DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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SABA
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Saba (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1990	5	200	20	50
1995	1	1,000	11	91
2000	5	200	22	45
2005	6	267	22	73
2010	14	107	60	25
2015	13	154	54	37
2018	11	164	65	28
	Ave.			
2019	12	167	74	27
2020	13	154	24	83
2021	12	167	38	53
2022	13	154	71	28
2023	16	125	55	36
2024	16	125	58	34
2025	18	111	54	37

Note: "Ratio" refers to the proportion of the population. In 2022 there was one JW publisher in Saba for every 154 people, and one person in 28 attended the Memorial. Before 2019 the ratio calculation for publishers was based on the "Peak" publisher, since 2019 on the Average.
To approximately calculate the population of Saba multiply 13 x 154 or 71 x 28.

SACRED SERVICE
"Sacred service" translates the Greek word *latreia* in the New World Translation New Testament.

In 1976 the WTS taught that *latreia* refers to a range of Christian works including feeding the poor, caring for orphans, building kingdom halls, working at JW headquarters, etc.

In the 1980s *leitreia* was re-defined much more narrowly as partaking of the bread and wine at the Memorial (by the remnant) and as preaching door to door.

SAINT BARTHELEMY
Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Barthelemy (an island in the Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2013	25	384	80	120
2015	28	331	97	96
2018	34	282	66	145
	Ave.			
2019	28	357	84	119
2020	34	294	72	139
2021	35	286	111	90
2022	32	344	61	180
2023	37	297	87	126
2024	35	314	96	115
2025	34	324	93	118

SAINT EUSTATIUS
Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Eustatius (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1	1,335		
1980	6	223	57	23
1985	4	334	19	70
1990	8	176	23	61
1995	16	94	77	20
2000	16	94	32	47
2005	18	161	47	62
2010	21	167	75	47
2015	24	129	84	37
2018	30	134	102	39
	Ave.			
2019	27	111	124	24
2020	26	115	65	46
2021	27	111	146	21
2022	27	111	61	49
2023	27	111	87	34
2024	29	103	85	35
2025	30	100	95	32

SAINT HELENA
St. Helena and Zambia are the countries with the highest proportion of JWs in the population. For JW publishers the ratio on St. Helena in 2022 is 1 to 36 of the population and for Memorial attendance 1 to 14.

The JWs work on St. Helena began in 1933 when two "pioneers" from South Africa visited the island and sold 800 books. In 1951 another "pioneer" arrived and remained there and the JWs work became organized. In 1961 some 800 people, 1/6 of the population, attended the showing of a WTS promotional film, and in 1968 some 1250 or 25% of the population viewed another WTS film.

Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Helena and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1940	10	400		
1950	12	375		
1960	40	116		
1970	51	93		
1975	99	51		
1980	85	61	207	25
1985	102	59	236	25
1990	109	54	247	24
1995	145	35	338	15
2000	144	34	362	14
2005	134	30	270	15
2010	112	36	275	15
2015	122	33	272	15
2018	117	35	246	17
	Ave.			
2019	110	36	253	16
2020	104	48	178	28
2021	107	56	218	27
2022	112	36	283	14
2023	113	35	314	13
2024	113	35	268	15
2025	123	33	299	13

The webpage "Churches of St Helena" says:

> According to the 2016 Census, 83.8% of the resident St Helenian population described themselves as Anglican; 4.9% as Jehovah's Witnesses; 2.5% as Baptists (since 1845); 2.1% as Salvation Army (since 1884); 2.1% as Seventh Day Adventists (since 1949); 1.7% as New Apostolics; 0.5% as Roman Catholics (since 1819); 0.3% as Baha'is (since 1954); and 2.0% as other denominations or declined to answer...

In the entry *Goal Of World Domination* this dictionary presents evidence that "Judge" Rutherford wanted to replace all religions and governments with a WTS-ruled world religion. Statistics for St. Helena and Zambia may indicate to what extent this is achievable by preaching and advertising. For the proportion of JWs in the population to increase further, the WTS may have to become useful by contributing to people's economic, educational and medical wellbeing.

SAINT KITTS

Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Kitts (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	111	343		
1975	158	222		
1980	127	277	324	109
1985	143	256	388	94
1990	153	223	397	86
1995	143	223	460	69
2000	144	221	455	70
2005	183	174	487	65
2010	199	255	717	71
2015	218	211	773	60
2018	216	188	684	59
	Ave.			
2019	214	164	695	50
2020	214	168	565	64
2021	221	181	829	48
2022	219	183	721	55
2023	240	146	754	46
2024	238	168	739	54
2025	239	159	664	57

SAINT LUCIA

Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Lucia (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	167	671		
1975	278	379		
1980	257	447	895	128
1985	310	387	990	121
1990	460	304	1,226	114
1995	666	213	2,089	68
2000	708	195	1,967	70
2005	697	233	1,766	92
2010	717	240	2,164	80
2015	773	225	2,296	76
2018	819	201	1,760	94
	Ave.			
2019	786	233	2,091	88
2020	776	237	1,709	108
2021	774	238	2,753	67
2022	780	237	2,334	79
2023	772	241	2,129	87
2024	775	237	2,205	83
2025	750	245	1,947	95

SAINT MAARTEN

Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Maarten (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1985	83	192	290	55
1990	166	143	556	42
1995	232	103	888	39
2000	283	85	902	27
2005	317	126	958	41
2010	328	125	1,120	37
2015	391	96	1,147	33
2018	361	117	876	48
	Ave.			
2019	321	131	1,158	36
2020	316	136	860	50
2021	325	132	1,113	39
2022	328	134	1,007	44
2023	302	149	848	53
2024	295	146	956	45

2025	312	141	937	47

SAINT MARTIN
Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Martin (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	58	165		
1975	48	111		
1980	60	174	207	50
2013	311	127	929	43
2015	323	113	1,037	35
2018	300	122	1,047	35
	Ave.			
2019	259	147	1,072	35
2020	273	143	716	54
2021	279	140	1,080	36
2022	277	116	844	38
2023	278	115	952	34
2024	296	88	1,067	24
2025	305	82	896	28

St. Martin/Maarten is an island in the NE Caribbean. St. Maarten is the Dutch southern part of the Island; St. Martin is the French northern part.

The earlier JWs yearbooks give statistics under the name "St. Martin"; from 1985 the name St. Maarten is used; and since 2014 separate figures appear under both names.

SAINT PIERRE and MIQUELON
Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Pierre and Miquelon (French islands south of Newfoundland) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1975	2	3,000		
1980	6	1,000	8	750
1985	13	462	24	250
1990	7	857	16	375
1995	9	700	16	394
2000	19	347	30	220
2005	13	539	15	467
2010	12	510	14	437
2015	14	450	22	286
2018	12	531	19	335
	Ave.			
2019	10	600	14	429
2020	13	462	19	316
2021	14	429	18	334
2022	15	400	21	286
2023	17	353	19	316
2024	16	375	31	194
2025	18	333	33	182

SAINT VINCENT (and The GRENADINES)
Publishers and Memorial attendance on St. Vincent (an island in the east Caribbean) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
1970	116	836		
1975	174	534		
1980	112	946	311	341
1985	139	791	394	279
1990	200	600	604	199
1995	287	375	1,015	106
2000	318	350	993	112
2005	313	327	898	114
2010	346	315	1,157	94
2015	346	316	1,139	96
2018	344	297	982	104
	Ave.			
2019	312	356	1,080	103
2020	292	380	665	167
2021	289	384	1,112	98
2022	284	394	958	117
2023	282	397	911	123
2024	292	377	906	121
2025	297	337	894	112

Since 2010 the figures are for both Saint Vincent **and** the Grenadines (which are situated south of Saint Vincent).

SAINTS (= HOLY ONES)
In the New Testament, Christians are called "saints", translated in the NWT as "holy ones".

JWs believe that the New Testament is addressed to 144,000 "holy ones" who get eternal life in heaven. Every one else who reads the New Testament, including millions of JWs, are reading epistles/letters/mail not addressed to them but at the 144,000.

In JWs theology the "holy ones" or "saints" are the same as the 144,000, the "bride class", the "kings" who will rule the Earth from heaven, and the "little flock".

The doctrine of when the selection of the 144,000 is completed with all positions filled, and when they would ascend to heaven, has been repeatedly revised. The first revisions occurred already in 1878!

(See: *LITTLE FLOCK; REMNANT*)

SAIPAN
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Saipan (in the Marianas Islands east of the Philippines) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	15	687		
1975	27	531		
1980	19	754	64	224
1985	32	485	103	151
1990	100	395	281	141

1995	189	273	528	98
2000	185	383	559	127
2005	174	410	697	102
2010	218	328	618	116
2015	215	224	557	86
2018	217	222	498	97
	Ave.			
2019	216	222	509	94
2020	222	216	443	108
2021	220	218	706	70
2022	219	219	564	85
2023	214	224	529	91
2024	229	188	546	79
2025	228	189	520	83

SALTER, W.F.
The manager of the Canadian Branch Office in Toronto until 1936.

Salter did not accept Rutherford's interpretation, advanced in 1935, that the "great multitude" are JWs and must be gathered into the Organization **before** Armageddon.

Salter claimed that the great multitude would be gathered **after** Armageddon. This was reasonable given that Rutherford also taught that Armageddon was only "months" away. Salter reasoned that 14 years of preaching had gathered a few tens of thousands and therefore to gather millions would take a long time — not months!

In 1936 Rutherford went to Toronto and gave Salter and seven others two weeks to leave the WTS premises.

Salter was right in the sense that to gather millions would take a long time. For JWs publishers to reach and pass 2 million took another 40 years.

SALTER, W.F. in BIBLE PROPHECY

> The creature that receives God's approval must be obedient. That unchangeable rule applies to all of his creatures. When God made a covenant with Israel he emphasized the necessity for full and complete obedience. (w1939 4/15 115)

Rutherford wanted the same as God wants — full and complete obedience! W.F. Salter, however, rebelled by publicising the inside workings of the WTS. Rutherford retaliated by concocting a Bible prophecy directed against Salter!

The Watchtower 1939 April 15 titled *Drama of Vindication* stressed obedience. The article gave a modern analogy to the Old Testament story of Jericho and characters in that story:

> The "accursed thing" at that time was Jericho, and at the present time it is the religious organization and allies called "Christendom". The thing is accursed because doomed for complete destruction by Jehovah's Executive Officer, and to be destroyed for the reason that the thing is an abomination in the sight of God and a reproach to his holy name. Achan, in violation of the expressed command given by Joshua, had greedily taken away from Jericho some things that his avaricious heart desired. The manner of his taking such things is described in verses twenty and twenty-one of the seventh chapter of the book of Joshua. "Achan" means "trouble", and those who follow in his course always get into trouble. Mention is made of the incident in another place in the Bible, where he is called "Achar", meaning "troublesome". "And the sons of Carmi : Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the thing accursed." (1 Chron. 2: 7) That Achan, or Achar, therefore, pictures those spirit-begotten ones in line for the kingdom and who become unfaithful and who bring trouble upon Jehovah's organization. (w1939 4/15 115-116)

So Jericho represents Christendom — but after 1933:

> This part of the prophetic drama occurred immediately following the siege of Jericho, and applies in the fulfillment after 1931, and more particularly after 1933, after which the march around the antitypical Jericho had begun. (w1937 4/15 116)

Rutherford's silliness now got worse. Joshua, according to the Bible, sent spies to the town of Ai after Jericho was destroyed:

> Look now to the fufillment of this part of the prophetic drama, and the action taken by Joshua against Ai pictures the activities of the remnant of Jehovah's witnesses from and after A.D. 1933 against Satan's organization, particularly the religionists on the earth. Some serious details are shown which are not set out in relation to the siege and destruction of Jericho. Joshua sent men as spies to get a close-up view of Ai, foretelling Christ Jesus would send his men to get a closer view of the Devil's visible organization, that it might be more particularly exposed by his faithful servants. After 1933 the profound exposure of the Devil's chief earthly instrument took place, which gave Jehovah's witnesses an additional close-up view of that wicked organization. (p.116)

So Ai was "Satan's organization, particularly the religionists on the earth." And "after 1933" it was "exposed" by JWs. How?

> On April 23, 1933, the speech was broadcast on the subject "Effect of Holy Year on Peace and Prosperity", disclosing the close alliance and association of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy with the political and commercial elements that misrule the nations, and that forced the Hierarchy into the open and exposed them as being against Jehovah and his Kingdom. The facts brought forth in 1935 by the Lord's direction clearly disclosed that the Roman Catholic Hierarchy constitute the modern-day Philistines, fighting against the modern Samson, God's anointed people on the earth. (p.116)

Joshua's attack on Ai using a small portion of the Israelite army failed. (Joshua 8) Things also went wrong for JWs too. How? In 1935 Rutherford invented the doctrine of a "great crowd" or "great multitude" to be gathered out of the nations and join JWs. However, he also claimed Armageddon was only "months" away. (See: *DATES*) Salter and a few supporters reasoned that if fifteen years of preaching had produced only thousands of converts then gathering a "great multitude" would not take "months" but a long time. Salter concluded that the "great multitude" would therefore have to be gathered after Armageddon. This disagreement about the "great multitude" was pictured, said Rutherford, by Joshua using only a portion of his army instead of the "great multitude" of troops!

> Disaster followed that assault, and the Israelites were compelled to run away after the men of Ai chased them. Mark now some of the facts that came to pass in fufillment. The afore quoted unscriptural and unsound argument was put forth vigorously in some parts of the earth, and for a time the field work, particularly in Canada, lagged behind and many became indifferent. (w1937 4/15 117)

Achan in the Bible story stole booty in Jericho instead of burning it. The article next identified "his modern day antitype":

> It was about 1933 or shortly thereafter that one occupying a position of responsibility in the Lord's organization, and who was aided and abetted by some of his personal admirers, tried to gain something for selfish reasons. A course contrary to instructions had been taken concerning the Canadian radio stations, while at the same time that party pretended to be striving solely for the vindication of Jehovah's name and for the downfall of Satan's organization. (p.119)

Clearly the Achan-like culprit is W.F. Salter. But the Achan-like culprit is also a group, the "evil servant class", a phrase referring to breakaway groups from Russellism and Rutherfordism:

> True, there must be some outstanding individual that takes the lead in such matters, but the fulfillment of the picture applies to all who are of that class; and therefore Achan pictured not particularly an individual, but all of that class of persons who become members of the "evil servant" class. (p.121)

> The Society's former servant who had taken the wrongful course, when all the evidence proving his guilt was laid before him, then and there promised that he would write a letter to all the consecrated throughout the earth acknowledging his wrong and asking their forgiveness. Not only did he fail to keep that promise, but within a short time he took exactly the opposite course by sending letters throughout the earth condemning the Lord's organization on earth and many individuals connected therewith, and thus exhibited his unrepentant spirit. That one person, together with some of his supporters, continued to trouble the Society by sending letters to radio stations and to religionists known to be avowed enemies of God's organization, and to others, wherein threats were made "to break up the organization of the Society within two years". (p.124)

Rutherford was evidently upset because Salter had published inside information about the WTS and did not want JWs reading the published information. The Canadian Branch Office supported Rutherford with the following resolution:

> The sinful course of Achan caused the Israelites to determine that they would be more diligent in obeying the Lord; and the subsequent facts show that a like influence directed the course of God's faithful people of the remnant, as shown by resolutions adopted and published by them, a sample of which resolutions appears in *The Watchtower* June 1, 1937, and, amongst other things, contains the following:
>
> "Almost a year has now passed since (under the Lord's direction) as president of the Society you removed from office one W. P. Salter, to whom we had long looked for leadership in the service, but who had become unfaithful to his charge.

"At that time some could not quite clearly see the reason for such action. We had, however, implicit confidence in Jehovah and that the steps there taken were under his direction.

"Subsequent events not only have fully justified this faith and confidence in Jehovah, and yourself as the one used in this connection, but also have made clearly to appear why this action was necessary.

"Because of the fact that the Lord's people are being, from this source, now subjected to a barrage of literature calculated to undermine and overthrow their faith, we, the Toronto company of Jehovah's witnesses, at a joyous assembly on this the eighteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, unanimously adopt the following resolution to wit:

"1. That we fully endorse the action of our president Brother Rutherford, in thus removing from office one who so manifestly had, by his course of action, said, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible,' and who had 'snuffed' at what is spread on that table, by 'offering polluted bread upon the altar'.
"2. That, as a means for our protection, we will meet this latest move of the enemy with
" (a) Increased activity and interest in the Lord's service, especially in the new 'strange work' just beginning and also the studies in *The Watchtower* and other publications of the Society.
" (b) That we will destroy without reading any such literature received through the mail or otherwise.
" (c) That we will turn a deaf ear to any, either among us or outside, who manifests a desire to debate or argue respecting this course of action.
"3. That we acknowledge as the visible organization of Jehovah on earth the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, and recognize the Society as the channel or instrument through which Jehovah and Christ Jesus give instruction and meat in due season to the household of faith.
"4. Further, that we pledge our faith in and loyalty to the Society, and its servants, Brother Rutherford at Brooklyn, and also the branch servant, Brother Chapman at Toronto… We pledge our cooperation to the fullest extent with him in the work, and, together with you, pray that the Lord will smite His enemy to the dust and shine forth in Kingdom glory.
"5. That we once more express our united determination to do the will of Jehovah as expressed through his executive officer, Christ Jesus. That, in obedience to God's commandments, having heard the call, 'Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle,' we will carry forth the fruits of the kingdom to our brethren, the great multitude, who must be led and fed by Christ Jesus before Armageddon and may be preserved at Armageddon in vindication of Jehovah's name. (w1937 6/1 175)

This resolution was "adopted unanimously" at JWs assemblies. The above quote shows that the leaders want printed material critical of them destroyed. It's not even to be read by the "Faithful and loyal"; they are to be closed-minded, in effect blind and deaf:

> …turn a deaf ear to any, either among us or outside, who manifests a desire to debate or argue.

Salter's point that if the greater part of the period for preaching is completed and it took 15 years to convert thousands, then millions could not be converted before Armageddon, was ignored and never answered.

WTS publications today don't mention Rutherford's parallel to the Jericho story and few JWs today know that Achan and the Israelites defeat at Ai pictured W.P. Salter. One JW as late as 1998 remembered and mentions it in w1998 3/1 29.

(See also: *OBEDIENCE; PICTURES*)

SALVATION

To JWs salvation is a future event, obtained by the 144,000 at their resurrection, and by others after their resurrection.

JWs believe that 144,000 will be resurrected to immortality in heaven and all others who get salvation will either survive Armageddon or be resurrected to everlasting life on Earth. To survive Armageddon they have to meet certain requirements such as actively promote JWs and their Organization, and accept all the current doctrines.

The salvation scheme of Russell

Russell taught that 144,000 will get salvation in heaven. Besides these is a "great multitude" who die at Armageddon and also go to heaven. Ancient faithful men of God will get salvation by resurrection to Earth and will rule the Earth. A lot of people will survive Armageddon and submit to be governed by the resurrected "ancient worthies". All the heathen who lived and died in past centuries will be resurrected on Earth and will have their chance at salvation then. Salvation/resurrection is not earned by humans and does not come by joining a

church but is made possible by Jesus' ransom sacrifice.

At first Rutherford agreed with Russell that salvation does not come by joining a church. (Millions 1920, 97) But in the 1930s this changed and salvation for modern-day people required joining JWs before Armageddon and distributing their publications.

The salvation scheme of Rutherford

In Rutherford's 1930s scheme the 144,000 would still go to heaven. The dead among them were raised in 1918; those of the 144,000 alive on Earth are named "Jehovah's witnesses" and these fly to heaven individually when they die. The "great multitude" (or "Jonadabs") are not "Jehovah's Witnesses" but associates of "Jehovah's witnesses" and will not go to heaven but live on Earth. In both groups, however, people will only survive Armageddon by being in Rutherford's cult, selling his publications, and accepting his theology:

> Only those who speak the truth in unity will survive Armageddon. (w1940 7/1 198)
>
> Those seeking life know that they must support the Theocratic Government. (w1940 3/1 59)
>
> Those forming the great multitude will be the only survivors of Armageddon aside from the remnant and the faithful men of old. (Yearbook 1940, Text May 17)
>
> Those who do get life with Christ Jesus must fully obey the commandments given by the Lord. He tells his witnesses in plain phrase that if they fail to give the warning, as commanded, they shall suffer destruction… Jehovah … will execute his vengeance upon the various ones who do not heed his word. (w1942 1/1 11)

Almost all the people who read these assertions and threats around 1940 are now dead. They neither survived Armageddon nor suffered destruction at Armageddon or Jehovah's vengeance. Rutherford's threats were all empty threats, mere lies to frighten people into obeying him.

The doctrine that only active JWs (i.e. the remnant of the 144,000 and the "great crowd") can get salvation, either by dying faithful or by surviving Armageddon, was constantly repeated in Rutherford's time in the 1930s, and continued afterwards:

> You must be part of Jehovah's organization, doing God's will in order to receive his blessing of everlasting life. (Your Will Be Done on Earth 1958, 255)
>
> The faithful remnant … expend their strength, time and means in giving the world-wide witness to God's established kingdom. This was the line of activity that would lead to everlasting life. (ibid 326)
>
> It is by our endurance in proclaiming 'this good news of the kingdom' that we may attain to salvation. (w1979 7/15 14)
>
> …come to Jehovah's organization for salvation. (1981 11/15 21)
>
> Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it. (w1983 2/15 12)

By going "witnessing" JWs have the hope of:

> …eventually winning his [God's] favor." (g1985 4/22 21)

An effective threat

Rutherford used to accuse the Catholic Church of promoting the doctrine of hellfire to terrorize members into donating money and being loyal to the Church.

The JWs leaders use the threat of annihilation at Armageddon for the same reason — to keep their followers subservient, willing to donate money, and active in preaching and distributing WTS publications. Armageddon was exposed as an empty threat when it did not occur in 1874-1914, 1915, 1918, 1920s, 1942, 1975, "this generation" and "our twentieth century".

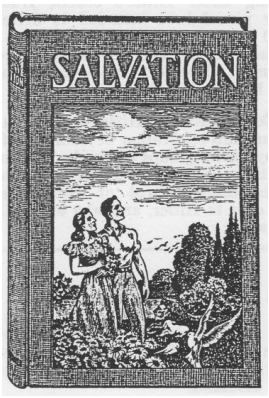
Almost all the adults in 1930s and 1940s, and the majority in the 1950s, who were promised survival through Armageddon if they preach for the WTS, or death at Armageddon if they didn't, are deceased. **Not even one** individual, of billions on Earth in the 20th century, died at Armageddon or survived it.

Nevertheless, by hiding and denying their history of failed prophecy, the leaders keep the threat effective, and their followers obedient.

SALVATION (1939)
A book authored by Rutherford about the "divine mandate", and its connection with Armageddon.

The centrality of these two concepts is seen by the frequency of these words in the book — "Armageddon" occurs 130 times and "divine mandate" 43 times.

The "divine mandate" refers to marriage and filling Earth with people by making babies, and was a command given by God to Adam and Noah. (Genesis 1:26; 9:1)



In the book *Salvation* Rutherford teaches that the command was originally addressed to perfect people (i.e. Adam and Eve) and therefore can only be fulfilled by perfect people.

Therefore, JWs will carry out the command to fill the Earth after everyone else has been killed at Armageddon. Meanwhile, while awaiting that worldwide massacre, they should postpone marriage, warn everyone about Armageddon, and gather the "Jonadabs" (i.e. the "great multitude" who will survive) into the JWs Organization.

Salvation to JWs is not a present condition but a future attainment. JWs have to be loyal to their Organization until Armageddon so that their lives might be spared at that time.

JWs of 1939 who sought to win salvation by delaying marriage and selling Rutherford's books are now deceased. The salvation they worked for and, were told would come within "months" never came.

After WWII the opposition to marriage slowly abated until the book *Making Your Family Life Happy* (1978) supported marriage and thus abolished God's "Divine Mandate" of Judge Rutherford.

(See: The Divine Mandate of Judge Rutherford and JWs, in *Investigator Magazine* 177, November 2017)

SALVATION ONLY FOR JWs?

JWs believe that people who lived and died prior to the last generation before Armageddon (i.e. prior to the generation of 1914) will be resurrected onto the "new paradise Earth" and there get the opportunity to choose everlasting life.

However, people living since 1914 who survive until Armageddon will perish if they are not JWs. Non-JWs will perish even if they trust in God, believe the Bible, lead a moral life, accept salvation from Jesus, and do good to the glory of God. They must, to get eternal life, also join JWs as active "publishers" and believe everything JWs believe, including everything contrary to the Bible.

Only JWs will survive Armageddon

According to JWs doctrine, of all the people living when Armageddon strikes only JWs will get salvation; all non-JWs including children will die:

> Parents are commanded to instruct their children in God's way, and if in these last days parents refuse to heed the divine instruction and warning they bring destruction upon themselves and their small children at Armageddon. (w1950 11/15 463)

> What this means to us today is that those now living in this time of judgment and who fail for one reason or another to take a stand for Jehovah, and are therefore slain by him at the battle of Armageddon, will not be retained in his memory for a resurrection… (w1951 7/15 446)

> [11]...The global flood of Noah's day, which the Bible uses as a prophetic type of Armageddon, drowned all humans except the eight in the ark, and the human population must then have numbered many millions... With the members of this generation that will not pass away before Armageddon breaks out numbering now two billion five hundred million and with only the remnant and a larger group of "other sheep" inside the Greater Noah's "ark" surviving, the death toll of the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" will be appallingly all-surpassing, too many for the Armageddon survivors to bury...

> [22] Not a human on the side against Jehovah's theocratic organization will survive... (*You May* Survive Armageddon into God's New World 1955, 341-342)

Yes, today, with Armageddon staring us in the face, we must keep in mind the sobering thought that millions, even billions, of lives may shortly come to a swift and decisive end, putting their onetime owners beyond the reach of any expression of love on our part. (w1965 4/1 212)

Jehovah's witnesses believe their work to be a lifesaving work. Why would they engage in it if they believed that there was no hope for others? They are certain that God's mercy will extend to many kinds of people. The apostle Paul stated that God is going to resurrect even "the

unrighteous." (Acts 24:15) So, Jehovah's witnesses believe that many will be saved who are not now Jehovah's witnesses.

But with regard to the coming "great tribulation," and being saved through that conflict, the Bible shows that people must now turn to God and take their stand on his side if they wish protection from Him. Jesus said: "Just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be ... they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be." (Matt. 24:21, 37-39) Noah and his family, however, were saved through the Flood, because they served Jehovah God. All the others were destroyed. Jesus said that is what will happen at the coming "great tribulation," and this Jehovah's witnesses believe. (w1970 4/15 247)

Any person who wants to survive into God's righteous new order urgently needs to come into a right relationship with Jehovah and His earthly organization now. Why is there such an urgency about coming to Jehovah's true worship now? Could not a sincere person wait until he actually sees Jehovah's executional judgments beginning, and then quickly come over to His side? While that might sound appealing to some, would there then be enough time to build the right relationship with Jehovah? The evidence from the Scriptures answers, No. (w1981 11/15 16-17)

But Jehovah God has also provided his visible organization, his "faithful and discreet slave," made up of spirit-anointed ones, to help Christians in all nations to understand and apply properly the Bible in their lives. Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do. (w1981 11/15 27)

Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it. (w1983 2/15 12)

Do not conclude that there are different roads, or ways, that you can follow to gain life in God's new system. There is only one. There was just one ark that survived the Flood, not a number of boats. And there will be only one organization ... that will survive the fast-approaching great tribulation. (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth 1989, 255)

Only Jehovah's Witnesses, those of the anointed remnant and the "great crowd," as a united organization under the protection of the Supreme Organizer, have any Scriptural hope of surviving the impending end of this doomed system dominated by Satan the Devil. (w1989 9/1 19)

In fact, with God's day of judgment so near today, all the world should 'keep silent before the Sovereign Lord Jehovah' and hear what he says through the "little flock" of Jesus' anointed followers and their companions, his "other sheep." (Luke 12:32; John 10:16) Annihilation awaits all who will not listen and who thereby set themselves against rule by God's Kingdom. (w2001 2/15 14)

Just as Noah and his God-fearing family were preserved in the ark, survival of individuals today depends on their faith and their loyal association with the earthly part of Jehovah's universal organization. (w2006 5/15 22)

But Jehovah's servants already belong to the only organization that will survive the end of this wicked system of things. (w2007 12/15 14)

The parents in the 1950 quote who "bring destruction upon themselves and their small children at Armageddon" are all dead as well as most of their "small children" and never brought destruction on themselves at Armageddon.

Armageddon becomes more deadly

Russell taught that many people will survive Armageddon (which he predicted for 1914/1915) and would submit to the "earthly phase of the kingdom" which would by 1915 be established in Jerusalem by Moses, Daniel and other ancient "worthies".

Rutherford progressively introduced less survival and more death at Armageddon. In w1923 10/15, when Armageddon was still anticipated around 1925or 1926, Rutherford declared that the clergy will not be saved, giving several pages of reasons such as this:

[39]Many in the nominal church have been restrained of their liberty of thought in the investigation of the word of Truth, by the clergy openly denouncing those who did accept the truth, and warning their flocks to ignore the truth and to burn the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES. Many have been spiritually sick because of having no spiritual food upon which to feed; and the clergy and the principal of the flock not only failed to visit them and minister

to them, but prohibited others from doing so...

[43]Throughout the entire age the intolerance exercised toward humble Christians has been carried on at the instance of the clergy and the principal of the flock, who themselves claimed to be representatives of Christ. In Canada and the United States, in Great Britain and in Germany, in Switzerland and Roumania; in fact, all over Christendom this persecution during the World War was deliberately carried on, while the clergy and their allies misrepresented the Lord's Word and slandered those who dared to believe and teach it. They refused to accept the kingdom message themselves and prevented many of their own flocks from seeing and accepting the message of the kingdom. (w1923 10/15 311)

[45]The clergy and the principal of the flock of modern times are the counterpart of the scribes and Pharisees; and these the Lord himself describes as the progeny of the devil... (w1923 10/15 11)

The article goes on and calls ministers "apostate clergy", "sons of the devil", and "messengers of the devil":

[The clergy] during the Millennial age will not be accorded any further trial for life; for they have willfully spurned the truth here and have not shown any disposition that would indicate worthiness for life.

In the 1930s Rutherford taught that not only would the clergy, politicians, and business leaders be destroyed at Armageddon but also everyone who is not in "God's organization" and loyal and obedient to it, including members of all other religions and the citizens of all countries.

Paradoxes

JWs have, since 1995 when their prophecy of the generation of 1914 failed, usually baptized less than 300,000 people each year. But the world population is increasing by about 100 million yearly. Every year of preaching, therefore, resulted in the future Armageddon death toll getting bigger! Ironically, if a world war were to break out and kill billions of people, it would be a good event from the JWs viewpoint, because by dying before Armageddon the dead will, according to JWs belief, be resurrected!

Another paradox is that Armageddon will kill billions of non-JWs but lead to the resurrection of billons of other non-JWs.

A third paradox is that nearly all the adults, who in Rutherford's time got the choice between dying at Armageddon or surviving into everlasting life, are now deceased without experiencing either death at Armageddon or survival through it.

SAMOA

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Samoa (a Pacific island east of Fiji) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	92	1,522		
1975	143	1,109		
1980	118	1,288	395	385
1985	166	961	486	328
1990	226	695	884	178
1995	352	458	1,107	146
2000	381	448	1,309	130
2005	427	415	1,431	124
2010	415	436	1,765	103
2015	547	354	2,065	94
2018	538	367	2,300	86
	Ave.			
2019	528	373	2,492	79
2020	482	413	1,975	101
2021	532	378	2,611	77
2022	517	393	2,748	74
2023	525	392	2,311	89
2024	558	369	2,587	80
2025	617	350	2,483	87

Prior to 2000 CE Samoa was called "Western Samoa".

SAMOA, AMERICAN

See: *AMERICAN SAMOA*

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Bible characters who Rutherford claimed were prophetic "pictures" with 20th century counterparts.

Rutherford's 1928 interpretation was that:

- Samson pictured people who dedicate themselves to God but fail to join Rutherford's cult and stay in Christendom;
- Delilah pictured the ecclesiastical systems;
- The Philistines pictured the clergy.
- Samson pulling the Philistine temple down pictured the "great multitude" of Christians destroying the world in the great tribulation.
- (Government 1928, 260-262, 270-271)

The 1936 interpretation was that:

- Samson pictured the Russellites up to 1918;
- Delilah pictured the sects splitting off from Russellism;
- The Philistines pictured the clergy, especially the Roman Catholic Hierarchy;

- The barber who shaved Samson's hair pictured the secret service men;
- Samson being seized by the Philistines pictured the suppression of Russellism in 1918. Samson being blinded pictured pro-USA statements that were published in *The Watch Tower* of 1918;
- Samson's continuing blindness pictured the Russellites after 1922 including their new identity as JWs and their being "blind" to everything except doing the preaching work and "the will of God".
  [The name "Jehovah's witnesses" at that time referred to the "little flock" the alleged "remnant of the 144,000, not to the "great crowd".)
- The Philistine temple pictured "Satan's visible organization", in other words the ungodly world.
- Samson dying by pulling down the temple on himself and the Philistines pictured the "faithfulness of Jehovah's witnesses unto death". (w1936 1/1 3-12)

Fred Franz's revised application of the "picture" came in w1967 2/15:

- Samson marrying a Canaanite woman (Judges 14:1-4) pictured 'wheat' Christians [i.e. Russellites] mingling freely in the paganistic church systems of Christendom … from 1879 to 1919.
- The lion Samson encountered (Judges 14:6) pictured early Protestantism including Lutherans and Martin Luther's 95 Theses.
- Samson tearing the lion in two pictured Russell and his followers defeating clergymen in debate.
- The bees and sweet honey in the lion's corpse pictured that, "the Samson class find sweet sustenance as they reflect on Jehovah's use of them in theocratic warfare…"
- Samson's riddle that confounded the Philistines pictured, "During the years 1879-1919, religionists of Christendom were unable to fathom the strength of the little band of Jehovah's devoted witnesses."
- Samson attaching torches to the tails of jackals pictured:
  > ...the claimed spiritual provender of Christendom's religions was badly scorched. It was shown to be valueless, being "set on fire" and burned up—gutted by millions of fiery tracts, booklets and books… In Jehovah's strength, the Samson class went "smiting" and exposing the false religionists, "piling legs upon thighs in a great slaughter."
- Samson killing 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass pictured that JWs, "meekly use their jaws in speaking out against false religionists…"
- Philistines lying in wait for Samson at Gaza pictured that *Zion's Watch Tower*:
  > ...proclaimed 1914 as the date for the end of the "Gentile times" and the establishment of God's kingdom by Christ… 'Let's lie in wait until 1914,' declared the Philistine religionists, 'and when the forecasts of these "Bible students" prove wrong, we will have them trapped!" But they reckoned without Jehovah's determination to fulfill the prophecies he had long previously recorded in his Word… In Jehovah's power, the "faithful and discreet slave" thus tore the enemy's traplike gate from its foundations, posts and all, and carried it high up into the land of Jehovah's praise. Truly, the Samson class was vindicated in its support of Jehovah's Word of Prophecy. (w1967 2/15 105-110)
- Samson carrying the gate of Gaza 40 miles to Hebron (Judges 16:1-3) pictured, "Truly, the Samson class was vindicated in its support of Jehovah's Word of prophecy, and, to this day, Jehovah is being praised…"
- Delilah (Judges 16:4) pictured Russellites who:
  > ...became offended at not being caught away immediately into the heavenly kingdom in 1914… During the years 1917-1918, they tried to grab control of the Watch Tower Society and to force a "soft pedal" compromise with the modern Philistines … the Delilah class used a series of approaches in an attempt to have the Samson class bound with ropes of compromise, so that they could be handed over to the religionists of Christendom…
- Samson captured by Philistines, blinded, and imprisoned pictured:
  > The Philistine religionists succeeded in grabbing God's "slave". They bored out his eyes of discernment of God's will, and made him "a grinder in the prison house"… For a short time, the "slave's" bold witnessing for God's kingdom ceased. Religious pressure also brought about the imprisonment, under false charges, of the second Watch Tower president and seven other responsible brothers…

Franz's claim that the prophecies for 1914 were fulfilled was bombastic nonsense because all the prophecies failed and have repeatedly failed since 1914. The hypocrisy of Franz's delusional hate of "Christendom" is seen when JWs benefit from modern science and medicine, started by Christians in Christendom, but neither add to it nor express gratitude for it. As for the modern parallel with Samson, the details will probably be changed again.

SANDERSON, MELODY
Melody Sanderson v. Estate Of John Maddison was a 2003-2004 Will contest in Australia initiated by two former Gilead missionaries.

81-year-old Melody Sanderson was living at the WTS's Sydney headquarters with her husband, Thomas Sanderson. They had started "fulltime pioneering" in 1954 and later attended Gilead Missionary School in the USA. They then they served as missionaries in India until 1999 after which they transferred to WTS headquarters in Australia.

Melody Sanderson's brother died in 2002 and left his $453,000 estate to the University of Melbourne. She contested the Will under the theory that their relationship had been "close" and her brother had assumed a legal obligation for her support, having stated: "he was going to provide for me in his Will, since he was wealthy and my husband and I were not..." Because no such provision had been made it was up to the court to make such provision from his estate.

Melody testified that she and her husband received free room and board at Watchtower Headquarters and $260 monthly allowance besides a $360 monthly pension and they had $45,000 in the bank.

Their financial situation was obviously very good. Melody's argument for getting a share in her brother's estate and depriving the University of Melbourne was:

> "If we fall ill the Watch Tower Society is under no legal obligation to look after us but in practice it would look after us if we want. There is an infirmary at the complex and some nurses there also. However the view of my husband and I is that if we could not work we would voluntarily leave the complex and would not want to be supported by the Watch Tower Society..."

The Court ruled that the Sandersons had no dire need for financial support and there was no evidence that the brother had assumed any legal obligation for Melody's maintenance and support.

SAN MARINO
Publishers and Memorial attendance in San Marino and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	21	857		
1975	46	391		
1980	79	258	134	152
1985	88	241	179	118
1990	132	168	236	94
1995	158	146	251	92
2000	187	134	289	87
2005	184	157	297	97
2010	215	148	359	89
2015	208	158	351	94
2017	191	174	306	109
2018	198	175	313	111
	Ave.			
2019	198	172	323	105
2020	192	177	483	70
2021	190	179	419	81
2022	189	180	312	109
2023	195	174	342	99
2024	204	167	329	103
2025	213	160	331	103

SANO TASKFORCE
A 10-member specialist unit set up within the Victoria Police in November 2012 to investigate current and historical sex crimes committed in religious or institutional settings.

SAO TOME and PRINCIPE
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Sao Tome and Principe (islands in the Atlantic, SW of Cameroon) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1980	9	8,889	50	1,600
1985	11	7,273	71	1,127
1990	56	1,964	176	625
1995	172	722	703	177
2000	296	523	1,149	135
2005	432	434	1,687	111
2010	575	381	2,929	75
2015	773	251	3,226	60
2018	875	230	3,231	62
	Ave.			
2019	893	241	3,631	59
2020	888	236	2,255	93
2021	914	235	5,794	37
2022	895	254	3,532	64
2023	876	265	3,412	68
2024	841	279	3,459	68
2025	825	255	3,121	67

Prior to 1995 the statistics refer to "Sao Tome".

SATAN
Originally an angel who was third in charge in heaven after God and Jesus. Satan as "Lucifer" or "shining one" had oversight of the Earth but rebelled against God at Adam's creation and tempted Eve to sin.

Satan's power to do damage is limited to what God permits.

God will restrain Satan for 1000 years commencing at Armageddon, which C.T. Russell anticipated around 1912-1915. (Studies

VI, 609-658; Studies I, 251; wr1900 9/1 2739; wr1900 12/1 2739)

JWs believe Satan is able to influence human minds; they blame many human emotions on Satan's influence, such as pride, greed and love of money. (w1984 10/15)

Satan cast down to earth

In 1917 Rutherford interpreted Satan being cast down to the Earth with his angels (Revelation 12) as representing the growth in power of the Papacy and its cardinals (these being the "angels"). (The Finished Mystery 1917, 188-190)

In 1925 Rutherford re-interpreted the casting of Satan down to Earth, and now took it literally, claiming it happened in 1914. (Light Book 1 1930, 230-244)

SATAN'S ORGANIZATION
To JWs "Satan's organization" is the entire world that is not part of "God's earthly organization", including human governments, religions, commercial corporations, the military, scientific organizations, and all people who are not JWs.

Rutherford taught that the Universe of living beings is composed of two vast organizations — God's and Satan's — each with two main components:

1. An invisible component consisting of the spirit realm and the various categories of angels;
2. A visible component existing on Earth and consisting in the case of Satan's Organization of three broad parts — Religion, Politics and Commerce. (Deliverance 1926, 235, 276-282; Life 1929, 313; w1932 7/15 211)

The two organization were in a spiritual war that would end at Armageddon with Satan's Organization annihilated.

SATISFIED (1940)
Booklet authored by Rutherford.

SAUDI ARABIA
Peak publishers and Memorial attendance in Saudi Arabia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
1970	3	2,367,000		
1975	3	2,700,000		

SAVING THE HUMAN RACE IN THE KINGDOM WAY (1970)
WTS public discourse published as a booklet.

SCARLET BEAST
Revelation 13 describes a beast with seven heads and spotted like a leopard, followed (in 13:14-17) by the "image" of the spotted beast.

JWs believe that the "image" is the same as the "scarlet beast" introduced in Revelation 17.

JWs today believe that:

- The spotted beast symbolizes the seven major empires of history;
- Its "image", i.e. the "scarlet beast" of Revelation 17, refers to both the League of Nations (founded in 1920) and the United Nations (founded in 1946).

> "The League is now dead, and since World War II the "image" has been the United Nations…" (Babylon the Great has Fallen 1963, 509)
>
> "The United Nations of today … this modern scarlet-colored beast is an image of the leopard-spotted wild beast from



The Scarlet Beast as portrayed in *Babylon The Great Has Fallen* (1963)

> the sea, which is a summation of all seven world powers, the beastly "image" is also in itself a world power or "king," hence "an eighth king."" (ibid 594)

Prostitute "Babylon" rides scarlet beast

A prostitute named "Babylon the Great" sits on the scarlet beast. (Revelation 17) JWs interpret the prostitute as, "the world empire of false religion".

The world's religions supposedly "climbed" the scarlet beast i.e. the League and began "riding" it in 1919:

> …in January of 1919 when the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America called the then-proposed League of Nations "the political expression of the kingdom of God on earth. (Babylon The Great Has Fallen 1963, 581)
>
> …the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America went on record as proclaimers that the League would be "the political expression of God on earth." And the U.S. Senate received an avalanche of mail from religious groups urging it to ratify the Covenant of the League of Nations.
>
> Jehovah's Witnesses did not jump on the band wagon. Even before the peace treaty was confirmed (in October), J.F. Rutherford gave a discourse at Cedar Point, Ohio, on September 7, 1919, in which he showed that not the League of Nations but the Kingdom set up by God himself is the only hope for distressed humanity. While acknowledging that a human alliance to improve conditions could accomplish much good, those Bible Students were not turning their backs on God's own Kingdom in exchange for a political expedient set up by politicians and blessed by the clergy. (Proclaimers 1993, 192)

1917 interpretation

Rutherford's explanation in 1917 of the scarlet beast was: "Pagan Rome, now represented in earth's warring governments". (The Finished Mystery 1917, 263)

The harlot on the beast's back was not "the world empire of false religion" but the apostate Roman Catholic Church. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 259-263)

1930 interpretation and false predictions

In 1930 Rutherford reinterpreted the scarlet beast as the International Court of Arbitration established by the Hague International Peace Conference (1899) to settle disputes between nations. (Light Volume II 1930, Chapter 10 and p.94)

The "harlot" was not "the world empire of false religion", which is the interpretation since the 1940s, but "organized Christianity". (ibid p.86)

Revelation 17:8 says "The beast … was and is not, and is to ascend from the bottomless pit…"

The Finished Mystery interprets the "is not" period as the loss of Church power starting in 1799; and "ascend from the bottomless pit" as the Pope's alleged efforts during the World War to reunify Christendom. (pp 265-266)

In Rutherford's 1930 interpretation the "ïs not" period occurred during World War I when the Hague Court of Arbitration was inactive.

Revelation 17:8 says that the scarlet beast "ascended out of the bottomless pit" and came alive again. Rutherford's 1930 interpretation is that the Hague Court of Arbitration took on a new life as the League of Nations in 1920. (Light II 1930, 102-105)

Rutherford predicted that "all the nations or governments involved in the League of nations" would destroy "Christendom". (Light II, 106-114) This never happen; the prediction was false.

Rutherford called Christians "hypocritical windbags" and concluded:

> This Devil religion being the greatest instrument of hypocrisy that has deceived mankind and turned them away from Jehovah, God has written his judgment against her; and that judgment he will not cause to be executed within a short time. (p.114)

Rutherford repeated this interpretation of the scarlet beast in his book *Enemies*. (1937, 288-293) He added that the United States which was not a member of the League would join up (p.291) which it never did, and that Great Britain and the United States would become Fascist (p.291) which did **not** happen.

Rutherford was a false prophet whose predictions, which he alleged came from the Bible, were false. The League, for example, passed out of existence without destroying Christianity "within a short time" or even in a long time. He and other JWs leaders thus showed themselves to be what they called others — "hypocritical windbags", "instruments of hypocrisy" and "deceivers of mankind".

1942 — The interpretation revised again

In 1942 the new leadership realized that the League of Nations was gone and the prophecy of its destruction of Christendom false.

Leaders with humility would have publicly apologized. The new JWs leaders (Knorr, Covington, Franz), however, deleted the International Court of Arbitration from Bible prophecy and reinterpreted the relevant verses in Revelation.

This new interpretation was introduced in a convention speech in September 1942 and published in a booklet titled *Peace—Can it*

Last. (w1942 10/15 306). It then appeared in *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1943).

They now claimed that the scarlet beast is the League of Nations together with its replacement, which they called the "international peace beast". The new interpretation of "is not" became World War II when the League no longer functioned. And "ascend from the bottomless pit" now meant the League's replacement after World War II — which emerged as the United Nations.

Was it a correct prophecy?

Because the new interpretation was produced in 1942, and the UN arose in 1946, JWs pointed to this as proof of prophetic insight and guidance by God's spirit:

> In 1942 the "faithful and discreet slave" guided by Jehovah's unerring spirit made known that the democracies would win World War II and that there would be a United Nations organization set up.
> (w1960 7/15 444. See also Your Will 1958, 282; Babylon The Great has Fallen 1963, 696; w1967 2/15 122; Yearbook 1975, 203)

JWs, however, did not predict "the democracies would win World War II". In 1942 they predicted the following:

> …all the nations go totalitarian before the FINAL END, and the interests of the "king of the north" [Nazi Germany & Fascist Italy] and the "king of the south" [British Empire and America] merge together, with religion on top as the binding tie. (The New World 1942, 343-344)

Peace—Can it Last (1942) says that the Axis Powers (Nazi Germany, Italy, Japan) in November 1940 signed a "new League of Nations". (p.21) However, any Nazi-Japanese post-war "League" never eventuated because the Axis powers were defeated.

The United Nations, as organized by the Allies, began its formation **eight months before** Knorr's prediction. In 1941 Roosevelt described the alliance fighting the Nazis as the "United Nations", and twenty-six nations signed a joint declaration in January 1942.

Since both warring sides, the democracies **and** the Axis powers, planned a new international organization Knorr's prediction merely reflected what politicians were saying and was sure to occur in some sense irrespective of which side won World War II. It was like tossing a two-headed coin and calling "heads".

Knorr and Franz may also have read *The Coming War and The Rise of Russia* (1940) authored by Bible defender Harry Rimmer who predicted a new League of Nations two years before Knorr did. The WTS knew about Harry Rimmer and sometimes quoted him on other topics, for example in *Basis for Belief* (1953) pp 23, 27, 37, 44.

The new interpretation was explained in detail in the book *Babylon The Great Has Fallen* (1963).

The post-WWII interpretation also failed

After WWII Knorr and Franz predicted that the UN would destroy all (other) religions in the preliminary to Armageddon which they scheduled for the 1970s, within the twentieth century, and within the generation of 1914. All of JWs predictions for all three of these dates failed as surely as had Rutherford's prediction that the League of Nations would destroy Christendom "within a short time".

To sum up: The prophetic fiascos regarding the League of Nations and United Nations are typical of hundreds of predictions of the JWs leaders published by the WTS. The predictions failed but the leaders never say "sorry". Instead they do the following:

1. Distract attention from their false predictions by criticizing "apostate Christendom";
2. Publish new books in which they re-interpret and try again;
3. Deny that false predictions were made and summarize them as "Bible truth" and "true Christianity";
4. Stigmatize any JWs who criticize the predictions as being rebellious and have them excommunicated;
5. Discourage the study of older WTS books.

(See also: *UNITED NATIONS; TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

SCHARRER, TY
A former JW who put his story on the Internet.

Scharrer was five when his parents became JWs and he was baptized at 12:

> The Congregation Servant told me that I would not get out of my teen years before the New World would be here and I would live forever in a wonderful paradise. That was in 1957.

He eventually married and raised two daughters as JWs but with a difference: "I encouraged education, allowed our daughters to establish outside friendships… They were never baptized."

Regarding 1975:

> The Circuit Servants along with the Watchtower Society's publications implied that 1975 was the big hit year. After that, Paradise would be here. Many of the Witnesses in our congregation did not start their kids in school, because they would be educated in the "New Order" after 1975.

Scharrer, however, enrolled his older daughter and she graduated and began her Master's degree. Scharrer himself went to college and:

> …the Elders removed me as a Ministerial Servant. I had committed the ultimate sin. I did not express total faith in the 1975 chronology teaching.

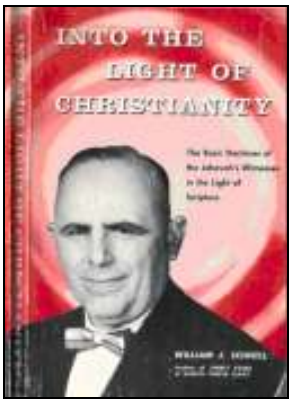
Scharrer began to research JWs history to "build up my faith." However:

> The research shocked me. I uncovered dishonest journalism in the Society's writings, changed chronology dates, hidden failed Armageddon Prophecies…

Scharrer sent the WBTS a letter to resign from the sect with the following consequence:

> My wife and I are totally shunned by over 35 JW relatives. This includes one set of parents, brothers, sisters, my wife's twin brother, and many nieces and nephews. They have not spoken a word to us since 1986…

SCHNELL, WILLIAM, J. (1905-1973)
A prominent JW, born in Jersey City, USA, of German parents, who left JWs in 1953.



1959

The Schnell family visited Germany in 1914 but had to stay there when war broke out. William Schnell joined the Berlin Russellites in 1921 and was baptized in November. He commenced work at Bethel (headquarters) in Magdeburg in 1924, moved to New York in 1927, became a pioneer in 1933, and joined Brooklyn Bethel in 1937.

Rutherford selected Schnell to give a public talk on Atlantic City's Boardwalk in defiance of local ordinances prohibiting use of the Boardwalk for preaching purposes. This resulted in Schnell's 17th arrest in the Watch Tower cause and eventually led to JWs being able to use the area unhindered. This made Schnell a hero with the Organization and he was appointed Zone Servant of North East Ohio and North West Pennsylvania in September 1939.

As Zone Servant, Schnell ended the cliques and divisions within many congregations by splitting them into smaller congregations. In 1939 he baited the quiet town of Hubbarb (Ohio) into angry reaction by concentrating 100 JWs there to demonstrate with sandwich signs reading "Religion Is A Snare and a Racket". The ensuing arrests, riot and court hearings impressed Rutherford. The use of the sandwich signs was repeated and thousands of publishers were put on standby, ready to be summoned to even the odds when riots started. Schnell and Rutherford viewed riots as giving, "The biggest possible witness." Dozens of arrested JWs filed damage suits for false arrest. Eventually large costs brought Hubbarb to its knees and the result was a permanent injunction allowing the Witnesses a free hand to proselytize and demonstrate. Schnell described this as a great victory. (g1939 10/18)

Schnell was one of Rutherford's favorites, indicated by a number of Schnell's letters being published in *The Watchtower*. Nevertheless Schnell rejected invitations to serve at the Brooklyn headquarters.

The new WTS leadership-in-waiting, near the time of Rutherford's death, terminated Schnell's Zone Servant assignment in 1941 and demoted him back to special pioneer service. He formed W. J. Schnell Co. to sell Bibles and Bible aids — an activity dimly viewed by the JWs leaders

In 1946 Schnell started publishing a sheet called *Book News* which described various Bibles and Bible aids. Constant surveillance arranged by the WTS followed and wore him down, and in 1949 he resigned as special pioneer. In 1951 Schnell was also removed from the list of ordinary pioneers. In 21 years of full time service he had sold 250,000 books and made 463 converts who were baptized.

For three years Schnell was stricken by alcohol, debt and conscience. After a night of prayer in April 1952 his life changed again. He attended his last JWs meeting in 1953.

In 1954 he began *Converted Jehovah's Witness Expositor* published four times yearly in

Youngstown, Ohio, and later authored the following books:

- *30 Years A Watchtower Slave* (1956)
- *Into the Light of Christianity* (1959)
- *Christians Awake! Restoring the Art of Witnessing, Evangelizing and Soul-Winning* (1962)

SCHOOL AND JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (1983)
A 32-page brochure.

SCHOOL FOR KINGDOM EVANGELIZERS
In 2014 the WTS inaugurated its "School for Kingdom Evangelizers" at its Palm Coast training center,

The *Daytona Beach News-Journal* reported:

Jehovah's Witnesses holding
classes at Palm Coast training center

By Tony Holt
December 26, 2014

School for Kingdom Evangelizers classes have begun at the former Federal Aviation Administration training center in Palm Coast. Jehovah's Witnesses purchased the property from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in June for $7 million.

PALM COAST — In the heart of the oldest section of Palm Coast, hundreds of Jehovah's Witnesses regularly converge for advanced Bible study. What was once a facility for students learning how to work inside an air-traffic control tower is now a center for study run by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

The Jehovah's Witnesses own and occupy the former Federal Aviation Administration training center...

The School for Kingdom Evangelizers classes requires students to stay for two months at a time and some of them travel from such faraway places as Alaska and Maine…

The Jehovah's Witnesses purchased the property for $7.025 million in June from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, which had owned the complex and had leased it to the FAA since 1987. After the FAA vacated the building in January 2013, the facility remained empty until the end of August this year… The facility includes several buildings that house some 200 dormitory rooms, eight classrooms and an indoor swimming pool.

By the end of the summer, hundreds of volunteers had painted, swept, mopped, scrubbed and spruced up hundreds of rooms. More maintenance is expected, but most areas of the building are being put to use, site coordinator Barry Brachna said...

Everyone who works at the facility is a volunteer, Brachna said. Ministers don't get paid. Instructors at the facility get a "modest reimbursement," but not a salary, he said…

http://www.newsjournalonline.com/news/20141226/jehovahs-witnesses-holding-classes-at-palm-coast-training-center

SCHOONERS
Commencing in the 1920s the WTS outfitted a number of schooners or boats to take literature to islands and remote coastal towns.

The *Morton*, for example, visited the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland in 1929. The 59-foot *Sibia* was outfitted in 1948 and went to islands in the West Indies. (Proclaimers 1993, 439, 462-463)

SCHROEDER, ALBERT D. (1911- 2006)
Governing Body member appointed in December 1974, and whose story appeared in w1988 3/1 10-17 titled: "My Life in Jehovah's Spirit-Directed Organization".

He, there, referred to the "great tribulation" as being "just ahead" which, at the time, meant in the 20th century but turned out false.

Conversion and spiritual advancement

Schroeder was born of Lutheran parents in Michigan but accepted Russellism from his maternal grandmother in 1923. He went to college for three years 1929-1932 but did not get a degree. He started full time door-to-door book-selling in June 1932, was baptized in July, 1932, and entered Bethel in September and worked in the Service Department.

In 1934 Schroeder was imprisoned for two days for peddling without a license. In November 1937 Rutherford made him branch servant in London. In 1942 the British government ordered him back to America as "persona non grata". In 1943 he was appointed School Registrar of the newly formed Watchtower Bible School of Gilead.

Marriage

In 1956 Schroeder married Charlotte Bowin (b.1920) of Russellite parents. Charlotte was previously a missionary in Central America.

Judah Ben

Schroeder is one of the few Governing Body members who had children. His son, Judah Ben Schroeder, was born in 1958 by which time Rutherford's "divine mandate", which had made marriage and having children before Armageddon "against the Scriptures", was rescinded.

There was still a rule against couples at Bethel (Headquarters) having babies but the WTS provided the Schroeders with a house nearby until 1974 when they moved back into Bethel.

The son married a pioneer at age 28 and they pioneered in Michigan. Apparently both later studied at Columbia University and got bachelor degrees in 2007. Judah Ben went on to get a Masters Degree with his dissertation, The Role of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Emergent Right of Conscientious Objection to Military Service in International Law, published in German in a church-history journal — *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte* 2011, Volume 24, Issue 1, Pages 169-206. The Introduction, and Abstract in English and German, is at:
https://www.jstor.org/stable/43751909

After that he bought and sold several properties in the USA, taught public speaking and leadership-training at seminars, and in 2020, with Amber L. Schroeder, started a Limited Liability Company, J. B. Schroeder and Associates, in Florida.

Independent

Raymond Franz reported that Albert Schroeder was somewhat independent of the other Governing Body members, and taught things in his talks when he travelled overseas not in full agreement with official doctrine.

In 1979 Schroeder proposed changing the start of the "generation that would not pass away" from 1914 to 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I. The other Governing Body members declined to accept this as "new light".

Unrepentant

During his long life Schroeder had ample time to repudiate false prophecy and to insist on correctly reporting JWs history in WTS books but he never did. Like other Governing Body members Schroeder did not feel personally responsible for the harmful teachings, since "God is directing the organization".

Schroeder was of the generation of 1914 that "would not pass away" but like all other JWs he was conned and passed away. He lived long enough to see the prophecy falsified and himself exposed as a false prophet, but he never repented or apologized to people whom he deceived.

Personal comment

A Canadian ("Frank") commented on the Internet as follows:

> "Bert" was one of my "overseers" at Brooklyn Bethel when I worked in the Gilead Office… He pretended to be a man of compassion … but was treacherously far from it. My basic memory of him is that he was puffed up with his own self-importance. He walked around the place as if he were some sort of army commander or prince among men. Not a very humble posture or bearing…
>
> I was his chauffer at times, and it was obvious that he had something that seemed like a disdain for those of the "other sheep" who had good suggestions to offer. He'd actually pretend to fall asleep while they were talking.
>
> I feel he was a better speaker than some others on the governing body, but I attribute that to his university education — an education that was hypocritically denied to millions of the rest of us by … the organization. He told me that he was invited to Bethel while he was attending university, and Rutherford told him to come immediately or forget about the invitation. Bert chose to finish his university course, and the Judge later invited him to Bethel anyway...
>
> As for the majority of JWs — the "other" sheep — Bert viewed them as slaves of the governing body, hewers of wood and drawers of water to assist the "anointed" class in their present rulership on earth.

Death

Schroeder died in Brooklyn at age 94 and was at the time the second oldest Governing Body member. Only Carey Barber, aged 100, was older.

SCHWEHM, JEFFREY M.
A former JW who became an assistant professor of biochemistry at Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Schwehm was a JW from age 5 to 25. After finishing high school he pioneered and then served for a year at the Brooklyn

headquarters. After that he went to college. He joined the Roman Catholic Church in 2002 and founded the "Fellowship of Catholic Ex JWs". His story is on the "Coming Home Network".

A letter by Schwehm in 1996 to the Watchtower Society perceptively queried reversals to two major doctrines:

1. People who experienced 1914 would live to see Armageddon;
2. The parable of the sheep and goats is being fulfilled since 1914 (or 1919) by JWs going house-to-house.

Dear Sirs:

I have read the information in the Nov. 1, 1995 that teaches that the "generation" that Jesus talked about at Matt. 24:34, 35 no longer refers to the "generation that saw the events of 1914", but now "refers to the peoples of earth who see the sign of Christ's presence but fail to mend their ways." …

I have also been reading the May 15, 1984 Watchtower which has on the cover "1914—The Generation That Will Not Pass Away". Starting on page 6 and continuing on page 7 this issue of the Watchtower says the following:

"Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: "This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 12:32) And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment of his Son's words in a relatively short time."…

In addition to this, in the October 22, 1995 Awake! magazine and in preceding issues, the masthead on page 4 under "Why Awake! is Published" stated the following:

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

So, according to the October 22, 1995 Awake! and previous editions, the most important reason you have for printing the Awake! magazine was because you wanted to build confidence, not in any promise made by you, the Watchtower Society, but in the Creator's promise that the new system would be here before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away.

Now, the November 1, 1995 Watchtower says that "Jehovah does not change" … it looks to me like the Creator has changed His promise…

You have taught for a very long time that the "parable of the "sheep and the goats was being fulfilled in our day since around 1914 and that individual Jehovah's Witnesses were participating in the fulfillment of this parable by going from house-to-house. It is interesting to me that the October 15, 1995 Watchtower on page 22 … [teaches] … that the parable of the sheep and the goats will be fulfilled some time after the Great Tribulation. I was reading the December 1, 1981 Watchtower recently and there is an article in this issue entitled "The Light's Increase In Modern Times". In this article, you talk about how God has given you progressive light on understanding the Bible. On page 25 paragraph 15 under the subheading "Light on Prophecies and Parables", you comment on the parable of the sheep and the goats. This is what you say:

"More accurate understanding of Jesus' parables also resulted. An outstanding example involved the parable of the sheep and the goats, as recorded at Matthew 25:31-46. It had long been thought that this parable would be fulfilled during Christ's 1,000-year reign. But then Jehovah's Witnesses saw that it simply could not apply at that time. Among the many reasons was that during Christ's millennial reign his "brothers" would not be upon the earth, let alone be in need because of being sick or persecuted. So, it must be fullfilled now, as the enthroned Jesus in heaven gathers the nations for judgment, and this is borne out by the observable facts in fulfillment."

So, it is interesting to me that you have taught previously that the parable of the sheep and the goats is not being fulfilled now, but would be fulfilled after the Great Tribulation. Since this is the case, how can the information in the October 15, 1995 Watchtower be considered "new light"? It appears to me that you are just resurrecting very "old light". Also, the October 15, 1995 Watchtower says that there is NOTHING to indicate that Christ began judging the people of the nations beginning in 1914 or since 1914. However, the December 1, 1981 Watchtower says that the parable of the sheep and the goats is being fulfilled now "as borne out by the observable facts in fulfullment." My question to this is, what observable facts did you see in 1981 that you do not see now in 1995? …
(Posted November 20, 1996.
http://corior.blogspot.au/2006/02/jeffrey-mschwems-letter-to.html)

SCIENCE
Very few JWs study science at university level due to the nearness of Armageddon.

The JWs opposition to vaccination in the 1920s until the early 1950s was based on their general animosity toward science and scientists. (See: *VACCINATION*)

With increasing public awareness and appreciation of science during the 20th century, WTS publications began to suggest that science supports the Bible and the existence of God. For example:

> The more the scientists study the universe the more they can see that there is an intelligence behind it, and the master mind is a great mathematician. (What Has Religion Done for Mankind? 1951, 22)

> All the investigations by modern science into the heavens, the earth and the atom prove that the entire universe was created by a great scientist of depthless wisdom. (This Means Everlasting Life 1950, 26)

SCIENTISTS
Scientists are regularly criticized in WTS publications because of discoveries that refute JWs doctrine and because most scientists accept evolution as fact:

> Feeling their power, the scientists try to subject others to a slavery to the scientific group, subjecting the political governments to a dependence upon secular science. The scientists would make themselves a priesthood of their new idolatry… So the question arises, Does Democracy face a takeover by the scientific technologists of today? (w1966 12/1 713)

The JWs leaders often cannot answer the scientific discoveries that seemingly disagree with the Bible. They also lack the education and objectivity to suspend judgment while the evidence is inconclusive. They cope by regularly restating their prejudices, opposing higher education, and excommunicating and ostracizing dissenters.

A lot of medical quackery was published in *The Golden Age*, *Consolation* and *Awake!* in the 1920s to 1950s which can be attributed to the JWs leaders' animosity to scientists and their own lack of education in science.
(See: *MEDICAL QUACKERY*)

SCOFFERS (2 Peter 3:5-4)
Rutherford claimed the "scoffers" are clergymen who scoff and jeer at Russell's claim that Jesus returned in 1874. (The Harp of God 1921, p.242, and chapter 9)

JWs should nowadays also "scoff and jeer" at such a claim because the WTS in 1930 transferred Jesus' return to 1914. However, JWs can't "scoff and jeer" because the Governing Body has often implied that the doctrines of the 1920s were true.

In *Isaiah's Prophecy Volume I* (2000) we read:

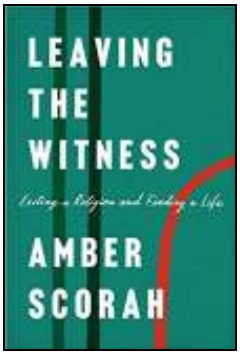
> Since 1919, the anointed Christians have filled the earth with … nourishing spiritual food." (p.286)

> But in the spring of 1919, Jehovah had mercy on his remnant of spiritual Israelites. (Galatians 6:16) He saw their repentance and their desire to worship him in truth, so he brought about their release from imprisonment and, more important, from spiritual captivity. These "escaped ones" were restored to their God-given spiritual estate, which he caused to sprout abundantly. (p.66)

From such self-glorifying statements no one would guess that until 1930 the cult dogmatically proclaimed that Jesus had returned in 1874 besides hundreds of other false interpretations.

SCORAH, AMBER
A third generation JW from Vancouver, Canada who married an elder and became a missionary in China.

She began having doubts, left her religion, moved to New York and authored *Leaving The Witness*.



In a radio interview she described her life in China including how JWs meet and preach there:

> ... there was only one meeting a week, held in a secret location. And other than that, you were kind of on your own. You were left to your own devices to arrange

how you were going to do your preaching work. You didn't really see other Jehovah's Witnesses that much because the city was huge and there were very few Jehovah's Witnesses there.

So effectively, what that meant for our preaching was that — whereas in Canada, we would go to a preaching group, and a brother would assign us who we were working with. And he'd give us a territory map, and we'd go and knock on the doors. Well, in China, you just woke up in the morning and had to figure out how you were going to find people to talk to. Now, given that you're in a country where your activities were illegal, it didn't mean that you could just go out and start preaching to people. You had to first make friends with people and get to know them before you ever brought up your purpose in talking to them.

So what that would entail is, like, multiple meetings with people — maybe over the course of a couple months — getting to know them in order to know whether they were safe. And by safe, I mean they didn't have any affiliation with the Chinese Communist Party. Or they didn't have family members who worked for the government.
https://www.wprl.org/post/i-couldnt-continue-former-jehovahs-witness-leaving-faith

SCOTT, ROGER
The personal secretary to WTS president, Frederick W. Franz.

SCRIPTURES
A term JWs use interchangeably with "the Bible".

JWs leaders claim that they teach:

> …the light of truth that Jehovah God provides through the Scriptures. (w1984 9/1 24)

Such self-affirming comment is published regularly but is almost never qualified with "usually" or "sometimes" or "try to" or "will from now on" or "intended to". The non-use of such qualifiers indicates that the leaders want to be seen as always right despite their thousands of revised interpretations.

SEA (Luke 21:25)
According to Russell the sea in Luke 21:25 symbolizes "the restless masses". (Studies IV, 596)

In the 1980s the sea symbolized submarines with nuclear weapons:

> …the chief spokesman of "the king of the north" announced targeting of medium-range nuclear missiles on the U.S. mainland by "stationing them in the ocean and the seas." All of this fulfills Jesus' prophecy concerning "anguish of nations, not knowing the way out because of the roaring of the sea and its agitation." (w1984 7/1 11; also w1988 10/1 5)

In 1990 the "king of the north" (Daniel 11) identified by JWs as the Soviet Union, disintegrated and its nuclear arsenal decreased. Whether Soviet submarines still "fulfill Jesus' prophecy" is unclear.

SEASON OF REFRESHING (Acts 3:19)
Rutherford explained the "season of refreshing" as the feeling of refreshment and cleansing his followers felt as they appreciated his new prophecies and revisions of doctrine. (w1934 7/15 213-214)

SECOND ADVENTISTS
Followers of William Miller and the Adventist sects that developed out of the disappointment of 1844.

See: *MILLER, WILLIAM; MILLERITES*)

SECOND COMING
See: *RETURN OF CHRIST*

SECOND DEATH (Revelation 20:14)
JWs interpret the "second death" in the lake of fire as annihilation, including the annihilation of people resurrected in the "first resurrection" who join a new rebellion of Satan at the end of the Millennium.

SECRETARY
The elder in a JWs congregation who handles correspondence with the WTS's branch office.

SECT
Russell wrote: "A sect is a split off, and we split off from nothing… We are not a denomination either, for we accept no name but that of our Lord Jesus Christ." (wr1906 3/15 5746)

Rutherford wrote:

> A "sect" as defined by lexicographers, consists of those following a particular leader, or attached to a certain opinion; those who propagate their opinion or belief. Jehovah's witnesses do not follow any earthly leader. They follow Christ Jesus. They are not attached to any

certain opinion, but they are entirely devoted to God and his word. (Yearbook 1939, 7)

Franz defined a sect as composing of the followers of a human leader. The Witnesses are supposed to be different in that they follow Christ. (w1983 9/15 4) JWs deny being a sect. (w1983 9/15 17)

Rutherford's and Franz's definitions imply that everything published by the WTS is from God, not from humans. This blames God for the thousands of errors, revised interpretations and failed prophecies published by the WTS.

Furthermore, Russell and his followers **did** "split off". Russell and his immediate relatives separated from the Advent Christian Church, Rutherford from the Baptist Church and various Governing Body members from Christian denominations.

SECTARIAN DIVISIONS
JWs pride themselves on their unity and claim, "Jehovah's Witnesses have been delivered from sectarian divisions of Christendom." (w1983 9/15 20)

The truth is that about 70% of Russell's original cult dropped away from WTS control in the 1920s and formed at least ten sectarian divisions.

Probably about 100 offshoots from Russellism are active today and several may have over 10,000 members.

The largest offshoot from Russellism are JWs. They can be called an "offshoot" despite retaining control of Russell's Watchtower Society because they deviate from Russellism in hundreds of doctrines and have rejected Russell as their authority. JWs are both an offshoot **and** a continuation.

(See: *DIVISIONS / SPLINTER GROUPS*)

SECURE FUTURE, A (1975)
Booklet in which it is claimed the JWs Organization has "peaceful security" because JWs do not trust "what human leaders promise". God is trustworthy and therefore "loyal supporters of Jehovah's rulership" will soon enter "God's righteous new order".

The distinction between human leaders and "Jehovah's rulership", which on Earth is vested in the JWs leaders, breaks down because their predictions for many specific dates have failed. Either "Jehovah" is a liar or the prophecies attributed to Him were "what human leaders promised".

SECURITY DURING "WAR OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD THE ALMIGHTY" (1960)
A WTS booklet.

"SEE THE GOOD LAND" (2003)
A small (36-page) atlas of the lands of the Bible supplemented with pictures and a little history.

The dates given in the book for events prior to 539 BCE contradict history by adding 21 years to 586 BCE to get 607 BCE for the destruction of Jerusalem. (p.21) This means that earlier dates also deviate from established history by 21 years.

Neither this book nor any other WTS book has ever identified the Babylonian king who supposedly reigned an extra 21 years. Nor has any WTS book ever cited any documents issued during those supposed extra years such as receipts, invoices, legal disputes, promissory notes, rents, land leases, etc, because such documents do not exist.

SEIBERT, G.A.W. (1864-1928
Gertrude Antoinette Woodcock Seibert was a high-profile follower of C.T. Russell, and author or contributing author of several WBTS books besides writing books of religious poetry:

- *Poems of Dawn* (1912)
- *The Sweet Brier Rose* (1916)
- *The Heavenly Bridegroom* (1918)

She was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, attended Altoona High School (1880) and Wellesley College (1885), and in 1890 married Robert Samuel Seibert (1856-1913), a storemanager for several railway companies.

Some of her poetry was published in *The Watch Tower* (e.g. *Walking In The Narrow Way* wr1899 12/1 2544).

Seibert joined the Russellites around 1894 and wrote articles about the Bible for newspapers.

In 1905 the WBTS published *Daily Heavenly Manna for the Household of Faith* which had Bible verses for each day of the year along with explanations and was compiled by Gertrude Seibert. The book's circulation reached 150,000 in English, with other editions in German, Swedish, Norwegian and Rumanianan.

She also authored *In the Garden of the Lord* (1913) which was not published by the WBTS but popular among the Russellites. Some of the songs she composed were included in M.L. McPhail's hymn book *Zion's Glad Songs for all Christian Gatherings* (1908).

Poems of Dawn (1912, WBTS) was an anthology put together by Seibert and includes some of her own poems.

The Sweet Brier Rose (1916) consisted of religious poems.

The Heavenly Bridegroom (1918) contained a selection of poems written by Seibert.

In 1907 the WBTS published a *Common Version Bible* with four appendices, two compiled by Clayton J. Woodworth and two by Gertrude Seibert. (wr1907 10/1 4072) The Bible included 220 pages of "Dawn Studies Comments" compiled by Woodworth, and the "Instructors' Guide" (a detailed index of Russell's Scripture Studies) prepared by Seibert. Woodworth's and Seibert's work was republished as a separate volume titled *Berean Bible Teachers' Manual* (1909) which became a reference work for *The Finished Mystery* (1917).

In 1926 Serbert suggested to Rutherford a revision of the *Manna* book but instead he brought out the *Yearbook* which included a comment for each day of the year based on material published in *The Watch Tower*.

Seibert never converted her husband to Russellism despite persistently trying: "I witnessed to him daily, hourly almost, for nearly twenty years, without apparent effect." (wr1913 6/15 5281)

Seibert died in Miami, Florida in June, 1928.

SEISS, JOSEPH A. (1823-1904)
Self taught Lutheran theologian ordained to the Lutheran ministry in 1844 and a Doctor of Divinity, born in Maryland (USA) of Moravian parents. Eloquent preacher and pastor at Shepherdstown 1843; Cumberland 1847; Baltimore 1852; Philadelphia 1858-1874.

He edited the magazines *Prophetic Times* 1863-1875 and *The Lutheran* 1860-1873.

Authored numerous publications including *Lectures on Epistles to the Hebrews* (1846); *Digest of Christian Doctrine* (1855); *Last Times* (1856); *Holy Types* (1860); Evangelical Psalmist (1860); Parable of the Ten Virgins (1862); Lectures on the Apocalypse (Three volumes 1870-1884); Lectures on the Gospels (Two volumes, 1876); *The Great Pyramid: A Miracle in Stone* (1877); *Recreation Songs* (1878); *Thirty-three Practical Sermons* (1879); *Voices from Babylon* (1879); *Gospel in the Stars* (1882); *Luther and the Reformation* (1883); Lectures on the Epistles (2 volumes, 1885); *Letters of Jesus* (1889); *Beacon Lights* (1900); *The Christ and his Church* (1902).

Seiss is among about ten theologians who influenced Charles Taze Russell in person or through their writings.

The Great Pyramid of Egypt, A Miracle in Stone (1877) is a primary text on pyramidology, and *Last Times* (1856) suggested an invisible return of Jesus.

Seiss was a dispensationalist, a school of thought that viewed human history as a series of God-ordained eras. Dispensationalists believed the end of the current era or dispensation could be calculated from biblical prophecy.

The article "Christ's Personal Return" attributed to "A Lutheran Minister" in the first edition of *Zion's Watch Tower* (July 1879) may have been written by Seiss.

SELFISH
A word commonly used by JWs leaders to control followers' feelings and behavior through guilt. Anyone who disagreed with Rutherford was "selfish", as also were persons who did not preach enough, or who desired to marry or have children:

> A selfish person who feels his own importance thinks he must carry out his selfish way. This shows his lack of understanding, in that he puts his own opinion above organization instructions. (Yearbook 1938, Text April 21)

The "organization instructions" of the 1930s were largely amended by subsequent JWs leaders who therefore must have been "selfish" and felt their "own importance" and carried out their "selfish way"

Nowadays persons are also "selfish" if they have "unclean thoughts and feelings." (w1984 10/15 19)

SENEGAL
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Senegal and their ration to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	177	20,339		
1975	327	12,232		
1980	356	14,045	780	6,410
1985	439	13,667	1,161	5,168
1990	585	12,479	1,555	4,695
1995	755	11,258	2,036	4,175
2000	911	10,428	2,293	4,143
2005	1,001	11,116	2,538	4,384
2010	1,112	10,945	2,734	4,452
2015	1,194	12,671	2,606	5,801
2018	1,369	11,902	2,725	5,980
	Ave.			

2019	1,342	12,143	2,859	5,700
2020	1,349	12,412	2,489	6,727
2021	1,408	12,213	3,837	4,482
2022	1,437	12,285	3,051	5,786
2023	1,508	12,014	3,384	5,354
2024	1,566	11,815	3,264	5,669
2025	1,586	12,226	3,104	6,247

SEPARATION IN MARRIAGE
In the event of unbearable abuse and beatings, the "believing mate" may depart but may not divorce. (w1983 5/15 28)

SENNACHERIB
Ancient Assyrian king who allegedly pictures Satan. (w1945 4/1 105)

SEPARATING WORK
The activity of finding people willing to submit to conversion by "studying the Bible" with JWs and therefore be on God's side at Armageddon.

Until 1995 the "separating work referred to JWs going door to door under angelic direction since 1919 to find the "sheep" and convert them, thus separating them from the "goats" in fulfillment of Matthew 25:31-33. JWs believed they were fulfilling the prophecy in cooperation with Jesus and the angels by going door to door!

In 1995 JWs learned that the separating work of the sheep from the goats was not in progress since 1919 after all, but would be done at the time of the "great tribulation". (w1995 11/1)

Apparently, none of the millions of JWs, despite being "Bible students", had noticed this error during the 72 years when it was taught as "Bible truth"! Or if any did notice and spoke up they were disfellowshipped for apostasy.

SERBIA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Serbia and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2010	3,860	2,103	8,370	970
2015	3,895	2,084	7,939	1,022
2018	3,933	1,790	8,149	864
	Ave.			
2019	3,845	1,811	7,750	899
2020	3,766	1,849	7,288	956
2021	3,777	1,827	9,181	752
2022	3,716	1,829	7,254	937
2023	3,690	1,800	6,906	962
2024	3,705	1,783	7,134	926
2025	3,774	1,745	6,817	966

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Serbia and Montenegro and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2005	3,998	2,033	8,359	972

The figures for Serbia & Montenegro were published separately after 2005.

SERMON OUTLINES (1961)
A booklet to help JWs present "sermons" at people's doors. It has 60 topics from 'A' for Armageddon to 'W' for Wisdom with sub-topics and Scripture-references.

SERMON WORK
Door to door work with the intention of giving short sermons of three-to-eight minutes, followed with a literature offer.

SERMONS
Prepared door-step presentations of three to eight minutes are called "sermons". In congregations and at conventions, however, public addresses and addresses to the JWs are called "talks" or "public talks" not sermons.

SERVANT
A position of responsibility in a congregation or higher up in the Organization.

Until 1972 circuit and district overseers were "circuit servants" and "district servants".

SERVANT TO THE BRETHREN
A representative of the Society sent to visit a group of congregations individually to organize them for greater proselytizing efficiency. The position began in October 1942, was later renamed "circuit servant", and in 1972 to "circuit overseer".

SERVANT/SERVANTS
Men appointed to handle jobs in congregations such as accounts, ushering, and literature orders. (w1944 11/1 324-325) Since 1972 servants are regarded as having non-teaching roles, distinct from elders who "teach".

Until 1932 the WTS congregations had "elective elders". During the 1930s these were replaced in each congregation with men directly loyal to Rutherford and referred to as "committee servant", "study servant", etc.

A new "elder arrangement" commenced in 1972 and distinguished elders (also called "overseers") from "servants" in that the former focus more on "teaching".

SERVANTS OF YAH
Apparently a group of ex JWs described on their website as follows:

> **Mission**: Our mission is two-folded. The ***first*** is to prepare hearts to seek the Torah of Yah, and to diligently obey and teach the laws, commandments, statues, and judgments of Yah. The ***second*** mission is to dispel error and to replace it with the truth.
>
> **Vision**: To be successful in preparing other believers to go out and teach pure Torah (Yah's teachings and instruction) to a spiritually dead and lost world, so that there will be a return unto the pure faith of Yahshua, the apostles, and the prophets.
>
> **Who We Are**
>
> We are a teaching ministry, only. We are **not** a church, and do not desire a following or congregation since we are already members of the One True Church, the Body of Ha' Mashiach. We are just *slaves* to the Most High Yah and serve him through obedience to His Word. Given inspiration from our Father Yah, we have the assigned duty of restoring the heritage and true Word of Yah that has been removed from the Hebrew Israelites due to disobedience of the Covenant and the Torah (Law)...

SERVE NOTICE
When the predicted end of the "harvest" failed to occur in 1918/1924, Rutherford claimed that God wanted a short period in which the Russellites would "serve notice" about Armageddon to governments and religions:

> Before the final overthrow of the great evil organization it is God's purpose to serve notice upon the rulers and people of earth. That is the reason why God has caused a great witness to be given in earth concerning his purpose and government. (Government 1928, 279)

SERVE WHERE THE NEED IS GREAT
A phrase introduced in 1957 to encourage JWs in large congregations to relocate to other areas where little or no proselytizing was being done.

SERVICE
Often short for "field service" i.e. door-to-door activity such as literature distribution, return visits, home Bible studies, and other activity reportable as "ministry".

Also any activity or work performed for the Organization in its factories and offices.

SERVICE COMMITTEE
In 1932 the group of men elected in each congregation to replace the "elective elders". (w1983 9/1 22)

The committees were part of Rutherford's agenda for removing elders elected under C.T. Russell's arrangement. Elders who became members of committees accepted submission to the WTS and took over the congregation, displacing Russell's elected elders. Six years later in 1938 Rutherford ended all elections to positions of authority in congregations including the elected committees, and the WTS thenceforth appointed "servants" in each congregation. (w1938 5/15; 6 /1; 6/15)

SERVICE DAY
From 1923 the first Tuesday of every month was set aside to sell Rutherford's books. (Qualified to Be Minister 1955, 319)

SERVICE DEPARTMENT
The department at branch offices that monitors local congregations, circuit overseers and district overseers, and answers questions from elders by letter and telephone.

SERVICE DIRECTOR
A man appointed by Rutherford in each congregation supposedly to act as helper to the elders but in reality to usurp their authority and capture as many members of the congregation as possible for service to the WTS.

The Service Director was not subject to annual elections in the congregation as were the elders. (w1983 9/1 22) The WBTS addressed all mail and literature to the Service Director. The influence of the elders therefore declined as a step to their final elimination in 1938.

SERVICE MEETING
A weekly gathering at the Kingdom Hall, usually on Thursday or Friday evening to provide instruction for field service and daily conduct. The monthly brochure *Our Kingdom Ministry* provides outlines for each meeting.

The Service Meeting is aimed at JWs publishers and householders they study with; the public is not invited but can attend if they want to. The Service Meeting used to be one hour and followed on from the "Kingdom Ministry School" but became shorter when the "Book Study" meeting formerly held in private homes was added to the other two meetings.

SERVICE WORK
Preaching and distributing publications of the WTS.

SERVICE YEAR
The period September 1 to August 31, used by JWs for reporting and calculating JWs witnessing activity in lieu of the fiscal year (July to June) used by governments.

SERVING JEHOVAH
Activities that promotes the interests of the WTS and Governing Body, especially the distributing of WTS literature and speaking the doctrines.

SETTING
The imaginary circumstances in a role-playing segment at a meeting. A "sister" giving a talk in the Theocratic Ministry School might speak to another "sister" pretending to be a householder — the imaginary "setting" would be a visitation to a house.

SEVEN CHURCHES (Revelation 2 – 3)
Russell interpreted these seven churches as seven ages or periods in the history of Christianity. The first age was 33–73 A.D; the 7th was Russell's cult from 1874 to 1918. (The Finished Mystery1917, 23, 58)

Rutherford interpreted all seven churches as periods in the history of the Russellite cult between 1879 and Armageddon. (Light I 1930, 17) The church at Ephesus for example represented Russellism of 1916-1917 (pp 17-20); the church at Pergamum represented Russellism of 1917 (p.27); the church at Thyatira represented the period around 1900 when Russell's wife had left him and some other wives sought more prominence. (pp 29-31)

These interpretations were part of the process whereby Rutherford made his cult the centre of Bible prophecy and then justified his centralization of power by reference to such interpretations.

Franz reinterpreted the seven churches as sub-groups within the Russellites of World War I. (Then Is Finished the Mystery of God 1969, chapters 8-14)

SEVEN LAST PLAGUES (Revelation 16)
Interpreted in *The Finished Mystery* (1917) as Russell's seven volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures*. (pp 237-257)

Reinterpreted in *Light Book Two* (1930) as seven messages or proclamations made by Rutherford at seven conventions from 1922 to 1928 and widely distributed in printed form. (pp 19-67)

The pot calling the kettle black

Both the former and the latter interpretation were accompanied by pages of condemnation of Christendom and its ministers for rejecting Russell's and Rutherford's "truth".

Much of the condemnation, however, also fits the JWs leaders. For example:

> Volume IV of Scripture Studies, as soon as published, was sent free to all clergy whose names could be obtained. They are taught, and teach others, that they are important luminaries in the heavens, suns rivaling in brilliancy the Lord Himself, whose place they take in the minds of the people, by setting forth their own views on every subject, rather than the Lord's Word...
> Why they should have disliked Pastor Russell when he told the truth, and proved it, is remarkable. (The Finished Mystery, p.241)

Today's JW leaders have themselves rejected hundreds of points in Russell's so-called "truth". They have replaced Bible study with study of their own books (because direct Bible study leads people out of the JWs religion) and made themselves "luminaries" who replace God in the minds of JWs.

SEVEN SEALS (Revelation 6)
Rutherford in 1917 interpreted the "seven seals" as representing events in Christian history.

The first seal represented the doctrines of the apostles, the second seal represented the Papacy from 325 to 539 A.D.; the fifth seal represented the Reformation 1518-1578. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 105-106, 117-118)

In 1930 Rutherford reinterpreted the seven seals and applied them to the World War I period. (Light I 1930, 70)

SEVEN THUNDERS OF MILLENNIAL DAWN (1928)

A concise refutation of Russellism in booklet form (32 pages) by Dr B.H. Shadduck.
(See: *SHADDUCK, B. H.*)

SEVEN TIMES (Daniel 4:16)
"Seven times" in Daniel 4 refer to the seven years of King Nebuchadnezzar's madness. JWs give this a second and greater prophetic significance:

> When Nebuchadnezzar's sanity was restored by God, little did he realize that the "seven times" were to have a greater fulfillment of a year for each day of the seven prophetic years of 360 days each, a total of 2,520 (7x360) years... these "times of the Gentiles" expired in 1914 C.E. (w1973 11/1 644-645)

JWs and other derivations from Russellism, as well as various Adventist and Pentecostal groups, claim that each year of Nebuchadnezzar's 7-year madness had 360 days totaling 7 x 360 = 2520 days. They convert the 2520 days to 2520 years, and start them from when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, and calculate dates such as 1914 or 1917 or 1933.

The Bible, however, gives no instructions regarding a single "greater fulfillment" with exact dates. The message behind Nebuchadnezzar's madness is a general one for all people that:

> {God's] sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation ... and he able to bring low those who walk in pride. (Daniel 4:34-37)

All the prophecies, yes **all the prophecies,** of C.T. Russell for 1910 to 1918 based on the 2520 years calculation failed. Probably **every** prediction that included a date for Armageddon or for Christ's return by **every** cult using the 7 x 360 calculation has failed.

In the 1940s the JWs leaders relied on the "seven times" calculation to claim that the start of the final generation before Armageddon was the people who experienced 1914. (See: *GENERATION*) They also calculated that Armageddon would occur within the 20th century. (See: *TWENTIETH CENTURY*)

Based on the seven-times calculation for 1914 the 1973 *Watchtower* cited above predicted the "peaceful thousand-year reign of God's kingdom" was near and added:

> It is based on the promise of the Creator—not only on a promise, but on the sure prophetic words of the One who has already proved that he can do it… (w1973 11/1 643)
>
> And now, particularly, many serious students of government and of world conditions—statesmen, scientists and others—are saying that mankind will not even be able to survive to the year 2000 C.E...
> For we, of all generations of people, have the opportunity to see the destruction of wickedness, the cleansing of the earth, and the survival into a righteous new order. (ibid p.646

Armageddon and paradise on Earth did not come, and in 1995 the JWs leaders revised the definition of "generation". The "promise of the Creator" and his "sure prophetic words" were false — as false as Russell's similar predictions for 1914.

The predictions failed, and Russell and the Governing Body were again exposed as false prophets, because:

1. The Bible does not state that Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of madness have a second fulfillment;
2. The date 607 BC from which they started their 2520 years is unhistorical because Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC not 607 BC.

(See: *GENERATION*; *SEVENTY YEARS*)

SEVENTEEN NINETY NINE
Start of "the last days" when Napoleon debased the pope and this finished the 1260 days of Daniel 7:25; 12:7. (wr1889 January-February, 1093; Studies II 1889, 256; Studies III 1891, 58, 63, 64)

Rutherford still proclaimed 1799 an "indisputable" date in the 1920s:

> The indisputable facts, therefore, show that the "time of the end" began in 1799; that the Lord's second presence began in 1874; that the harvest followed thereafter and greater light has come upon the Word of God. (w1922 3/1 73)
>
> Since he has been present from 1874, it follows, from the facts as we now see them, that the period from 1874 to 1914 is the day of preparation. This in no wise militates against the thought that "the time of the end" is from 1799 until 1914. The period from 1799 to 1874 could not be said to be a day of preparation, but a day of Increasing light. (w1922 11/1 333)

The "indisputable facts" were abandoned in 1930 when Rutherford switched the start of "the last days" and Christ's "second presence" to 1914. Russell and Rutherford had often defamed Christian pastors as wilful opposers of God's truth for rejecting the Russellites' false second presence of Christ but never

apologized for any of it.

SEVENTH MONTH MOVEMENT
Beginning in February 1843 Samuel S. Snow declared the Jewish seventh month i.e. Tishri to be the true ending of the 2300-years dated from 457 BCE.

In the *Midnight Cry* Snow calculated the end of Daniel's "70 weeks" to be in 34 CE, to which he added 1810 years and got the Autumn of 1844 for the return of Christ:

> I believe this argument to be based on correct premises, and to be perfectly sound. What then is the conclusion? It must certainly be this: That as the 70 weeks ended in the autumn of A.D. 34, the remaining part of the 2300 days, i.e., 1810, being added, brings us to the autumn of A.D. 1844... But I am confident, from the light I have received from God's blessed word, in those glorious types which he has given in mercy, for his children to understand, that our King and Saviour will appear in his glory in the seventh month of the Jewish sacred year. (May 2, 1844)

Based on such reasoning the "Seventh-Month Movement" was launched at a five-day camp meeting that opened on August 12, 1844 at Exeter, New Hampshire.

The 3,000 Millerites who attended became convinced that October 22 was the equivalent of the tenth day of the seventh Jewish month and Christ's second coming would take place. This stirred them from lethargy to renewed proclamation and intense expectancy.

(See also: *GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT, THE*)

SEVENTH WORLD POWER
Great Britain. (w1941 11/14, 30)

SEVENTY YEARS
Seven places in the Old Testament mention seventy years in connection with the Jews. JWs apply five of these 70year references to an alleged 70-year desolation (or devastation) of Jerusalem and Judah from 607 to 537 BC.

JWs believe Jerusalem was laid desolate in 607 BC at which an alleged 2520-year period began that ended in 1914 AD. (See: SEVEN *TIMES; GENTILE TIMES*) They get 607 BC because it is 70 years earlier than 537 BC (when they believe a large group of Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon).

JWs error

The error of JWs is that Daniel mentions 70 years in connection with the devastations [plural], and there were **five** devastations beginning at different dates but ending at the same time:

Daniel 9:2 says:

> In the first year of Darius ... I myself, Daniel, discerned by the books the number of the years concerning which the word of Jehovah had occurred to Jeremiah the prophet for fulfilling the devastations of Jerusalem, [namely,] seventy years. (NWT)

Five desolations /devastations:

- **605**: Babylonian forces occupied Palestine and transferred prominent Jews including Daniel to Babylon in the third year of Jehoiakim. (Daniel 1:1-6; 2:1)
- **597: Babylonians** transferred 3000 Jews to Babylon. (II Chronicles 36:5-8; Jeremiah 52:28) after Jehoiakim had reigned 11 years, i.e. about 8 years after Daniel was exiled.
- **597:** The Babylonians took 10,000 Jews to Babylon when Jerusalem's next king, Jehoiachin, had reigned only 3 months.. (II Chronicles 36:9-10; II Kings 24:8-14)
- **586:** The Temple was burned, after Jerusalem's final king, Zedekiah, had reigned 11 years, and 832 Jews were taken to Babylon. (II Kings 25:22-26; II Chronicles 36:17-19; Jeremiah 40-43; 44:30; 52:29-30).
- **581:** 745 Jews taken to Babylon. (Jeremiah 52:30

Note that the first four desolations cover about 20 years and correspond to the 19 years that Nebuchadnezzar (II King 25:8) had already reigned.

The mistake of JWs is that they count the 70 years of desolation from the fourth desolation instead of from the first. If we count the 70 years from the first , then the date of the fourth, when the Temple was destroyed, agrees with secular historians, and it lasted about 50 years.

Jeremiah's 70 years

Jeremiah 25 refers to <u>70 years of Babylon's military supremacy</u> when the surrounding nations "serve the king of Babylon". (25:11-12; 27:6-8; 28:14)

Jeremiah 29:10 in *The New World Translation* says "seventy years **<u>at</u>** Babylon" to suggest that the Jews would be captive in Babylon for 70 years. Other translations say "seventy years

for Babylon"; and the *NRSV* says "when Babylon's seventy years are completed". The 70 years in Jeremiah 29 refer to 70 years of Babylonian supremacy not Jewish captivity.

The context of Jeremiah 29 is a letter Jeremiah sent to the exiles in Babylon after the exile of King Jeconiah [another name for Jehoiachin] (29:2) who reigned for only three months. (II Chronicles 36:9-10) This was 11 years before the destruction of Jerusalem's walls and Temple. The 11 years that followed Jeremiah's sending of the letter were therefore part of the 70 years of Jerusalem's (and other nations') "servitude" to Babylon. The 70 years, however, began 8 or 9 years prior to the letter.

Zechariah

Another 70-year period is mentioned in Zechariah 1:7, 12.

Zechariah was written in 518 BCE this being the fourth year of King Darius (7:1) of Persia and speaks of God's "indignation **these seventy years**." This 70-year period does not refer to Jeremiah. It referred to 70 years from the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE to its rebuilding in 516 BCE. (Ezra 3; 6:15; Zechariah 7:1-7)

2520 years

Some Russellite splinter groups recognized the 20-year error and added 2520 years to 586 BC and calculated 1933-1934 rather than 1914.

Rutherford instead discarded God's Kingdom of 1878 and invented his 1914 Kingdom of God as the centre of his theology. However, his 1914 kingdom is as big a charade as the 1878 kingdom because it's based on his false date for the fourth desolation of Jerusalem.

SEVEN WOMEN (Isaiah 4:1)
Interpreted by Rutherford as the "so-called Christian system". (Deliverance 1926, 281)

SEWELL, MARK (1961-)
A JW elder in Cardiff, England jailed for 14 years for raping a woman and sexually abusing girls. He was found guilty of 8 counts of sexual abuse over eight years.

The case is typical of how JWs handled sexual crime in their congregations prior to their mishandling getting publicized and the WTS paying large court-ordered payments to victims.

Mia De Graaf reported for *The Mail Online*:

> But when the victims reported him to the church, a committee cleared him of all allegations - and shredded the evidence.
>
> Finally, after 19 years, he has been found guilty of eight counts of sexual abuse…

Regarding one girl the report says:

> After the teenager reported the sickening abuse she was forced to face Sewell at three meetings organised by the Jehovah's Witnesses.
>
> Respected church elder Sewell branded her a liar and avoided being disciplined. His victims were banned from 'gossiping' about the attacks by other church elders.

JWs gave police no assistance:

> The Jehovah's Witness church provided nothing to help the police in their investigation and allegedly shredded documents showing complaints about Sewell. (July 2, 2014)

The *New World Translation* says: "Anyone pronouncing the wicked one righteous and anyone pronouncing the righteous one wicked—even both of them are something detestable to Jehovah." (Proverbs 17:15)

The JWs Governing Body instituted policies for managing child sexual abuse that "pronounced the wicked one righteous" and "the righteous one wicked", which made them "detestable to Jehovah".

SEX IN THE SECT (1995)
An Australian published autobiography of Vicki J., a former JW female who grew up near Brisbane.

She describes sexual abuse by her overseer father and regards JWs as not very godly but living a charade. She discusses the Organization and doctrines superficially but accurately.

Vicki J. tried settling her doubts by visiting one of the "remnant" and his wife. They lived in a garage with a bare concrete floor. (p.125) She felt disturbed that the JWs Organization which gets $billions, and accuses the Catholic Church of fleecing the flock, allows members who gave lifelong service finish their lives in squalor.

The book has many anecdotes. One man's false teeth, for example, came loose at the Memorial because the unleavened bread acted like glue and he tried to solve the problem by gargling the wine!

Other anecdotes reveal JW duplicity. A woman whose husband was imprisoned for murder could not divorce because JWs allow divorce only for adultery. After many years he was released, moved into her house and inflicted

beatings and abuse on wife and children. The elders washed their hands of the problem. Vicki J. reasons that in Bible times a murderer was executed and the widowed woman could then remarry — and Jesus assumed this when he made adultery the sole ground for divorce. Since the man would, under the law that Jesus accepted, have been dead the Governing Body should have permitted the woman to divorce and avoid years of suffering. (pp 153-155)

SEXTON, E. D.
A prominent elder and speaker at conventions in Russell's time.



Sexton on the pilgrim work "in the mountains of the west".
(International Bible Students Souvenir Convention Report, 1913)

Speaking at a convention in 1913 Sexton said:

> Dear friends, you know we are getting so near the time when the clock is going to strike 1914 that some of us might waver a little, and begin to say, Well, I do not know, it was all right about thinking of 1914 when it was a long way off, but now when it is real close, it is different. I know just how you feel. I will tell you how it came to me at first. I said to myself, you had better not talk so much about 1914, because it is getting close to that date. If you want to have the approval of the friends all along the line, and don't like to have them say, Well, Sexton said so and so, you had better keep quiet about 1914, because if it is not so and so, they will say you are not as good a prophet as you thought you were.
>
> When I found myself wavering in this way, I commenced to talk more about 1914 than in all the years previous. And if October, 1914, comes and things do not happen as we think they are going to happen, why I am coming around just as cheerful as ever, and we will try 1915. But I do not anticipate that my dear friends. I expect that the Lord's people are going home pretty soon…
>
> Yes, 1914 will soon be here and we shall all go home…
>
> Now, Jesus did come in 1874, and forty years from 1874, October, would bring you where? Nineteen hundred and fourteen. And what will happen? The overthrow of the antitypical Jerusalem. (Convention Report 1913, 102-103)

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE
This was banned by Rutherford as "selfish" even for married couples. He urged:

> …people to shun love-making with the opposite sex because it is one of the things the Devil has fostered and leads away from undivided devotion to Jehovah and therefore brings reproach upon his name. (w1933 3/1 77)

By 1938 Rutherford had virtually banned marriage, claiming that biblical marriage was intended for after Armageddon. (See: *DIVINE MANDATE*)

In the 1950s Knorr and other JW leaders married and the restriction on sex and marriage eased. Service at headquarters was previously limited to singles but in1950 this rule was amended and persons who had served there at least ten years could marry.

In 1969 JWs leaders required their followers to avoid sodomy and anything a partner found "repulsive". (w1969 12/15 767) In 1972 they concluded that sodomy, including oral and anal copulation, were "contrary to nature", "obscene" and "grossly unnatural". They added that "some of the clergy" have succumbed to these trends in this "world of decaying morals".

The leaders also cautioned against forms of "love play" that could lead to sodomy. They base their anti-sodomy arguments on Romans 1:18-27. These verses, however, deal with homosexual not heterosexual intercourse.

If sodomy among JWs came to light, the offenders were to be disfellowshipped. But the elders were not to go prying and spying to find infringements. (w1972 12/1 734-736)

The tone of the advice was such that JWs generally felt obliged to report dubious sexual practices, their own or others they heard about, to the elders. Numerous "judicial hearings" followed until 1977 with elders inquiring into sexual habits, leading to

turbulent results especially in cases where a JW was married to an unbeliever. Unprecedented volumes of mail followed to the WTS.

The Governing Body back-flipped (See: Crisis of Conscience, 1983, 47-48) and allowed married couples to choose their own sexual activity. Disfellowshipping for sodomy was discontinued. (w1978 2/15 30-32) The Governing Body thereafter tolerated activities that they had accused "some of the clergy" of tolerating — activities they had called "obscene" and "grossly unnatural" — but did not apologize to "the clergy". (See also: *DIVORCE; MARRIAGE*)

SEYCHELLES
Publishers and Memorial attendance on the Seychelles and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
1970	9	5,553		
1975	51	1,078	56	982
1980	43	1,512	107	606
1985	52	1,346	157	446
1990	81	802	249	261
1995	123	604	420	177
2000	225	357	569	141
2005	254	322	714	115
2010	317	273	790	110
2015	347	264	935	98
2018	338	281	906	105
	Ave.			
2019	324	302	979	100
2020	341	287	976	100
2021	358	277	1,349	74
2022	356	301	1,181	91
2023	339	319	1,047	103
2024	345	351	1,044	116
2025	368	332	1.019	120

SHADDUCK, B.H. (1869-1950)
A critic of Rutherford who wrote a 32-page refutation of Russellism titled *Seven Thunders of Millennial Dawn* (1928).

The following extract is from the Second Edition (pp 6 - 9):

SELF-RECOMMENDATION

> No book of The Bible makes such sweeping claims for itself as this "Finished Mystery." Volume 7 which claims to be the embodiment of at least seven prophecies in the Book of Revelation and undertakes to explain all that



was hitherto hidden in Ezekiel, Canticles and Revelation. It says (p. 466), "The Sword of the Spirit was to be wielded by Pastor Russell twice three times in his six volumes." It explains that itself is *the point of the sword.* The inference is that before Volume 7 was issued there was no point to the sword. Other Bible Students know that the "sword of the spirit" is the Word of God.

One may expect that a book that recommends itself so highly will exalt the alleged author to some station far above any other prophet. Though it was printed after Mr Russell had "passed from earth" and mentions Mr, Russell by name no less than 232 times (I have not numbered the pronouns), the publisher says (p. 5), *"He did write it."* The same page says, "Pastor Russell was a man of unusual modesty," all of which leaves the authorship in some doubt.

On page 144 this book, which is called a "Posthumous Work of Pastor Russell," explains Revelation 8:3, which describes an angel offering incense, by saying, *"This verse shows that, though* Pastor Russell *has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the Harvest work"* (Italics mine). Page 169 says, Pastor Russell was the seventh angel mentioned in the tenth chapter of Revelation. On page 334 we are told that the angel mentioned in Revelation 22:6 is "the same angel mentioned in Revelation 1:1; 19:9, 10; representing Pastor Russell beyond the veil." Page 53 says of him, "He has privately [why privately?] admitted his belief that he was chosen for his great work from before his birth." Page 418 identifies Mr. Russell as the "man in linen" seen by Ezekiel. If the reader will open a Bible at Ezekiel 9 and read of this character who marked the foreheads of those who were, to be spared, and was followed by six men with "slaughter weapons," he can better understand the claim that this "man in

linen" was none other than Mr. Russell himself, shown to Ezekiel in a vision something near 2,500 years ago. It appears that Mr. Russell has already finished this marking, for page 420 says he has "undoubtedly made his report in the presence of Christ that he has done the work he was given to do."

I would not think this a fit place to refer to the troubles Mr. Russell had with his wife, but the book proclaims it. Volume 7 gives to them eternal significance. In Ezekiel 24 is a story of the death of the prophet's wife,—at least most people would so understand it,—which this book says has reference to the trouble between Mr. And Mrs Russell. Page 483 offers as an exposition of Ezekiel 24:15, 16:
"God took away from Pastor Russell the desire of his eyes, her whom he loved, with a stroke of 'plague' of spiritual error that completely separated them." Thus it appears that the divorce case of Mr. Russell was typed or foretold in the Book of Ezekiel.

Not only is Mr. Russell identified as the angel or angels who appeared to the apostle John, but he is said to be the "loud voice" of Revelation 10:3, the "great voice" of Revelation 16:1, and the "strong voice" of Revelation 18:2 (pp. 167, 237, 273). If the reader will read these portions of Revelation and see that these voices are ascribed to the Lord Jesus in the first, from within the Temple in the second, and an angel of great power in the third reference, he may decide how near this comes to blasphemy.

This edition of the book that I have carries the imprint "393,000 edition," which indicates that a great army of people accept these interpretations as the voice of the seventh angel, and think of themselves as "Bible students." After reading the repeated warnings of our Lord in Matthew 24:4, 11, 24, that "false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many," I am better prepared to believe it possible to find buyers for a "393,000 edition" of this "Finished Mystery."

Here are samples from this volume that indicate the estimate these people have of other people who may think themselves Bible students. "In 1878 the stewardship of the things of God, the teaching of Bible truths, was taken from the clergy, unfaithful to their age-long stewardship, and given to Pastor Russell" (p. 386) Then, in 1881, he became God's watchman for all Christendom (p. 387).

This will explain why these people never had any other "pastor." On page 227 appears this prayer against other people "O Lord, judge them with thy Truth! Thou Hast called them the abominations of the earth,' and so they are. Bring their man-made clergy-ridden systems to an end and make their memory to perish from the earth! Amen." Page 410 has this: "The clergy's God is puny not Jehovah, but the deficient deity, hoary with the iniquity of ages—Baal—the Devil himself."…

"TRUTH PEOPLE" AND "PRESENT TRUTH"

Not only do Millennial Dawn people give themselves the exclusive name of "truth People," but they claim the exclusive custody of "Present Truth." This giving of tense modifications to truth is inconsistent for people who specialize in "truth" that needs to be "set" frequently like a slow going clock. The "truths" that failed them in 1914, 1918, and 1925 have been replaced with a "truth" that has some years yet to go.

DO ANGELS BLUNDER

Could a man who was chosen before he was born to put ink on the persons who are to be spared, a man who is a central figure in the great visions of Ezekiel and Revelation, a man who is the loud voice of Jesus, the Seventh Angel, the instrument to turn loose the Seven Thunders and pour out the Seven Last Plagues,—could he mislead multitudes? This is a good place to stop and think.

Mr. Russell prophesied that our churches, schools, banks, and governments would be completely destroyed by October, 1914. Later, the destruction was promised in instalments ending in 1925. Volume 4, page 622, says of the kingdom of God: "Its influence and work will result in the complete destruction of 'the powers that be' of 'this present evil world,' political, financial, ecclesiastical—by the close of the Times of the Gentiles, October, A.D. 1914." On page 99, Volume 2, he says: "The final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God, will be accomplished by the end of A.D, 1914." Please observe that in these prophecies the words *complete, final end*, and *full establishment* to not admit of any range of option for the events. In an edition of these books showing publishers date of 1923 the words "by the close" in the first quotation are changed to "about the close," and the words "by the end" in the second quotation are changed to "near the end." Even with these changes the fulfillment is long overdue.

Volume 7 postpones the collapse for four years. It says (p. 485): "In the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell (not Judge Rutherford) to learn the meaning of the downfall of 'Christianity'."

From this, it appears that survivors will be Russell students—*the very thing these* people say *they* are not.

Let the reader keep in mind that this Volume 7 was printed the next year after Mr. Russell died, as a "Posthumous Work of Pastor Russell." Therefore it is the *last word* from Mr. Russell on dates and events. I emphasize this because there are books in circulation that have evidently been tampered with—books that appear to be wholly the literary work of Mr. Russell written more than twenty years previously—books in which the time limits, in some cases lifted or the prophecies modified.

Volume 7 establishes the fact that as late as 1917 all sorts of upheaval, collapse, and calamity were expected in 1918, 1920, 1921, and 1925. This fact ought to nullify the thinly disguised efforts to make the books that were written earlier show a later program of Mr. Russell.

I will not weary the reader with the many prophecies that had movable dates, but I would caution persons having copies of the books that an early publisher's date does not prove that the revisions that were evidently thrust into a type page already set up were prepared by Mr. Russell before that time. In many cases *the revision is so calculated and measured that it fits into a line without disturbing the first and last words of the line, and rarely does it disturb the lines above and below,* though there are a very few places where a new paragraph is set in. Volume 2, with, a publisher's date of 1923, shows a chart on page 247 that dates the destruction of nominal Christendom for 1915. Volume 7, with a *publisher's date* five years earlier, has the same chart on page 595, with the date three years later. Thus it is clear that the earlier publisher's dates may be just as false as the changing of Mr. Russell's statements *after he was dead.*

THUNDERS RE-THUNDERED

Not only have they reset the doomsday of Christendom, but they have postponed their own departure. Volume 3, early edition, says on page 228, "Just how long before 1914 the last living members of the body of Christ will be glorified, we are not directly informed." Mr. Russell becomes more certain as he writes, and be says on page 364, "We may well accept the testimony of the Great Pyramid…" (pp 6-9)

(See also: *Investigator Magazine* #206, September 2022)

SHARPSHOOTERS
Sharpshooters were persons who sold Russell's books to friends and neighbors.

They differed to colporteurs in not being assigned a village, town or area to cover systematically. (wr1907 6/1 4001) The nearest later equivalent would be "congregation publishers" except that these used to (1920-2023) report their "hours" which sharpshooters during Russell's presidency did not.

In the 1920s and 1930s, sharpshooters were colporteurs who reported (or were supposed to) 60 hours book-selling activity per month. Again, the nearest equivalent today is the congregation publishers, except that these can now get counted if they do as little as ¼-hour per month.

SHEEP
Baptized, non-disfellowshipped, JWs and their children are "sheep".

A householder who listens submissively is said to be "sheep-like".

People who get to inhabit paradise on Earth will be "sheep" — based on Matthew 25:31-40.

SHEEP AND GOATS (Matthew 25)
A prophecy of Jesus that Russell applied to the millennium. Both groups, the sheep and goats, according to Russell refer to gentiles:

> Neither class is Christian. The sheep are persons who do the Lord's work during the Millennium, such as teaching the resurrected ones. The goats are selfish people who "would rather go automobiling. (Pastor Russell's Sermons 1917, 224-227. Also Studies I, 144)

> Note our Lord's parable of the sheep and the goats, applicable not to the Gospel age, but to the world in the Millennium… The separating and judging will occupy the entire Millennial age, and at its close the "sheep" will be welcomed to the Father's favor… (Studies V 1891, 479-480; The Finished Mystery 1917, 307)

Sheep and goats — pre-Armageddon groups

In 1923 Rutherford repudiated the identity of the sheep and goats as groups in the Millennium and identified them as 20th-century pre-Armageddon groups:

> [24]To whom, then, do the symbols sheep and goats apply? We answer : Sheep represent all the peoples of the nations, not spirit-begotten but disposed toward righteousness, who *mentally acknowledge Jesus Christ* as the Lord and who are looking for and hoping for a better time under his reign. Goats represent all that class who claim to be Christians, but who do not acknowledge Christ as the great Redeemer and King of mankind, but claim that the present evil order of things on this earth constitutes Christ's kingdom. (w1923 10/15 309)

In 1931 Rutherford identified the sheep of Matthew 25 with the people of Ezekiel 9 who are marked in the forehead. (Vindication I 1931, 109) In 1935 he further identified the sheep with the "great multitude" of Revelation 7:

> In 1923 it was discerned that the "sheep" of Jesus' parable at Matthew 25:31-46 and the "other sheep" to which he referred in John 10:16 were persons now living who would have opportunity to dwell forever here on earth. In 1931 the ones described in Ezekiel 9:1-11 as being marked in their foreheads by the man with the secretary's inkhorn were identified with the "sheep" of Matthew 25. Then, in 1935, the "great multitude," or "great crowd," of Revelation 7:9-17 was seen to be the same as the "sheep" of Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats. (United in Worship of the Only True God 1983, 103-104)

Rutherford wrote:

> In the year 1914 the Lord Jesus was enthroned as king of the world. (Matthew 24:3-14) Three and one-half years thereafter Christ Jesus the King appeared at the temple of Jehovah and gathered unto himself his faithful followers and commissioned them and sent them forth to 'preach this gospel of the kingdom'; and thus is marked the beginning of the Lord's judgment of the nations, and concerning which it is written: "And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate… Matthew 25:32, 33. (Salvation 1939, 160-161)

Subsequent WTS writers agreed that the separation of the sheep and goats started in 1918 (or 1919):

> The parable of the "sheep and goats" reveals that Christ Jesus would begin to gather and "bring" these "other sheep" following his enthronement as king in 1914 and his coming to the temple for judgment in 1918… In such separating work, now progressing among the nations, the "other sheep" class are placed on the king's right hand of favor. (w1950 4/15 120)

> Then in 1918 Jehovah, with his King-Son appeared at his temple for judgment and commenced the separation of his "sheep" from the "goats." (w1958 3/15 177)

> According to the apostle Matthew's account, Jesus closed his prophecy by giving the illustration of the symbolic sheep and goats… This takes place after Satan the Devil and his demons are ousted from their heavenly location and privileges down to our earth's vicinity by the enthroned King Jesus Christ. (w1980 10/1 27)

> With the beginning of World War I in 1914, the old system of things entered its "last days." (2 Timothy 3:1) Kingdom rule also began in 1914. (Revelation 12:10-12) Christ was then authorized to begin separating the "sheep" from the "goats". (w1984 3/15 17; Also: The Greatest man Who Ever Lived 1991, 111)

> In line with that foretold gathering, noteworthy is the year 1935… In that same year the attention of the "slave" was specifically directed to the earthly sheeplike ones, with a view to gathering them to the right side of the reigning King Jesus Christ. (w1985 2/1 22)

> Yes, since Christ returned and sat down on his heavenly throne, all humankind has been on judgment. The present "day of judgment" comes before the 1,000-year Judgment Day begins. During the present judgment people are being separated as "goats" to Christ's left hand or as "sheep" to his right. (You Can Live Forever in paradise on Earth 1989, 183)

Jesus' return in 1914 was for the "purpose" of separating the sheep and goats:

> The arrival occurs in 1914. But for what purpose? Jesus explains: "And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived 1991, 111)

"Properly understood"

Rutherford's 1923 reinterpretation was "properly understood":

> 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. (w1986 5/15 14)

The "good" that assures salvation means helping Christ's "spiritual brothers"

Preaching house to house to find the "sheep", and other cooperation with the "remnant" and the WTS, is the "good" that the "sheep" do to Jesus in Matthew 25:40 and assures salvation:

> The pastoral King tells us how a person may be considered fit to be separated to the side of divine favor in contrast to the goatlike people. It is by doing good to those yet remaining on earth of the spiritual "brothers" of the reigning King, who are in line for a seat with him on his heavenly throne. The doing of such good things means that they approve of the Kingdom witnessing done by the spiritual "brothers" of the King. They give support to it in every way they can… More positively than that, they directly share with the anointed remnant in preaching "this good news of the kingdom," just as Jesus foretold at Matthew 24:14. They do this publicly and from house to house. (w1983 1/1 13)

> It is to the members of the "slave" class that the righteous "sheep" have done good things… (w1985 2/1 21, 22)

A "glorious fulfillment" revised

The alleged separation work since 1923 was still a "glorious fulfillment" in 1993:

> In this day of judgment of the nations, Jehovah's associate Shepherd and King, Christ Jesus, the son of David, continues to separate the "sheep" of mankind from those who may claim to be "sheep" but are actually "goats." (Matthew 25:31-33) This "one shepherd" is raised up also to feed the sheep. <u>What a glorious fulfillment</u> of this prophecy we see today! (w1993 1/1 19)

In 1995 Governing Body revised the "glorious fulfillment" that began in 1923:

> [22] Does this parable apply when Jesus sat down in kingly power in 1914, as we have long understood? Well, Matthew 25:34 does speak of him as King, so the parable logically finds application since Jesus became King in 1914... Yet nothing indicates that at that time, or for that matter since, Jesus sat to judge people of *all the nations* finally as sheep or goats.
>
> [23] If we analyze Jesus' activity in the parable, we observe him finally judging *all the nations.* The parable does not show that such judging would continue over an extended period of many years...
> (w1995 10/15 22)

So, when is the parable fulfilled?

> [25] This means, then, that Jesus' 'sitting down on his glorious throne' for judgment, mentioned at Matthew 25:31, applies to the future point when this powerful King will sit down to pronounce and execute judgment on the nations...
>
> [26] Understanding the parable of the sheep and the goats in this way indicates that the rendering of judgment on the sheep and the goats is future. It takes place after "the tribulation" mentioned in Matthew 24:29, 30 breaks out and the Son of man 'arrives in glory.' (Compare Mark 13:24-26) Then, with the entire wicked system at its end, Jesus will hold court and render and execute judgment… This clarifies our understanding of the timing of Jesus' parable. This means, then, that Jesus' 'sitting down on his glorious throne' for judgment, mentioned at Matthew 25:31, applies to the future

Thus a major reason for the JWs preaching work after WW1 – to cooperate with Jesus and the angels in separating the sheep and the goats – was invalid. The revised story, however, still makes support of the "remnant" crucial for salvation:

> The parable does not apply during the Millennium, for the anointed will not then be humans suffering hunger, thirst, sickness, or imprisonment. Many of them, though, have experienced such during the conclusion of this system of things...
>
> [10] Is Jesus saying that everyone doing a small kindness to one of his brothers, such as offering a piece of bread or a glass of water, qualifies as one of these sheep? Granted, rendering such kindnesses may reflect human kindness, but really, it seems that much more is involved with the sheep of this parable. Jesus was hardly referring, for example, to atheists or clergymen who happen to do a kind act to one of his brothers. On the contrary, Jesus twice called the sheep "righteous ones." (Matthew 25:37, 46) So the sheep must be ones who over a period of time have come to the aid of—actively supporting—Christ's brothers and have exercised faith to the extent of receiving a righteous standing before God. (ibid p.25)

The "sheep" by the new interpretation still appear to be JWs of the "great crowd, and the "goats" are still people who "reject the Kingdom message". Apparently the "goats" survive the start of the "great tribulation" but get destroyed later.

The difference from the previous interpretation, therefore, is that the separating of the sheep and goats was not done after WW1 by the preaching work, but is done during the "great tribulation". JWs cannot, at present, claim to be the sheep because it is Jesus who will judge who is or isn't a sheep or goat:

> [15] ... Jesus is the one who is appointed to render judgment. It is not for us to determine who are sheep and who are goats. (ibid p.26)

SHEEP SCATTERED

JWs leaders teach that "Christendom" is divided into hundreds of sects and this "religious disorganization" is the source of wars and the "reprehensible leaders of Christendom" are to blame:

> But what is the situation today? During the nineteen intervening centuries since the first-century visible theocratic organiza-tion, the Christian congregation has undergone serious changes and split-ups. The flock of God has been scattered and hundreds of sects, just like those that Paul warned the Corinthian congregation against, now exist throughout Christendom. Has this advanced the theocratic order and the brotherhood of the Christian congregation? On the contrary, Christendom's religious disorganization has resulted in violent religious wars and persecution. As an example and prophetic pattern of these reprehensible leaders of Christendom, the apostate priests of Israel were addressed by Jeremiah, at Jehovah's direction: "'Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasturage!' is the utterance of Jehovah. Therefore this is what Jehovah the God of Israel has said against the shepherds who are shepherding my people: 'You yourselves have scattered my sheep; and you kept dispersing them, and you have not turned your attention to them.'" (Jer. 23:1, 2, 11, 12) Jehovah will not allow such false shepherds to go unpunished. (w1967 10/1 588)

JWs themselves have produced hundreds of offshoots which together until about 1940 outnumbered the WTS group. The main causes of this divisiveness are:

1 The numerous false predictions of the JWs leaders;
2 Thousands of revisions to what they promoted as "Bible truth" — truth which allegedly had been delivered by angels, conveyed by the "holy spirit", and entrusted to "faithful men" who don't publish "human opinion" but only what's "revealed".

The reprehensible leaders are to blame for the divisions they have cause. They did not even maintain unity among a few thousand, and later several million followers, despite dominating their lives more thoroughly than political dictators control nations or clergymen control churches. Instead of restoring unity the JWs leaders scattered their sheep by directing barrages of accusations and insults at them. (See: *APOSTATES*) If JWs and their ex members were to become really numerous we have here the seeds of future wars.

SHEOL

In the Bible *Sheol* is the place of the dead until the resurrection.

JWs teach that the dead are non-existent except in God's memory. Sheol, therefore, is:

> The common grave of mankind, gravedom; not an individual burial place or grave…
>
> Sheol is the place (not a condition) that asks for or demands all without distinction, as it receives the dead of mankind within it. (Insight II, 1988, 922)

Insight (p.922) quotes *Collier's Encyclopedia* as saying:

> Sheol in Old Testament times referred simply to the abode of the dead and suggested no moral distinctions, the word 'hell,' as understood today, is not a happy translation.

Collier's Encyclopedia also says (but *Insight* doesn't quote) this:

> The realm of the dead in the Old Testament was a gloomy region under the earth and was entered through gates; there the souls of the departed lingered in a shadowy existence, apart from men and God, although a few men of faith did dare to express hopes for more than this in the life to come, as may be seen in Job xix:25-27, Ps xvi:8-11 and xvii:15, and elsewhere.

Insight additionally quotes *The Encyclopedia Britannica* (1971, Volume 11):

> Sheol was located somewhere 'under' the earth… The state of the dead was one of

> neither pain nor pleasure. Neither reward for the righteous nor punishment for the wicked was associated with Sheol. The good and the bad alike, tyrants and saints, kings and orphans, Israelites and gentiles — all slept together without awareness of one another.

As understood from the Old Testament, Sheol is the waiting stage until the resurrection and the judgment. The dead are shadow-like and body-less, unconscious most of the time akin to sleeping, but with periods of consciousness. The Bible suggests they occasionally communicate with each other. (Isaiah 14:9-11)

SHILOH
Name of the library associated with Gilead missionary school.

SHORT TIME
An adjective the JWs leaders often use in reference to the remaining time until Armageddon. Regular reminders that "The time is short" motivate JWs to do extra preaching and interested people to join up before it's too late:

> The time is short. Those who do not inform themselves and who do not now choose the new world which Higher Powers shall establish will never live to enter into blessings and glories. (The New World 1942, 10)

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

> The hope of humanity is the new world and its Theocracy! Let all persons of intelligence and lovers of right now choose! … The time to choose is short. There shall never be a return to the old; there shall never be a return of the nations to "normalcy" again in this world. "This gospel of the kingdom [Theocracy]" has been preached in all the inhabitable earth for a witness unto all nations by God's remnant and their companions and they continue so to do; and this was prophesied to come immediately before the final end. Is it not of significance, then, that this public preaching of this good news of The Theocracy by God's witnesses is being steadily ruled against and every effort made to close it down by the nations of this world, and only a few countries are still open to a degree? (Matthew 14:14) In the rapidly marching world events, the prophecy of Daniel chapter eleven concerning the total war on earth for world domination is undergoing fulfillment. (The New World 1942, 123-124; Australian edition 105-106)

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

> The time is short. (Revelation Its Grand Climax Near At hand! 1988, 129)

Often such quotes are to "you", the readers. Therefore, the readers at the date of writing, "have no time to lose" in making "these changes in your life." Such claims become false prophecies if Armageddon delays until the original readers die out.

SHORTLY; SHORTLY NOW
These are words the JWs leaders use to suggest that the end of the preaching work, the destruction of religion, Armageddon, and paradise on Earth are too close to waste time with college or advancing one's career:

> His day of vengeance is here, and Armageddon is at hand and certain to fall upon Christendom and that within an early date. God's judgment is upon Christendom and must shortly be executed. (Vindication I 1931, 147)

> Never was it so important to preach the good news of the Kingdom as just now; and when this is done, shortly now, Armageddon will immediately follow. (g1940 10/30 17 Australian edition)

> …the present system of things is to end shortly in a "great tribulation" more destructive than the global Flood of Noah's day. (w1985 2/1 23)

The regular use of "short", "shortly" and "shortly now" motivate many JWs away from further education into "pioneer work" and/or to donate more money.

Of course by human standards — and the WTS publications are distributed to humans — an event predicted to come "shortly" which doesn't come within several decades is a false prediction.

SHULTZ, B.W. & DE VIENNE, R.
Authors of *Nelson Barbour: The Millennium's Forgotten Prophet*. (2009 Fluttering Wings Press) Barbour is the man who calculated 1873, 1874, 1875 for Christ's return and mentored Russell from 1876 for several years.

SHUNNING 1
JWs can leave the sect by:

1. Drifting away or staying away;
2. Disassociation by notifying headquarters that they want to leave JWs;
3. Disfellowshipping i.e. excommunication after committing a "serious" sin;
4. Disfellowshipping due to openly disagreeing on prophecy, doctrine, or the official history of the sect.

All four categories are defined as having "left the way of the truth" and having "rejected Christianity". The 2nd, 3rd and 4th groups are labeled "doers of wicked works", "lawbreakers" and other derogatory labels and are ostracized i.e. shunned by JWs:

> Occasionally, though, a person deviates from the path of truth. For example, despite help from Christian elders, he may unrepentantly violate God's laws. Or he may reject the faith by teaching false doctrine…
> By also avoiding persons who have deliberately disassociated themselves, Christians are protected from possible critical, unappreciative, or even apostate views. (w1988 4/15 26-27)

Shunning substitutes for killing

A parallel is drawn with the Law of Moses which allowed execution for certain crimes after which no one could associate with the person because he was dead. JWs cannot at present apply the Law of Moses and literally kill "apostates". Therefore they do the nearest thing which is to treat "apostates" as if they are dead by shunning them.

> Well, reflect on the severe cutting off mandated in God's Law to Israel. In various serious matters, willful violators were executed… When that happened, others, even relatives, could no longer speak with the dead lawbreaker. (w1988 4/15 27)

The victims suffer the trauma of ostracism. JWs won't listen to them, greet them, be employed by them or employ them, or acknowledge their existence.

This divides families: If family members live apart then any disfellowshipped member cannot be talked to. If they live in the one family home "normal family affections and dealings can continue" (w1988 4/15 28) but without religious discussion or joint prayer. If the disfellowshipped relative lives elsewhere the ideal is to have no contact:

> Even if there were some family matters requiring contact, this certainly would be kept to a minimum, in line with the principle: "Quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy person [or guilty of another gross sin],…not even eating with such a man."—1 Corinthians 5:11. (w1988 4/15 28)

In Rutherford's time people who queried any doctrines or didn't go door to door were described in WTS publications as blind, critical, dishonest, disobedient, babblers, dreamers, enemies, evil, false, haughty, selfish, etc. Supporters of Rutherford, in contrast, were bold, courageous, faithful, honest, humble, joyful, loyal, obedient to God, etc.

Such labels plus the official instructions to avoid disputes, ignore critics, and go door to door to survive Armageddon, effectively sidelined dissenters. Many, on their own accord, eventually stopped attending meetings.

Shunning formally introduced in 1952

A formal doctrine of disfellowshipping including instructions to ostracize, "hate" and "loathe", was introduced in 1952.

Overseers in the congregation would name the person and announce his disfellowshipping. The ex-JW was then considered an "apostate" and shunned by the sect including any relatives of his who are JWs. JWs could not say "Hello" to him and had to avoid all unnecessary contact with him because: "He is not welcome in our midst, we avoid him." (w1952 3/1 141)

Why?

Being shunned makes ex JWs suffer, and more so because when they became JWs they "burned their bridges" by discontinuing previous friendships. Isolation is stressful and this forces some back into submission and obedience. JWs put it this way:

> Consider, too, that continuing to accord social fellowship to an expelled person, even one as close as a relative, may lead the erring one to conclude that his course is not so serious, and this to his further harm. However, withholding such association may create in him a craving for what he has lost and a desire to regain it. Jehovah's way is always best, and it is for our own protection.—Proverbs 3:5. (w1986 3/15 18)

It seems pre-planned. Newcomers are urged to discontinue previous friendships because these are "worldly", which increases the isolation if they defect and suffer shunning. Then the pain of social isolation and ostracism persuades "apostates" to "repent" and confess, "how serious it was to turn my back on Jehovah." (w1988 4/15 30)

Note that dissenters are always wrong, never right. They are always people who "turn their back on Jehovah" or "teach false doctrine" or deviate from "the truth". The leaders despite their background of thousands of revisions to their interpretations, and numerous failed predictions, are always in the right and it's always from the Bible

Outsiders recognize another function of shunning besides inflicting pain:

1. To prevent JWs from finding out about the false prophecies (which ex JWs tend to focus on);

2. To prevent JWs from finding out about the hundreds of doctrinal changes and other unsavory history (which ex JWs may also want to share).

Shunning often succeeds in bringing back people who were disfellowshipped for committing a "serious sin" such as immorality, but usually fails with people who left the sect as a result of studying its history.

No redress in courts

Some American JWs have taken the issue to court. *The Watchtower* (1988 4/15 29) discussed a woman who wanted redress for being shunned. A federal district court granted judgment against her based on the concept that courts do not get involved in matters of church discipline. The woman appealed. The federal court of appeals affirmed the earlier decision but based it on First Amendment Rights:

> Because the practice of shunning is a part of the faith of the Jehovah's Witnesses, we find that the 'free exercise' provision of the United States Constitution…precludes [her] from prevailing…
>
> Shunning is a practice engaged in by Jehovah's Witnesses pursuant to their interpretation of canonical text… Courts generally do not scrutinize closely the relationship among members (or former members) of a church. Churches are afforded great latitude when they impose discipline on members or former members… The members of the church [she] decided to abandon have concluded that they no longer want to associate with her. We hold that they are free to make that choice.
> [819 F.2d 875 (9th Cir, 1987]

A few ex JWs have tried to sue for slander, libel, or defamation because of the derogatory descriptions of "apostates" published in *The Watchtower*, but again failed because "courts do not get involved in matters of church discipline". As regards shunning, judges have also noted that there is no legal right to be talked to.

(See also: *COURTS; DISFELLOWSHIPPING; APOSTATES; ERROR; EXCUSES; FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

SHUNNING 2 – QUOTES

The following are some of the statements on disfellowshipping published since 1952:

> We must hate in the truest sense, which is to regard with extreme active aversion, to consider as loathsome, odious, filthy, to detest. (w1952 10/1 599)
>
> In the case of where a father or mother or son or daughter is disfellowshiped, how should such person be treated by members of the family in their family relationship? We are not living today among theocratic nations where such members of our fleshly family relationship could be exterminated for apostasy from God and his theocratic organization, as was possible and was ordered in the nation of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai and in the land of Palestine. "Thou shalt surely kill him; thy hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. And thou shalt stone him to death with stones, because he hath sought to draw thee away from Jehovah thy God…
>
> Being limited by the laws of the worldly nation in which we live and also by the laws of God through Jesus Christ, we can take action against apostates only to a certain extent, that is, consistent with both sets of laws. The law of the land and God's law through Christ forbid us to kill apostates, even though they be members of our own flesh-and-blood family relationship. However, God's law requires us to recognize their being disfellowshiped from his congregation…
>
> Satan's influence through the disfellowshiped member of the family will be to cause the other member or members of the family who are in the truth to join the disfellowshiped member in his course or in his position toward God's organization. To do this would be disastrous, and so the faithful family member must recognize and conform to the disfellowship order. How would or could this be done while living under the same roof or in personal, physical contact daily with the disfellowshiped? In this way: By refusing to have religious relationship with the disfellowshiped…
>
> The purpose of observing the disfellowship order is to make the

disfellowshiped one realize the error of his way and to shame him, if possible, so that he may be recovered, and also to safeguard your own salvation to life in the new world in vindication of God. (w1952 11/15 703-704)

Generally speaking, it would be desirable for us to have no contact with disfellowshiped persons, either in business or in social and spiritual ways. (w1952 12/1 735)

When a person persists in a way of badness after knowing what is right … then in order to hate what is bad a Christian must hate the person with whom the badness is inseparably linked. (w1961 7/15 420)

In ancient Israel … offenders who went beyond the atoning provisions of the law were to be cut off from the congregation of Israel. How? By being put to death… Therefore [in JWs congregations] the ones who are hardened in wrongdoing are the ones who are disfellowshipped…

What kind of offences are regarded as disfellowhsipping offenses? These include persistence in sexual offenses, stealing, lying, dishonest business practices, rebellion against Jehovah's organization, slandering, drunkenness, apostasy, teaching of false doctrine and other wrongs….

What is the purpose of this cutting off from God's congregation? The most important purpose is the preservation of Jehovah's pure worship. No corrupting influence is allowed to remain… If a body member is cancerous the entire body is in danger…

Also, it serves as a powerful warning example to those in the congregation, since they will be able to see the disastrous consequences of ignoring Jehovah's laws. Paul said: "Reprove before all onlookers persons who practice sin, that the rest also may have fear."…

Through this drastic disfellowshipping action, the offender might be shaken and shocked to his senses and become ashamed of his bad course of action…

A disfellowshipped person is cut off from the congregation, and the congregation has nothing to do with him. Those in the congregation will not … so much as say "Hello" or "Goodbye" to him…

Therefore the members of the congregation … will not converse with such one or show him recognition in any way. If the disfellowshiped person attempts to talk to others in the congregation, they should walk away from him. In this way he will feel the full import of his sin... (w1963 7/1 410-413)

In the case of the disfellowshiped relative who does not live in the same home, contact with him is also kept to what is absolutely necessary. As with secular employment, this contact is limited and even curtailed completely if at all possible…

The excommunicated relative should be made to realize that his visits are not now welcomed as they were previously when he was walking correctly with Jehovah. (w1963 7/15 443-444)

Even blood relatives who do not live in the same home with a disfellowshipped relative … avoid contact with such disfellowshipped relative just as much as possible… In this way the wrongdoer is made to feel the enormity of his wrong…

A disfellowshipped person is not prohibited from attending meetings in the Kingdom Hall… None will greet him of course… (Organization For Kingdom-Preaching And Disciple-Making 1972, 172-173)

Thus, the one who doubts to the point of becoming an apostate sets himself up as a judge. He thinks he knows better than his fellow Christians, better also than the 'faithful and discreet slave,' through whom he has learned the best part, if not all that he knows about Jehovah God and his purposes… Some apostates even think they know better than God… (w1980 8/1 19-20)

Persons who make themselves not of our sort by deliberately rejecting the faith and beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses should appropriately be viewed and treated as are those who have been disfellowshiped for wrongdoing... Christians would not want to have such fellowship with an expelled sinner (or one who has renounced the faith and beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses, disassociating himself). The expelled person has been 'rejected,' being "self-condemned" because of "sinning", and those in the congregation both accept God's judgment and uphold it...

Hence, the Bible here rules out social fellowship, too, such as joining an expelled person in a picnic or party, ball game, trip to the beach or theater, or sitting down to a meal with him. (w1981 9/15 23-24)

The second situation that we need to consider is that involving a disfellowshiped or disassociated relative who is not in the immediate family circle or living at one's home… Christians related to such a disfellowshiped person living outside the home should strive to avoid needless association, even keeping business dealings to a minimum… (w1981 9/15 29)

... if someone is disfellowshiped, he must at the time have had a truly bad heart and/or been determined to pursue a God-dishonoring course. Peter said that the condition of such a person is worse than before he became a Christian; he is like 'a sow that was bathed but has gone back to rolling in the mire.' This should help Christian relatives and others to have God's view of a disfellowshipped person. (w1983 1/1 30)

We have been forewarned that there will be apostates and people who just like to have their ears tickled. Counsel such as at 2 John 9-11, 1 Corinthians 5:11-13 and 2 Timothy 3:5 allows no room for associating with those who turn away from the truth. Nor do we purchase or read their writings. (w1984 12/15 19)

Now, what will you do if you are confronted with apostate teaching — subtle reasonings — claiming that what you believe as one of Jehovah's Witnesses is not the truth? ... You may even reason: "It won't affect me; I'm too strong in the truth. And, besides, if we have the truth, we have nothing to fear. The truth will stand the test." In thinking this way, some have fed their minds upon apostate reasoning and have fallen prey to serious questioning and doubt...

Why is reading apostate publications similar to reading pornographic literature? … Like gangrene, apostate reasoning is nothing but quick-spreading spiritual death.

Therefore, resolve in your heart that you will never even touch the poison that apostates want you to sip. Heed the wise but firm commands of Jehovah to avoid completely those who would deceive you, turn you aside into the ways of death. (w1986 3/15 12, 14, 15, 20)

Why have Jehovah's Witnesses disfellowshipped (excommunicated) for apostasy some who still profess belief in God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ? Teaching dissident or divergent views is not compatible with true Christianity, as Paul makes clear at 1 Corinthians 1:10: "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." (New International Version) Was this unity to be achieved and maintained by each one's independently searching the Scriptures, coming to his own conclusions, and then teaching these? Not at all! …

Approved association with Jehovah's Witnesses requires accepting the entire range of the true teachings of the Bible, including those Scriptural beliefs that are unique to Jehovah's Witnesses…
(w1986 4/1 30-31)

By also avoiding persons who have deliberately disassociated themselves, Christians are protected from possible critical, unappreciative, or even apostate views. (w1988 4/14 28)

God's fatherly discipline, which can affect our spiritual lives, can take many forms. One is his arrangement to exclude from the Christian congregation a person who no longer wants to live by God's standards, or who refuses to do so. A person who is thus strongly chastised or disciplined may repent and turn around...

Such shunning would be appropriate, too, for anyone who rejects the congregation… So the direction at 2 John 11 could well mean not to say even "hello" to such ones…

Disfellowshipped and disassociated ones are shunned by those who wish to have a good relationship with Jehovah… John counsels against speaking to or associating with a disfellowshipped or disassociated person so as not to be "a sharer in his wicked works." (2 John 11) (Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock 1991, 103)

Apostates are included among those who show their hatred of Jehovah by revolting against him. Apostasy is, in reality, a rebellion against Jehovah. Some apostates profess to know and serve God, but they reject teachings or requirements set out in his Word. Others claim to believe the Bible, but they reject Jehovah's organization and actively try to hinder its work. When they deliberately choose such badness after knowing what is right, when the bad becomes so ingrained that it is an inseparable part of their makeup, then a Christian must hate (in the Biblical sense of the word) those who have inseparable attached themselves to the badness. True

> Christians … feel a loathing toward those who have made themselves God's enemies, but they leave it to Jehovah to execute vengeance. (w1993 10/1 19)

SHUNNING 3 -- RUSSELLISM

Shunning of dissenters was introduced by C.T. Russell but was not as extreme as later practiced by JWs.

Under the heading "Unequally Yoked" Russell discussed II Corinthians 6:14-18:

> The idea is not that the saints should be unkind or unneighborly to the unbelieving: on the contrary, they are to be kind to all men … but it is that they should not be friends in the sense of having communion and fellowship…
>
> To be separate does not mean to be friends and companions, or to be in fellowship on any grounds. It means that we are to make a clean-cut division between ourselves and all the unclean, the impure in heart, as manifested by their disloyalty to the truth, and thereby to God, its great Author; and that this separation is to be so marked that the disfellowshipped one will be sure to know it, and that none can mistake our obedience and loyalty to the Lord and his truth. There is to be no trifling or half-way obedience in this matter; for we are not only to be separate in spirit from the enemies of the Lord, but we are not to *touch* the unclean. As the Apostle elsewhere says we are to "avoid them"—to have no part or lot with them.
>
> It is only on these conditions that we have the Lord's promise—"And I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you; and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." We are thus brought face to face with the alternative of making a definite choice between the Lord and his truth on the one hand, and the enemies of the Lord, whether open or covert, on the other. The command is, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." There is no neutral ground; and no half-way compliance can realize the blessed promise—"And I will receive you," etc.
>
> It is the spirit of the world. and not the spirit of Christ, which considers such a separation from the ungodly and the apostate a hard service. The loyal heart cannot admit to its communion and fellowship those who have not the same loyal disposition. What would be the natural conclusion of a husband, if he saw his wife, who professed loyalty and devotion to him, making a special friend or companion of his enemy, either secret or open? or of the wife whose husband found pleasure in fellowship and communion with one who is an enemy to her, or who in any way treats her with discourtesy or disrespect? And should we "not be equally loyal to our heavenly Bridegroom and our heavenly Father? and equally sensitive and quick to discern the opposing spirit which seeks to undermine and destroy the faith and loyalty of God's elect? …
>
> To thus come out from among the unclean, and to be separate from all the deceitful, as well as from the open, workers of iniquity, may often leave us quite alone in the world; but the truly loyal heart will prefer to be alone with God, rather than to have the friendship of those who are untrue to him…
> (wr1893 10/15 1588)

Russell right, others wrong

Note that Russell presumes that everyone else — not he or his cult — is "impure in heart", "unclean", "enemies of the Lord", "ungodly", "apostate", "deceitful", "workers of iniquity", etc. Russell's cult is presumed to have a "loyal heart" and "obedience and loyalty to the Lord and his truth".

Yet Russell taught hundreds of points that would merit disfellowshipping as an apostate by JWs today. The Governing Body of today would likewise in Russell's viewpoint be "impure", "unclean", "enemies", "apostates", and "deceitful", to be avoided and ignored.

SHUNNING 4 — SOME OBSERVATIONS

Observation 1

Disfellowshipping offences in the above list of quotes include "lying, rebellion against Jehovah's organization, apostasy, teaching of false doctrine". In other words many JWs are disfellowshipped for disagreeing with the leaders on doctrine.

Remember that the JWs leaders have made false predictions for 25 or more dates, reversed themselves in thousands of interpretations of Bible verses including every major doctrine, and yet insisted on having every revision accepted as "Bible truth", "God's word", and "Jehovah's way". (See entries such as: *DATES*; *FINISHED MYSTERY*; and *ERROR*).

Clearly, the leaders are themselves what they accuse others of — "liars", "rebels", "apostates" and "teachers of false doctrine".

Excommunication, therefore, often amounts to tyrants protecting their power and illusions by suppressing others who have greater insight.

Observation 2 — Protection

The main purpose of shunning is to "protect" or prevent JWs from getting information about their religion:

> By also avoiding persons who have deliberately disassociated themselves, Christians are protected from possible critical, unappreciative, or even apostate views. (w1988 4/15 26-27)

JWs need protection not only from "apostates", but also from informed people who never were JWs. Such people are pre-judged as "not sincere" and "wishing to argue", and must also be avoided:

> But suppose we are preaching the good news and people raise questions or objections similar to those raised by opposers? Of course, if a person is not sincere and merely wishes to argue, usually it is best to excuse oneself and go to the next door. (w1986 3/15 13)

Observation 3 — Unity

Note again the quote:

> Teaching dissident or divergent views is not compatible with true Christianity, as Paul makes clear at 1 Corinthians 1:10: "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." …
>
> John goes on to say regarding those holding such variant views: "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. For he that says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works."-2 John 7, 10, 11
> (w1986 4/1 30-31)

"Unity" and "no divisions" in I Corinthians refer to matters outlined in that Epistle — namely "Christ crucified", the ministry of the apostles, sexual morality, lawsuits, marriage, idolatry, warnings from Israel's history, the Lord's Supper, Spiritual gifts, love, tongues, orderly worship, the resurrection, etc.

In II John the people to be avoided are "those who do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh" and "Everyone <u>who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, but goes beyond it</u>..."

Here is the root of the problem. The JWs leaders introduced thousands of ideas which "did not abide in the teaching of Christ, but went beyond it..."

Similarly, I Corinthians 4:6 limits Christian teaching to: "Nothing beyond what is written." However, thousands of changes to JWs doctrines demonstrate that the leaders often go "beyond what is written".

The New Testament doctrine of unity on key issues has been twisted by the JWs leaders to mean agreement with them on all their false prophecies and other errors.

Observation 4 — No shade of grey

The JWs shunning doctrine allows for no shade of grey. Ex JWs are always wrong and always "God's enemies" and always teaching "false doctrine", but the JWs leaders are always right and always upholding "God's high standards", "Jehovah's way" and "the truth". It is always the darkest black versus the whitest white.

The main reason many leave the sect is never addressed — this being false prophecies and numerous doctrinal flip-flops fraudulently presented as "God's truth", "Bible truth", "Jehovah's way", "divine light" and "accurate knowledge".

Observation 5 — Internet response

An Internet discussion of shunning among JWs included these comments:

- "A chilling piece of emotional blackmail…"
- "It is so vile ... it is so cruel ... makes my heart just sick."
- "Utterly revolting."
- "We are not living today among theocratic nations where such members of our fleshly family relationship could be exterminated for apostasy from God and his theocratic organization, as was possible and was ordered in the nation of Israel." Oh DARN, it would have been so much easier to just kill the rebellious apostates!
- "SIGH. It breaks my heart now to think of how I treated my disfellowshipped aunt…
- Who was I to act like such a little snot?"
- "Any thinking person can see this for what it really is — emotional blackmail."

SHUT DOOR

The Millerites had a "shut door" doctrine to make sense of Christ's failure to return in 1844,

which Russellism and JWs modified for renewed use when their predictions failed too.

Millerites — no more salvation after 1844

The Millerites predicted the second coming of Jesus for 1843 and then October 22, 1844. When this failed they decided the date (1844) was correct but the predicted event mistaken.

The interpretation many Millerites accepted was that instead of returning to Earth in October 1844, Jesus entered the second compartment of heaven and started an "Investigative Judgment" of His people.

During Jesus' investigation, which would be brief, the door to salvation was shut — salvation from October 1844 onwards was limited to Adventists who already accepted the Millerite message.

Samuel Snow's shut door

In February 1844 a Millerite minister named Samuel S. Snow published an article which deferred the "second coming" to the tenth day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar (the day of atonement). On the secular calendar this was October 22, 1844. This became known as "The Seventh-Month Movement."

In August, 1844, Snow expounded this view at a camp-meeting after which "seventh-month movement" spread rapidly. The period between the August camp-meeting and October 22, 1844 was known as "The True Midnight Cry".

Followers of Samuel Snow believed that on October 22 "wise" Millerites who still believed in the Millerite message were accepted by Jesus, and all the others rejected — the door was shut!

A Two-way Split

In late 1844 the Millerite movement began to split into "shut door" Adventists and "open door" Adventists.

The Seventh-day Adventists developed out of the "shut door" division. When they took on belief in the Saturday Sabbath they were known as the "sabbath and shut door people."

Meaning of the "Shut Door"

For about 6 years after 1844 many Millerites believed that the chance of salvation was over and no more people could be saved, and therefore there was no reason to preach or make converts.

William Miller had the "shut door" viewpoint for about a year before giving it up:

> We have done our work in warning sinners, and in trying to awake a formal church. God in his providence has SHUT THE DOOR; we can only stir one another up to be patient; and be diligent to make our calling and election sure. (Advent Herald, December 11, 1844)

In 1845 Miller's viewpoint changed:

> In August, 1845, Miller wrote: "I have no confidence in any of the new theories that have grown out of that [seventh-month] movement, viz., that Christ then came as the Bridegroom, that the door of mercy was closed, that there is no salvation for sinners... (Nichol, F.D. 1951 *Ellen G. White and Her Critics...*, p.96)

Until 1850 the viewpoint of Ellen G. White's husband, James White (1821-1861) was that their work was finished:

> From the best light we could then obtain from the autumnal types we were very confident that the days would end at the seventh month.... When we came up to that point of time, all our sympathy, burden and prayers for sinners ceased, and the unanimous feeling and testimony was, that our work for the world was finished for ever. (The Present Truth, May 1850, p.79)

Ellen White explained in 1884 what the "shut door" meant in those early years:

> After the passing of the time of expectation, in 1844, Adventists still believed the Saviour's coming to be very near; they held that they had reached an important crisis, and that the work of Christ as man's intercessor before God, had ceased. Having given the warning of the judgment near, they felt their work for the world was done, and they lost their burden of soul for the salvation of sinners, while the bold and blasphemous scoffing of the ungodly seemed to them another evidence that the Spirit of God had been withdrawn from the rejecters of his mercy. All this confirmed them in the belief that probation had ended, or, as they then expressed it, "the door of mercy was shut." (Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 4, 1884)

Reopening the shut door

The initial interpretation of "shut door" had to change when newcomers became interested in Adventism and wanted to join.

The "Shut door" was re-interpreted and now meant the exclusion of people who heard the Millerite message up to October, 1844 but

rejected it, and also of people who had believed but fell away. Everyone else could still get salvation.

Ellen G. White

The SDA prophetess Ellen White claims she had believed the original shut door doctrine for only a short time **prior to her first vision**:

> For a time after the disappointment in 1844, I did hold, in common with the advent body, that the door of mercy was then forever closed to the world. This position was taken before my first vision was given me. It was the light given me of God that corrected our error, and enabled us to see the true position. (Selected Messages, Volume 1, p.63)

Ellen White's first vision is dated December, 1844 and published in *The Day Star* (January 24, 1846)

Critics argue that the first vision contained statements in support of the original "Shut door" doctrine but such statements were deleted in 1851 after the "Shut door" doctrine had been revised.

In "Extensive Overview of the Shut Door" Maurice Barnett cites evidence for Ellen White's continued belief in the "shut door" for several years after her first vision and concludes:

> In the *Review Extra* of August, 1851, her first vision was reprinted with the deletion of all shut door statements. For five years after that no "visions" appeared in the paper. By the end of that time the "shut door" had been REDEFINED... However, her part in the shut door episode, and subsequent change, tags her as a false prophetess!

The importance of this is that Seventh Day Adventists believe Ellen White's visions to be "divinely inspired" and therefore the basis for her authority as a prophet, but they can **not** be inspired if the first vision contained false doctrine!

The shut-door of Russellism

C.T. Russell and J.F. Rutherford were familiar with Millerite and Adventist history and should have learned from their errors. Yet these men also made false predictions and used a "shut door" type of excuse for the failure.

In 1877 Russell taught that the living members of the 144,000 or "little flock" would rise physically to heaven in 1878. This prediction failed; therefore he tried 1881 which also failed.

Russell then invented a "shut door" type of excuse. He claimed that the dead ones of the "little flock" were raised to heaven as "spirit beings" in 1878. (Studies III, 1891, 234) He made 1881 the end of God's "general call" to join the "little flock". (Studies II 1889, 235; Studies III, 1891, 217) This meant the 144,000 were completed in 1881 except for replacements when unfaithful ones dropped out. But the replacements had to be converted and dedicated by 1881. (wr1901 11/1 2901)

The "door" to heaven was therefore virtually shut in 1881!

The Watch Tower summed up Russell's ascent-to-heaven doctrine:

> Brother Russell expected the church to go beyond the veil in 1878, 1881, 1910 and 1914... (wr1918 April 15 p.6237)

"Judge" Rutherford predicted 1918 for the ascent to heaven. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 64) This again failed, and once again the excuse offered was that the door to heaven was shut to would-be new-comers:

> The evidence strongly suggests that all the saints are sealed. (wr1918 5/1 6243)

However, once again the door wasn't really shut because replacements were needed:

> Many of the dear friends think that "the door is shut," and that opportunities for service are at an end, or nearly so... The Society does not share this opinion. It is quite probable that the harvest, in the sense that no more will be spirit-begotten, ended in the spring of 1918, except as some will fall out or be rejected, and others take their places. (wr1918 12/1 6358)

In 1928 came the doctrine that the dead members of the 144,000 were resurrected to heaven in 1918. Those still in the flesh would go to heaven individually at death.

New "light" in 1935 revealed that God shut the door to heaven in 1935 — except again to replace a few dropouts! The "little flock" or "remnant" would therefore decrease in numbers as its members died, but some of those alive in 1918 and in 1935 would live long enough to see and survive Armageddon.

Implication of the "shut door"

The "shut door" error in Ellen White's first vision would, if her critics are right, refute the SDA belief that she was an inspired prophetess. Similarly, the "shut door" doctrine of JWs is among the many errors that refute their claim that Jesus inspected all religions in

1919 and appointed JWs, due to their "true Christianity", as his "composite prophet"

SICKNESS
See: *HEALING*

SIERRA LEONE
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Sierra Leone and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	851	2,565		
1975	1,153	2,604		
1980	675	4,448	2,730	1,100
1985	689	4,868	3,096	1,083
1990	752	6,035	3,662	1,239
1995	748	5,865	3,313	1,324
2000	880	5,946	3,299	1,586
2005	1,450	4,150	7,107	847
2010	1,861	3,461	8,017	803
2015	2,166	2,813	9,553	638
2018	2,349	2,949	7,179	965
	Ave.			
2019	2,280	3,427	9,272	843
2020	2,303	3,464	5,379	1,483
2021	2,267	3,591	8,140	1,000
2022	2,232	3,721	7,252	1,145
2023	2,340	3,621	8,034	1,055
2024	2,442	3,539	9,081	952
2025	2,662	3,313	9,205	958

SIFTED OUT / SIFTING
JWs describe defectors — whether individuals or breakaway groups — as "sifted out" and as having been dedicated "not to God" but to a date:

> If anyone, in effect, dedicated his life, not to God, but to a date, he may have been sifted out. (w1984 6/1 13)

Any exodus from the Watchtower religion, which often happens after a prophecy fails or doctrines change rapidly, is called a "sifting":

> Also, just as their was a great sifting among the anointed remnant in the decade following 1914, it seems that there is a sifting going on among some who profess to be of the "great crowd". (Yearbook 1979 Text July 4; Yearbook 1980, 61)

An honest statement would be: "They sensibly left because our leaders including the Governing Body prophesied falsely although claiming they got the truth from God, and Jesus did warn against false prophets."

SIGN OF ARMAGEDDON
In the 1930s and early 1940s the phrase "sign of Armageddon" referred to an international announcement of "Peace and Security" by the warring nations after they suppress JWs. (Yearbook 1941, Daily Text October 27)

In 1941 this sign was "rapidly approaching". (Yearbook 1941, 69)
(See also: *PEACE AND SECURITY*)

SIGN OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE / COMPOSITE SIGN
In his book *Deliverance* (1926) Rutherford claimed that the words "nation will rise against nation…" (Matthew 24:7-8) were fulfilled in 1914:

> He [Jesus] meant a great war, of course, for the reason that he was just speaking of wars. (p.250)

The World War was therefore a sign that the end was near.

In 1951 came the doctrine of a "composite sign". The "composite sign" consisted of wars, pestilences, earthquakes, and other features, which together proved that the final generation before Armageddon began with people who witnessed 1914. (w1951 6/1 335-338)

By the 1970s JWs thought of the "composite sign" as having 38 or 39 features which together proved that Jesus' "second presence" began in 1914 and the generation alive in 1914 would live to see Armageddon.

Russell's 88 proofs

Russellism also had a "composite sign", although not labeled as such, to prove that Jesus second presence started in 1874.

Page 69 of *The Finished Mystery* (1917 says, "Besides the above Scriptures, time-proofs of the Lord's Return, are the fulfillments of the promised signs..." A concise list of Bible verses that Russell had applied to the period of his ministry follows and then the conclusion: "...and these are but 88 of the proofs hastily collected." (p.71)

The supposed 88 proofs together were a "composite sign" of Christ's second presence since 1874:

> After1874 the Present Truth took the form of a general overhauling of creeds and the announcement of Christ's Second Presence. (p.395)

Despite 88 supposed features, the "second presence" of 1874 was a rationalization to obscure the fact that the prediction of Christ's

visible return in 1874 (made by the Barbour cult) was false. Despite the alleged 88 "proofs" Rutherford in 1930 transferred the second presence to 1914. The "composite sign" doctrine of 1951 likewise failed when the "generation of 1914" died out.

All were wrong

Russell had taught that the last generation began in 1799. (See: *GENERATION*) Rutherford claimed that "one generation" meant from 1878. F.W. Franz, in the 1940s, defined "this generation" as the people who experienced 1914 and would live to see Armageddon. All the WBTS presidents were wrong.

(See: *GENERATION*)

SIGN OF THE LAST DAYS—WHEN?, THE (1987)
A book written by Swedish elder Carl Olof Jonsson and Wolfgang Herbst written to refute the claim that: "there has been nothing to compare with what has taken place since … that momentous year [1914]."

[Two of many examples of the phrase "momentous year" are:

> [6] The momentous year of 1914 came, and with it World War I, the most widespread upheaval in history up to that time. It brought unprecedented slaughter, famine, pestilence and overthrow of governments. The world did not expect such horrible events as took place. But Jehovah's witnesses did expect such things... (w1971 8/1 468)
>
> It has been thrilling to see the fulfillment of Jesus' sign showing that the Kingdom was established in the heavens in that momentous year 1914. And Jesus has told us to rejoice at seeing the dark storm clouds of Armageddon gathering since that time. He has told us that the "generation" of 1914—the year that the sign began to be fulfilled—"will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matthew 24:34) Some of that "generation" could survive until the end of the century. But there are many indications that "the end" is much closer than that! (w1984 3/1 18-19)]

Jonsson shows that the scale of wars, earthquakes, pestilences, famines and violence did not increase in the 20th century but decreased!

SIGNS IN HEAVEN Matthew 24)
In the 1980s the Governing Body interpreted the "signs in heaven" as bomb-carrying rockets and airplanes. (g1985 3/8)

SIGNS IN HEAVEN (Revelation 12:1, 3)
According to *The Finished Mystery* (1917) the first sign — the woman — represented the early Church. The second sign — the dragon — represented the Roman Empire. (p.183)

Later, Rutherford interpreted the two signs as his doctrine that there are two great organizations — God's and Satan's. (w1925 3/1 67ff; w1934 11/15 339)

SILENT LAMBS
A USA-based, non-profit organization started in 2001 by former elder William Bowen to publicize child sexual abuse among JWs. Bowen claims that 6000 child-abuse victims have come forward.

Policies that promote child abuse

"Silent Lambs" describes JWs as a closed society which regards outsiders to be part of Satan's world. This produces an "us versus them" mentality which is constantly reinforced and leads abuse victims to go to the elders instead of the police.

The elders are considered "shepherds of God's flock". A JW who rebels against something the Organization teaches would be counseled by elders to be "submissive". If the person continues to be stubborn a "judicial committee" convenes and he must change or be disfellowshipped.

JWs headquarters is a closed environment where policy makers are old men most of whom have not raised families and who live life devoid of ordinary day-to-day problems. They try to maintain the status quo and not make major changes to the policies and running of the Organization.

The consequence of the above is that child-abuse accusations were handled internally by applying existing rules and policies that (unintentionally) protected abusers. Such policies and rules include:

- JWs require two witnesses (two observers) of an infraction for guilt to be established. Otherwise elders consider the accused to be innocent and take no further action. In cases of child abuse pedophiles merely had to deny an accusation to be safe from censure.

- JWs cannot say negative things about other JWs. Conflicts must be settled by discussion, or taken to the elders who have the final say after which complainants have to stay silent on the matter i.e. not "gossip". A publisher who "gossips" can be disfellowshipped. In cases of child-abuse the threat of disfellowshipping forced victims to be silent.

- Elders record infractions of biblical law and organizational rules in confidential files. If a JW is disfellowshipped a report is sent to headquarters and filed by the Legal Department. If child-abuse is proved but the abuser professes sorrow then he was not reported to police unless the law required it. In this way molesters often avoided prosecution.

- Abuse-victims faced intimidating situations whereby they would be alone with three or four elders who questioned them on intimate details, often traumatizing them further.

- Pedophiles who professed repentance remained anonymous, known only to the elders, the victims and the victims' parents. If the pedophile moved to another congregation the elders in that congregation were informed but not the ordinary members.

- Repentant pedophiles and persons accused could mingle freely at JWs conventions and social occasions.

- Victims of pedophiles may develop anti-social behavior (because of absence of justice and professional counseling) which the elders would criticize and disfellowship the victim for if the behavior persisted. To JWs a disfellowhipped person's word has no value and such people are ostracized — which leaves the pedophile in the clear.

Silent Lambs website

The Silent Lambs website shares numerous reports and scandals about JWs pedophiles including testimonies, court reports, and media reports.

In one scandal the top JWs leadership in the United Kingdom concealed pedophilia, thereby putting at risk the charity status of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Britain, resulting in the dismissal of its Board and replacement with new members!

www.silentlambs.org/jworg-ibsascandal.htm
(See also: *BOWEN, WILLIAM*)

SILENT WITNESSES
A sister organization to Silent Lambs established in Denmark in 2007 by Maja Thorup, a JW who left the sect after 18 years and negotiated with Danish newspapers to report child abuse perpetrated among JWs.

SINGELENBERG, RICHARD
Author of academic articles and book reviews on the topic of JWs in the Department of Cultural Anthropology, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

For example on the anticipation for 1975:
- "It Separated the Wheat from the Chaff"
- "The 1975 Prophecy and its Impact among Dutch Jehovah's Witnesses".

(In: Stone, J.R. (Editor) 2000 *Expecting Armageddon*, Routledge)

SINGING
Rutherford banned singing at meetings. Singing was revived in 1944. (Divine Purpose 1959, 215, 259)

SINUTKO, CHARLES
Prominent American circuit and district overseer in the 1970s noted for giving up a singing career upon joining JWs in the 1950s. He was a gifted speaker and is also remembered for public talks in which he gave strong hints regarding Armageddon in 1975.

Sinutko's story in *Awake!* says:

> I had my first radio program in New Castle on WKST in 1945, singing country music. Later I branched out into singing popular songs from the *HitParade,* which was a weekly network radio program featuring the week's top ten songs. My first appearance on television was in 1950 on Paul Whiteman's show…
>
> Soon afterward Dad sold our home in Pennsylvania, and we moved to the Los Angeles area… I soon got my own weekly radio program in Pasadena and a weekly half-hour TV show in Hollywood…
>
> I now serve as presiding overseer of a congregation in Desert Hot Springs, California… (g2004 8/22 19-23)

SISTER
A baptized female in good standing is a "sister". Females are commonly addressed as "Sister" or "Sister…" followed by her name.

SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIX
666 is the number of the "beast" in Revelation 13:1; 18

According to Russell the beast is the Papacy and the number 666 corresponds to the lettering on the Pope's crown. (Studies VII 1917, 193; 215-216)

Rutherford altered the interpretation to:

> The beast is Satan's organization visible to human eyes, the ruling factors wherein are made up of men who are imperfect. And his number is six hundred threescore [sixty] and six. (w1940 3/15 111)

Rutherford claimed the three sixes represent three elements of Satan's Organization and their degree of reprehensibility. 600 represented the clergy who are 100 times as reprehensible as the politicians. 60 represented commercial elements i.e. big business which is 10 times as reprehensible as the politicians. The number "6" represented the professional politicians.

SIX THOUSAND YEAR HISTORY
JWs claim their history is 6,000 years long:

> Jehovah's witnesses have a history almost 6,000 years long, beginning while the first man, Adam, was still alive. (Divine Purpose 1959, 8-9)

The rationalization for this is Hebrews 11:4 and 12:1 where Abel, son of Adam and Eve, is included in a "great cloud of witnesses".

Researchers usually trace JWs history back to Charles T. Russell's cult of the late 19th century and sometimes a little earlier to the Advent Christian Church.

The differences in theology and prophecy between Russell and today's JWs number thousands. Some commentators therefore argue that JWs began with "Judge" Rutherford as an apostasy from Russellism.

SIX THOUSAND YEARS
Russell taught that 6,000 years from Adam ended in 1872. The seventh period of 1,000 years was the Millennium and would begin with a 40-year "gospel age" after which the "earthly phase" of the Kingdom, i.e. the "ancient worthies resurrected and living in Jerusalem, would rule Earth. (Studies I 159; Studies II, 33-42)

Franz initially made 6,000 years run from 4028 BC to 1972/1973 AD. (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 152) He then changed the start of the 6000 years to 4026 BC. (The Kingdom Is At Hand 1944, 160-161)

The Franz calculation implied that 6000 years from Adam's creation would end in 1975, and that 6000 years of sin would end shortly after that. (See: *DATES*; *NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE*)

To JWs the post-1975 delay in the coming of Armageddon equals the period Adam lived in alone in the Garden of Eden before Eve was created. Currently (in 2020) that period is 45 years.

(See also: *NINETEEN SEVENTY FIVE*)

SLACK, L. & C. (1960-)
A JWs couple, both born in 1960, who flogged their daughter to death with an electric cable, and made videotaped admissions to police.

The *Chicago Tribune* in 2001 reported:

> JW Parents Murder Their Daughter
>
> …A South Side couple were accused of flogging their 12-year-old daughter to death with a 5-foot stretch of electrical cable after she was tied down.
>
> Larry and Constance Slack, described by neighbors as devoutly religious, delivered 160 blows to their daughter Laree, according to the charges, stuffing a towel in her mouth at one point to silence her screams… (November 4, 2001)

SLANDER
JWs supposedly "do not malign, slander or harass expelled ones in any way":

> Some would argue, however, that Jehovah's Witnesses are, in fact, intolerant because they expel from the congregation wrongdoers and individuals who do not conform to their religious beliefs. However, this practice is not due to some human standard or personal prejudice. It is God who commands Christians to expel wrongdoers. (1 Corinthians 5:9-13) However, Jehovah's Witnesses do not malign, slander or harass expelled ones in any way**.** They merely follow the Bible's command to cease associating with such ones. In this way both the purity and the identity of the Christian congregation are maintained. How different is such action from that of the churches that have mercilessly hounded and persecuted dissenters. (g1983 11/8 10)

However, WTS articles about "apostates" contain many comments viewed by outsiders as maligning and slander. The disruption to family relationships when one family member leaves the sect, but others remain and follow the Governing Body's instruction to "hate" and "loathe" them, amounts to "merciless persecution" that destroys families.

(See: *SHUNNING*; *APOSTATES*)

SLAVE CLASS

Jesus prophesied of a "faithful and wise [discreet] slave [servant]". (Matthew 24)

Until the mid-1920s the WTS interpreted the "slave" as being one man — C.T. Russell. Then the "slave" was interpreted as the Watchtower Society. After that the "slave" was equated with the 144,000 including the "remnant" of the 144,000 still living on Earth.

The remnant is the "divine channel" of God's truth to JWs:

> The facts show that during this time and up to the present hour the "slave" class has served as God's sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth…
> Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channelling 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)

> The facts show that during this time and up to the present hour the "slave" class has served as God's sole collective channel of communication from heaven to earth for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth... 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)

> Jehovah has established a very definite channel of communication through which he deals with his people... It is vital that we appreciate this fact and respond to the directions of the "slave" as we would to the voice of God ... (w1957 6/15 370)

> Jehovah poured out his spirit upon them and assigned them the responsibility of serving as his sole visible channel, through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come. Those who recognize Jehovah's visible theocratic organization, therefore, must recognize and accept this appointment of the "faithful and discreet slave" and be submissive to it. (w1967 1/10 590)

The Governing Body was said to represent the "slave class":

> In the past, Jehovah ruled and revealed truths through individuals, such as prophets, kings and apostles. Jesus said that during his royal presence, he would identify a faithful body of followers, a 'faithful and discreet slave'. In 1919 this slave was identified as the remnant of anointed Christians. Since then, as represented by the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, it has been the center of theocracy on earth. (w1994 1/15 16)

In practice the "remnant" was not consulted on doctrine, policy or publications. In the 1920s and 1930s Rutherford authored almost all official doctrine without consulting any "slave class". From the 1940s to the 1970s the main writer was Fred W. Franz. From about 1970 other Governing Body members wrote the books and *Watchtower* articles. Some publications were written by non-GB members but were checked and approved by them.

The "slave class" was collectively also "God's prophet" and God's spokesman, having a similar function as the prophet Ezekiel. (See: *EZEKIEL; GOVERNING BODY; PROPHET OF JEHOVAH*)

The WTS is not God's prophet, rather it is the "legal servant" of the Governing Body. Critics who call the WTS a "false prophet" or attribute teachings and doctrines to the WTS are technically mistaken.

Since about 2010 the doctrine began to change again with the "slave class" identified with the Governing Body.

SLAVE CLASS APPOINTED IN 1919

According to previous JWs doctrine the "slave class" started in the 1st century and included all 1st-century Christians.

JWs never identified who the slave class was between the 2nd and 19th centuries.

In the 19th-century Charles Taze Russell and his followers "proved to be on the watch". (w1984 12/1 16) This supposedly proved that Russell's cult contained the "slave class":

> When the enthroned Lord Jesus inspected his household in 1919, he found the group of Christians associated with the *Watchtower* loyally striving to "keep on the watch" with the help of spiritual "food at the proper time". (ibid p.17)

This quote is unclear whether the alleged 1919 appointment was of a new slave class or the reappointment of a long-existing slave class. The latter would have to be meant if the slave class existed since the 1st century CE.

It is also unclear why a cult whose main book *The Finished Mystery* (1917), containing over 1000 interpretations that JWs now reject, should be described as "loyal" and "on the watch" when many JWs today are judged

"disloyal" and excommunicated if they query only one or two doctrines. (See: *FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

In 2010-2013 the "slave" class, numbering about 12,000 members, was demoted or removed from that position, and the "faithful slave" was redefined and limited to the Governing Body (but still appointed in 1919).

(See: *FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE*; *MEMORIAL PARTAKERS*; *REMNANT*)

SLAVES

The leaders want JWs to be obedient "slaves" who do what they're told because it's their obligation to do so. The desirable attitude is:

> When we have done everything assigned to us, we should be able to say: 'We are good-for-nothing slaves. What we have done is what we ought to have done.' (w1984 10/15 19)

The Bible does call Christians "slaves of God". This is because they were bought, or "ransomed", by Jesus Christ dying for them and are therefore "owned" by God. But in this doctrine it is God who deserves obedience not men — and especially not men who promote false prophecy.

SLOVAKIA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	12,272	437	25,600	209
2000	12,596	429	24,383	222
2005	11,785	457	20,727	260
2010	11,289	481	20,889	260
2015	11,386	476	21,623	251
2018	11,293	482	20,639	264
	Ave.			
2019	11,054	493	20,910	261
2020	10,938	499	21,216	257
2021	11,134	490	25,816	211
2022	11,137	488	23,373	233
2023	11,200	485	21,751	250
2024	11,191	485	21,419	253
2025	11,194	484	20,620	263

SLOVENIA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	1,732	1,149	3,036	655
2000	1,866	1,066	3,103	641
2005	1,901	1,051	3,031	660
2010	1,993	1,028	3,143	652
2015	1,985	1,042	2,942	703
2018	1,841	1,127	2,842	730
	Ave.			
2019	1,804	1,155	2,857	729
2020	1,748	1,200	2,610	803
2021	1,741	1,210	3,256	647
2022	1,721	1,224	2,847	740
2023	1,719	1,232	2,727	776
2024	1,722	1,233	2,700	787
2025	1,713	1,244	2,624	812

SMALLEY, GENE

A senior writer in the Writing Department at Brooklyn Headquarters in the 1980s-1990s.

Former JWs who worked at Headquarters say that Smalley was the WTS expert on blood transfusions. He advised Frederick Franz and the Governing Body on that topic, and originated much of the "new light" regarding it (such as which blood components JWs can accept).

In 1981 a joint article by Gene Smalley and Dr. D.J. Dixon (who also served at the Brooklyn headquarters), explaining the JW opposition to blood transfusions and mentioning alternative treatments, appeared in *JAMA* and is titled "Jehovah's Witnesses The Surgical/Ethical Challenge" (1981:246:2471-2472).

Since the 1990s the WTS Legal Department has also influenced the doctrine. To avoid legal problems for prohibiting blood transfusions the doctrine is claimed to be a personal choice by each JW based on his knowledge of the Bible. This argument is used in WTS press releases and by WTS spokesmen and was probably thought up by the Legal Department to avoid WTS liability for thousands of deaths.

The doctrine is also called a matter of conscience. But any JW whose "conscience" allows him to take blood would be excommunicated since to Gene Smalley and the Governing Body the rejection of "whole blood" was/is a biblical command, not a matter of conscience.

SMITH, PATRICIA LEE ["PATTI"] (1946-)

American song-writer, singer and poet who achieved prominence with her 1975 debut album *Horses* and became one of rock and roll's most influential musicians. Her father was an atheist, her mother a JW.

Patricia was born in Chicago in December 1946 and raised in New Jersey. She had a JW upbringing by her mother but after graduating from high school at 16 and working in a factory she adopted a non-JW life-style.

She gave birth to a daughter in April 1967 and placed her for adoption.

SMOKING
See: *CIGARETTES*

SNOW, SAMUEL S. (1806 -1890)
Samuel Sheffield Snow was a skeptic who converted to the Millerite movement and calculated that Christ would return on October 22, 1844.

Until aged 34 Snow was an "infidel" and "patron of the Boston *Investigator*, the organ of the infidels … and a contributor to its columns".

He converted to Christianity in 1839 after reading a copy of William Miller's lectures and joined a Congregational Church. After attending a Millerite camp meeting in 1842 he devoted himself to preaching Miller's message fulltime.

In February 1844 Snow began to teach that Jesus would come in the Autumn of that year rather than the Spring as most Millerites at the time believed. This extension became known as the "Seventh Month Movement". Snow also believed in a prophetic week of 7000 years of which the final 1000 years were the Millennium which would start in Autumn on October 22. His message spread like wildfire among believers

Adventist Pioneer Library says:

> Snow's conviction that Miller's proposed date was incorrect was greatly augmented when the Spring date passed uneventfully…
>
> His message, that Jesus would come October 22, 1844 … stirred the advent believers to action. Nevertheless, this date also passed. (2nd Quarter, 1993, Number 2)

Hiram Edson (1806-1882), an Adventist "pioneer", advanced what became official Seventh Day Adventist doctrine, that on October 22 Jesus started a new work in heaven, an "investigative judgment", and would return visibly to Earth when His work in heaven was finished. The date, 1844, was right he claimed but the expectation wrong.

Snow in contrast set further dates for Christ's coming, which set him apart from the main Adventist factions. He predicted October 22 of 1845, 1846 and 1847! After that he adopted the "shut door" hypothesis, that people not converted by October 22, 1844 were condemned.

In 1845 he declared himself to be Elijah the prophet:

> I have been called and commissioned to go before the face of the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare the way for His descent from heaven… I demand of all Kings, Presidents, Magistrates, and Rulers, civil or ecclesiastical, a full surrender of power and authority, into my hands, on behalf of King Jesus… (Lest We Forget [Adventist Pioneer Library], Volume 3, 1993, Number 2)

We see here similarity with JWs condemning Christendom for not transferring national sovereignties to Jesus and God's Kingdom in 1914 and instead setting up the League of Nations.

Snow's prophetic week of 7000 years was adopted by C.T. Russell, with the difference that Russell's millennium started in 1972. (See: *MILLENNIUM*)

SO NEAR / SHOULD BE NEAR
Phrases used in WTS publications to spur JWs to more preaching and greater sacrifice for the Organization:

> Before this invincible world government the mighty Seventh World Power and all the other worldly nations within and without the United Nations organization must bow in defeat and vanish during the "great tribulation" now so near…
>
> It is also more than sixty years since the Gentile Times ended in October of 1914. Hence the time should be near for the installed heavenly King Jesus Christ to dash the nations to pieces in mankind's greatest time of distress. (Our Incoming Government God's Kingdom 1977, 119, 120)

SOCIETY, THE
1. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and associated corporate bodies;
2. The authority of source of JW teachings when a JW says: "The Society teaches that…"

SODOM & GOMORRAH
Two corrupt cities reported in the Bible as judged by God and destroyed by fire from the sky. To Rutherford their destruction pictured Armageddon, especially Christendom's destruction. (Salvation 1939, 74)

JWs keep changing their minds regarding whether the inhabitants of these cities will be resurrected or not:
- Yes: w1879 July p.8
- Yes: Life (1929) p.332
- No: w1952 6/1 338

- Yes: w1965 8/1 479
- Yes: *You Can Live Forever In Paradise on Earth* (1982 edition) p.179
- No: w1988 6/1 31
- Yes: *Insight on the Scriptures* (1988) p.985
- No: *Revelation—It's Grand climax Near At Hand* (1988), p.273
- No: *You Can Live Forever In Paradise on Earth* (1989 edition), p.179

SOLICITING
Many householders place "No Jehovah's Witnesses" stickers or "No religious or sales people" stickers on their front door. In some places "No Soliciting" signs have the force of law:

'No Soliciting' taken seriously
at his door

By Bryan Gilmer, Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — Dave Campbell…has been an evangelist for "No Soliciting" signs…
Bugged by repeated visits from Jehovah's Witnesses, Campbell pushed for the 1995 Clearwater ordinance that gives "No Soliciting" signs the force of law. Solicitors who knock anyway can be charged with a misdemeanor.
So Campbell was especially pleased when he heard about Monday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said such ordinances offer "ample protection" of property owners' rights against the free-speech rights of door-to-door canvassers.
In the same case, the court struck down as unconstitutional a small Ohio town's requirement that all canvassers register with the city before banging on doors…
(St. Petersburg Times Online, June 22, 2002)
www.sptimes.com/2002/06/22/TampaBay/Law_pleases_No_Solic.shtml)

SOLOMON ISLANDS
Publishers and Memorial attendance on the Solomon Islands and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	553	253		
1975	637	281		
1980	497	423	2,077	104
1985	648	410	2,673	99
1990	805	384	3,833	81
1995	1,113	335	5,008	74
2000	1,697	241	6,133	67
2005	1,890	249	7,411	64
2010	1,923	310	8,698	69
2015	1,962	298	9,807	60
2018	2,077	302	9,953	63
	Ave.			
2019	1,896	353	10,203	66
2020	1,825	376	10,704	64
2021	1,532	460	10,645	66
2022	1,510	477	9,317	77
2023	1,715	430	11,887	62
2024	1,681	450	10,678	71
2025	1,704	468	11,406	70

SONG
JWs call their hymns "songs" and their hymn-books "songbooks".

The Russellites used the term "hymns" but Rutherford introduced a lot of new terminology to help separate JWs from Christianity.

SONGBOOKS
The WBTS in Russell's time published a number of hymn-books referred to as "hymnals".

Rutherford got JWs to use the word "songs" instead of "hymns". Thereafter JWs published "song books" instead of "hymn-books":

- *Songs of Praise to Jehovah* (1928) [with and without music]
- *Kingdom Service Songbook* (1944)
- *Kingdom Service Songbook* (1948)
- *Songs to Jehovah's Praise* (1950)
- *Songs to Jehovah's Praise* (1962)
- *Singing and Accompanying Yourselves with Music in Your Hearts* (1966)
- *Sing Praises to Jehovah* (1984)
- *Sing Praises to Jehovah* (1992)
- *Sing to Jehovah* (2009)
- "Sing Out Joyfully" to Jehovah (2016)
- Sing to Jehovah—New Songs

(See also: *HYMN-BOOK LIST*; *HYMNS*)

SONGS OF THE BRIDE (1879)
The first book published by the Russell cult after its separation from Nelson Barbour — "Published at The Office of Zion's Watch Tower Pittsburgh, PA. 1879" — was a hymn-book.

The 144 hymns in *Songs of the Bride* include some Christian favorites such as "I Love to tell the story", "Rock of Ages", "Nearer my God to Thee", "He leadeth me", and "What a friend we have in Jesus". All the hymns were taken from four other hymn-books but, "We ... have been obliged to alter many of them..."

The index lists the hymns under subheadings such as "The Word of God", "The Bridegroom", "The Bride", "Baptism", "Consecration", etc.

Except for "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (Hymn 38) the emphasis in most hymns is on Jesus.

SONS OF GOD
In the New Testament followers of Jesus are called "sons of God".

In JW theology "sons of God" refers to:

1. Adam and Jesus because God created them;
2. Angels and demons;
3. The "anointed" among JWs i.e. the alleged candidates for heaven, the "remnant" of the 144,000.

The "sons of God" in Genesis 6:1-2 were, according to JWs, spirits or angels who did not join Satan's rebellion in the time of Adam, but who later materialized and formicated with human women in the days of Noah. (w1934 9/1 261-262)

Members of the "other sheep" will be "sons of God" at the end of the Millennium:

> …the revelation of the sons of God in glory opens the way for others of the human family to enter into a relationship of actual sonship with God and to enjoy the freedom that accompanies such relationship." (Insight II 1988, 999)

SOON / SOON NOW
"Soon", "very soon" and "now soon" are commonly used in WTS publications to express the nearness of Armageddon:

> "The battle of that great day of God Almighty" will soon occur. (w1930 8/1 235)
>
> We can be confident that soon, now, Almighty God, Jehovah, for a certainly will bring this lawless system of things to an end. (g1968 1/8 19)
>
> The harvest work is urgent for a second reason. Soon it will be completed. (w1988 1/1 18)

Such "soon" statements are addressed to humans and therefore would mean soon compared to a human lifespan. The problem is that JWs leaders back in the 1930s and earlier claimed Armageddon's coming is "soon". Those "soon" statements were false predictions because very few people who heard or read them are still alive. The threats of death at Armageddon with which JWs threatened people who rejected their message were empty threats.

(See also: ABOUT TO; *CLOSE; DATES; IMPENDING; NEAR; SHORTLY*; etc.)

SOUL
Combination of body plus spirit i.e. "life force", resulting in a sentient being. (Studies V, 308, 322)

To a JW a soul is a living human or living animal unless they have died in which case they are dead souls. JWs reject the concept of an immaterial conscious soul or spirit that leaves the body at death.

SOUND TRUCKS
Trucks or cars equipped with phonographs and parked in public places to place Rutherford's "lectures". 1,000 sound trucks operated in 1943.

SOUND SERVANT
The person responsible for the microphones in the kingdom hall or at a convention.

SOUND WITNESS
An American anti-cult magazine founded in Lynnwood (Washington State) in 1984, specializing in JWs, edited by A. Ralph Johnson.

SOUTH AFRICA
Joseph Booth arrived in South Africa from Australia in 1892, converted to Russellism in 1906, and started the African Watchtower movement in 1907. (See: *BOOTH, JOSEPH*)

The movement defected from American WBTS control in 1915 and became "Chitawala" in Rhodesia and "Kitawala" in the Congo. Around 1930 JWs arrived and began making converts from the African Watchtower Movement.

Publishers and Memorial attendance in South Africa and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1940	800	11,200		
1950	8,000	1,570		
1960	18,100	884		
1970	21,700	988		
1975	28,600	895		
1980	27,700	1,068	80,700	367
1985	37,000	873	93,600	345
1990	48,600	751	130,000	281
1995	62,800	656	156,000	264
2000	70,200	613	168,000	256
2005	78,000	569	179,000	248
2010	90,000	555	214,800	233
2015	100,100	544	250,800	217
2018	105,200	547	262,100	220
	Ave.			
2019	103,400	568	281,500	209
2020	97,900	609	215,300	277
2021	96,800	620	247,500	243

2022	96,400	629	228,100	266
2023	98,200	617	249,400	243
2024	100,900	615	270,300	229
2025	105,100	600	260,400	242

(See also: *AFRICA*)

SOUTH SUDAN

Publishers and Memorial attendance in South Sudan and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2012	1,253	8,231	4,678	2,205
2013	1,274	8,097	5,260	1,961
2015	1,308	9,071	4,682	2,534
2018	1,697	7,763	5,435	2,424
	Ave.			
2019	1,366	8,098	7,187	1,539
2020	1,406	7,975	4,112	2,727
2021	1,496	7,608	5,563	2,046
2022	1,590	7,308	5,289	2,197
2023	1,732	6,402	6,857	1,617
2024	2,116	7,209	8,313	1,835
2025	2,408	6,556	5,252	1,975

South Sudan became an independent country on July 9, 2011 after 22 years of civil war that killed 2-3 million people and made 5 million homeless. Arab militia also abducted 100,000 South Sudanese (mainly of the darker-skinned Dinka tribe who follow Christianity or native religions) for forced labor, sale into slavery, concubinage, and ransom. (Green 2001; Eads 1996)

JWs, professing political neutrality, refused to register for the referendum on independence held in January 2011 and were briefly banned in one state. With South Sudan's background of war, poverty and slavery, the JWs refusal to vote in the referendum was viewed as support of the status quo including northern oppression.

The *Sudan Tribune* (January 5) reported:

> January 4, 2011 (RII-YUBU, WESTERN EQUATORIA) - The Governor of Western Equatoria state Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro has described on December 27 2010, Jehovah Witnesses, who did not register to vote in Southern Sudan's Independence referendum as "traitors"…
>
> "Jehovah Witness churches in the state will remain suspended until consultations are made across South Sudan and the rest of the world" Bakosoro announced.…
>
> On Tuesday 28 December, the Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria, Sapana A.Abuyi received a delegation of Jehovah's Witnesses from Juba headed by Phillip Paulino.
>
> Speaking to the deputy governor, Paulino stated that "it is against their religion to register or mix with politics."
> http://www.sudantribune.com

Comment on the *Sudan Tribune* website by its readers reflected a range of views:

> **5 January 2011**, by Solomon Ruffo
> The Watchtower Jehovah Witness is not a religion, it is a mind-control cult. They micromanage every possible aspect of member's lives - from what they say, think, dress, and even what they can and cannot do in the privacy of their bedrooms. They DO DIVIDE and break up families! They are a destructive cult of apostate dogmas.
>
> **5 January 2011**, by Tecolote
> 2 million people in Sudan died because of religious hatred between Muslims and Christians. Now, Christians want to show hatred toward other Christians? Is that about correct? … Jehovah's Witnesses do not fight. If everyone were Jehovah's Witnesses there would have been no war...
>
> **5 January 2011**, by Chris L
> You must judge a people by their words and actions, not by what others say about them. To all who claim to be Christians on this list, get out your Bibles and see for yourself what Jesus said about his disciples at John 15:17-19. Who of all these religious groups truly fits this description? Only Jehovah's Witnesses! They will not hate, they will not make war, they will not oppress. They show true Christian love for all and will never take sides in worldy politics...
>
> **5 January 2011**, by Vinny
> The WT Society and Jehovah's Witnesses are a MAN-originating, men-run, high controlling religious cult-like institution...
>
> We got False End of the World Predictions all over the place, medical disastrous policies - FORCED on JW's at risk of extreme shunning.
>
> We got flip flops, blinking lights, wacky science, historical failures, arrogance, judging other religions and people of those religions and LOADS of WT Society embarrassments and humiliations throughout their entire 100+ year history!
>
> God had nothing to do with all that nonsense…
>
> They are WRONG ON BLOOD TODAY (for 68 years now).

They are WRONG ON SHUNNING those that simply walk away from the JW religion today. (nowhere in bible)

They are WRONG 607 BCE and 1914.

They were WRONG ABOUT FORBIDDING Vaccinations, Organ Transplants, Alternative Service and much more.

They were wrong on ALL OF THEIR End of World Predictions in writing.

Wrong on marital infidelity rules, rape rules, beards, 1935, Beth Sarim and too many things to bother listing here.

Did GOD make all of these terrible decisions to force on all the JW's as "food at the proper time", and then change his mind later on?…

I WAS a JW, and an elder as well, until recently in 2006 when I walked away...

6 January 2011, by new yorker
Jehovah's Witnesses stay away from politics, the governor hasn't shown any evidence of his accusation yet, but they are already being punished without a fair trial. i want the people of Sudan to conduct a thorough investigation, and i can guarantee that the investigation will prove their innocence. all these accusations are being fueled by other church leaders that want to ban the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses. i understand the concerns of the people of southern Sudan, i appeal to the people of Sudan to follow the course of justice, conduct a fair investigation and trial before jumping to conclusions. remember that these other denominations were involved in the genocide in rwanda. catholics, methodists, baptists, pentecostals and many more that bear arms have killed their own brothers of the same denomination all over africa because of ethnic and political differences. Jehovah's Witnesses do not fight wars, do not engage in politics, all they do is preach about the kingdom of God promised in the bible and encourage their neighbors to read study the bible.
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In December 2013 South Sudan's main source of revenue, its oil production, shut down due to fighting between the two largest ethnic groups, the Dinka and the Nuer, during a power struggle between the president (a Dinka) and his former vice president (a Nuer). (Vogt 2013)

Violence consumed South Sudan. Tens of thousands were killed and 1.5 million displaced. World Vision helped 500,000 with water, food, mosquito nets, blankets and child protection.

SOVEREIGNTY and 1914
JWs regard Jehovah as the "universal sovereign" and believe that the issue of world domination or world sovereignty is one of the major issues of history. God's rule over mankind was challenged by Satan but God has the right to rule and will finally do so.

The importance of the sovereignty doctrine to JWs is seen by the frequency of the words on the *WT Library* (2007) CD:

- Sovereignty 3131
- Universal sovereignty 695

From 607 BCE to God's Kingdom in 1914

From 607 BCE until 1914 God allowed the nations to rule without interference from any "kingdom of God". In 1914 God's kingdom was set up in heaven at which time all nations should have submitted to kingdom rule. Failure to do so means for them destruction at Armageddon when God enforces his sovereignty by destroying all opposition to it:

> [16] Back there, in 607 B.C.E., the last reigning king of David's line at Jerusalem was deposed, and the Gentile nations were allowed to have complete world domination and exercise their sovereignty over mankind, Jew and Gentile alike. But at the close of the Gentile Times in 1914 C.E. the time for Jesus Christ to keep waiting at his heavenly Father's right hand ended. At that time the Sovereign Lord Jehovah installed his Son Jesus Christ on the throne in the "heavenly Jerusalem," on the heavenly Mount Zion. In this way the royal line of David was again exalted to the throne, and the Messianic kingdom was born. At the same time the great Priest-King like ancient Melchizedek, namely, Jesus the Messiah, was installed in his heavenly kingdom. (Heb. 10:12, 13; Ps. 110:1-4) From then on it could be proclaimed to the world of mankind: "The sovereignty of the world has passed into the possession of our Lord and his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."—Rev. 11:15, *AT.*
>
> [17] The world of mankind was not asked about this first. The earthly nations, with their national sovereignties, were also not asked first about this move on God's part. The Most High God went right ahead at his appointed time and established the heavenly Messianic kingdom, in accord with his own right of universal sovereignty.
> (w1975 11/1 661-662)

[10] In the interpretation by Daniel, he saw a stone cut out of a mountain not by hands. Here is pictured the establishment of God's kingdom in the heavens in 1914 C.E., which establishment was by no human hands. The mountain stands for Jehovah God's universal sovereignty. The kingdom is an expression of God's universal sovereignty...

[12] That kingdom will break in pieces and destroy all the kingdoms pictured in the metallic image and bring them to an everlasting end at Armageddon! That kingdom is speeding on its mission. At Armageddon the Kingdom Stone will strike the symbolic image with crushing impact, destroying every nation, whether it be of a socialistic, communistic or democratic type, also the so-called neutral nations being included. All will be annihilated! ... God's kingdom will become the governmental mountain that will fill the whole earth and dominate all its affairs. Truly, Daniel's prophecies are for our day! (w1969 11/15 304-305)

1914 and turnover of sovereignty

According to JWs, in 1914 or soon afterwards, all nations should have turned over their governments, their sovereignty, to the newborn heavenly Kingdom, but refused. Instead, they fought a world war over the issue of world sovereignty, and then set up a substitute to God's Kingdom, the League of Nations (replaced later by the United Nations):

> In 1914 war over world domination broke out in Christendom. The leaders of the world were <u>unwilling to turn over their sovereignty to Jehovah God's king</u>, but, instead wanted to continue their rule and entered into this war...
>
> The result ... was the bringing forth of the political image of the wild beast that had ascended out of the sea... (w1967 4/1 220-221)

The "Kingdom" that the Russellites (the early JWs) preached at the time was their imaginary kingdom of 1878. From 1920 until 1925 they preached that world rule by the resurrected ancient prophets would begin in 1925 — which did not occur or exist either. From 1925 they preached their kingdom of 1914 which they calculated by adding 2520 years to when the Jewish temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 607 BCE. But that too is a fantasy, a myth because, historically and biblically the temple was destroyed in 586 BCE. (Investigator #186, March 2019)

The only way for the nations "to turn over their sovereignty" would have been to turn all governments over to the Russellite cult, which numbered about 5000 members. But these were a band of bigots promoting thousands of false interpretations that got progressively revised during the 20th century. They were beset by false predictions of Armageddon, and were splitting into smaller cults because of their infighting. The main Russellite cult and its daughter cults, besides being deceived on thousands of points, had no one ready to take charge of the world!

(See: *LEAGUE OF NATIONS; KINGDOM; FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

SPACE TRAVEL

"Man cannot by airplane or rockets or other means get above the air envelope which is about our earthly globe...." (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 285)

SPAIN

Publishers and memorial attendance in Spain and the ratio to Spain's population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1975	30,800	1109		
1980	43,300	831	97,800	368
1985	61,100	632	134,600	289
1990	84,600	465	164,600	239
1995	100,900	388	167,900	233
2000	101,200	394	159,300	250
2005	104,200	422	176,669	249
2010	112,800	416	196,200	239
2015	111,400	417	190,200	244
2018	114,500	405	189,400	245
	Ave.			
2019	115,100	406	192,300	243
2020	116,600	401	206,400	226
2021	119,000	393	217,480	215
2022	120,000	389	198,200	236
2023	121,400	397	201,800	239
2024	124,400	391	208,800	233
2025	127,000	388	211,900	233

SPANKING

See: *CORPORAL PUNISHMENT*

SPANX, INC.

An American hosiery company founded in 2000 which manufactured undergarments for women and in 2010 produced male garments. Spanx specializes in bodysuit and shape-wear that gives wearer a slimmer appearance.

Governing Body member Anthony Morris apparently spoke against Spanx clothing in 2014:

> Some of our sisters — what is it are these spanx, these skin tight stuff they wear — when they exercise they leave their home and they're jogging in this stuff… Is that appropriate to wear skin tight spanx or whatever they call it? It is not modest and it's certainly not sound of mind. It's really not appropriate… Don't go out like that and say you worship the true God…

SPEAKER
The person giving a talk from the "platform".

The term "speaker" is usually reserved for talks by elders on public occasions such as the Sunday public talk and speeches at conventions.

SPECIAL PIONEERS
Pioneers who are particularly effective in their ministry may become "specials". These proselytize for more hours and receive a money allowance from headquarters.

Rutherford introduced the special pioneer position in 11/1937 when book sales per pioneer were declining and many pioneers could no longer survive financially. Paying money to the most loyal and effective pioneers in return for more hours ensured that such ones stayed in the work. Such ones also received their literature at lower rates than publishers.

Their work was: "to make personal visits on people with phonographs, using the message contained on the records" and to make back-calls and "show the company publishers how the back-call work should be carried on."

The special pioneer work was temporarily suspended and restarted in 1942. (Yearbook 1943, 36)

In the 1940s the quota for special pioneers was 175 hours which if achieved was rewarded with the allowance of $25. (Yearbook 1945, 59-60) In the 1960s it was $50 for 150 hours. Later the "goal" was reduced to 140 hours.

In poor countries where people earn low wages, indigenous special pioneers receive lower allowances than special-pioneer Westerners living there.

Special pioneers who are especially effective are often sent into relatively virgin territory not regularly reached by any JW congregation. Special pioneers are also the main recruitment pool for Gilead Missionary School.

SPEECH COUNSEL SLIP

A form issued to each JW enrolled in their congregation's Kingdom Ministry School on which qualities or factors that improve public speaking are enumerated with space to mark each quality as "I" (improved) or "g" (good) or "w" (work on this).

In the Kingdom Ministry School meeting, people give short speeches to the congregation and are counseled by the School overseer/conductor on one or two qualities each time. These include introduction, clarity, timing or length, conversational quality, loudness, pitch, modulation, illustrations, etc.

SPECIES
Russell considered "species" to be the same as the "kinds" mentioned in Genesis:

> But in nature we see that various species, 'each after its own kind,' entirely separate from each other… (Studies VI, 22)

However, such a definition implied that Noah's Ark had to contain hundreds of thousands of "species" and is now regarded as erroneous.
(See: *KINDS*)

SPEED IT UP / SPEEDING UP THE WORK

> The little one himself will become a thousand, and the small one a might nation. I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time. (Isaiah 60:22 NWT)

Based on Isaiah 60:22 JWs repeatedly predicted a speed-up of their proselytizing just before Armageddon.

In 1969 they believed the speed-up had started. *The Watchtower* compared it to the story of the Israelites marching around Jericho once each day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day. (Joshua 6) This was supposedly *A Prophetic Pattern For Our Day* (w1969 10/1 592-598) and would be fulfilled by intensified JW activity from 1969 until Armageddon in 1975:

> And today, with less than seven years remaining to the end of six thousand years of human history, and with all the prophetic evidence that Christendom is about to be shaken from her proud foundations, are we not fired with zeal…? He will continue to infuse power into us as the final march intensifies. (ibid p.597)

Armageddon didn't come and JWs numbers declined from 1977 to 1981.

New Speed-up 1985

In 1985 the JW leaders again declared, "the time for this is NOW!":

> Jehovah adds a third part to his promise: "I myself, Jehovah, shall *speed it up* in its own time." As we stand at the brink of the "great tribulation," the time for this is NOW! The rapid acceleration of the Kingdom work during the past two years bears this out. This 'speeding up' is to be observed earth wide … our beloved King Jesus Christ, will continue to "speed it up" as the Kingdom proclamation moves on toward its climax! (w1985 3/1 21-22)
>
> JEHOVAH is now **speeding up** the ingathering of sheeplike ones. Surely, then, this is no time for his people to slow down in their Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. (Isaiah 60:8, 22; Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20) Indeed, increased witnessing activity by so many more publishers and pioneers is now stirring up the world field. And the momentum of this joyous ingathering will yet grow. (w1988 7/15 15)
>
> The outstanding increases reported around the world are evidence that Jehovah 'is speeding it up in its own time.' (Isaiah 60:22) (w1995 9/1 17)

However, when Armageddon "within our twentieth century" failed and the "this generation" of 1914 doctrine also failed (See: *GENERATION*) expansion rates slowed. Evidently "NOW" was not "NOW" but was another false teaching of the Governing Body!

Governing Body undeterred by errors

Undeterred by their falsehoods the JWs leaders wait for the dust to settle and then re-apply the same Bible verses:

> Jehovah is speeding up the ingathering. (Isa. 60:22) There is an urgent need for all those following Jesus' example to work at their ministry more fully. (Our Kingdom Ministry 2007, September, p.1)

Generally speaking, when the preaching goes well the JWs leaders try to accelerate it further by citing Isaiah 60:22 and claiming "it is now". When things slow down too much or for too long they suggest the "witness" work is finishing because Armageddon is at hand. This re-energizes the followers and the cycle restarts. (Investigator #178)

SPILLANE, MICKEY (1918-2006)
A writer of detective novels who converted to JWs in 1952.

Spillane created the detective Mike Hammer in 1947. Before that he was a lifeguard, circus performer, fighter-pilot instructor and comic book writer (including Captain America, Human Torch and Submariner).

After joining JWs Spillane proselytized door to door and meanwhile stopped writing Mike Hammer novels but resumed after nine years.

Spillane was thrice-married; a talk show favorite; an actor in a movie; starred in over 100 beer commercials; and received the Mystery Writers Association's Grand Master for Lifetime Achievement award.

SPIRIT, THE
JWs distinguish at least four meanings of the word "spirit".

1. An impersonal "life force" in the cells of living creatures that keeps them alive. JWs compare the spirit to electricity that powers machines. It dissipates at death, analogous to stopping the flow of electricity when switching off an electrical appliance.

   JWs therefore deny that humans have a spirit that survives death and remains conscious. The resurrection of the dead does not consist of spirits receiving a new physical body but of God re-creating people from his memory and infusing these recreations with "life force".

2. The "holy spirit", regarded as God's impersonal "active force" which he uses to get things done.

3. A living entity with a ghost-like body. Spirits include Jehovah, Jesus, Satan, angels, demons, and the 144,000 in heaven after their re-creation.

4. Dominant attributes of mind or personality. Different JWs may be noted for their spirit of humility, diligence, forgiveness, generosity, etc. People in other religions would have a spirit of animosity, pride, selfishness, greed, rebellion, godlessness, immorality, etc.

SPIRIT BEGOTTEN
JWs who claim to be of the 144,000 and take the "emblems" at the annual Memorial.

SPIRIT DIRECTED
A phrase referring to divine influence, in particular Jehovah's influence on the doctrines and history of the WTS/Organization. (w1988 3/1 10, 17)

The phrase "directed by Jehovah's [or God's] spirit" is used whether JWs are speaking of the inspiration of the Bible or of the men who write WTS publications:

> What the Bible says about our future is not simply the result of human efforts to interpret the trends of history. Men were used to write, but their minds were directed by God's spirit. Thus the message is from God. Concerning the source of its contents, the Bible itself says: "No prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit." (2 Peter 1:20, 21) (A Secure Future—How Can You Find It? 1975, 5)
>
> Jehovah's organization must henceforth [from 1938] be guided and directed by Jehovah's spirit through the visible governing body made up of those servants whom Jehovah himself would appoint. (w1965 6/1 352)

Whether guidance of "Jehovah's spirit" is anything real or useful can be checked by seeing what the alleged "spirit" produced. For example we read: "*Children* is an outstanding publication... The spirit of the Lord was poured out upon Brother Rutherford when he was privileged to write this book." (Yearbook 1942, 59-60)

Children (1941) taught that marriage prior to Armageddon was against the Scriptures and should be postponed a "few years" until after Armageddon. (See: *DIVINE MANDATE*) The Bible calls opposition to marriage "teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars". (I Timothy 4:1-3 NRSV) It follows that the "spirit" that directs the JWs leaders is not anything from God.

The phrase "spirit-directed organization" appears 19 times on the *Watchtower Library* CD (2007) and "spirit directed" 56 times.

SPIRIT IN MAN

The Bible speaks of a "spirit" in people which returns to God when a person dies. (Ecclesiastes 12:7) Russell defined this "spirit" as the "spark of life". (Studies V, 308-309)

SPIRITISM

Belief that the spirits or ghosts of dead people can communicate with the living, usually through another person receptive to their influence called a "medium".

JWs are forbidden to make contact with the dead and with this most Christians agree. (Isaiah 8:19-20)

Modern manifestations of the dead produced by Spiritualists are fraudulent and were exposed by Houdini, Harry Price and other "ghost-busters".

However, the Bible records that King Saul contacted the dead prophet Samuel by means of a medium to get advice. (1Samuel 28) Since JWs believe the dead don't exist except in God's memory this contact with Samuel requires explanation.

Insight Volume II says, "And God would certainly not cause Samuel, whom he had not sent to Saul before his death, to come back from the dead to talk to Saul."

To make claims about what God would or wouldn't do, when such claims are not directly stated in the Bible, is unconvincing. The men using such logic — the JWs leaders — have affirmed hundreds of things about God that turned out false. Until 1995, for example, they called the prophecy that people born around 1900 would survive to see Armageddon, "the Creator's promise". Of course that "promise" was false and wasn't in the Bible either. So we cannot take seriously any JWs speculations about what God would or would not do when the Bible is silent.

Insight further speaks of "the spirit that impersonated Samuel." The Bible, however, does not say that a "spirit impersonated".

Insight then quotes *The Commentary on the Old Testament* by C.F. Keil and F. Delitzsch (1973 Volume II, p.265). The quoted passage states that many church fathers such as Calvin and Luther concluded that the appearance of Samuel was either a trick by the medium or was a "diabolical spectre".

The Commentary, however, goes on to reject the view of Calvin and Luther, bit this passage is not quoted in *Insight*:

> …the more modern orthodox commentators are unanimous in the opinion that the departed prophet did really appear and announce the destruction of Saul, not, however, in consequence of the magical arts of the witch, but through a miracle wrought by the omnipotence of God. This is most decidedly favored by the fact, that the prophetic historian speaks throughout of the appearance, not of a ghost, but of Samuel himself... his announcement contains so distinct a prophecy of the death of Saul and his sons, that it is impossible to imagine that it can have proceeded from the mouth of an impostor, or have been an inspiration of Satan. (pp 266-267)

Thus 1 Samuel 28 agrees with other Old Testament verses that indicate the spirits of the dead sleep in "Sheol", and informs readers further that Samuel is with them.

SPIRITUAL FEAST/BANQUET
The information and doctrines provided in JWs literature and speeches at meetings and conventions is always a "spiritual feast". And on special occasions it's a "rich", "great" or "sumptuous" spiritual feast:

> The spiritual feast we share in today as Jehovah's worshipers is a joyful banquet indeed. (w1995 1/15 20

SPIRITUAL FOOD
Any doctrine or religious interpretation, spoken or written, that originates from the WTS and/or Governing Body. Published writings and talks at meetings are "spiritual food".

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit such as speaking in tongues and miraculous healing.

The WTS claims that such gifts ceased with the apostles. The Holy Spirit, however, is still said to operate in the WTS religion in other ways.

SPIRITUAL ISRAEL
"Spiritual Israel" is the 144,000 Christians to whom the New Testament was written. Also called the "bride of Christ", "little flock", and "spirit begotten".

SPIRITUAL PARADISE
After the WTS prophecies of Israel's restoration had repeatedly failed the WTS spiritualized the prophecies by applying them to JWs and the Organization.

Bible chapters such as Isaiah 34 & 65 which predict the return of the Israelites to the Holy Land followed by peace and paradise, the WTS leaders applied to their Organization. Their leadership along with the Organization and its standards, doctrines, rules and meetings is called "spiritual paradise". (w1983 11/15 6; 12/1 31; w1984 10/15 15)

Outside commentators often regard "spiritual paradise" to be a misnomer, because of the high defection rates when prophecies failed, the countless changes in doctrine, the lack of joy, the high mental illness rates, and recently the many child-abuse revelations.

SPIRITUAL PROVISIONS
"Spiritual provisions" are since 1944 the writings of the Governing Body. (United in True Worship… 1983, 123)

JWs are not permitted to confirm or prove "spiritual provisions" before accepting them, but must always be grateful for everything:

> Exalting Jehovah's name means … showing respect for all the Creator's spiritual provisions. And how grateful we should be for the superb spiritual provisions he makes through his organization. (w1985 1/15 23)

SPIRITUALLY CLEAN
Any JW who accepts the official doctrines, follows the ethical requirements of the Organization, and obeys all instructions is "spiritually clean".

SPIRITUALLY SICK
JWs who associate with "worldly" people, display lowered moral character, doubt WTS teachings, and discontinue meeting attendance and door to door activity are considered "spiritually sick".

SPIRITUALLY WEAK
A JW whose meeting attendance and field service is irregular, or who seems consistently depressed, or who fails to keep up to date with his study of WTS publications.

SPLANE, DAVID H. (1944-)
Governing Body member appointed on October 2, 1999 along with three others (Samuel F. Herd; M. Stephen Lett; Guy H. Pierce) which increased the membership to 11.

Splane pioneered in 1963, graduated with the 42nd Gilead Class in 1966 and was a missionary in Senegal. Afterwards he was a circuit overseer in Canada for 19 years, then entered Brooklyn Bethel with his wife Linda and worked in the Service and Writing Departments. He was appointed assistant to the Writing Committee in 1998. (w2000 1/1 29)

SPLINTER GROUPS
See: *DIVISIONS/SPLINTER GROUPS*

SPORTS
See: *ENTERTAINMENT*

SPRY, EUNICE (1944-)
British JW woman convicted in April, 2007 of 24 charges of child abuse against three children in her foster care:

> Fanatical Jehovah's Witness Eunice Spry, 62, believed the two girls and a boy were

possessed by the Devil and wanted to "purify" them.

She beat them with sticks and metal bars, forced them to drink bleach and eat their own vomit and faeces, and starved them naked in a locked room for a month…

Spry was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment and ordered to pay £80,000 costs. In sentencing, the judge told Spry that it was the "worst case in his 40 years practising law"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunice_Spry
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2643637/Foster-mother-jailed-14-years-torturing-three-children-care-set-released-prison-rehomed-near-terrified-victims.html

SPUR

The JWs leaders use false prophecy to "spur", "prompt", "stimulate" or motivate people to get baptized and increase their door to door activity:

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

Seeing this, our natural weakness, the Lord has provided time-prophecies as a spur to quicken and awaken us fully, and keep us active in his service. (Studies II, 1889, 365)

Today many are delaying to dedicate themselves to Jehovah God and to symbolize that dedication by water immersion. Thus they hesitate to throw their lot in with the Greater Noah. Such is a great mistake! Jesus showed that this generation would see Armageddon and he stressed the urgency of the situation...

Have you been baptized for life? If not, then no longer delay, for Armageddon is coming on apace. (w1959 10/1 583)

Let it be emphasized that our paying attention to the prophetic word should not just be for the purpose of gaining knowledge. Far from it! That word should stimulate us to act on that knowledge, causing us to do God's will, and especially now, "in the final part of the days." (w1983 11/15 21)

Similarly today, it would be highly dangerous for Christians to rationalize about the urgency of our times and adopt a "cruising speed" attitude that reflects doubt about the nearness of the end.

The *parousia* or presence, of Christ has now run for 70 years, and his "coming" for "Jehovah's day" of execution against Satan's world is fast approaching…
Proper Christian expectation will safeguard us during these perilous "last days" and will prompt us to take part in preaching "this good news of the kingdom." (w1984 12/1 19)

SPY SYSTEM

William Schnell wrote about the "spy system" at all levels of the Organization. Rutherford had dossiers kept on Bethelites and travelling representatives of the WTS. A person who stepped out of line could then be confronted with multiple documented accusations.

JWs do not speak of a "spy system" but this is what outside observers often call it.

Files are prepared on "rebellious publishers. Confessing a sin before being found out constitutes "evidence of repentance". Such persons are closely "counseled" and observed to ensure they make further progress.

At the congregation level anything negative known about a publisher is reported to the elders. If one JW confesses a sin to another the latter has to report it (w1985 15/1 26) out of loyalty to God and the Organization.

Organization For Kingdom Preaching And Disciple-Making (1972) says:

If you personally are ever a witness to serious wrong-doing on the part of a baptized member of the congregation or an unbaptized person regularly associated with it, loyalty to Jehovah and his Son and love for your brothers should move you to bring the matter to the attention of the judicial committee. (Ps. 31:23) If is no real kindness to the wrongdoer to conceal his un-christian conduct; it may only contribute to his becoming hardened in sin to the point where he cannot turn back, and so lead to his everlasting destruction. Certainly it shows no love for Jehovah God or his people when one becomes a party to wickedness by concealing those who practice it. (Deut. 13: 6-8) In ancient Israel a public curse was pronounced on any who knowing the facts of a certain wrongdoing or crime, failed to come forward with such testimony. (Lev. 5:1; Prov. 29:24) One who loves righteousness and is truly loyal to Jehovah God and Christ Jesus will courageously step forward and make known the sinful conduct and conscientiously testify to the truth of the matter before the Judicial committee when called on to do so. – Ex. 20:2, 3

Clearly, every JW is to be observant and report deviation from official teachings to the congregation Judicial Committee. If he does not report the deviation then he "becomes a party to wickedness..."

The "spy system" also requires JWs who have confidential information such as lawyers, doctors and nurses to "break confidence" if their JWs clients or patients have confided any sin or rebellion against the "Organization".

Jeanne Pugh for *St. Petersburg Times* reported:

> Leaders for Jehovah's Witnesses have challenged their followers to engage in a practice that could jeopardize the jobs or professional careers of many and bring about another round of troubles…
>
> The new edict — dubbed the "snitch rule" by some — blatantly calls upon the Witnesses to betray the confidence of their employers and/or their profession in matters related to "sins" committed by other Witnesses. The ruling came in the form of an article published in the September issue of the group's magazine, The Watchtower, which is traditionally the final arbiter of all Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine.
>
> The objective, the article explains, "would not be to spy on another's freedom but to help erring ones and to keep the Christian congregation clean." It adds, "Minor transgressions due to sin should be overlooked… But when there is an attempt to conceal major sins, this may be time to speak."
>
> The article … uses the hypothetical case of Mary, a medical assistant in a hospital, who learns from medical records that a sister Jehovah's Witness has had an abortion. Mary, the article advises, should first confront the errant sister and urge her to confess her sin to the congregation elders. If the sister refuses to take such action, Mary should feel compelled to go to the elders with the information. The elders must then confront the errant one in order to seek her repentance or, lacking that, to mete out punishment…
>
> A similar set of circumstances, the article acknowledges, could emerge in doctor's offices, lawyer's offices, courts, banks, accounting firms or anywhere that confidential information is shared in a professional or business situation… (September 19, 1987)
> [w1987 9/1 12-13)

Dr Gerald L. Bullock (1985) writes on "Why My Trusted Employee Betrayed A Patient's Confidence". A JW childbirth instructor at his "OBG" practice had reported to the elders a JW patient who required a "follow up culture" after treatment for gonorrhea which she said she got from being raped in a pub.

Weeks later the patient made an angry phone call:

> She'd been denounced from the pulpit and expelled from membership. Her friends were forbidden to associate with her or even to speak with her, and her family were allowed to speak to her only when absolutely necessary. Even her mother was forbidden to sit down with her for a chat...
>
> I was stunned. I couldn't believe that Toni would gossip about a patient. I'd gone into confidentiality at length before hiring her. And my personal manual specifies the penalty of immediate termination for an employee who violates patient confidence...
>
> She explained that in her religion every member is expected to report to the church elders any member who violates its teachings and discipline.

Although JWs deny that a "spy system" operates in their religion the fact is, it does.

SRI LANKA (formerly Ceylon)
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Sri Lanka and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	292	42,774		
1975	529	25,331		
1980	635	23,150	2,108	9,685
1985	886	17,861	2,975	5,319
1990	1,298	12,904	4,521	3,705
1995	2,139	8,415	6,388	2,818
2000	3,402	5,526	9,113	2,063
2005	4,019	4,802	10,310	1,872
2010	5,029	4,066	12,880	1,588
2015	5,902	3,629	15,415	1,389
2018	6,482	3,235	15,656	1,339
	Ave.			
2019	6,518	3,272	15,409	1,384
2020	6,670	3,210	16,122	1,328
2021	7,000	3,131	20,495	1,069
2022	7,078	3,130	16,020	1,383
2023	6,972	3,195	15,721	1,411
2024	6,907	3,191	15,745	1,400
2025	7,059	3,083	14,806	1,470

STAFFORD, GREG
A JW who authored books defending the sect:

- *Jehovah's Witnesses Defended: An Answer to Scholars and Critics* (1997/2000/2009), Elihu Books. The third edition is over 670 pages.

- *Three Dissertations on the Teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses* (2002), Elihu Books

Of *Jehovah's Witnesses Defended* a critic wrote:

> The first edition of the book … was easily the best defense of Jehovah's Witness theology ever published… The second edition in 2000 was 654 pages in length and cemented Stafford's reputation as the leading apologist for the Jehovah's Witness religion.

Stafford was baptized in 1990 and served as a "pioneer" for two years.

In the books he later wrote he engaged in detailed debate on the Trinity doctrine, supporting the JWs view, but began to disagree with the Governing Body on blood transfusions and other issues.

He left JWs and started a fellowship called "Christian Witnesses of Jah" and a website which says in part:

> Elihu Books was founded by Stafford in 1997 to publish information about Jehovah God, his Son Jesus Christ, and those who bear witness to the truth concerning them…
>
> It was during the early 1990s that Stafford realized the full extent of material published against Jehovah's Witnesses … leading to the publication of a defense of Jehovah God and of his Witnesses through Elihu Books…
>
> The history of Elihu Books took a sharp turn in 1998-999, when the Second Edition of *Jehovah's Witnesses Defended* was being prepared. It was during this time that Stafford came to realize that some of the Watchtower Society's teachings were not defensible…
>
> Elihu Books is now a part of the ministry of the Christian Witnesses of Jah…

STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE, THE (1926)
A booklet which Rutherford begins with the proposition that mankind consists of rulers and ruled. (pp 3-4)

> Rulers are men who control politics, religion and commerce. They frame laws and religious lies of such nature as to preserve their own power and keep the exploited masses in poverty and subjection. (pp 4-6) The oppressed masses are lied to and desire freedom and release. Where should they go? Not to higher education or financial schemes: "all schemes of men who have failed." (pp 6-8)

They should therefore go to "a government by Jehovah… The standard of God is the only one for the people." (pp 6-8) The earth's masses shall have opportunity for life on earth and: "now each one must be brought to a knowledge of the truth." (p.27)

"The day of this judgment is the Millennial reign of Christ [at that time in 1926 the Millennium was still believed to have started in 1873] in which all shall have an opportunity to live." (p.27) God will bring blessings of "peace, prosperity, health, life, liberty and happiness … by and through the kingdom of his beloved son Christ Jesus." (p.27)

But before God can give these benefits to mankind everyone has to know about them. (p.28)

In short Rutherford's formula is: Let all the ruled leave the rulers; go to the WTS organization and through it be ruled by God's kingdom; and declare this message to others.

The logical limit (which Rutherford does not openly state) would be when so many of the "ruled" have responded that Rutherford (or his successors) have the power to remove governments, take over the world, and organize "Armageddon" by destroying opposers.

How much longer? Page 50 says:

> Because the time has come for the fulfilment of these great truths, because the Lord's kingdom is at hand, and because **a generation of people exists upon the earth in ordinary times for fifty years or more**, we are now able to confidently say that there are millions of people residing on the earth who shall have an opportunity to accept the light of God and walk humbly before him and, so doing, shall live for ever, being restored to a perfect condition of body and mind.

In 1926 the last generation was regarded to have started in 1878. The phrase "fifty years" would have roused anticipation for 1928 or soon afterwards and kept many who were unhappy regarding 1925 hanging on.

STANDFAST MOVEMENT
A Canadian movement started by Russellite "pilgrim" Charles E. Heard of Vancouver, British Columbia, in response to Rutherford's takeover of the WBTS.

About 300 Standfast Bible Students held a convention in Seattle in 1919, July 25-27 and instituted a Committee of Seven to oversee the movement. They believed C.T. Russell's "harvest work" had finished in the spring of 1918 and that they now lived in the "standing period" when "no man can work". (John 9:4)

The Standfast Russellites had adherents in most states of Canada and the USA.

JWs leaders call Heard's defection "rebellion", but the people who accepted Rutherford's false prophecies from 1918 onwards were "men and women of true faith and courage". (Yearbook 1979, 113)

STANTON, ELAINE
A victim of the Governing Body's pre-2002 policy on pedophiles whereby accusers were admonished to silence unless two people had witnessed the incident.

Damon Hodge reported in *Las Vegas Weekly*:

> Come Armageddon, Elaine Stanton didn't want to be on the losing side. So she kept quiet about the sexual abuse. Urged her siblings to do so, too, fearing they'd be "disfellowshipped" or excommunicated, a fate akin to spiritual death for Jehovah's Witnesses.
>
> For 15 years, everyone kept mum. Dan Young, her younger brother, publicly spoke up in 1992, accusing the church of coddling child molesters. Now he plans to sue.
>
> Last Thursday, after nearly 25 years of silence and against the backdrop of a press conference launching an awareness campaign about child sexual abuse in the denomination and a lawsuit filed against a jailed Nevada elder, Stanton finally spoke up.
>
> "Elders knew family members were molesting us but didn't do anything about it," she says. "I'm tired of being quiet."
>
> Stanton … alleges, church leaders coaxed her and her siblings into silence about being physically and sexually abused by family members who were elders. They quoted Scripture touting unity and prayed over them…
>
> Members are encouraged to report all child abuse allegations, says New York spokesman Bryce Hemmelgam... On May 24, he says, all American congregations received letters outlining biblical instructions on handling child sex abuse claims. The statement reads in part: "We expect elders to investigate every allegation of child abuse. Even one abused child is too many."
>
> The trouble starts in the next sentences … church doctrine maintains that two credible witnesses must verify that a child's been sexually abused…
>
> Hearing about child sex abuse but prevented by elders from reporting it, longtime local elder Phil Benson disassociated from the church in 1992…
>
> www.lasvegasweekly.com/2003/01_16/news_upfront2.html
> www.silentlambs.org/newsletter/NewsLetterItem.cfm?SendoutID=257
>
> (See also: *CHILD ABUSE*)

STAR OF BETHLEHEM
JWs believe that the Christmas Star (Matthew 2) was supernaturally produced by Satan the Devil:

> Do not forget that God's Word condemns astrology. (Isa. 47:13, 14) Remember, too, that the "star" seen by the astrologers led them first to wicked King Herod, who then ordered all the young boys in and around Bethlehem slaughtered in an effort to kill Jesus. Do these facts point to God or to his adversary, Satan the Devil, as the source of that moving "star"? (g1973 12/22 5)

STARS FALLING (Matthew 24:29)
Occurred literally on November 13, 1833 claimed Russell, and was also fulfilled symbolically by theologians and ecclesiastics becoming false teachers. (Studies IV, 588-595)

START OUR/MY/YOUR TIME
JWs start counting their witnessing or door-to-door time when they knock on their first door or talk to someone on the sidewalk. If the assigned suburb is some distance away a JW may leave a tract somewhere so that he can start "counting time" and include his travel time.

STATISTICS
Statistics published in JW yearbooks include a country by country chart listing the numbers for peak publishers, average publishers, percentage increase, pioneers, congregations, hours spent in preaching, and average Bible studies conducted. World totals are also shown.

The WTS also publishes totals for baptisms, production of books, booklets and pamphlets, as well as conventions attendances, the

number of branches and missionaries, size of "bethel family", the number of districts and circuits, amount of money spent, etc.

Rarely given is the number of JWs disfellowshipped and reinstated.

Prior to 1938 few statistics except book and booklet production were published. The number of publishers was given infrequently and is hard to interpret. Prior to 1929 yearly averages of publishers were also calculated from weekly figures rather than monthly figures.

The increases in publishers are regularly called "amazing", "incredible", and "satisfying" or synonymous words. They are presented as proof of God's leadership: "For this, the credit must go to Jehovah God." (g1984 12/8 4)

When numbers declined in 1976 some statistics formerly presented were either discontinued or presented in ways that made comparison with previous years difficult. Russell's practice when numbers declined was simply not to mention those particular statistics so as to minimize discouragement. (wr1892 January, p.1349)

The Governing Body's love of statistics sometimes included the number of sandwiches and hot dogs served at conventions. (Convention Report 1953, 73)

[See also: *AWAKE!; BAPTISMS; BOOKLETS; BOOKS; CONGREGATIONS; HOURS; INCREASE; LANDS; LANGUAGES*; *MAGAZINES; MEMORIAL; PUBLISHERS; RETURN VISITS; SUBSCRPTIONS; WATCHTOWER, THE*]

STEAM ENGINE

According to *The Finished Mystery* (1917) "Job" of the Old Testament knew about railways and steam engines. This was one of Russell's proofs of the Bible!

> Job also describes the steam engine stationary, railway and marine. The following is a corrected translation of Job 40:15 to 41:34, with comments thereon from the pen of one of Pastor Russell's followers: "Behold now one with great heat (the stationary steam engine), which I have made to be with thee; he will consume fodder (peat, wood, coal) as do cattle. Behold now his strength is in his loins (boiler plates), and his power is within the parts bent in a circle (boiler shell) of his belly. His tail (smoke stack-opposite the feeding end) will set upright like a cedar; the couplings of his leaping parts (connecting rods, pitmans) will be clamped together. His bones are tubes of copper; his solid bones (grate bars) are as hammered-out bars of iron. He is the greatest of the ways of power. He that made him (the Lord) can make His sword (Word) to approach unto (reveal) him. Isa. 26:20,21.) He shall rest under thin shelter (steam jackets) within a covering of fibrous reeds (jute) and clay (mortar). The willows of the valley (the trees overhead) will enclose him around about. Behold (as a pumping engine) he will drink up an over-flowing river without much exertion; he will cause the people to trust (that their cellars will keep dry), though a Jordan should rush forth over its border. He will gather it up in his fountains by means of traps and with a perforated nozzle. "Thou wilt lengthen out leviathan (the locomotive) with a hook (automatic coupler) or with a snare (coupling pin) which thou wilt cause his tongue (coupling-link) to drop down. Wilt thou not place a ring (piston) in his nostrils (cylinders) or pierce through his cheeks (Piston ends) with a staff (piston-rod)? Will he make repeated supplication unto thee, (to get off the track)? Or will he utter soft tones unto thee (when he screeches; with the whistle)?" (The Finished Mystery 1917, 84-85)

Most commentators see the same verses as poetry describing the hippopotamus! Every explanatory point above in brackets is therefore an error — over 20 wrong interpretations on just one or two pages!

STEINHAUG, KENT

A Norwegian businessman and ex JW who runs a website called *Watchtower Observer*.

In 1997 the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York filed breach of copyright charges against Steinhaug and fellow Norwegian Jan Haugland for uploading to the Internet the elders manual *Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock*. Although Steinhaug's website no longer carried the material he had allegedly "spread it and asked other people to carry it on their sites".

The publication carries a 1991 copyright by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. The inside title page states:

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

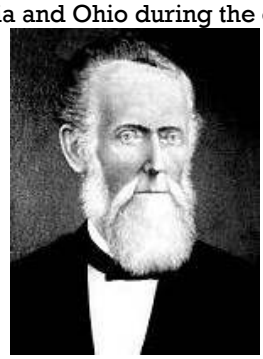
STERILIZATION
In 1969 the Governing Body condemned sterilization whether temporary or permanent. Sterilization could not be used as a birth control measure by "mature Christians". (w1969 12/15 767)

In the 1980s they gave sterilization guarded acceptance and justified this change in teaching by the operation having become reversible. (w1985 5/1 31)

STETSON, GEORGE (1814-1879)
One of three Advent Christian Church pastors who mentored Russell in the early 1870s.

George Stetson associated with Henry Grew (1781-1862) and George Storrs. Besides being a minister he was also a school teacher and physician.

Stetson worked together with Jonas Wendel for the Advent Christian Church in Pennsylvania and Ohio during the early 1870s.


(From: Wikipedia)

Both pastors wrote for Storrs' magazine *The Herald of Life and the Coming Kingdom*.

In1872 Stetson was a pastor in Pittsburgh and C.T. Russell attended his meetings. After that Stetson led the Edinboro (Pennsylvania) congregation for six years.

A letter about Stetson appeared in *The World's Crisis* magazine

> April 23, 1873
> Bro. Grant:
>
> Since closing my labors with the N.Y.S. Mission Tent last fall, my labor has been with the church in this place, and in an adjoining county. During the winter we had Bro. G.W. Stetson of Ohio with us in a protracted effort for four weeks, which resulted, we humbly trust, in much good; the church was revived, and wanderers were induced to return. To God be all the glory. Amen.
>
> The church in Edinboro numbers something over 100 members, but they are scattered over a territory of several miles, and for a few years have had no pastor, but only occasionally a sermon — they had become scattered as sheep without a shepherd. At the close of our protracted meetings, Bro. Stetson was invited by the church to take the pastoral charge of the same, which he consented to do from May 1 next. May God bless pastor and church is my prayer. Amen.

Russell gave the funeral sermon for Stetson which 1200 attended. His death on October 9 was reported in *Zion's Watch Tower*:

> Death has laid our brother low…
> He had been a faithful under-shepherd, ever holding before his hearers, as the great incentive to holiness and purity of life, that which filled his own soul with joy and peace and helped him to live "above the world'… Our brother was a man of marked ability, and surrendered bright prospects of worldly and political honors to be permitted to preach Christ, when the glories and beauties of the word of God dawned upon his heart. (wr 1879 November, p.46)

During Stetson's final year of life he lived with Sarah and William Henry Conley of 50 Fremont Street. Conley was president of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society in 1881-1884 i.e. prior to Russell becoming its president.

STEVENS, WALTER
A JW in Whyalla (South Australia) who in 1965 supported his wife's refusal to accept a life-saving blood transfusion — and she died.

Unnecessary deaths of JWs who refused blood transfusions provided more publicity for JWs in some countries in the 1950s and 1960s than their door-to-door ministry. Such was the case in Australia with Mrs Stevens' death — nationwide media publicity. (The Sun, June 8, 1965; The Advertiser, June 8, 1965)

STEVENSON, WILLIAM C. (b. 1936)
Stevenson was converted to JWs in 1950; he was a pioneer for 7½ years and circuit servant (overseer) for three years. After leaving JWs Stevenson wrote *Year of Doom 1975* (1967) which was republished as *The Inside Story of Jehovah's Witnesses* (1968).

STIRE, CHRIS
A Canadian ex-JW who published his story "Delivered From Watchtower!" on the Internet.

Stire's parents were baptized in Ontario in 1971; his older sister and his father's parents in 1972.

His father's grandmother's family associated with Russellism since the 1880s:

> My fathers' grandparents, William and Ada Secord, and their son, Arthur, professed inclusion in the class of the 144,000 anointed. My great-uncle, Arthur, spent his adult life serving, first at the Watchtower radio station, WBBR, on Staten Island, and then, after WBBR closed, at the world headquarters in Brooklyn, New York.

Baptized in 1980 Stire became discontented within two years:

> I had received some older publications from one of fathers' aunts … a couple were from the Millennial Dawn series, by Russell, and also one or two of Judge Rutherford's books. There was also one of the original hymnals with references to the cross, plus other citations that no longer fit with Watchtower teachings of the 1980's. I was surprised when my parents advised me against reading them. This peaked my interest more…
> The more I read the bible, the more I became discontented with Watchtower teaching… I was then ostracized...

Stire and his wife separated in 2000 after which he studied the Scriptures with an evangelical couple. He accepted Jesus as "my Lord and Savior" and became an assistant pastor.

STOOPS MANUFACTURING COMPANY
An American company founded by two JWs, Carl and Betha Stoops in 1951, which manufactures and sells "Service Supplies" to JWs.

The supplies include book and Bible covers, literature carry bags, Year-text pens, Pocket Planners, Bookmarks, Campaign Organizers, Transparent Magazine Holders, Magnetic Badge Holders, and Tract Holders.

The company is located in Missouri and employs about 30 people.

STORRS, GEORGE (1796-1879)
A Methodist minister, prominent figure in the Millerite movement of the1840s, founder of the sect Life And Advent Union, editor of *The Bible Examiner* (1843-1863, 1871- ?), and mentor to Charles Taze Russell:

> ...However, we were then merely getting the general outlines of God's plan, and unlearning many long-cherished errors, the time for a clear discernment of the minutiae having not yet fully come. And here we should and do gratefully mention assistance rendered by Brothers George Stetson and George Storrs, both now deceased, the latter the editor of The Bible Examiner. The study of the Word of God with these dear brethren led, step by step, into greener pastures and brighter hopes for the world, though it was not until 1872, when I gained a clear view of our Lord's work as our ransom price, that I found the strength and foundation of all hope of restitution to lie in that doctrine. Up to that time, when I read the testimony that all in their graves shall come forth, etc., I yet doubted the full provision-whether it should be understood to include idiots or infants who had died without reaching any degree of understanding, beings to whom the present life and its experiences would seem to be of little or no advantage. But when, in 1873, I came to examine the subject of restitution from the standpoint of the ransom price given by our Lord Jesus for Adam, and consequently for all lost in Adam, it settled the matter of restitution completely, and gave fullest assurance that ALL must come forth from Adamic death and be brought to a clear knowledge of the truth and to fullest opportunity of everlasting life in Christ.
>
> Thus passed the years 1869-1872, and the years following, to 1876, were years of continued growth in grace and knowledge on the part of the handful of Bible students with whom I met regularly in Allegheny. We progressed from our first crude and indefinite ideas of restitution to clearer understanding of the details, God's due time for clearer light not having come until 1874... C.T.R.
> (wr 1880 May)

STORRS, GEORGE (1796-1879)
George Storrs was born in Lebanon, New Hampshire in December, 1796, the youngest of eight children. His father, Col. Constant Storrs, was from Connecticut but moved to New Hampshire after his marriage.

The mother taught the children form the Calvinistic and Congregational standpoint on heaven and hell, the Trinity, etc.

At 18 Storrs' only sister died after which he resolved to seek the Lord, prayed daily, and at 19 joined Congregational Church. He married at 23 but two years later his wife was confined to bed and died when he was 29.

Adult life

Storrs was a minister in New York in the Methodist Episcopal Church 1825-1840 but withdrew because, "his liberty to teach and

labor according to his convictions of truth could not be allowed in his relation to that Church." He, for example, preached against slavery despite church hostility to that viewpoint.

In 1837 he accepted belief in the resurrection as distinct from immortality of the soul, and belief in extinction instead of eternal suffering, from a pamphlet by Henry Grew (1781-1862) of Philadelphia.

Storrs moved his family to Albany, New York, to minister to a small congregation and in 1842 on six successive Sabbaths he gave "Six Sermons" on *An Inquiry—Are the Wicked Immortal?* which he edited and published in Britain and America.

After that he joined the Millerite movement and preached the visible return of Jesus in 1943 and then 1844. In 1843 he founded the magazine *The Bible Examiner* which was published occasionally and became a monthly in 1847 and semi-monthly in 1854.

The Millerites fell apart after 1844 and spawned many sects. Storrs disagreed with these on the date for Christ's return, the immortality of the soul, and the burning up of the world, but continued to preach Christ's imminent Second Coming.

Storrs, Grew and Dunn

Storrs lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1844 to 1852 after which he moved to New York.

In Philadelphia in 1844 Storrs met Henry Grew and collaborated with him in debates against the doctrine of the immortal soul. Storrs, at this stage, preached that righteous people would be resurrected but not wicked people or non-Christians.

Some Millerites adopted variants of Grew's and Storrs' views on the resurrection and these views entered Seventh Day Adventist and Russellite doctrine.

Grew authored *An Examination Of The Divine Testimony Concerning The Character Of The Son of God* (1824) delineating a Christology later adopted by Russell.

In the late1860s Storrs obtained *The Destiny of the Human Race* by British writer Henry Dunn, which interpreted the doctrines of "the ransom" and the "restitution of all things".

Storrs reactivated *The Bible Examiner* in 1871 (after a lapse of eight years) and taught on the "ransom", "restitution", and resurrection (which he now believed was for the whole human race).

In 1872 George Storrs informed his Bible class in Allegheny (including C.T. Russell) about the writings of Dunn and discussed them in *The Bible Examiner*.

Advent Christian Church writers I.C. Wellcome and Clarkson Gould wrote *The Plan of Redemption* (1867) and popularized the idea of God having a plan. Storrs took this idea on board and so did C.T. Russell.

No Church

The Bible Examiner says: "From 1840 to the present time he [Storrs] has never been connected with any human organized body called a "Church," because he would not be trammeled in his search for truth." (September 1878)

Storrs, however, met with like-minded people for worship and study.

Influence on Charles Taze Russell

C.T. Russell attended Storrs' New York meetings in 1869-1872. Storrs, at the time, expected Christ's Second Coming, the failure of which possibly influenced Russell, his father and sister, and businessman William H. Conley and wife to start a separate study class, but still using Storrs' published works.

Russell rejected Storrs' view that the Jews would never be restored but accepted Storrs' view that the religions of Christendom constituted Babylon.

Storrs refused to call his meetings a church and believed that every new sect and church becomes part of Babylon immediately upon its formation. That is why Russell denied founding an organization or sect, and why Rutherford and then Fred Franz denied, until the 1950s, that the JWs are a religion.

Storrs' "wider hope" — that the entire human race would be resurrected — was accepted by John H. Paton, a co-founder of Russell's cult, and motivated Paton's split from Russell in 1881. To Russell the "wider hope" doctrine was heresy.

In 1870 Storrs re-examined his beliefs and concluded that the Abrahamic covenant by which "all the families of the earth would bless themselves" (Genesis 22:18; Acts 3:25-26) implied all nations would hear the message of God. He concluded that people who conclusively rejected God before their death are gone forever, but people who died in ignorance would be resurrected and informed about salvation. Those who then accept the message would live on Earth and those who reject it executed. People living near the time of Christ's Second Coming would hear about salvation by Christian preaching.

Storrs regarded the Devil to be a metaphor for evil and not a conscious, intelligent "spirit". He also rejected the Trinity but equivocated on what the Holy Spirit is.

Russell admitted to being influenced by Storrs:

> The Lord gave us many helps in the study of His word, among whom stood prominently, our dearly beloved and aged brother, George Storrs, who, both by word and pen gave us much assistance; but we ever sought not to be followers of men, however good and wise, but Followers of God as dear children.

Faithful and discreet slave?

Russell's publications mention Storrs only briefly and Grew not at all. The WTS writers ignored early influences on Russell almost completely until the 1990s when it began publishing biographies of Henry Grew and others who disagreed with mainline religions of their time, and presented them as forerunners to "the truth". (e.g. w2000 10/15 25-30 Working in the "Field" Before the Harvest)

The intention in these *Watchtower* articles about Storrs, Grew and others seems to be to answer criticisms that no "faithful and discreet slave class" disseminating "Bible truth" for 19 centuries, as taught by JWs, can be identified. The implication is that Storrs, Grew and some of the Protestant reformers were members of this "slave class".

However, although such men disagreed with the denominations of their time, their writings disagree much more with JWs. Nor did they claim membership in a "faithful slave class" or its governing body.

STRANGE ACT
A Rutherfordian phrase which refers to Armageddon.

STRANGERS
In Russell's time "strangers" denoted interested persons attending Russellite meetings.

STRANGE WORK
A phrase in use in Rutherford's time, which referred to the organized promotion of the JWs message including the distribution of books, booklets and leaflets. (Religion 1940, 192)

STREAM OF TIME, THE (2004)
A 112-page book published by a Russellite splinter group and available on the Internet. It defends much of Russell's chronology but defers the fulfillment by over a century. The introduction says:

> Specifically, evidence is here presented that 6000 years of man's history, from Adam forward, will close about the year 2043 AD, and presumably the grand Seventh Millennium will then commence. This does not mean we know the date when the last saints will pass beyond the veil to their reward. We do not. But it does seem to give us an upper bound.

STREET WITNESSING (STREET WORK)
"Street witnessing" is field service activity by standing on footpaths and displaying WTS magazines and by approaching pedestrians and offering them tracts or publications.

STREETER, R.E. (1847-1924
One of the founders of the Pastoral Bible Institute who had separated from Russellism when Rutherford took over the cult and published *The Finished Mystery* (1917).

Streeter became a Christian in 1877 with the Free Will Baptists. He left them and edited a small-circulation journal titled *The Testimony of Jesus* for some years beginning in 1892.

In 1896 Streeter read C.T. Russell's *The Divine Plan of the Ages* and accepted it in 1897. In 2002 he qualified to be one of Russell's travelling representatives known as "pilgrims".

He became a trustee in the Pastoral Bible Institute (founded 1918) in 1923, edited its magazine *The Herald of Christ's Kingdom*, and authored *Daniel, the Beloved of Jehovah* (1923) and *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (1928 published posthumously).

STROHBACH, SIEGFRIED & RUTH (1923-2012)
Third and second generation JWs from East Germany living in Tasmania, Australia, who left JWs 31 and 34 years after their baptism. Their disassociation letter to JW president Fred Franz, published on the Internet, says in part:

> We have lost faith to believe what the Organisation teaches because interpretations given in one Watchtower or book, could be changed in the next.
>
> Proverbs 27:2 states, "May a stranger, and not your own mouth praise you, may a foreigner, and not your own lips do so." However what are the members of the

Organisation doing? They praise themselves all the time. How good we are. How many hours we preach. How superior the New World translation is etc…

The teaching of Romans 13, dealing with the superior authorities has been changed three times. Many years ago a brother was disfellowshipped because he did not agree that the superior authorities in Romans 13 are Jehovah and Jesus Christ. Six months later the Organisation changed its opinion back to the previous interpretation, so the brother was right. This is stated in the book 'This Means Everlasting Life' Page 197, Paragraph 10.

A sister in Munich, Germany, could not believe that Solomon would have no resurrection, she was disfellowshipped for apostasy and later committed suicide. Later the Organisation said, "Yes, Solomon will still have a resurrection."

Each new publication is said to be given to us by Jehovah through His 'Faithful and Discreet Slave'. But if the explanation changes, it must mean that either Jehovah is a liar, or could it be the Faithful and discreet Slave has not spoken the truth?

For many decades we have been taught that Jesus did not have a beard, because the churches depicted him as having a beard. Now we are told that Jesus did have one.

In The Watchtower, 15/8/68, speaking of the Lord's return in the article "Why are you looking forward to 1975", page 499 states "it may involve only a difference of weeks or months, not years.' Now many years have passed, so the prophecy was a lie. Also what about the other dates which were prophesied, 1914, 1918, 1925 etc?

Our Founder, Brother Russell, proved the return of the Jews beyond any doubt, from Romans 11 and many chapters in Ezekiel and Jeremiah, too many to go into details. But if I preach what Brother Russell said, and the literal meaning of the Bible a humble person would understand by reading it himself, then I would be disfellowshipped. Which means that the Bible does not mean what it says, and that the Founder was a liar.

The next President, Brother Rutherford, completely contradicted himself in his writing. He wrote a book entitled "Comfort for the Jews". He proved that their return is beyond any doubt in the Bible. Afterwards he wrote the opposite, and went into great detail to disprove the arguments of his previous book.

1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 and 2 Thessalonians 2, speak about the rapture and Christ's coming back to earth. The resurrection and the rapture of the living ones is described as one event, as occurring together. However the Faithful and Discreet Slave says just the opposite, he says that Christ does not return to the earth, and that the rapture is in stages, like a bus picking up stragglers…

The books of Rutherford are a real mine of errors. Some years ago I picked out over four hundred statements which were just the opposite to what the Scripture stated.

The explanation of the parable of the leaven in Matthew 13:33 has been changed four times in the last seventy years, yet the Organisation claims that the spiritual food is given to us by Jehovah through His Faithful and Discreet Slave, and only after deep and prayerful study of the Bible. The same was said in the book "Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose", but Rutherford put all Russell's teaching out of the window. Who then is a liar, Brother Russell, Brother Rutherford, or Jehovah, the God who never changes? …

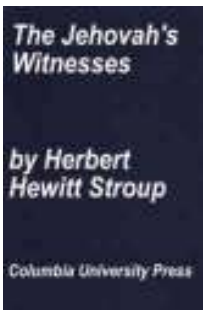
When the Pioneers were working 1200 hours per year and one of them became sick, he had to make up the missing hours in order to reach the 1200 hours so that he could remain in pioneer service. We still remember my late father in law, he was 65 years old, he was sick with a fever cold yet he went out in the winter on his pushbike. My wife urged him to stay at home, his reply was "No I cannot, otherwise I will not reach the 1200 hours." Not even the most cruel worldly employer would ask one to make up for the time lost when they were sick, yet the Faithful and Discreet Slave has done so for years. Jesus, our Redeemer said, "For my yoke is kindly and my load is light." Matthew 11:30.

…Once it was taught by the Organisation that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, but now it is Jehovah who is the Alpha and the Omega.

How can we be sure that the writings of the Organisation are true when there are constant changes and the Word of God is denied. Many thousands have already left because they could not accept the hundreds of changes and spiritual somersaults. God's word is written so that

even the most simple person can understand it, while the most wise and clever will never understand it. If God did not spare Israel, how much less will He spare you if you continually change and twist His Word…

STROUP, HERBERT H.
The author of a 1940s sociological study of JWs which found that JWs were: "noticeably under the average in terms of social and economic privilege".



Stroup requested N.H. Knorr's assistance to get JWs to fill out survey forms but Knorr replied, "the Society does not have the time, nor will it take the time, to assist you in your publication concerning Jehovah's Witnesses."

STUDENT TALK
A talk of five or six minutes in the congregation's Theocratic Ministry School meeting by a "brother" or "sister" or a new person who attends regularly.

STUDIES
See: *BIBLE STUDIES*

STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES
Russell's six major theological works published consecutively in 1886, 1889, 1891, 1897, 1899, and 1904.

Russell admonished his followers to study these books in preference to the Bible. (See: *BIBLE; PUBLICATIONS*) He claimed his books provided "the light of the Scriptures" more effectively than the Bible itself. (w1910 9/15 298)

This claim turned out nonsense when Russell's successors progressively rejected about 70% of his interpretations. Despite having revised so much of Russell's work, the present-day JWs leaders still call his *Studies* "truth" (Yearbook 1984, 36-41) and "fine spiritual food". (w1973 7/1 395-396)

Originally the series was called *Millennial Dawn* which was changed in 1904 to *Studies in the Scriptures*.

The first volume *The Plan of the Ages* (1886), later renamed *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, tries to show that God has a clear plan for mankind.



Volume 2, *The Time is at Hand* (1889), interprets biblical chronology, time prophecies including predictions for 1914/1915, the second advent of Christ, and the Antichrist

Thy Kingdom Come (1891) provides more on biblical prophecies, the role of Israel in those prophecies, and supports Russell's dates by arguing they are encoded in the length of passages inside the Great Pyramid of Giza which was constructed under God's direction. Russell's "pyramidology" was based on the writings of Charles Piazzi Smyth.

The Day of Vengeance (1897), later renamed *The Battle of Armageddon*, describes how the present world will by 1914 come to its end in the Battle of Armageddon and be taken over by God's Kingdom.

The At-one-ment Between God and Man (1899) discusses the nature of humanity, the redemption of the human race, and the Holy Spirit.

The New Creation (1904) goes into the seven days of creation, and the responsibilities of being a Christian.

Theology

The series has often been criticized as replacing the Bible with Russell's books. Russell himself expected his followers to study his books instead of the Bible and wrote: "if he then lays [the Studies in the Scriptures] 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."

The Finished Mystery

Following Russell's death in 1916 *The Finished Mystery* (1917) and promoted as his "posthumous work" and the "seventh volume". This was a verse after verse interpretation of the biblical books of Ezekiel, Revelation, and Song of Solomon. An advertisement for the book in *Zion's Watch Tower* called it "the true interpretation" and it was promoted as being "of the Lord—prepared under his guidance."

The Finished Mystery was compiled by two of Russell's associates, Clayton J. Woodworth and George H. Fisher, and edited by Rutherford.

Withdrawal

The WTS ceased producing the *Studies in the Scriptures* series in 1927 and sect members stopped selling them door to door in 1929 because key doctrines had changed as well as hundreds of interpretations of biblical verses, and the prophecies for 1914, 1915 and 1918 had all failed to come true.

The six volumes are still published by some of the independent splinter-groups of the Bible Student movement.

[See also: *ERROR; TIME IS AT HAND, THE*]

STUDY
As a noun "study" or "Bible study" is equivalent to "Bible student" and is a person regularly indoctrinated, usually in his home, by a JW "publisher".

STUDY ARTICLE
The main, most spiritual, article *in The Watchtower*, usually in two parts and sometimes three, with questions at the bottom of the page, and which is studied by the congregation at their weekly Watchtower Meeting.

STUDY CONDUCTOR'S REPORT
A printed slip for reporting studies conducted with interested persons.

STUDY QUESTIONS
The numbered questions corresponding to numbered paragraphs located at the bottom of pages in most WTS books and *Watchtower* study articles.

STUMBLING BLOCK
Anything that may influence a JW or a householder who is studying with JWs to go contrary to official teaching or otherwise stop "progressing spiritually".

SUBSCRIPTIONS
A pre-paid order for *The Watchtower* and/or *Awake!* to be posted to households usually for either six months or one year. JWs conducted yearly campaigns to obtain new subscriptions from the public.

When subscriptions expired they were renewed by filling out a Renewal form.


RENEWAL NOTICE

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Six six months
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Until the 1990s subscription-magazines were posted to householders. From the 1990s delivery was by JWs publishers or by collection from the Kingdom Hall.

Until 1990 a WTS-determined subscription price was charged. (See: *CONTRIBUTIONS*)

The WTS encouraged all JWs to get subscriptions and even wanted parents to get subscriptions for two-year-olds. (g1989 8/22 32)

When JWs literature began to be distributed for free or on donation basis during the 1990s the WTS got JWs to cancel their own postal subscriptions and get magazines for self-use at the Kingdom Hall. Ex JWs found that renewing their subscriptions required a visit to the Hall where they would be identified as "apostates" and turned away.

Exercising greater control over who gets subscriptions saved on costs, made access to "spiritual food" by ex-JWs (who sought it to criticize) more difficult, and provided more interaction with non-JWs subscribers who got their magazines by personal delivery.

Subscription Statistics

New Subscriptions Statistics

1945	400,000	1970	2,464,000
1950	622,000	1975	c.2,000,000
1955	1,008,000	1980	c.1,500,000
1960	1,317,000	1985	1,720,000
1965	1,614,000		

The decline in new subscriptions in 1975 reflects disappointment with the non-arrival of Armageddon and the New World in 1975/1976.

SUBSCRIPTION SLIP
A printed slip for recording a person's payment for a subscription to *The Watchtower* or *Awake!*

SUCKERS
People in Rutherford's time who attended JWs meetings but declined to go door to door or otherwise advertise the message.

SUDAN
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Sudan and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	54	277,778		
1975	99	171,717		
1980	100	190,000	243	78,189
1985	200	112,500	654	34,404
2005	1,353	22,738	5,927	5,191
2010	1,826	21,443	7,349	5,328
2011	1,695	23,100	6,800	5,758
2015	608	67,000	2,308	17,643
2018	633	65,900	2,319	17,994
	Ave.			
2019	639	67,000	2,297	18,639
2020	611	71,800	1,602	27,371
2021	656	68,459	1,771	25,358
2022	637	72,200	1,836	24,780
2023	528	91,100	2,491	19,313
2024	140	352,600	42	1,175,000
2025	67	771,100	160	322,900

The decrease in the number of JWs after 2011 reflects the political division of Sudan into two countries, Sudan and South Sudan. South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011 following a referendum in January.

(See also: *SOUTH SUDAN*)

SUICIDE
Suicide means "taking one's own life, or killing oneself".

JWs believe:

> Such intentional act is self-murder...
> One who intentionally takes his own life does so in utter disregard for the sacredness of life; he becomes bloodguilty. When one commits suicide while in possession of one's mental faculties, this shows one to be void of morality, lacking faith, having no fear of God. It is a cowardly act, where one refuses to face up to the problems and responsibilities of life. If the person claimed to be a true Christian, the act would violently break his relationship with Jehovah ... members of the congregation and elders may desire not to become involved in the funeral...
> (w1975 7/15 447-448)

SUITER, G. (1908-1983)
A Governing Body member from 1944 to 1983.

The Suiter family moved from Chicago to California in 1923 where they heard the "Millions" message and joined Rutherford's cult.

Grant Suiter left high school after his first year supposedly to avoid "immoral influence" and because he could learn more from "*The Golden Age* than from full time study." (w1983 9/1 9) More likely he was spurred by Rutherford's prophecies of the resurrection of the "ancient worthies" and their world takeover starting in 1925.

The Suiter family was baptized in October 1926 and Grant entered Bethel 1928. He initially worked in the printery and in 1928 became a director of the Pennsylvania Corporation, and Secretary/Treasurer in all three Corporations in 1947.

Suiter visited Europe in 1947 to inspire surviving JWs to re-establish the proselytizing work which had been disrupted by WWII. He married in May, 1956.

Suiter was a popular speaker at major conventions but never had the courage to oppose the false prophecies promulgated by his co-leaders. He sustained spinal damage in a fall in May 1983 and died six months later.

SULLIVAN, T. J. (1888-1974)
A Governing Body member 1944-1973.

Like many JWs Thomas Sullivan was enticed into the sect by the opposite sex. In 1914 a Russellite office girl whom he married in 1918 persuaded him that Russellism made sense. (w1965 8/15 500)

Sullivan was baptized in 1916 and avoided military service by appealing to the courts and re-appealing when turned down.

He entered Brooklyn Bethel in 1924 and in 1928 became a director of the Pennsylvania Corporation. He resigned from it in September 1973 due to poor health. As a director he was also a member of the Governing Body from 1944 (when the existence of such a body was first taught) until 1973.

In 1965 he pretended to still believe that the book *The Finished Mystery* (1917) represented "pure worship" (w1965 8/15 501) although all predictions published in it were false and

about 1300 theological points had been discarded. [See: *FINISHED MYSTERY*]

SUMMERS, DAVID M. and KIMBAL
An ex JW couple in Queensland who published *Exposure* magazine and conducted seminars on UFOs, the New Age, and conspiracy theories.

SUN AND MOON DARKENED (Matthew 24:29)
Russell interpreted Matthew 24:29 both literally and symbolically. The sun was darkened literally on May 19, 1780. (Studies IV, 585-588) Symbolically the dark sun referred to the ignorance of the nominal church in rejecting Russell's books and doctrines. (Studies IV, 591)

Rutherford claimed that the sun represented the gospel of Christ and the moon the Mosaic Law. (Millions 1920, 44)

SUNDAY SCHOOL
JWs do not have Sunday Schools for children who instead have to sit with their parents throughout each meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT
The previous designation for overseers.

SUPERIOR AUTHORITIES (Romans 13:1)
Until 1929 the WTS taught that the "superior authorities" are the earthly governments and their officials. (Studies I, 266) In 1929 the "superior authorities" became "Jehovah and Jesus".

Franz called the previous interpretation "perversion of Scripture" (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 311), "a considerable misunderstanding" (Divine Purpose 1959, 91), and an "unclean thing of religion". People who believed it were "lulled asleep". (w1944 11/15 304)

The post-1929 interpretation was "truth", "revelation of vital truth", "this truth", and "the truth". (Jehovah 1934, 78; The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 312-313) It was even "beyond all doubt". (Supremacy 1934, 51)

> God enlightened his people and made known to them that the 'Higher powers' are Jehovah and Christ Jesus… (Riches 1936, 322)
>
> In 1929 the clear light broke forth. That year The Watchtower published the Scriptural exposition of Romans chapter 13. It showed that Jehovah God and Christ Jesus, rather than the worldly rulers and governors, are 'The Higher Powers'. (The Truth Shall Make You Free 1943, 312)
>
> The apostle did not intend his mention of the higher powers to be applied to men… (Let God Be True 1946, 248)

This post-1929 interpretation of the higher authorities:

> …cost many of Jehovah's witnesses their personal liberty and even their lives. (w1950 11/15 441)

In 1962 JWs leaders altered the "truth", "revelation" and "clear light" from "God" and returned to the "perversion of Scripture" taught before 1929. (w1962 11/1)

The pre-1929 position is the correct one and was plain all along since Romans 13 states that the superior authorities collect tax, tribute and bear "the sword"! A million JWs who claimed to be "ministers" and "Bible students" had for 32 years rejected what was plain to Christians!

SUPPORT FACILITIES
JWs headquarters and congregations lack organized means to help people who are emotionally disturbed or in physical need. Emotional illness, some physical problems, and poverty are seen as evidence of disobedience to the Bible and to God's Organization.

For a JW to seek help from outside their Organization — especially from other religions — is considered unspiritual, or as defection, or as rejecting the Bible and could lead to rejection by the congregation. There is no place for a JW with emotional problems to go to for help.

People likely to have a difficult time in JWs include the very shy, the intellectually handicapped, people with speech and voice impediments, the poorly educated, and the very poor who cannot meet dress requirements.

The elders will likely exert steady pressure on disadvantaged people under the guise of "counsel" and "encouragement". The stress of failing to meet elder expectations often makes the problem worse.

Something as commonplace as sending a teenager to a summer camp to reduce tensions and conflicts at home is likely to be criticized directly or by innuendo. JWs have to minimize "worldly associations" and going on camp does the opposite. JWs themselves do not run camps because they are "a preaching organization". They believe that more time going door-to-door will "make you more

spiritual" and this will solve or ameliorate almost any problem because it attracts "Jehovah's blessing".

JWs often help other JWs on an individual basis if they meet "spiritual requirements" such as preaching, attending meetings, and answering questions at meetings.

Writings of ex JWs tell of people evicted from Bethel (i.e. headquarters) when they got old or had an emotional breakdown or failed physically to do the work assigned.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups for ex JWs have been established at least since the 1980s by other former JWs and by churches in many countries.

Here are three reports from 1987, 1996 and 2014:

Support group is lifeline"
for former Witnesses

Juli Herbert

Emily Hood of Edinburgh and Linda Hull of Woodstock, who both left the Watchtower Society, the governing organization of Jehovah's Witnesses, are part of Pioneer Ministries, which distributes information about the sect and lends support to members who want to leave it.

Mrs. Hull said her conscience won't let her stop educating people about "what hell it (Jehovah's Witnesses) really is."

Both women speak candidly about what they call their stupidity for joining the proselytizing Christian sect. They have jokes about catch phrases from the sect that puzzle those who never belonged. But they say their laughter is a release, a way to put into perspective the emotional torture they lived.

"People are vey hesitant to ask why we were so dumb to fall into this and then not to get out for so long," Mrs. Hull said. "I don't know why, I ask myself that question too.

"The Witnesses seem to have all the answers to all the questions," Mrs. Hood said. "They hit people when they're vulnerable. It is a subtle program, and you put complete trust into the organization. You don't think independently and, in fact, are encouraged not to think. Too many questions and thinking is considered a form of pride."

Mts. Hood, 50, left the organization about two years ago, after spending 27 years as a member. Mrs. Hull, 31, became a member of Jehovah's Witnesses at the age of 17, but left after nearly a decade.

Those who call Pioneer Ministries at ------ can hear a tape that gives a daily lesson on contradictions in the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses. At the end of the tape, people are told to leave their names and addresses and tapes will be sent to them.

They sometimes spend hours talking to people, they said, younger versions of themselves — people who are desperately afraid, but have not yet built up the courage to leave the sect.

"These last two years have been the best years of my life and the worst. I didn't know the guilt and fear and questions I had were things that anyone else thought," Mrs. Hull said. "You are torn in two. You know what's wrong with the organization, but it takes a slow process to get out of your beliefs."

The Watchtower Society was formed in 1879 by Charles T. Russell, based on the worship of Jehovah, or God, Mrs. Hull said. According to Russell, only members of Jehovah's Witnesses can obtain everlasting life.

All churches are considered satanic, she said. Once people leave the organization, or are disassociated, they are shunned and considered dead by all members of the society.

According to Pioneer Ministries, more than one million members of Jehovah's Witnesses have left the sect.

"What we'd like to get across to some churches is to educate their members so that when someone from a cult comes to your door, they'll have some way to effectively deal with the Jehovah's Witnesses," Mrs. Hull said.

"If Linda hadn't done anything," Mrs. Hood said, "I would still be down in Timberville hurting and killing myself.
(North Virginia Daily, 1987, August 8)

Couple leaves Jehovah's Witnesses,
forms support group

Melanie Erwin

Leaving the organization can produce feelings of guilt, torment and despair, say Dick and Sue Howett, former Jehovah's Witnesses. Often those who no longer participate never find another church because they still believe the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses are the only truth. Wayward Witnesses sometimes believe they are lost souls who couldn't stand up to the rigid requirements of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society…

The Howetts have begun a support group for other former Jehovah's Witnesses. The group also hopes to serve people looking to find themselves and Jesus after being lost in the maze of a cult…

The Penns attended the first meeting and Chris says he appreciates that they don't bash Jehovah's Witnesses. "They're not there to say you're wrong," he says.

The Penns and the Howetts stress they aren't against those who follow the organization. "The people in the organization are extremely sincere," says Sue. "They're seeking to do the will of God."

But her concern is that they're being deceived. "They're blinded by false teachings," says Chris…

Dick lost his own mother in the 1950s after she refused a life-saving operation that required a blood transfusion…

In 1975, the Howetts sold their house and bought a mobile home to better spread the word of Jehovah and save more souls in the waning days before Armageddon…
(Intelligencer Journal 1996, March 7, Lancaster, PA)

The following is from the *Bucks Herald*, the weekly newspaper of Aylesbury (NW of London), July 29, 2014:

Victoria Summers, 40, was born into a family of Jehovah's Witnesses but struggled to cope with being a follower of the faith.

A 'lifetime of unhappiness' culminated in her decision to leave five years ago, but she says her parents still refuse to speak to her...

On Saturday, she laid a bouquet of flowers and hung a poster outside the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Ashbourne End, Aylesbury in 'a quiet memorial to the family she has lost'.

For the first time this year, support group the Advocates for Awareness of Watchtower Abuses organised the Watchtower Victims Memorial Day – which will be on July 26 every year – to give former Witnesses a chance to commemorate the family that they have lost by leaving the faith...

Victoria, who moved to Aylesbury in 2009, said growing up under such devout parents was tough...

Despite doing well at school and being encouraged by teachers to enroll at university, Victoria said she was controlled by fear and drifted through her 20s and 30s door-knocking for 90 hours each month.

She said: "The message was implicit – if you want to make us proud, you will not pursue higher education.

"You will devote your time to door knocking...

The report ends with Victoria married but shunned by her parents:

We still write to my family every couple of months to tell them about their granddaughter and have done since she was born, but my letters have never been acknowledged…

SUPPRESSION

JWs believe in a final worldwide attack on their religion which Rutherford called the "sign of Armageddon" and which Fred Franz claimed follows the destruction of "Babylon" by the United Nations.

The beginning of this belief is seen in 1892 when Russell taught that "a great religious combination, which will exercise a measure of political power throughout the world" would suppress his religion some years before 1914:

When the suppression comes we shall be fully resigned to it, and accept it as a sign that the membership of the elect church, the bride or body of Christ, has been completed. When this occurs we shall understand it to be the shutting of the door of opportunity to membership in the elect church, mentioned by our Lord in Matt. 25:16. This will probably be some twelve or fifteen years hence. Soon after, the intensity of the great trouble and anarchy may be expected. (wr1892 9/15 1448)

SUPREMACY (1934)

Booklet by Rutherford.

SURE HOPE
A phrase often describing the certainty of an early Armageddon which JWs survive and inherit a perfected planet Earth.

To accept JWs teachings results in a "sure hope", "contentment" and "joy" (w1985 1/15 26)

The "sure hope" became "unsure" many times as each prophetic date failed. For example, about 500,000 JWs lost their "sure hope" and progressively deserted the sect after the prophecies for 1975 failed.

SURINAME
Formerly Dutch Guiana situated on the north coast of South America. Suriname gained independence in 1975.

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	561	686		
1975	920	408		
1980	810	435	2,302	153
1985	1,128	310	3,660	96
1990	1,539	260	4,632	86
1995	1,772	226	5,722	70
2000	2,022	217	6,051	73
2005	2,045	214	6,871	64
2010	2,530	207	8,487	52
2015	2,896	186	9,889	54
2018	3,133	182	10,061	57
	Ave.			
2019	3,102	187	10,980	53
2020	3,043	193	8,124	72
2021	3,120	184	11,003	52
2022	3,194	185	10,209	58
2023	3,171	179	9,970	57
2024	3,158	201	9,816	65
2025	3,180	201	8,796	73

JWs have increased steadily in Suriname except when Armageddon failed in 1975. Growth recovered in the 1980s stimulated by social unrest due to Marxism and by JWs promoting the dwindling numbers of the 1914 generation as proof Armageddon is imminent.

SURVIVAL INTO A NEW EARTH (1984)



A WTS publication urging loyalty to the Organization to avoid: "calamity … destruction … as that countdown … nears its zero hour".

After the "zero hour" the JWs will inherit the "new earth".

Other WTS books had specified the 20th century for the occurrence of Armageddon, therefore "nears its zero hour" in 1984 meant at most 16 years.

The time that has passed since 1984 proves that the "countdown" was not "near its zero hour" after all.

SURVIVING/SURVIVORS
Since the early 1930s JWs have been taught that they alone will survive Armageddon:

> Only Jehovah's Witnesses, those of the anointed remnant and the great crowd, as a united organization under the protection of the Supreme Organizer, have any Scriptural hope of surviving the impending end of this system… (w1989 9/1 19)

SUTCLIFFE, PETER (1945-2020)
The "Yorkshire Ripper" was jailed for life in 1981 for murdering 13 women and mutilating others with hammers, screwdrivers and knives between 1975 and 1981 in Yorkshire and Greater Manchester.

He was transferred to Broadmoor high security hospital in Berkshire in 1984 after being diagnosed with schizophrenia. He was baptized at Broadmoor by JWs after 15 years of visits from them. (The Mail Online, 2015, February 8)

It cost British taxpayers £300,000 a year — five times the cost of a prison cell — to detain Sutcliffe in Broadmoor.

SWAIN, CAROL M (1954-)
Award-winning political scientist and author of:

- *Black Faces, Black Interests: The Representation of African Americans in Congress*, and
- *The New White Nationalism in America: Its Challenge to Integration*.

Ms. Swain was born in rural Virginia, grew up with 11 brothers and sisters, and studied with JWs. Encouraged by their belief that Armageddon would occur around 1975 she left school in ninth grade and got married.

When Armageddon didn't come, Swain left JWs, divorced her husband, got a job, went back to high school and got the equivalent of the high school diploma which qualified her for college. She earned two degrees while also working as a librarian.

In 1985 Swain enrolled in a Ph.D. program in political science, earned her doctorate, taught politics at Princeton University1990-2000, and then became professor of law and political science at Vanderbilt University.
http://chronicle.com/free/v48/i45/45a01201.htm

SWAZILAND
See: *ESWATINI*

SWEDEN
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Sweden and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	11,696	685		
1975	16,013	512		
1980	17,311	480	29,500	281
1985	20,299	412	34,400	243
1990	22,742	377	38,300	224
1995	24,654	358	39,700	223
2000	23,296	381	36,800	242
2005	22,561	400	35,600	254
2010	22,499	417	35,800	262
2015	22,446	437	35,400	277
2018	22,330	456	34,000	299
	Ave.			
2019	22,166	464	35,000	295
2020	22,146	467	32,100	323
2021	22,428	464	36,100	288
2022	22,346	469	34,400	305
2023	22,319	472	33,900	311
2024	22,383	471	34,200	308
2025	22,284	475	33,000	321

SWELLING EXPRESSIONS/WORDS
From II Peter 2:17-19 and Jude 16 where the *NRSV* renders the Greek as "bombastic speech". This phrase refers to "false teachers" who go to Christian meetings to subvert the faith. (II Peter 2)

JWs apply the phrase to people in their sect who promote non-standard doctrine as well as to leaders of other religious denominations who are said to speak "swelling things". (The Finished Mystery 1917, 379)

For JWs and their leaders the issue is not whether spoken words are true or false but whether they agree with current doctrine and policies so that people are pointed to "God's Organization".

Russellites and JWs, however, have switched Christ's coming, God's kingdom, the resurrection and Armageddon from one date to another, all the time claiming to be the only true religion — which is probably as "bombastic" as speech gets.

SWINE CLASS
A phrase popularized by Rutherford who so described Christian ministers. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 128)

SWINGLE, LYMAN ALEXANDER (11/1910-3/2001)
Member of the Governing Body.

Swingle was born at Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1910, baptized in 1923, entered Bethel in 1930, and was elected to the WBTS Board of Directors, on October 1, 1945.

He married Crystal Waldrop in 1956 and became Secretary-Treasurer of the WBTS of Pennsylvania and WTS of New York in 1985. (w1984 5/15)

In 1985 he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Watch Tower Society of Pennsylvania and Watch Tower Society of New York. (w1984 5/15 24)

SWITZERLAND
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Switzerland and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	7,545	820		
1975	10,060	634		
1980	10,640	593	20,612	306
1985	13,013	495	24,182	266
1990	16,552	403	29,922	223
1995	18,430	381	30,700	229
2000	17,971	396	29,748	239
2005	17,958	413	29,989	247
2010	17,937	434	30,700	253
2015	19,219	429	31,800	260
2018	19,354	438	31,300	271
	Ave.			
2019	19,058	451	31,100	276
2020	18,888	459	30,100	288

2021	19,327	451	34,600	252
2022	19,380	451	31,100	281
2023	19,803	445	32,800	269
2024	20,180	444	33,400	269
2025	20,261	447	32,153	281

Notice that the ratio, the proportion of JWs in the population, steadily worsened until 2020 back to pre-1990 levels despite all their preaching and advertising. Recovery occurred in 2021 probably due to the Corona virus epidemic which to JWs confirms that Armageddon is imminent.

SYDLIC, DANIEL (2/1919 – 4/2006)
Governing Body member appointed in November 1974.

Born in Michigan, USA, Sydlik was one of six children and was aged three when his Russellite father died. He lived on his family's farm in 1927-1930s with his Polish mother and a stepfather. The family studied Rutherford's books.

Sydlik became a pioneer in 1941 and a special pioneer in California in 1942 but was refused status as a minister in World War II and sentenced to three years hard labour in 1944. Freed in 1946 he was invited to New York Bethel where he worked first in the bindery and after that for 20 years in the Writing Department.

He was appointed as a director of the WBTS, and on November 28, 1974, to the Governing Body.

His wife, Marina, was from England.
(w1985 6/1 22-27)

SYMBOLIZE YOUR DEDICATION
After undergoing a "home bible study" and regularly attending meetings a person may decide to join JWs i.e. devote his life to God — in reality to the Organization. This decision is called "dedication" and is "symbolized" by getting baptized.

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