 onward the startling public message "Millions Now Living Will Never Die," and in 1923 he provided the interpretation of "the parable of the sheep and the goats." (w1955 11/15 698)

According to the Bible, however, Jehovah does not "cause" false prophecy:

> The word [that] does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. (Deuteronomy 19:22)

The interpretation which "Jehovah … provided" regarding the sheep and goats was wrong too, and the Governing Body revised it in 1995! (Kotwall 1996]

Rutherford's book *Prophecy* (1929) says that Jehovah makes no mistakes:

> Jehovah never makes any mistakes. Where the student relies upon man, he is certain to be led into difficulties. (pp 67-68)

Yet, JWs dates where prophecies failed include 1925, 1936, 1942, 1970s, 1980s, the twentieth century and "this generation". (See: *DATES*)

Rutherford excused the 1925 fiasco by calling that prophecy "merely an expressed opinion". (Yearbook 1980, 62) Actually, it was taught as the "gospel", based on "divinely corroborated chronology" and "absolutely and unqualifiedly correct". He set new time-periods pointing to the 1930s and 1940s and claimed that now the prophecies were "understood":

> When the prophecies are understood it will be found that they are all in exact harmony; which is another proof that they are from God. (Vindication I 1931, 14)

> …the Lord uses his people to fulfil prophecy and afterwards advises them thereof by revealing the meaning of the prophecy. (p.34)

Armageddon "Within our twentieth century" won't be false — but it was

In 1971 the JWs leaders predicted they will not be a "false prophet" in their latest prophecies:

> What a thrilling moment it will be when, during the coming "great tribulation" on this present system of things, the authentic news comes from all around the earth that the antitypical Jerusalem, Christendom, has fallen at the hands of Jehovah's executional forces! This will be a vindication of the modern-day Ezekiel class, **to authenticate that they have not been a false prophet** but have been a faithful "watchman" class in sounding out Jehovah's warnings to Christendom. (The Nations Shall Know… 1971, 286)

The same book blames doubt in JWs prophecies on "lustful desire" and "going after unjust gain":

> They may be disturbed by the cry of Christendom that Jehovah's Christian witnesses are "false prophets!" They may not be fully convinced that these are true spokesmen for Jehovah the Sovereign Lord. To let themselves come to the conclusion that these were authentic spokesmen would oblige them to do positive things about it. This would mean for them to stop holding on to lustful desire and going wholeheartedly after unjust gain. (p.291)

Since the predictions in *The Nations Shall Know…* were predicted to terminate "within our twentieth century" (p.216) the prediction that the "Ezekiel class" won't be a false prophet was itself another false prophecy!

JWs leaders ask: "Can we honestly say that we have not been warned?" (w1982 5/15 18) The answer is "Yes" because false prophecy does not constitute "warning".

False prophesying

Awake! magazine says:

> True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world," even announcing a specific date… Yet, nothing happened. The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. (g1968 10/8 23)

In mentioning "false prophesying" by other date-setters the Governing Body doubtless wanted readers, being ignorant of JWs history, to conclude that JWs are free of "false prophesying".

Failure to reconcile

The Governing Body criticise other religions for "failure to reconcile all their conflicting claims" (w1982 5/15 18) yet fail to reconcile the conflicting prophetic claims of just one religion, their own.

Ezekiel seems almost to describe them when he writes:

> Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! … They have spoken falsehood and divined a lie. (13:3-6)

PROPHECY — FALSE PROPHECY ADMITTED?

JWs leaders say, "false prophets do not admit to making mistakes." (w1972 11/1 644)

This generalization is incorrect since Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the World Wide Church of God and whom JWs considered a false prophet, devoted eight pages to admitting failed prophecies. (Tomorrow's World, 2/1972)

The JWs leaders often use phrases such as "fulfilled prophecy" and "true" prophecy", to imply that prophecies disseminated through the WTS were correct and true:

> Fulfilled prophecies make it certain that Jehovah's Theocratic Servant Christ Jesus came to the temple in 1918. (w1944 11/15 350

> Christians holding to true prophecy do not follow these false teachers. (Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand 1975, 308)

Is prophesying falsely "watchfulness"?

A superficial admission is the following:

> It is easy for the established churches of Christendom and other people to criticize Jehovah's Witnesses because their publications have, at times, stated that certain things could take place on certain dates. But is not such line of action in harmony with Christ's injunction to "keep on the watch"? … Have apostates who claim that "the last days" began at Pentecost and cover the entire Christian era promoted Christian alertness?
> …But is it not far preferable to make some mistakes because of overeagerness to see God's purposes accomplished than to be spiritually asleep as to fulfillment of Bible prophecy? (w1984 12/1 18)

To follow false prophets and believe their predictions is, however not proof of "keeping on the watch" but proof of having not been on the watch. Jesus taught that to follow them is to be "led astray". (Matthew 24:11, 23-26) And Moses wrote that such prophets should be executed. (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

Also the claim that "the last days" began at Pentecost (or possibly earlier) was made by Peter the Apostle (Acts 2:14-17) and confirmed by Paul (Hebrews 1:2) neither of whom were apostates.

The JWs leaders have made false predictions for dozens of dates and invent pathetic excuses rather than admit responsibility.

(See: *DATES; FALSE PROPHET*)

PROPHECY — PURPOSE OF

JWs leaders use prophecy as a **spur** to get JWs to preach, donate money, give up employment or education, and work as "volunteers" for the WTS.

Such sacrifices are rational decisions **IF** the world's end is only several years away and the sacrifices increase one's chance of surviving:

> Seeing this, our natural weakness, the Lord has provided time-prophecies as a spur, to quicken and awaken us fully, and keep us active in his service. (Studies II, 365)

> Let it be emphasized that our paying attention to the prophetic word should not just be for the purpose of gaining knowledge. Far from it! That word should stimulate us to act on that knowledge, causing us to do God's will, and especially now, "in the final part of the days." (w1983 11/15 21)

Not only the leaders but also ordinary members recognize that belief in imminent prophetic fulfilment stimulates religious activity:

> A sister arrived recently from – tells us that the class there are teaching that the church must not expect to be glorified until 1925, and that this is your thought; consequently it is producing a spirit of

> apathy, and many are taking a greater interest in business and worldly things. (wr1916 4/15 5888)

In this instance Russell replied, "…we are not looking forward to 1925, nor to any other date." This contradicted what Russellites had done for 40 years — predicted specific events for specific dates — and was ignored by Rutherford in his predictions for 1925.

JWs accuse other religions of using the doctrine of "hell fire" to keep people in tow, but JWs prophecies of a fiery Armageddon — to occur in this life, not the next, and which is "imminent" — works the same way to keep people in tow, and probably more effectively.

PROPHECY (1929)
Book by Rutherford

PROPHET
Old Testament men who spoke for God such as Moses, Isaiah and Jeremiah were "prophets". Most of them foretold the future and some performed signs or miracles.

PROPHET — JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Until 1935 the term "Jehovah's witnesses" referred to the so-called "remnant of the 144,000" who were also collectively "Jehovah's prophet".

When the "harvest" of the "great crowd" started in 1935 the "great crowd" was considered to be "associates" of JWs and "assistants" to the prophet class:

> So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined assisted in their work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief. (w1972 4/1 197)

Nevertheless, door-to-door goers of the "great crowd" were by 1940 regularly introducing themselves as "one of Jehovah's witnesses" not as "an associate of Jehovah's Witnesses".

The term "Jehovah's Witnesses" in WTS publications has mostly since the late 1930s referred to the "great crowd" and "remnant" together. The exception is when God's prophet is identified as "Jehovah's witnesses" — then the so-called "anointed remnant" is meant:

> Whom has God actually used as his prophet? … Jehovah's witnesses are deeply grateful today that the plain facts show that God has been pleased to use them. (w1959 1/15 40-41)

PROPHET AMONG THEM (Ezekiel 2:5)
In 1917 the Russellites believed that the prophet of Ezekiel 2:5 was fulfilled by C.T. Russell. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 378)

In 1931 Rutherford demoted Russell and defined the "remnant" collectively as the "prophet" of Ezekiel 2:5. (Vindication I, 1931, 56)

In *The Nations Shall Know…* (1971) the message of Ezekiel which was originally directed at ancient Israel is given a 20th century second fulfilment. In the 20th century fulfilment, Ezekiel — who was both "prophet" and "watchman" to Israel — has a counterpart in the "Ezekiel class" and the "watchman class" these being the JWs "remnant". (pp 56-66, 292)

This class was allegedly appointed by God in 1919. (pp 58, 61)

(See: *JEHOVAH'S PROPHET*)

PROPHET OF JEHOVAH
JWs believe that the remnant of the 144,000 collectively is God's modern day prophet to the world. The WTS is not a prophet but is the legal instrument that prophet uses:

> Better it is to know now, rather than too late, that there is an authentic prophetic class of Christians among us… Jehovah can raise up and has raised up a genuine "prophet" within our generation… (The Nations shall know… 1971, 292)

> ...since our times correspond with the days of Jehovah's prophet Jeremiah, it is logical that there should be a class like Jeremiah today, coming in Jehovah's name. There is such! It is composed of the approved remnant of the "slave" class. (w1977 12/15 751)

> Jehovah God has raised up his anointed witnesses to be a modern Jeremiah class. (w1979 8/1 9)

> Jehovah has considerately raised up his 'prophet to the nations.' … In behalf of such individuals who at heart seek God's rule instead of man's rule, the 'prophet' whom Jehovah has raised up has been, not an individual man as in the case of Jeremiah, but a class. The members of this class are, like the prophet-priest

> Jeremiah, wholly dedicated to Jehovah God through Christ and, by the begettal of Jehovah's holy spirit, they have been made part of 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession'... At this late date, there is a mere remnant of this prophet' class yet on earth. (w1982 10/1 26-27)

"Faithful slave" prophet class "receive" and "transmit" spiritual food"

> Today, a remnant of this 'faithful slave' is still alive on earth. Their duties include receiving and passing on to all of Jehovah's earthly servants spiritual food at the proper time. They occupy a position similar to that of Paul and his colaborers when that apostle said of the wonderful truths God gives to his people: "It is to us God has revealed them through his spirit." ...
>
> How vital it is for everyone in God's family to submit loyally to the teachings and arrangements of the Great Theocrat, Jehovah, and his King-Son, Christ Jesus, as transmitted through the 'faithful slave' on earth. (w1982 6/1 17)

To "receive", "pass on" and "transmit" "spiritual food at the proper time" "similar to Paul" implies there are no errors. (See: *INFALLIBLE)*

WTS and Governing Body Not a Prophet

The WTS or individual JWs are not God's "watchman" or God's prophet. "God's prophet", in JWs theology, is the "remnant of the 144,000":

> Better it is to know now, rather than too late, that there is an authentic prophetic class of Christians among us, and to accept and act upon the Bible message, "not as the word of men, but, just as it truthfully is as the word of God." (1 Thess. 2:13) Those who wait undecided until what Jehovah's Christian witnesses have been proclaiming 'comes true' "will also have to know that a prophet himself has proved to be in the midst of them."…
> What is to be gained by hesitating and doubting to the end that Jehovah can raise up and has raised up a genuine "prophet" within our generation? Certainly it will gain for no one the divine favor and protection needed during the speedily approaching "great tribulation." If our course is to be that of wisdom and of faith, then, with Bible in hand, we will heed the warning of Jehovah's true watchman and will take refuge where Jehovah indicates in his Word. Then, when Jehovah's prophetic watchman gets the report that Christendom has been struck down, we, together with the faithful watchman, will continue to live. (w1973 3/1 150)
>
> So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? … These questions can be answered in the affirmative… Who is this prophet? This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined assisted in their work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief. (w1972 4/1 197)

In Practice

In practice the prophecies do not come from all JWs of the so-called "anointed remnant" but from a small group of interpreters — Russell, Rutherford, Franz, and the Governing Body. Other "anointed remnant" members are not consulted. If they openly disagree with anything, although being of the "prophet class", it leads to their expulsion!

Deny being false prophets

The JWs leaders deny being "false prophets" despite their failed predictions, because they never spoke in the name of God and didn't claim to be inspired:

> Jehovah's Witnesses, in their eagerness for Jesus' second coming, have suggested dates that turned out to be incorrect. Because of this, some have called them false prophets. Never in these instances, however, did they presume or originate predictions 'in the name of Jehovah'. Never did they say, 'These are the words of Jehovah.' *The Watchtower*, the official journal of Jehovah's Witnesses, has said: "We have *not* the gift of prophecy." (January 1883, page 425)
>
> "Nor would we have our writings reverenced or regarded as infallible." (g1993 3/22 4)

Firstly, the statement "Jehovah Witnesses … have suggested dates" spreads the blame for failed predictions to **all** the followers although the leaders alone invent the false predictions.

Secondly, to claim to be "an authentic prophetic class", "a prophet of Jehovah", "a genuine prophet … Jehovah has raised up", and demand loyal submission based on this self-promotion, and then make the excuse "We did not claim to be infallible", is an attempt to

avoid responsibility. Every time the leaders attribute their doctrine to Jehovah they claim infallibility since Jehovah is supposed to be all-knowing, truthful and infallible.

Thirdly, the revealing of "truths" is supposedly identical to the 1st-century procedure:

> As Jehovah revealed his truths by means of the first century Christian congregation so he does today by means of the present-day Christian congregation. Through this agency he is having carried out prophesying on an intensified and unparalleled scale. All of this activity is not an accident. Jehovah is the one behind all of it. (w1964 6/15 365)

Summary

The Governing Body of JWs not only governs JWs but also leads the so-called "prophet class", regarding which it is claimed:

- The prophet class is an authentic prophet of Jehovah;
- It is a genuine prophet Jehovah raised up;
- It "receives" and passes on "truths" that God "revealed";
- Jehovah is behind it all;
- It is vital to submit to the prophet because that constitutes submitting to the teachings and arrangement of Jehovah.

The "remnant", however, is not consulted when new prophecies are formulated. In practice the "prophet" was Russell in Russell's time, Rutherford in Rutherford's time, Frederick Franz from 1943 to the 1970s, and the Governing Body from the1970s onwards.

(See also: *EZEKIEL*; *FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE*; *INFALLIBLE*)

PROPHET, FALSE/TRUE

Rutherford wrote that error, whether proclaimed maliciously or out of ignorance, indicates a false prophet:

> Since the Bible was completed and 'inspiration' is no longer necessary, a true prophet is one who is faithfully proclaiming what is written in the Bible… It matters not whether he [a false prophet] proclaims his message with deliberate, willful and malicious intent to deceive, or whether he is the blinded and deluded dupe of Satan and hence unwittingly used of him. In either case, he is a false prophet and hence the agent of Satan. (w1930 5/15 154)

The Knorr/Franz administration agreed:

> True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world," even announcing a specific date… The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?
>
> Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that he was guiding and using them. (g1968 10/8 23)

In the 1970s the false predictions and voluminous doctrinal revisions of the JWs leaders got increased publicity. Rather than admitting — by the above definition — to preaching false prophecies the leaders published a series of excuses.

(See also: *EXCUSES; DATES*)

PROSELYTISING

Preaching to convert people to another religion:

> Yet, according to modern dictionary usage, it can be said that a person who turns from some other religion to Christianity is a convert or proselyte… But Jehovah's witnesses are doing a proselyting work, a work of conversion… (w1964 10/1 607)

PROSPERITY SURE (1928)

In this book Rutherford maintains:

> During the World War of 1914 to 1918 the clergymen advocated war, urged young men to go to war to kill their fellow men, used their church buildings for recruiting stations, and denounced and persecuted every one who expressed conscientious scruples against killing. (p.19)
>
> They should have known better; because war is murder and no murderer has eternal life. (p.20)

Rutherford goes on to quote some clerics who had voiced extreme views and says:

> All of these preachers…follow the god of this world, who is Satan the Devil. (p.26)

However, in Germany 300 Russellites joined the military by 1915 — and neither Russell nor Rutherford stopped them.

PROTECTION

Booklet by Rutherford.

PROTECTION

Russell denied that Christians have special protection from God:

> … we have no sympathy with the thought advanced by some that the body of Christ should expect to be exempted from the trials and afflictions of the world, physical, social and financial. (Studies VI, 645, 650)

In 1932 Rutherford disagreed:

> The faithful ... must expect to be threatened with bodily harm and probably subjected to some; but they know that Jehovah will see to it that the darts of the enemy do not injure them as long as they are in the line of duty. (w1932 1/15 24)

Rutherford's claim gave JWs courage to endure the concentration camps in the 1940s when Armageddon was supposedly about to strike.

The 1940 *Yearbook* gives examples of "Jehovah's protection" including a JW who was "beat up and knocked senseless." (p.78) Such experiences meant that belief in God's protection needed clarification. The clarification was that JWs as a group will survive although individuals may perish. (Yearbook 1941, Text February 9) This really says nothing significant since **every** large group distributed worldwide, survives.

Protection claims

"Witnessing" i.e. proselytising is often promoted as giving protection. In one case kidnapped JWs preached to the kidnappers and were released. (w1979 10/15)

Individual JWs sometimes assert they've had "protection" (e.g. w1985 2/15 30) and imply that God gave protection because they were "really putting the kingdom first". (w1984 8/1 25-31) But if that's the case why do other JWs who also put Governing Body instructions first nevertheless get killed? Apparently God "permits" it to test their integrity. (w1985 3/1 9)

PSYCHIATRY

In 1960 the leaders advised JWs that to consult psychiatrists, "is an admission of defeat, it amounts to going down to Egypt for help."

In early 1975 seeing a psychiatrist became "a matter for personal decision." (w1975 4/1 255) Later the same year the previous stance was reinstated:

> …is the turning of people from the clergy to the psychiatrists a healthy phenomenon? No, for it really is a case of jumping from the frying pan into the fire… let lovers of righteousness turn to the Bible. (g1975 8/22 25)

(See also: *JOY; DEFECTION; MENTAL ILLNESS*)

PUBLIC DECLARATION — *HOMOLOGEO*

"Confess" is how the Greek word "homologeo" which appears 23 times in the New Testament is usually translated.

In the NRSV Bible *homologeo* is translated as "acknowledge" but in *The New World Translation* mostly as "public declaration".

Romans 10:9-10 says:

> "For if you confess [publicly declare] that word … you will be saved."

JWs believe that *homologeo* implies being a "minister" or evangelist and going house to house to peach to strangers:

> Such confession is made by telling others of God and his kingdom as the only hope of the world. (Jehovah 1934, 359)

> Who, though, besides Timothy and Paul, were expected to share in the Christian ministry? Merely the elders or the special travelling representatives? No. The apostle Paul pointed to the fact that the preaching of the good news was motivated by the faith that all Christians are supposed to possess. He said: "With the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation."—Romans 10:10.
> Does this mean that all those who genuinely possess the Christian faith should be Christian ministers? Yes, Paul's words were addressed to the whole congregation at Rome not just to the elders. (w1982 11/15 19)

Homologeo contains no hint of house to house proselytizing, or book selling, or ministry. *Homologeo* means:

a) To confess, declare, admit;
b) To confess to being guilty;
c) To declare openly by speaking out freely, such confession resulting from deep conviction.
(Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, W E Vine, p.198)

Confess is the opposite of "deny". (I John 2:22-23) People can confess Jesus or deny him. (Matthew 10:23-24; Luke 12:8) Either way it's not a biblical requirement to do this by knocking on strangers' doors. Nor must one necessarily be a "minister" to either confess or deny Jesus.

The confession Christians make is that "Jesus is Lord" this being the New Testament equivalent

to calling "on the name of Jehovah". (Romans 10:9,13) Confessing "Jesus as Lord" implies submission and allegiance to Him.

When confession is made before unbelievers the confessing Christian will often be seen as "guilty". (John 9:22) When Jesus "confesses" before his "father in heaven" he accepts the guilt for people's sins and acknowledges these people as his brothers and friends. Door to door preaching in Heaven by Jesus is not involved in this.

PUBLIC LECTURE
The Sunday public talk in a congregation or at a convention. When inviting the public JWs often call it a "public lecture" to present it as non-sectarian education, but among themselves it's usually termed "public talk".

PUBLIC REPROOF
An announcement to the congregation that a publisher is to lose some of his "privileges" in the congregation.

The congregation knows this implies the person has done something wrong — although the wrong is not publicly specified due to possible legal repercussions.

Of course if the wrong is serious (by JWs criteria) the "reproof" is upgraded to announcing that he has "disassociated" himself which is equivalent to excommunication.

PUBLIC TALK
A public address of 45 minutes usually on Sunday in a congregation or at a convention to which the public is invited.

PUBLIC TALK OUTLINES
Brochures of two to four pages issued since 1945, which have "outlines" of the public talks or discourses given in JWs congregations. The outlines are detailed and lengthy and the speaker adds little if anything to them.

PUBLICATIONS VERSUS THE BIBLE
From 1880-1983 the WTS religion published:

> 8.8 billion Bibles, books, booklets, magazines and tracts. (w1984 1/1 17)

The WTS's public stance was and still is:

> We are seeking to know what God has said, and not merely preaching the creeds of the past. If we have an inspired word of God, and if we believe Jesus and the Apostles spoke by inspiration, why take what someone spoke in the fifteenth, twelth or fifth century? Why not go back to the fountain head and get it pure from the great founder, through whom God said the streams of Truth should come...?' (Convention Report 1912, 133)

Such exhortations to go straight to the Bible did not and do not say what they seem to say. Russell **was not** urging people to read the Bible but rather he meant, "Read **my** books because they accurately explain the Bible." Similarly, when later JWs leaders advised "Read the Bible" they meant "Study our books and look up Bible passages cited."

Russell had claimed:

> And be it known that no other system of theology even claims, or has ever attempted, to harmonize in itself *every* statement of the Bible; yet nothing short of this we claim for these views. (Studies I, 348)

Russell reasoned that to study each sect individually leads to a "labyrinth of confusion". (Studies I, 11-12) Therefore people should seek only the Bible's guidance. However, when people went to his meetings they found that the supposed biblical guidance has to come by reading **his** writings, **his** books.

Protest

From time to time elders in congregations discover the WTS's horrid history of constant revision to "Bible truth" and protest against the book-reading requirement and recommend more Bible-reading. To such elders the leaders respond:

> It is just as we might have expected, that our wily adversary would attempt to keep the Lord's people from putting on the whole armor of God and fastening it on. More than this, he attempts to *prejudice* them against the very instruments God provided to keep the "feet" of Christ in this evil day.—Psalm 91:11, 12.
>
> From various quarters the word came to us that the leaders of classes were protesting that WATCTHOWER PUBLCATIONS should not be referred to in the meetings, but merely the Bible. This sounded loyal to God's Word; but it was not so. It was merely an effort of those teachers to come between the people of God and the *Divinely provided light upon God's Word*.
>
> Let us remember that Satan is behind such a move as that! He poses as an angel of light and a defender of the Bible, yet he has succeeded in blinding millions with Bibles in their hands and in regular Bible-study classes! Why would it be any more disloyal to the Bible to consult THE

> WATCH TOWER publications respecting the meaning of a verse of Scripture than to consult the leader of the class or any of its members?…
>
> Never forget that the Bible is our standard and that however God-given our helps may be they are "helps" and not substitutes for the Bible. (Divine Purpose 1959 p.46 quoting w1909 371. Underlining added)

Russell taught that to study the Bible direct is to "waste a great deal of time". (wr1910 9/15 4685) [See: *INFALLIBILITY*] The result of direct study is that "within two years he goes into darkness."

If Russell was right, then today's JWs are in "darkness" since they ignore Russell's books thereby ignoring what he called "*Divinely provided light upon God's Word*." The WTS leaders who came after Russell rejected and altered an estimated 70% of Russell's "divinely provided light". (See: *ERROR*; *FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

Van Baalen (1962) summarized Russell's attitude:

> His boldness was so extraordinary that he calmly announced in the opening pages of his Studies in the Scriptures that it would be better to leave the Bible unread but read his comments than to omit the latter but read the Bible. (pp 218-219)

JWs leaders accused Van Baalen of "willfully bearing false witness" and added: "…neither it nor anything even remotely similar ever appeared in any of the six Scripture Studies." (w1957 7/1 415)

Van Baalen's comment, however, was a fair summary of *Studies Volume I*, pp 11-12 and w1910 9/15 4685. (See: *BIBLE; INFALLIBILITY*)

Rutherford

The JWs leaders who came after Russell altered most of his doctrines but still labelled Russell's interpretations "light", "truth" and "excellent spiritual food", thereby "willfully bearing false witness."

First there was Rutherford who wrote:

> …the clergy … are no longer proper guides for the people. It is now plainly the will of God that the people shall individually and personally study his word. (Reconciliation 1928, 206-207)

By "study his word" Rutherford, like Russell, really meant, "study **my** books":

> Rain is a symbol of God's refreshing blessing which the remnant daily need... Some have made to themselves household gods, such as the daily reading of ... a chapter in the Bible, inducing themselves to believe that by following such formality they are performing God's service... Such vanities cannot produce rain says the Lord." (w1933 10/1 295)

Rutherford's books, however, contain so much crap that few JWs now read them and outsiders who ask to borrow them will be turned away.

After Rutherford

Many books authored by the JWs leaders who came after Rutherford have, like his books, been discarded due to their numerous errors. The post-Rutherford leaders — who created the "Governing Body" — also criticized direct Bible study and made the study of WTS books mandatory:

> Obviously, merely reading the Bible is not enough; we need help to understand it. (w1957 7/1 415)
>
> They will declare that all one needs to do is read the Bible. But Christendom has been reading the Bible for centuries. And look at the indistinct trumpet call coming from Christendom today. (w1983 3/1 25)

Direct Bible study, it is admitted, makes JWs go: "…right back to the apostate doctrines." (w1981 8/15 28-29)

Value in Bible Study

JWs publications do quote numerous Bible verses. However, many of the books and letters that make up the Bible are reasoned discourses with introduction, evidence, replies to objections, and conclusion. Therefore individual verses can be best understood and properly applied by studying the entire book.

JWs rarely understand biblical material in context because the WTS books they substitute for the Bible quote only bits and pieces.

Why substitute WTS Books for the Bible?

Why then have the JWs leaders always insisted that substitutes for the Bible, i.e. their own writings, be used? Because:

1. Most persons who study the Bible directly come up with conclusions similar to mainline denominations, and not with JWs doctrines! Russell lamented: "…people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself." (wr1910 9/15 4685)

2. The WTS publications are a major means by which the leaders maintain control over their followers.
3. Books produce income or money — which, however, is defined as "donations". (See: *PRICES*)
4. Distributing the books helps keep converts too busy to do deep study and research.
5. New books permit errors of previous books to slip into the past. Releases of new books facilitate continuous indoctrination of followers.
6. New publications permit ongoing self-justification together with criticism of critics, defectors and other religions.
7. Distribution figures are used as a proof of "Jehovah's approval", "blessing", and "backing". (e.g. Let God Be True 1952, 200)

Provided by God

JWs leaders call their writings, "… true publications provided by God. (w1985 11/5 31) They claim:

> It is not man's message but God's Word of truth that is dispensed. (Vindication III 1932, 264)
>
> The facts prove the he [God] uses the Watch Tower publications to bring these truths to the attention of his remnant. (Preparation 1933, 176)
>
> Jehovah has been pleased to use the Watch Tower publications to bring to these his present day truth. (w1933 10/1 298)
>
> To feed or teach his people the Lord has used the Watch Tower publications." (w1933 12/1 363; w1935 1/15 26)
>
> Multitudes...want something different from the husks which they have bean receiving from religious institutions. (Children 1941, 176)
>
> *The Watchtower* is not the instrument of any man or set of men, nor is it published according to the whims of men. No man's opinion is expressed in *The Watchtower*…
>
> Jehovah God is the great Teacher of his children. To be sure, the publication of these truths is put forth by imperfect men, and for this reason they are not absolutely perfect in form; but they are put forth in such form as reflects God's truth that he teaches his children. (w1931 11/1 327, 328)

Errors are not "provided by God"

The total number of pages of all the WTS writings, counting one copy from each English edition, is about 500,000 pages or about 200 times longer than the Bible.

All these pages together contain thousands upon thousands of teachings that were presented as "Bible truth" but have been discarded or revised and are no longer "Bible truth". *The Finished Mystery* (1917) alone has been estimated to have 1300 out-of-date interpretation in its 700 pages!

This situation hardly suggests that "No man's opinion is expressed" and God was behind it all!

Since 1942 the WTS publications have been written anonymously to promote the illusion they're from "Jehovah". Seeing no author's name and repeatedly being told the books are from God, that "God … teaches his children", JWs don't investigate but believe it!

Until 1971 the real authors — with the exception of non-doctrinal material such as appears in *Awake!* — were the officers of the Society — Knorr, Franz and Suiter. This is indicated by:

> Throughout the entire administration of Pastor Russell, the president and the other officers of the Society had been the ones to decide on new publications; the board of directors, as a body, was not consulted. Brother Rutherford continued this same policy as he took up the new administration. In the course of time the three officers decided to publish the "seventh volume,"… (Divine Purpose 1959, 70)

The other four directors, or non-officers, of the Watch Tower Society, were (from 1944 to 2000) also members of the Governing Body and helped to check material before its publication:

> The literature published by the Watch Tower Society is published in the name of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. Regardless of who may write certain articles, they are checked carefully by members of the governing body before they are published; so they are properly viewed as coming from the Society. (w1959 10/1 607)

Knorr, from the 1940s to the 1970s, also wrote the Yearbooks.

From 1971 other Governing Body members (i.e. who were not WTS directors) also shared in writing books. Franz (1983) names some of the authors of various books.

The Bible for salvation

The Bible alone without "adulteration" gives guidance unto salvation:

> …as newborn infants, form a longing for the unadulterated milk belonging to the word, that through it you may grow to salvation. (1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 2:12; II Timothy 3:16-17; 1 John 2:27)

PUBLICATIONS DISCONTINUED

Most WTS publications go out of print when the "Bible truth" and "accurate knowledge" that they contain is no longer fully acceptable because of "new understanding" and "brighter light".

In November 2015 the WTS sent congregations a letter listing **scores** of items (books, tapes, disks, booklets, brochures) to be discontinued — including some books that actually are useful such as:

- *The Kingdom Interlinear*
- *Insight on the Scriptures* Volumes I & II
- *Comprehensive Concordance*
- *Watchtower Publications Index*

PUBLICATIONS INDEX

The full name is *The Watchtower Publications Index*. This is an index of WTS articles, topics and publications for a specified period.

Indexes which listed topics that were published the previous year were booklet-sized (48-96 pages) and came out in 1961 to 1964, 1966-1969, 1971-1974, 1976-1979, 1981-1984.

Every 5th year indexes were published which covered a longer period. These began in 1961 with an index that covered the period 1930 to 1960.

PUBLISHER

A publisher is one who with permission of the local JWs overseers distributes WTS publications and preaches the doctrines — i.e. participates in "field service" — and reports such ministry monthly.

Rutherford explained: "To "publish" means to make known generally to the people." (w1932 4/1 102)

The term "publisher" to refer to JWs distributing material door to door appeared in *The Watchtower* first in 1935:

> …each one who attends the convention is urged to bring along his carrying case for use in the door-to-door witnessing, also to bring the identification card which every publisher should have. (w1935 4/15 127)

From 1939 to 1950 they were also called "company publishers".

Another term is "irregular publisher" which refers to one who failed to report his ministry in one or more of the previous six months. In the 1950s one-third of publishers in Australia were irregular. (The Kingdom Ministry August 1958; July 1959)

Statistics of publisher numbers are collated monthly. The "peak" for a congregation or country is the highest monthly total for the 12 months of the service year. The "average" is the average of the 12 monthly reports.

About 25% of publishers are unbaptized. (The Kingdom Ministry, July 1959)

The age breakdown of publishers in Australia in 1962 was:

Under 15	18%
16-30	26%
31-50	34%
51-70	17%
Over 70	5%

(Australian Kingdom Ministry, November 1962)

The age breakdown of "Jehovah's Witnesses" in the 1996 Government Census in Australia was:

15-19	11.5%
20-29	19.2%
30-39	20.3%
40-49	18.9%
50-59	12.6%
60-69	9.0%
70 plus	8.7%

Government Census figures usually give higher numbers of JWs than the "peak publishers" given in JWs yearbooks. For example:

Country	Year	Census Figures	Peak Publishers
Canada	1961	68,015	40,230
Australia	1981	35,632	31,900
Canada	1984	143,480	80,900
Australia	1996	83,414	61,600

The differences come about because yearbook figures exclude non-reporting members and children too young to be publishers whereas census figures include children. Also some defectors and interested persons probably report themselves as members.

Until 2002 all publishers reported whole hours of ministry, not fractions of hours, but since 2002 increments of 15 minutes are permitted for infirm publishers. This provision may have

increased the publisher numbers and helped to mask decreases in some countries.

PUBLISHER FILE
The collection of Publishers Record Cards held in each congregation. The cards contain a record of the monthly field service of each publisher.

PUBLISHER RATE
A term now obsolete which referred to the discounted price publishers paid for books and magazines that they resold at the doors. The public paid 20% more than publishers paid; this was meant to help compensate publishers for literature they gave away.

PUBLISHERS AVERAGE
The numbers of JWs "publishers" is totalled monthly for every congregation, every country, and worldwide. The best or peak month and the 12-month average for every country in which JWs are not banned is listed in the *Yearbook*.

Publishers Worldwide Monthly Average:

Year	Average Publishers	Average Annual % Increase
1881	100?	
1890	300?	
1900	2,000?	
1914	4,500?	6.0
1918	4,000	-3.0
1922	9,200	23.1
1927	18,500	15.0
1928	24,000	29.7
1934	41,000	9.3
1938	47,100	3.5
1940	79,800	30.2
1945	127,500	9.8
1950	328,600	20.8
1955	570,700	11.7
1960	851,400	8.3
1965	1,034,300	4.0
1970	1,384,000	6.0
1975	2,062,000	8.3
1980	2,175,000	1.1
1985	2,865,000	5.7
1990	3,846,000	6.0
1995	4,950,000	5.2
2000	5,783,000	4.0
2005	6,390,000	2.0
2010	7,225,000	2.5
2011	7,396,000	2.4
2012		
2013	7,698,000	2.1
2014	7,868,000	2.2
2015	7,987,000	1.5
2016	8,132,000	1.8
2017	8,249,000	1.4
2018	8,361,000	1.4
2019	8,471,000	1.3
2020	8,424,000	-0.6
2021	8,480,000	0.7
2022	8,515,000	0.4
2023	8,621,000?	
2024	8,828,000	2.4
2025	9,047,000	2.5

The Nations Shall Know… (1971) p.318 says that 7000 distributed *The Finished Mystery* in March 1918 — which could be the peak for 1918, not the average.

The percentages in the above table are what the yearly % increase between successive periods would be if the growth was steady growth. For example, 4% in 1965 tells us that difference between 851,400 publishers in 1960 and 1,034,000 in 1965 represents 4% increase each year for 5 years.

Peak publishers are mostly 3% to 5% higher than the average, although in some countries with little or no increase the two figures may differ by less than 1% – Japan for example:

	Average	Peak	Ratio to the Population
2000	220,500	221,400	570
2005	217,200	218,300	581
2010	217,200	218,700	581
2013	216,000	216,472	588
2014	215,300	215,700	590
2015	214,500	215,200	588
2016	213,800	214,200	591
2017		213,473	599
2021	212,900	213,451	591
2023	214,100	214,457	583
2025	213,700	214,100	577

In the 1920s the country with most JWs (or Rutherfordites as they were then often called) was Germany which had more than Britain or the USA:

Average Publishers in Four Countries

	Britain	Canada	Germany	USA
1914			c.500	
1918	2,784			743
1922				2,519
1923			3,600	
1924				1,100
1925		1,070		1,600
1926			12,000	2,400
1927				3,400
1928	3,100	1,000	9.800	6,040
1929	3,200		9,050	c.5,800
1930	3,400		9,500	6,100
1931	3,560	800	10,000	c.10,000
1932		1,000	12,600	
1934	4,300	1,960	c.7,000	
1935		2,200		20,900
1936	4,350	2,100		21,600
1937	c.4,800	c.2,500		21,500
1938	4,960	3,100		25,600

1939		4,270		35,500
1940				47,800
1941				56,700
1942		5,000		62,200

In the 1920s and 1930s there were high differences between peak and average both for the world and individual countries. This reflects high turnover rates due to failed prophecies as well as reports being handed in weekly rather than monthly.

(See also: *PUBLISHERS — PEAK*)

PUBLISHERS DAILY FIELD SERVICE REPORT

A form on which JWs publishers in the 1940s reported their daily "Field Service".

Publishers filled out the number of Bibles, books, booklets, magazines and subscriptions they sold as well as the hours they spent, back calls made and the "total sound attendance". The last named was the number of people who attended the playing of gramophone records of speeches by Rutherford.

It was a "Daily Field Service Report" because in the 1940s the WTS required JWs to go house to house every day. The form included the reminder, "Quota: 60 hours for company publishers can be attained by diligence and regularly in the service."

The "Quota" for "publishers" i.e. for ordinary JWs who may have had full-time secular employment or attended school was 60 hours per month. This extreme effort was demanded because Armageddon was anticipated within "months". (See: *DATES*)

PUBLISHERS FIELD SERVICE REPORT

A form on which JWs report their "ministry" or "field service".

They fill out their hours, return visits, publications (magazine, books and booklets) placed, and "Bible studies" conducted.

PUBLISHERS MALE/FEMALE RATIO

Russell reported baptism figures of some conventions including males and females:

Convention & Attendance	Baptisms M	F	Reference
St Louis 400	21	20	wr1899, 2524
Chicago 550	46	36	wr1900, 2686
Cleveland 823	25	41	wr1901, 2884
Washington 800	42	45	wr 1902, 3100
London 850	30	28	wr1907, 4027
Cincinnati 600	18	19	wr1908, 4145
Jacksonsville 1200	21	17	wr1909, 4336
London 4423	66	63	wr1909, 4423

These figures suggest the sexes were represented equally. However Russell did not give male/female breakdowns of baptisms for every convention. He probably wished to avoid the impression of Russellism as a woman's religion — group photographs in old *Convention Reports* indicate a definite female preponderance. In a list of names of Russellites who took a vow (wr1908 8/15 4228-4229) the sex of the person can be distinguished for about 360 of the names. Only 130 or 36% were male.

In Rutherford's time JWs continued to be mainly women. Many letters published in *The Watchtower* stated the number of male and female publishers and pioneers in companies (congregations or house-groups). The following statistics are from letters published 1936-1938:

M	F	M	F	M	F
3	11	1	3	2	1
4	12	3	6	5	13
3	6	5	4	5	7
5	7	2	3		
3	22	0	3		

The following two tables show male-female percentages of JWs imprisoned and arrested for preaching illegally:

Imprisoned

JWs	% M	% F	Reference
50	42	58	Intolerance, 1933

Arrests La Grange, Georgia

JWs	%M	%F	Reference
176	43	57	Yearbook 1975, 176

And baptisms at international conventions:

Baptisms	% M	% F	Reference
2602	34.7	65.3	g1946 9/22 14
3381	38.5	61.5	Convention Report 1950
4640	40.0	60.0	Convention Report 1953
7136	42.2	58.8	Convention Report 1958

Males and females counted in the Australian and Canadian census:

Australian Census

1981 35,633 JWs 42.2% M 57.8% F
1996 83,414 JWs 44.5% M 55.5% F

Canadian Census

1981 143,480 JWs 45.4% M 54.6% F

PUBLISHERS PEAK
The highest monthly number of JWs to report their ministry during a designated period, usually one year.

Since the 1930s the WTS has tabulated the witnessing/preaching statistics monthly giving a peak month every year and a 12-month average. The world total "peak publishers" is the total of all the peaks for every country and is given in the following table:

Year	Peak	Year	Peak
1881	c.100	2000	6,036,000
1890	c.400	2005	6,614,000
1900	c.2,000	2006	6,741,000
1914	5,100	2007	6,958,000
1918	4,100	2008	7,124,000
1920	8,400	2009	7,313,000
1928	44,000	2010	7,508,000
1931	50,000	2011	7,659,000
1938	59,000	2012	7,782,000
1939	71,500	2013	7,966,000
1940	95,000	2014	8,202,000
1945	142,000	2015	8,220,000
1950	373,000	2016	8,341,000
1955	643,000	2017	8,457,000
1960	916,000	2018	8,580,000
1965	1,110,000	2019	8,683,000
1970	1,483,000	2020	8,696,000
1975	2,179,000	2021	
1980	2,272,000	2022	8,699,048
1985	3,024,000	2023	8,817,000
1990	4,017,000	2024	9,043,000
1995	5,200,000	2025	9,205,000

The following chart from *Qualified to be Ministers* (1955, 332) gives the peak publishers for some periods longer than one year:

Period	Peak Ministers
1874-1892	400
1893-1918	21,274
1920-1930	23,988
1931-1939	73,469
1940-1945	141,606

PUBLISHER'S RECORD CARD
Cards kept and updated in congregations containing a record of each publisher's field service or ministry.

The card includes details such as name, address, phone number, date of birth, date of baptism, languages spoken and education. Each card records about two years of monthly ministry i.e. the monthly totals of hours, literature placed with people, return visits, and studies conducted. The card also records their pioneering periods and any disciplinary actions.

The cards are retained and updated by an elder in the congregation. If a publisher transfers to another congregation his card is transferred there too. Cards older than seven years are supposed to be destroyed.

PUERTO RICO
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Puerto Rico and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	6,940	387		
1975	15,662	193		
1980	15,783	202	44,500	72
1985	20,413	164	57,400	58
1990	24,042	146	59,600	59
1995	26,040	135	64,300	55
2000	25,884	147	60,600	63
2005	24,600	160	59,100	67
2010	26,293	150	59,600	66
2015	25,832	143	56,400	65
2018	23,632	155	46,097	79
	Ave.			
2019	23,147	127	45,300	65
2020	22,888	125	42,500	57
2021	23,214	122	49,700	57
2022	22,980	123	45,600	62
2023	22,715	126	43,543	65
2024	22,697	142	43,400	74
2025	22,703	141	42,200	76

PUFFED UP / PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE
These phrases are listed on the *Watchtower Library CD* (2007) 373 and 184 times respectively. Often these phrases appear in WTS literature when it quotes Bible verses in which they occur in the NWT such as II Corinthians 12:20, Colossians 2:18, I Timothy 6:3-4 and II Timothy 3:4.

JWs describe as "puffed up" or "puffed up with pride" any members who emphasize their social status, challenge any official teaching, or refuse to follow Governing Body instructions. "Apostates" and people of other religions who criticise JWs are also considered to be puffed up with pride.

PULPIT
The speaker's stand from which a minister in church speaks sermons. JWs elders however speak from the "platform" or "stage".

PURE DOCTRINE
Around 1880 Russell made, "a bold stand for pure doctrine". (Divine Purpose 1959, 21; w1881 January, p.187) His doctrines were "God's principles or truths" unlike the "lame sacrifices being offered by the leaders of apostate Christendom." (Divine Purpose 1959, 20-21)

All JWs doctrine is considered "pure doctrine" even the thousands of interpretations of the 1880s to 1940s now discarded.

PURE LANGUAGE (OF TRUTH)
A phrase used to designate the current JWs doctrines and sometimes all doctrines past and present:

> Today, in more than a hundred nations, Knorr said, the "pure language" is being spoken… (Convention Report 1950, August 3, p.2)
>
> Why should you be concerned about speaking the pure language? For one thing, because your life depends upon learning and speaking it. (w1991 5/1 13)

The phrase "pure language" is taken from Zephaniah 3:9 and appears 556 times on the *Watchtower Library* CD (2007) and "pure language of truth" 24 times.

PURE RELIGION
A phrase which refers to the JWs religion. (What Has Religion Done for Mankind, 1951, chapter 26) The phrase is listed 69 times on the *Watchtower Library* CD (2007).

PURE WORDS OF TRUTH
A phrase which refers to the current JWs interpretation of the Bible.

PURE WORSHIP
A commonly-used JWs phrase which refers collectively to the doctrines and religious activities endorsed by the leadership whether pure or not.

For example, selling the book *The Finished Mystery* (1917), which had about 1,300 interpretations that the leaders later altered, was still called "pure worship" (Yearbook 1979, 110) fifty years after most of the alterations were made.

PURPLE TRIANGLES
The title of a WTS video about JWs in Nazi concentration camps; so titled because JWs in those camps were identified by purple triangles of cloth.

PYRAMID
Russell wrote that the Great Pyramid of Egypt was "inspired" by the "divine inspirer of the prophets and the apostles":

> Should it corroborate the Bible account particularly and minutely, it would indeed well merit the name given it by Dr. Seiss—"A Miracle in Stone."
>
> Well, we can say nothing less of it; for its testimony agrees fully and in every detail with the entire plan of God as we have learned that plan from the Scriptures. Its wonderful correspondencies with the Bible leave no room for doubt that the same divine inspirer of the prophets and apostles inspired this "Witness" also. (Studies III, 361-362)

Russell taught that the passages, chambers and some other features were prophetic. Some passages predicted dates in the first century and others in the 19th and 20th centuries. (Studies III, 309-376)

In this doctrine, as in all his other doctrines, Russell made changes. *Studies III*, p.342 of the 1901 edition, gave the length of a certain corridor as 3416 inches. These inches represented the years 1542 BC to 1874 AD. Russell argued:

> Thus the Pyramid witnesses that the close of 1874 was the chronological beginning of the time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation…

The editions of 1907 and 1915 give the length of the same pyramid corridor as "3457 inches symbolizing 3457 years" ending 1915 AD. Russell's new conclusion was:

> Thus the pyramid witnesses that the close of 1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble... (Studies 1915, 342)

Revisions of such nature sometimes resulted in mockery by critics — for example that the Pyramid shrank because the Egyptians were careless and left it outside under the hot sun.

In the 1920s Rutherford claimed that Russell's prophetic chronology based on the Pyramid was "beyond doubt":

> In the passages of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh the agreement of one or two measurements with the present-truth chronology might be accidental, but the correspondency of dozens of measurements proves that the same God designed both pyramid and plan—and at the same time proves the correctness of the chronology.
>
> … we affirm that, Scripturally, scientifically, and historically, present-truth chronology is correct beyond a doubt. Its reliability has been abundantly confirmed by the dates and events of 1874, 1914, and 1918. (w1922 6/15 187)

In 1924 Van Amburgh, the WBTS's

secretary/treasurer, defended pyramidology in a long article titled "A Bible for the Scientist" (g1924 5/21) which he revised in g1924 12/21. (It is now available as a 54-page paperback by Lulu publisher).

In 1927 the doctrine that the Great Pyramid corroborated the Bible was still accepted, as indicated in the following advertisement:

> SERIES III: *Thy Kingdom Come,* considers prophecies which mark events connected with "the time of the end", the glorification of the church, and the establishment of the Millennial kingdom. It also contains a chapter on the Great Pyramid of Egypt, showing its corroborations of certain Bible teachings : 380 pages, 35¢... (w1927 11/1 334)

In 1928 Rutherford began to oppose pyramidology. (w1928 11/1 339-345; 12/1 355-361) This new viewpoint was endorsed by "Arch W. Smith" (w1929 2/1 45-47) and F.W. Franz (w1929 7/1 206-207)

Thus in 1928-1929 the whole pyramid system — which previously had the "same divine inspirer" as the apostles, and was "correct beyond a doubt" — was thrown out.

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