DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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Uploaded the first time: 2015
Latest update: 2026

RACE
The sciences of genetics and social biology have shown that there are no distinct "races" among humans. All people are so genetically similar that there is one "human race". (Chase 1980; Marks 1995) The genes of people in one country occur in people of all countries. What differs is the frequency or proportion of the various genes in different populations.

JWs leaders, however, believe in the concept of "race" including the disproved notion that "the different races seem to have prominent personality traits – good and bad."

However, as part of their program to maintain a united "organization" JWs try to break down the prejudice by which individuals of other races are considered inferior. (g1984 11/8 8)

RADIO
The World's first radio station began daily broadcasts from Pittsburgh in 1920. In April 1922 it broadcast Rutherford's sermon *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*.

The WBTS managed radio station WBBR in New York from February 24, 1924 to 1957. In 1935 Rutherford's 15-minute radio sermons were broadcast from 408 commercial radio stations. His virulent anti-Catholicism led to a Catholic boycott campaign and cessation of his broadcasts in 1937.

The Public Talk at major conventions of JWs was sometimes broadcast on radio, and sometimes secondary conventions sites were connected by radio to the main site:

- 1927 Toronto, Canada. Public talk broadcast on 53 radio stations
- 1928 Detroit, Michigan and106 radio stations
- 1931 Columbus, Ohio. Fifty convention sites and465 radio stations
- 1937 Columbus, Ohio. 135 radio stations broadcast to Europe, Australia & North America
- 1938 London. 50 other sites connected by radio
- 1939 New York and 28 cities by radio

Occasional use of commercial radio by the WTS continues such as 242 radio and television stations in Italy. (Yearbook 1982, 242)

RADIO STATION 2HD (NEWCASTLE)
In 1940 JWs in Australia owned the radio stations:
- 2HD Newcastle (NSW)
- 4AT Atherton (QLD)
- 5KA Adelaide (SA)
- 5AU Port Augusta (SA)

2HD (HD are the initials of the founder, Harry Douglas) began broadcasting in January 1925. William Johnston bought the station in 1928 and in 1930 sold to *Airsales Broadcasting Company*.

In 1941 2HD had 25 employees but was closed under the National Security Regulations due to allegations that some broadcasts contained coded messages.

JWs challenged the legality of the closure. *The Advertiser* (February 20, 1941, p.8) reported:

> **Jehovah's Witnesses Sue**
> Commonwealth SYDNEY, February 19.
> A writ was issued from the High Court today on behalf of Jehovah's Witnesses and others against the Commonwealth and the Postmaster-General, claiming damages for trespass to goods and property. The plaintiffs also asked for a declaration that the National Security (Subversive Associations) Regulations were ultra vires the Commonwealth Parliament because they contravened Section 116 of the Commonwealth Constitution by prohibiting the free exercise of religion. The writ did not specify the amount of damages claimed. The plaintiffs are:— Jehovah's Witnesses, Watch Tower Bible Tract Society, International Bible Students' Association, Consolation Publishing Co., Adelaide Company of Jehovah's Witnesses, Airsales Broadcasting Co. Pty Ltd., Sport Radio Broadcasting Co. Ltd.. Atherton Tablelands Broadcasters Pty. Ltd., Port Augusta Broadcasting Co. Ltd., and Alexander MacGillivray, suing for himself and for all the other members in Australia of the above plaintiffs

2HD resumed transmissions in January 1945 under the ownership of the Australian Labor Party and the Labor Council of NSW who sold the station in 1999. It is currently owned by Broadcast Operations Group, operating at

1143 kHz on the AM band from studios in Newcastle, NSW.

RADIO STATION 5KA

Station 5KA was a pioneer radio station in Adelaide.

In January 1941 its license and the license of 5AU in Port Augusta were cancelled by the Post-Master General's Department on suspicion of broadcasting coded messages on ship movements that could aid German U-boats and raiders operating around Australia.

Adelaide's JWs and 5KA had been under suspicion for some time. JWs were regarded as subversive because of their political neutrality and refusal to do military service. An official enquiry into the sect was announced by the Attorney General, W.M Hughes, in July 1940 and led to the radio stations being closed. In 1941 the federal government decided that JWs should be banned under the National Security Regulations.

In June 1943 JWs won their High Court appeal against the Commonwealth based on Section 116 of the Constitution which provides for free exercise of religion. Confiscated assets were returned and JWs could freely hold meetings.

In 1943 the Methodist Church bought 5KA and opened the station at a new location.

RAILWAYS/TRAINS

Russell taught that trains were predicted in Nahum 2:5-6. (The Harp of God 1921, 161)

Russell and the WTS organized train conventions until 1916 in which Russell and up to several hundred followers travelled by train to boost local attendances of "Bible Students" at conventions in many U.S. cities.

RANSOM

Russell taught that the human race is hostage to death. Jesus' sacrifice was a ransom that gave mankind an opportunity for salvation.

144,000 would go to heaven as "kings and priests" — their resurrection began in 1878. Those of the 144,000 still living on Earth in 1914 would all ascend at that time. A second spiritual class called the "great multitude" or "great crowd" would also go to heaven but have secondary status there. A third group of people would be resurrected to live eternally on earth.

In 1934-1935 the three categories of "the saved" were reduced to two — the 144,000 who go to heaven and the "great crowd" who live on Earth.

RAPE

Rape is a disfellowshipping offence. A JW who rapes will be disfellowshipped upon being found guilty by the law but JWs have not always enforced this in cases of child sexual abuse.

Silence means consent

A female JW who is raped and does not scream is judged to have given consent and will be disfellowshipped for fornication (pre-marital sex). The victim has to scream even if screams provoke the attacker to murder. To JWs Deuteronomy 22:23-27 teaches that a woman is guilty of fornication if she does not scream and/or physically resist when raped:

> If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbour's wife...

The Governing Body, however, is inconsistent on this issue. A "yes" or "no" is placed above each of the following quotes to answer the question: "Is rape fornication if the woman does not scream and resist?"

> YES
> w1964 1/15 63-64 Questions from Readers
> But suppose the man had a weapon and threatened to kill the girl if she failed to lie down with him? These scriptures (Deuteronomy 22:23-27) do not weaken the argument or alter the situation by citing any circumstance that would justify her in not screaming. It plainly says she should scream; hence, oppose the attack regardless of the circumstances...
> Thus if a Christian woman does not cry out and does not put forth every effort to flee, she would be viewed as consenting to the violation ... for if she should submit to the man's passionate wishes she would not only be consenting to fornication or adultery, but be plagued by the shame...
> A Christian woman is entitled to fight for her virginity or marital fidelity to the death.

> YES

w1968 6/1 347 The Christian's View of Self-Defense
An issue of integrity to Jehovah's laws is involved here. So by no means would it be proper quietly to submit to rape, as that would be consenting to fornication.

YES
g1974 3/8 14 Faced with the Threat of Rape
She told him that ... if she did not scream she would ruin her relationship with Jehovah God and the Christian congregation; that then she would be disfellowshipped or excommunicated from it and that this would be worse than being killed as far as she was concerned.

NO (Inferred)
g1980 7/8 5-6 The Growing Terror of Rape
Often coupled with the fear is confusion and uncertainty. For example, a 19-year-old explained: "I never physically fought him off in any way, partly because I was frightened, mostly because in my naivete I thought a girl has to do what she's told... I was over-whelmingly confused and defenseless against the whole suddenness... She reacted as many others have under similar circumstances. Profound terror in the face of physical threats simply renders most women helpless.

YES
w1980 10/15 7 Avoiding the Tragedy of Rape
She told him that if he touched her she would scream as she had never heard anyone scream before. She explained that if she did not she would ruin her relationship with Jehovah God and the Christian congregation. A Christian woman is under obligation to resist, for the issue of obedience to God's law to "flee from fornication" is involved.

NO
w1983 3/15 30 Honor Godly Marriage!
What do we understand here by "fornication"? The Greek word in this text is *porneia*. A male or a female who is forcibly raped would not be guilty of *porneia*.

YES
g1984 2/22 24-25 They Resisted Rapists
But the rapist is asking a person to break God's law by committing fornication. Under such circumstances a Christian is obligated to resist...

NO
g1984 6/8 28 From Our Readers
For the victim to be considered guilty of fornication there would need to be proof of willing consent.

NO (Inferred from the definition)
Insight Volume 2 page 753 Rape
Rape is defined as unlawful sexual intercourse without the woman's consent, effected by force, duress, intimidation, or deception as to the nature of the act.

Insight Volume 1 page 863 Fornication
The unlawful act of a rapist is fornication, but, of course, that does not make the person who is forcibly raped also a fornicator.

YES (Inferred)
g1986 5/22-23 "Now You Are Going to Die"
I just reacted instantly erupting in a frenzy of yelling and clawing and kicking and biting... Because of them [the words in Deuteronomy 22], I had known exactly what to do. I screamed besides which I also fought back.

NO
g1986 9/22 28 From Our Readers
True, the woman has to respond according to her assessment of the danger to her life.

YES
g1989 8/22 24 Rape—Protected By What She Read
It was then that I remembered the scripture in Deuteronomy chapter 22. It says that if a woman does not cry out when attacked, it indicates she is submitting to the man and is committing a sin against Jehovah.

NO
g1993 3/8 5 The Reality of Rape
Myth: A rape victim bears part of the blame unless she actively resists...
Fact: Rape by definition takes place when force or the threat of force is used to gain sexual penetration, of any kind whatsoever, against a person's will. It is the rapist's use of force against an unwilling victim that makes him a rapist. Thus, a rape victim is not guilty of fornication... When a woman is forced to submit to a rapist out of terror or disorientation, it does not mean that she consents to the act. Consent is based on choice without threat and is active, not passive.

Governing Body Fickle

Obviously the JWs leaders are fickle regarding whether rape victims are fornicators. Most Christian denominations accept that God sees and knows everything including all secrets of the human heart — therefore knows whether a woman is fornicating or being raped. They do not add to a raped woman's trauma by excommunicating her, shunning her, and separating her from the emotional support of friends, family and church.

The Governing Body has not published statistics on how many JWs have been disfellowshipped because they did not fight a rapist to the death or how many followed advice and were killed.

It is unclear whether the Governing Body regards sexual abuse of children as "rape" or the child as having fornicated. Child victims were not disfellowshipped if the child and parents remained quiet and did not disturb the congregation over it. Nor was the accused abuser disfellowshipped if the crime lacked two witnesses i.e. observers of it. Many victims who complained to the police when they got older were expelled and the child abuser retained. (See: *CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE*)

RAPIDLY APPROACHING
A WTS phrase used to spur JWs to donate money or time to the Organization by implying that Armageddon is too near to waste time on other pursuits.

The phrase occurs 81 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007), most of these in reference to Armageddon or the "new world".

The phrase was already used in Rutherford's time in the 1930s:

> The great battle is rapidly approaching. (Preservation 1932, 153)
>
> What, then, does it mean that The THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENT 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"… (w1940 9/1 265)
>
> Now, in 1964, we are living in the fiftieth year of Kingdom rule. The assault of Gog of Magog, Satan the Devil, against all Christians is approaching rapidly. (w1964 6/15 368)
>
> This means that some of the people who were alive when World War I began in 1914 would still be alive to witness the end of this present system of things. That World War I generation is getting very old now, and this is strong evidence that the end of wickedness is rapidly approaching. (Is There A God Who Cares? 1975, p.22)

Almost all JWs who were spurred in the 1940s or earlier to preach, donate or work for the WTS because Armageddon was "rapidly approaching" are now dead. They trusted in false prophets and treated an empty threat as real and squandered their lives on a fantasy.

RAPTURE
See: *RESURRECTION TO HEAVEN*

RAWE, RICHARD (4/1934 -10/2012)
A former JW who supplied publications, videos, cassette tapes, and newspaper clippings about JWs, and organized conferences on the topic of JWs and the Bible:

> I share with others in promoting Bible study conferences which we refer to as Northwest Conferences… We have held over 60 such gatherings at this writing. The focus at these conferences is doctrinal diversity where speakers are given 30 minutes to present various beliefs, followed by a 15-minute question and answer period from the audience. Attendance at these gatherings has ranged anywhere from 50 to about 250.

He also helped to get articles about JWs published in *Time* magazine, *Christianity Today* and various newspaper via his contacts with the writers and/or editors.

Richard Rawe first encountered JWs in 1940 when "pioneers" sold Rutherford's books to his father. Rawe was baptized in 1942 in Washington. His mother was baptized in 1943 and performed the role of "servant" in the congregation for six years when the "pioneers" moved away.

Rawe entered full-time "pioneer" service at 18 in 1952, in Ephrata, Washington. That same year a congregation was formed and he pioneered there for 22 years. In 1962 he married Frances who had joined JWs in 1955.

In 1972 the WTS instituted the "elder arrangement" in congregations to replace the former system of three positions (i.e. congregation overseer, assistant overseer, and book study servant). Rawe as congregation overseer in Ephrata met with the

assistant overseer to consider which other baptized males in the congregation qualified as elders and servants:

> Some of them were embroiled in numerous litigations for alleged shady business dealings, both with members and non-members alike … we could not in good conscience recommend them for eldership; and for this they became incensed.

The WBTS assigned another congregation to recommend elders for Rawe's congregation and the very ones who had been rejected were appointed: "I, for reasons of conscience, declined to be recommended for appointment as an elder in the congregation."

In July 1975 Frances was disfellowshipped for reasons undisclosed. Rawe then wrote to the Governing Body and listed 70 charges against the elders — litigations, extortion, slander and unjust disfellowshippings. The WTS passed the letter back to the Ephrata elders, and they disfellowshipped Rawe.

At that time (1975) JWs anticipated Armageddon would occur in 1975 or close to 1975 and "apostates" would along with all non-JWs be destroyed. Richard and Frances were frightened and appealed, and an appeal committee annulled the disfellowshipping.

Many local JWs then wanted action against the Ephrata elders for "wrong-doings." To solve the "mess" the Service Department in Brooklyn instructed that Rawe and wife be disfellowshipped again.

Rawe's mother, Augusta Rawe, was disfellowshipped ten years later at age 85 for "bad associations" because she received visits from her son and his wife.

READING PUBLICATIONS OF OTHER RELIGIONS

The JWs leaders command their followers not to read the publications of other religions or attend their meetings, because to do so is "limping upon two opinions":

> No longer should there be curiosity about or hankering after the nutritionless diet of Great Babylon's religions. Especially so since it takes all available time to pursue a diligent study of the Bible…
>
> If we would be gathered to the right side of the King's favour, we must show ourselves to be "sheep" who refuse to listen to false shepherds… (w1967 8/15 489-492)

Anyone with a background of thousands of revised interpretation and failed predictions who in effect commands "listen only to me because all others are false", surely fits Jesus' words: "If the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Matthew 6:23)

A common tactic of deceivers

It is the general practice of governments, societies, dictatorships and cults who cannot defend their ideologies or are hiding serious defects they don't want exposed, to screen their people off from outside information. The Nazis, Communists and many cults did and do this, and have even instituted spy systems which encouraged family members to report on each other. Communist East Germany had two million informers who spied on fellow citizens.

The JWs leaders want to hide and lie about their false kingdoms of 1878 and 1925, their numerous failed predictions for dozens of dates, their thousands of revised interpretations (an estimated 1300 in just the one book, *The Finished Mystery*), their deceitful medical advice such as opposition to vaccinations and tissue transplants, the rampant child abuse within their sect, and their many claims to being virtually infallible.

Many leaders of cults urge their followers "Listen only to us, don't listen to others", and JWs see them as deceivers, but are blind to the same tactic in their own religion.

However, at the top of the JWs hierarchy, use of scholarly Christian books is permitted. Former Governing Body member Raymond Franz writes:

> The Society's vice president, Fred Franz, was acknowledged as the organization's principal Bible scholar. On a number of occasions I went to his office to inquire about points. To my surprise he frequently directed me to Bible commentaries, saying, "Why don't you see what Adam Clarke says, or what Cooke says," or, if the subject primarily related to the Hebrew Scriptures, "what the Soncino commentaries say." Our Bethel library contained shelf after shelf filled with commentaries. Since they were the product of scholars of other religions, however, I had not given much importance to them and, along with other in the department, felt some hesitancy, even distrust, as to using them. As Karl Klein, a senior member of the Writing

Department, sometimes very bluntly expressed it, using these commentaries was "sucking at the tits of Babylon the Great," the empire of false religion according to the Society's interpretation of the great harlot of Revelation.

The more I looked up information in these commentaries, however, the more deeply impressed I was by the firm belief in the divine inspiration of the Scriptures the vast majority expressed. I was impressed even more so by the fact that, though some were written as early as the eighteenth century, the information was generally very worthwhile and accurate. I could not help but compare this with our own publications which, often within a few years, became "out of date" and ceased to be published. (Crisis of Conscience 1983, 21-22

REAL-ESTATE
See: *BROOKLYN WTS PROPERTIES; WALLKILL; WATCHTOWER FARMS*

REASONABLENESS/REASONABLE
The NWT translates the Greek *epieikis* "as reasonable" — "The wisdom from above is … reasonable." (James 3:17)

The article *Keep Your Senses Completely* (w2006 3/1) advocates "reasonableness" in business decisions, online dating, health matters, and when suffering from stress.

The importance of "reasonableness" to JWs is seen in the frequency of the word on *Watchtower Library* (2007):

- Reasonable 3,080
- Reasonableness 529

The Watchtower (w1994 8/1 11) under "Jehovah is Reasonable" links reasonableness with being "ready to forgive" (Psalm 86:5) and with a humility that listens to objections:

Is it not heartwarming to contemplate the humility of our God Jehovah? (Psalm 18:35) He is vastly higher than we are; yet he listens patiently to imperfect humans and even alters his course accordingly at times. He allowed Abraham to plead with him at length concerning the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 18:23-33) And He let Moses raise objections to His proposal to destroy the rebellious Israelites and instead make a mighty nation out of Moses. (Exodus 32:7-14; Deuteronomy 9:14, 19; compare Amos 7:1-6.) He thereby set a perfect example for his human servants, who should show a similar readiness to listen to others when it is reasonable and possible to do so…

Have you ever noticed that as individuals acquire more authority, many seem to become less reasonable? (p.13)

Jehovah does not use his authority to exert undue control over others. In this too he shows unparalleled reasonableness. He carefully limits the number of laws that he makes and prohibits his servants from 'going beyond the things written' by adding burdensome laws of their own making…

Is it not remarkable that Jehovah God, who has more power than any being in creation, never exercises that power unreasonably, never uses it to bully others? However, men, so puny in comparison, have a history of domineering one another. (p.14)

The unstated implication behind these paragraphs is that the Governing Body follows the expressed sentiments and is always right and reasonable in any disagreement:

It must always be kept in mind that God's organization of his people is Theocratic, not democratic. <u>The laws of his organization come from himself</u>, the great Theocrat, Jehovah, the Supreme One… Quaintly put, a Theocratic organization is ruled from the top down (which means from the Most High God downward) and not from the bottom up (that is, from the people of the congregation upward). (w1944 5/15 152)

If "The laws of his organization come from … the Supreme one", it follows that JWs have to either obey the leaders as if these men are the "Supreme One" or get out. That is what the statement "Jehovah is Reasonable" boils down to.

The "Jehovah is Reasonable" article is also a response to Ray Franz who wrote:

The Watch Tower's publications have often spoken in very negative terms about the development among the Jews of a Talmud based on rabbinical interpretations of the Mosaic Law. Yet over the past four decades the organization has developed its own body of law, one of remarkable extent and complexity. This has all been done in the name of "keeping the congregation

clean" and "separate" from the world," thereby assuring righteousness before God. (In Search of Christian Freedom (1991, 239)

Franz quotes *The Watchtower*:

> So it is that by the New World society's application of the stated Scriptural commands, examples, rules and principles to the issues and problems of life, a great body of theocratic law is being built up. (w1963 5/15 300)

Franz was in 1976 assigned to work on a revision of the manual titled *Aid to Answering Branch Office Correspondence* which was to have 114 pages and an index of 174 headings covering "virtually every area of life":

> The proliferation of rulings and subrulings found in its pages (some directly "enforceable" and others only subtly so) can only be described as Talmudic. (p.245)

REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES MINISTRIES
A ministry which describes itself as "a teaching and resource ministry that specializes in defending Christianity…"

The ministry publishes a free bi-monthly online newsletter and produces fact sheets, booklets, and outlines on various issues.

REBELLIOUS
"Rebellious" is a label assigned to anyone, whether a JW or a Christian in a Christian denomination, who questions JWs doctrines or does not obey the Organization's requirements. There are degrees of rebelliousness — if "serious" the consequence for a JW is disfellowshipping.

The Governing Body's deep concern over rebellion in their Organization is seen in the frequency of these words on *Watchtower Library* (2007):

- Rebellious 1227
- Rebelliousness 126
- Rebel 755

RECOGNITION/ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Recognition is the acceptance of an individual as being entitled to consideration, attention or notice. It is "giving credit where credit is due." It is reassurance that one is valued. Recognition confirms one as worthwhile and one's efforts of value. (w1994 12/1 28-30)

JWs are taught to praise each other for obedience to the Organization, physical work for it, and for public talks, preaching, and commenting at meetings.

No recognition, however, is given to JWs who oppose false prophecies such as Armageddon occurring in the twentieth century or who exposed false doctrines such as vaccination being "against the law of Jehovah".

Jesus, according to the Bible, will recognize proper management of his interests when he says, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave." (Matthew 25:19-23)

RECONCILIATION (1928)
An official WTS book written by Rutherford.

RECREATION/FUN/SPORTS
Not permitted among JWs in the 1930s and 1940s because Armageddon was too close. The quota of 60-hours door-to-door per month for ordinary publishers meant they had no time for recreation anyway. Nowadays recreation is permitted in moderation if it is with "good associations" i.e. fellow JWs and does not infringe on a person's "ministry".

REED, DAVID A (1948-)
A former JW elder who founded *Gospel Truth Ministries* in Massachusetts, USA.

Reed edited *Comments From The Friends* a 16-page quarterly which began in 1981, and *The Gospel Truth* newsletter.

He also authored:

- *Answering Jehovah's Witnesses Subject by Subject* (1996);
- *Index of Watchtower Errors* (1990);
- *How to Rescue Your Loved One from the Watch Tower* (1989).

Reed became a JW at 20, married Penni (a JW girl raised in the sect) in 1971. He began direct Bible reading, urged other JWs to do likewise, and this led to his excommunication.

REFUGEES (1940)
Booklet by Rutherford.

REFERENCE BIBLE
The New World Translation with cross references, footnotes, and supplementary information.

REGIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR
Representatives of Rutherford who visited congregations to stimulate door to door work and weed out "slackers and fault-finders". Regional service directors replaced the Pilgrim work in 1928 because the pilgrims were:

> …admonishing the brethren to activity, yet staying at home themselves… (Yearbook 1929, 56, 99)

REGIONS
To promote more efficient book-selling Rutherford divided the world into "regions" supervised by "regional servants", and zones. The USA for example consisted of six regions and 153 zones. (Yearbook 1940, 58) This labelling system was discontinued in December 1941 and later replaced with "districts" and "circuits".

REGULAR PIONEER
A JW publisher of good repute, successful in door to door ministry, and with a stint of "auxiliary pioneering" behind him can apply to be a "regular pioneer" also called "fulltime pioneer". He puts in 1,000 hours per year (formerly 1200 hours per year).

REGULAR PUBLISHER
A publisher who has reported his ministry every month for the past six months is "regular".

REINSTATE; REINSTATEMENT
A JW who is restored to fellowship after having been disfellowshipped and shunned is said to be "reinstated". The congregation's Judicial Committee makes the decision to reinstate him after a trial period in which the repentant expellee has to fulfil various conditions to prove his request for reinstatement is genuine.

RELEASES
New books, booklets, brochures, tapes, tracts or CDs made available for the first time at a district or international convention are "releases" or "new releases".

RELIGION
"Religion" and "false religion" are important topics to JWs as judged by the frequency of these words on the *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD:

- religion 18,662
- false religion 2,756

Every organized religion is in Babylon

George Storrs (1796-1879), Charles Russell's mentor in the early 1870s, taught that every new religion becomes part of "Babylon" the moment it is organized. Therefore Russell avoided calling his group a sect, denomination or religion, and avoided any name for it except "Christians". He argued that he was not starting a new sect or denomination since there were too many already:

> Therefore, instead of crystallizing any saying we will make a new denomination, we say, on the contrary, No, there are already too many—about six hundred… (Convention Report 1912, 132)

Russell believed there is one Christianity which is not subdivided into sects:

> 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 to all hungering for the water and bread of life? This, my friends, is what the International Bible Students are seeking to do, to get the pure teachings of the Word of God. …they have the broadest sympathy for all denominations, the Episcopalians, the Roman Catholics, the Presbyterians, Baptists, etc.; they have sympathy as brethren, because they believe that all these people … are seeking to know and understand the Word of God. If they follow not with us, let them follow the Lord the best they can. (Convention Report 1912, 133)

At some stage Russell changed his mind:

> There are many religions and it is a mistake that we have, perhaps, said in the past that there is no religion but one. A religion would properly be considered: "Any system of worship by which any people recognize the Almighty and seek to do Him honor."

Russellism unprejudiced

Russell's situation allegedly differed to sects and creeds in that he was without prejudice due to his total reliance on the divine Word:

> The other method is to <u>divest our minds of all prejudice</u>, and to remember that no

> one can know more about the plans of God than he has revealed in his Word, and that it was given to the meek and lowly of heart; and, as such, earnestly and sincerely seeking its guidance and instruction only, we shall by its great author be guided to an understanding of it, as it becomes due to be understood, by making use of the various helps divinely produced. See Eph. 4:11-16. (Studies I 1886, 12)

The "helps divinely produced" meant Russell's writings

Rutherford — Christianity not a religion

Rutherford claimed that Christianity is not a religion:

> There is no such thing as a Christian religion, because true Christianity is not a religion. (Government 1928, 139)
>
> Christianity is not a religion. Religion is an outward form or ceremony by which man indicates his recognition of the existence of a supreme power. (w1935 8/15 252)
>
> 'Religion' is therefore properly defined as a belief in and indulging in a form of worship of some higher power, and which belief is based or the teachings of men handed down by tradition... (Salvation 1939, 35)
>
> "Religion" is doing anything contrary to the will of Almighty God. (Yearbook 1941, 14)
>
> "Religion" means the doing of anything that is contrary to the will of Almighty God. (End of Nazism 1940, 5)

With their special definition in mind and ignoring that the public understood the word differently JWs routinely denied that their books are religious. For example, the book *Life* (1929) says in the Preface "This is not a religious book."

Until 1951 F.W. Franz retained the same stance and claimed that JWs are not a religion and called this view "truth". (The Truth Shall make You Free 1943, 314)

The denial of being a religion became inconsistent with JWs seeking draft exemption as "ministers of religion". Therefore Franz changed the previous "truth" that Christianity is not a religion and made Christianity a religion. But he distinguished "true" from "false" religion and "true Christianity" from "false Christianity" — JWs being true and others false. (w1951 3/15)

Fallacy

In their numerous anti-religion statements, JWs leaders commit the fallacy of lumping all (other) religions together. They often commence accusations with the phrase "Christendom teaches..." or "Religion teaches..." This avoids risk of libel suits that could follow if individual ministers or churches are stigmatized, but the drawback is that the generalized criticisms tend to be so broad as to be false. This "All tarred with the same brush" method is used intentionally to inculcate JWs with prejudice and loathing toward other religions.

JWs publications ask: "Why are there so many religions?" or "Many Religions—Why?" Their answer is that false religion began at the Tower of Babel and spread worldwide. (g1984 1/8 5-7) The Governing Body, in such articles, never reveal that hundreds of breakaway groups have separated from JWs because prophecies in WTS publications kept failing and doctrines kept changing.

JWs further speak of "a world empire of false religion" which they claim is symbolized by the "harlot" named "Babylon the Great". (Revelation 17-18) (g1984 1/8 7)

JWs prophecies for the destruction of all other religions, based on Revelation 18, failed in 1914, 1915, 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1970s, and "our twentieth century" and "this generation". Nevertheless JWs do not see such false predictions as "false religion", but as "true religion" whose light is getting brighter. (See: *DATES*)

Mainstream interpreters often interpret "Babylon the Great" as Rome.

Examine your religion

JWs urge others to "Examine your religion":

> There is nothing to fear, because if you have the right religion you can only be reassured by the examination. (w1958 5/1 261; The Truth that leads to Eternal Life 1968, chapter 2)

Any so-called "examination" by JWs of their own religion or other religions consists of reading recent WTS books. Similarly, when helping householders to "examine" religion, only recent WTS books are used.

Such "examination" is indoctrination since no one can judge without bias or objectively by

considering only one side to a dispute. (Proverbs 18:17; 30:17) If a householder wants to use books of his own religion to examine his religion or examine the JWs religion the JW publisher will refuse.

Advice such as "Your religion should have solid basis, not on religious leaders, not on religious systems, but on God's Word, the Bible" (w1958 5/1 261) is hypocritical nonsense considering the false predictions and thousands of doctrinal changes of the "religious leaders" and "religious system" of JWs.

(See: *DATES; FINISHED MYSTER, THE*)

RELIGION (1940)
Book authored by Rutherford.

RELIGION DESTROYED
The prophecies of JWs that all religions will be destroyed have repeatedly turned out false.

Russell taught:

> And with the end of A.D. 1914, what God calls Babylon, and which men call Christendom, will have passed away, as already shown from prophecy. (Studies III 1891, 153)

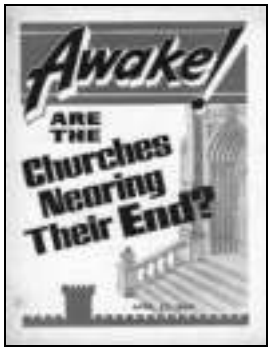
The Finished Mystery (1917), authorized and endorsed by Rutherford, predicted:

> In the year 1918, when Christendom shall go down as a system into oblivion … (pp 513, 62, 64, 258, 484, 485, 542)

Rutherford next predicted the end for 1925/1926, 1930s and 1940s. (See: *DATES*) He wrote book after book attacking churches, ministers and religion. (See: *VITUPERATION*) Knorr and Franz continued the attack announcing the annihilation of religion in publication after publication.

Awake! (1969 April 22) said:

> God will soon destroy all organizations that advocate false religion. Their end is near… It is a fact, not only are the religions of Christendom nearing their end, but also this entire system of things faces imminent destruction at God's hands… Is it not clear that our generation is the one of which the Bible prophecies speak? Can you not see that 1914 marked a turning point…? The Bible answer is that 1914 began "the last days" of this system. The generation of mankind that witnessed those events of nearly fifty-five years ago is now getting old. This means that time is fast running out! This system, and the churches that have long suppor-



1969 April 22

> ted it, are rapidly nearing their end… It is, therefore urgent that you now examine whether any religious organization with which you may be associated is approved by God… If you choose to stay with an organization whose ministers reject God's word, then you turn your back on God himself… That destruction is near! Therefore, do not hesitate. (pp 18-19)

When this was written in 1969, Armageddon was predicted for the mid-1970s and in the "twentieth century". (See: *NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE; TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

Such announcements of imminent destruction are usually accompanied by advice to join the one true religion, which alone understands the Bible, and alone has salvation. That religion is JWs which has promoted failed prophecies for over 20 dates, and nevertheless teaches:

> If you choose to stay with an organization whose ministers reject God's word, then you turn your back on God himself.

Paul the Apostle might described the matter this way: "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness." (II Corinthians 11:14-15)

JWs believe organized false religion began at the Tower of Babel at Babylon. (Genesis 11)

> THE principal seat of Babylon the Great as a world empire of false religion was in the ancient city of Babylon on the Euphrates River. (w1963 12/1 719)

The concept of a "world empire of false religion" was invented by Frederick Franz. The phrase "world empire of false religion" appears 680 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007). The "harlot" named "Babylon the

Great" in Revelation 18) supposedly symbolizes this world empire. (g1984 1/8 7)

RELIGIOUS FRAUDS
A reference to Christian ministers. Rutherford once gave a speech titled *Frauds of the Clergy Exposed*.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
When the WTS or its literature is banned, JWs leaders lament the lack of "religious liberty". (e.g. g1967 6/8 17)

However, the JWs Organization promotes itself as a "nation" and in this "nation" critics of its false prophecies and its ever-changing "Bible truth" are muzzled by expulsion and shunning.

Congregation elders initially proscribe the freedom of speech of anyone in the congregation who criticises the false predictions with a warning. If the warning is ignored, ostracism of the free-speaking person follows. To insist on speaking freely therefore about things learned results in being banned.

In this way JWs who criticize the failed predictions lose "religious liberty" and potential hearers are denied it too.
(See: *DEFECTION; FREEDOM OF RELIGION*)

RELIGIOUS POLITICAL COMMERCIAL COMBINE
Rutherford taught that the three branches of Satan's earthly organization — religion, politics and commerce — is a "religious, political, commercial combine" that works together to exploit and oppress the common people. (Religion 1940, 92)

This interpretation began in the 1920s when Russell's successors still believed Armageddon would consist of a worldwide uprising of oppressed masses destroying all the institutions that oppressed them.

The doctrine of a conspiracy by religion, politics and commerce was Rutherford's attempt to ignite the global anarchy of Armageddon.

Destruction of the "combine" at Armageddon was predicted for the early 1940s. (See: *DATES*)

Since the WTS Organization is a religious "theocracy", and financed largely by book production, and designed to replace all governments, it can itself be called a "religious, political commercial combine"!

REMAINING TIME
A phrase used to stress that Armageddon is too close for anything except activity for the WTS:

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

The phrases "remaining time" and "time remaining" appear 120 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007).

REMNANT
Members of the 144,000 alive on Earth during the "last days" since 1914 and counted at the annual Memorial of Christ's death.

Russell estimated about 20,000 to 30,000 were around in the early 20th century. (Studies VI 1897, 95) Rutherford estimated that in 1926 there were at most 50,000. (Deliverance 1926, 282)

Most of the modern-day members of the remnant was gathered into the Organization in 1919-1931. (w1942 3/1 68)

To JWs the 144,000 were the same as the "faithful and discreet slave". (Matthew 25) The remnant was therefore called the "remnant of the "faithful and discreet slave class". [That was until 2012 when the truth became false and the "slave class" was limited to the Governing Body.]

When Frederick Franz (1893-1992) became the chief ideologue in the 1940s the new official teaching became that the "remnant" (also called "anointed remnant") is collectively God's channel for new "truth". Previously God's channel of communication was Russell; after that it was the WTS and Rutherford.

Franz, however, taught:

> Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channeling an ever-increasing flow of Biblical

publications by the millions that contain the "waters of life" featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. (w1960 7/15 439)

Alleged "remnant" not consulted

Fred Franz's doctrine of the remnant as God's channel conflicted with earlier statements. For example:

> Some persons who have been brought into Zion and anointed have failed to see the necessity of being entirely obedient to the instructions coming to them through God's organization. They do not appreciate the fact that the Lord Jesus is the head of Zion and that the instructions come from him. Those heady ones insist on doing 'whatever is right in their own sight', and such is against the commandment of the Lord. (Jehovah 1934, 299)

In 1934 <u>all</u> JWs were of the "remnant". Yet, here, in this 1934 quote the "anointed" are not spoken of as being consulted to determine God's "truth", or as channelling it, but as people needing to obey instructions which originate independently of them from "God's organization".

"Faithful slave" status lost

In 2010-2013 the "remnant" lost their status as "faithful and discreet slave class", and as joint dispensers of new truth, and as God's prophet, when the Governing Body reserved the designation "faithful slave" for itself. Something like the 1930s teaching whereby one or a few men decide on doctrine and policy had returned.

In practice, however, there never was any consultation whereby thousands provided input into doctrine. It was a myth all along, and acknowledged as a myth by the change in 2010-2012.

(See also: *LITTLE FLOCK; ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR THOUSAND*; *RESURRECTION TO HEAVEN*)

REMNANT 2

The 144,000 were fully selected by 1935 after which new members could only be chosen to replace those who defected. In other words the remnant would decline year after year. Some, however, would live to experience Armageddon and live out their lives after Armageddon:

> Pointing to the events of our time since 1914 Jesus said: "Behold the fig tree, and all the trees ; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation [including the remnant] shall not pass away till all be fulfilled." (w1942 7/1 204)

The people for Jehovah's name whom he has called with the high calling to the heavenly kingdom and whom he has taken out from all nations by the agency of the new covenant are now about complete. Only a small remnant of them are yet on earth. Also nowadays of the many who devote themselves completely to God through Christ there are few who give evidence of receiving the high calling. Evidently those few who now receive the high calling are favored that way in order to replace any among the spiritual remnant who may lose their Kingdom opportunity through unfaithfulness in the midst of this world. So the high calling or heavenly calling is soon to cease... (w1950 11/1 415)

In recent years the number of the little flock still on earth has become quite small. This was evident from the 1994 Memorial report. In some 75,000 congregations of Jehovah's people worldwide, only 8,617 demonstrated by partaking of the emblems their profession to be members of the remnant. (Matthew 26:26-30) In contrast, the total attendance was 12,288,917. Anointed Christians know that this is to be expected. Jehovah has established a limited number, 144,000, to make up the little flock, and he has been gathering it since Pentecost 33 C.E. Logically, the calling of the little flock would draw to a close when the number was nearing completion, and the evidence is that the general <u>gathering of these specially blessed ones ended in 1935</u>.

However, the other sheep in the time of the end were prophesied to grow to be "a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues." Since 1935 the general gathering by Jehovah has been of this great crowd, whose hope is everlasting life on a paradise earth.—Revelation 7:9; 14:15, 16; Psalm 37:29.

[7] Most of those of the little flock yet on earth are now in their 70's, 80's, and 90's. A few have passed their 100th year of life. All of these, whatever their age,

know that through a heavenly resurrection, they will eventually be united with Jesus Christ and will rule with him in his glorious Kingdom. Those of the great crowd will be earthly subjects of Christ the King…

[8] The 144,000-strong little flock is "the Israel of God," which has replaced natural Israel in God's purposes. (Galatians 6:16) Therefore, the remnant make up the remainder of that spiritual nation still on earth. Such remaining ones are being sealed for Jehovah's final approval… Since this work of sealing spiritual Israel is evidently far along, exciting events soon to happen are portended. For one thing, "the great tribulation," when the four winds of destruction are let loose upon the earth, must be very near.—Revelation 7:14. (w1995 2/15 19-20)

REPHAIM

A people who dwelt east of the Dead Sea during and before the time of Moses. Later, the word *rephaim* referred to the dead:

> The Hebrew *rephaim* is used in another sense in the Bible. Sometimes it clearly applies, not to a specific people, but to those who are dead. Linking the word to a root meaning "drop down, relax," some scholars conclude that it means "sunken, powerless ones." In texts where it has this sense, the *New World Translation* renders it "those impotent in death," and many other translations use renderings such as "dead things," "deceased," and "dead."—Job 26:5; Ps 88:10; Pr 2:18; 9:18; 21:16; Isa 14:9; 26:14, 19. (Insight II 1988, 778)

JWs citing Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10 believe the dead are "unconscious", non-existent except in God's memory.

Ecclesiastes, however, is about what people can find out and conclude "under the sun" (this phrase occurs 29 times) i.e. by experience and observation. Relying solely on what is observed "under the sun" leads to the conclusion that humans die without further hope like animals. Chapter 12:7, however, states that only "the dust returns to the earth" but the "spirit" survives.

Some Bible passages imply the *rephaim*, i.e. the dead, are conscious. The *New American Standard Bible* translates *rephaim* in such verses as "departed spirits" or "shades." The Old Testament, therefore, implies that after bodily death humans exist as disembodied spirits or "shades" or ghosts.

The dead in Sheol (the home of the dead) communicate and even make moral evaluations of new arrivals. (Isaiah 14:9-20; 44:23; Ezekiel 32:21)

The "ghosts" in Sheol do not have physical bodies and therefore no physical experiences. They do not procreate, eat, drink or acquire new knowledge of the world of the living. (Psalm 6:5; Ecclesiastes 9:10)

The New Testament suggests that Christian martyrs are conscious after death for at least part of the time. (Revelation 6:9-11)

REPORT

Until 1918 Russellite colporteurs reported their book sales directly to the WTS.

In 1920 Rutherford ordered every follower, not just colporteurs, to go door to door and turn in a weekly report of books sold. The weekly report later became a daily report, weekly again after WW II, and monthly in the 1960s.

Individual JWs report their witnessing results on a "Report Slip". Congregations total the reports from all their "publishers" every month and send the result to their branch office where the monthly totals of all congregations are added up and sent to the American headquarters. Every year the yearly totals are calculated at headquarters for every country and published.

The annual *Yearbook* which was published from 1927 to 2017 was also called a "report".

REPORT FORM/SLIP

This refers to the "Publisher's Field Service Report Slip" on which JWs report their preaching activities. The reporting of their "ministry" by individual Russellites began in 1920 using a Weekly Report Form. By the 1980s it became a monthly report.

REPORTS (Daniel 11:44)

"Reports" or "tidings" from the east and north disturb the "king of the north" at the "time of the end".

Russell interpreted Daniel's "reports" as Napoleon, when in Egypt in 1799, hearing of a fresh European alliance against him. (Studies III 1891, 46)

Rutherford interpreted the "reports" as WTS prophecy which would disturb the "Nazi, Fascist, Catholic combine", which he claimed is the book of *Daniel*'s "king of the north".

Franz, in *Your Will Be Done On Earth* (1958) reapplied the "reports" prophecy to the Communist nations. (w1974 6/1 329-334) The reports would consist of a final message from JWs and their Organization to the "King of the North" which message enrages the Communist world into an attack on JWs leading to intervention by God at Armageddon. (Your Will 1958, 304-307) *The Watchtower* (1974 6/1 334) implies that JWs growth will also be a key in arousing the "totalitarian block of nations" into action.

The notion of God acting via the WTS to arouse the Communist world calls to mind another JWs belief — that the nations will be directed by God to destroy false religion. Revelation 17:17 says that God, "put it into their hearts [to destroy Babylon]." JWs believe that it is through the WTS and its propaganda against religion that God "puts it into their hearts".

The Communist nations did not respond to the JWs "reports", and with Communism's disintegration Daniel's prophecy as interpreted by JWs proved false. All other nations likewise did not respond to what God "put it into their hearts". The predicted destruction of so-called "false religion" failed in the 1970s and again in the "twentieth century" and again within the lifetime of the generation of 1914.

(See: *DATES*)

REPRESENTATIVES

> Through its legal agency, the Watchtower Society it [the slave class] provides the spiritual food in printed form, arranges for meetings, organizes service activities, sends out special traveling representatives and missionaries, arranges for large assemblies… (w1952 2/1 79)

JWs until the 1970s sometimes introduced themselves to householders as "representatives" or "agents" of the Watchtower Society or International Bible Students. Until the 1990s JWs also solicited money door to door which their congregation sent to the local branch office of the WTS.

A representative is someone who acts as an agent for another but JWs visiting people's homes are now instructed not to present themselves as agents or representatives of the WTS. *Our Kingdom Ministry* implies that this it to avoid legal liability:

> In case of an accident or an emergency or if problems are encountered while working trailer parks, apartments, or certain other territory… (February 1989, p.3)

REPROACH

> That is why a brother may not take his brother into court; there is reproach upon the organization. (w1954 10/1 595)
>
> All will watch carefully so they do not bring reproach upon the high standards and principles of Jehovah's Word. (w1960 7/1 406)
>
> The same high standards should be practiced on the part of the individuals making up the New World Society of Jehovah's Witnesses so that no reproach is brought upon Jehovah's clean organization and upon themselves individually. (w1960 7/1 408)

Since the 1950s JWs have been counselled to avoid bringing "reproach" on Jehovah God, Jehovah's people, Jehovah's Word, and Jehovah's Organization.

Behaviour that brings reproach and therefore to be avoided includes gluttony (w1974 3/15 168), drunkenness (w1967 7/1 398), gossip (w1957 5/1 285), "all that is bad" (w1983 5/1 26), and taking one another to court. (w1955 2/15 126)

REPROOF/REPROVE

Reproof is criticism of someone for wrong behaviour or something they said. Public reproof was sometimes delivered at JWs meetings but is nowadays private to avoid risk of defamation actions.

RESCUING A GREAT CROWD OF MANKIND OUT OF ARMAGEDDON (1967)

An official WTS booklet the content of which was presented as the public talk at District Conventions.

"Rescued out of Armageddon" means that JWs will survive Armageddon and "live forever in a paradise earth in unspeakable happiness" because Jesus and the angels will protect them while slaughtering everyone else.

In 1967 JWs still believed that the "great tribulation" began in 1914 and so we read:

> The name "the great tribulation" well applies to this time of tribulation that has

> been upon mankind since the outbreak of World War I, to wit, 1914, and that will mount up to its highest destructiveness in the war of Armageddon, completely exterminating this worldly system of things.

And: "The time for us to face it and experience it is getting very near." To survive, people have to get baptized by JWs and join in their preaching.

RESEARCH

JWs are told to avoid "independent thinking". Therefore they do not "research" the Bible to make new discoveries or find new insights.

Whenever JWs don't know how to interpret a Bible verse and state "I'll do some research" they mean that they will look up the answer in recent WTS publications and get the Governing Body's interpretation.

RESEARCH APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL

According to their website, R.A.I. of San Diego, California, is: "dedicated to digitally preserving antiquarian Watchtower publications for current and future generations."

R.A.I offers CDs of Watchtower publications up to the 1940s for purchase.
www.researchapplications.org/

RESOLUTION

> So in 1958, in international assembly in New York city and in general assemblies in ninety other cities outside the United States…Jehovah's witnesses publicly adopted a Resolution, pledging themselves before God and man to abide by Isaiah's above prophecy. Besides that, they distributed more than seventy-two million printed copies of this Resolution in fifty-three languages world-wide. (w1960 4/15 245)

International and District conventions of JWs often included a "Resolution" which is published in *The Watchtower*. For example the resolution in the 1981 "Divine Love District Conventions" appears in w1981 2/1.

Below is the resolution from 1963 aimed mainly against the United Nations:

> WE JEHOVAH'S witnesses, met together in [City, State, Country], in one of the "Everlasting Good News" assemblies being held in a continuous chain around the whole world this year of 1963, do this day declare and resolve as follows:
>
> 2 THAT the one living and true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, whose name is Jehovah, is the only God whom we fear and glorify. Him alone will we worship; for him only will we be witnesses in the universal contest now in progress over the question, Who is the Everlasting, All-wise, All-powerful God? and him alone will we urge all peoples everywhere, of whatever race, nationality, tribe, color and language, to worship as the true God without equal;
>
> 3 THAT the Holy Bible, written under inspiration originally in Hebrew, Aramaic and ancient Greek, is his written Word. It is the channel of the one revealed religion that is the absolute truth and that is the unerring guide to pure worship acceptable to God;
>
> 4 THAT God the Creator, to whom his own written Word gives the name Jehovah thousands of times, is the King of Eternity and the Eternal Sovereign of the universe, and to him we owe our supreme allegiance and unqualified obedience. Only by his permission and tolerance have men set up political governments for what is understood to be the public good. His permission for this was not to continue forever or even indefinitely, but was to be brought to an end by the establishment of the kingdom of his beloved Son, the Messiah or Anointed One, the Christ, who was named Jesus when on earth as a perfect man. In the year 1914 the combination of events began on earth that he said would be a visible sign to us that Jehovah God had taken his sovereign power in that year and had set up the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ for the government of this earth. According to the published information from the Holy Bible, the time then came for all the political nations to yield their sovereignty in the earth peaceably over to the heavenly kingdom of God's enthroned Son Jesus Christ. World history shows that, instead, more than a score of nations, led by Christendom, engaged in a global war for world domination. Because of this course the nations entered into the "time of the end" foretold in the Holy Bible, which will reach a conclusion in their violent destruction;
>
> 5 THAT, in order to prevent the destruction of the nations by their own means in war, the nations further refused

the surrender of their sovereignty to God's Messianic kingdom by setting up a society of nations, which, since 1945, has taken the form and the name of the United Nations, with international headquarters at New York city. This international organization stands for world sovereignty by political men. For years men without faith in God's kingdom have endeavored to get all people to worship this international image of human political sovereignty as the best hope for earthly peace and security, in fact, the last hope for humanity. To date 111 nations have given worship to this political image by becoming members of it. However, we, as witnesses of the Sovereign God Jehovah, will continue refusing to engage in such idolatrous worship, for we see, under angelic enlightenment, that God has smitten such idolaters with a malignant ulcer, symbolically speaking, that will spell death to them as spiritually diseased image worshipers who worship a man-made political creation rather than the Creator of heaven and earth;

6 THAT radical governments have been formed and taken over the control of powerful nations and they rage like the restless sea against the older, traditional forms of human government that have long ruled the earth. The ideal life for mankind will not come by means of such radical, revolutionary governments, which have already proved themselves unsatisfactory and incapable. God the Creator judicially pronounces such radical political institutions to be dead, death-dealing, as dead as a dead man's shed blood that has congealed. Everyone trying to live in that element must die. We, as witnesses of God the Source of all life, will maintain our Christian steadfastness and have no part in such radical movements, but will hold fast to our Christian neutrality toward all radical and other types of human government over earth;

7 THAT the waters that the people have drunk from the rivers and fountains of human philosophies, political theorists, social organizers, economic advisers and advocates of religious traditions have resulted in no real life-giving refreshment to the drinkers. Such waters have even led the drinkers to violate the Creator's law concerning the sacredness of blood and to engage in religious persecutions and in shedding the blood of even the holy ones and prophets of Jehovah God; for which reason he has judicially decided that they must suffer the full penalty for shedding blood, doing so either as individuals or as a community. We, however, will avoid this divine judicial decision by drinking only of Jehovah as the Fountain of living water, doing so by means of his Holy Word;

8 THAT we will continue to look to Him as the great Sun from whom comes our enlightenment, guidance and healing. We will glorify him and not join idolatrous men in looking to bright-shining ones of mankind as the source of mental and spiritual enlightenment and of worldly prosperity. In this way we save ourselves from taking part with disappointed men in blaspheming God the Creator because the symbolic "sun" that they idolized and looked to for enlightenment and a brighter future has scorched them with unbearably hot world conditions rather than with a healing of the state of mankind;

9 THAT we accept the Bible's proof that Satan the Devil is the "ruler of the demons" and also the "ruler of this world," from whom our Leader Jesus Christ refused to accept any throne of rulership. But ever since the days of Nimrod, king of Babylon, the political system of this world has accepted its throne of political rulership from the satanic "ruler of this world," and to this ruler the worldly political system has paid his fixed price for the throne, rendering him worship and service. Since the decisive year of 1914 the political system of human government has refused to vacate this throne and cease rendering service to the "ruler of this world." For this reason the darkness of God's disfavor has settled down on the kingdom of this worldly political system, and there is no political light to show human rulers the way out of the increasing "anguish of nations." With no repentance they persist in their works for self-salvation, and blaspheme God for paining them by having His witnesses showing that their doomed condition is beyond healing through human remedies;

10 THAT Nimrod in rebellion against Jehovah God founded his capital city Babylon on the Euphrates River in the Middle East, and by its waters this imperial city protected itself and carried on selfish commerce with the peoples. Ancient Babylon has now a modern counterpart that enriches and protects itself by sitting oppressively upon

symbolic waters, the peoples, and even holding a religious kingdom over the political kings of this earth. Now the time has come for God to dry up these wealth-bringing protective "waters" and bring about the fall and destruction of Babylon's modern counterpart. As for her political companions, these are marching to the "war of the great day of God the Almighty." Under propaganda and programs inspired by demons and voiced by political systems serving the "ruler of this world," the kings of the earth and their armies are being led, not to the Euphrates River, but to the battlefield with the Hebrew name Har-Magedon (or, Armageddon). We, who are Jehovah's witnesses, will not obstruct them in their military preparations, and yet we will not march with them to Har-Magedon, for we refuse to fight against God Almighty and his kingdom by Jesus the Messiah;

11 THAT, although at present we are obliged to be in this world, we will not breathe in the spirit of this world, for it is not the spirit of God but is the spirit of the devilish "ruler of this world." Led by the spirit of its unseen ruler, the world of mankind has for thousands of years cultivated the works of the fallen, degraded flesh. Now the world is reaping the results of breathing in the spirit of Satan the Devil and cultivating the works of their flesh, which is at enmity with God. Babylon's modern religious counterpart has not cultivated in the people the spirit of God, that they might reap the fruitage of God's spirit to the attainment of eternal life in His new order of things. The world therefore faces an earthquake of world trouble the like of which it has never known, and all its political institutions and its modern religious Babylon will be shaken to bits, even human institutions as imposing and stable as mountains or isolated like islands disappearing;

12 THAT, therefore, we have immediately ahead of us the most momentous period in the history of mankind; the hour of the execution of God's righteous judgment is about to strike, and we are in the day of decision. Whereas we see all the nations of this doomed world marching under superhuman demon influence, it is our resolution to remain immovable on the side of the established Messianic kingdom of Jehovah God, ever praying that he will give us more and more of his spirit. And as we endeavor to cultivate the fruitage of the spirit of God and carry on His pure and undefiled worship, we will keep on the full suit of armor of God and continue fighting, not against blood and flesh, but against the "wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places" until the satanic "ruler of this world" and his demons are abyssed for the thousand years of Christ's reign. We thank Jehovah God for the ministry of his holy angels under Jesus Christ in our behalf. With their help and with the help of his holy spirit and Word we will continue to declare to all peoples without partiality the "everlasting good news" concerning God's Messianic kingdom and concerning his judgments, which are like plagues to his enemies but which will be executed for the liberation of all persons who desire to worship God the Creator acceptably with spirit and with truth. (The above Resolution was adopted at all 24 assemblies by a grand total of 454,977 conventioners.) (w1963 11/15 684-687)

RESTITUTION/RESTORATION (Acts 3:30-21)

Restitution refers humans regaining what Adam lost — eternal life, paradise, peace, etc:

> Jesus taught, and every one of his disciples emphasized, his second coming and the establishment of his kingdom. One of them, referring to that glorious time, wrote: "Times of refreshing shall come from the face of the Lord [Jehovah], and he will send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you, whom the heavens must retain until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-21)

> Therefore the time must come when there shall be offered to mankind the blessings of being restored to the conditions that Adam enjoyed before he sinned; namely, perfection of body and of mind, and perfection of conditions surrounding him, insuring his peace and lasting happiness. (g1919 11/26 156)

To Russell restitution was the recovery of humankind from the fall of Adam and Eve to be accomplished in the Millennial age (Studies II 1889, 175) commencing 1874. (Studies II 1889, 120) It was a period of 1,000 years starting 1874 and would include the restoration of everything that Adam lost such as eternal life, and Edenic peace, and prosperity. (Studies II 1889, 181-188, 196, 211; Convention Report 1916, 94-97)

Restitution included the resurrection of the dead during the millennium. (Life 1929, 21-22; w1934 10/15 313)

Rutherford wrote: "…worldly clergy rejected the restitution message as a devilish message, and the people heeded them instead of the truth… (Millions 1920, 114)

By 1930 Rutherford himself had rejected much of Russell's original "restitution" message, including many prophetic dates that Russell attached it to. Rutherford then redefined restitution as:

> …restoring to his true followers the great truths that had been hid or lost from them and to prepare a people for God's purpose. (w1934 7/15 212-215)

RESTORATION (1927)
An official WTS book authored by Rutherford.

Page 333 says:

> The proof cited herein shows that the old world (social and political order) ended and began to pass away in 1914, and that this will be completed in a few years and righteousness fully established…
>
> Seeing, then, that we are at the end of the old order and the opening of the new, and that according to the Scriptures many must pass over to the new, it can confidently be announced that MILLIONS OF PEOPLE NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE…

RESTRICTION(S)
One or more limitations placed by a judicial committee on a reinstated or wayward JW until the committee is convinced that he can be trusted to behave like other JWs.

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON JWS
The leaders of JWs require them to abstain from many activities, festivities, commemorations, pastimes and social events that most people have no problem with. The following list illustrates what JWs cannot or shouldn't do:

- Observe Mother's and Father's Day
- Celebrate Public Holidays such as Christmas and New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Australia Day, Queen's Birthday, etc.
- Attend birthday parties or sing "Happy Birthday"
- Commemorate days and events associated with religious history
- Work for a church
- Attend at another church
- Join non-JWs at social events
- Associate with ex-JWs
- Work for an ex-JW
- Join club or organization with religious ties
- Contribute to Christian charities or relief organizations
- Contribute to the Red Cross
- Shop at church garage sales or charity shops
- Join the YMCA
- Attend a Christian school
- Participate in parties at school
- Join the Boy Scouts or Girl Guides
- Be a cheerleader
- Go to a school dance or prom
- Be a professional sports person
- Be employed as a police officer
- Have employment that requires a gun
- Attend Alcoholics Anonymous or other addiction-management programs
- Attend self-defense classes including karate
- Vote in elections
- Run for public office (including class president or other school positions)
- Campaign for a political candidate
- Participate in union affairs
- Approve of political parties or their policies or members
- Discuss political matters
- Gamble e.g. casinos, cards, horse races, etc
- Buy lottery tickets
- Play Bingo
- Go on a date without supervision
- Sell tobacco products
- Accept or donate blood
- Store one's own blood before an operation for re-infusing
- Wear jeans or other casual clothing at meetings
- Wear pants (i.e. females)
- Wear a dress or skirt above knee height
- Wear hair long or have beards (i.e. men)
- Piercings (except ears by females)
- Get tattooed
- Speak swear words
- Undergo hypnosis
- Propose toasts
- Throw rice at weddings
- Use the words "luck" or "lucky"
- Ascribe anything to fate
- Say "Bless you" in response to sneezing
- Practice Yoga
- Throw coins into a wishing well or make a wish
- Tell ghost stories
- Read horoscopes
- Watch films or TV shows with religious, pagan or magical themes such as

Bewitched, *Touched by an Angel* and *Harry Potter*
- Take another JW to court
- Marry a non-JW
- Attend weddings or funerals in other churches
- Acknowledge prayers by non-JWs by saying "Amen" or bowing one's head
- Read tracts or publications of other religions
- Listen to or read anything critical of JWs
- Disagree with anything published by the WTS
- Obtain a university education
- Think independently
- Read philosophy
- Go to nightclubs
- Attend secular marriage counseling
- Get psychotherapy

As a JW you will have to:

- Be baptized
- Attend scheduled meetings
- Prepare for meetings and participate
- Go "witnessing"
- Give talks at meetings
- Read new publications and keep up with new "truth"
- Accept the Organization's authority and all of its rules
- Minimize social contacts with non-JWs
- Report to the elders any fellow JW whom you discover infringing any requirement.

RESURRECTION

From the Millerites via George Storrs, C.T. Russell accepted the belief that Christians sleep in death until the resurrection.

Russell taught that the resurrection of dead, faithful Christians as spirits to heaven took place in 1878. (Studies VI 1904, 663) A less faithful group of Christians called "the great crowd" would also be raised as spirits to heaven. But ancient faithful Hebrews would be raised to physical life on earth to rule as princes.

Everyone else, i.e. people who did not have the opportunity to learn about God, would be raised to life on earth to be ruled by the Princes. Persons resurrected to Earth would have average health and grow to perfection. (Studies VI 1904, 714-715)

Resurrection Flipflops

The people of Sodom and Gomorah would be resurrected affirmed Russell. (Studies I 1886, 110) Franz denied this. (w1954 2/1 85; w1965 3/1 139)

Adam and Eve would be resurrected affirmed Rutherford in 1928. (Reconciliation1928, 323, 329) But he reversed this by 1939. (Salvation 1939, 42) Franz likewise denied Adam a resurrection. (From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained 1958, 236)

Russell's teaching that all would be resurrected (Studies V 1899, 478-486) was changed by Rutherford to: "Only those who could and possibly would avail themselves of the ransom." (w1939 6/1 170)

In 1927 Rutherford changed the resurrection of the sleeping saints from 1878 to 1918. (From Paradise Lost To Paradise Regained 1958, 192)

Rutherford initially affirmed that people who died in Armageddon would be resurrected. (Armageddon 1937, 54-63) This he changed in *Salvation* (1939) where he taught that the "wilfully wicked" won't be resurrected. (217-218, 42)

(See also: *RESURRECTION TO HEAVEN; LITTLE FLOCK; HUMAN BIRTHS*)

RESURRECTION 2

The historical Christian understanding of the resurrection is that the soul will be reunited with a new and superior body. JWs, in contrast believe the dead are nonexistent except in God's memory. At the resurrection God remembers them and recreates them. He creates a new body for each and installs into the created bodies people's memories and personality:

> If scientific principles established by God can be used by scientists to preserve and later reconstruct a visible and audible scene by means of videotape, how easy it is for the great Universal Sovereign and Creator to resurrect a person by repatterning the same personality in a newly formed body. (Insight II 1988, 784)

JWs believe the "resurrection" and "repatterning the same personality" occurs in two different types of bodies:
1. The ghostly bodies of the 144,000 in heaven;
2. The physical bodies of the "earthly class" who live in paradise on Earth.

The common Protestant belief based on Paul the Apostle is that the old body is changed into a new, glorified one. The first body and the future glorified body are both referred to as a "body" and a "body" has substance — it is physical. Therefore, to many Christians, the phrase "spiritual body" refers not to

something ghostly but to a powerful physical body. (1 Corinthians 15:35-50)

Word Pictures in the New Testament says:

> The resurrection body has undergone a complete change as compared with the body of flesh like the plant from the seed. It is related to it, but it is a different body of glory.

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

JWs believe Jesus Christ was resurrected as a non-physical, ghostly, "spirit", and that his physical body was destroyed or converted to gases by God. The Bible seems to disagree — Luke 24:37-39; I Corinthians 15:12-19; I Timothy 2:5.

RESURRECTION TO HEAVEN

From the Millerites and George Storrs, C.T. Russell accepted the belief that Christians sleep in death until the resurrection.

Russell predicted that his sect, the "living saints", would rise to Heaven in 1878. When this failed he predicted 1881. When 1881 failed he taught that the dead saints were resurrected in 1878 to Heaven as non-physical "spiritual" beings. A portion of the 144,000 were still on Earth — most of them in Russell's cult — and these go to Heaven instantly at death when they are changed into ghostly spirits:

> Furthermore, the Scriptures show that those who died since 1878 have been changed instantly, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," and have entered into their eternal reward. (wr1917 11/1 6161; Studies VI 1904, 663)

A less faithful group of Christians called "the great crowd" would also be raised as spirits to heaven but have a less prominent position.

The ancient faithful Israelites, in contrast, would be raised to physical life on earth and rule as princes starting in 1914-1915.

In 1927 Rutherford altered the resurrection-date of the sleeping saints from 1878 to 1918. (From Paradise Lost To Paradise Regained 1958, 192) The total still numbered 144,000 of whom a "remnant" was still on Earth in Rutherford's time, all of them JWs, and they go to heaven instantly at death. (See also *REMNANT*)

> It was with regard to the symbolic branches that Christ made the promise to go away and prepare a place for them in the heavens and then return to take them to himself. This was done A.D. 1918, when he came to God's spiritual temple. Those members of the Kingdom class who were sleeping in death were raised to immortal life in the spirit and joined with Christ. The remainder of the 144,000 chosen ones still living on earth would receive their change as they died. (w1958 3/1 156)

RETURN OF CHRIST

Russell taught that the second "presence" of Christ began, invisibly, in October 1874. (Studies II 1889, 188, 211, 234-235; Studies III 1891, 125-127, 305)

Persons who disagreed had "their eyes miserably crossed by prejudice" and required "the eye salve of meekness" for their "ignorance and unbelief". Russell's cult, in contrast, accepted "the testimony of his blessed Word" and "nor is it possible that they should be deceived…" (Studies II 1889, 189)

Christ returned in 1874 but was installed as king in 1878:

> But now we are in the end of this Gospel age, and the Kingdom is being established or set up. Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874, A.D., according to the testimony of the prophets, to those who have ears to hear it: and the formal inauguration of his kingly office dates from April 1878, A.D.: and the first work of the Kingdom, as shown by our Lord, in his parables and prophecy (the gathering of "his elect"), is now in progress. "The dead in Christ shall rise *first*," explained the Lord through the Apostle: and the resurrection of the Church shall be in a moment. Consequently the Kingdom, as represented in our Lord, and the sleeping saints already fitted and prepared and found worthy to be members of "his body," the "bride," was *set up* in 1878; and all that remains to be done for its completion is the "gathering together unto the Lord" of those of the "elect" who are alive and remain—whose trial is not yet complete.
> (Studies IV 1897, 621)

Russell believed in a two-stage "coming" of Christ, the second stage being the "epiphania" translated "manifestation". The "coming in the clouds of heaven" is, he taught, a gradual event that started in 1874 and would be manifested to the entire world in 1914. (Studies IV 1897, 597-600)

> …the second coming of Christ will have two stages, and in the Scriptures these stages are called the 'parousia' and the 'epiphania'… The epiphania dear friends has not yet taken place. (Convention Report 1912, 137-138)

Coming (*erkomai*) or presence (*parousia*)?

Nelson H. Barbour had predicted Christ's second "coming" for 1873, 1874 and 1875. In biblical Greek the word for "coming" is *erkomai*, but after his prophecy failed Barbour produced a rationalization for the failure which he based on the Greek word *parousia*. "Parousia" is often translated "coming" in the KJV but usually means "presence". Barbour argued that Christ did return in 1874 but no one saw it because Christ's return and presence (parousia) is invisible.

This resulted in long-lasting confusion between *erkomai* (coming) and *parousia* (presence).

Rutherford also confused

In *The Harp of God* (1921) Rutherford also confused *erkomai* and *parousia*. Under the heading "How he Comes" — note "Comes" — we read:

> In many places in our Bible referring to the second coming of our Lord the word translated into the English as "coming" is properly translated *presence*. (p.221)

Then follows a list of verses containing the word *parousia* (presence) rather than *erkomai* (coming).

Under the heading "Time of His Coming" (p.224) *The Harp of God* says:

> …A.D. 1874, at which time, according to the Biblical chronology, the Lord's second presence is due. (p.230)

So again the discussion is about "Coming" but switches to "presence".

Second presence changed to 1914 in 1930

Throughout the 1920s the WTS under Rutherford preached Christ's "second presence" of 1874:

> The Scriptures show that the second presence was due in 1874... This proof shows that the Lord has been present since 1874" (w1923 3/11, 1923 67)

> Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874; that the harvest has been in progress during that time; that most of the saints have now been gathered. Therefore, can there be a reasonable doubt about the early completion of the church and its glorification in view of the fulfillment of prophecy? (w1924 1/1 5)

> To understand the events concerning the Lord's second presence from 1874 to 1914 requires one to be spiritually minded; and the clergy are not spiritually minded. (Creation 1927, 291)

> The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874… from 1874 forward is the latter part of the period of "the time of the end". From 1874 onward is the time of the Lord's second presence, as above stated. (Our Lord's Return 1929, 27, 31)

> 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)

In 1930 Rutherford discarded the "Scriptural proof" and shifted Jesus' second "presence" or "coming" to 1914 thus falsifying the following prediction:

> Some day, a not distant day, the clergy will awaken to the fact that the Lord has come, and that the second advent has been an accomplished fact since 1874; and then they will echo the question one to another, "Why are we the last to welcome back the King?" (w1922 6/15 181)

After more than a century that "not distant day" when the clergy "awaken to the fact that … the second advent has been an accomplished fact since 1874" is already a "distant day", thus another failed prediction!

Erkomai/Parousia confusion continues

With the "second presence" shifted to 1914 the confusion between "presence" and "coming" continued. Rutherford interpreted the "parousia" or "presence" as an event in 1914. The "coming" or "erkomai", however, he mostly interpreted as 1914 but sometimes as Armageddon:

> In the year 1914 … Christ Jesus received the authority of the kingdom and was sent forth by Jehovah to rule amidst his

> enemies. The year 1914, therefore, marks the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of glory. (World Recovery 1934, 48-49)
>
> Those of this society are not looking for the second coming of Christ. On the contrary, all of its literature sets forth the fact that the second coming of Jesus took place in 1914. (g1936 1/1 196)
>
> 1914 marked the time of the second coming of Christ Jesus the King. (Yearbook 1940, 33)
>
> The prophecy of the Lord Jesus concerning the end of the world and the coming of his kingdom began to have fulfillment in 1914, and that fixed the time of his coming and the beginning of his reign as King. (Children 1941, Australian edition, 137)

Note in these quotes that the "coming" is in 1914 whereas originally it was the *parousia* or presence that occurred in 1874/1914.

Yet Rutherford also applied Matthew 24:30 — "the son of man coming [erkomai] on the clouds of heaven" and Revelation 1:7 "he is coming [erkomai] with the clouds" — to Armageddon i.e. to the future. (Deliverance 1926, 301; Satisfied 1940, 11)

However, Acts 1:11 *erkomai* — "Jesus … will come in the same way as you saw him go" — applied to 1914. (Satisfied 1940, 14, 25)

Sometimes Rutherford stated that the "coming" is a prolonged period:

> The second coming of the Lord, therefore, began in 1874; and that date and the years 1914 and 1918 are specially marked dates with reference to his coming. (Creation 1927, 289)

Every eye will see, but no eye did

The Bible says the *erkomai* is seen by "all the tribes of the earth" and occurs along with worldwide lamentation. (Matthew 24:30)

This did not happen in 1874 or 1914. Even the Watchtower cult did not "see" Christ "coming" in 1914 until 1930! Jesus said "all … will see" but from JWs doctrine it follows that **no one saw**. **No one saw** in the literal sense, and **no one saw** in the JWs figurative sense! The JWs interpretation therefore marks Jesus as a false prophet!

Franz confused too

In 1943 Frederick Franz applied Revelation 16:14-16 "coming [erkomai] as a thief" — to the future. (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 296; Yearbook 1959, 19) And again in 1974:

> For, at earth's darkest moment, "then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."—Matt. 24:30.
>
> This refers, not to the beginning of Christ's *pa·rou·si´a* or invisible presence, but to his "coming" (Greek, *er·kho´me·non*) at the "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." When he comes "with the clouds, and every eye will see him" he will be invisible to fleshly eyes. (Rev. 1:7) "Clouds" would naturally hide anyone in them, the expression therefore symbolizing that the one "coming" is himself invisible. (w1974 12/15 751)

Confusion continued over other verses with the word *erkomai*. Sometimes JWs writers applied *erkomai* to 1914, sometimes to Armageddon.

The confusion is maintained because when discussing the "return" and "parousia" of 1914 the JW writer often jumps to answering the question of how "every eye will see". (w1969 485; Things in Which It Is Impossible for God to Lie 1965, 332; Make Sure of All Things 1965 429-433)

The "every eye will see" Scriptures, however, have *erkomai* not *parousia*. Because of this jump the JWs writers then apply the *erkomai* verses to 1914 too — and the confusion continues.

Arrives/Comes in Glory

> When the Son of Man comes [*erchomai*] in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats... (Matthew 25:31-32)

The word in Matthew 25:31 is again *erchomai*. w1967 10/15 611/616 claims this coming was in 1914 and the separation of the sheep and goats has occurred since World War I. Other WTS references identify the start of the sheep/goats separation as 1919, explaining it

is achieved by means of the JWs preaching — JWs "cooperating" with Jesus and the angels.

In 1995 the JWs leaders altered the timing of the sheep-goat separation to the future, apparently to the great tribulation, thereby changing a doctrine which had been official "Bible teaching" for about two generations:

> This means, then, that Jesus' 'sitting down on his glorious throne' for judgment, mentioned at Matthew 25:31, applies to the future… (w1995 10/15 22, 25)

The "Return"

The word "return" is used in the Bible of Christ's future "return" only in Luke 19:12, 15.

Rutherford's booklet *Satisfied* (1940, p.14) applied these verses to the beginning of the *parousia* i.e. to 1914, but in *Government* (1928, p.190) he applied them to 1918.

Awake! (g1973 7/22 5) lumps Revelation 1:7, which has "erkomai", and the "parousia", together as the "return", and says the "return" was in 1914.

w1964 4/14 241 interprets the "return" to be at Armageddon. However, *Let God Be True* (1952) under the heading "Christ's Return" (p.198) discusses the "parousia" of 1914 and the "coming to the temple" in 1918! Another book, *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* (1959, p.19) puts the "presence" after the "return". However, *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (1982) uses the word "return" and discusses "coming". (pp 142, 147)

Lies added to confusion

The Governing Body routinely misrepresents what Russell taught. For example, they claim that Russell pointed out "the second coming would be invisible." (Convention Report 1953, 89) Actually Russell did not teach that it "would be" invisible but that it "was" invisible since he believed it was past i.e. in 1874!

JWs leaders also claim that during World War I, or immediately after, they "had read aright the sign of Jesus' presence…" (w1985 2/1 13) This is false since until 1929 the cult applied the so-called "signs" to the 19th-century and believed they pointed to 1874.

What JWs probably believe currently

Currently in the early 21st century the doctrine seems to be as follows:

- The *parousia* began in 1914.
- In 1918 Jesus "came" to the temple — Malachi 3:1-5. (The Approaching Peace of 1000 Years, 1969, pp 54-55)
- The "return" in Luke 19:12, 15 is in 1918 — (w1962 6/1 336-337; w1973 12/1 718)
- The *erkomai* [coming] verses where Christ comes with the "clouds of heaven" apply to Armageddon; except in Acts 1:11 and Revelation 1:7 which refer to 1914. (w1984 12/1 16; You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth, 1982, 146-147)
- Christ's coming (erkomai) for his bride (I Corinthians 11:26) extends from 1918 to Armageddon. (w1967 6/1 345)
- Christ's coming (erkomai) to judge the use of the "talents" (Matthew 24:19) is 1918 when the "anointed" as a class were inspected by Christ. (w2004 3/1 16) paragraphs 15-19)
- The "revelation" of Christ from heaven and his "manifestation" occur at Armageddon.

This summary, however, gets regularly obscured by inconsistencies such as the following which places the "coming" along with the parousia in 1914:

> This official presence begins with his second coming. According to the "sign" that Jesus foretold and also according to certain Bible time measurements, his invisible "presence," or parousia, began in autumn of 1914 C.E (w1979 6/15 23)

How will "every eye" "see" Christ at Armageddon?

> After the harvest … is gathered, there will be no more reason for this corrupt old world to continue in existence. "The vine of the earth," this whole satanic world system of things, will be cut down and destroyed. At that time, even opposers will be forced to recognize Jehovah's appointed King. John wrote: "Look! He [Jesus] is coming with the clouds of heaven, and every eye will see him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him." (Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30) (w1988 1/1 18)

Nowadays JWs apply many of the *erkomai* (coming) verses to the future. If their fulfilment is future, however, why still make the "coming" invisible? After all, in the 1870s the idea of "invisibleness", of Christ coming invisibly, was invented to rationalize the failed prophecy of Christ coming in 1873, 1874 and 1875. Therefore belief in Christ's invisibility seems unnecessary if the *erkomai* is again in

the future since the future has not yet occurred, neither visibly nor invisibly!

Table of alleged fulfilments of "erkomai"

Ever since 1930, when the WTS suppressed Christ's second coming of 1874, JWs have been inconsistent on whether specific Bible texts refer to 1914, 1918 or Armageddon. Often when a Scripture is cited the fulfilment date is left ambiguous.

The following table gives some examples of the JWs understanding from 1943 onwards:

Scripture	When Fulfilled	Reference
Matthew 24:30	1914	*The Kingdom Is At Hand* (1944) 331-332
	Armageddon	w1981 12/1 8; g1973 7/22 6
	ambiguous	*Kingdom…* 1973, 327 *Aid* (1971) 1531
Matthew 24:42	1914	w1967 10/15 611 & 616
Matthew 25:19	1918-1919	w2004 3/1 16
Matthew 25:31-32	1919. Altered in 1995 to the future	w1995 10/15 22, 25
Matthew 26:64	1914	w1949 215, 232
	ambiguous	w1953 2/15 125
Acts 1:11	1914	w1990 1/6 11
Rev. 1:7	1914	*You Can Live*… (1982), 146-147
	ambiguous	*Aid…* (1981) 551, 360
	Armageddon	w1988 1/1 18 w1981 12/1 7-8; w1960 12/15 763
Rev. 2:5	1918	*Mystery…* (1969) 105-116
Rev. 2:16	1918	*Mystery…* (1969) 135
Rev. 2:25	1918	*Mystery…* (1969) 150
Rev. 3:11	Armageddon	*Mystery…* (1969) 160-161
Rev. 3:20	1918	*Mystery…* (1969) 189-191
	ambiguous	w1969 8/15 501
Rev.16:15	Armageddon	*Aid* …(1971) 295; *Truth…* (1943) 296-297
Rev. 19:7	1918 to Armageddon	w1966 9/15 575
Rev. 22:7	Armageddon	w1967 11/1 666

Aid = *Aid To Bible Understanding* (1971)
Kingdom = *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* (1973)
Mystery = *Then Is Finished The Mystery of God* (1969)
Truth = *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1943)
You Can Live = *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (1982)

Summing up

Christ's "coming" or ***erkomai*** failed to occur in 1873-1875. This led to the doctrine of his invisible "presence" or ***parousia*** which took place in 1874 to explain the failure. The consequence was non-stop confusion between *parousia* and *erkomai* even after 1874 was changed to1914.

Jesus warned: "If they say, 'Look! He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it." (Matthew 24:16) The JWs' second coming, whether 1874, 1878, 1914, 1918, Armageddon, or the entire period 1918 to Armageddon, leaves Jesus in the "inner rooms" of heaven, invisible from Earth. Jesus commanded, "Do not believe it."

(See also: *PRESENCE; OUR LORD'S RETURN*; *SHEEP AND GOATS*)

RETURN OF JESUS IN 1874

Christ's return in 1874 was official WTS doctrine until 1929:

> …the Bridegroom came in the Autumn of 1874, and he appeared to the eyes of faith—seen by the light of the lamp—the Word. (wr1881 October/November, 289)

> Our Lord's presence as Bridegroom and Reaper was recognized during the first three and a half years, from A.D. 1874 to A.D. 1878. Since that time it has been emphatically manifest that the time had come in A.D. 1878 when kingly judgment should begin at the house of God. (Studies II 1889, 239)

> …he [Jesus] would in reality assume the kingly office, power, etc.; viz., in the spring of 1878, three and a half years after his second advent at the beginning of the harvest period, in the fall of 1874. (Studies III 1891, 234)

> Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present since October 1874, A.D., according to the testimony of the prophets, to those who have ears to hear it: and the formal inauguration of his kingly office dates from April 1878, A.D. (Studies IV 1897, 621)

> Pastor Russell … believed and taught that we are living in the time of the second presence of our Lord, and that his

presence dates from 1874... (wr1916 12/1 5998)

Fall 1874 A.D. Second Advent of the Lord (The Finished Mystery 1917, 60)

Some of the Scriptures, which, when understood in their connections and significance, prove that the Lord's Second Advent occurred in the Fall of 1874 are as follows: [A list of 88 interpretations followed] ... and these are but 88 of the proofs hastily collected. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 68, 71)

The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874... (The Harp of God 1921, 231)

The Scriptures show that the second presence (of the Lord) was due in 1874... This proof shows that the Lord has been present since 1874... (w1923 3/1, 1923 67)

Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt that in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus Christ is present and has been since 1874. (w1924 1/1 5)

The second coming of the Lord therefore began in 1874... (Creation 1927, 289, 291, 297, 298, 318)

The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D. (Prophecy 1929, 65)

From 1874 onward is the time of the Lord's second presence...
This circumstantial evidence fulfilling prophecy is what constitutes the physical facts, and is proof corroborative of the Lord's presence since 1874...
His presence beginning in 1874, he has carried on his harvest work from 1874 forward... (Our Lord's Return 1929, 27, 33, 37)

Christ's presence switched to 1914

In 1930 Rutherford switched Christ's return and "presence" from 1874 to 1914:

If it is true that Jesus has been present since 1914, then it must be admitted that nobody has seen him. (g1930 4/30 503)

The year 1914, therefore, marks the second coming of Christ... The prophecy of the Bible, fully supported by the physical facts in fulfilment thereof, shows that the second coming of Christ dates from the fall of the year 1914. (What is Truth? 1932, 48)

In 1943 the WTS published *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, revising Russell's Bible chronology by bringing the date of Adam's creation 100 years forward. This removed any remaining prophetic significance of 1874.

Correct on 1914 long before 1914?
Or are they liars?

After switching Jesus' "return" from 1874 to 1914 the WTS writers began to claim or imply that the Bible Students had anticipated 1914 as the date of Christ's "presence" from their beginnings:

As for the time of Christ's second presence, Daniel's prophecy is again the one that gives the chronology for it. (Dan. 4:16) It was figured out as pointing to A.D. 1914, and The Watchtower called notice to the significance of 1914 in the year 1879. (w1952 11/1 658)

Why, then, do the nations not realize and accept the approach of this climax of judgment? It is because they have not heeded the world wide advertising of Christ's return and his second Presence. Since long before World War I Jehovah's witnesses pointed to 1914 as the time for this great event to occur. (w1954 6/15 370)

Bible chronology also fixes the time for Christ's second presence and the assuming of his right to rule as at 1914; this date was published in the Watchtower as early as 1879, 35 years before 1914. (Tract: Sign of Christ's Presence 1955, p.3)

...history confirms that Jehovah's witnesses were the only Christian group found awake as to 1914... (w1960 7/15 433)

For over thirty years before that date and for half a century since, Jehovah's witnesses have pointed to the year 1914 as the time for the end of "the appointed times of the nations" and the time in which Christ would begin his Kingdom rule. (Luke 21:24) (w1966 2/15 103)

"Do you believe in the second advent of the Lord?" I asked the young man [a WTS colporteur in 1928] who came to the door.
"Christ's second advent was realized in 1914" he answered.
In astonishment, I told him that was

impossible. "You should read this book," he said, handing me *The Harp of God.* I was baptized the following year, March 23, 1929… (w1988 5/1 22)

[Editor's Note: Nowhere in *The Harp of God* (1921) is the "second advent" of Christ put in 1914. The year 1874 for the "presence" of Christ occurs on pages 230, 231, 234, 235, 236, 237 241, 244, 271). Also "the young man" could not have known in 1928 that "Christ's second advent" was realized in 1914" because that teaching was first published in 1930! Even the later editions of *The Harp of God* (1937 & 1940) retained 1874 as the date of Christ's "presence".]

He [a WTS colporteur in 1921] explained to me that Jesus had been present since 1914, invisible to man. This was the most thrilling news I had ever heard… In late 1921 I was transferred back to England, and in the spring of 1922, I was discharged from the army. (wl990 9/1 11) [Note: When this purported conversation occurred in 1921 no WTS publication had mentioned 1914 as the date for the "return of Christ"!]

Similarly prophecy providentially caused sincere 19th-century Bible students to be in expectation. By linking the "seven times" of Daniel 4:25 with "the times of the Gentiles", they anticipated that Christ would receive Kingdom power in 1914. (w1998 9/15 15)

In 1929 dumb dogs rejected 1874

So certain was the date 1874 still in 1929 that Rutherford wrote of ministers who disagreed with that date as follows:

> Paul was a real Christian. He was not a D.D., unable to understand, such as are the D.D.'s of this present time. (Isaiah 56:10, 11) Here the prophet says that some who claim to be watchmen will be blind and ignorant; and that these would be 'd-d-s, sleeping and lying down, loving slumber'. He then says that they are greedy, never able to get enough, shepherds of congregations that can not understand; that they look out only for themselves, to get gain from their own congregations. (Our Lord's Return 1929, 21)
>
> [Pastor Russell] … had too much of God's work to do to pay attention to the yelpings of little men—of the D.D's of Christendom (Isa. 56:10), who love slumber, but who snarl and bite when disturbed in their dreams of "peace, peace" (Jer. 6:14), social and civic gospels, church unity, and evangelistic raids on the pockets of the masses. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 383)]

"D.D." or "d.d." in the preceding quotes means dumb dogs, but was also a pun on "Doctor of Divinity". Pastors, church ministers and Doctors of Divinity were people most likely to demonstrate the nonsense of Christ's return in 1874. Hence Rutherford in *Our Lord's Return*, and prior to discussing 1874 in detail, disposed of them as "blind", "ignorant" and "d-d-s".

Only a year later Rutherford abolished Christ's 1874 second coming but never apologized for his spite to Christians who all along rejected Christ's 1874 coming as fakery. The false prophets who lead JWs have probably never said "Sorry" for any of their false predictions!

What they predicted for 1914-1915

The Russellites did preach about 1914 but not as the date for Christ's "invisible presence" since that, to them, occurred in 1874. What they did await in 1914/1915 is that they themselves would ascend to Heaven, the world's nations and religions would be destroyed, and the survivors would be ruled by the Old Testament "worthies" like Abraham and Moses who would be resurrected and live in Jerusalem! For example:

> 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' (Rev. 16:14) which will end in A.D. 1915, with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. (Studies II 1889, 101)
>
> And with the end of A.D. 1914, what God calls Babylon, and which men call Christendom, will have passed away, as already shown from prophecy. (Studies III 1891, 153)

RETURN VISIT(S)

"Return visits" are second visits and subsequent visits on householders who accepted WTS literature or otherwise showed interest.

Previously until about 1970 return visits were called "backcall(s)". Their importance is seen

in the number of times "return visits" are listed on *Watchtower Library* (2007) — 1475 times.

Backcalls were begun in 1936 on people who had received literature and were part of the strategy for starting "home Bible studies".

The WTS used to reveal the yearly worldwide total return visits, from which the average number of return visits required to achieve each baptism could be calculated:

	Return Visits Millions	Return Visits Per Baptism
1955	27.1	430
1960	44.4	640
1965	59.2	920
1970	121.2	740
1975	155.3	530
1980	142.1	1250
1985	224.7	1180
1998	628.6	1990
2000	433.4	1500

REUNION

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Reunion (an island and part of France east of Madagascar)and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	361	1,224		
1975	456	1,056		
1980	592	889	1,635	322
1985	1,012	536	2,493	218
1990	1,833	323	4,344	136
1995	2,544	257	5,693	115
2000	2,608	275	5,744	125
2005	2,625	292	5,591	137
2010	2,850	287	6,096	134
2015	3,010	280	6,297	134
2018	3,380	261	6,535	135
	Ave.			
2019	3,296	270	6,557	136
2020	3,338	268	6,265	143
2021	3,410	265	7,390	122
2022	3,426	284	6,686	146
2023	3,452	282	6,839	144
2024	3,531	251	6,837	130
2025	3,571	251	6,691	134

REVEALED TRUTHS

The *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD lists 23 occurrences of the phrase "revealed truths" [plural] and 67 of "revealed truth" [singular].

w1964 6/15 364 calls the conclusions of the Jerusalem council (Acts 15) "revealed truth". The article also speaks of:

- "new truth revealed by Jesus";
- "revealed truth by Moses";
- "truth revealed through the prophet Jeremiah".

The article then says: "It is likewise urgent to keep up with the flow of truths that have been revealed in our day." The word "revealed" implies it's from God; God knows it first and conveys it to the JWs leaders.

The article goes on to mention "revealed truth" peculiar to JWs. The implication is clear — the "revealed truth" in the Bible through Jesus, Moses, Jeremiah and the apostles, is the same truth, revealed in the same way, as the "revealed truth" published by the JWs leaders. This implies that the "revealed truth" of today is as "inspired" as that revealed through Jeremiah, Moses and Jesus:

> As Jehovah revealed his truths by means of the first-century Christian congregation so he does today by the present-day Christian congregation. Through this agency he is having carried out prophesying on an intensified scale. All this activity is not an accident. Jehovah is the one behind it all. The abundance of spiritual food and the amazing details of Jehovah's purposes that have been revealed to Jehovah's anointed witnesses are clear evidence that they are the ones mentioned by Jesus when he foretold a "faithful and discreet slave" class that would be used to dispense God's progressive revelations in these last days. (w1964 6/15 365)

Similarly *The Watchtower* in 1986 refers to the contents of the Bible as "The Things Revealed" by God. (w1986 5/15 10) Then after listing some things anciently "revealed" in the Bible the article discusses "The Things Revealed Today". (p.13)

This modern revealing is via Jehovah's "channel for this new spiritual light" which channel "has served well as custodian of the Word of God":

> These spiritual Israelites are the members of "the faithful and discreet slave" class of Matthew 24:45-47. Like the first Christians, these latter-day Christians have not been afraid to 'let their light shine.' (p.13)

The spiritual Israelites and "discreet slave" were, in JWs theology, a group of 144,000 who go to heaven at death. Of these 144,000, a remnant" of about 10,000 were alive on Earth in the late 20th century.

In practice, the doctrines and control of the JWs Organization was never in the hands of the 10,000 but only in the hands of the Governing Body. This was indirectly admitted in 2012 when the Governing Body removed everyone except themselves from the "discreet slave" class.

"Revealed" truth replaces previous truth

The w1986 5/15 article goes on to list some modern truths "revealed", but which the WTS was previously wrong on. The new revealed truths are:

- The preaching started in 1919 [previously 1874];
- Revelation 12 was fulfilled in 1914 [previously 1878];
- Bible prophecies about the Jews are fulfilled by "spiritual Israel" [until 1931 they applied to literal Israel];
- The "princes" of Isaiah 32:1-2 are the JWs elders [previously the princes were ancient Jewish "worthies" to be resurrected in 1915, then 1925, then the 1930s and 1940s].

"Revealed" truth turns out false

The "revealed" things, according to *The Watchtower*, included:

> Thus, in 1923 Jesus' great prophecy about the sheep and the goats was properly understood, and it was discerned that the whole world was under judgment. (p.14)

Russell had taught that the "sheep and goats" would be separated during the millennium. The 1923 revealed truth was that the separation is being done since World War I by the reaction of the public to the preaching work.

Although the 1923 backflip was (according to w1985 5/15) "revealed" and "properly understood" and "discerned" the doctrine of the "sheep and goats" was revised again, in the 1990s — the separation of the "sheep and goats" is again in the future! (See: *SHEEP & GOATS*)

The JWs leaders routinely glorify themselves as "Jehovah's channel" dispensing "revealed truth" and "bright light", but their prophecies keep on failing, their "revealed truth" keeps on changing, their "bright light" keeps on fading.

(See also: *INFALLIBLE*)

REVELATIONS

New interpretations of the Governing Body are "God's progressive revelations":

> The abundance of spiritual food and the amazing details of Jehovah's purposes that have been revealed to Jehovah's anointed witnesses are clear evidence that they are the ones mentioned by Jesus when he foretold a "faithful and discreet slave" class that would be used to dispense God's progressive revelations in the last days. (w1964 6/15 365)

(See also: *CHANNEL*)

REVELATION, THE (1918)

A 198-page book based on *The Finished Mystery* (1917) but with prophetic dates deleted. The book is not listed in the *Watch Tower Publications Index* 1930-1985.

REVEREND

JWs do not use the titles "Reverend" or "Pastor" but address higher-ups as "Brother" or "Elder".

REWARD

JWs leaders assert that it's right and proper for JWs to proselytize for the reward of everlasting life. The reward is said to "motivate". (w1984 12/15 13)

Many JWs, however, who worked for the reward of worldwide paradise in the mid-1970s – or other dates – felt betrayed when the reward did not eventuate. When betrayed JWs desert the sect they receive neither apology nor compensation but slander, being labelled "apostates", "haters of God", "fault-finding", "unappreciative", "mentally diseased", etc.

RHODES, RON

Author of *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (1993) and *The 10 Most Important Things You Can Say to a Jehovah's Witness* (2001).

RICE, HUGH B.

Listed in *Zion's Watch Tower* from the first issue until April 1880 as a regular contributor but did not have anything published.

Regular contributors:

- J. H. Paton Almont, Mich.
- W. I. Mann Allegheny, Pa.
- B. W. Keith Dansville, N.Y.
- H. B. Rice W. Oakland, Cal.
- A. D. Jones Pittsburgh, Pa.

The first issue of *Zion's Watch Tower* said:

> BRO. H. B. RICE, editor and publisher of *The Last Trump*, has been obliged by circumstances beyond his control to suspend its publication. Knowing that such a course was probable, we two months ago proposed to Bro. Rice that we would supply THE WATCH TOWER to his subscribers, instead of *The Last Trump*, up to the close of their subscriptions, and we invited him to speak to his old subscribers, and others of *the body of Christ*, through ZION'S WATCH TOWER.
>
> He has accepted both propositions, sent the list of subscribers, and in an open letter to them says, "I will endeavor to contribute something to THE WATCH TOWER every month," &c.
>
> As we are much crowded, we have published this letter as a supplement, and sent it to the subscribers of *The Last Trump*. (wr 1879 July, p.3)

In 1880:

> BROTHER H. B. RICE writes that he, from temporary loss of business and sickness in his family, has been kept quite occupied of late, but has not lost his interest in the WATCH TOWER. He says: "I believe that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from *all sin*. It was certainly not laying aside immortality. It was shedding his blood—pouring out his soul (or life) unto death." He says he finds time to preach the glad tidings, and recently delivered a series of eleven lectures in Stockton, Cal. He has again obtained a situation in San Francisco, and has removed there. (wr1880 July, p.121)

The name *The Last Trump* suggests Hugh B. Rice was a Second Adventist. He received Barbour's magazine *Herald of the Morning* in 1879 and was converted from the Disciples of Christ where he was a pastor. He probably joined the Advent Christian Church — which was active in California at the time and to which Wendel and Stetson belonged — besides cooperating with N.H. Barbour:

> Dear Bro.- Some one, I know not who, has sent me several copies of your paper, which I have read with interest; indeed for years I have been deeply interested in every thing pertaining to the second advent.
> Your views are new to me, and I never like to take up with new teaching without careful investigation. Have been preaching among the Disciples for six or seven years. I do not want to be led away by fanciful interpretations; nor do I want to miss any light which God has made possible for me to receive. I notice you apply John 16, "guide us into all truth," to the gospel church; do you mean directly by the Spirit imparting NEW revelations to christians of the present day, or that through the Scriptures we may be led into all truth?
> If the latter, I am with you, otherwise not.
> Yours in hope of the kingdom,
> H. B. Rice
> (Herald of the Morning, 1879 January)

The first number of a new paper just started at Oakland, Cal. has reached us; I must say, I am more than pleased with its general appearance and manner of presenting truth. Its editor and publisher, H.B. RICE, has been a **Disciple** preacher; but seeing the great "plan of the ages", the harvest, time arguments, etc. he feels called to proclaim these blessed truths, with pen, as well as mouth. His paper is a 16 page monthly; fully one third larger than the HERALD; and has a clean readable look. His style is crisp, pointed and telling; and judging by what we have seen, we believe his efforts are calculated to do much good; and therefore ask all who can afford it, to help in circulating his paper. Price $2 pr. year. And judging by his first number, I know of no $2, monthly, for which I would so willingly invest that amount. Want of space alone prevents us from giving extracts. Address, H.B. Rice, Box 1610, OAKLAND, CAL.
(Herald of the Morning, 1879 March)

We are sorry to say that "The Last Trump", started by brother Rice, of Cal. is discontinued from lack of means. Bro. Rice informs me that he had the promise of help from several parties, but business failures, and other causes not known to me, have placed him where there is no choice left; he must labor with his hands, to earn a bare support for his family. The subscription money paid for a year, leaves our brother in debt seventy-five cents in the dollar; we have offered to send the HERALD for eighteen months, to each of his subscribers for the nine months due on his paper; and will send them word to that effect, as soon as we receive his list of names. Those of his subscribers who take the HERALD, will please notice!
Send me a card, stating the sum due to you on his paper, and I will credit you with the amount. Bro. Rice says, that if you require the money returned, he will

> do so, as soon as he can. But please do not do that; if you demand the money, send your bill to me, and as fast as I can spare the means, without crippling the HERALD, you shall have it.
> Bro, Rice, as I understand it, has sacrificed a good deal for the truth; and is now supporting a wife with young children, on fifteen dollars a month, for which he has to work early and late. Instead of sending your back-accounts to him, perhaps you had better send his family something more substantial. (Herald of the Morning, 1879 June)

RICH MAN & LAZARUS (Luke 16:19-31)
An illustration given by Jesus about a rich man who goes to Hades, and Lazarus who goes to "Abraham's bosom" i.e. to paradise.

Since JWs do not believe in life after death in Heaven or Hell (except for the 144,000 who since 1918 go to Heaven) the story of the Rich Man is spiritualized.

To Russell the rich man represented the Jewish nation. (wr1888 p1000; Studies V 1899, 376) and Lazarus represented all non-Jewish people i.e. Gentiles. (wr1888 January, p.1000)

To Rutherford the rich man pictured Christendom's clergy, and Lazarus the remnant of the 144,000

Nowadays, to JWs, the rich man represents the Pharisees who lost God's favor and died spiritually, and Lazarus represents the common people who received God's favor.

RICHES (1936)
A book written by Rutherford because:

> Millions … turned away because of misrepresentation both of God and of the Bible. Millions … ignorant … cannot understand the Bible.

The "riches" that the book presents are Rutherford's doctrines from which "millions turned away because of misrepresentation both of God and the Bible."

RIEMER, H.H. 1878 - 1965
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Corporation 1945-1965.

Hugo Riemer's father converted to Russellism from Methodism in 1883 after buying Russell's book *Food For Thinking Christians* from a colporteur.

Riemer was baptized in 1896, met C.T. Russell in 1904, was a colporteur in 1905-1916, a pilgrim in 1917-1918, and a musician at conventions in Rutherford's time. He worked in the purchasing department at Brooklyn headquarters 1919-1958. Too weak after 1961 to go door-to-door he preached by writing letters.

RIGHT
JWs sometimes declare they were "right" regarding prophecies for 1914 and for other errors: "We were right. 1914 was a marked year!" (w1967 5/15 318) [See: *DATES*)

RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES
Anyone who disagrees with the teachings or methods of the JWs leaders is "right in his own eyes." (w1983 1/15 22)

RIGHTEOUS IN THEIR OWN EYES
James Penton in *Apocalypse Delayed* (1985) writes:

> Then, following the purge of the Watch Tower's Brooklyn Bethel in the spring of 1980, the society unleashed a series of attacks against any and all of the so-called 'apostate ideas' proposed by Raymond Franz, Edward Dunlap, and the small band of men and women who had been driven from the world-wide headquarters of Jehovah's Wintesses.[125]
>
> Interestingly, the society's attack on both privately held dissonance and open dissent within Witness ranks followed a pattern described by Robert Carroll. Carroll states: "In religious contexts one of the standard methods of treating the dissonance caused by encountering people with different belief structures, whose morality appears to be so impeccable that they qualify as "righteous", is to call them "self righteous", or even "righteous in their own eyes.'"[126] And that is what the Watch Tower Society has done recently to anyone who has dissented in even the slightest degree from Witness teachings. The very expressions 'self-righteous' and 'righteous in their own eyes' have become standard Witness phrases applied to anyone who is independent-minded. (p.298)

RIGHTEOUS RULER (1934)
Booklet by Rutherford.

RITCHIE, A.I.
Vice president of the WBTS c.1911-1916.

RITCHIE, GORDON
A JW who was disfellowshipped in 1995 and in 2000 founded "The Lord's Witnesses".

Ritchie claimed to be "sanctified to unseal the book of Daniel" and that the world would end in March 2008. The sect regards Jehovah as God, the Holy Spirit as God's wife, and believes humankind is 6000 years old, Jesus' Kingdom started in 1914, and Jesus disfellowshipped the WTS religion in 2001.

He calculated Armageddon's date as follows:

> The Beast of Revelation 13, today, the UN. This beast has 10 horns and 7 heads. The 10 horns are 10 years of military power without kingship, and the 7 heads are 7 years of Kingship over the entire world. The UN got military power during the Gulf War, which ended in March 1991, 10 years after this is 2001 and 7 years after this is 2008.

RIZZOLI, JOE
An ex-JW of Framingham, USA, disfellowshipped in April 1991 after 20 years in the sect, whose story appeared on the Internet.

In 1996 when his twin brother was disfellowshipped Rizzoli recorded the proceedings using a "wireless mike stuck to the underside of his tie."

With information obtained from David Reed (*Comments From the Friends*), Ray Franz (*Crisis of Conscience*), Randy Watters (*Free Minds Journal*) and Richard Rawe, Rizzoli started *The Cult Information Network* in Framingham.

ROBERTS, EVELYN B. (1909-1995)
Evelyn [or "Lynette") Beatrice Roberts was a poet born of Welsh parents in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who settled in Britain and wrote in English.

In England she studied in London at the Central School for Arts and Crafts and in 1939 married the poet and literary editor Keidrych Rhys and had two children, a girl in1945, and a son in 1946.

Her collection *Poems* was published in 1944 and she immortalised the village where she lived with "Poem from Llanybri". She and Rhys divorced in 1949. In 1951 her *Gods with stainless ears: a heroic poem* was published.

In the 1950s Roberts joined JWs. She later repudiated her work and refused permission for reprinting. However, *Collected Poems* was published in 2006.

ROBOTS
Critics occasionally compare JWs to "robots" because of their unity of action, uncritical obedience to the Governing Body, and mindless repetition of whatever is current official doctrine.

ROCHA, COCO (1988-)
Canadian fashion supermodel, born Mikhaila Rocha, September 10, 1988. Wikipedia says: "Rocha has been a devout Jehovah's Witness since childhood, and in a 2013 interview she stated that she still follows the Jehovah's Witnesses tradition of preaching door-to-door.

Rocha calls herself "a Christian first and a model second" and says that due to her faith she will not pose nude or with cigarettes, guns, nationalistic emblems or religious icons. Rocha married artist James Conran on June 9, 2010.

RODRIGUES
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Rodrigues, an island in the Indian Ocean, and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	19	1,214		
1975	14	1,864		
1980	13	2,277	56	529
1985	23	1,513	62	561
1990	32	1,173	70	536
1995	36	963	110	315
2000	41	867	106	335
2005	39	911	67	530
2010	40	950	121	314
2015	52	801	122	341
2018	57	748	183	233
	Ave.			
2019	57	667	202	188
2020	65	662	156	276
2021	65	677	221	199
2022	66	667	215	205
2023	65	692	166	271
2024	66	682	174	259
2025	66	667	169	260

RODRIGUEZ, ERICA (c.1979-)

A JW child-abuse victim whose case gained nation-wide interest the USA. She was subject of a *Dateline NBC* report in 2002 investigating allegations that the elders have covered up cases of child abuse.

Rodriguez was raped regularly by an elder of the Spanish Congregation in Othello (a town in Washington State) from age 4 to 11 at which age the family moved to California. She there reported the abuse to the elders but was pressured into silence by the threat of disfellowshipping.

The abuser was eventually convicted after two trials and sentenced to 11 years in Washington State Penitentiary.

Rodriguez then filed a civil lawsuit suit in the U.S. District Court in Spokane against the elders in Othello and the WTS in which she alleged:

- The abuser had threatened her with disfellowshipping if she told the police;
- The other elders in the congregation violated a state law which makes it mandatory to report child abuse;
- Church policy tolerates child abuse and fails to report it to police.

The Tri-City *Herald Basin Bureau* reported:

> Rodriguez's lawsuit alleges the elders tell the victim not to talk to other congregation members or to report the abuse to law enforcement authorities under pain of sanction or disfellowshipping.
>
> However, Watchtower spokesman J.R. Brown, who had not yet seen the lawsuit and couldn't comment specifically, said the church does not interfere with the reporting of a crime.
>
> He said church elders are supposed to contact headquarters if they have questions about a case.
>
> "When we are contacted, we tell elders if they are in a state where (reporting pedophilia) is required," he said. "We want to make sure we are legally compliant."
>
> Brown said he is aware that numerous cases have been posted on Internet sites … detailing pedophilia within the Jehovah's Witnesses church.
>
> But he maintains most of the stories were posted by people who underwent abuse back in the 1980s, when all of society was grappling with the issue…
>
> He said the church has made strong policy changes since then…
> (Shirley Wentworth, January 23, 2002)
> www.tricityherald.com/news/2002/0123/story5.html

In May it was reported:

> Judge Edward Shea, U.S. District Court Judge in Richland, last week granted the Watchtower's motion to dismiss the case, ruling that it doesn't fall within federal jurisdiction… (May 28, 2002)
> www.tricityherald.com/news/2002/0528/story3.html

RODRIGUEZ, MICHELLE (1978-)
An actress noted for her tough-girl roles in action movies. Her first starring role was as a boxer in *Girlfight* (2000). She played a special operations team police officer in S.W.A.T. (2003). Rodriguez was raised in Jersey City by a mother and grandmother who were both JWs.

ROGERS, WAYNE
A JW of California, disfellowshipped for not accepting "all the current understanding", who shares his story on the Internet.

He quotes *Awake!* on free thought and inquiry both of which he says get "lip service" by JWs, but in practice both are denied:

> Francis bacon, a seventeenth century English philosopher, essayist, jurist, and statesman, advised searchers for truth to weigh and consider. And an early U.S. president, Thomas Jefferson, said: reason and free inquiry are the only effectual agents against error… They are the natural enemies of error. So if we are genuinely searching for truth, we will 'weigh and consider' and pursue 'reason and free inquiry'.
>
> Identifying why such an approach is vital, British scientist Sir Hermann Bondi noted: 'Since at most one faith can be true, it follows that human beings are extremely liable to believe firmly and honestly in the field of revealed religion. One would have expected this obvious fact to lead to some humility, to some thought that however deep one's faith, one may conceivably be mistaken'. (*Awake!* 1999 2/22 6)

Rogers was raised as a JW since 1966, baptized in 1983, married a fellow believer in 1987, and occasionally auxiliary pioneered.

He began to disagree on blood transfusions:

> I noticed how Christ approved of setting aside certain restrictions in the Law Covenant when human life or suffering was on the line, much to the dismay of the Pharisees...

In 1998 Rogers' wife ordered "no-blood" key-chains and "refused to hear any reasons WHY I disagreed…" A judicial hearing followed:

> It all boiled down to the question of whether I accepted that all of the current understandings of the WTS were "food at the proper time" from the "faithful and discreet slave". I pleaded that I could not agree to that idea, given the changeable nature of WTS doctrine…

Rogers was pronounced disfellowshipped in January 1999:

> My wife … decided to leave me… If I even brought out the Bible, she would run from the house with her hands over her ears… My mother … started condemning me, that I was "worse than an adulterer", and demon-possessed, and "brainwashed by apostates"…

Rogers' story demonstrates the consequences of "reason and free inquiry" among JWs.

ROGERSON, ALAN (c.1944-)
A school teacher brought up as a JWs who could no longer accept the teachings and wrote *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1969).

ROFICK, MARIUCA (1965-)
A former worker at Brooklyn headquarters who left the sect and whose story is on the Internet.

Mariuca was born in Detroit, Michigan; her parents joined JWs in 1971; she was baptized at 14; "auxiliary pioneered" (seventy hours door-to-door per month) while still in high school; married a "Bethelite" at 22; lived with him at headquarters from 1987 to 1997 where she handled office records and proofread.

Her life as a JW began to unravel in 1994. See details at:
http://watchotwer.com/blog/its-never-too-late-mariucas-story

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Russell claimed that God cast off the Roman Catholic Church along with all of Christendom in 1878 in preparation for their destruction in 1914.

Rutherford changed the date of destruction to 1918. (The Finished Mystery 1917) In 1918, however, the opposite occurred — the Russellites were restricted, *The Finished Mystery* banned, the distribution of books declined drastically, and Rutherford and other WBTS Board members were imprisoned.

After Rutherford's release he changed the cast-off date of Christendom to 1918 — the date when he himself had been cast off into prison. This was a repeat of Russell's manoeuvre after 1878 — the ministers of Pittsburgh and Allegheny rejected Russell and his doctrine that Jesus returned invisibly and Russell reacted by teaching that God had cast them off!

The more Rutherford was disconfirmed as a prophet — false predictions for 1918, 1925, 1930s, etc — the more he criticised Catholics and Protestants. For example:

> The Scriptures seem fully to support the conclusion that the destruction of the religionists under the lead of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy will be the first part, or the beginning, of Armageddon. The Devil religion, mislabeled "Christianity", was put forward under the name of the Church of Rome, out of which grew the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. That organization is mentioned prophetically in the Scriptures under the unpleasant title of 'the old whore'. There was a period of time when in the world there was an organization known as "Protestantism", and which opposed the Roman Catholic organization; but about the time of the World War the "Protestant" (so called) organization ceased and went over, bag and baggage, to the Hierarchy, and now the entire lot constitutes "the great whore". This crowd of public gangsters and enemies of God set up the League of Nations as a substitute for God's Kingdom. Anything with them to turn the people away from Jehovah and his King. These, pretending to stand for God, in fact stand for and represent the Devil, and this whole bunch composes an integral part of the beastly rule of earth. (Riches 1936, 285)

ROMANIA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1990	19,030	1,217	36,300	637
1995	33,500	678	89,200	255
2000	38,700	581	82,800	271
2005	38,400	566	79,400	274
2010	39,800	539	82,300	261
2015	40,600	523	78,300	271
2018	39,800	492	75,100	261
	Ave.			
2019	39,300	493	74,476	261
2020	39,200	491	74,400	259
2021	39,500	484	100,100	191
2022	39,350	488	79,800	241
2023	39,498	480	81,900	231
2024	40,000	477	83,700	228
2025	40,400	471	80,600	236

(See also: *TRUE FAITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES*)

ROOMING / ROOMING DEPARTMENT

The volunteer division at a district or international convention responsible for securing accommodation of the sort and price range requested for people planning to attend.

The department negotiates rates with hotels and motels and works with congregations to send publishers door to door to find accommodation in private homes.

ROSS, J.J.

Canadian Baptist minister who wrote an anti Russell pamphlet in June 1912 called *Some Facts About The Self-Styled Pastor Charles T Russell.* Russell laid a charge of defamatory libel.

At the Police Court (City of Hamilton, Ontario, 1913 March 17) Russell was cross examined for five hours. Ross's attorney, G.L. Staunton, asked Russell whether he knew the Greek alphabet about which Hoekema (1969) writes:

> In this trial, therefore, Russell's deliberate perjury was established beyond doubt, and the real character of the man looked up to by his followers as an inspired religious teacher was clearly revealed. (p.228)

The case went before a grand jury but no bill of indictment followed and the case never went on to Ontario's Supreme Court. Russellites summarized the incident as follows:

> Rev Mr. Ross was sued for criminal libel. The case was dismissed on a legal technicality. Since he was financially irresponsible civil proceedings were not taken. (Peoples Pulpit 1915 15/9 4)
>
> The lower court found Mr Ross guilty, but under a technicality of an old English law to the effect that criminal libel could only operate in a case where there was a danger of rioting or violence the grand jury dismissed the case. (The Bunyip 1915, Friday June 11)

JWs leaders call Ross "bombastic" and his first pamphlet "scurrilous" with "many false accusations". (Yearbook 1979, 93-94) Ross wrote a second pamphlet in which he accused Russell of perjury.

ROTA

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Rota (an island between Saipan and Guam in the Pacific) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1985	13	98	52	25
1990	18	94	51	33
1995	8	305	33	74
2000	11	243	54	50
2005	9	322	43	67
2010	14	207	58	50
2015	10	248	26	95
2018	12	206	23	107
	Ave.			
2019	8	313	21	119
2020	5	600	10	300
2021	4	750	1	3,000
2022	4	750	8	375
2023	4	750	16	188
2024	2	1,000	2	1,000
2025	2	1,000	18	111

ROUSSEL, H.

Henri Roussel and Joseph Lefevre were assistants of Zaug at the Berne Branch (Switzerland) of the WTS in 1920-1922. They had opposed Freytag in 1918-1919 and signed a letter of loyalty to the WTS Society.

However, later: "...both brothers Lefevre and Rousel became discontented and ended up as evil servants." (Yearbook 1980, 56) The reason for becoming "discontented" likely included the false suggestions and predictions for 1918, 1920, 1924 and 1925. P.S.L. Johnson – the most famous and influential defector from Russellism at the time — had also visited France in 1920 and influenced them.

In September 1922 Roussel and Lefevre criticised Rutherford in a 16-page declaration called "A Necessary Realignment". This led to a clear separation when a general meeting was called of Swiss Russellites. Forty-two voted to stay with the Society and distribute Rutherford's *Millions* book and 39 were against and formed a separate association.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Washington Post summed up what Australia's Royal Commission discovered about Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs):

> From 1950 to 2014, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society amassed 5,000 files detailing sexual abuse of Australian children by 1,006 of its members, who believe that only they — the Jehovah's Witnesses — proclaim the truth about God.
>
> Young girls were assaulted by neighbors. Teenagers were raped by their fathers. Victims were forced to pray with their abusers… Victims, ordered to keep quiet, were forced to confront their abusers in person. (August 14)

The Australian government established the "Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse" in 2012 to investigate institutionalized child sexual abuse. It did not have the power to find guilt or order punishment but could refer accused individuals to other authorities.

JWs got their turn commencing July 27, 2015. The Commission heard from elders, abuse-victims, the religion's top administrators in Australia, and a Governing Body member.

The evidence is that JWs had rules that prevented victims from speaking freely and allowed alleged perpetrators to remain in the congregation without alerting congregation members of the risk to their children.

Whenever two witnesses to alleged child sexual abuse were not available the victims often had to choose between the ongoing trauma of associating with and respecting the abuser or leaving the sect and being shunned i.e. separated from their entire social network including friends and relatives. Perpetrators often remained respected, but the victims "hated" and "loathed" as opposers of God.

The JW Organization's policy put the image of the Organization as a "spiritual paradise" above the safety and security of children and created a spiritual hell for child victims.

RUDOLPH, R. (June 1911-January 2014)

Richard Rudolph was the last survivor of people who were incarcerated by both the Nazis and the Communists.

Rudolph spent 9 years in Nazi prisons and concentration camps followed by ten years imprisonment in the German Democratic Republic. The reasons were conscientious objection to military service and his beliefs as a JW.

RULE, J.A.

Rap singer raised as a JW who became a film star. Films he appeared in include *Turn It Up* (2000), *The Fast and the Furious* (2001), *Half Past Dead* (2002), *The Cookout* (2004), and *Back in the Day* (2004).

RUMOR

JWs Leaders claim to oppose spreading of rumors. (w1984 9/1 20) However, their attacks on other religions and on ex JWs — calling them liars, immoral, Satanic, etc — can be seen as spreading of rumors.

RUN AHEAD

JWs are told not to "run ahead of the Organization" which means that they are not permitted to speculate on future changes in doctrine or express an opinion that something might be erroneous.

RUNNING TO AND FRO (Daniel 12)

A phrase in Daniel 12:4 interpreted by Russell and Rutherford as fulfilled by: "means of transportation such as automobiles, electric cars, etc." (The harp of God 1921, 17)

RUSSEL, CHARLES TAZE (1852-1916)

Charles Taze Russell was an American preacher and sect-leader from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who founded what became the Bible Student movement as well as the magazine *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence* (1879) and the corporation Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society (1881/1884). A schism in 1918 resulted in two main groups one known as Bible Students and the other Jehovah's Witnesses.

Early Life

Russell was born of Presbyterian parents, Joseph Lytel Russell (1813-1897) and Ann Eliza Birney (1831-1861), on February 16, 1852 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Charles was the

second of five children of whom three died during childhood. His younger sister Margaret (later Margaret Land) survived into the 1940s.

He was educated in public schools and by private tutors and his parents taught him from the Catechism.

At 15 Charles left school and became a partner in his father's store in Alleghany, Pennsylvania. He prayed regularly but did not attend church. One day Charles concluded he had reached the age of "personal responsibility" in matters of faith. He prayed, "Oh, God, I will give Thee my heart... I need God and I need all the blessings You have promised to Your people. Lord, let me be one of Thy people." (Convention Report 1912, 308-309)

The Russells had lived in Philadelphia, as well as Allegheny. When established in Pittsburgh, the Russells became respected members of the Presbyterian Church. In his early teens, Charles' father made him a partner of his Pittsburgh haberdashery store. By age twelve, he was writing business contracts for customers, and given charge of his father's other clothing stores. At age thirteen, he left the Presbyterian Church to join the Congregational Church and the YMCA. He was active in local mission and chalked Bible verses on sidewalks and walls to draw attention to the hellfire awaiting the unfaithful.

Converted by an infidel

At 16 discussion with a skeptic-friend convinced Russell that predestination and eternal torment were irreconcilable with love and justice. He ceased his mission efforts, threw away his Bible, and began to investigate other views including Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Hinduism but soon abandoned them too. He continued "feeling after God, desiring to know the truth." (Convention Report 1912, 134)

For a year he gave his attention to business and bookkeeping but attended occasional church meetings which "left an empty void."

Second Adventists

In 1870, at age 18, Russell attended a meeting of Advent Christian Church pastor, Jonas Wendell.

Second Adventists were survivors of the Millerite movement which had shattered when predictions of Jesus' second coming failed in 1844. In particular Wendel was a pastor of the Advent Christian Church which, at the time, believed the world would be burned up in 1873.

Wendell's sermon renewed Russell's faith in the Bible as God's Word and that all Christians had a responsibility to proclaim it.

Many Second Adventists believed in "soul sleep", instead of eternal torment, and Russell considered this "reasonable" and his faith returned. He reasoned, "All the creeds of Christendom claim to be founded on the Bible and these are conflicting. Isn't it possible that the Bible has been misrepresented?" (wr1916 12/1 5997)

Russell's further involvement with Second Adventists is omitted in the histories that he and JWs later wrote, probably because it reveals the origin of Russellism and hence JWs as an apostasy from Adventism.

The following notice appeared in the *Advent Christian Times* (a weekly paper of the Advent Christian Church) in 1872:

> To Correspondents C.T. Russell, jr
> Will comply with your request as soon as possible. You will find something to the point in the *Quarterly,* if you have them. (May 20, p.24)

The "Quarterly" i.e. *Advent Christian Quarterly* was published by the Advent Christian Church (as was another paper *The World's Crisis*).

The name "C.T. Russell" appears under the heading "Letters Received" in the *Advent Christian Times* of:

1871 March 28	1871 July 25
1871 April 1	1873 February 25
1871 April 18	1873 June 24
1871 June 6	

In other editions up to 1873 the name "J.L. Russell and Son" also appear. Evidently Russell and his father received and read *Advent Christian Church* material.

The *Advent Christian Times* published articles and letters authored by Pastor George Stetson an Advent Christian Church minister whose church in Pittsburgh Russell began to attend in 1872.

Russell also attended Bible meetings of George Storrs (1796-1879) for three years 1869-1872. Storrs had joined the Millerites in 1842, was a major originator of Adventist doctrines, and founded the sect "Life and Advent Union". Storrs considered the dead unconscious and identified "Babylon" as Christendom — both these doctrines became part of Russellism.

Russell admits to being taught by Stetson and Storrs:

> And here I should and do gratefully mention assistance by Brothers Geo. Stetson and Geo. Storrs, the latter the editor of *The Bible Examiner*, both now deceased. The study of the Word of God with these dear brethren led, step by step, into greener pastures… (wr1906 7/15 3821)

He probably read the *Herald of Life* magazine which Storrs edited at the time, which argued against the burning up of the world and against organized religion. Storrs argued that once a religion becomes organized it also becomes part of "Babylon" — which Russell also later taught.

In or around 1873 Russell and his sister and father, and William Conley (a businessman who in 1881 became the first president of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society), and Conley's wife formed a separate Bible class.

Russell's sister years later stated at a convention that Russell was baptized in 1874. Whether Storrs or Stetson performed the baptism, and whether for the Advent Christian Church, she didn't say.

Barbour and Christ's return in 1873-1875

Meanwhile in Rochester, New York, a group of Second Adventists led by Nelson H. Barbour and John H. Paton, predicted Christ's coming for 1873, then 1874, finally 1875.

A subscriber named B.W. Keith then informed Barbour that *The Emphatic Diaglott* (a Greek/English interlinear New Testament) translates "parousia" not as "coming" but as "presence".

In this way arose the doctrine that Christ's return and presence is invisible and began in 1874.

As a consequence of his false prophecy and the rationalization for it, Barbour's magazine, *The Midnight Cry*, lost most of its 15,000 subscribers.

Russell claims he discovered the invisible return of Christ independently and that Barbour's similar belief moved him to contact Barbour in 1876 and set up a meeting after finding a copy of *Herald of the Morning*.

The earliest written proof of Russell believing in an invisible return of Christ is his booklet published in 1877 — *The Advent and Manner of Our Lord's Return*.

James Hatley Frere (1779-1866), a writer and speculator on prophecy, in *A Combined View of the Prophecies of Daniel, Esdras, and S. John* (1815) wrote of a spiritual second coming; and Henry Drummond, similarly in *A Defence of the Students of Prophecy* (1828). However, Russell does not quote these men and probably did not read their books.

Barbour convinced Russell that the Rapture would take place in April 1878. With only two years of Christian ministry remaining Russell began to sell his five clothing stores for $300,000 dollars (equivalent to about $6 million today).

The two men co-authored the book *Three Worlds* (1877) which set forth their Adventist views and chronology and predictions for 1914 and 1878. Russell apparently wanted to lead a Christian revival and therefore called two meetings of Christian ministers in Pittsburgh. His ideas including the Rapture's imminence were rejected: "All of the ministers of the two cities refused to believe." (Divine Purpose1959, 19) This rejection must have traumatized Russell since he later made 1878 the year that God "spewed out" the religions of Christendom — in effect he claimed God did to them what they in fact did to him!

Russell apparently learnt about the "Gentile Times" from Barbour. In the magazine edited by Storrs, *The Bible Examiner*, Russell predicted: "The Gentile Times will end in A.D. 1914." (October, 1876) By this he meant that all nations and religions will have been "dashed to pieces" by 1914, Israel will have been restored and ruled by ancient Bible heroes brought back to life, and world peace would begin. Yes, world peace to start in 1914, not world war! The claim that Russell predicted World War in 1914 was a later fiction, promoted by Rutherford to make the false predictions for 1914 seem partly right.

Russell spent substantial amounts of his money on religion — Barbour, for example, required new printing equipment. Russell and J.H. Paton were now Barbour's assistant editors to his magazine.

The imminent rapture moved Russell to curtail business activities and preach outside churches and in parks. In 1877 the *Advent Christian Church* regarded Russell, Barbour and Paton as apostates ("go not near them"), and false prophets whom "the Lord never sent". The *Advent Christian Times* (Chicago) of July 18, 1877 reported:

> ONE N. H. Barbour, called Dr. Barbour, with his confreres, J. H. Paton and C. T. Russell, is traveling around the country, going everywhere that they can find Adventists, and preaching that Jesus has come secretly, and will soon be revealed, and mingling in their lectures a lot of "Age-to-come" trash, all to subvert their hearers. They are not endorsed by Adventists, "Age-to-come-folks", or anybody else, yet having some money and a few sympathizers, they will probably run awhile. They have been to Ohio and Indiana and are working westward. We are credibly informed that one of them boasted in Union Mills, Ind., a few days since, that they would break up every Advent church in the land. We guess not. Their whole work is proselyting. The Lord never sent them on their mission. Give them no place and go not near them or countenance them. (Volume 15, No. 6, pp 89-90)

1878 but no rapture

April 1878 arrived, but no rapture. According to one of Russell's later associates:

> While talking with Russell about the events of 1878, I told him that Pittsburgh papers had reported he was on the Sixth Street bridge dressed in a white robe on the night of the Memorial of Christ's death, expecting to be taken to heaven together with many others. I asked him, "Is that correct?" Russell laughed heartily and said: "I was in bed that night between 10:30 and 11:00 P.M. However, some of the more radical ones might have been there, but I was not. Neither did I expect to be taken to heaven at that time, for I felt there was much work to be done preaching the Kingdom message to the peoples of the earth before the church would be taken away." (Macmillan 1957)

Russell and Barbour began to disagree on the rapture and other topics, writing discrepant views in *The Herald*.

Barbour reduced his reliance on prophetic chronology but Russell concluded that the dead saints were raised that night. The living saints would ascend in 1881. This conclusion supposedly evidenced "the Lord's continued leading." (wr1906 7/1 3823; Divine Purpose1959, 20)

The ploy of arguing that the date was right but the event predicted misunderstood, would be used again and again by Russell, Rutherford and JWs through numerous further prophetic failures. Barbour rejected the "plain simple solution" (Divine Purpose1959, 20) and after further disagreements Russell withdrew himself and his financial support.

Barbour founded "The Church of the Strangers" and Russell in July 1879 founded *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*.

"Pastor" in 1876, 1877, 1879 or 1882?

The "Prefatory Note" in *Reprints of the Original Watchtower Volume 1* says:

> In 1870 he was a member of a Bible class, organized solely for the careful and prayerful investigation of Scriptures, and by 1876 had grown into a congregation of Bible students to which he preached. In October of that year he was elected Pastor of this class of Bible students…

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose (1959) refers to Russell as "Russell" until his marriage in 1879 at which time he is "Pastor Russell" (p.17). However page 18 says: "In 1877 Pastor Russell called a meeting of all the ministers of Allegheny and Pittsburgh…" The *Proclaimers* book (1993) says: "The first group to vote him their pastor was the congregation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1882." (p.54)

Irrespective of which year is correct the WTS publications portray Russell as a self-made Bible investigator who started an independent congregation. The influence of the Advent Christian Church is ignored.

Pastor George Stetson lived during the last year of his life (1879) with William Henry Conley and wife — the same Conley who became the first president of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society in 1881. Russell gave the funeral speech at Stetson's funeral attended by 1200 people who would have been mainly Advent Christians.

Close association with Advent Christians from 1869 until at least 1879 suggests that Russell's title of "Pastor" was conferred either by Advent Christians or people who left the Advent Christians to join his group.

The title promoted impressions of respectability, credibility and orthodoxy. Russell, however, had no official training in theology, no other ordination, no college or seminary background, no endorsement from any Church. He did not even have a true prophecy to his name, only false prophecy.

The Russell Cult Independent

In 1879 Russell started *Zion's Watch Tower*. The high initial circulation of 6,000 was helped by H.B. Rice, a Second Adventist of California, who closed down for lack of finance and donated his subscriber list. Russell's cult was now an independent entity.

Marriage

While getting *Zion's Watch Tower* started Russell met Maria F. Ackley (1850-1938) who attended his meetings and they married on March 13, 1879.

Although publicly expressing love and fondness for one another, the marriage was a mutually agreed celibate partnership. It lasted 18 years until disagreement over doctrine and Russell's intimacies with a 25-year-old stenographer who live with them led to discord and separation. Russell recorded his version of what happened in Zion's *Watch Tower* of July 15, 1906.

Donations, 1881 and WTS

For years Russell believed in divine healing initially even teaching that his followers won't die or get sick "except by God's will". (wr1881 January, p.181)

This must have motivated believers to give donations generously but was not a planned money scam since it followed reasonably from the belief the rapture would occur in 1881.

The miraculous 1881 ascent to heaven failed and was unofficially put off to 1883. Until 1904 the official doctrine was that all nations, institutions and religions would perish **before** 1914 with God then ruling the world, which implied the rapture could still occur at any time.

Tract production and distribution got underway. In 1880 this included the hiring of 300 New York boys to distribute tracts at church doors and cost $42,000. Whether financed by Russell or Conley is unclear.

The rapture's second postponement saw also the first deaths in the cult. Therefore the idea that no one would die itself quietly died. But reports of miraculous healings continued until the mid 1880s including arthritics, deaf people, and even old persons restored to youth. (wr1883, 436-437; 1885, 748-749; 1885, 782-784)

To reduce costs Russell introduced the distribution of tracts and leaflets as a "Christian duty". Being kept busy by distributing tracts diverted his followers' attention from failed prophecy and instilled a sense of commitment. The "keep them busy" stratagem was subsequently used again and again by Russell's successors, and is still successful in the 21st century.

Another proof of "God's blessing" was the founding of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society in 1881 to handle money matters of the cult. William Conley, in whose house they celebrated the "Lord's Supper" until 1881, was the first president of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, Russell's father vice president, and Russell secretary. Russell became president when the Society became incorporated in 1884 by which time Conley had left.

Major publications

Printed material initially consisting mainly of tracts, printed by contract with local printers, was distributed by cult members and hired help.

Publishing and distributing *Food for Thinking Christians* in 1881 required a huge outlay. There followed *The Tabernacle and its Teachings*, and *Tabernacle Shadows of the Better Sacrifices*.

With the Society officially chartered in 1884 Russell's ministry intensified and his cult grew to hundreds of followers in the eastern states of the USA and the first ones in Canada and Scotland. It became a tradition for them to re-elect Russell annually as their pastor.

In 1886 Russell published *The Plan of the Ages* (renamed *The Divine Plan of the Ages*) which Russell came to regard as the first volume in a seven-volume series.

Pastors who encountered Russell's books warned parishioners against this false prophet and apparently pressured book retailers not to stock them. This led to the introduction of the "colporteur" work in which cult members sold Russell's books from house to house as part of their religious duty.

The seven intended volumes were originally called *Millennial Dawn*, later renamed *Studies in the Scriptures*:

- *The Divine Plan of the Ages* (1886)
- *The Time is at Hand* (1889)
- *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891)
- *The Day of Vengeance* (Renamed *The Battle of Armageddon*) (1897)
- *The At-one-ment Between God and Men* (1899)
- *The New Creation* (1904)

In 1893 colporteurs numbered 114 of whom 72 were fulltime. (wr1893 12/15 1600)

"Bible House", a four-story structure in Alleghany, became Russell's headquarters in 1889. To secure his authority among his followers he made his first overseas trip, to Britain and the Mediterranean, in 1891. Next he appointed "pilgrims" to visit ecclesias (congregations), give sermons, and enforce use of his books. As his power increased Russell referred to himself as "God's mouthpiece". (w1906 7/15 229)

In 1903, newspapers began publishing Russell's sermons. These were syndicated worldwide, eventually reaching 15 million readers via 2000 local newspapers mainly in the United States. Some newspaper stories were also written by Russell himself or close followers and published as paid advertisements masquerading as objective news reports.

As he became more prominent and his Adventist-type prophecies and invisible second coming of Christ better known, his critics increased.

Russell's gospel had these elements:

- The Time of the End is 1799-1914.
- Jesus returned invisibly in 1874.
- The time of trouble would last 40 years 1874-1914, culminating in 1914.
- The rapture or miraculous ascent of his sect would take place by 1914.
- Armageddon, including Christendom's destruction, would occur in 1914.
- World peace and world rule by resurrected patriarchs and prophets would begin in 1914.
  (Studies I 1886, 275-295; Studies II 1889, 188-211, 234-235; Studies III 1891, 23, 59, 150-154, 234-240, 305-306, 362-364; Studies IV 1897, 77-112)

He also reasoned that the culmination of the "time of trouble" in 1914 required that the major nations be weakened before that date by a major war which he anticipated around 1906.

The *Divine Purpose* (1959) book calls Russellism "true light of God's Word" (p.15) even though JWs in 1959 believed very little of it.

Better than the Bible

In 1910 Russell wrote his infamous comment that elevated his views above the Bible:

> If the six volumes of SCRIPTURE STUDIES are practically the Bible topically arranged, with the Bible proof-texts given, we might not improperly name the volumes—the Bible in an arranged form. That is to say, they are not merely *comments* on the Bible, but they 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 SRIPTURE STUDIES aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years—if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the SCRIPTURE STUDIES with their references, and 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)

Since Russell considered the Bible "inspired of God" the above statement implied infallibility for his books and cemented the exclusion of his cult from the Christian mainstream.

Divisions

By 1910 criticism from churches had increased and booklets exposing Russell were being published. Inside Russell's cult his increasing power, stricter oversight and doctrinal revisions sparked repeated "rebellions".

Barbour split off in 1879 and John H. Paton by 1882. William Conley apparently left in 1882 — the annual Lord's Supper was held that year in Russell's father's house not, as previously, in Conley's house.

In 1893-1894 four prominent members united and circulated a paper in which they accused Russell of moral impropriety, exercising "Popelike" power over the church, using the ministry to enrich himself, and financially cheating one of them. Russell answered via a booklet *A Conspiracy Exposed* (1894), which was also published as a supplement to *Zion's Watch Tower* (April 1894), and claimed that their charges were trumped up to subvert his ministry. Russell's wife came to the rescue by visiting numerous congregations to defend him. Then in 1897 she too and her sisters left.

In Melbourne the branch leader E.C. Henninges and his wife Rose Ball (who had supplied letters of support published in *A Conspiracy Exposed* and simultaneously been appointed a director in the Corporation) took

80 of 100 converts with them in 1908. A major revolt in 1911 included the cult's vice president and Russell's private secretary.

The most public confrontation was with Maria, leading to sensational court battles, lurid accusations, and rumours of Russell philandering with Rose Ball.

Maria and Russell had in their relationship with each other lived "celibate lives for eighteen years" from 1879 when they married until 1897 when Maria left Bible House. (Convention Report 1913, 113; Peoples Pulpit 1914, October 1, p.3; 1918, January 1, p.4)

Russell claimed he chose celibacy to focus on his ministry. "Brother" Bohnet's words may suggest homosexuality (but there is no evidence of Russell being active in that way):

> I had for many years been a member of the Bible House family, had eaten and lived there, and even enjoyed your uncomfortable bed-lounge with you on various occasions since the year 1895. (wr1910 3/15 4590)

Although Russell and Maria disagreed on doctrine and on what should be published in *Zion's Watch Tower*, they also had relationship problems exacerbated by the ever-present Rose Ball.

It is clear from court testimony that Rose Ball regularly sat on Russell's lap; they kissed and spent time alone together. In court Russell pretended not to know her age claiming she was a child who looked about 12 to 15. Rutherford and JWs for a century afterwards claimed she arrived at age 10 and was 15 years old in 1894. However, Russell made her a director in the WBTS in 1894 therefore knew she wasn't15! In 1894 she turned 25!

Personality and theology

"Pastor" Russell had an outgoing personality and an ability to hold audiences. There was no sound equipment back then but he was clearly heard. Dignified in frock coat and bowler hat he would bow gracefully and speak without notes, gesturing freely. Russell was professionally friendly, of saintly demeanour and posed readily for photographs.

Russell taught that Christian creeds and traditions were erroneous and that he had a mission to restore 1st-century Christianity

He agreed with other Protestants on the primacy of the Bible, justification by faith and the concept that a Great Apostasy began after the death of the Apostles. He disagreed with the notion of conscious burning in Hellfire and held that people who remained incorrigibly evil would go out of existence. In 1881 he rejected the doctrine of the Trinity and interpreted the holy-spirit as God's (i.e. the Father's or Jehovah's) influence and power.

He taught that 144,000 would rule with Christ in heaven over the rest of creation and that their resurrection to heaven began in 1878. The "great multitude" would have a secondary place in heaven and the remainder of humankind would be resurrected on Earth.

The year 1874 was, to Russell, the year of Christ's invisible Second Coming, and 1878 the year when Jesus became King and rejected all Christian organizations except Russell's.

Russell predicted that a period known as the "gentile times" would end in 1914 at which time Christ would take control of Earth's affairs. He interpreted the outbreak of World War I as the beginning of Armageddon, which would culminate in worldwide anarchy.

He rejected the chronology of the Bible, published by Bishop Usher and calculated that the end of 6000 years from Adam's creation is in 1872.

Russell backed up his chronology and prophetic dates for prophecies as calculated from the Bible with pyramidology. Christian writers, such as Charles Piazzi Smyth and Joseph Seiss believed the Great Pyramid of Giza was built by the Hebrews under God's direction and is "the Bible in stone". Russell regarded the lengths in "pyramid inches" of various passages as pointing to 1874, 1914 and other dates.

Russell also promoted what was later termed Zionism and claimed that God's favor began to be restored to the Jews in 1878. In 1910 he addressed a meeting of thousands of Jews at New York's Hippodrome Theatre.

Russell believed that Palestine belonged to the Jews and God was now calling them to return there. When in 1914/1915 the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets return from the dead, Jerusalem would become the centre of the earthly part of God's Kingdom.

International prominence

As the cult expanded so grew Christian opposition. Several clerics burned Russell's books publicly and warned their congregations against the "false prophet". Polemics via booklets, pamphlets and newspapers escalated. There were public

debates and libel trials. Russell survived all; and as 1914 neared his sect catapulted into prominence.

In 1904 Russell changed his prophetic termination point from "by 1914" to "immediately after 1914". This was because his calculations of 2520 years, measured from 606 BCE, failed to allow for there being no year "0". The year 1 BCE is not followed by Year 0, but by 1 CE. Hopes therefore began centering on 1915 and reprints of *Studies in the Scriptures* had 1914 altered to 1915. When the Russo-Japanese war began in 1904, Russell suggested it would suck in many other nations fulfilling his "expectation". (wr1904 3/1 3327)

Russell travelled to Europe annually. From 1905 there were also annual travelling conventions by hired train around the USA by Russell and up to 240 followers. The 1913 trip covered 12,000km and attracted 40,000 people to conventions in 20 cities. Newspapers began publishing Russell's sermons. Russell had 600 colporteurs plus an "army of tract distributors". (wr1909 12/15 4532) Overseas conventions also became large — 600 attended in Jamaica in 1905 and 4500 in Britain in 1908.

In 1911-1912 Russell with an entourage went on a world cruise by steamship during which he addressed audiences in Pacific and Asian countries. He believed his world cruise was the climax of the preaching and the final fulfilment of Matthew 24:14. In India 70 Russellite ecclesias (congregations) were founded and a village "Russellpuram" named after him.

Meanwhile in Africa Joseph Booth, an Australian Baptist whom Russell sponsored, and convert Elliot Kamwana, baptized 9000 natives in one year.

Miracle Wheat

On March 22, 1911, *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* began publishing articles accusing Russell of profiting from a strain of wheat named "Miracle Wheat" by its discoverer, K.B. Stoner of Virginia in 1903. Critics asserted that Russell had practiced fraud by selling this supposedly advanced strain of wheat at 60 times the normal price for wheat. In 1912 to 1913 *The Brooklyn Eagle* continued to report on the matter. Russell sued for libel, but lost. He defended himself in *The Watch Tower*, claiming that the wheat was donated to the Watch Tower Society, and although sold for $1 per pound Mr. Stoner sold it for a $1.25 per pound. Russell offered dissatisfied buyers a refund but only one demanded a refund. (See: *MIRACLE WHEAT*)

In 1912 John Jacob [J.J.] Ross, a minister from Ontario, Canada authored the booklet *Some Facts about the Self-Styled "Pastor" Charles T. Russell*. Russell took him to court on the charge of libel.

In recent times critics, in particular some ex-JWs, have claimed that Russell was secretly a Free Mason or had close ties with them. It's argued that later editions of *Studies in the Scriptures* portrayed a winged solar disk on the front cover and this is a Masonic symbol. Russell, however, taught that the rituals of Freemasonry and some other secret societies are "grievous evils". (wr1895 6/15 1827) Russell's use of the winged solar-disk was, however, based Malachi 4:2 where the sun with wings is a symbol future restoration.

Extent of Russell's ministry

As 1914 neared, Russell got cautious. He suggested that "immediately after" might mean not 1915 but five, ten or even 25 years later!

In 1913 Russell's sermons were published, often as paid advertisements, in 2000 newspapers of combined circulation 12,000,000. In 1914 his tract distributors and colporteurs numbered 5100. His *Photo Drama of Creation*, an eight-hour movie/slide show with synchronized sound, began attracting millions of viewers.

Table 1 Number Publicising their faith

1881	100
1893	2,000
1899	2,000
1914	5,100
1918	4,100

Table 2 Watch Tower Circulation

1879	6,000
1890	10,000
1900	12,000
1910	30,000
1915	55,000
1916	47,000
1918	c.20,000

Table 3 Newspapers printing Russell's sermons, and circulation totals

1905	5	100,000
1908	11	400,000
1910	500	6,000,000
1912	1,200	14,000,000
1913	2,000	15,000,000
1914	1,000	5,500,000

Table 4 Pamphlets Distributed

1870-1913	228,000,000

1914	71,000,000
1915	55,000,000
1916	30,000,000
1917	31,000,000

Table 5 Books Distributed

1870-1913	6,100,000
1913	865,000
1914	993,000
1915	662,000
1916	453,000
1917	836,000
1918	359,000

1914 World War I

Russell interpreted the outbreak of World War I as the war he had expected which would weaken the major nations leading to global anarchy, Armageddon, and world rule by Israel. He felt it might take ten months. (wr1915 1/15 5632; 1/1 5601)

Decline set in. Many colporteurs withdrew. In India Russellites flocked back to their previous churches. In Germany 380 Russellites joined the army in 1915 and colporteuring ceased. In Africa Russellism sparked a native uprising. In Belgium attendance declined from 500 in 1912 to five in 1918.

Russell pressed on, travelling and speaking. In his life he travelled a million miles, wrote 50,000 pages, preached 30,000 sermons, and dictated up to 1,000 letters monthly. He died from cystitis aboard a Texas train on October 31, 1916.

He was buried in Rosemont United Cemetery, Pittsburgh. The gravesite is marked by a headstone and an eight-foot high pyramid.

The WTS called Russell a "Prophet of the Lord" and claimed all his teachings are "correct":

> Truly there lived among us in these last days a Prophet of the Lord; and although now he has passed from human sight, his works remain an enduring witness to his wisdom and his faithfulness! (w1917 6/1 163)

SEVENTH VOLUME

Following Russell's death the seventh volume, titled *The Finished Mystery* (1917) was published as his "posthumous work". It was a verse by verse interpretation of the books of Revelation and Ezekiel. It was actually compiled by two of Russell's associates, Clayton J. Woodworth and George H. Fisher, and edited by Joseph Franklin Rutherford.

The Finished Mystery finds a lot of Bible prophecy fulfilled in the life and work of Russell and praises him extensively:

> Pastor Russell was the most prolific writer of Biblical truth that ever lived. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 65)
>
> …all his statements were of course correct. (The Finished Mystery 1917 184)

Russell's successor as WTS president, Joseph Rutherford, staked everything on a campaign of denunciation against Christendom announcing its destruction for 1918. Instead, he himself was imprisoned and his organization ruined.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle reported Rutherford's imprisonment under "Conviction Deals Death Blow To Sect Founded By Russell" (1918 6/23 p.25)

Russell still gets lavish praise in WTS publications. He was "fearless" and "bold" with "good fruitage" whereas clergymen were "enemies" and "slanderers". (g1984 12/8 9) He is described as teaching "truth" and "scriptural truth" against which Christian ministers had no "Biblical defence". However, access to his books in JWs libraries is restricted!

RUSSELL, JOSEPH L. (1814-1897)

The father of Charles Taze Russell died, aged 83, in 1897.

His death notice in *Zion's Watch Tower* said in part:

> He was one of the first to accept the harvest message… Altho not gifted as a teacher of the good tidings, either by voice or pen, he manifested his zeal for the LORD and his cause in various ways—he loaned and gave away thousands of tracts and DAWNS, besides contributing financially for their publication. He was one of the founders of the Tract Society; voluntarily giving $1,000 in the first subscription at its organization,—a large donation for his means. (wr1898 1/1 2239)

If $1,000 was "a large donation for his means" we need to question whether the haberdashery business was worth $300,000 as official JWs history has claimed since compared to $300,000 a merely $1000 is not very large.

RUSSELL, MARIA FRANCES (1850 – 1938)
Formerly Maria Frances Ackley who became wife to Charles T. Russell on March 13, 1879, three months after they met at his religious meetings.

The marriage was apparently a mutually agreed celibate partnership for promoting the cult's gospel and Russell later claimed they lived "celibate lives for 18 years".

Mrs Russell contributed 90 signed articles to *Zion's Watch Tower* commencing January 1882. She was also:

- On the Board of Directors of the WBTS from 1884 until February 12, 1900;
- Secretary/Treasurer, i.e. an officer of the WBTS, from 1884 to 1897.
- Associate editor of *Zion's Watch Tower* until October 1886 when she resigned from that position.

The members of the Board of Directors at that time were not viewed as members of a Governing Body. That they were is a myth invented by F.W. Franz in 1944. Rather Russell and his wife were in charge:

> Having up to December 1, 1893, thirty-seven hundred and five (3,705) voting shares, out of a total of sixty-three hundred and eighty-three (6,383) voting shares, Sister Russell and myself, of course, elect the officers, and thus control the Society; and this was fully understood by the Directors from the first. Their usefulness, it was understood, would come to the front in the event of our death. (w1891 February , p.16)

Mrs Russell wrote a 96-page poem *The Wonderful Story* (1890) published by the Society and also contributed theologically to the content of the first four volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*.

Zion's Watch Tower for July 15, 1906, says:

> THIRTEEN BLISSFUL YEARS
>
> From 1871-1879, while engaged in mercantile business, I was also engaged in promulgating "Present Truth." My earliest efforts were in connection with Bible Classes in Pittsburgh and Allegheny. Later I published a paper in New York State, to whose columns others as well as myself were contributors. During 1877 and 1878 I travelled extensively throughout New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia and Kentucky, leaving my several stores in the hands of trusted representatives, visiting them for supervision occasionally.
>
> In 1878 my associate who had been attending to the paper fell from faith in the redemptive work of Christ, which led to a controversy in the columns of the paper, he denying the ransom and I affirming it, until it became evident that a paper divided against itself could not stand. My associate seized and appropriated to himself the office outfit, type, etc., which I had paid for. This led me to project our present journal, ZION'S WATCH TOWER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE, as a defense of the great foundation doctrine of the Ransom and in general promulgation of the "meat in due season." The starting of the paper was delayed until July, 1879, and this left me for several months continuously at Allegheny, where, in addition to the usual meetings, I conducted several series of meetings in the interest of the public in this vicinity.
>
> Considerable numbers were brought in contact with the Truth at this time. Amongst others was a Maria Frances Ackley, who became my wife within three months of her first attendance at these meetings, which was the beginning of our acquaintance. The Truth seemingly appealed to her heart, and she assured me it was what she had been seeking for many years—the solution of perplexities of long standing. For thirteen years she was a most devoted and loyal wife in every sense of the word.

Mrs Russell left her husband in November 1897. She later wrote two books *The Twain One* and *This Gospel of the Kingdom* (1906) plus a pamphlet titled *Readers of Zion's Watch Tower and Millennial Dawn: Attention!*

JWs claim the Russells were not divorced. In June 1903, however Mrs Russell filed for legal separation, a limited divorce, on grounds of mental cruelty in the Pittsburgh Court of Common Pleas. A limited divorce would assure her of alimony (whereas a full divorce would not) but the parties to it could not remarry.

The case went to trial in 1906 and Mrs Russell won. During the trial her attorney alleged sexual misconduct between Russell and Watch Tower stenographer Rose Ball. Russell claimed he didn't know Rose Ball's age and suggested she was 13 to 15 but could be mistaken for 10. However, Rose Ball died and was buried in Melbourne where records place

her year of birth as 1869. She was also a director of the WBTS (A Conspiracy Exposed 1894, p.56), therefore obviously older than 15, and Russell knew it. When she regularly sat her on his lap, was kissed, and spent time alone with him, to the annoyance of Mrs Russell, she was 24-25 and Charles Russell 41-42.

Russell didn't want to pay alimony, therefore appealed against the divorce. *Russell vs Russell 37 Pa. Superior Ct. 348 — 1908* gives the Court's decision to his appeal. The final paragraph stated:

> To warrant the granting of a divorce on the ground of the conduct of the part of either the husband or the wife, as to render the condition of the other party intolerable and life burdensome, where there is no proof of overt bodily harm actually inflicted or threatened, the evidence should be strong and convincing, the course of ill-treatment complained of must have been long continued, and of a serious character. The conditions exacted by these decisions, have been fully and clearly met by the libellant, and the proof adduced by her on the trial fully warranted the verdict rendered. No error being found in the record the assignments of error are overruled and the judgment is affirmed. (p.354)

Mrs Russell now sued for alimony. To avoid payment Russell fled to New York and founded the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York and turned his assets over to it. A warrant was issued in Pennsylvania for his arrest, but members of his cult raised the money and the debt was paid.

Mrs Russell subsequently received no recognition from her husband or the WTS. Her final work was an unpublished 600-page manuscript titled *The Eternal Purpose*.

Maria Russell died in St. Petersburg, Florida, in August 1938 from complications of Hodgkin's disease.

RUSSELL, MARIA — OBITUARY

The obituary of Maria Frances Russell (1850-1938) states:

> MRS. MARIA F. RUSSELL Funeral services for Mrs. Maria F. Russell, well-known religious worker who died Saturday night, will be held this morning at 10:30 o'clock at the John S. Rhodes funeral chapel with the Rev. E.R. Barnard officiating. Burial will be in Royal Palm Cemetery. (St. Petersburg Times, Tuesday, March 15, 1938)

Research by one Christopher Gross, shared on the Internet in 2007, says:

> E.R. Barnard … was the Pastor of the West Central Presb. Church, 2627 1st Ave. N.
> Also discovered was the home in which Maria Russell lived, 516 14th Ave. N. She did, in fact, live with her niece Mabel Packard (deceased 1961 or 1962) who kept the same residence till her death and evidently had no children or other relatives known in the area. Also sharing the home residence was Mabel's husband Richard Packard (deceased in 1950's) and Emma Russell (1855-1929) who was Maria's fleshly sister and the widow of Joseph L. Russell, C.T. Russell's father. The four are buried on a family plot … purchased in 1923 by Maria and Emma indicating that they made their way to the St. Peterburg area in, at least, the early 1920's…

Mabel R. Packard, the daughter of Joseph L. Russell, and half sister of C.T. Russell, died in November 1961. Her death was recorded in a Bible Student Paper; *THE HERALD of Christ's Kingdom*, Volume XLV, January/February 1962.

RUSSELL, MARIA — THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM (1906)

A 100-page book authored by C.T. Russell's former wife nine years after their separation, in which she describes her view of salvation and the "Gospel of the Kingdom".

She says human history is foreshadowed by the 7-day week which represents 7000 years. The Sabbath represents the 7th 1000-year period during which the world will be made perfect and the dead resurrected. A "little flock" has progressively, since the first century, been chosen to rule with Christ throughout the seventh "day". Everyone else is resurrected during that seventh "day" and will be punished or praised according to their previous life and transform Earth into a paradise.

The current world will end in "unparalleled tribulation":

> Thus during these six days (six thousand years) God has been pursuing the course of a wise and benevolent Father in preparing for the appointed restitution work of the seventh day, while permitting man to take his own

> independent course and to learn his folly by bitter experience—a course that has brought only sorrow and sighing at every step, and which shall end, as foretold by the prophets, in "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21.
>
> Thus endeth the sixth day of this great work… (p.23)
>
> Consider … that the end, the harvest of the age, is now here; that we are living in the midst of its telling events … the foretold catastrophe of the near future … the end of the present order of things is surely at hand. (p.32)

During that "tribulation" the "overcomers" who have "joint heirship with Christ" and constitute the "bride of Christ" and "kingdom class" "shall have special protection". (p.40)

The time before the tribulation is a "harvest" period:

> *Within this harvest period* "the dead in Christ"—those members of the overcoming church who died previous to the harvest period—"shall rise first." 1 Thes. 4:16, 17. But their resurrection will not be visible to human conditions, will not be known to the world, for they will be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body... The true, overcoming, victorious church will be silently and invisibly gathered together in the heavenly garner, while yet the church nominal stands in its accustomed place before the world… (pp 68-69)

The "great religious systems" will then be "completely thrown down".

There will also be an "earthly phase of the kingdom" composed of "overcoming people of God who lived and died prior to the first advent of Christ. (p.88)

Maria's book is in effect Russell's *Millennial Dawn* gospel with prophetic dates replaced with the words "shortly" and "near". Perhaps this is the conflict that Russell complained ruined their marriage — he wanted to retain precise dates whereas Mrs Russell didn't.

RUSSELL SUPERVISING FROM HEAVEN

After C.T. Russell died in 1916 his followers believed that he and other dead "saints" continued to guide the WTS from Heaven:

> Hence our dear Pastor, now in glory, is without doubt, manifesting a keen interest in the harvest work, and is permitted by the Lord to exercise some strong influence thereupon. (Revelation 14:17) It is not unreasonable to conclude that he has been privileged to do, in connection with the harvest work, things which he could not do while with us. Although we recognize that the Lord is the great Master and Director of the harvest, yet we recognize that he would privilege the saints beyond the veil to have a part in the work on this side; and thus all the saints, both in heaven and upon the earth, are now given the honor of concluding the work on this side, preparatory to the full establishment of the kingdom of glory. (wr1917 11/1 6161)
>
> [Rev. 8:3] This verse shows that, though Pastor Russell has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the Harvest work.
> (The Finished Mystery 1917, 144)
>
> …we hold that he supervises, by the Lords arrangement, the work yet to be done. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 256)

This doctrine became foolish in 1927 when Rutherford changed the resurrection to heaven from 1878 to 1918:

> No one of the temple company will be so foolish as to conclude that some brother (or brethren) at one time amongst them, and who has died and gone to heaven, is now instructing the saints on earth and directing them as to their work. (Jehovah 1934, 191)

Belief in supervision from heaven by resurrected individuals which was true in 1917 but foolish in 1934 became sensible again in 1988:

> This suggests that resurrected ones of the 24-elders group may be involved in the communicating of divine truths today. (Revelation Its Grand Climax At Hand! 1988, 125)

(See also: *CHANNELING*)

RUSSELL'S RELATIVES

In the Allegheny Census of 1850 Joseph Lytel Russell (Charles Taze Russell's father) was listed as a white male, born in Ireland, occupation merchant. His wife Anne Russell is listed as a white female, aged 26, born in Ireland.

In the Pittsburgh Census of 1870 J.L. Russell was listed as aged 55, occupation Shirtstore. Charles Taze Russell was also recorded in

1870 as aged 17, and his sister Margaret as aged 11.

The 1850 Census also listed an "F. Russell", a white male aged 0. The Census in 1880 recorded a Francis Russell, aged 31, white married male, born in England, whose parents were both born in Ireland. He had a wife Sarah and two children Alice M. and Frank. Possibly C.T. Russell had a never-mentioned older brother!

Joseph L. Russell had a brother Charles Tays Russell (i.e. the uncle of Charles Taze Russell) who died in the 1870s.

Russell's wife had three sisters who lived in Pennsylvania — Emma H. (1855-1929), Laura Raynor and Lena Guilbert.

Joseph Russell married Emma in his old age — therefore Charles Taze Russell's sister-in-law was also his stepmother!

Russell and his wife Maria had a foster daughter, Rose Ball, who with her younger brother joined the household in 1888 when she was 18. Official JWs history, however, says Rose was 10 or 12 when "adopted" — thus reducing her age by about 8 years. Russell often sat Rose on his lap — a practice Maria Russell objected to!

Rose married E.C. Henninges who had joined the Russell cult in 1891. Henninges opened the British Branch office in 1900 and married Rose after this. The two opened the Melbourne Branch office in 1904, but defected in 1908. They started a group, the New Covenant church, which still exists and distributes religious literature.

Charles Russell's younger sister Margaret (Mae for short) married and became Mae Land. She had three children — Joseph R. Land, Alice, and May. Mae Land defected from the Rutherford's cult but remained in another division of Russellism. The magazine *The Herald of Christ's Kingdom* published a letter from her son (i.e. Russell's nephew) in 1932:

> We have just left the last meeting where dear Brother Blackburn spoke to us those "wonderful words of life," and I want to say I have not heard a more glorious, heart-searching, heaven-ringing sermon, since I last heard our dear Brother Russell, that dear servant of God. Am still feeling that upward pull on my heart strings.
> I write to you, dear brethren, who have so loyally and fearlessly helped many of God's consecrated ones back into the fold, after such a scattering as we have received…
> How my heart throbbed with joy when I read your booklet—"A Message to the Watchers and to All Who Mourn in Zion." What an encouragement to each to press on in the Narrow Way, especially now when we see how many have fallen, once at our side, and as we thought then, well nigh the goal. Dear ones, count me as one, ever on your side, as long as you thus show that "Spirit of Christ."…
> My wife, Sister Land, joins me in love. Our prayers are for your encouragement and blessing…
> Joseph R. Land—Calif.

RUSSELLISM, BOOKS CRITICAL of

C.T. Russell's cult attracted published criticism from other religions. Here are a few references

- Coombs, J.V. 1904 *Religious Delusions*, The Standard Publishing Company
- Moore, C.W. 1910? *Millennial Dawn Its Teachings and Errors*, John Ritchie Publisher
- Eaton, E.L. 1911 *The Millennial Dawn Heresy*, Eaton & Mains
- Burridge, J.H. 1912 *"Pastor" Russell's Teaching on The Coming of Christ*, Old Gospel Publishing
- Ardill, G.E. 1915? *Millennial Dawnism*, The Evangelisation Society of NSW
- Haldeman, Issac M. c.1915 *Two Men and Russellism*, C.C. Cook
- Stevens, W.C. 1915 *Arraignment of Millennial Dawn*
- Biederwolf, W.M. 1911 & c.1916 *Russellism Unveiled*
- Pollock, P.J. 1917 *Millennial Dawnism Briefly Tested By Scripture*, Green & Co.
- Irvine, W.C. 1917/1919 *Timely Warnings / Heresies Exposed*, The Scripture Literature Depot
- Saleeby, A.A. c.1919 *Truth Triumphant*, Eugene L. Graves, Inc.
- Maynard, J.A. 1926 *Russellism*, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
- Shadduck, B.H. 1928 *The Seven Thunders of Millennial Dawn*
- Clarke, Rev. C.L. c.1932 *Russell, Rutherford and the Heresies of Jehovah's Witnesses*, The Christian Workers Depot
- Best, J. c.1933 "Big Business" in Religion, Baxter & Stubbs
- Hunt, Marion P. c.1934 *The Exposure of Millennial Dawnism*, Pentecostal Publishing
- Russell, Olive B. c.1934 *Punctured Bubbles, The Errors of Russellism*, O.B. Russell
- Lambert, O.C. c.1940 *Russellism and Unveiled*, Lambert & Sons

RUSSELLISM/RUSSELLITE
A name or label applied by Christians and critics to Russell's cult including his system of prophecy and theology. The name "Russellites" was not used or endorsed by Russell.

RUSSELLITE
A follower of Pastor Russell — a term used by critics of the *Watch Tower*.

RUSSIA
Peak publishers and Memorial attendance in Russia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2000	114,300	1,289	267,600	550
2005	142,400	1,019	267,400	543
2010	162,200	875	278,800	509
2013	168,100	856	283,200	508
2015	175,600	832	294,200	491
2016	171,800	850	293,900	497

The statistics for Russia were discontinued in 2017.

RUSSIAN-JAPANESE WAR
Until 1904 Russell's chronology and prophetic scheme required a European war to occur sometime near 1906 which would weaken the European nations and permit Armageddon to start about 1910 and consist of uprisings and interclass violence worldwide.

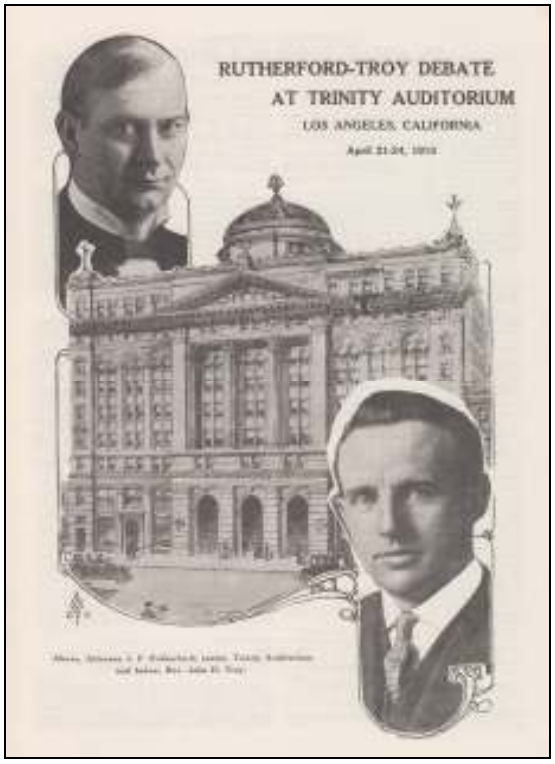
Therefore when the Russo-Japanese war broke out in 1904 Russell suggested that it could suck in all the European nations. (w1904 3/1 3327)

RUTH
An Old Testament woman who pictured converts to the Organization of JWs from 1919 to 1935 and who became members of the "remnant" of the 144,000. (See: *NAOMI; PICTURES*)

The story of Ruth is in the book of Ruth which Russell said is not prophetic but which Rutherford made prophetic:

> While the Book of Ruth is not prophetical, but merely historical, it is valuable to us in various ways… (wr1902 11/15 3110)
>
> Not only is the book historical, but it is prophetic, the fulfilment of which prophecy takes place in these present days… (Preservation 1932, 169)

RUTHERFORD — TROY DEBATE



A public debate on four theological topics between Rutherford and Baptist minister Reverend John H. Troy in 1915.
(See details under: *TROY, J.H.*)

RUTHERFORD, J.F. (1869-1942)
Joseph Franklin Rutherford was the WBTS's second president and exercised one-man rule from 1917 until 1942. He authored most of the WTS's books and booklets as well as articles in *The Watchtower*.

***Proclaimers* book summary**

The *Proclaimers* book's biography of Rutherford says:

> Joseph Franklin Rutherford was born of Baptist parents on a farm in Morgan County, Missouri, U.S.A., on November 8, 1869. When Joseph was 16, his father consented to his attending college, provided that he pay his own way and that he pay for a hired laborer to take his place on the farm. A determined young man, Joseph secured a loan from a friend and managed to go to college while also studying law.
>
> After completing his academy education,

Rutherford spent two years under the tutelage of Judge E. L. Edwards. By the time he was 20, he became the official court reporter for the courts of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in Missouri. On May 5, 1892, his license to practice law in Missouri was granted. Rutherford later served for four years as public prosecutor for Boonville, Missouri. Still later, he served on occasion as a special judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri. That is why he came to be known as "Judge" Rutherford. (1993, p.67)

Map of Missouri counties showing Cooper County and south of it Morgan County both shaded. Boonville is at the northern boundary of Cooper County; Versailles near the center of Morgan County



Family

Rutherford's parents James Calvin (c.1837-1912) and Lenora Strickland (1843-1926) were married for almost 50 years. They lived on a small farm 5km north of Versailles in Morgan County and were members of the nearby Free Baptist Church.

The 1880 census lists their children:

- Virginia aged 20 — school teacher
- Anna aged 19
- Salena aged 17
- William aged 15
- Florence aged 13
- Joseph aged 11
- Bertie aged 4

Two more, James B. and Ella, were born later.

The three Rutherford brothers, Will, Joseph and Bertie, along with their parents and sisters, were members of the nearby Freedom Baptist Church. Sunday School records list William and Joseph as "scholars" in 1882. William became an official church member at age 18 but was removed in 1885 and probably left the family farm soon afterwards.

Three of Rutherford's sisters and one brother died in the 1930s. Two sisters Virginia Ross and Ella Newkirk survived until approximately 1970. Rutherford's younger brother, James B. Rutherford lived in Kansas City. Rutherford's father died on July 11, 1912 and his mother on October 9, 1926. She died an invalid and blind, and Rutherford spoke at her funeral. Both of the parents remained Baptists until death and were buried in the cemetery near their church.

Apparently the oldest sister, Virginia Ross, is the only family member besides J.F. Rutherford to join the cult of C.T. Russell.

Studies; Attorney

Rutherford entered teachers college at 16. His father was not against education but required Joseph's help for chores and planting since the older brother and the sisters had probably already left home, and the younger brother was only aged 9, and for that reason required Joseph to pay for a hired substitute. Rutherford afterwards, probably in 1888, taught at an elementary school.

Rutherford's enrolment at law school could have been in 1887 or 1888. In 1889 he attended vocational school to study shorthand and typing and thereafter worked as a court stenographer at Versailles and Boonville. In 1890 Judge Edwards appointed Rutherford as the court reporter for the First Judicial Circuit, which job he did until December 1892.

An 1891 issue of *The National Stenographer* had a photo and biographical sketch of Rutherford when aged 21 or 22:



Mr. J. F. Rutherford, whose portrait appears on another page of this issue, (notes on page 272) is the official court reporter in the First Judicial Circuit of

> Missouri, located at Boonville. He received his shorthand education at the Normal Shorthand Institute, Carbondale, Ill. Mr. Rutherford is one of the foremost writers of the Sloan-Duployan system of shorthand; is young in the profession, but, having followed Legal work exclusively since finishing his shorthand course at the above named school, *and having been a law student previous to that time*, he is gradually, but surely, marching toward the top of his profession. Mr. Rutherford has reported some noted cases, among which are the Turlington murder case, Otterville train robbers, trail of Ex-treasurer E.T. Noland, and has reported several prominent speakers, including Roger R. Mills and others; all of which speaks well for his ability.-Melton.

Rutherford was admitted to the Boonville bar (i.e. obtained a license to practice law) in May, 1892 in Cooper County, after passing an oral exam conducted by a panel of local attorneys. He became an attorney and one of three partners with Draffen & Company which practiced law, sold insurance, brokered real-estate and made loans.

In 1893 Rutherford argued his first criminal case in Circuit Court. There is a website that describes details of the following court cases he was involved in:

DAVID NICHOLSON v. CHARLES MERSTETTER and NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY: A 1894-1897 Missouri appellate court case.

HESS v. DRAFFEN & COMPANY: A 1900?-1903 Missouri civil court case in which the Draffen & Company Law Firm was sued for allegedly committing fraud in the sale of stock.

CASTLEMAN v. CASTLEMAN: A 1897-1904 Supreme Court of Missouri case.

JOHN PURSLEY v. HENRY GOOD: A 1900-1902 Court of Appeals of Missouri decision in which Rutherford privately counseled and represented at trial a client who committed fraud and lied under oath.

ALEXANDER v. ALEXANDER: A Supreme Court of Missouri case in which Rutherford was co-counsel to a Cooper County farmer who died without making a will.

MING v. OLSTER: A 1905 Supreme Court of Missouri ownership dispute involving a farm. The Plaintiff's legal team hired Rutherford as their co-counsel.

F.P. COOK v. PETER HECHT: A 1895 Court of Appeals of Missouri civil lawsuit lost and later appealed by Rutherford.

[jwdivorces.bravehost.com/rutherford.html]

"Judge"

Whenever a presiding judge was absent a local attorney was chosen as substitute in minor court cases. Rutherford served as judge on four days — 2/17/1897, 6/3/1899, 3/15/1905, and 3/29/1905 and heard routine cases on two of those days. Many attorneys served in this capacity but would not have titled themselves "judge". Rutherford was never again a substitute judge during all the years he called himself "Judge Rutherford".

During his attorney years he compiled a 128 page book titled *Laws Of Missouri Compilation of the Laws and Legal Forms for the Convenience of Farmers and Mechanics Merchants And Banker Business Manual* (n.d. Stahl & Stahl). The publishers' preface says he was "one of the leading members of the Boonville bar."

Marriage

Rutherford married Mary Fetzer, both aged 22, on December 30, 1891, at the home of Mary and her widowed mother in Boonville.

With the Russellites

Rutherford was contacted by two female Russellite colporteurs in 1894 and purchased three volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*. He and his wife liked the books and he ordered more. (wr1894 4/15 1646) He was baptized in 1906 and went to New York in 1907 to serve as legal counsellor for Russell and the WBTS.

He gained quick prominence, indicated by him being listed among the speakers at a convention at Niagara Falls in 1907 attended by 2000 people:

> The following speakers gave longer or shorter addresses, and some of them several: Brothers W.M. Hersee, I. Hoskins, R.E. Streeter, J. Harrison, W. E. VanAmburgh, **J.F. Rutherford**, P.S.L. Johnson, F. W. Williamson, O. L. Sullivan, G. Draper, J.H. Cole, L.W. Jones, T.E. Barker, S. Walker, J. Hutchinson, W.J. Mills, W.E. Page, C.A. Dann, J.G. Kuehn, A.C. Wise, and the Editor of this journal. (wr1907 10/1 4066)

Although Russell had turned against holding public debates Rutherford debated with Baptist minister Reverend Troy in 1915 on four

topics. Troy referred to the prophecies failing at the time (i.e. for 1914-1915) and said:

> Of all the rot, of all the evaporated nonsense that I ever worried my brains to get to the bottom of, this Millennial Dawn stuff takes the prize.

During Rutherford's presidency of the WTS his wife was often sick and never mentioned in WTS publications. If she was a JW she was not deeply involved, and they divorced after "five years of scandal". She died in 1962 in California. Their son Malcolm was at the Rutherford-Troy debates in 1915 assisting his father by running errands but apparently had no further involvement after that.

For the first years of his presidency Rutherford gained the support of the majority of Russell's followers by stating that Russell's teachings will not be contradicted. In a *Watchtower* article titled "A Tribute to the Seventh Messenger" he wrote:

> God … used Pastor Russell as an antitype of Ezekiel to make clear to Bible students the real meaning of these events as they came to pass…
>
> The great drama of the Gospel age opened with the Apostle Paul as the chief messenger, or angel, to the church. It closes with Pastor Russell as the seventh, and last, messenger to the church militant. For the other five epochs of, the church the Lord provided messengers in the order named: St. John, Arius, Waldo, Wycliffe and Luther… The two most prominent messengers, however, are the first and last—St. Paul and Pastor Russell…
>
> Lord Jesus, in his great prophetic statement in Matthew 24:45-47, made known the fact that at the end of the age he would be present and would have a special servant whom he would "make ruler over all his house to give meat in due season to the household." For many years Christian people of all denominations have been looking for the manifestation of that promised servant. For several years some have recognized, and now many more are recognizing, that Pastor Russell is that servant. (wr1917 11/1 6591)

Rutherford and the WBTS Editorial Committee were prosecuted and imprisoned in 1918 under the Espionage Act for discouraging American participation in World War I. They were released in 1919 pending a retrial, which never took place since the threat to American security was over.

Having secured control of the WBTS Rutherford progressively altered hundreds of Russell's interpretations. For example, Russell lost his "faithful and wise servant" status:

> Some have claimed that the scripture, "The faithful and wise servant," specifically applies to Pastor Russell. He never made that claim himself. (w1927 2/15/ 56)

Description

Penton (1985) describes Rutherford:

> Rutherford was a big man, who, by his very presence, could demand respect. He had a loud, booming voice, and looked every inch like a southern or border-state American senator. In relating to friends he could be despotic; in dealing with enemies, ruthless... In fact, he was moody and sometimes blunt to the point of rudeness with an explosive temper that could occasionally excite him to physical violence. He also had a streak of self righteousness which caused him to regard anyone who opposed him as of the Devil. But most curious was the fact that while in some ways he was a Puritan of Puritans, in others he was thoroughly dissolute. He used vulgar language, suffered from alcoholism, and was once publicly accused by one of his closest associates of attending a nude burlesque show with two fellow elders and a young Bible Student woman on a Wednesday evening before the celebration of the Memorial…" Penton 1985)

Agenda of bitterness

When Russell died he left behind three corporations, doctrines, faulty chronology, a stance of political neutrality, an anti-Christendom stance, centralized control enforced by travelling "pilgrims", policies for meetings and use of law courts, and established-patterns for publicising the faith including books and *The Watch Tower*.

By 1932 Rutherford had built these legacies into a united global preaching machine dominated by himself. His intention was to induce people everywhere to leave their churches and join his religion. (See: *GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION*)

Rutherford was embittered by:

- The failure of Russell's prophecies;
- The break-up of Russell's cult in 1918;
- His imprisonment;
- Hypocrisy in mainline churches;
- His exposure as a fraud by his false prophecies;
- Sympathy for the victims of World War I.

The Bible says, "See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness spring up and cause trouble and by it the many become defiled…" (Hebrews 12:15) Rutherford's bitterness led him to overturn Russell's Will and Testament, make himself a dictator over Russell's followers, and send them on campaigns of denunciation against "Christendom" in an effort to cause the "uprising of the masses" which Russell had predicted would spark Armageddon.

He maximized his control over his followers by minimizing their opportunities for dialogue. Meetings consisted of reading his publications and answering questions by quoting from the paragraphs. Dialogue with the public was minimized by use of testimony cards and phonographs whereby books and booklets were offered and sold without much discussion. Talk about evolution especially was forbidden:

> A Christian who obeys this command can not indulge in discussion of the theory of evolution concerning man.
> (Reconciliation 1928, 58)

Rutherford propounded the conspiracy hypothesis that war is caused by "big business" and religion motivated by profits. This is a hypothesis without merit — one historian wrote: "The illusion that war was inspired by private manufacturers has taken a long time to die out."

Some psychological theories state that children who are rarely praised and get little parental affection become adults who belittle others to gain relief from feelings of worthlessness. Scant affection was probably Rutherford's childhood — his father, for example, gave no support to Rutherford's college plans so that he had to sell encyclopedias door to door to support himself. Then came being deceived by Russellism with all those failed prophecies for 1914-1915, followed (in 1918) by Rutherford's prophecies also exposed as false and many Russellites deserting him. When his power over the cult was secure he regularly inflicted humiliation on individuals during meal times in the Bethel dining room by criticising them through a microphone and asking all who agreed to stand.

His hate for Christianity is indicated by his doctrine that only in his organization can people get salvation:

> All who have taken their stand on the side of Jehovah must abide in his organization under Christ, if they would live. There is no exception to this rule. (w1934 8/15 248)

Rutherford wrote: "The greatest crime that can be committed is to wilfully betray a trust, resulting in injury to another. It makes the perpetrator of the wrong a wicked and nefarious creature." This sums Rutherford up. He "betrayed the trust" of his followers with false predictions masquerading as "Bible prophecy", and with ever-changing interpretations masquerading as "the truth", and by public slander against churches in print and on radio which involved his followers in fights and riots.

On the phonograph record promoting his book *Enemies* (1937) Rutherford said in part:

> There are many different religions, all of which are deceptive, are the instruments of the enemy Satan, and all work to the injury of men. This book submits the conclusive proof that for more than fifteen hundred years a great religious system, operating out of Rome, has by means of fraud and deception brought untold sorrow and suffering upon the people. It operates the greatest racket ever employed amongst men and robs the people of their money and destroys their peace of mind and freedom of action. That religious system is vigorously pushing its political schemes amongst all the nations of earth, with the avowed purpose of seizing control of the nations and ruling the people by cruel dictators.

This and similar was standard comment on JWs phonographs, on radio, in broadcasts from "sound cars" patrolling the streets, and in *The Golden Age* and *Consolation* magazines, and in booklets and books, and *The Watchtower*. And it led to trouble. Sometimes JWs were physically thrown off properties and their phonographs smashed. (If squads of ex-JWs were to target the homes and kingdom halls of JWs with inflammatory criticism after being told to stay away JWs too would make trouble!)

Character whitewashed

JWs leaders today whitewash Rutherford's character:

> …like an understanding and loving father … a fine example … when addressing God he sounded just like a little boy talking to his daddy … a man of spiritual stature. (w1984 10/1 24-25)

This merely tells us that those who stayed in Rutherford's cult supported him, which they did, and that he was a very effective speaker, which he was, but the same is true of Adolf Hitler.

Rutherford's writings were from the Lord

Rutherford wrote 23 books and 68 booklets for his cult, sometimes assisted from 1928 onwards by former theology student F.W. Franz. He declared his writings to be of "the Lord" transferred to him by angels — by angels and not the Holy Spirit because in 1918 the Holy Spirit, he claimed, was taken away:

> By his spirit, the holy spirit, Jehovah God guides or leads his people up to a certain point of time, and thus he did until the time when "the comforter" was taken away, which would necessarily occur when Jesus, the Head of his organization, came to the temple and gathered unto himself those whom he found faithful when he, as the great Judge, began his judgment, in 1918. (Preservation, 1932, 193-194, 46)

> These angels are invisible to human eyes and are there to carry out the orders of the Lord. No doubt they first hear the instruction which the Lord issues to his remnant and then these invisible messengers pass such instruction on to the remnant. The facts show that the angels of the Lord with him at his temple have been thus rendering sacred service unto the remnant since 1919. (Vindication III, 1932, 250)

Rutherford wrote virtually everything except *The Golden Age* himself. In effect, Rutherford was God's substitute.

Prophecy, drinking and Christendom

After the failure of his prophecies for 1925 Rutherford developed a much-criticized drinking problem, which in turn motivated him to write against "prohibition". The loss of many of his followers from 1926 to 1929 embittered him further.

Beth Sarim — the house in California for the resurrected Old Testament heroes — was built in 1929. It became Rutherford's winter residence, and also the means for other WTS officials to get "the drunken and declining Rutherford" out of Brooklyn. Ex-followers have accused him of smuggling alcoholic drinks into Brooklyn Bethel during the Prohibition era, ignoring homosexual activities at branch offices and letting "Bethelites" frequent a nearby brothel.

Rutherford's predictions of Christendom's destruction failed in 1918, 1920, 1925 and the 1930s, and the public did not desert their religions in millions as he had hoped. To create such an exodus would require more than provoking a lot of public controversy. It would require an ever expanding program of indoctrination in private homes. Rutherford announced, "God purposes to convert the world by preaching". (w1929 10/15 316) He imagined "vast billions coming out of all the kingdoms of the world". (Schnell 1971) This led to the doctrine in the 1930s of converting a "great crowd" or "great multitude" via home "Bible studies", with converts sent out to start studies with others, who in turn also go out and preach, and so on.

Rutherford's new date for Armageddon, the 1940s, can be understood as an attempt to keep his followers enthused, either until much of the world's population had joined up or had been persuaded to rise up and destroy their religious organizations.

He died on January 8, 1942 in San Diego. WTS officials wanted him buried on the Beth Sarim property but local authorities did not permit.

RUTHERFORD, MARY & MALCOLM

J.F. Rutherford married Mary M. Fetzer in December 1891 when both were aged 22 at the home of her widowed mother in Boonville.

In the 1920s and 1930s Rutherford travelled extensively and had several residences including Beth Sarim in San Diego, California. However, his wife and son, Malcolm, never seemed to be with him and no one seemed to inquire about them. Even when Rutherford stayed at Beth Sarim, his wife and son apparently did not visit him, although Mary took up residence in Monrovia, Los Angeles County, less than 200km away in 1923.

Mary was the only child of Dr. John Fetzer of Missouri who was a surgeon in the Union Army and died in 1884. She was raised in Cooper County in central Missouri and died in 1962 in California.

Malcolm C. Rutherford (1892-1989) became an attorney in California. He was present at his father's debate with Reverend Troy in 1915 but apparently took no part in the religion after his

father took it over — he is not mentioned in WTS publications. In 1918 Malcolm married a Pauline S. born in 1897).

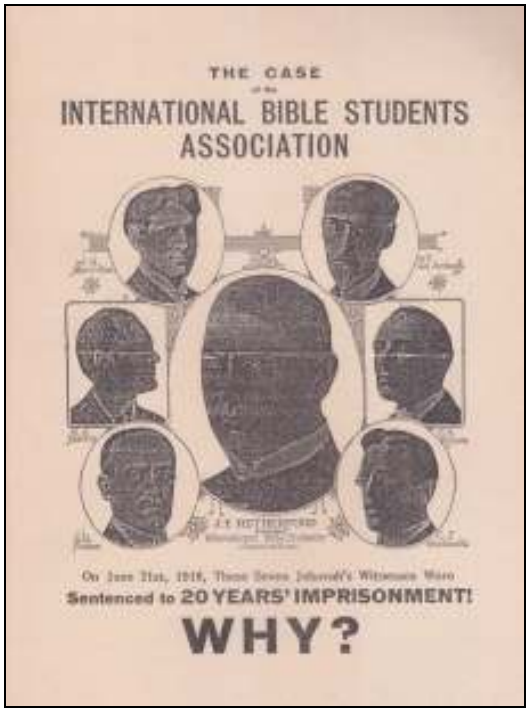
RUTHERFORD'S IMPRISONMENT

In 1917 the United States entered the First World War and enacted the "espionage act".

Slosson (1958) writes:

> The espionage act of June 15, 1917, forbade false statements which might injure the prosecution of the war, incitements to disloyalty, obstruction of recruiting, and similar attempts to impede the activities of the government. The act of May 16, 1918, defined as seditious and punishable all disloyal language and attacks on the government, the army and navy, or the cause of the United States in the war. Under these statutes, and even more drastic legislation, many agitators who denounced the war or pointed to it as the nemesis of capitalism were jailed.

Rutherford and the WBTS Editorial Committee were prosecuted in 1918 under the Espionage Act for discouraging American participation in World War I and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

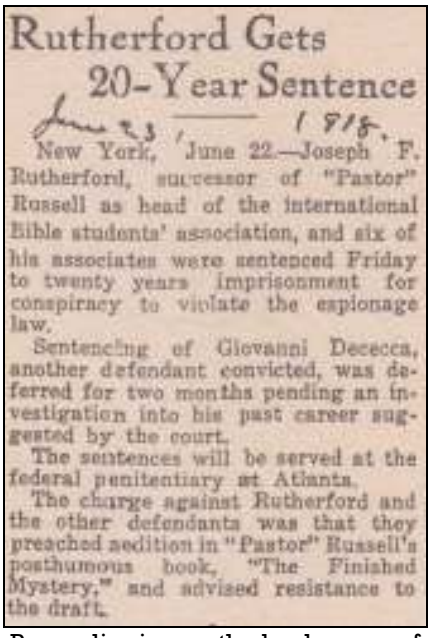


Transcript of the court case, 749 pages, from Witness Inc.

The Finished Mystery (1917), which Rutherford had authorized, predicted that the destruction of the religions of Christendom would start in 1918. The book suggested a major news flash on or about April 27th indicating the start of that destruction:

> ... the realization that Christendom is smitten by the onslaughts of revolution, might be expected to flash throughout the world on or about April 27, 1918, a year, five months and twenty-six days after the death of God's great watchman. As in Ezekiel 24:27, this would be a sign, an indication to Christendom of the truth of Pastor Russell's commission from the Almighty. (p.530)

Ironically, the anticipated date for Christendom's destruction was close to the date of Rutherford's own imprisonment and a big decline in the fortunes of the WTS! This reversal must have been humiliating because it convincingly exposed Russellism as a false-prophecy cult.


Rutherford Gets
20-Year Sentence

June 23, 1918.

New York, June 22.—Joseph F. Rutherford, successor of "Pastor" Russell as head of the international Bible students' association, and six of his associates were sentenced Friday to twenty years imprisonment for conspiracy to violate the espionage law.

Sentencing of Giovanni Dececca, another defendant convicted, was deferred for two months pending an investigation into his past career suggested by the court.

The sentences will be served at the federal penitentiary at Atlanta.

The charge against Rutherford and the other defendants was that they preached sedition in "Pastor" Russell's posthumous book, "The Finished Mystery," and advised resistance to the draft.

Press clipping on the back cover of the Witness Inc. Court Transcript

Rutherford blamed the churches for his downfall and thought up an agenda for revenge, declaring: "I'll take the dagger of truth, and I'll rip the innards out of old Babylon." (Yearbook 1975, p.115) By "innards" he apparently meant church members — he would destroy the churches by taking away their people.

Rutherford and co-prisoners were released in 1919 pending a retrial which never took place because WW1 and the threat to American security were over.

RUTHERFORD RACKET, THE (1939)

Critique of Rutherford and JWs by Charles P. Windle.



RWANDA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Rwanda and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	3	1,037,000		
1975	29	140,000		
1980	165	30,900	585	8,718
1985	455	13,077	1,175	5,064
1995	3,041	2,574	12,307	636
2000	7,889	1,057	30,700	271
2005	13,341	612	44,700	183
2010	18,937	530	65,700	153
2015	26,680	422	83,100	135
2018	30,100	402	80,601	150
	Ave.			
2019	29,236	423	95,200	130
2020	29,790	425	69,200	183
2021	29,611	438	82,300	158
2022	29,794	449	76,400	175
2023	31,700	418	106,000	125
2024	34,300	403	112,800	122
2025	37,100	380	100,700	140

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