DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

T

Uploaded the first time: 2019
Latest revision: 2026

TACKING
The history of JWs doctrinal revisions has been compared to a sailboat "tacking into the wind" (w1981 12/1) which zigzags but on the whole goes "forward". This excuse for the ever-changing doctrines and disconfirmed prophecies looks incompatible with the counsel of Paul the Apostle:

> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.
> (Ephesians 4:14)

TAHITI
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Tahiti and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	155	634		
1975	326	366		
1980	468	282	1,147	115
1985	622	277	1,883	91
1990	1,152	158	3,080	59
1995	1,821	118	4,898	44
2000	1,814	121	5,430	40
2005	1,782	138	5,614	44
2010	2,430	107	8,138	32
2015	3,132	86	8,822	30
2018	3,250	85	9,196	30
	Ave.			
2019	3,243	87	9,571	29
2020	3,186	89	8,917	32
2021	3,180	89	11,588	24
2022	3,171	88	10,300	27
2023	3,168	88	10,450	27
2024	3,201	88	10,242	28
2025	3,211	87	9,726	29

The WTS used to use peak publisher numbers to calculate the ratios but in 2019 switched to using the average.

TAIWAN
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Taiwan and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,135	12,335		
1975	1,380	11,884		
1980	930	19,355	2,595	6,936
1985	1,077	17,827	3,206	5,989
1990	1,690	11,834	4,628	4,321
1995	2,810	7,473	7,704	2,726
2000	4,127	5,331	10,077	2,183
2005	5,566	4,054	13,080	1,725
2010	7,622	3,031	17,241	1,340
2015	9,703	2,418	19,261	1,218
2018	10,839	2,175	20,626	1,143
	Ave.			
2019	11,126	2,137	20,794	1,143
2020	11,314	2,084	16,678	1,414
2021	11,321	2,075	22,149	1,061
2022	11,325	2,047	20,804	1,114
2023	11,346	2,060	20,436	1,144
2024	11,615	2,015	20,475	1,143
2025	11,807	1,982	20,549	1,139

TAJIKISTAN
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Tajikistan and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio	Memorial	Ratio
2000	290	22,209	998	6,454
2005	522	12,529	1,255	5,211
2010	------	-------	-------	-------

TAKE COURAGE GOD'S KINGDOM IS AT HAND (1962)



An official WTS booklet giving the "true interpretations of the events of history since the year 1914" (p.20) which "Jesus provided". (p.23) Jesus' "true interpretations" include:

- "True Christians…can never overthrow this worldly system of things" (p.28);
- Armageddon fought by angels will occur in "our generation". (pp 3, 26, 29)
- "the courageous … will never stop preaching…" (p.30)
- God will appoint new "Ruling Authorities". (p.9)

- Resultant blessings will include resurrection, climate control and insect control.

Jesus' "true interpretation" regarding Armageddon in "our generation" was discarded in 1995!

TAKE THEMSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY

A Rutherfordian phrase describing people who rejected his Bible interpretations:

> …usually it is because they take themselves too seriously." (w1928 6/1 173)

TALK

Any assigned presentation from the platform in a Kingdom Hall or at a convention.

A 45-minute public talk is delivered at the Sunday meeting in a Kingdom Hall and shorter talks at the midweek Service Meeting and Kingdom Ministry School.

None of these are called "sermons" — the term sermon is reserved for prepared oral messages at people's doors.

TALKING WITH THE DEAD (1920)

An official WBTS booklet authored by Rutherford.

TAMMIE

"Tammie" is an ex JW whose story appeared on the "Witnesses for Jesus" website.

She was two when her parents were baptized as JWs in Texas. Her father became an elder and pioneer, and Tammie a pioneer when in her 30s:

> I was a religious zealot and looked scornfully at anyone too lazy to pursue the "Truth," as we called it, in the same manner I did…
>
> My faith started to wane when I had a miscarriage and I could never reconcile that my baby would have no resurrection according to Jehovah's Witness beliefs…
>
> I remember feeling truly sorry for the people who refused to embrace this hope of mine. I considered my way of life far superior to theirs…
>
> I was persuasive enough to lead 5 people to the point of baptism…
>
> As a Jehovah's Witness, I received a "conditional" kind of love and acceptance. It is no surprise that this is the kind of love I brought to my marriage, and it is no surprise that my marriage fell apart after 20 years.

Tammie met various Christians who impressed her with their faith and kindness and began to reconsider her beliefs.

She consulted the Internet, stopped reading *The Watchtower*, and was led "through the prayer of salvation":

> When I told my parents that I had accepted Christ as my Savior, my mother cried and said she would never speak to me again…

TANZANIA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,222	10,009		
1975	1,609	8,888		
1980	1,491	12,072	4,189	4,297
1985	2,402	8,743	6,881	3,052
1990	3,619	6,864	11,100	2,231
1995	5,429	5,342	16,839	1,722
2000	9,318	3,419	29,010	1,098
2005	13,697	2,711	53,437	695
2010	15,091	2,831	47,800	893
2015	16,255	3,163	55,400	929
2018	18,705	3,180	58,600	1,015
	Ave.			
2019	18,547	3,127	62,400	930
2020	17,961	3,326	51,800	1,154
2021	17,967	3,423	52,900	1,163
2022	18,809	3,365	54,100	1,170
2023	19,881	3,392	61,100	1,104
2024	21,217	2,910	66,900	922
2025	23,031	2,959	69,200	985

TARTARUS (2 Peter 2:4)

Defined by the Watchtower as a prison-like, condition into which God cast disobedient angels in Noah's time. The Bible speaks of the wicked angels being in "pits of dense darkness" and "eternal bonds under dense darkness". Because the description varies the WBTS argues that Tartarus cannot be a real place but is a "condition." (Insight II 1988, 1068)

However, the imagery used to describe God's throne and heaven is also variable but JWs nevertheless believe that Jehovah lives in a literal place called heaven. Rutherford even

taught that Jehovah has his throne in the constellation of stars known as the Pleiades!

The word Tartarus is used in Greek mythology which predates II Peter 2:4. Homer presented Tartarus as an underground prison for wicked spirit beings. Peter wrote nothing that contradicts the Greek definition and nowhere suggested he was giving the word a different meaning.

TAUGHT BY (OF) JEHOVAH

Rutherford claimed that his publications contain what "God revealed", and the "teachers" are "Jehovah … and Christ Jesus ... not any man":

> *The Watchtower* is not the teacher of God's people. *The Watchtower* merely brings to the attention of God's people that which he has revealed, and it is the privilege of each and every one of God's children to prove by the Word of God whether these things are from man or are from the Lord… Jehovah is the great teacher, and he and Christ Jesus are the teachers of God's people… All at the temple will realize that their spiritual food comes to them from their Teachers, Jehovah and Christ Jesus, and not from any man. (w1934 5/1 131)

Since the establishment of the Governing Body in 1944, anyone who obeys them after hearing their speeches or reading their writings is "taught by Jehovah":

> Just as the early Christian congregation had a governing body at Jerusalem that directed the teaching work, so today there is a governing body to be found in the New World society of Jehovah's witnesses that gives evidence of being used by Jehovah to teach his children. It uses legal societies for the purpose of publishing Bibles and Bible-study aids and for training ministers. It helps organize Christians into congregations so that they can discharge their obligations to be teachers of God's Word. Today in 179 different lands and islands of the sea upward of 900,000 of these ministers are being taught of Jehovah and, in turn, teaching others. (w1961 10/1 343)

The phrase "taught of Jehovah" occurs 25 times in WBTS publications on the *Watchtower Library CD-ROM* (2007) and "taught by Jehovah"345 times.

JWs believe their spiritual food is from Jehovah and Christ Jesus and not from any man, which is why they treat it as 100% correct — as virtually infallible. Their Governing Body does not teach them how to analyse the Bible, instead tells them not to think independently and indoctrinates them with thousands of pages yearly to study instead of the Bible.

[Imagine if science worked like that — if a mere ten scientists did all research worldwide, and claim their conclusions come from God, and 20 million others do no research and merely repeat the viewpoints of those ten! Where would civilization be? In a dark place, primitive, squalid and ignorant!]

Thousands of revised interpretations prove that JWs are not "taught of Jehovah" but indoctrinated of Joseph Rutherford, Fred Franz, and their Governing Body.

TAYLOR, BEC (1984-)

An ex-JW in Victoria studying for an arts degree in anthropology who featured in a 2400-word report in *The Age* (Melbourne) titled "Slamming the door on Jehovah" (March 15, 2013) written by Senior Writer Chris Johnston.

TEACHERS — JEHOVAH and JESUS

Rutherford claimed that Prior to 1918 the [Russellite] elders were "trying to teach", but since 1918 Jehovah and Jesus are the teachers. How?

> The October 15, 1931, issue of The Watchtower announced that the "Editorial Committee", provided for by a man, had been discontinued, and the acknowledgment was publicly made that Jehovah God and Christ Jesus are the Teachers of the church, instead of men. (w1939 3/15 86)

> Now the faithful do see or discern their Teachers and know that all their food and instruction come from the Lord … no man is their teacher. (World Recovery 1934, 51, 52)

> To feed or teach his people the Lord has used the Watch Tower publications … his chosen means of teaching. (ibid p.53)

> Do not waste time listening to someone who desires to exhibit his supposed learning. This is no time for personal exaltation. (p.53)

> Without doubt…angels are delegated by the Lord to convey his instructions to members of his organization on earth. (p.54)

If God does not teach through men such as the elders or an Editorial Committee, in what way was the reading of Rutherford's writings different so that reading them meant being taught by God? Wasn't Rutherford a man? The difference was that God supposedly instructed the angels who passed the instructions to Rutherford who then published them in the WBTS publications!

Why God could not teach through elders, as in New Testament times, but only through Rutherford remained unexplained. With the information-flow being from God to angels to Rutherford, and with no man mediating as a teacher, it implies that Rutherford's books are infallible.

However, Rutherford's books contained hundreds of revisions on previous doctrines besides numerous new errors revised after his death, and hundreds more changes came after that. (See: *ERRORS*; *DATES*)

It follows that Rutherford had "exhibited his supposed learning … for personal exaltation"; the angelic conveyors were his imagination or lying demons; and the "instructions" from "the Lord" were Rutherford's instructions. The "Lord", therefore, was Rutherford! His hype about removing the Committee so that Jehovah and Jesus could be the teachers meant that Rutherford was the "teacher" — he was the "Jehovah God and Christ Jesus" of the JWs.

Elders, Servants and Publishers

An important difference between "elders" and "servants" in JWs congregations is that elders are "teachers". They "teach" by giving public talks and by being in charge of meetings.

JWs claim that all their door-to-door "publishers" are "teachers of the good news". However, James 3:1 says, "Not many of you should become teachers my brothers…" This conflicts with **all** JWs being called "teachers". (See also Matthew 23:8; Acts 18:25; Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:29; Ephesians 4:11; Titus 2:3; Hebrews 5:12; 1 John 2:27)

TEACHING

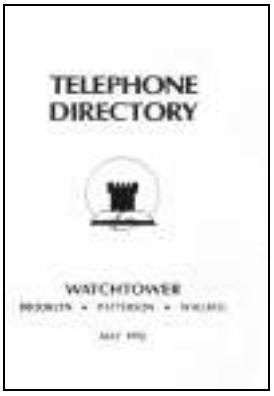
JWs leaders call all their doctrines "Bible teaching" and "Bible education". But critics often compare them to "indoctrination" and "propaganda" because:

- Many turn out false and get revised or discarded;
- Their supposed correctness is constantly emphasized;
- Disagreement is not permitted.

(See: *PROPAGANDA*)

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY (May 1992)

A 68-page phonebook for JWs at the WTS centers in Brooklyn, Patterson and Wallkill.



The Directory lists the phone numbers for offices (such as Executive, Dental, Convention, etc); shops (Barber, Beauty, Drapery, Electronics, etc); departments (e.g. Art, Cleaning, Communications, Computer, Graphics, Legal); Maintenance (Electrical, Elevator, Engineering, etc); buildings; factories and their individual floors; the Hospital; and individual Brooklyn Bethel volunteers. Phone numbers are listed for about 3000 volunteers including Governing Body members.

TELEPHONE WITNESSING/MINISTRY

Some JWs — especially the physically disabled — preach by telephone, dialling phone numbers listed in phone books.

TELEVISION

JWs are permitted to watch television selectively. (g1984 11/8 16-18) Watching movies about their religion or on supernatural themes or with a lot of violent or sexual content is not permitted. JWs also have to avoid Documentaries that criticize orexamine their Organization or the Bible.

TEMPLE

The New Testament book of Hebrews draws parallels between the Jewish temple worship and Christian beliefs about heaven. JWs, relying mainly on Hebrews, believe in a "spiritual temple" composed of Heaven and Earth.

The "most holy" compartment of the literal Jewish temple pictured heaven. (Hebrews 9:6-

12, 24) and its courtyards pictured, according to JWs, the Earth. (Hebrews 10:20)

Revelation 7, in this interpretation, is problematic. Revelation 7 reveals the "great crowd" standing before God's throne inside the temple (v, 9, 15) which suggests they are in Heaven. This conflicts with JWs theology that the "crowd" lives forever on Earth. Hence the leaders claimed that "naos" meaning "temple" can also mean "temple court-yards" and cited John 2:14-16 as an example. (w1980 8/15 15) Hence the "great crowd", it is claimed, are in the "courtyards" and the courtyards represent the Earth. But in John 2:14 the word is "hieron" not "naos". This mistake was dropped from non-English issues of the 1980 *Watchtower*.

Raymond Franz pointed this mistake out in *Crisis of Conscience* (1983, p.306). In 2002 *The Watchtower* conceded:

> In times past, it has been said that the great crowd is in a spiritual equivalent, or an antitype, of the Court of the Gentiles that existed in Jesus' day. However, further research has revealed … why that is not so. (w2002 5/1 30)

The "further research" began with Raymond Franz and his book!

2002 Reinterpretation

The 2002 article defines the Greek words:

> …the Greek word (*hieron*) translated "temple" that is used with reference to the Court of the Gentiles "refers to the entire complex rather than specifically to the Temple building itself,"… In contrast, the Greek word (naos) translated "temple" in John's vision of the great crowd is more specific. In the context of the Jerusalem temple, it usually refers to the Holy of Holies, the temple building, or the temple precincts. It is sometimes rendered "sanctuary".—Matthew 27:5, 51; Luke 1:9, 21; John 2:20.

By interpreting "naos" in Revelation as "temple precincts" the "great crowd" are in effect outside of the temple hence outside of Heaven and therefore on Earth. However, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* says:

> There are two Greek words used in the NT for the temple. One (*hieron*) is a broad term that refers to the whole structure of Herod's temple, including courts, colonnades, etc. (e.g., Matt. 4:5; John 2:14). The other (*naos*) is narrower and refers to the sanctuary or inner house where only the priests were allowed (Matt. 23:35; 27:51; **and always in Rev**).

Note **"and always in Rev".** In Revelation "naos" always refers to the inner sanctuary — which represents Heaven. Hence the "great crowd" is in Heaven and not in any exterior "courtyards" that represent the Earth.

Until approximately 1930 the sect believed that the "great crowd" gets eternal life in Heaven. That was changed in 1935 with the "great crowd" getting eternal life on Earth. From the above analysis the earlier doctrine appears more accurate. (See: *GREAT CROWD*)

Christ's return

A different problem concerns Christ's return. If the "most holy" chamber of the temple — also called the "inner chamber" — pictured Heaven, it would affect the JWs view of Christ's return. JWs believe Christ stays in heaven and his return consists of him "turning his attention" to the Earth. Yet Jesus, in speaking of his coming, warned: "So, if they say to you…'Lo, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it." (Matthew 24:26

"Inner rooms" may refer to the "inner rooms" of a house, but can refer to the inner rooms of any structure including a temple. The JWs claim that Jesus "comes" and "returns" but stays in the "inner room" of Heaven is dubious because Jesus said, "do not believe it." (See also: *RETURN OF CHRIST; SECOND COMING*)

Solomon's 20-year construction

The Old Testament records that King Solomon undertook a 20-year construction program of the temple in Jerusalem and other buildings. To Rutherford this pictured the change in his Organization from 1919 to 1938 from semi-independent eccelesias to "Theocratic unity" ruled by himself. (w1984 1/1 11)

TEN

A number symbolic of perfection and completeness. (Life 1929, 232)

TEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT

JWs believe the Ten Plagues foreshadowed events in the 20th century.

> Those plagues were typical, foreshadowing like plagues in these "last days". By these latter plagues Jehovah gives notice and warning to Satan's organization as pictured by Egypt… All these plagues, antitypically, have to do

> with the proclamations of God's message of truth… (w1941 4/1 106)

The antitypical fulfilment of Egypt's plague of hail (the Seventh Plague) supposedly began with Rutherford's public speech "Declaration against Satan and for Jehovah" in August 1928 at a convention in Detroit. (w1941 4/1 107)

Egypt's Eighth Plague — the locusts — supposedly had its modern counterpart by:

> Jehovah's witnesses and their companions [the great crowd] advancing as a great swarm equipped with the message of his Theocratic Government and exposing religion as the snare of the Devil and doomed to destruction. (ibid p.108)

Egypt's Ninth Plague — three days of darkness — has its counterpart when "Christendom" failed to "understand" the JWs notion of God's Kingdom and set up the League of Nations "as a substitute". Things were, "totally dark to those making up the visible earthly part of Satan's organization." (p.108) Also: "There is no part of "Christendom" today that has any light of and concerning the Theocratic Government…" (p.109)

The alleged parallels between Egypt's Ten Plagues and Rutherford's doctrines and booklets are not taught in the Bible, and probably even JWs would now find them embarrassing

TERRITORY
The area assigned to each congregation for their witnessing (preaching) activity. A subsection of a congregation's preaching area large enough to keep a small group of JWs busy for a few hours, is also called "territory". (See: *MAP*)

TERRITORY MAP
A "territory map" is:

1. A map of streets assigned temporarily to a small JWs group as their area to preach in (i.e. do "field service" in).

2. A map of the entire area assigned to a congregation for field service.

TESTIMONY
Memorized sales pitches for door-to-door bookselling introduced in 1923.

After World War II JWs often went door-to-door with a prepared topic to discuss and tried get householders into a discussion. The word "sermon" therefore replaced "testimony".

TESTIMONY CARD
A card used in the late 1930s and early 1940s with the statement that the bearer is an "ordained minister". The other side of the card advertised WBTS books. JWs, at that time, did not converse much with householders but handed the card to householders to read.

TESTIMONY COUNTER
A device in use beginning in 1931 which JWs wore on the wrist to keep count of the number of testimonies given.

THAILAND
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Thailand and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	380	88,216		
1975	664	63,669		
1980	735	63,520	1,550	30,121
1985	860	59,514	2,068	24,750
1990	1,148	48,683	2,692	20,761
1995	1,574	37,770	3,334	17,831
2000	1,860	33,151	4,305	12,937
2005	2,318	28,236	5,490	11,922
2010	3,235	20,402	7,516	8,781
2015	4,405	15,428	8,715	7,798
2018	5,170	13,233	10,347	6,612
	Ave.			
2019	5,304	13,127	10,700	6,507
2020	5,402	12,921	8,322	8,322
2021	5,213	13,419	10,607	6,595
2022	5,209	13,433	9,548	7,340
2023	5,287	13,275	10,214	6,871
2024	5,449	13,153	11,118	6,446
2025	5,606	12,552	10,352	6,797

THAT TIME
The phrase "at that time" is common in the prophetic books of the Bible and was applied by Rutherford to the period 1918 to Armageddon. (Religion 1940, 279; Yearbook 1940 Text January 16)

THE RIGHT TIME
All new JWs interpretations and doctrines come "at just the right time". (w1984 2/1 23)

"At the right time" is a meaningless phrase unless an actual date is specified in advance. Compare an appointment to see a doctor — if the card specifies no day or hour but reads

"Next appointment: At the right time", it would be meaningless and the patient would not know when to go there.

THE TRUE FAITH
A phrase that refers to the current body of JWs doctrines/beliefs: "…many today are turning away from false religion and embracing the true faith." (w1984 9/1 24)

Of course the so-called "true faith" comes with numerous errors including false prophecies, and constantly requires revision. That's something not mentioned in WTS publications!

THE TRUTH
"The truth" is a phrase used by the Watchtower sect since the 1890s.

"Truth" in phrases such as "He's in the truth" or "Many are coming to the truth" refer to joining the JWs religion.

"Truth" and "the truth" also, subject to context, refer to the doctrines of JWs but implying that the doctrines are actually "true" i.e. correct and beyond valid criticism.

THEOCRACY
"Theocracy" means "rule by God" and is a word used by many religions not just JWs. In practice "Theocracy" is rule by men, usually priests, elders or hierarchies who claim to represent God.

By 1938 Rutherford had crushed democratic elections within his Organization, ended Russell's elder arrangement, and banned independent thinking. This arrangement of autocratic domination, with himself alone at the top he labelled "Theocracy". Critics called "dictatorship".

Early Russellite ecclesias were informal without a written constitution, no written contract with Russell, and local leaders sometimes made decisions and reforms without consulting him. Many held Russellite beliefs while rejecting participation in literature selling campaigns.

Russell's dominance grew because he controlled the publications and finances, was president of the WBTS, sent out "pilgrims" to represent him, and implied without directly stating it that he is the "faithful and wise servant" (Matthew 25) whom Christ would appoint over all things.

Originally men became elders through exercise of personal ability. However, such natural leaders could not always be regulated. To counteract this, Russell arranged for regular democratic elections of elders with appointments valid only until the next election. Also, whenever a pilgrim visited an ecclesia the elders had to defer to him.

Character development was an important feature of Russellism and was supposed to promote peace (Convention Report 1916 177-181) within the cult by everyone following biblical principles. Yet there was wrangling and sometimes fist fights. (Convention Report 1916 178-179, 66) Such strife and arguments increased as doctrines changed and prophecies failed and threatened to split up Russell's cult unless stronger centralized control was established.

By 1920 Rutherford's program of centralizing leadership in himself was under-way. Door-to-door service was made mandatory and each person had to record his "hours" on a report form sent to headquarters. The most successful book-salesmen received appointments as elders within ecclesias. Rutherford undermined the power of non-conforming elders by directing mail and literature for the ecclesia to men who supported him. In 1932 the elders were officially abolished. A few elders battled on and tried to shepherd their congregations in cooperation with the WTS while rejecting some of Rutherford's theology. In 1938 the last of these elders were removed and Rutherford controlled every "company" (=congregation). This absolute control by himself he called "Theocracy":

> Theocratic means organized, administered and ruled by God and completely subject to the doing of His will and purpose. (w1944 11/1 322)

In practice Rutherford ruled the Organization. "Theocracy" was therefore the very thing that he and Russell had castigated the Roman Catholic Hierarchy for — an ecclesiastical dictatorship by a hierarchy of men in which God, Jesus, the Bible, truth, and freedom all took second place.

Today "theocracy" can refer to the JWs Organization on Earth or to the supposed 1914 Kingdom in heaven or to both

THEOCRACY (1941)
A booklet authored by Rutherford in which the "Kingdom" appears to be synonymous with "The Theocracy" and "The Theocratic Government". (p.14)

Rutherford denied JWs are a sect on the basis that, according to him, they study the Bible and preach the Theocracy and are obedient:

> Jehovah's witnesses could not be a cult or sect of religionists, because Jehovah God expressly denounces religion as a snare of the Devil, employed to deceive and to entrap men and to turn them away from God. (p.18)
>
> …Jehovah's witnesses … engage in careful and prayerful study of the Bible; and to do so they use the publications of the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY in order that they may study the Scriptures in an orderly way and get a better understanding of the will of God concerning them. (p.28)
> [Note what it says — JWs didn't actually study the Bible, they study Rutherford's writings instead of the Bible and refer to this as Bible study!].
>
> They are not witnesses for any human organization, but are witnesses for the Most High, the great THEOCRAT. Having received a commission from God to preach, and being commanded by him to preach, such consecrated persons must engage in preaching… (p.29)
>
> The fulfilled prophecies show that the "world", or rule by Satan without interruption, came to an end in 1914 and from then Christ Jesus, the King of The THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, under authority from Jehovah God, is sent forth to rule and to completely oust Satan and all of his agents, and to establish righteousness in all the world. The coming of Christ Jesus the King has been the hope of Christian people for more than 1900 years, and his coming is good news or gospel… (p.29)
>
> "The end of the world," as aforestated, came in 1914, and that truth Pastor Russell for years previous had strongly emphasized. He died in the year 1916. In 1918 the Lord Jesus came to the temple of Jehovah, that is to say, to the body of consecrated Christians whom he gathered unto himself and whom he then put to a severe trial or test, as stated in Malachi 3:1-3… Many who claimed to be his <u>followers turned back from following the Lord</u>. Others manifesting selfishness were not approved by him and were set aside. <u>Some who were wholly devoted to the Lord and were not followers of men were approved by the Lord and taken into the temple</u>, that is, the Lord gathered them unto himself. (p.32)

Notice in the preceding paragraph — to leave Russellism in 1918 was to "turn back from following the Lord", and to stay with Russellism and promote further errors (which included the false gospel for 1925) was to be "wholly devoted to the Lord and … not followers of men".

JWs today differ from Russellism and Rutherfordism in thousands of points, i.e. in interpreting thousands of Bible verses differently. They therefore have left both Russellism and Rutherfordism — they left being "<u>wholly devoted to the Lord</u>" and "turned back from following the Lord ".

THEOCRATIC ARRANGEMENT
The arrangement by which "Jehovah" gives "truth" to the Governing Body who pass it to their followers. (United in Worship of the Only True God 1983, 120-121)

This arrangement JWs have to appreciate. They must: "…appreciatingly accept the spiritual provisions that come through the 'slave' class and its Governing Body…" (ibid 123)

THEOCRATIC BROTHER/SISTER/PERSON
A serious-minded JW, who is obedient to the WTS and regular in field service and considered a "good example", is said to be "theocratic" or theocratically minded.

THEOCRATIC LANGUAGE
The vocabulary and definitions of words in use among JWs and regarded by them as the "pure language of truth" supplied by God.

This "pure language" undergoes constant change as the doctrines change, and much of what is "pure" like incense to one generation of JWs may be impure and smelly to another generation.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL
See: *KINGDOM MINISTRY SCHOOL*

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL GUIDEBOOK (1971)
A book about public speaking and preparing talks for meetings.

THEOCRATIC NEWS
A section in *Our Kingdom Ministry* — the monthly meeting guide for JWs congregations — with news about the JWs ministry. The

"news" may include the total hours preached in a specified country, number of "Bible studies" conducted, and the number of magazines placed by Special Pioneers, Pioneers, Auxiliary Pioneers and Publishers.

THEOCRATIC ORDER
The rules and organizational arrangements of the WTS — i.e. the JWs way of doing things:

> Theocratic order refers to "being obedient to the laws, rules and principles issuing from God." (w1982 6/1 16)

Since the rules "issuing from God" often turned out wrong and are revised, it follows that "God" is really the Governing Body and the WTS.

All JWs must submit to the Governing Body and WTS. To be "independent" and "do your own thinking" is to imitate Satan — it is "wolf like", "presumptuous", "pushing ahead", "speaking twisted things", "deceitful" and "false". But to submit to the JWs leaders is "fine", "loyal" and "wise". (ibid 16-20)

Therefore "doing your own thinking" is officially criticized even though Rutherford mocked Protestants and Catholics for <u>not</u> doing their own thinking. Unity of thought is part of "theocratic order". "Independent thinking" is banned because independent thinkers might ask difficult questions such as how false prophecies could be "Bible truth" revealed by God.

THEOCRATIC ORGANIZATION
In 1938 Rutherford completed his program to achieve control and unity of JWs under his leadership and designated the Organization "theocratic" and "theocratic organization" because God is supposedly in charge and it's therefore ruled from the "top down". The Theocracy is in both heaven and on Earth with Jehovah as top leader followed by Jesus, angels, Governing Body, various levels of elders, and finally servants and publishers:

> Ezekiel's vision referred to the time when Jehovah's people on earth... would be restored to God's favor and brought into his Theocratic organization, receiving an allotment therein Jehovah's government or kingdom is a Theocracy. The organization of The Theocracy, as disclosed in the Scriptures, may be stated thus: The Almighty God, "whose name alone is Jehovah," and who is the Supreme One, is the Creator and Builder and Organizer. His only begotten and beloved Son, Christ Jesus, is Jehovah's Executive Officer, whom Jehovah makes the King of the world. By the grace of Jehovah and by his selection there are associated with Christ Jesus in the Kingdom 144,000 who are taken from among men and begotten of God's spirit as children of Jehovah God. These...proving faithful, they are made "priests of God and of Christ" and "shall reign with him a thousand years"... Christ Jesus is the Head thereof, or the High Priest of Jehovah God. Such is a brief description of the capital organization of Jehovah God, to which in Scripture the name "Zion" applies.
>
> The official or capital organization Zion is the new heaven of righteousness. It is not visible to human eyes, and the earthly remnant thereof yet on earth must be changed from human to spirit in the first resurrection. The Scriptures further disclose that The Theocracy will have visible representatives on the earth, who shall perform the duties of governors under the direction and supervision of the theocratic King. (w1940 1/1 11-12)

THEOCRATIC RULE
A phrase that refers to Jehovah's rule over JWs and eventually the whole world exercised through the Governing Body, WTS and affiliated corporations and various ranks of elders.

THEOCRATIC SCHOOLS
Theocratic schools are official meetings for further training and indoctrination.

w2012 9/15 pp 13-17 gives an "overview" of the various "Theocratic Schools":

> JEHOVAH is our "Grand Instructor." (Isa. 30:20) Love motivates him to educate and train others. For example, moved by deep love, Jehovah shows Jesus "all the things he himself does." (John 5:20) Love for us, his Witnesses, moves Jehovah to give us "the tongue of the taught ones," as we put forth every effort to honor him and help others.—Isa. 50:4.
> In imitation of Jehovah's pattern of love, the Teaching Committee of the Governing Body uses ten theocratic schools to train ones who have both the *desire* and the *circumstances* to enrol…

Theocratic Ministry School
This is part of the normal midweek meetings in Kingdom Halls to train JWs, and others who regularly attend and meet certain criteria, to preach.

Bethel Entrants' School
A 45-minute weekly session for 16 weeks at Bethel Headquarters for new Bethel volunteers intending to work there for at least one year.

Kingdom Ministry School
Meetings held at an assembly hall or kingdom hall for elders and/or "ministerial servants" to deal with recent congregation matters. The school is held every several years and lasts 2½ days (for traveling overseers), 1½ days (for congregation elders), and one day (for servants). Enrolment for elders and servants is by invitation from the circuit overseer and for traveling overseers (including circuit overseers) by invitation from the branch office.

Pioneer Service School
Two weeks of meetings for regular pioneers after completing one year of "pioneering".

School for Congregation Elders
A five-day "school" to train elders to better fulfill their responsibilities in the congregation. It is by branch office invitation and held at a kingdom hall or assembly hall.

School for Traveling Overseers and Their Wives
Two months of meetings for circuit and district overseers to make them "more effective in serving congregations…"

Bible School for Single Brothers
Two months of training of single "brothers" aged between 23 and 62 years, who have served at least two years as pioneers and two continuous years as elders (or servants), to go and serve "wherever there is a need". The idea is to prepare them to go and expand the sect in remote areas.

Bible School for Christian Couples
Two months of training to prepare married couples aged 25 to 50 to move to areas of "greater need" in their home country. They have to have been married for at least two years, "been in the full-time service for at least two years without interruption" and the husband an elder or servant for at least two years.

Watchtower Bible School of Gilead
Five months training of married couples at Watchtower Educational Center (Patterson, New York) to be missionaries, traveling overseers or Bethelites. Participants have to already be missionaries, special pioneers or Bethelites for at least three years.

School for Branch Committee Members and Their Wives
Two months of further training of JWs on Branch Committees to better supervise Bethel homes and learn about translating, printing, and the shipping of literature. The school is held at Watchtower Educational Center, Patterson, New York.

THEOCRATIC TACT
Rutherford's criticism of other religions together with provocative, aggressive proselytising methods by JWs promoted a public perception of the sect as bigots and fanatics.

Therefore, around 1945, the JWs leaders introduced "theocratic tact". Witnessing became relatively mild, the idea being to avoid shouting matches and leave householders with a positive impression.

THEOCRATIC WAR STRATEGY
Qualified to be Ministers (1955) says:

> Jehovah's Witnesses are an organization of truth. We should want to speak the truth and be absolutely accurate at all times. (p.304)

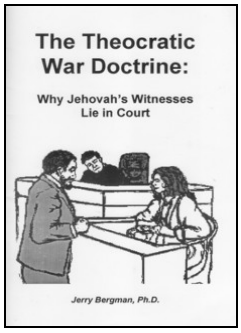
The Bible advocates speaking the truth and does not congratulate Peter when he lied and denied Christ. Jesus did not urge other disciples to copy Peter and Peter himself wept bitterly. (Luke 22:61-62)

However, ethical conduct advocated in some WTS publications, such as "being accurate", is sometimes ignored or criticized in other publications. The phrase "Theocratic war strategy" refers to telling lies to non-JWs if telling lies promotes the interests of JWs. It refers to deceiving, misleading or lying in order to conceal facts from journalists, government officials, courts and the public. The phrase has appeared occasionally in WTS publications but is rarely used by individual JWs.

Dr Gerald Bergman examines the JWs position on lying in his book *The Theocratic War Doctrine*.

The Governing Body teaches that "theocratic war strategy" is scripturally approved:

> A Witness of Jehovah was going from house to house in Eastern Germany when



she met a violent opposer. Knowing at once what to expect she changed her red blouse for a green one in the very next hallway. No sooner had she appeared on the street then a Communist officer asked her if she had seen a woman with a red blouse. No, she replied, and went on her way. Did she tell a lie? No, she did not. She was not a liar. Rather, she was using theocratic war strategy, hiding the truth by action and word for the sake of ministry. (w1957 5/1 285)

In this instance the JW was in danger and the deception therefore justified. However, "theocratic war strategy" includes lying merely to put JWs in a positive light when no physical danger threatens.

JWs are not "under obligation to divulge truthful information to people not entitled to it." (Insight II 1988, 245) Also:

> …for the purpose of protecting the interests of God's cause, it is proper to hide the truth from God's enemies… This comes under the term 'war strategy'. (w1960 6/1 352)

JWs automatically class all who question their teachings as "God's enemies", and all outsiders as being under the Devil's influence including courts and judges. (Revelation—Its Grand Climax at Hand! 1988, 228, 234, 270, 271)

JWs, therefore, have a broad justification to lie not just to avoid physical danger, but also whenever the interests of their religion are involved.

Preparing for Child Custody Cases

The 64-page WBTS-booklet *Preparing for Child Custody Cases* is used by JWs and their attorneys in child custody cases. The booklet emphasises that the JWs lifestyle is beneficial to children. It tells them, "there is no need to hide or distort your religious beliefs". Similarly *The Watchtower* advises,

> Should circumstances require a Christian to take the witness stand and swear to tell the truth, then, if he speaks at all he must utter the truth. (w1960 6/1 352)

In the *Child Custody* booklet, however, children and their parents are encouraged to present a fake lifestyle, fake ambitions and fake goals! Compare some *Child Custody* counsel on how to respond in court with what other JWs publications say:

> Many try to portray the beliefs and practices of JWs as dogmatic and restrictive… emphasise the fact that you have formed your beliefs and adopted your practices after much study and reflection; your religion is not simply a matter of rules imposed by the elders. You want to emphasize the fact that you are a thinking … individual. (Child Custody p.3)

> Avoid Independent Thinking ... questioning the counsel provided by God's visible organization… Fight Against Independent thinking. (w1983 1/15 22, 27)

> Be careful they (the children) don't get the impression that they are in a demonstration at the circuit assembly, when they would show that the first things in life are service and going to the Kingdom Hall… Be careful they don't all say that they are going to be pioneers. (Child Custody p.43)

> I now have the joy to serve as a regular pioneer and that is my wish for all young people. (w1979 4/1 14)

> While school counsellors will hold out one kind of career, Christian parents can stress goals that will satisfy the child's growing interest in serving Jehovah, such as pioneering… (w1986 8/1 29)

> Instead of pursuing full-time secular jobs, thousands have chosen to serve as full-time evangelizers (pioneers). Others serve as foreign missionaries or at branch offices of the Watch Tower Society. (g1989 5/812)

> Plans can be trade, getting married and having children, journalism, and all kinds of other things. (Child Custody p.42)

> Should they marry now? No, is the answer supported by the Scriptures. There is no reasonable injunction to

bring children into the world before Armageddon where we are now. (w1938 11/1 323-324)

Many schools now have student counselors who encourage one to pursue higher education after high school, to pursue a career with a future in this system of things. Do not be influenced by them. Do not let them 'brainwash' you with the Devil's propaganda to get ahead, to make something of yourself in this world. This world has very little time left! ... Make pioneer service, the full-time ministry, with the possibility of Bethel or missionary service your goal. (w1969 3/15 171)

In the past many have feared or distrusted mental care professionals (Psychologists and psychiatrists). There is no basis or need for such preconceived fear or distrust. (Child Custody p.53)

…as a rule, for a Christian to go to a worldly psychiatrist is an admission of defeat. It amounts to 'going down to Egypt for help.' - Isaiah 31:1… Also, more and more psychiatrists are resorting to hypnosis which is a demonic form of worldly wisdom. (g1960 3/8 27)

Show that you are a loving and caring parent who wants the best medical care possible for your child… You do not want to give the impression that your religion requires you to allow your child to die should a medical emergency arise. (Child Custody pp 5, 55)

If she died [because of refusal to allow blood transfusion] she would have a chance for the new earth. Stated bluntly, better to die now maintaining integrity. (g1951 5/22 5)

Another case of integrity keeping was manifested in recent years when a thirteen-year-old girl in Berlin was found to have leukemia. The doctor explained that transfusions of blood would make the girl more comfortable and stave off the progress of the disease. The mother ... refused to permit transfusions to be given... This girl did die… (w1971 9/1 531)

What the Bible teaches about lying

Since JWs leaders appeal to the Bible for support in lying let's see what the Bible teaches. The *New Bible Dictionary* (1982) says:

> LIE, LYING (Heb *Seqer* 'falsehood', deception'; *kazab* 'lie' or 'deceptive thing'; Gk. *pseudos* and cognates). Essentially a lie is a statement of what is known to be false with intent to deceive. (Jdg. 16:10, 13) Biblical writers severely condemn aggravated forms of lying e.g. that which perpetrate a fraud (Lv. 6:2-3) or secure wrongful condemnation (Dt. 19:15) and the testimony of false prophets (Je. 14:14). Lies may be expressed in words (Pr. 6:19), a way of life (Ps.62:9), error (2 Thes. 2:11), or a false form of religion (Rom. 1:25). The prophets regarded lying as a specific expression of the principle of evil (Ho. 12:1). Lying is prohibited as repugnant to the moral conscience of Israel (Pr. 19:22), because of its anti-social effects (Pr. 26:28), and above all, as incompatible with the divine Nature (Nu. 23:19). Jesus declares that Satan is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). All falsehood is forbidden in the Christian community (Col. 3.9).
>
> Lying is characterized in various ways, *e.g.* Cain's evasive answer (Gn. 4:9), Jacob's deliberate falsehood (Gn. 27: 19), Gehazi's misrepresentation of his master (2 Ki. 5:21-27), and the deception practised by Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10). Lying is the sin of antichrist (1 Jn. 2:22), and all habitual liars forfeit eternal salvation (Rev. 21:27).
>
> I Sa. 16:2 does not justify the expedient lie. God merely suggested an ostensible reason for Samuel's visit to Bethlehem, and the prophet was under no obligation to divulge his real purpose. Again, 1 Ki. 22:20-23 implies that God permitted a subterfuge that His righteous judgment should be enacted upon Ahab. In such passages as Gn. 12:10-20 it is clear that deception is not condoned nor recorded as an example to follow. (p.697)

Ruling of a judge

When taking custody of an eight-year old boy away from his JW mother and awarding it to the father a Johnson County, Kansas, court ruled:

> 33. Members of the Jehovah's Witness group are furnished with a booklet prepared by the Watchtower Society entitled, "Preparing For Child Custody Cases", the purpose of which is to instruct adherents of the group involved in custody disputes how to testify so as to

> conceal from the courts the true limitations and restrictions placed upon children by the lifestyle and beliefs of the group...
> 34. The booklet, "Preparing For Child Custody Cases," recommends the giving of testimony under oath which is known to [be) untrue.
> (In the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, Civil Court Department. In the Matter of the Marriage of Joni Rae Estes and Raymond Scott Estes, No. 89C6103, Court 9, Chap. 60, ruling by District Judge James W. Bouska, September 5, 1991)

This judgment is the judge's conclusion in this particular case. The District Court of Johnson County is near the bottom of the American legal hierarchy. The judgment could have been appealed, leading to the Supreme Court of Kansas making a ruling on the validity of the District Court ruling.

JWs leaders lie to their followers

The JWs leaders not only advocate lying to outsiders, but also lie to JWs. The leaders practice "theocratic war strategy" on their own followers! The following are a few examples:

The WBTS's second president, Judge Rutherford, gave a series of lectures starting in February 1918 titled *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*. (Yearbook 1975, 127; w1979 10/1 26; Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! 1988, 173) The message appeared in book form in 1920.

The message was that the ancient Bible "worthies" such as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, David, etc would return in physical form to Earth in 1925, take charge of the affairs of Earth, and paradise on Earth would then start.

JWs leaders nowadays claim that the lectures and book were "based on the Bible" and "fulfilled Bible prophecies". (g1990 4/22 7)

A large house was built in 1930 for the "worthies" at San Diego, California and named "Beth Sarim" meaning "House of Princes". (Salvation 1939, 311; The New World 1942, 104)

JWs leaders now claim that the house was built for Rutherford because he was ill and needed a different climate! (Yearbook 1975, 194; Investigator Magazine No. 95, March 2004)

The WBTS published a *Biography of Pastor Russell* in special editions of *The Divine Plan of the Ages* from 1924 to 1927.

Yet in *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* (1959) we're told that JWs have never published a biography of Pastor Russell! (p.63)

From 1896 Russell's followers believed that the "faithful and wise servant" in Matthew 24:45 was one individual this being Russell himself. (w1896 3/1 47; 1906 7/15 229; 1923 3/1 68)

The Governing Body now says that Russell considered the Servant to refer to a group and that he never claimed to be that Servant! (God's kingdom of a Thousand Years has Approached 1973, 345-346)

The books *The Finished Mystery* (1917) and *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1920) contained hundreds of false statements and false predictions. In the book *Jehovah's Witnesses: A Statistical Survey* (1992) a sampling technique is used to show that *The Finished Mystery* contains over 1000 points which even the JWs no longer accept! Yet *The Finished Mystery* is still mentioned positively in WTS literature, but if someone wants to read the book access to it is denied. (Investigator Magazine #189)

JWs leaders interpret the "two witnesses" of Revelation 11 as members of Russell's sect who were preaching around the period 1914-1918. They claim these early JWs were "God's prophets" and: "The fact that they were symbolized by two witnesses confirms to us that their message was accurate and well founded..." (Revelation—It's Grand Climax At Hand! 1988, 164)

"Accurate and well founded" despite over 1,000 errors! This lie is an outstanding example of "theocratic war strategy" by the leaders on their followers!

Until 1914 Russell, via his WBTS, maintained that 1914 would see the full establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth. (Studies III 1891, 126) The new leaders after Russell regularly fooled JWs with statements like this:

> In the "Watchtower" magazine of March 1880, they said: "The Times of the Gentiles extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have sway till then." Of all people, only the witnesses pointed to 1914 as the year for God's kingdom to be fully set up in heaven. (From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained 1958, 170)

The *Paradise* book here misrepresents what Russell taught. The actual teaching from the 1880s onwards was that the Kingdom was set up **in Heaven in 1878** and would be

established on Earth by 1914. (Studies IV, 604, 624-625) The full sentence in the 1880 Watch Tower reads:

> The Times of the Gentiles extend to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have full away till then, but as a 'stone' the kingdom of God is set up 'in the days of these kings,' and by consuming them it becomes a universal kingdom — a great mountain and fills the whole earth.

Russellism taught the Kingdom of Christ was established **in Heaven in 1878** and Armageddon would finish in 1915:

> A "generation" might be reckoned as equivalent to a century (practically the present limit) or one hundred and twenty years, Moses' lifetime and the Scripture limit. (Gen. 6:3.) Reckoning a hundred years from 1780, the date of the first sign, the limit would reach to 1880; and, to our understanding, every item predicted had begun to be fulfilled at that date;—the "harvest" or gathering time beginning October 1874; **the organization of the Kingdom and the taking by our Lord of his great power as the King in April 1878**, and the time of trouble or "day of wrath" which began October 1874, and will cease about 1915; and the sprouting of the fig tree. (Studies Volume 4, 1897, 604)

Pages 624-625 predicted the "earthly phase of God's Kingdom" in 1914 with the Earth ruled by "ancient worthies" like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob resurrected back to life.

JWs leaders after and since WWI have used theocratic war strategy to mislead their followers about what was predicted concerning the Kingdom. For example:

> They particularly heralded that the year 1914 was a marked year for the ending of "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24, *AV*) and for the establishment of Christ's kingdom in heaven. All this proved to be true and was verified by the beginning of World War I… (w1966 9/15)

Instead of "all … proved true" and "verified by … World War I" nothing proved true.

In 1941 the leaders taught that World War II would not end in decisive victory for either side as Bible prophecy would not permit it, and America and England would turn into dictatorships. (w1941 12/15 372) Also the end of Nazi rule would mark the end of demon rule. (p.377) Furthermore *The Watchtower* of 1941 speaks of: "…the remaining months before Armageddon." (w1941 9/15 288)

Despite linking World War II to Armageddon in this way, the JWs leaders later lied:

> During WWI God's people expected it to lead directly to Armageddon, but Jehovah prevented such climax at that time. We didn't succumb to such an expectation during WW II. (Kingdom Ministry January, 1968, p.5, USA edition)

All predictions in WTS publications have failed including for the dates 1914, 1925, 1941-1945, 1975, "this generation", and the twentieth century. Nevertheless WTS publications have countless statements implying *The Watchtower* is "consistently dependable". Such claims are "theocratic war strategy" by the liars who lead the JWs:

> Since 1879 it has been published regularly for the benefit of sincere students of the Bible. Over that extended period of time The Watchtower has consistently proven itself dependable. (New World Translation 1950, 793)

The false prophecies do not originate with JWs as a whole and they don't all vote to teach them. The false prophecies originated with the leaders — Russell until 1916, Rutherford until 1942, the WBTS officers until 1971, and the Governing Body after 1971. The ordinary JWs, however, believed that the "faithful and discreet slave", composed of the entire "remnant" of the 144,000, is collectively God's prophet and the dispenser of prophecy and doctrine! (w1981 2/15 19)

In practice it was always the small band of leaders, the top of the JWs hierarchy, who prophesied — and afterwards practiced theocratic war strategy on JWs to hide their failures.

[Note: The dispensers of prophecy and truth can now no longer hide behind the "faithful slave" because they removed the "faithful slave" from that position in 2012 — See: *FAITHFUL SLAVE*]

Cover up of child sexual abuse is theocratic war strategy

Critics have invoked the theocratic war strategy doctrine to explain the JWs cover-up of child sexual abuse and obstruction of police investigations. The *Encylopaedia Britannica 2002 Year in Review* (2003) reported:

> Five people were expelled from the Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States

after they accused leaders of covering up the sexual abuse of children by members." (p.302)

A 45-minute Australian television documentary, "Silent Witness", on the *Sunday* program (Channel 9) for September 29, 2002, gave evidence that JWs routinely covered up child abuse and frustrated police investigations.

Australia Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse uncovered what ordinary JWs didn't know:

> The case files show that since 1950 the Jehovah's Witness organisation in Australia has recorded allegations, reports or complaints of child sexual abuse against 1,006 members of the organisation. The records include admissions of child sexual abuse made by 579 members of the organisation.
>
> Mr Spinks (a senior Service Desk elder) told the Royal Commission that 199 of the 1,006 alleged perpetrators were not members of the Jehovah's Witness organisation at the time of the first reported allegation. He later accepted that it 'was probably true' that those 199 alleged perpetrators went on to become members of the organisation and that in many cases they were the subject of subsequent allegations of child sexual abuse while they were members. (Report of Case Study Number 29, October 2016, p.58, Commonwealth of Australia)

The JWs Australian headquarters knew about the high level of child abuse but practiced "theocratic war strategy" on fellow JWs by keeping them in ignorance and children thereby at risk.

Barbara Anderson, former research assistant at the former JWs Brooklyn headquarters, has called the Organization a "pedophile paradise" because it holds secret lists of over 20,000 accused child molesters. Former elder Jim Bowen, creator of the Silent Lambs website, claims over 6000 JWs victims have contacted him. (See: *CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE*) Most JWs know nothing about any of this.

JWs don't know

Most JWs do not realize that their leaders practice theocratic war strategy on them because:

- The Organization presents itself in such a Godly light that JWs think it a sacrilege to question its pronouncements;
- Most JWs don't read older WTS books or have access to them since copies have been removed from Kingdom Hall libraries;
- JWs are a captive audience which hears one viewpoint — like what occurs in many dictatorships.
- Critics are labelled "apostate" and "like Satan" and their writings compared to pornography and JWs are ordered to shun them!

The JWs leaders routinely pull the wool over the eyes of their "sheep", but it's getting harder to do this because copies of many WTS publications are being uploaded to the Internet. The leaders, including Governing Body, did not believe or take Jesus' warning seriously: "For by your own words you will be justified, and by your own words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:37)

THEOCRATIC WAR STRATEGY EXAMPLE

"Theocratic war strategy" refers to JWs using deception in the interests of their religion.

An apparent example appears in the following report:

The Age March 15, 2013
Jehovah's Witnesses 'a cruel cult'

> Christian sect the Jehovah's Witnesses - with 64,000 active 'disciples' in Australia - are a cruel religion with no soul, according to Melbourne cultbuster Raphael Aron…
>
> Mr Aron, a psychologist, counsellor and director of Melbourne's Cult Counselling Australia, said the Jehovah's Witnesses had a policy of "shunning" members who left or wanted to leave by cutting them off from family members who remained...
>
> Former members say shunning can involve bullying, threats, harassment and stalking to lure the 'apostate', or lapsed member, back. The religion's scripture magazine *The Watchtower* describes 'apostates' as "mentally diseased" outcasts who "seek to infect others." …
>
> A spokesman for the church in Australia, Sydney solicitor Vincent Toole, dismissed the allegations and said shunning was a "myth."

To claim shunning is a myth when thousands are shunned is theocratic war strategy.

THERE IS MUCH MORE TO LIFE (1975)
Booklet that attacks evolution, predicts world peace and world government within one generation from 1914, and claims people must support the 1914 Kingdom or die.

THIEF
The time of Christ's coming "as a thief" is variously given as 1914, 1918 and Armageddon. (See: *RETURN OF CHRIST*)

THINGS IN WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIE (1965)
Official WBTS book which presents JWs doctrines as "things in which it is impossible for God to lie."

A number of the "things" in the book, however, turned out false and were later changed. They became "things in which God lied." For example the book says that the Great Tribulation was interrupted in 1918 (pp 337-339) but this was changed in 1969.

THIS GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM
The "good news" is the basic message that JWs claim they preach, this being that Christ's invisible presence began in 1914 and God's Kingdom was set up in heaven and all opposition to it will perish at Armageddon within one generation from 1914.

The phrase was spoken by Jesus in Matthew 24:14 where it has nothing to do with 1914 since it was "**This** good news", i.e. a good news or gospel in existence when Jesus preached. If Jesus meant a different or future "good news" it would be "**That** good news…"

THIS GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM (1954; Revised 1965)
An official WTS booklet about the origin of sin, the ransom sacrifice of Jesus, and Jesus' presence in "kingdom power" since 1914.

THIS MEANS EVERLASTING LIFE (1950)
Official WTS book presenting JWs doctrines.

THIS WORLD
The phrase "this world" refers to the entire "wicked world" (i.e. everyone except JWs) ruled by Satan and doomed to destruction at Armageddon.

THOMPSON, CURTIS (b. 1959)

In October 2003 a jury in Washington State had to decide whether a repeat rapist Curtis Thompson should be freed from prison or confined indefinitely as a sex predator. Thompson testified he became a Jehovah's Witness in prison and was a changed man, law-abiding and spiritually healthy. A psychologist testified in his favor and the jury voted to release.

Background and release

Thompson's mother was a JW. Nevertheless, In his teens Thomson used drugs and sexually abused family members. In his early 20s he committed numerous burglaries and raped women at knife-point.

In 1985 Thompson was convicted of raping four women and he served 17 years in prison.

He was a model prisoner and became a JW.

In 2002 he was considered for release but a psychological evaluation found him too dangerous to go free. A jury trial followed and psychological experts for the prosecution and defense gave opposing interpretations of Thompson's mental status and his risk of recidivism.

Prosecutors wanted him sent for treatment to a facility for sex offenders but were blocked by the jury who believed he was no longer a threat. A forensic psychologist who had evaluated Thompson found that he had refused to participate in treatment and considered him a sexual sadist, and told jurors he was more likely than not to reoffend. Another psychologist, hired by Thompson's lawyers, argued he didn't meet the criteria required for civil commitment.

The trial lasted three weeks and Thompson walked free.

Changed man exposed

At midnight August 16, 2004, Thompson broke in through a window, tied a woman up, demanded cash, raped her and poured bleach over her to destroy DNA evidence, and stole her car. A week later he broke into an apartment, choked a woman with a telephone cord, then stabbed her in the neck, killing her. He attacked two more women in an elevator but police intervened.

A report by Phillip Lucas (June 11, 2009) includes a photo showing Thompson in court:

> As in previous appearances, Thompson was so disruptive that he was wheeled to the courtroom in a restraint chair hooked

> to an electrical shock device with multiple guards standing behind him.
>
> Physical restraint did not keep Thompson from interrupting County Superior Court Judge Palmer Robinson — whom he once threatened to kill — and hurling insults at Senior Deputy Prosecutor Scott O'Toole and defense attorney John Hicks...

Thompson received a life sentence for the 2004 killing, additional to his other sentences, and is serving five life sentences for murder, rape and burglaries.

What do we learn from this? That people in prison for sexual offences who claim to be cured and spiritual because they converted to JWs should have such testimony treated with caution.

Lucas, P.
https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/rapist-curtis-thompson-gets-life-sentence-in-murder/

Pulkkinnen, L. Brothers' twisted tale: One a rapist, accused killer; other convicted murderer
https://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Brothers-twisted-tale-One-a-rapist-accused-1303568.php

Willmsen, C. Seattle Times staff reporter, January 23, 2012 Swayed by a psychologist, jury frees 'monster' who attacks again

State v. Thompson
https://casetext.com/case/state-v-thompson-1299

THOMPSON, FRED (1951-)

A former JW whose story titled "From Jehovah's Witness to Deist" appeared on the *World Union of Deists* website.

He was born to "very faithful" JWs parents and accompanied his parents door to door as a "toddler".

Although baptized at 16 he was a " typical 60s teenager" — smoked pot, had girlfriends and played in rock bands. He was seduced at 17 by a 32-year old elder's wife, married at age 19 an 18 year old "sister", and settled down, awaiting Armageddon in 1975.

He quotes the following from *The Watchtower*:

> In order for the Lord Jesus Christ to be Lord even of the Sabbath day, his thousand-year reign would have to be the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millenniums. (Matt 12:8, AV) Thus it would be a sabbatic reign…
>
> Soon now six millenniums of his wicked exploiting of mankind as his slaves will end, within the lifetime of the generation that has witnessed world events since the close of the gentile times in 1914 till now, according to the prophetic words of Jesus in Matthew 24:34. Would not, then, the end of six millenniums of mankind's laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath." (w1969 10/15 622-623)

With "the end of six millenniums" due in 1975 the implication was obvious. However, in 1976 disappointed JWs were told:

> …it was not the word of God that failed or deceived him and brought disappointment, but that his own understanding was based on wrong premises. (w1976 7/15)

Thompson writes:

> I was stunned!! I lived this. The Watchtower set 1975 as the date, not the membership! … I stayed a Witness, but became ever more disillusioned.

He kept up appearances to avoid getting shunned, until the Internet arrived:

> Suddenly, we had instant access to so much information… I was astounded at the amount of false prophesies, flip flops, outright loony and hypocritical statements, as well as the actual editing of embarrassing information out of the literature.
>
> For example, the Witnesses predicted Armageddon would come in 1914, 1925, 1941 and 1975. I found this on "Apostate sites" but confirmed it with my own original copies of the Watchtower Society's literature.

Thompson left JWs and he and his wife divorced:

> I felt like I had been released from prison! My mind was free. I could look at things far more objectively without the Watchtower filter.

He investigated whether the Bible is God's word, decided it's not, and became a Deist.

THORN, W.J. (? – 1958)
W.J. Thorn was a prominent Russellite who joined the cult around 1890. He was a colporteur and "pilgrim" with the following attitude:

> …the colporteur to succeed must also be very humble as well as obedient. And how true that is in any part of the service. Oh, how well it is to remind ourselves of that fact that we do not of ourselves amount to anything. (Convention Report 1916, 130)
>
> Whenever I get to thinking a great deal of myself I take myself into the corner, so to speak, and say: "You little speck of dust. What have you got to be proud of?" (Yearbook 1975, 49)

With this attitude Thorn avoided personal responsibility and got through about 15 prophecy failures plus thousands of revisions to doctrines. He remained an "ordained minister" until his death in 1958.

Barbara Harrison in *Visions of Glory* (1978) writes:

> There was, when I was at Bethel, an old man, Brother Thorn, well into his 80s. He had lived through these times of promise and defeat... By the time I knew Thorn, who had been a colporteur in Russell's day, he was in advanced senility. One of my jobs was to clean the bathtub for the thirty men who lived on the first floor of the Bethel residence. Not infrequently, I would walk into the bathroom, having knocked to make sure none of the men was using the facilities, and find Thorn sitting on the toilet, his trousers draped around his ankles, nodding and beaming like a Buddha and welcoming me as if to a revival meeting: "Good morning, sister. God bless you." What a sad and inglorious end for a man who had expected to be raised to glory in 1914. But he was happy, and sweet — this "speck of dust" who was nothing without his God and his dreams.

THORUP, MAJA
A JW in Denmark for 18 years and mother of three children. After leaving JWs she became spokesperson for Silent Witnesses in Denmark who cooperate with Silent Lambs in the USA to publicize child abuse among JWs.

THOSE DAYS (e.g. Joel 3:1)
A phrase common in the prophetic books of the Bible and which Rutherford applied "From A.D. 1918 onward". (Religion 1940, 279; Yearbook 1940 Text January 16)

THOUGHT
In reference to past errors WTS publications often state "the brothers thought", "it was thought", "they thought" and "it has been thought". For example: "For a long time it has been thought that "the time of the end" began with 1799 A.D. and continued until 1914." (w1929 12/1 355)

This passes the responsibility for the false doctrine from the leaders to the followers even though the followers had no power to introduce or alter doctrine. Followers who reject doctrine always were, and still are, expelled, shunned and compared to Satan the Devil!

JWs leaders never write "I was wrong" or "We, your Governing Body were wrong." Such admission would require humility and be inconsistent with their claim that everything they published came from Jehovah who "revealed" it all.

THOUGHT REFORM
Many observers compare the WTS to totalitarian regimes and cults, and list similarities in tactics, methods and policies.

For example:

HUMAN CHANGE—EIGHT CRITERIA OF THOUGHT REFORM

MILIEU CONTROL: Control of human communication, i.e. what we see, hear, read, write, speak, and think (speak to myself). Totalist administrators' primary job is to guarantee purity of thought (beliefs), behavior, and loyalty of group members to the leaders, thus to isolate members from outside information. Some group leaders impose painful consequences on members caught reading items written by, or talking to former group members, or anyone critical of the group.

MYSTICAL MANIPULATION:
Planned spontaneity, i.e. love bombing, instant acceptance, friends, and social life. Feeling of belonging and was easy. A sense of having and being a part of a "higher purpose." Only organization with "truth". God's "only channel of communication". "God's prophet". The pursuit of the goal based on total acceptance and ultimate trust in leaders

supersedes everything, and everyone else. Combating independent thought and behavior becomes a survival issue.

THE DEMAND FOR PURITY: The world is sharply divided into us vs. them, good vs. evil, God vs. Devil, and white vs. black. Good is defined as all feelings, behaviors, and thoughts (beliefs) that conform to the group leaders current teachings (doctrine) and policies. Guilt and shame become the frame of the lid on the box (trap). Unforgiving, ideological judgment and guilt relieving righteous anger become personality characteristics.

THE CULT OF CONFESSION:
Obsession with personal confession taken beyond its ordinary usefulness. Closely related to the demand for purity, requires confessing insignificant crimes and crimes not yet committed. Healthy confession makes a person feel better. Cult confession amounts to coerced purging of a person's innermost private thoughts. The result is more guilt, feeling worse, more dependence on the group, and a shame induced lowering of the self-image.

THE "SACRED SCIENCE":
Is evident in the prohibition against questioning the origination of the "Word", of the present bearers of the "Word", or the "Word" itself. Recruits often have the feeling that the search is over, there is an absolute science of ideas. In the indoctrinated believer's mind, this combination of ideas and mystical leaders, represent God and God's will. Members' very existence is contingent on acceptance of this, combined with reinforced behavior as required by the "Word".

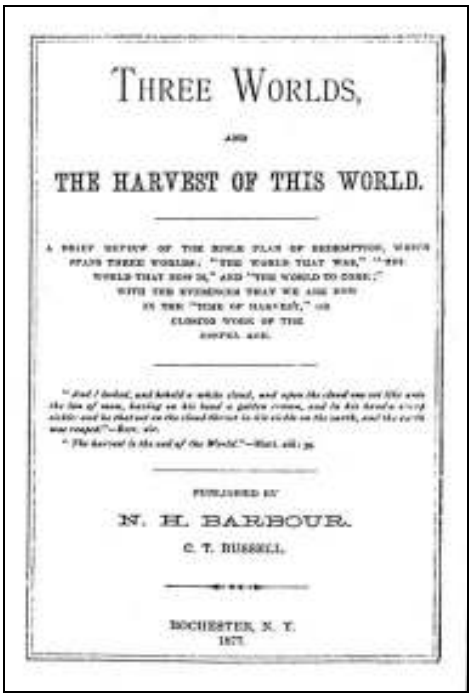
THE LOADED LANGUAGE:
Characterized by thought terminating cliche. The most complex human issues are reduced to bumper-sticker slogans. The language is unique to the group, categorical, judging, an expression of unity, and exclusiveness. Serves as a means to identify & label members. Thought and expression is compressed to fit the available jargon.

DOCTRINE OVER PERSON:
Interpretation of experience, past and present, replaces the reality of the experience itself. Events are simply altered, rewritten, or ignored to make them consistent with group beliefs and practices. Doctrine (beliefs) is viewed as solid truth, while human experience and perception are seen as unreliable. New behaviors will require new doctrine for justification. When two or more behaviors or doctrines are in conflict, compartment thinking is required. Dogmatism, arrogance, and intimidation are used by group leaders to maintain the illusion of control.

THE DISPENSING OF EXISTENCE:
The group models and teachings clearly define who has the right to exist and who doesn't. After a degree of indoctrination is complete, a new recruit sees a complete conversion as the only means of any possible future existence. Some groups actually kill questioning or disobedient members, while others inflict painful psychological wounds by shunning in whole or part. Relationships are group leader controlled.
(Thought Reform And The Psychology Of Totalism, Robert Jay Lifton, The University of North Carolina Press 1961, 1989 edition)
© 1996 Gary Busselman
(See also: *INDOCTRINATION; CULT*)

THREE AND A HALF TIMES
See: *ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY DAYS*

THREE WORLDS, AND THE HARVEST OF THIS WORLD (1877)
A 196-page book financed by C.T. Russell but authored jointly with N.H. Barbour.


THREE WORLDS,
AND
THE HARVEST OF THIS WORLD.
N. H. BARBOUR.
C. T. RUSSELL.
ROCHESTER, N. Y.
1877.

The book's reasoning and theology is mostly nonsense and comes up with conclusions such as:

- Christ returned invisibly in 1874;
- 6000 years of human history ended in 1873;
- The "saints" were resurrected in 1875;
- In 1878 the "harvest" would finish and the saints still living on Earth would be taken up to heaven;
- A 40-year final harvest period would finish in 1914;
- "The day of wrath", Armageddon, would end in 1914.

Although *Three Worlds* contains very few pages that present-day JWs completely agree with, the JWs leaders still call the beliefs of that period "truth" and "true worship" (Divine Purpose 1959, 15, 127)

The Rainbow (July 1877, pp 334-335) published a review:

> *Three* Worlds, or Plan of Redemption. By N.H. Barbour. Rochester, N.Y.: C.F. Russell.
>
> THE idea of this work is in 2 Pet. iii.—the world before the flood, that which now is, and the new earth which is promised. Mr. Barbour is entitled to honour for the care and labour he has, bestowed on this deeply interesting subject; but his book contains, amidst much truth, not a few doctrines and statements which are not only erroneous but mischievous. The incurable tendency of our American brethren to fix dates for the advent and the resurrection is fatally exhibited in this pamphlet We say fatally, for it would be death to a book of far greater power than this to say that Christ "left the holy place on Oct. 22nd, 1874;" and that "the resurrection began in the spring of 1875," adding the gross absurdity that the great mass of mankind are to be raised in the *flesh,* with the animal body." No one can believe these statements, no one should believe them, as they are simply incredible. We are thankful to any brother who teaches that the Saviour's coming will be pre-millennial, but we would have that divine truth kept clear from notions that have no foundation in Scripture.
> https://www.a2z.org/wtarchive/docs/1877_Rainbow_Review_Three_Worlds

THRILLING DISCERNMENT

A phrase occasionally used of JWs interpretations of the Bible:

> Because of their keen desire to honor and serve Jehovah, he has opened the eyes of their hearts and the ears of their understanding. **He has granted them thrilling discernment** as to his will for them. Loyal Witnesses do not lean toward democratic attitudes and procedures. They are awake to the fact that they serve in a theocratic organization, an organization in which God's will is ascertained and then carried out. To the Great Theocrat goes the credit for revealing his purposes to humble, willing servants on earth. (w1984 5/15 16)

With thousands of changes made to previous doctrines over the decades, the above can be paraphrased, "He has granted them thrilling nonsense and lies… To the Great Theocrat goes the credit."

Critics compare the "theocratic organization" to a dictatorship where the dictators systematically distort the Bible.

THRONE OF GOD

Located by Rutherford in the star constellation called "Pleiades" (Reconciliation 1928, 14)

Jesus said, "I sat down with my father on his throne." (Revelation 3:21) "Sat down" is past tense and seemingly refutes the Witness belief that Jesus was enthroned in 1914. JWs leaders respond that from Pentecost 33 C.E. the Kingly rule of Jesus was limited to Christianity. (Aid To Bible Understanding 1971, 1004; Make Sure of All Things 1953, 233) However, Ephesians 1:20-23 extends Christ's authority beyond Christianity and beyond the first century.

In 1914, JWs believe, Jesus' kingship was extended earth wide.

THURSDAY MEETING

The Theocratic Ministry School, Service Meeting and Bible Study [or "Book Study"] are often held on Thursday nights (or if on Friday nights it's the "Friday Meeting").

TIDBITS

American anti-cult paper with summaries and copies of media and Internet reports about JWs and other sectarian groups. Published by Midwest Christian Outreach Inc. located in Florida.

TIME IS AT HAND, THE (1889)
The second volume of C.T. Russell's *Studies In The Scriptures*.


STUDIES
IN THE
SCRIPTURES
"The Path of the Just is as the Shining Light, Which Shineth More and More Unto the Perfect Day."
SERIES II
The Time is at Hand
1,582,000 Edition.
"Times of Refreshing Shall Come From the Presence of the Lord; and He Shall Send Jesus Christ, * * * Whom the Heavens Must Retain until THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS Which God Hath Spoken by the Mouth of All His Holy Prophets Since the World Began." "Ye Brethren, Are Not in Darkness, That That Day Should Overtake You as a Thief."—Acts 3:19-21; 1 Thes. 5:4.
INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
BROOKLYN, LONDON, MELBOURNE, BARMEN, COPENHAGEN, OREBRO, CHRISTIANIA, GENEVA.
1915

Title page, edition of 1915

This book has Russell's interpretation of biblical chronology, time prophecies, the second advent of Christ, and the "antichrist". It went through various editions, and with revisions when its prophecies failed.

Over 1½ million copies were distributed in 20 languages.

Chronology, Dates and Times

The book's main emphasis is on chronology, time calculations and dates as shown by the chapter headings:

1. Special Times And Seasons Divinely Appointed
2. Bible Chronology
3. The Fulfilment Of Time-Prophecy At The First Advent Of Christ
4. The Times Of The Gentiles
5. The Manner Of Our Lord's Return And Appearing
6. Earth's Great Jubilee
7. The Parallel Dispensations
8. Elias Shall First Come
9. The Man Of Sin—Antichrist
10. The Time Is At Hand

Increasing Light

The title page quotes Proverbs 4:18: "The Path of the Just is as the Shining Light, Which Shineth More and More Unto the Perfect Day."

To the Russellites "the Perfect Day" came when Russell's ministry began and they regarded his books as the final word on Bible understanding.

Russell's "Foreword" in the 1916 edition when his predictions had failed, presented the excuses, later re-used by JWs, that there was "no claim to infallibility" and the book merely offers "suggestions".

The Author's Foreword

> THE FIRST EDITION of this Volume was given to the public in A.D. 1889. Since then, one edition after another has gone forth in various languages, until now more than one million and a half copies are in the hands of the people....
>
> This Volume makes no claim to infallibility, and no claim of any direct inspiration from God in the interpretation of His Word. On the contrary, it does claim that the Divine Revelation is the Bible. Its endeavor has been to collate the Bible evidences and to offer suggestions in respect to their significance.
>
> Dealing with subjects so difficult that they are rarely touched by others, it is not to be considered strange if some of the suggestions made in this Volume have not been fulfilled with absolute accuracy to the very letter. But the author, the publishers, and the thousands of readers of this Volume are not ashamed of its presentations, and are still handing it forth to all who have an interest in Bible study—as most interesting and most helpful in an understanding of the Lord's Word.
>
> The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year Days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873. The events of these 43 years, which this Volume claims as the beginning of the Millennium, we still find fully corroborating Bible prophecies, as herein set forth…
>
> This Volume sets forth, what its author has been preaching for over forty years, that the "Times of the Gentiles" chronologically ended in the fall of A.D. 1914. The expression, "Times of the Gentiles," in Bible usage signifies the years, or period of time, in which the Gentile nations of the world were to be permitted to have control, following the

taking away of the typical kingdom from natural Israel, and filling the hiatus between that event and the establishment of God's Kingdom in the hands of Messiah—"whose right it is." Ezekiel 21:27

We could not, of course, know in 1889, whether the date 1914, so clearly marked in the Bible as the end of the Gentile lease of power or permission to rule the world, would mean that they would be fully out of power at that time, or whether, their lease expiring, their eviction would begin. The latter we perceive to be the Lord's program; and promptly in August, 1914, the Gentile kingdoms referred to in the prophecy began the present great struggle, which, according to the Bible, will culminate in the complete overthrow of all human government, opening the way for the full establishment of the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

We are not able to see behind the veil; we are not able to know the things progressing under the direction of our glorious Lord and the members of His Church already glorified. Our thought is that somehow the Lord is taking a hand in the affairs of the world now as He did not do in times past. We do know that the great Time of Trouble, which has begun, very closely corresponds to the Divine declaration respecting the time and conditions of the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom. The Lord Himself informs us that, at the time He shall take to Himself His great power and reign, the nations will be mad and the Divine wrath will come. A little later on the time will come for the judging of the dead, and the giving of the reward to God's servants, small and great, leading on finally to the destruction of the incorrigible, who would exercise a corrupt influence upon the earth.—Revelation 21:8

All over the world people knew of the expectations of Bible Students in respect to the year A.D. 1914; and when so stupendous a war as the present one broke loose, when the winds of strife began to blow with such fury and destruction, thousands remembered what they had heard and read respecting the end of the Gentile Times. Thousands today have come to fully appreciate the times in which we are living. The influence is very helpful and inspiring. A realization that we are in the Day of the Lord, and that very soon all of His saints will be gathered to Him by the resurrection change, has a stimulating and encouraging influence upon Bible students, separating them from the world and its fears and ambitions and fixing their eyes upon the Crown of Life, which the Lord has in reservation for them that love Him most.

The author acknowledges that in this book he presents the thought that the Lord's saints might expect to be with Him in glory at the ending of the Gentile Times. This was a natural mistake to fall into, but the Lord overruled it for the blessing of His people. The thought that the Church would all be gathered to glory before October, 1914, certainly did have a very stimulating and sanctifying effect upon thousands, all of whom accordingly can praise the Lord—even for the mistake...
Charles T. Russell
Brooklyn, N.Y.
October 1, 1916

Erroneous Predictions

The book's false predictions follow on from the miscalculation that, "six thousand years from the creation of Adam were complete with A.D. 1872..." (pp 3, 39) And:

> If, then the seventh thousand-year period of earth's history be an epoch specially noted for the period of Christ's reign, we shall, by showing that it began in A.D. 1873, be proving that we are *already in it*. (p.40)

Pages 76-77 state:

> In this chapter we present the Bible evidence proving that the full end of the times of the Gentiles, *i.e.*, the full end of their lease of dominion, will be reached in A.D.1914; and that that date will see the disintegration of the rule of imperfect men. And be it observed, that if this is shown to be a fact firmly established by the Scriptures, it will prove:—

There follows seven future events that "it will prove". They were not "suggestions", not optional "expectations", but doctrines and predictions considered proved. In agreement with their belief that they had "proof" Russell's cult did not tolerate alternative views but expelled dissenters.

In *The Time is at Hand* Russell predicted:

> We find that the end of the Gospel age, like the end of the Jewish age, is called a harvest (Matt. 9:37; 13:24, 30, 39); that

like that also, it is a period of forty years… (p.15)

True, it is expecting great things to claim as we do, that within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved; but we are living in a special and peculiar time, the "Day of Jehovah," in which matters culminate quickly… (p.99)

…we consider it an established fact that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915. (p.99)

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14.), which will end in A.D. 1915, with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. (p.101)

Not until the great day of trouble is about closing—not until the Gentile kingdoms are ground to powder and utterly removed, no place being found for them (A.D. 1915, as shown in the preceding chapter)—not until great Babylon is utterly overthrown and her influence over the world broken—will the great mass of mankind come to realize the true state of the case. Then they will see that the great trouble through which they will have passed was that symbolically termed "The battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14)… (pp 140-141)

The harvest work will occupy forty years for its full accomplishment, ending with A.D. 1914. (p.150)

And the harvest of this age began with the presence of our Lord at the beginning of Earth's Great Jubilee, in 1874, as shown in chapter VI, and ends with the overthrow of Gentile power—A.D. 1914, likewise a period of forty years… (p.234)

Comments on Russell's "Foreword"

The Time is at Hand is prophecy, virtually all of it false. Russell's 1916 Foreword where he calls his prophecies a "thought", "expectation" and "natural mistake" is an attempt to disguise something evil as being alright or OK.

The claim in the Foreword that "**some** of the suggestions made in this Volume have not been fulfilled with absolute accuracy", implies that most of the book has "been fulfilled with absolute accuracy". The truth is that **all** predictions attached to a date failed.

Russell's Foreword suggests that 1914 marks the start of the end instead of the end of the end as taught in the book, and that the World War will "culminate" in the overthrow of all human governments:

> ...in August, 1914, the Gentile kingdoms referred to in the prophecy began the present great struggle, which, according to the Bible, will culminate in the complete overthrow of all human government, opening the way for the full establishment of the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

That prediction too failed, in 1918, with the end of World War I. This failure led to the JWs doctrine that the Great Tribulation was interrupted in 1918 and will be resumed at Armageddon — a doctrine dogmatically taught until 1969 and then discarded. In other words the excuse or rationalization for the prophetic failure of 1918, which rationalization became God's truth taught for almost 50 years, was itself then discarded!

Russell's argument that his book had "a stimulating and sanctifying" effect has also been re-used by JWs. But it is not biblical to justify false prophecy by claiming it stimulated people. Christians regard false prophecy as "appalling and horrible". (Jeremiah 5:30-31) The only people who love the false predictions of the JWs leaders and the excuses are JWs!

TIME IS AT HAND, THE (Luke 21:8)

Most Bible translations of Luke 21:8 have "the time is near" but some Bible versions translate it:

> And he said, "Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name, saying … 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them."
> (Revised Standard Version 1952;
> The Bible in Living English 1972)

After Russell's book *The Time Is At Hand* (1889) was disconfirmed the sect continued to use the expression or similar. For example:

> …the day of wrath against all objectors to His universal domination is **nigh at hand**.
> (The Kingdom is at Hand 1944, 317)

TIME IS NEAR, THE

> "And he [Jesus] said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say … 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. (Luke 21:8 NRSV)

The time is near

The *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD lists the phrase "the time is near" 57 times of which 55 apply to Armageddon or the post-Armageddon paradise, and "the time is at hand" 50 times. For example:

> …**the time is near at hand** for Jehovah's own great wrath to come upon the earth… (w1953 2/1 91)

> If it is his purpose to have this beautification of the whole earth accomplished by the end of his seventh creative day—Scripturally a period of seven thousand years, then **the time is near at hand** for the ruining of the earth by exploiters to be stopped by theocratic power and for the blessed transformation to a delightsome garden to begin. Already, nearly six thousand years of man's existence from the close of the sixth creative day have run their dreary course. We must be approaching the threshold of that thousand-year-long reign of Jesus Christ… (Paradise Restored to Mankind by Theocracy 1972, 18)

> The Bible shows that **the time is near** when he, through Jesus Christ, purposes to clean out all opposers of his righteous rule over the earth. (g1974 11/8 8)

> **The time is near** for God and Jesus Christ to execute final judgment on Satan's world system. (Revelation Its Grand Climax At Hand! 1988, 17)

> **The time is near** when the elderly who have exercised faith in God and have served him will once again enjoy youthful vigor—but this time forever! (g2002/06/9)

> The Bible reveals that **the time is near** when God will eliminate the wicked world during his war of Armageddon. (What Does The Bible Really Teach? 2005, 32)

> We rejoice that the preaching of the good news on such a vast scale is but one of the many indications that **the time is near** for God's Kingdom to replace human governments. (w2006 2/1 26)

The Greek, NWT and JWs

The Greek "eggizo" occurs 43 times in the New Testament and can be translated "near" and "at hand".

JWs once published a book called *The Time Is At Hand* (1889). Jesus identified users of this phrase as people who lead others "astray" (Luke 21:8), and *The Time Is At Hand* definitely led many astray! The NWT conceals this bit of history by translating *eggizo* "approached" — "the due time has approached". Therefore JWs do not discern Jesus' condemnation of them!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT / TIME IS FAST RUNNING OUT

Phrases JWs leaders use to inspire their followers to preach more, donate more money, and perhaps discontinue secular employment or education.

The threat of "time running out" also deters the followers against "rebellion" and "independence" since rebellious ones will be executed when time runs out at Armageddon.

Some examples:

> **Time is fast running out** for this wicked world, and it is imperative for all who want to survive this world's end to learn what is involved in 'obeying the good news' and thus escape destruction. (w1994 10/1 8)

> **Time is fast running out** for the present wicked system of things. As the Israelites increased their march around the wicked city of Jericho just before its destruction, so now, just before Jehovah destroys the present system, he is inviting people to give a mighty shout. (w1982 3/1 26)

> **Time is fast running out!** The generation from 1914 has now witnessed the fulfillment of the major part of Jesus' great prophetic "sign" describing "the conclusion of the system of things." The "great tribulation…" is about to break in all its fury over the entire earth… Jehovah's hour of reckoning with Satan's world hastens on. (w1976 11/15 685)

> **Time is fast running out** for this wicked system of things! (g1970 1/22 8)

> **Time is fast running out** before the world's greatest war strikes. (w1955 8/1 328)

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

TIME LEFT IS REDUCED, THE

This is a Bible phrase (I Corinthians 7:29) regularly cited to remind JWs that Armageddon is near and they should therefore be more zealous.

It appears 80 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD and the phrase "the time left" 133 times. For example:

> The time left for the present system is about to run out.
> (Kingdom Ministry 9/2005 p.1)

TIME IS SHORT

WTS publications have scores of different phrases that express the imminence of Armageddon.

Such phrases impart a sense of urgency and inspire JWs to be more zealous, donate more money, and perhaps discontinue secular employment, drop out of high school, or postpone marriage. They also make followers happy by giving them hope (w1984 11/15 21-26), and deter "rebellion" and "independent thinking" since rebellious ones will be killed at Armageddon.

The following list shows how often certain phrases appear on *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD:

- Armageddon is near 15
- Armageddon now near 5
- about to strike 9
- almost completed 12
- at the brink 19
- at this late date 47
- climactic fulfillment 4
- close at hand 78
- deep in the last days 5
- deep in the time of the end 28
- deep into the last days 11
- deep into the time of the end 16
- do not delay 69
- draws ever closer 15
- draws on apace 6
- fast approaching 184
- final years 22
- getting very close now 1
- hastens on 3
- immediate future 107
- immediately ahead 38
- immediately before us 6
- Imminent 443
- in our time 577
- just ahead 188
- likely this very decade 1
- limited time remaining 2
- much closer than 10
- near at hand 282
- nearer than most people think 3
- nearing its end 47
- nearing the end 29
- nears 188
- not much longer 15
- now at hand 44
- now near at hand 38
- only a short time 106
- rapidly approaching 61
- the remaining months or years 1
- remaining time 157
- shortly now 27
- six thousand years 286
- so near to 18
- soon coming 9
- the few years remaining 1
- the near future 516
- the nearness 178
- the time is growing shorter 1
- these closing days 10
- these last days 811
- this generation 884
- time is running out 74
- time is fast running out 13
- so little time left 37
- time is short 110
- very near 286
- very shortly 32
- very soon 225
- very very near 2
- very very soon 1
- well advanced 20
- while there is still time 16
- while there is yet time 53
- within a few years at most 1
- within our twentieth century 1

Not every instance of every phrase refers to Armageddon since sometimes the same words are used in other contexts.

TIME OF THE END

The interval currently measured from Christ's supposed return in 1914 until the war of Armageddon.

In 1796 George Bell calculated 1799 as the beginning of the period the Bible in Daniel 11 designates "The time of the end". Russell incorporated this into his own chronological scheme and made the time of the end run 115 years until 1914. This, he claimed, "…is

particularly marked in the Scriptures". (Studies III, 23, 59)

Rutherford argued:

> These physical facts cannot be disputed and are sufficient to convince any reasonable mind that we have been in 'the time of the end' since 1799.
> (The Harp of God 1921, 234)

In 1929 the physical facts which "cannot be disputed" were disputed when Rutherford replaced 1799 with 1914. He introduced the new interpretation as follows:

> For a long time it has been thought that "the time of the end" began with 1799 A.D. and continued until 1914. (w1929 12/1 355)

Actually it had not merely been "thought" but was heralded as "truth", "biblical", "Word of God" and "indisputable". (See: *THOUGHT*)

Along with the introduction of the new interpretation Rutherford argued, "None of the wicked shall understand." He added that "wise" ones:

> …take the wise course of being diligent in keeping the terms of the covenant and who are faithful unto God and are joyfully obedient unto the commandments.

Thousands of followers realized they were being manipulated and lied to, and that such treatment is not "faithful unto God", and therefore defected!

In 1971 the "time of the end", i.e. the revised time of the end that started in 1914, was virtually over for we read: "…these closing days of the "time of the end." (The Nations Shall Know… 1971, 65)

Calculations for 1914 are as wrong as were the calculations for 1799, and JWs prophecies based on both of these dates consistently failed.

(See: *GENTILE TIMES; NEBUCHADNEZZAR; SEVENTY YEARS; KINGDOM; GENERATION*)

TIME OF TROUBLE

Russell interpreted the "time of trouble" (Daniel 12:1) as a 40-year period commencing 1873 and reaching its peak by 1914 when it finishes:

Three Worlds (1877) under the heading *THE COMING FORTY YEARS OF TROUBLE* says:

> The organizing of capital against labor, the rising of the people in self defense, the overthrow of law an order, the casting down of the "thrones" and governments, and "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation;" are all clearly foretold in Scriptures as events to precede the millennial age of glory. (p.19)
>
> This time of trouble, already beginning, is to swell to a mighty wave during the coming forty years. (p.26)
>
> It was in the autumn of 1873, the present hard times, financial trouble, &c., began, as all will remember. And there it was "the day of the Lord" began… (Zeph. 1:14) And this time of trouble which began in the autumn of 1873, though but a ripple, is gathering headway, and will engulf all business, all order, all government, all society; until at last, every man's hand will be against his neighbor; and there shall be no peace, "and no hire for man, nor hire for beast," (Zech. 8:10). These are the true sayings of God… (p.77)
>
> Forty years, or now, about thirty-eight years before the times of the Gentiles end, is none too much time, for the accomplishment of the many wonderful events that must transpire during their continuance…
>
> After the saints are taken, and the gospel, dispensation ended; the "fullness of the Gentiles," who are to compose the bride of Christ, having come in, blindness is to be turned away from the Jews. "And God will set his hand a second time to restore the remnant of Israel." But after *this remnant*, that is the living Jews of this generation have made their way back to Palestine…the *Christian nations of Europe*, the kings of the east, and of the whole world are to be brought up to Jerusalem to battle, and the city is to be taken, as described in Zech. 14. Then the Lord shall appear *with all his saints*, and shall stand upon the mount of Olives, which is a-half mile to the east of Jerusalem, and overlooks the city. And the Jews, who have been worsted in the battle, will cry out, "Lo, this is our God we have waited for him, and he will save us." "Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations," and the battle of the great day of God Almighty takes place. This state of things, however, may not, and evidently will not, obtain for many years, probably near the end of the forty years. (pp 84, 85)

> And as from where the harvest of the Jewish age began, to A.D. 70, was *forty years* so this 2520 years, or the "Times of the Gentiles," reach from B.C. 606 to A.D. 1914, or *forty years* beyond 1874. And the time of trouble, conquest of the nations, and events connected with the day of wrath, have only ample time, during the balance of this forty years. (p.189)

JWs leaders claim that the world prior to World War I expected peace but the Russellites anticipated war and were right:

> The political, religious and commercial elements of this world widely accepted that view. However, Jehovah's witnesses held a view that was just the opposite! In the July 1879 issue of their official publication, *The Watchtower* (at that time known as *Zion's Watch Tower*) its readers were told: "God teaches in many Scriptures that a great time of trouble will come upon the nations." In its October issue that same year *The Watchtower* said: "'Great and terrible' things are coming upon the world—overturning all governments, law and order—utter wreck of society." (w1971 8/1 467)

Russell retained the *Three Worlds* predictions until 1904 when he allowed for some of it to occur "immediately after 1914". Since Russell, for most of his career, claimed that the "time of trouble" would **end** in 1914 with the start of world peace under God, the 1971 *Watchtower* statement is misleading.

Furthermore, although Europeans and Americans were generally optimistic in the early 20th century, there was also a huge millenarian movement that believed in an imminent "time of trouble" followed by Christ's return. The millenarian movement influenced major denominations such as Baptists and Presbyterians. Hundreds of books about prophecy were published, many suggesting the 20th century for Christ's return.

Dwight Wilson (1977) writes:

> World War I stimulated pre-millennialists to a tiptoe expectancy and also provided tantalizing fulfillment of some of their longings. The war itself came as no shock to these opponents of postmillennial optimism; they had not only looked toward the culmination of the age in Armageddon, but anticipated "wars and rumors of wars" as signs of the approaching end.

As 1914 neared Russell got cautious and suggested nothing dramatic might happen and the end could delay for years. (See: *NINETEEN FOURTEEN*)

Then World War broke out. Russell regarded the World War as the start of Armageddon to culminate with the overthrow of all government and religion, followed by the resurrection of Old Testament heroes who would rule the world for Christ. A number of other writers including C.I. Scofield (famous for *The Scofield Reference Bible*) similarly thought (in 1916) that the World War was the world's death struggle to be succeeded by the rule of Christ.

From the 1920s until 1969 JWs believed that the "time of trouble" is the same as the "great tribulation". Both began in 1914, were interrupted in 1918, and would be resumed and concluded at Armageddon. Armageddon, therefore, was the second half (or second part) of the great tribulation.

In 1969 the connection to 1914-1918 was discontinued and the "time of trouble" and "great tribulation" transferred to the near future — initially to the mid-1970s (but the 1970s prediction failed too).

[See: *GREAT TRIBULATION*]

TIMES OF THE GENTILES

See: *GENTILE TIMES*

TIME, TIMES AND HALF A TIME (Daniel 7:25)

JWs interpret one "time" as one year of 360 days. "Times", being plural, are two years totalling 720 days. "Half a time" is 180 days. The total is 1260.

The 1260 days allegedly ran from November 1914 to 7/5/1918, (Your Will 1958, 331)

If 3½ times equals 1260 days then "seven times" should usual 2,520 days. That is how the WTS calculates the 2,520 years for the Gentile Times. (See: *GENTILE TIMES*)

It seems inconsistent to let the days remain literal days in one calculation but alter them to "years" in another calculation.

TIMOR-LESTE

Publishers and Memorial attendance in Timor-Leste and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to

2007	95		343	
2008	123		374	
2009	148		426	
2010	171	6,618	508	2228
2011	197	5,883	595	1948
2012	214	5,495	563	2089
2015	301	4,153	750	1,667
2018	366	3,618	845	1,567
	Ave.			
2019	373	3,466	981	1,318
2020	378	3,487	995	1,325
2021	372	3,616	1,243	1,082
2022	378	3,622	1,152	1,188
2023	381	3,661	1,185	1,172
2024	378	3,706	1,048	1,337
2025	399	3,546	963	1,469

TINIAN

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
2000	20	255	40	128
2005	18	152	54	51
2010	16	184	47	63
2015	23	136	43	72
2018	14	179	41	61
	Ave.			
2019	12	258	41	76
2020	11	273	38	79
2021	10	300	28	107
2022	10	300	30	100
2023	10	300	33	91
2024	10	200	26	77
2025	10	200	32	63

TISSUE TRANSPLANTS

See: *CANNIBALISM; TRANSPLANTS*

TITHING

Never practiced in WBTS religion because the Law of Moses ended when Jesus died.

TOGO

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	1,595	1,223		
1975	2,712	774		
1980	1,588	1,638	2,837	917
1985	2,799	1,027	8,845	325
1990	5,316	652	18,466	188
1995	8,887	456	36,400	111
2000	11,617	398	45,524	102
2005	13,664	375	51,400	100
2010	16,300	349	57,100	100
2015	23,112	316	67,100	109
2018	21,755	367	64,900	123
	Ave.			
2019	21,621	374	67,600	120
2020	20,888	396	44,400	187
2021	21,259	399	57,100	149
2022	21,780	399	54,600	159
2023	22,710	391	65,500	136
2024	23,886	398	70,900	134
2025	25,075	344	65,900	131

TOMSETT, V

Former JW and author of *Released from the Watchtower* (1971) and *Watchtower Chaos* (1974). Both books contain excessive psychological claims:

- "their chief aim seems to be to cause trouble"
- "acting with sadistic cruelty"
- "their teachings … create terrible psychological problems"
- "stripped … of all their brain power and intelligence"
- "Witnesses bring only misery"
- "one of the biggest religious rackets of all time"
- "We were brainwashed" "zombies" "automatons"
- "cruel and cynical teachings"
- "life under their roof is hell"
- "evil cult" "sick minds" "paranoid"
- "I was a victim of brainwashing techniques"
- "physically you become a complete mess "
- "the victim soon becomes maladjusted, immature, neurotic".

JWs compare blood transfusions to "eating" and "feeding" to which Tomsett reasonably responds that persons at the point of death from illness do not pause for a meal. (p.38)

TONGA

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Tonga (in the SW Pacific) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	19	4,075		
1975	27	3,519		
1980	31	2,907	89	1,013
1985	41	2,455	136	740
1990	63	1,502	146	649
1995	77	1,297	208	480
2000	128	783	385	260
2005	229	491	556	202

2010	240	433	622	167
2015	233	454	628	168
2018	209	522	511	213
	Ave.			
2019	178	584	624	167
2020	185	573	474	224
2021	181	591	595	180
2022	197	548	647	167
2023	201	542	666	164
2024	210	495	594	175
2025	225	462	575	181

TORTURE STAKE
The term JWs use instead of "cross". They believe Jesus was nailed to a vertical post without crossbeam. However, whether it was a cross or stake the Bible omits the word "torture". (See: *CROSS*)

TOTALITARIAN COMBINE
Also called the "monstrosity", the "totalitarian combine" referred to Nazis, Fascists and the Vatican in league to enslave the world:

> The totalitarian combine is going to get control of England and America. You cannot prevent it. Do not try. (Face The Facts 1938, 27)

Such predictions, besides being false, also resulted in JWs often being considered as pro-Nazi.

TOTALITARIANISM
Critics sometimes compare JWs to the totalitarian regimes of dictators. (See: *THOUGHT REFORM*)

TOTH, FRANK J.
A JW of Ontario Canada who went house to house for 50 years but in June 1994 wrote a 2950-word letter titled "Why I Left Jehovah's Witnesses" available on the Internet.

TOWER PUBLISHING COMPANY
A company privately owned by Russell. He used it to publish literature for the WBTS at a price decided by the WBTS board of directors (Yearbook 1975, p.42) of which he was president.

In 1898 Russell realized that divorce from his wife with sharing of assets was probable, therefore transferred ownership of Tower Publishing, including real estate and equipment, by donation to the WBTS. The WBTS board estimated the value at $164,000:

> ...from 1887 to 1898, he made use of the Tower Publishing Company... This was a firm owned by Charles Taze Russell. In 1898 he transferred assets of the Tower Publishing Company by donation to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. (Proclaimers 1993, p.576)

Article two of the WBTS's 1884 charter stated:

> II. The purpose for which the Corporation is formed is, the dissemination of Bible Truths in various languages by means of the publication of tracts, pamphlets, papers and other religious documents, and by the use of all other lawful means which its *Board of Directors*, duly constituted, shall deem expedient for the furtherance of the purpose stated.

Some of the early editions of Russell's books name the Tower Publishing Company as the publisher.

In 1889 Russell's headquarters staff moved into "Bible House", a new building at 56-60 Arch St, Allegheny, where they also printed material. That building was owned by the Tower Publishing Company until April 1898 when ownership was transferred to the WBTS.

Tower Publishing, when donated to the WBTS, included printing works, shipping rooms, an assembly place for about 200, an office, an editorial department and a store front. It was valuable:

> [13] For years the literature was published by the Tower Publishing Company, which met all expenses and furnished the books, tracts, etc., to the Society at an agreed price. But in 1898 the ownership of the entire plant at Allegheny (North Pittsburgh), Pa., came into the hands of the Society, this carrying with it *The Watch Tower,* the Bible House with its complete outfit of office fixtures, type, stock of Bibles, *Studies in the Scriptures,* booklets, tracts, etc., together with tons of valuable electroplates of various publications in a number of languages. The Bible House there on Arch street was a four-story building built really for the Society's use. From the first it was intended to be presented to the Society in course of time, and was valued at $34,000. The net equity of all this donation to the Society was appraised at $164,033.65. From here on the Society furnished its own capital, and all colporteur (pioneer) accounts, etc., were owing to it. (w1950 7/15 215)

Who then published and printed Russell's material prior to 1898 — Tower Publishing or the WBTS? Apparently both published but actual printing may have been limited to small items such as tracts and leaflets.

In the 1880s and 1890s the WBTS outsourced its main printing requirements to commercial publishing houses including the Tower Publishing Company where, at Bible House, Russell's workers assembled the type for the *Zion's Watch Tower*, transferred it to the printer who made the plates and did the printing. The printed stuff was delivered to the mailing department in Bible House where workers wrapped and labeled and took it to the post office.

TRACTS
Tracts have been part of the Watchtower religion since its beginning. *Bible Students Tracts* came out in 1880 and *Old Theological Quarterly* started in 1892. Although called "tracts" these items were often multi-page pamphlets.

Around 1920 the WBTS used 25 different "tracts" which were 16-page booklets.

In 1951 new 6-sided tracts were released: *Awake from Sleep!; Hell Fire—Bible Truth or Pagan Scare?; Jehovah's Witnesses Communists or Christians; What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?*

In 1952 tracts released were: *Hope for the Dead*; *How Valuable is the Bible?; Life in a New World; The Trinity, Divine Mystery or Pagan Myth?*

In1953 tracts released were: *Do You Believe in Evolution or the Bible?; Man's Only Hope for Peace; The Sign of Christ's Presence; Which is the Right Religion?*

For a fuller list of tracts see *Watch Tower Publications Index 1930-1985* pp 920 to 922.

TRADITIONS OF MEN
Pejorative phrase for any popular belief, especially religious or political, contrary to JWs beliefs:

> To follow the teachings or traditions of men, therefore, leads unto destruction. (Salvation 1939, 34)

The phrase is not applied to JWs doctrines, not even to previous doctrines now discarded, because all JWs teaching is supposedly "Bible truth" or "Bible based".

TRAITORS
A WTS description of clergymen in Rutherford's time. The clergy as traitors is also alluded to in the 1974 pamphlet *Has Religion Betrayed God and Man?*

TRANSPLANTS
See: *ORGAN TRANSPLANTS*

TRAVERS, HELEN
Australian author of *A Little Lower Than Angels* (2009), the story of a JW girl who marries a newcomer to the sect who gets her to become a prostitute and him as her pimp.

TRIBULATION SHORTENED, THE GREAT
Rutherford taught that the "great tribulation" (Matthew 24:21) is in two parts. The first part began in 1914 and was cut short (Matthew 24:22) in 1918:

> On account of his "chosen ones" he cuts short the days. How? Back in the year 1925 the suggestion was set out in the leading article of the *Watch Tower* issue of May 1, entitled "For the Elect's Sake," that "those days" of the "great tribulation" were cut short in the middle. The explanation was given that the "great tribulation" had begun in 1914 C.E. and that it was not allowed to run its full course then but God stopped World War I in November of 1918. From then on God was allowing an interval for the activity of his anointed remnant of elect Christians before he let the final part of the "great tribulation" resume at the battle of Armageddon and come to its termination. This would allow for sheeplike persons to be saved.—Matt. 25:31-46. (w1970 1/15 52)

> Summing up, then, we see that the time of trouble began in 1914 with the World War; that had the war gone on, ere this practically all flesh on earth would have been destroyed; that the Lord held back this great trouble and shortened it for the elect's sake; that the nations now are preparing feverishly for the great destructive trouble; that the final conflict is between God's organization and the devil's organization, and that the cause of righteousness will triumph; that during the interim of comparative peace following 1918 and the final trouble the Lord commands his elect to advertise the King and his kingdom and to comfort those that mourn. (w1925 5/1 137)

> Satan began the tribulation in 1914, and Jehovah stopped the wholesale slaughter in 1918 and thus shortened the days of tribulation for his own purposes. (w1933 3/1 73)

The resumption of the tribulation would be Armageddon. This doctrine originated in the failure of Russell's prophecies for 1914 to 1918 when Armageddon was supposed to occur. By having the tribulation "cut short" in 1918 followed by an interval which would be brief it gave the impression that the predictions were essentially correct.

For the next 44 years JWs preached that Jesus' words in Matthew 24:22 were fulfilled in 1918 with the WWI armistice. Jesus' words "no flesh would be saved" meant that World War I would have destroyed all humankind had it not ended in 1918. That claim was actually absurd — had Germany not sought an Armistice in November 1918 the American troops in Europe would have reached 5 million and won the war in 1919.

Armageddon was predicted to resume shortly — the cult had expectations for 3½ years, 7 years, ten years, 1930s, 1940s, etc.

In 1969 the Governing Body deleted the great tribulation from WWI and moved it to the future, the 1970s. It would still occur in two parts — the first part, the destruction of Christendom, leads straight into the second part which is Armageddon. and will be "cut short" at its end not its middle.
(See: *GREAT TRIBULATION; TIME OF TROUBLE*)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Publishers and Memorial attendance on Trinidad (including Tobago since 1995) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	2,133	460		
1975	2,856	359		
1980	3,235	357	8,488	136
1985	4,198	269	12,054	94
1990	5,749	215	18,346	67
1995	7,078	178	21,670	58
2000	8,142	159	22,430	58
2005	8,202	158	21,286	61
2010	8,978	145	24,339	53
2015	9,679	138	24,103	55
2018	10,030	137	24,401	56
	Ave.			
2019	10,037	139	25,478	55
2020	10,112	138	23,364	60
2021	10,437	134	31,700	44
2022	10,557	133	27,960	50
2023	10,420	135	26,040	54
2024	10,449	131	26,029	52
2025	10,513	130	24,834	55

TRINITY
Russellism was an Adventist offshoot and initially Trinitarian.

In 1882 Russell, probably influenced by Christadelphians, rejected the concept of three persons in one God. (wl882 July; Studies V, 54-82) The name "Jehovah", which some Christians apply to the Trinity and others to Jesus, Russell applied to God the Father. (w1882 August)

Rutherford claimed: "Never was there a more deceptive doctrine advanced than that of the trinity." (Reconciliation 1928, 101)

Today JWs believe that the Trinity doctrine has "grossly misrepresented God". (w1984 2/1 10) And: "True Christians must know the God whom they worship, There is no room for mystery." (ibid p.7)

Christians however believe that in God there **is** room for mystery:

> "As well might we expect to confine the ocean within a tea cup as to place a full explanation of the nature of God within the limits of our feeble human minds." (Boettner 1967; compare Romans 11:33-36; Isaiah 40:12-26)

People "know" someone after meeting and interacting with them, but do not know everything about them. Similarly they may "know God" but be unsure about particular details.

JWs make much of the word "Trinity" not being in the Bible. (e.g. w1984 2/1 4-8) A doctrine can, however, be implied without being named or labelled. Blood transfusions are not mentioned or named as such in the Bible and yet JWs claim they're against the Bible.

The New Testament Canon was officially defined by the 4th century Church. The Trinitarian Athanasius gave the earliest known complete listing of New Testament writings in 367 C.E. One criterion for deciding the Canon was whether the writings agreed with Church doctrine including the Trinity doctrine. Therefore, JWs and other Unitarians who question the Trinity may need to question the validity of the Canon as well, or at least provide an independent confirmation or proof of it.

JWs leaders pretend that the Bible has no pro-Trinity evidence at all:

> …the philosopher-theologians had to fish around in the Scriptures to find a semblance of justification for a triune God. The best they could come up with were a few texts that happen to mention the Father, the Son and the holy spirit in the same context, although not necessarily in that order. (w1984 8/1 22)

Quotes like "fish around" and "best they could come up with" are deceptive since some Trinitarians muster a thousand Bible verses for the doctrine.

One sort of evidence consists of plural words. "Elohim", translated "God", is plural and therefore can be translated "Gods". When God or "Gods" made man in his image he created two people. The Hebrew for "Creator" can also be plural and is literally "creators". (Ecclesiastes 12:1) The Hebrew "adohn-nahy" which the WTS translates "sovereign Lord" is literally "Lords" so that we read of "Lords Jehovah". (See: *LORD*)

The second evidence is that the New Testament has 60 words and phrases that ascribe personality to the Holy Spirit. JWs ignore this and speak of "a few personifications".

In the New Testament quotations from the Old Testament spoken by "Jehovah" are sometimes attributed to the "Holy Spirit". (e.g. compare Psalm 95:8-11 with Hebrews 3:7-11) Also, statements about Jehovah are sometimes reapplied to Jesus. About 50 titles and descriptions of Jesus coincide with titles and descriptions of Jehovah. Even the name "Jehovah" is given to Jesus. (John 17:11; compare Exodus 23:20-23) WTS writers account for this by Jesus being the "image of God". But the title "I AM" has given them problems. (See: *I AM*) Also Jesus is sometimes directly called "God" and "The God". [However, in John 8:54 Jesus identifies the Father with the God of the Jews i.e. Jehovah.]

The fifth evidence is that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are sometimes mentioned together. To put all three together if one were a force or energy would be strange. If Joe and Sue go on a picnic we would not say, "Joe, Sue and their energy went on a picnic." We would just say, "Joe and Sue went on a picnic." And if someone said "Joe, Sue and Bob went on a picnic" we would conclude that Bob is a person, not and impersonal force. One instance where Father, Son and Spirit occur together is Matthew 28:19 where Jesus commands that all nations be baptized "in the name of" all three. Jesus did not say "names" but used the singular. All three have one name.

The sixth evidence is the descriptions of Jesus in God-like terms. In Jesus, for example, dwells "all the fullness of the God-ship". (Colossians 2:9 in Interlinear)

To bolster their case the WBTS mistranslated parts of the *New World Translation*. The name "Jehovah" was added without warrant in much of the New Testament. Acts 5:3 records that someone "lied to the Holy Spirit" but JW leaders translated this as "play false to".

A full exposition on the biblical concept of God would cite thousands of verses. The topic is complex; not simple as JWs leaders pretend.

There are many cases where JWs leaders called a doctrine "the truth" and people who disagreed, "apostates", but later revised the doctrine. (See: *ERROR; DATES; THE FINISHED MYSTERY*) Could this happen with their current understanding of God? Their founders did, after all, believe in the Trinity until 1881.

TROMBLEY, CHARLES
Author of *Kicked Out Of The Kingdom* (1974, Whitaker House, Pittsburgh, USA).

Trombley says he left JWs because they teach the time of miracles is past whereas his baby daughter was healed of club-feet by prayer.

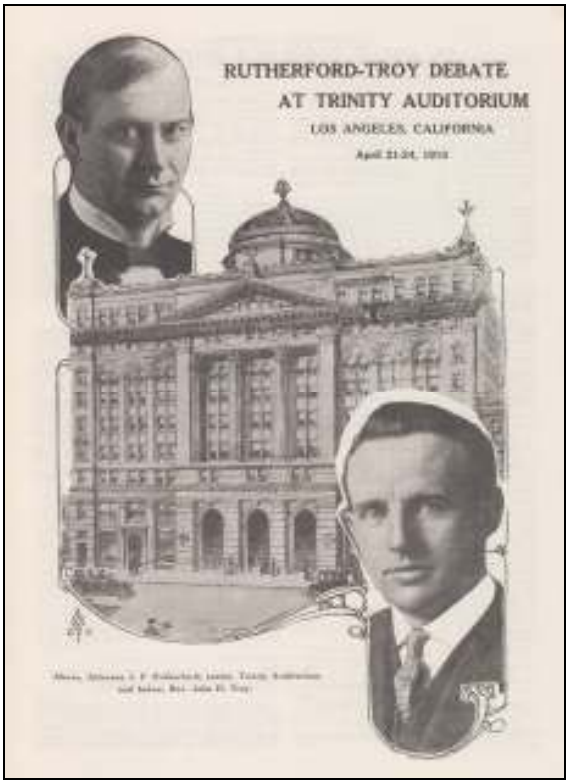
The book has lots of miracle stories where people are "filled with the Spirit". Trombley became editor of *The Exposition Publications,* a company specializing in publications for JWs, and founded *Charismatic Teaching Ministries*.

TROY, J.H.
A Baptist reverend who in April 1915 debated publicly with Rutherford in Los Angeles on four topics: *Where Are The Dead*; *The Fate Of The Wicked*; *Dead Still Have A Chance During Millennium*; *Christ's Second Coming*.

JWs leaders claim: "Rutherford was victorious in courageously defending Bible truth." (Yearbook 1975, 55) "Bible truth" at the time included Christ's invisible return in 1874 and that Armageddon was about to strike i.e. in 1915 or shortly afterwards (around 1918-1920). Those "Bible truths" were either Bible lies or not from the Bible — anyone defending them was not "courageous" or "victorious" but a false prophet and/or a deceived fool. (Much

of what the WTS publishes about its history is misleading propaganda.)

The debate is recorded in the 1915 *Convention Report*. The fourth topic Troy won. The 2nd and 3rd were probably drawn.



First topic — The fate of the dead

Rutherford probably got the upper hand in the first topic, on what the Bible says about the fate of the dead, although Troy made some points still not properly addressed by JWs.

Rutherford's chief arguments for the unconsciousness of the dead, for example, came from *Job* and *Ecclesiastes*. Troy pointed out that not everything in the Bible — especially in those two books — is the mind of God and that part of the Bible is a divine record of human, and even Satanic, ideas.

Job was ignorant about the state of the dead. (Job 38:17) Regarding *Ecclesiastes* — that book presents what a human researcher would conclude from observing the world around him. To quote *Ecclesiastes* to support the unconsciousness of the dead is therefore to quote what is humanly observed. (1:12-18; 3:18-21) For example "the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same" (3:19) is what is observed, but this observation disagrees with the doctrine of the resurrection.

Observation does not give the whole truth. In Chapter 12 *Ecclesiastes* goes beyond mere observation by stating, "the spirit returns to God who gave it" and "Man returns to his eternal home." JWs get around this by redefining "spirit", giving definitions that are not in the Bible, and redefining the concept of "return".

TRUE AND FAITHFUL ONES

Rutherford's description of persons who obeyed him and sold his books:

> The true and faithful ones have responded to the Lord's commandment… This obedience they have rendered with joy and in great peace. (Preparation 1933, 138-139)

TRUE CHRISTIANITY

The concept of "true Christianity" is limited by the JWs leaders to:

1. Their own religion and its doctrinal changes since 1870;
2. First-century Christianity;
3. A few thousand unidentified, theoretical individuals who lived between 100 AD and the 1870s.

Although 4th-century Arianism opposed the Trinity doctrine, Arianism "was not true Christianity". (w1984 8/1 24) JWs, however, have never identified true Christianity in the 4th century, or stated who practiced it — even though claiming "true Christianity" existed from Christ to the present.

(See also: *TRUE RELIGION*)

TRUE CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

A phrase JWs limit to the publications of the WTS. All other religious publications are "designed to deceive".

TRUE CHRISTIANS

JWs believe they are the only "true Christians"; all other denominations are composed of "false Christians".

Even the Russellites of 1919 with their thousands of now-rejected interpretations were "true and faithful Christians". (Yearbook 1979, 108-109)

The Russellites of 1879 with even more beliefs no longer taught — including miraculous healing, the second coming of Jesus in 1874, ascension to heaven in 1881, the "time of the end" 1799-1914, and belief in the Trinity to name a few — were "a little body of true Christians". (Divine Purpose 1959, 21)

When churches make mistakes JWs call them "hypocrites", "false religion" and "apostates". When JWs writers make mistakes or teach rubbish-doctrines, and falsely claim it's from God, they are "true Christians".

TRUE DOCTRINE
Every JWs doctrine whether true or false, past or present, is to JWs "true doctrine".

TRUE FAITH
Religious actions inspired or motivated by JWs doctrines represent "true faith".

TRUE FAITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (TFJWS)
An East European JWs schism which rejected the WTS and Governing Body after Communism collapsed in 1990.

At their International Congress in Romania in 1992 where 3000 members from six former Soviet Union countries attended, they declared they were "making known the pure truth" in which the WTS-led JWs were unfaithful.

At their 1993 International Congress the Resolution adopted by 3500 stated in part: "We disapprove the religion and compromised work of Watchtower Society from Brooklyn…" And in 1997 they declared: "the Religion Jehovah's Witnesses…defames Jehovah's name…"

TFJWs are estimated at 5,000 to 100,000. Rumania has the largest number estimated at up to 35,000. Smaller numbers are in Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Western Europe and North America.

TFJWs preached JWs doctrines underground during the Nazi era and the Cold War but failed to keep up with new "truth" published in the Brooklyn JWs headquarters. With communication re-established in 1990 they realized that many doctrines had been changed and much of the "truth" that they were persecuted for, and even died for, was now error. They concluded that the Governing Body and WTS had abandoned "true faith", compromised, apostatized, led JWs astray, and betrayed their East European brethren.

TFJWs perceived JWs as morally lax, overindulgent in wine and parties, permissive of child abuse, and hypocrites for denouncing the UN despite having signed up as a non-government Organization. (See: *UNITED NATIONS*)

They still use WBTS publications published up to 1961 including Rutherford material, and reprint and study his books. They view Jehovah and Jesus as the superior authorities (Romans 13:1), a doctrine JWs revised in 1962, and denounce big business, government and religion. They believe in a soon-occurring Armageddon followed by a new Earth where a "great crowd" will live in paradise ruled by Jesus and a "little flock".

The lawless man of sin

The Watchtower (1930 9/1 268) discusses II Thessalonians 2:10-12 concerning "the lawless one" or "man of sin" and says, "this class of wilful resisters will be condemned by Jehovah God." (p.268)

On the same topic, The *Watchtower* (1930 10/1 292) says:

> The "man of sin" by his course of action "opposed and exalted himself on high against every one called God". (*Rotherham*) This he does by putting himself above what God's commandments require. He puts himself above Jesus Christ and exempts himself from being God's witness. Jesus was and is the Faithful and True Witness of Jehovah, and he has committed a portion of the testimony to his faithful followers and commands them to go forth and give a witness. The opposers set themselves up above Jesus Christ, refuse to obey the commandments and to bear the reproaches that came upon Jesus. They refuse to be "subject unto the higher powers", to wit, Jehovah and Jesus and the inspired apostles who set forth the commandments to God's people; and claim that "the higher powers" has reference to the governments of Satan's world. They are thus deceived and deceive themselves. - Matt. 10:24; Rom. 13:1.

JWs revised this doctrine of "the higher powers" in 1962 and identified the "higher powers" as "the governments of Satan's world".

TFJWs point out that this revision makes JWs fit the words of the *The Watchtower* — "opposers [who] set themselves up above Christ … and … deceive themselves."

Freedom and structure

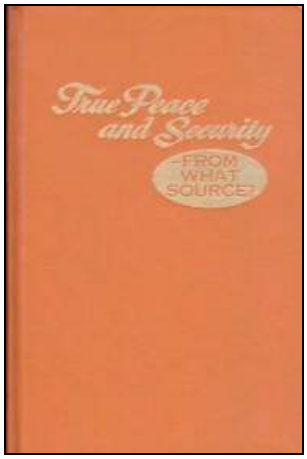
TFJWs permit more freedom of conscience and dissent than JWs do, and more readily dialogue with dissidents. Preaching is encouraged but not compelled. Preaching is

directed at family, friends, and the public in streets and parks. The house-to-house method is employed infrequently.

TFJWs are structured like the main organization with congregations, circuits, and pioneers. "Elders" are older men respected in their congregation but not appointed by a centralized hierarchy. There are no formal committees that judge and disfellowship — each congregation decides for itself who can stay and who must leave.

Blood transfusions and tobacco are preached against but non-conformity is not enforced with excommunication. Internet photos of TFJW conventions show women wearing head coverings.

TRUE PEACE AND SECURITY FROM WHAT SOURCE (1973)



An official WTS book which offers peace of mind in this world and peace in everything in the New World which is just ahead. It teaches that only God's Kingdom can bring world peace — other religions are false, often giving "contradictory, hate-filled leadership" — and to survive requires serving God the JWs way.

The book implies that the "New World" of peace would eventuate in the 20th century:

> But when are these things to take place? When is Christ given power to rule as king and to proceed with the separating of all nations? The facts show that <u>these are things that God has done in the twentieth century</u>. Christ is already on his heavenly throne and <u>the separating work is now nearing its completion</u>. The time left in which you can identify yourself as being on Jehovah's side of the issue of universal sovereignty is very short. The "great tribulation" is near at hand! (p.71)

In 1993 a new interpretation of Matthew 25 taught that "the separating work" which in 1973 was "now nearing completion" had not even started! The so-called "Bible truth" of JWs is unreliable and frequently changed! [See the entry *SHEEP AND GOATS*]

Page 73 says: "It [God's Word] describes events of this twentieth century." Then follows the calculation for 1914 plus their usual story about wars and pestilences since 1914 and the claim: "Have these prophecies found that greater, **complete fulfillment in this twentieth century?** … Without a doubt, we live in the generation of which Jesus spoke." (pp 80, 84)

The "this generation" doctrine was changed in 1995, and around 2010 became two generations! Phrases such as "without a doubt" reflect a bombastic attitude when there is plenty of doubt! Armageddon in the 20th century failed also!

TRUE RELIGION

WTS publications claim there is just "one true religion" and one "true Christianity" — and that the one "true faith" is JWs.

For example *Awake!* (2008, March) asks "Is There One True Religion?" and quotes Jesus:

> "But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants." (John 4:23)
>
> "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31)
>
> "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do." (Matthew 7:21-23)

Additional arguments often presented are:

- God, in the Bible, dealt with people through one system of authority — the Patriarchs, Moses, the Temple and priests, Jesus, and finally the Apostles and Christian elders — with worshippers united around each such authority;
- JWs are more moral than other religions;
- JWs abstain from politics;

- JWs "love one another" by abstaining from war;
- JWs reject the Trinity and teach that the dead will return to life by means of a future resurrection;
- JWs have examined the Scriptures like the Beroeans and found JWs beliefs to be correct (Acts 17:10-12).

In response to such JWs arguments, note that:

- The Bible does **not** present all acceptable worshippers of God as united in belief around one authority, except the authority of God, but is otherwise full of exceptions. The patriarch Abraham paid tithes to the priest Melchizedek; prophets were often in conflict with the priests; the disciples were often rebuked by Jesus; Paul approved of Christ being preached even if out of rivalry and in error (Philippians 1:15-18); and many people will get salvation even though not associated with a Christian denomination — Matthew 25:41-46; Romans 2:15-16.

- JWs are not necessarily more moral. A list of 20,000 paedophiles (See *CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE)*, hundreds of news reports about JWs criminals, and testimonies of people who left JWs for ethical reasons prove otherwise.

- Total abstinence from politics is not taught in the Bible — Paul the Apostle "appealed to Caesar", and Moses with Israel's Priesthood combined religion and government. The JWs goal of world government, centred on their WTS and Governing Body, is as political as politics gets.

- Sometimes "love" requires conflict to curtail people who oppress others.

- JWs claim the dead go to heaven — the difference is that JWs claim only 144,000 go to heaven and have been resurrected to heaven since 1918 (previously they claimed 1878).

- If JWs have found all their beliefs correct after "examining the scriptures", and "understand" and "know" the "truth", why did they preach numerous false predictions and false interpretations involving every major doctrine — thousands of discrepant interpretations? (See *DATES; ERROR, FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*) The truth is that no JWs have ever confirmed all their doctrines as correct. Charles Taze Russell's religion is among the most divisive in history. False prophecies, pyramidology and continually-changing "truth" split it into scores of cults.

TRUE WISDOM

Watchtower Library CD (2007) lists 222 occurrences of the phrase "True wisdom". True wisdom is whatever the JW leaders published in the WBTS publications or publicly voice at their religious conventions. *The Watchtower* and *Consolation* magazines of the 1930s, for example, contained "true wisdom". (Yearbook 1975, 162)

No exceptions are listed so as to exclude the failed predictions for more than 20 dates and thousands of revisions in doctrine — apparently all of it is "true wisdom".

TRUE WORSHIP

All religious activity advocated by the JWs leaders in word or print via the WBTS is "true worship".

Russellism until 1918 and Rutherfordism after 1918 are also "true worship" despite thousands of differences from current doctrine.

After 1918 there was supposedly a "vigorous restoration of true worship. (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 317) The fact that much, or even most "true worship" of 1918 was discarded by the 1950s makes no difference — it's still "true worship".

TRUMPETS

Russell alleged that the seven "trumpets" of Revelation 8-9 represented long time-periods. The 7th trumpet for example represented and covered the entire millennial age. (Studies II, 149)

In 1930 Rutherford's revision of the "trumpets" interpreted the trumpets as the major WBTS tract distributions in the seven years from 1922 to 1928.

TRUST IN JEHOVAH

A phrase which to JWs means that what the WTS publishes should be believed and acted on without doubting or questioning anything.

The Bible distinguishes "Trust in Jehovah" (Proverbs 3:5) from placing one's trust in man. (Psalm 146:3) JWs leaders don't maintain this distinction. (w1988 1/22 16-22) With them "trust in Jehovah" is equivalent to trust in Rutherford, Knorr, Franz, the WBTS, and the Governing Body.

TRUTH BOOK

Abbreviation for the book, *The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life* (1968).

TRUTH HUNGRY
People who accept the JWs religion are "truth hungry". (w1985 3/1 12)

TRUTH, NEW
"New truth" can refer to revised teachings that replace previous JWs belief or to a doctrine

that is completely new.

TRUTH PEOPLE
A designation the Russellites applied to themselves.

TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, THE (1943)
An official WBTS covering basic JWs doctrine.

This book introduced new chronology that made 6,000 years from the creation of Adam and Eve end in 1972 instead of 1872.

TRUTH THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE, THE (1968; 1981)
With this book the JWs introduced a "six month Bible study" program. The "Truth book" was pocket size and presented JWs doctrines more concisely, systematically and simply than previous WTS books.

Rapid sales averaging one million per month for five years resulted in JWs calling it "the blue bomb". *Awake!* May 22, 1981, reported a printing of 100 million in 115 languages.

Date	Months in circulation	Languages	Copies Millions
9/1969	15	15	18.5
9/1971	39	70	41
9/1973	63	85	63
9/1975	75	95	70
9/1977	99	101	84
9/1979	123	112	95
9/1981	147	115	101
9/1983	171	115	103

The first edition heightened anticipation for Armageddon in 1975 with a 1960 quote from a US Secretary of State, "…in fifteen years from today, this world is going to be too dangerous to live in." (p.9) The revised 1981 edition omits "fifteen years" and says: "…it was his conclusion that 'soon this world is going to be too dangerous to live in.'"

Regarding people who saw 1914 and "still remember those events" the book says: "Some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system." (p.95)

That prediction is a false prophecy because the youngest of those people are now (in 2023) about 120 years old — in other words every last one of them is dead. They died, deceived by false predictions, and none lived to see Armageddon and paradise.

Despite their ever-changing doctrines and failing prophecies JWs don't recognize the "need" expressed on page 13: "We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated."

Any JW who genuinely does "examine what we personally believe" would be disfellowshipped (excommunicated).

TRUTH, THE
1. A designation for the JWs religion — "I've been in the truth for five years" is equivalent to "I've been a Witness for five years."
2. A designation for everything JWs teach.

TRUTH, THE
A phrase the JWs leaders apply to all their religious writings past and present.

The phrase has long been popular, occurring in *The Watchtower* of 1930, for example, 438 times and in 1940 209 times. The Watch Library 2007 CD lists the phrase "the truth" 10,095 times.

Russellism was "truth", "present truth", "the truth", and "Bible truth":

> The clergy, trying to stem the tide of **Truth**, to uphold an effete ecclesiasticism tottering to its fall, put every restraint on the influence of Pastor Russell… Church members have been urged to get rid of every scrap of paper bearing the Message of **Present Truth**; the **Truth** has been preached against in practically every church in the English, German and Swedish speaking world; people have been warned against reading the **Truth**; **Truth** people have been discharged or refused employment… Neither Pastor Russell nor his fellow-believers were permitted to utter the **Bible Truth** before the congregations of ecclesiasticism. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 390)

In the *1984 Yearbook* pp 36-41 Russellism is labelled "truth" 15 times even though JWs have altered about 70% of Russell's doctrines and now ignore all of his prophecies. (See: *ERROR*)

Current JWs belief is called "truth" or synonyms thereof about 1000 times annually in WTS publications, occasionally ten or more on one page. (e.g. w1982 3/1 29; w1984 9/1 24)

Variety is added with such phrases as "Bible truth", "God's truth", "grand truth", "Kingdom truth", "Jehovah's truth", "light of truth", "marvelous truth", "powerful truth", "Scriptural truth", "spiritual truth", "truth that sets people free", "wonderful truth", etc. Synonyms of "truth" include "right", "correct", "education", "Bible education", "divine teaching", "divine instruction", "word of God", etc.

Repetition to a captive audience banned from reading contrary writings is indoctrination. By repeatedly reading and hearing that all WTS publications contain Bible truth and the truth, many JWs actually believe it and may feel terribly betrayed when "Bible truth" "revealed" by God becomes error.

The Governing Body promotes the idea that JWs suffer "persecution" because they preach the truth:

> Jehovah's witnesses of today herald forth the same message of truth and meet up with the same opposition, because the truth concerning Jehovah's kingdom is not according to the teachings of the governments of this world. (Yearbook 1946, 5)

JWs who reject any of their so-called "truth" are called "apostates" (as are all people in other religions). JWs leaders do not respond to books exposing JWs errors. They dismiss them in general terms, tell followers not to read them, and repeat that JWs have the truth:

> …some turn away from the **Word of God** and its **healthful teaching**. We have been forewarned that there will be apostates and people who just like to have their ears tickled… allow no room for associating with those who turn away from **the truth**. Nor do we purchase or read their writings. There are many others who love to hear **the truth**, and it is with these that we have our Christian association. (w1984 12/15 19)

JWs leaders never admit their false prophecies or the certainty they had attached to them. (See: *DATES*) They don't admit to discarding the content of almost entire books although still calling them "truth" — e.g. *Three Worlds*; *The Finished Mystery*) Yet the leaders sometimes publish taunts about JWs children making Christian pastors retreat, "Being defeated by Bible truths." (w1984 12/1 20)

Sometimes JWs leaders distinguish "truth" from "fundamental truth" and claim that only the former needed adjusting:

> There is no change or difference in any of the **fundamental truths** but the difference relates to a clearer vision God has given his people. (w1931 11/1 327)

However, to JWs the Kingdom is a "fundamental" doctrine! So also is (or was) the nature of God whether unity or trinity; the return of Christ; the inspiration of the Great Pyramid; Judgment; Restoration; the cessation of miraculous healing; vaccination being against the law of God; the 1914 generation as the last generation; identification of the "faithful slave"; separation of the "sheep and goats"; Armageddon's occurrence in the 20th century; etc. JWs leaders have since 1875 amended these and many other major doctrines. For almost 50 years, for example, they taught the "fundamental" truth that the invisible kingdom was set up in 1878.

The notion of "fundamental truth" introduces problems of weighting. The New Testament does not list truths in order of importance with instructions on which "truths" can be discarded or changed. The Bible does not teach that God's truth can be changed by human whim, yet the JWs leaders keep altering their "truth" according to their own desires while claiming:

> The religion that is approved by God must agree <u>in all its details</u> with the Bible. (The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life 1968, 14)

Another WTS argument is:

> …those who have once had a measure of truth and then oppose the work the Lord is doing by the Society become entirely blind to the <u>truth that God is giving his people</u> at the present time. (w1942 9/1 268)

The reverse is often the case. Defectors often become less "blind" and know more about JWs than people who remain in the sect. Furthermore, much of the "truth" given at that time, around 1940, by "God" was revised after World War II. For example, the "truth", that the ancient "worthies" "may be expected back

from the dead any day now" (The New World 1942, p.104) was false.

In Logic the distinction of truth and falsity applies to individual statements. For example, the following statement is either true or false: "At that time [i.e. 1925] the earthly phase of the kingdom shall be recognized." (Millions 1920, 92)

Clearly this particular statement is false since **nobody** recognized the "earthly phase of the kingdom" in 1925. To lump it together with thousands of other statements, some true and many false, and call the entire set "truth" is misleading.

The Bible commands Christians "Do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:9), but the Governing Body does not take this seriously.

TUESDAY MEETING

Now discontinued the official "Book Study" was usually held on Tuesday evenings usually in private homes.

(See: *MEETINGS*)

TUNISIA

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	34	132,000		
1975	41	109,000		
1980	59	110,000	92	70,700
1985	48	149,000	91	78,600
1990	37	219,000	83	97,600

TURKEY

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1947	6			
1950	60			
1960	c.400			
1970	c.600			
1980	857	53,509	1,349	33,994
1985	805	62,112	1,262	39,620
1990	912	60,307	1,692	32,506
1995	1,229	48,820	2,409	24,907
2000	1,594	42,660	2,864	23,743
2005	1,765	38,416	3,287	20,628
2010	2,074	34,474	3,862	18,513
2015	2,611	29,759	4,546	17,092
2018	3,506	23,049	6,275	12,878
	Ave.			
2019	3,933	21,213	7,786	10,715
2020	4,667	18,071	8,658	9,741
2021	4,994	17,029	9,309	9,136
2022	5,304	16,132	9,244	9,256
2023	5,545	15,502	8,873	9,687
2024	4,954	17,223	8,239	10,362
2025	4,345	19,716	7,447	11,503

TURKS & CAICOS

Publishers and Memorial attendance on Turks & Caicos Islands (located in the Caribbean north of Haiti) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1980	28	273	91	84
1985	34	235	108	74
1990	72	194	238	59
1995	110	136	499	30
2000	142	123	439	40
2005	137	150	366	56
2010	273	84	1,188	19
2015	340	101	1,060	32
2018	338	107	985	37
	Ave.			
2019	333	114	1,141	33
2020	338	115	782	50
2021	337	116	1,150	34
2022	319	125	976	41
2023	329	122	1,024	39
2024	329	149	914	54
2025	345	148	1,018	50

TURNING POINT

WTS publications occasionally call 1914 a "turning point". They quote journalists, politicians or a historian — who employ the same phrase:

> In addition to the features of the composite sign of Christ Jesus' presence, there is Bible chronology that pointed to 1914 as the beginning of his presence. Jehovah's Witnesses published the date 1914 as a significant year in the development of Jehovah's Kingdom rule of the earth, doing so in the *Watch Tower* magazine of July 1879. Many historians and observers of world affairs have noted that the year 1914 ushered in an entirely different and significant period in human history, as the accompanying box indicates...
>
> With this prospect ahead, no wonder many have such eagerness for Jehovah's new world of righteousness to hurry up and replace this old one filled with sorrow, crime, sickness, and death! No wonder their eagerness is so great that

they are prone to set early dates for its arrival! Now, however, there are not just bits and pieces of the sign of its incoming to tempt us into sounding false alarms. Now we can see the complete composite sign unfolding to give solid foundation for our eager expectation of this wicked world's end and Jehovah's new world to supplant it.

1914—A Turning Point in History

EVEN after a second world war, many refer to 1914 as the great turning point in modern history:

"It is indeed the year 1914 rather than that of Hiroshima which marks the turning point in our time."—René Albrecht-Carrié, *The Scientific Monthly,* July 1951.

"Ever since 1914, everybody conscious of trends in the world has been deeply troubled by what has seemed like a fated and predetermined march toward ever greater disaster. Many serious people have come to feel that nothing can be done to avert the plunge towards ruin."—Bertrand Russell, *The New York Times Magazine,* September 27, 1953.

"The modern era . . . began in 1914, and no one knows when or how it will end. . . . It could end in mass annihilation."—*The Seattle Times,* January 1, 1959.

"The whole world really blew up about World War I and we still don't know why. . . . Utopia was in sight. There was peace and prosperity. Then everything blew up. We've been in a state of suspended animation ever since."—Dr. Walker Percy, *American Medical News,* November 21, 1977.

"In 1914 the world lost a coherence which it has not managed to recapture since. . . . This has been a time of extraordinary disorder and violence, both across national frontiers and within them."—*The Economist,* London, August 4, 1979.

"Everything would get better and better. This was the world I was born in. . . . Suddenly, unexpectedly, one morning in 1914 the whole thing came to an end."—British statesman Harold Macmillan, *The New York Times,* November 23, 1980

(g1993 3/22 10-11)

The fact is that the early JWs, the Russellites, did not predict a "turning point" or a "significant year" in 1914-1915 but the destruction of all nations and religions, the restoration of Israel, and the physical resurrection of the ancient Bible prophets who would rule the world in peace in 1915. Every prediction failed.

Secondly, the few people who speak of a "turning point" certainly do not have the Russellite predictions in mind.

Thirdly, there are "turning points" all the time. Some are great political events such as the rise of democracy in 1788 or the atomic bomb (1945). Others are discoveries by scientists such as the harnessing of electricity, vaccinations or antibiotics.

And that's why advocating a certain year as a decisive turning point bar none is nonsense, because something that no one at the time noticed, such as a discovery in a laboratory, can over time have more influence even than a world war!

WWII killed 60 million people, but vaccinations and antibiotics have let extra **billions** survive infancy and/or live longer as adults! In this numerical sense the smallpox vaccine discovered by Edward Jenner (1749-1843) appears to be a greater turning point than WWII. Such assessments, however, are quite subjective. JWs merely bring up the turning-point concept so as to find something correct in Russell's predictions when in fact every prediction for every date was false.

TUVALU

Publishers and Memorial attendance on the Tuvalu Islands (SW Pacific) and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1980	17	441	106	71
1985	31	265	99	83
1990	50	180	170	53
1995	55	164	189	48
2000	58	162	136	69
2005	62	152	109	86
2010	67	185	251	49
2015	86	115	247	40
2018	88	129	224	51
	Ave.			
2019	79	152	221	54
2020	69	174	194	62
2021	63	190	305	39
2022	49	245	210	57
2023	50	240	202	59
2024	57	175	222	45
2025	64	156	215	46

TVEITI, DORTE (1965-)
Author of *Assaults — He Stole My Childhood* (2003) published in Denmark.

Tveiti says her JW father sexually abused her from age 3 until her teens and she even had his baby which he killed. She claims that four other elders in the congregation also raped children.

Such claims, at the time, seemed unbelievable. They gained credibility when the Royal Commission in Australia found that the WTS in Australia received over 1006 reports of child abuse of JWs children since 1950 but none were reported to the police! (See: *ROYAL COMMISSION*)

TWELTH APOSTLE
Russell argued that the 12th apostle, the one who replaced Judas the traitor, was Mathias. (Studies VI, 208-11) Rutherford agreed. (w1927 11/15 350-351)

However, the "light" got brighter and Franz argued that Paul and not Mathias was the 12th. (w1944 6/1 168-71; w1951 12/8 763-764) We read: "He [Paul] unquestionably became the twelfth." (g1957 8/22 25)

In 1971 the "unquestionable" was changed and the twelfth apostle again became Mathias. (w1971 5/15)

TWENTIETH CENTURY
The Watchtower Library CD (2007) which contains *The Watchtower* from 1950 and most other WTS publications from 1970 lists almost 1100 references to the "twentieth century" as follows:

- twentieth century 904
- in our twentieth century 37
- in the twentieth century 153
- within our twentieth century 1

Let God Be True (1946; 1952) implied Armageddon must occur by 2000 AD. *The Nations Shall Know that I am Jehovah—How?* (1971), states plainly "within our twentieth century". (p.216) Furthermore:

> 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 19)

Awake! 1961

In the article "The 20TH Century In Bible Prophecy", *Awake!* magazine stated:

> Those who look to the Bible in hope of finding encouraging facts about the future should not be surprised to find critical times included in its **forecast for the twentieth century**. Wars, food shortages, earthquakes, increase in crime and a collapse in morals are all prophesied for this generation. But then it also speaks of a group of people preaching about the righteous kingdom of God, a war of God against all wickedness, followed by a paradise without death—all to be realized in the twentieth century… (p.5)
>
> …more than 15,000 are preaching every minute of every day about this kingdom. What kingdom? The kingdom of God that is to crush all present kingdoms of men. (Dan. 2:44) That now-operating kingdom in heaven will, within the twentieth century, cleanse the entire earth of wickedness… (p.7)
>
> Can you not see that the twentieth century is the century indicated by the prophetic language of Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, and 2 Timothy 3? Since, according to 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40, God does everything by order and arrangement, is it not only logical that whatever else is recorded in these above-mentioned Bible chapters must also come upon the twentieth century? If so, then *What* Is *Ahead?* … (pp 7-8)
>
> Revelation 16:16 calls it the "war of the great day of God the Almighty," Armageddon. This war will come in the twentieth century. It will come right on schedule, as have the wars, food shortages, earthquakes and other events foretold. This generation will see its fulfillment… (p.8)
>
> Final advice for those living in the twentieth century is given by Jesus himself: "Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that you may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, *and to hold your position* before the Son of man."—Luke 21:36… (p.8)
>
> Now is no time to be applying yourself to fruitless endeavors in this doomed world. Now is the time to heed Bible prophecy concerning the twentieth century and live forever in the sunshine of God's new world. (p.8)

False predictions attract converts and produce wealth for the WTS

Predictions of Armageddon within the 20th century motivated people to drop out of high school, donate money, become "pioneers", "volunteer" their labour, and postpone or avoid marriage and child-rearing.

Despair followed when many victims realized they were purposely given false hope, purposely misled. (See: *JOY*) Many defected but are then exploited in another way by the JWs leaders claiming that their defection fulfils prophecy and is proof of the activity of Satan! In this way defection due to failed prophecy becomes useful to instil the fear of Satan into others, making them more zealous!

(See also: *DEFECTION; TRUE PEACE AND SECURITY—FROM WHAT SOURCE? TWO THOUSAND AD*)

TWISTED THINKING

A phrase JWs use to describe people who believe differently to them, especially ex JWs, but also governments, and the clergy.

TWO THOUSAND CE

The year 2000 CE was the limit by which Armageddon and the "New World" had to occur and this was taught as Jehovah's interpretation:

> Shortly within our twentieth century, the "battle in the day of Jehovah" will begin against the modern anti type of Jerusalem, Christendom. (The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah – How? 1971 p.216)

To JWs the "battle in the day of Jehovah" is Armageddon. It is the destruction by the forces of nature, divided humankind, and angels of God of all non-JWs. This implied the death of over 99% of people by 2000 CE.

Chapter 7 of *True Peace and Security — From What Source?* (1973) gives the JWs interpretation of Luke 21 — about wars and pestilences, etc. after 1914 — and says:

> It [God's Word] describes events of this twentieth century. (p.73)
> Have these prophecies found that greater, complete fulfillment in this twentieth century?… Without a doubt, we live in the generation of which Jesus spoke. (pp 80 & 84)

Let God be True

The prophecy of Armageddon by 2000 CE began in 1945 in the article *The Kingdom Sabbath and Its Lord*. (w1945 2/15 51-60) The same material appeared in the two editions of *Let God Be True* (1946; 1952) in the chapter *The Sabbath: In Shadow and Reality*.

Chapter 7 of *Let God Be True* (1946) says that each of the seven days of creation was 7,000 years long. In particular: "Man being created toward the close of the sixth day, he was put on earth toward the end of 42,000 years of earth's preparation." (p.155)

God's "seventh day" of rest continues 7000 years. (p.165)

Also the 1000-year reign of Christ (the Millennium) corresponds to the last 1000 years of the 7000 years of God's rest. (pp 167-169) So when did the 7000 years of rest begin? On page 165 it is claimed that the 7000-year rest, "began applying over 4000 years before Christ."

Ignoring the question of there being no year "0" it follows that 6000 years will be completed by 6000 – 4000 = 2000.

Page 166 says that the 1000-year reign of Christ will start "immediately" after Armageddon. Therefore Armageddon also had to be over by 2000.

Connection with 1975

When *Let God Be True* was published, JWs believed that Adam was created in 4028 BCE. This date is not given in *Let God Be True* but appears in *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1943 p.152). In the 1950s the year of Adam's creation was changed to 4026 BCE.

Adding 6000 years to 4026 BC and allowing for there not being a year "0" results in 1975.

However, the 7000-year rest started, according to JWs, after Eve was created. But 4026 BCE is the year of Adam's creation. If, for example, Eve was created two years after Adam then 6000 years into God's 7000 year rest would end in 1977. But Armageddon had to be over before the end of 6000 years of God's rest — but we are not told how long before.

Because of these two unknowns — how long Eve's creation delayed after Adam's and how long before end of 6000 years from Eve's creation Armageddon would strike — JWs did not at first predict 1975 with certainty. A common phrase JWs used was "the mid 1970s."

Adam and Eve created in the same-year

Then *The Watchtower* (1968 5/1 271) and *Awake!* (1968 10/8 14) and *Aid To Bible Understanding* (1971 p.538) said that Adam and Eve were **created in the same year**, 4026 BC.

The Watchtower 1968 May 1 states:

> Thus, Adam's naming of the animals and his realizing that he needed a counterpart would have occupied only a brief time after his creation. Since it was also Jehovah's purpose for man to multiply and fill the earth, it is logical that he would create Eve soon after Adam, perhaps just a few weeks or months later in the same year, 4026 B.C.E. After her creation, God's rest day, the seventh period, immediately followed.
>
> Therefore, God's seventh day and the time man has been on earth apparently run parallel. To calculate where man is in the stream of time relative to God's seventh day of 7,000 years, we need to determine how long a time has elapsed from the year of Adam and Eve's creation in 4026 B.C.E. From the autumn of that year to the autumn of 1 B.C.E., there would be 4,025 years. From the autumn of 1 B.C.E. to the autumn of 1 C.E. is one year (there was no zero year). From the autumn of 1 C.E. to the autumn of 1967 is a total of 1,966 years. Adding 4,025 and 1 and 1,966, we get 5,992 years from the autumn of 4,026 B.C.E. to the autumn of 1967. Thus, eight years remain to account for a full 6,000 years of the seventh day. Eight years from the autumn of 1967 would bring us to the autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day. (p.271)

This removed one of the two uncertainties. It followed that Armageddon had to be over, and paradise introduced in 1975.

When the deadline came and all the prophecies failed, it was announced that Adam and Eve were not created in the same year. (w1975 10/1 579)

This however left intact the prediction for, "within our twentieth century".

Our Twentieth Century

The main article in w1976 3/1 was *God's Mercy To Mankind In Our Twentieth Century*. The article says that God's Mercy included "a righteous peaceful new order here on earth":

> Really, then, we can consider our personal existence today as being an evidence of God's mercy, can we not? Yes, "mercy" despite all the violence and increase of lawlessness that mark our twentieth century**.** But now the question is: How much longer is God going to put up with this wickedness on a global scale just for the sake of those taking advantage of his patience and mercy? Not much longer, according to all Bible indications. So, let us not complain about divine permission of evil on earth. Rather, let us avail ourselves of divine mercy. If we do so, then, shortly, when God stops all the wickedness prevailing among mankind, he will not stop our living also. Mercifully He will usher us into a righteous, peaceful new order here on earth. (p.145)

The subsequent article "God's Mercy On Display At Har-Magedon" continues the theme and predicts Christendom's destruction and the "mercy that Jehovah will display" to JWs by saving them through "Har-Mageddon". The article speaks of the "near future", "approaching" and "impending" — but, recall that the main heading is "God's Mercy To Mankind In Our Twentieth Century".

Awake! (1986 11/8) reported interviews with JWs teenagers and the year 2000 got mentioned repeatedly. For example:

> For the year 2000, I visualize a world transformed into a beautiful paradise! But I don't think that either the present world or its rulers will live to see that day… We are living in the last days of the system of things. (pp 7-8)

Awake! explained:

> The Scriptures call this short period preceding God's intervention "the time of the end" and specify that it will not last longer than a "generation."… Since the "generation" of 1914 is now well advanced in years, God's promise is really up-to-date news for young people today.

The prophecy of Armageddon in the 20th century continued until time proved it false:

> 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)
>
> How many will accept the invitation? John's vision recorded in Revelation 7:9 had to become a reality. He saw "a great

> crowd which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands." With confidence in the vision's complete fulfillment during the decades of this 20th century the anointed remnant of the bride class have never let up in saying "Come!" Every effort has been made to broadcast the message to all nations. (Yearbook 1989, 3)
>
> The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for a work that would be concluded in our 20th century. (w1989 1/1 12)

The quotes from the *Yearbook* and the 1989 *Watchtower* imply that the preaching will be completed in the 20th century. And every JW knows that the end of the preaching coincides with the eruption of "the great tribulation" and "Armageddon".

The 1989 *Watchtower* quote is from the single-issue printing of *The Watchtower*. In the bound volume reprint the quote is changed to: "He was also laying a foundation for a work that would be completed in our day."

Despite this revision, the prophecy "in our 20th century" remained official doctrine, which we'll see next:

This generation

The final generation was first clearly linked to 1914 in the 1940s. Later there were quotes like:

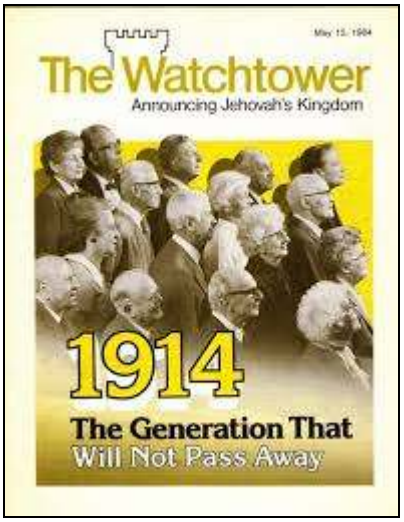
> Even if we presume that youngsters 15 years of age would be perceptive enough to realize the import of what happened in 1914, it would still make the youngest of "this generation" nearly 70 years old today. (g1968 10/8 13-14)

This doctrine and prophecy was taught as "the Creator's promise". Beginning in January 1982 and stopping in 1995 the inside front cover of *Awake!* had the claim:

> Most importantly, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that saw the events of 1914 C.E. passes away.

The front cover of w1984 5/15 shows 16 elderly JWs belonging to the "Generation That Will Not Pass Away".

A copy of this cover page is on the Worldwide Web with the names of the sixteen superimposed, and the dates they died. All sixteen have pass away! In fact the entire generation, all of the 1.5 billion people who witnessed 1914 and WWI, have passed away!



w1984 5/15

In 1995 this promise was revised to:

> Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things. (g1995 11/8)

This revision was made because in 1995 the definition of "generation" was changed. The last "generation" no longer referred to the **lifespan** of people born long enough before World War I to observe 1914 with understanding but referred to all people living between World War I and Armageddon. In discussing this revision *The Watchtower* said:

> Does our more precise viewpoint on "this generation" mean that Armageddon is further away than we had thought? Not at all! (w1995 11/1 20)

If Armageddon is not "further away than we had thought" it follows that the prophecy — that people old enough to see 1914 "with understanding" would live to see Armageddon "within our twentieth century" — was still valid. Armageddon would still come by 2000 AD! The deceitful, pompous, twaddle of the JWs leaders never ceases! They lack humility!

In harmony with God — Infallible

JWs leaders claim that their Organization is "the only organization on earth that

understands the 'deep things of God'." (w1973 7/1 402) They call their understanding "true religion" and say of true religion: "…its teachings must **all** be in harmony with God's word." (The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life 1968, 130) Nevertheless the stuff "in harmony with God's word" is endlessly altered!

Furthermore:

> Jehovah God is therefore the only Supreme Court of interpretation of His inspired word…
> To such remnant of faithful servants of Jehovah God Christ Jesus has entrusted all "his goods", or earthly interests of the Kingdom. This does not signify that the faithful remnant or society of Jehovah's anointed witnesses are an earthly tribunal of interpretation, delegated to interpret the Scriptures and its prophecies. No; Christ Jesus the King has not entrusted that them. THE SUPREME COURT STILL INTERPRETS, thank God; and Christ Jesus, the Court's official mouthpiece of interpretation, reserves to himself that office as head of Jehovah's "faithful and wise servant" class. He merely uses the "servant" class to publish the in interpretation after the Supreme Court by Christ Jesus reveals it. (w1943 7/1 202-203)

If the "Supreme Court Still Interprets", and is the infallible "Jehovah God", and the "servant class" merely publishes as "Christ reveals it", then what's published is infallible!

The "Creator's promise" regarding the I914 generation has already been discussed. That "promise" is also "Jehovah's prophetic word":

> Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: "This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur." (Luke 21:32) And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment… (w1984 5/15 6-7)

Clearly, the "Creator's promise" and "Jehovah's prophetic word" were wrong and JWs have presented their "Jehovah" as a liar!

TWO THOUSAND CE — IMPLICATION

Besides **plain** statements that Armageddon would occur by 2000 CE [see previous entry] WTS publications also contained many **hints** supporting that time frame.

The 1965 article titled *Our Own Twentieth-Century Generation and the Resurrection* said in part:

> A "great crowd"…will never go to Hades or Sheol and need to be resurrected. However, it will not be so with the "goat" class of our twentieth-century generation. At the destruction of Babylon the Great and in the Battle of Armageddon they will be executed with an everlasting punishment and will never be resurrected from the dead for they will go into the "second death." Consequently, at the beginning of Christ's millennial reign, there will be no "goat class" on hand to interfere with that righteous rule. (w1965 3/15 177)

Potentially "Our Own Twentieth-Century Generation" could be "executed" in the 21st century but if so one would expect some mention of the 21st-century generation.

Furthermore, to a JW of the 1960s the phrase "our generation" referred to people old enough to witness 1914 with understanding. "Our generation" and "this generation" therefore meant people born before 1905. A few references to "this generation" meaning pre-World-War I people are:

- *Awake!* 1966 October 8 p.18
- *Awake!* 1968 October 8 pp 13-14
- *The Watchtower* 1969 February 15 p.101
- *The Watchtower* 1974 June 15 p.359
- *Awake!* 1981 July 22 p.4

The main article of w1976 March 1 was *God's Mercy To Mankind In our Twentieth Century*. Keeping this heading in mind, consider:

> How much longer is God going to put up with this wickedness on a global scale just for the sake of those taking advantage of his patience and mercy? Not much longer according to Bible indications… **Mercifully** He will usher us into a righteous new order here on earth. (p.145

> …in our twentieth century, it [the destruction of Israel in 740 B.C.E.] is finding its fulfilment in the modern-day counterpart of the spiritually adulterous, unfaithful Israel. That counterpart is Christendom, with nearly a billion church members all around the globe. In the face of Christendom's impending calamity, we may ask, Where then, is the **mercy** of Jehovah God to be seen in operation? (p.150)

> God's **Mercy** On Display At Har-Mageddon (p.151)

> According to his **mercy** they [the remnant] expect to be saved at the approaching "war of the great day of God the Almighty" at Har-Mageddon, yes, to live through it to see his New Order start off. A "great crowd" of fellow worshippers, like the ancient Rechabites, also expect to share in God's **mercy** and to survive with the remnant. (p.157)

Consider also:

> At this late date, in the closing days of Christendom and all the rest of this doomed system of things, there is the greatest need for united action… Now, in our twentieth century, since the end of World War I, the words of Isaiah 52:8 have applied to Jehovah's dedicated people: "Listen! Your own watchmen have raised their voice… (w1981 2/1 25)

TWO THOUSAND A.D. — QUOTES

The following quotations though not directly predicting Armageddon to occur by 2000 CE demonstrate long-term preoccupation with that year:

Awake! Magazine

g1970 4/22 30 Watching the World
According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, room must be found for about 100,000,000 more Americans by the year 2000. The paper says: "In light of already severe environmental problems, such figures have prompted some scientists to circle a date on the calendar for an Armageddon sometime in the middle or latter years of this decade."

g1972 6/22 29 Watching the World
Having closely followed the Council and its aftermath, Dr. Martin, in his book Three Popes and the Cardinal, concludes: "Well before the year 2000, there will no longer be a religious institution recognizable as the Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church of today."

g1972 7/22 10 Will the "Green Revolution" Be Enough?
India's present population of some 570 million increases by about 14 million each year. Concerning this the New York Times says: "Unless the rate is reduced significantly India will have a billion people by the year 2000, far outstripping any increase in food output."

g1974 11/22 19-20 How Serious Are Shortages?
And a government official estimates that this deficit will reach 31 billion dollars by 1985, and 64 billion by the year 2000. All that must be made up by imports. And these estimates were made before the rampant inflation of prices in 1973 and 1974!

g1975 11/22 30 Watching the World
Wood scarcity also has necessitated greater use of dried cattle dung for fuel—diverting much-needed nutrients from the soil—at a rate of 300 million tons per year in India. "Even if we somehow grow enough food for our people in the year 2000," worries one Indian official, "how in the world will they cook it?"

g1978 11/22 14 Habitat Conference—A Hope for Mankind?
By the year 2000, if present trends continue there will actually be more city dwellers than rural in a world population of between six and seven billion. This startling change in human habitat gives rise to many gigantic problems.

g1979 10/22 14 World Population—Is It a Problem?
By the year 2000, a population of between six and eight billion is expected at present increase rates. The year 2000 is not so far away, is it?

g1979 11/22 21 Amazonia — Center of Controversy
"BRAZIL is on fire," exclaimed the Brazilian Special Environmental Secretary. Others join in his outcry. Reports about the possibility of the vast Amazon region being transformed into a "red desert" by the year 2000 have alarmed scientists, the common man and the Brazilian government.

g1980 1/22 23 What's Wrong with Nuclear Power?
Another deterrent to the growth of nuclear power is the fact that the supply of uranium is not unlimited. If the projected doubling of present capacity by 1985 is realized, the U.S. will be running short before the year 2000.

g1980 2/22 16 Are Christendom's Churches Losing Their Grip?
World War 1 struck the world like a lightning bolt. The Orthodox Church in Russia crumbled under the onslaught of Bolshevism. Communism lapped up other countries, determined to eliminate religion, which it called "the opium of the people." In view of all of this, Pope John Paul II recently raised these questions: "What is the destiny Our Lord has in store for his Church in the coming years? What direction will Mankind take while nearing the year 2000? These are burning questions and the only answer is: 'God knows.'"

g1980 6/8 7 The Unthinkable — Could It Happen?

For several days in May 1978, 30 scientists, military men and government advisers from 10 nations met in closed sessions in Toronto, Canada, to consider seriously the theme "The Danger of Nuclear War by the Year 2000."

g1982 12/8 3-4 The Fight Against Sickness
Although escaping death, many victims of disease become permanently disabled. In 1981 former UN secretary-general Kurt Waldheim warned that the present 400 million disabled people in the world could rise to 500 million by the year 2000. Does this mean, then, that science, with all its marvelous discoveries and progress, is actually losing the fight against sickness? What do the facts of our times show?

g1983 2/22 29 Watching the World
Today six countries, the United States, the U.S.S.R., France, Britain, China and India, have produced nuclear weapons. But by the year 2000 that number could grow to 31, claim U.S. military analysts in a special report to The New York Times.

g1983 4/8 3 How Can You Tell?
"If things go on as they are, by the year 2000 the world will be…"
PREDICTIONS of this sort have now become commonplace.

g1983 8/8 3 Our "Jewel in Space" — Is It in Trouble?
FAMINE. In some cities of underdeveloped countries, on many mornings street sweepers have to clean dead persons out of the gutters. Yes, starvation and malnutrition lead to death for millions each year. And the demand for food worldwide is expected to double by the year 2000, less than 17 years from now!

g1984 9/22 29 Watching the World
In 1977 a special United Nations conference mandated a program to halt the spread of deserts by the year 2000. But after six years, little progress has been made.

g1985 3/8 5 'Signs From Heaven' — A Cause for Gloom?
"Terribly effective weaponry could well be deployed in space by the year 2000, weaponry that can attack both satellites and space stations as well as targets here on Earth."

g1985 3/22 28 When Money Talks
By the year 1930, however, drastic changes could be seen in my purchasing power. My value had eroded to exactly half of what it was in 1908. As a one-dollar bill, I was now worth 50 cents. The inflation that concerned me and the deflation of my value that worried you was by now on an unstoppable course. By the year 1960, I had deflated to 28 cents. By 1982, nine cents. And by the year 2000, I am expected to shrivel to a mere four pennies.

g1986 3/122 11-12 The Marching Deserts — Will They Really Blossom as the Rose?
In 1980 UNEP estimated that it would cost about 90 billion dollars (U.S.) over 20 years, or about 4.5 billion dollars per year, to stop the spread of deserts by the year 2000. How serious do the experts consider this marching world of sand to be? "If the present march of desertification continues," said a representative of UNEP "by the year 2000 the situation will have become a global catastrophe."

g1986 11/8 4 Hopes and Fears of Today's Youth
Do hopes today stand a better chance of fulfillment? How do youths the earth over view their future? Will the year 2000 dawn bright or dismal? Branch offices of the Watch Tower Society around the world conducted interviews with youths. As you consider the comments of these youths, see if you do not have similar hopes and fears.

g1986 10/8 31 Watching the World
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN warns that "if present rates of deforestation continue, much of the world's tropical forests could be destroyed." If this trend continues, an estimated 10 to 20 percent of earth's plant and animal life could be wiped out by the year 2000 unless deforestation can be stopped and reversed.

g1986 11/8 7-8 A Sure Hope for the Present Generation
Carole, from France, has a "marvelous hope" and foresees, for the near future, "something marvelous — not at all like the world we live in." Samuel, a 15-year-old youth from the same country, also believes in a complete change: "For the year 2000, I visualize a world transformed into a beautiful paradise! But I don't think that either the present world or its rulers will live to see that day… We are living in the last days of the system of things." Ruth, a German girl of 16, also expresses her confidence in these changes: "I know I'm not smart enough to change the world and make things run right. Only Jehovah, our Creator, can and will do that soon."
But why are the last youngsters interviewed so sure of beneficial changes in the near future? Simply because they have come to know about God's promises through his Word, the Bible. As Jehovah's Witnesses, they are confident of something better — a world of justice and peace where, according to God's promise, even illness and death will be no more.—2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:3, 4.

A close examination of Bible prophecies showed these young Witnesses that we are now living in a privileged period of history, for the time has come for God to intervene in human affairs and rid the entire earth of unrighteousness. The Scriptures call this short period preceding God's intervention "the time of the end" and specify that it will not last longer than a "generation." It would also be distinguished by wars, earthquakes, epidemics, fear, and rising insecurity — all of which have marked the world since 1914. Since the "generation" of 1914 is now well advanced in years, God's promise is really up-to-date news for young people today.—Daniel 12:4; Matthew 24:3, 7-14, 34.

g1986 11/22 10 Warning! This Water May Be Hazardous to Your Health
A person does not have to put his ear to the ground to know 'how big the bang will be." Already the world shudders in fear of the coming explosion. For example, it has been estimated that by the year 2000 a fourth of the world's water supply could be unsafe for drinking.

g1987 3/8 5 Why Can't Africa Feed Itself?
Not surprisingly, Africa has the highest population growth rate in the world. Undeniably, this aggravates the problem of hunger. Some estimate the present population to be 553 million. By the year 2000, according to current trends, there could be an additional 324 million mouths to feed!

g1987 5/8 4 Health for All A Basic Need
WHO's regional office for Europe has foreseen not health by the year 2000 but a possible crisis by then.

g1987 7/22 7 An Earth Without Forests — Is That What the Future Holds?
By the year 2000, according to some experts, about 12 percent of the tropical rain forest that remained in 1980 will be gone — no small accomplishment for man, even with his reputation for destruction. Gone, too, will be the exotic birds, the animal wildlife, and the varieties of plant life that cannot be found in any other climatic areas of the earth.

g1988 10/8 5 AIDS Carriers — How Many Could Die?
An article in *Politiken* of Denmark said: "Uganda's chief AIDS official states, 'Unless something changes, every second adult in this country will be HIV-positive in the year 2000.'

g198811/8 8 The Reason for the Cult
As has been said, according to the pope's intentions, the revival of the figure of Mary will help to prepare for the year 2000. In the face of the fears and the anxieties caused by the "symptoms of malaise that pervade this generation," the pope has placed his trust in the "Madonna" so that she may intercede with God and solve the world's problems. But does the Bible direct us to Mary for a solution to these "symptoms of malaise"? In whom should we really trust in order to witness the realization of the "hope of a new era, of a new world"?

g1989 7/22 28 Watching the World
Studies predicts that "by the year 2000, water, not oil, will be the dominant resource issue of the Middle East."

g1989 9/22 28 Watching the World
The World Health Organization has predicted that AIDS cases worldwide will jump tenfold by the year 2000, raising the total to 5,000,000 from the present 450,000. The number of those infected with the virus that causes AIDS is expected to rise threefold.

g1990 2/8 20 No Money for the Blind
WHO predicts gloomily that, at the present rate, the world will have 84 million blind and partially blind persons by the year 2000.

g1990 2/22 28 Watching the World
By the year 2000, AIDS may kill six million people.

g1990 9/22 4 The Garbage Glut Will It Bury Us?
It is estimated that by the year 2000, this garbage pile will "tower half again as high as the Statue of Liberty and fill more cubic feet than the largest Great Pyramid of Egypt." It is expected that by the time the landfill closes, within the decade, it will have reached a height of 500 feet.

g1991 1/22 29 Watching the World
In its first report on the impact of AIDS on children, the World Health Organization said that the virus is striking many more children than had been previously thought and that some ten million children would probably be infected with it by the year 2000. '"The vast majority of these will have developed AIDS and died by the year 2000," said Dr. Michael Merson, director of the agency's global AIDS program.

g1991 6/8 28 A Visit to the Great Barrier Reef
Some take the alarming view that the entire Barrier Reef is at risk, and they issue warnings such as 'No Reef by the Year 2000.'

g1992 6/8 7 The Bitter Price of Gambling
Experts are also noting a significant increase in the number of housewives who are compulsive gamblers. In the United States, for example, women now represent about 30

percent of the total number of compulsive gamblers, but it is estimated that by the year 2000, this will have risen to 50 percent.

g1993 3/22 3-4 Why So Many False Alarms?
The World's End—How Near?
THE story is told of a boy who watched the sheep of the villagers. To stir up a bit of excitement, one day he cried out, "Wolf! Wolf!" when there was no wolf. The villagers rushed out with clubs to drive off the wolf, only to find that there was none. It was such great fun that later on the boy repeated his cry. Again the villagers rushed out with their clubs, only to discover that it was another false alarm. After that a wolf did come and the boy sounded the warning "Wolf! Wolf!" but the villagers dismissed his cry as another false alarm. They had been fooled too often.

So it has become with those who proclaim the end of the world. Down through the centuries since Jesus' day, so many unfulfilled predictions have been made that many no longer take them seriously. Gregory I, pope from 590 to 604 C.E., in a letter to a European monarch, said: 'We also wish Your Majesty to know, as we have learned from the words of Almighty God in Holy Scriptures that the end of the present world is already near and that the unending Kingdom of the Saints is approaching."

In the 16th century, Martin Luther, progenitor of the Lutheran Church, predicted that the end was imminent. According to one authority, he stated: "For my part, I am sure that the day of judgment is just around the corner."

Concerning one of the first Baptist groups it is reported: "The Anabaptists of the early Sixteenth Century believed that the Millennium would occur in 1533."

"Edwin Sandys (1519-1588), Archbishop of York and Primate of England…says, 'Let us be assured that this coming of the Lord is near.'"

William Miller, generally credited with founding the Adventist Church is quoted as saying: "I am fully convinced that sometime between March 21 1843 and March 21, 1844, according to the Jewish mode of computation of time, Christ will come."

Does the failure of such predictions to come true convict as false prophets those who made them, within the meaning of Deuteronomy 18:20-22? That text reads:
"The prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. And in case you should say in your heart: 'How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?' when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak."

There are some who make spectacular predictions of the world's end to grab attention and a following, but others are sincerely convinced that their proclamations are true. They are voicing expectations based on their own interpretation of some scripture text or physical event. They do not claim that their predictions are direct revelations from Jehovah and that in this sense they are prophesying in Jehovah's name. Hence, in such cases, when their words do not come true, they should not be viewed as false prophets such as those warned against at Deuteronomy 18:20-22. In their human fallibility, they misinterpreted matters.

Undeterred by previous failures, some seem to have been spurred on by the approach of the year 2000 and have made further predictions of the end of the world. The Wall Street Journal of December 5,1989, published an article entitled "Millennium Fever: Prophets Proliferate, the End Is Near." With the year 2000 approaching, various evangelicals are predicting that Jesus is coming and that the 1990's will be "a time of troubles that has not been seen before." At the time of this writing, the latest occurrence was in the Republic of Korea, where the Mission for the Coming Days predicted that on October 28,1992, at midnight, Christ would come and take believers to heaven. Several other doomsday groups made similar predictions.

The flood of false alarms is unfortunate. They are like the wolf-wolf cries of the shepherd boy — people soon dismiss them, and when the true warning comes, it too is ignored.

g1993 4/22 24 Where Have All the Quaggas Gone?
Unlike the quagga, many species do not stand a similar chance of retrieval. Chilling predictions indicate that by the year 2000, as much as 15 to 20 percent of all living species on earth may be extinct.

g1993 5/22 18 Why Do I Have to Suffer With a Disability?
Do you likewise have some sort of physical disability? Statistics show that by the year 2000, the number of young people with disabilities will reach about 59 million worldwide.

The Watchtower Magazine

w1973 11/1 646 The Best Time to Be Alive

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. They base their outlook, not on the Bible, but on the hard facts of today and upon the now irreversible trend of things that involve all of us. The Bible tells of these hard times that we are experiencing as a sign of the nearness of the end of this system.—2 Tim. 3:1-5.

w1976 5/15 300 Insight on the News
"A Query into the Quarter Century" is the title of a message issued recently by twenty experts from various fields who met under the sponsorship of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation and the Wright-Ingraham Institute. They concluded:
"Famine, social unrest and possible political chaos may not be far away. …By the year 2000 the problems in food production, storage, transportation and distribution will make today's problems appear as child's play."
Humans themselves can never solve such problems, for "it does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." (Jer.10:23) God alone will end social unrest, assure adequate food and remove man's other difficulties. Jehovah soon will 'make a banquet for all the peoples' and bless godly persons abundantly. (Isa. 25:6-8; Rev 21:4) With those pleasant prospects in view, appreciative ones wisely pursue a course of dependence upon the Creator…

w1978 10/1 16 "Keep on the Watch"
That day of Jehovah's "burning anger" is drawing perilously close. Jesus' own great prophecy concerning "the conclusion of the system of things" has now had its remarkable fulfillment in our 20th century since 1914. We clearly see militaristic elements of that "disgusting thing," the UN organization, poised to wreak havoc on the realm of Christendom.

w1979 10/15 12-13 Sustained by the Millennial Hope
In foretelling events, the "things happening" in our 20th century, Jesus Christ compared them to the fig tree when "its young branch grows tender and puts forth its leaves" — a proof that summer is at hand. (Mark 13:28, 29) This corresponds with Jesus' coming to execute judgment. Then will follow the thousand years," during which the Devil will not mislead the nations anymore.— Rev 20:2, 3.

w1980 2/1 26 Serve the "King of the Nations" and Survive
Does all that ancient history have any relation to our 20th century? Yes! About two lunar months after the calamity upon King Zedekiah, his realm, the land of Judah, became totally desolated. There the "seven times" of the nations, "the times of the Gentiles," began their run of 2,520 years, to end in 1914 C.E. (Dan. 4; Luke 21:24, Authorized Version) Today that which was foreshadowed by Jerusalem of King Zedekiah's day is nearing its destruction, according to the judicial decision of Jehovah, the "King of the nations." (Jer.10:7) How fitting it is, then, that there should be on earth at this critical time a class of worshipers of Jehovah God who were prefigured by the prophet-priest Jeremiah! In the light of this we property ask, Is there also on earth a class that was prefigured by the Ethiopian eunuch who befriended Jeremiah, namely, Ebed-melech the servant of King Zedekiah? Modern facts indicate that there is.

w1880 4/1 19-20 Creation's Hope Awaiting Its Realization
Today, after all the wars and other catastrophes besides sickness and natural death, there are more than 4,200 million of us alive, and it is predicted that by the year 2000 C.E. there will be 6,000 million humans on earth. Has this all been in vain? Evidently not!

Of course, man cannot 'pull himself up by his own bootstraps.' Yet the case of the human creation is not hopeless, in spite of the unpromising look of things. This is not due to anything that man himself can do, but is solidly based on what God has already done and will yet do according to his unbreakable promise.

w1980 10/15 10 Insight on the News
A special 800-page document titled "Global 2000 Report to the President" from the U.S. State Department and Council on Environmental Quality illustrates the accuracy of Jesus' words. It warns that there is "potential for global problems of alarming proportions by the year 2000." The New York "Times" states that, according to the report, "time is running out for international action to prevent a starving, overcrowded, polluted, resource-poor world."

w1983 1/5 3-4 Are Our Times Really Different?
Other factors further complicate the situation on a worldwide scale. France' scientific monthly *Science et Vie* (Science and Life) had this to say on the subject of population growth and the expansion of deserts: "The world population will increase from four to six billion by the year 2000, whereas arable ground will possibly be reduced by 30 percent over the same period, due to overcropping…and urbanization. The simultaneous character of these two tendencies is preparing the way for an explosive situation."

w1984 4/1 16
Then what? "And then the end will come"!—Matthew 24:14… Before "the end" comes, however, other 20th-century developments merit our consideration.

w1984 11/15 3 Our Age of Despair
Even if nuclear annihilation could be averted, human existence is being imperilled by the sheer mass of mankind. "Global population grows inexorably and at a rate so prodigious that by the year 2000 — Only 16 years from now — the world, with its added billions, will be unable to provide adequate food and energy, let alone jobs, housing, education and health care," reports *Parade* magazine. "And what could happen by the mid-21st century (when babies born in this decade approach old age) defies imagination."

w1987 7/1 10 'No Peace for the Wicked Ones'
A Russian schoolgirl describes the result of a nuclear war: "All living things will perish—no grass, no trees, no greenery." What a terrible prospect! Yet, people feel this could realty happen. In a recent survey 40 percent of the adults interviewed felt that there was a "high chance" of nuclear war before the year 2000.—See Luke 21:26.

w1989 1/1 12 "The Hand of Jehovah Was With Them"
The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for a work that would be completed in our time.
[Note: The single issue *Watchtower* had "in our twentieth century". The bound volume reprint of *The Watchtower* and the CD-ROM substitute "in our time."]

w1992 10/1 16-17 The Messiah's Presence and His Rule
When Jesus' disciples asked him: "What will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?" Jesus responded by giving them a detailed description of that future time. (Matthew, chapter 24; Mark, chapter 13; Luke, chapter 21; see also 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Revelation, chapter 6.) This sign amounts to a detailed portrait of a troubled era. It is a time marked by international wars, rising crime, deteriorating family life, disease epidemics, famines, and earthquakes-not as localized problems but as globe-embracing crises. Does this sound familiar? Every passing day confirms that the 20th century perfectly fits Jesus' description.

w1994 4/15 10 Helpful Teaching for Our Critical Times
The events of this 20th century overwhelmingly prove that we are now living in the conclusion of this present wicked system.

Books

.*God's Kingdom Of A thousand Years Has Approached* 1973 14
For one thing, the end of six thousand years of human existence on earth and the beginning of mankind's seventh millennium of existence may come many years sooner than the year 2000 C.E. It is well that this is so. Today, with the world of mankind in such a deplorable condition and being threatened with destruction from so many angles, there are many students and investigators of these threats to human existence who express substantial doubts that mankind will be able to survive till the year 2000 C. E. They do not base their gloomy outlook for our future on any timetable in that most widespread sacred book, the Holy Bible. They base their outlook upon the hard facts of today and upon the now irreversible trend of things that involve all of us.

Let Your Kingdom Come 1981, 11
…now in our 20th century, we have come to the time for harvest "a conclusion of a system of things, and the reapers are angels"!—Matthew 13:24-30, 36-39.

Mankind's Search For God 1990, 373
A situation approaching global ruin has existed only in the 20th century. All the more reason, then, to believe that soon Jehovah will take action to protect his property, his creation.—Revelation 11:18; Genesis 1:27, 28.

TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTY FOUR (2034)
The WTS leaders have variously interpreted the "last generation" of "this system of things" as 40 years, 70 years and 80 years. One of Russell's interpretations was 120 years commencing in1799!

1980s teaching — 120 years

In the 1980s when belief in Armageddon to occur within the "generation" that experienced 1914 was becoming implausible because so few were still alive, the Governing Body again suggested a "generation" could be as long as 120 years — not, however, counting from 1799 but from 1914:

> What, then, is the "generation" that "will by no means pass away until all these things occur"? It does not refer to a period of time, which some have tried to interpret as 30, 40, 70 or even 120 years,

but, rather, it refers to people, the people living at the "beginning of pangs of distress" for this condemned world system. It is the generation of people who saw the catastrophic events that broke forth in connection with World War I from 1914 onward...

Yes, there was a generation of people that was living in 1914, and that saw the major historical changes from an era of comparative tranquility to the present era of war, lawlessness and ruination. Many who are now Jehovah's Witnesses were among them. Truly, 1914 marked "the supreme example" of change, for that year set in motion the foretold "beginning of pangs of distress" among the nations. Many persons are still alive who can tell us how catastrophically conditions on earth changed in the year 1914. And the world continues to plunge into worse and worse trouble. We can be happy, therefore, for Jesus' assurance that there will be survivors of "the generation of 1914"—that this generation will not have completely passed away—when the "great tribulation" rings down the curtain on this wicked world system. (w1980 10/15 31)

Jesus used the word "generation" many times in different settings and with various meanings. But what did he mean when he spoke of a 'generation that would not pass away'? Some have interpreted "generation" to mean a period of 30, 40, 70 or even 120 years. However, a generation is really related to people and events, rather than to a fixed number of years.

The Greek word rendered "generation" in the Bible has been defined as, "Those born at the same time... Associated with this is the meaning: the body of one's contemporaries, an age." (*The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*) "The sum total of those born at the same time, expanded to include all those living at a given time *generation, contemporaries."* (*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* from Walter Bauer's Fifth Edition, 1958) These definitions embrace both those born around the time of a historic event and all those alive at that time.

If Jesus used "generation" in that sense and we apply it to 1914, then the babies of that generation are now 70 years old or older. And others alive in 1914 are in their 80's or 90's, a few even having reached a hundred. There are still many millions of that generation alive. Some of them "will by no means pass away until all things occur." (w1984 5/15 5)

2034 Implied

The article "Our Watchfulness Takes On Greater Urgency" (w2003 12/15 14-19) can be understood as implying the year 2034.

[3] … Jesus admonished his followers … to "keep on the watch."…

This requires more than simply acknowledging that we are living in the last days, more than recognizing that times are hard. We must have firm conviction that "the end of all things has drawn close." (1 Peter 4:7) Only then will our watchfulness take on a sense of urgency. Hence, the question that we must reflect on is: 'What will help us to strengthen our conviction that the end is near?'

[4] Consider the conditions prevailing during the time preceding a one-of-a-kind event in human history—the great Deluge of Noah's day. People were so bad that Jehovah "felt hurt at his heart." He declared: "I am going to wipe men whom I have created off the surface of the ground." (Genesis 6:6, 7) And he did just that. **Drawing a parallel between then and now**, Jesus said: "Just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be."—Matthew 24:37.

[5] …**What, then, are the similarities**? There are at least five. The first is that a warning of coming destruction is given in no uncertain terms…

[6] In Noah's day, Jehovah declared: "My spirit shall not act toward man indefinitely in that he is also flesh. Accordingly his days shall amount to **a hundred and twenty years**." (Genesis 6:3) The issuance of this divine decree in 2490 B.C.E. marked the beginning of the end for that ungodly world. Just think what that meant for those then living! **Only 120 years more and Jehovah would bring "the deluge of waters upon the earth** to bring to ruin all flesh in which the force of life is active from under the heavens."—Genesis 6:17.

[7] Noah received the warning of the upcoming catastrophe decades in advance, and he wisely used the time to prepare for survival. "After being given divine warning of things not yet beheld," says the apostle Paul, "[Noah] showed

> godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household." (Hebrews 11:7) What about us? Some 90 years have passed since the last days of this system of things began in 1914. We are certainly in "the time of the end." (Daniel 12:4)
>
> How should we respond to warnings we have been given? "He that does the will of God remains forever," states the Bible. (1 John 2:17)
> Now is therefore the time to do Jehovah's will with a keen sense of urgency.
> 8 In modern times, sincere students of the Bible have learned from the inspired Scriptures that this system is doomed to destruction…
>
> [9] Jehovah has kept these warnings in front of his people by **means of timely reminders** through the spiritual food provided by "the faithful and discreet slave." … Almighty God always keeps his word. (Isaiah 55:10, 11) He did in Noah's day, and he will in our day…
>
> [21] **Although the Flood seems remote from our day, it clearly provides a warning that we must not ignore.** (Romans 15:4) **The similarities between Noah's day** and our day should make us increasingly aware of the significance of what is happening and alert us to the thieflike coming of Jesus to execute judgment upon the wicked…

The words "a parallel", "the similarities", "120 years", and "the Flood … clearly provides a warning", together suggest Armageddon could take place 120 years after1914. But it's a more subtle and safer method of arousing zeal than the clear but false predictions for 1878, 1914, 1925, the 1940s, the "generation of 1914", and the "twentieth century". Two people who argue the point when 2034 arrives would probably get lost in a fog of words.

TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EVENINGS AND MORNINGS

A period mentioned in Daniel 8:14 the interpretation of which "Jehovah" has repeatedly changed.

Russell taught it was 2300 years from the command to rebuild Jerusalem in 454 BCE to the formation of the Evangelical Alliance in CE 1846:

> Thus A.D. 1846, the end of the 2300 days…witnessed the organization of Protestant sects into one great system, call *The Evangelical Alliance*. (Studies 3, 119)
>
> The 2,300 days point to 1846 as the time when God's sanctuary would be cleansed of the defiling errors and principles of Papacy... (Studies 111, 305-306)

Rutherford changed the period to literal days extending from May 25, 1926 to October 15, 1932:

> Count now from the beginning of this international Convention of London on May 25, 1926, and we shall find that the 2,300 days of evenings and mornings bring us to October 15, 1932. (w1959 10/1 600-601)
>
> This period of six years four months and twenty days ended on October 15, 1932, when "The Watchtower," the official journal of the sanctuary class, published evidence that the sanctuary class on earth had been cleansed and the sanctuary restored to its rightful state by the abolition from the congregations of Jehovah's witnesses of the democratically elected "elders" and by the theocratic appointment of service directors to the congregations for preaching the Kingdom good News. (w1959 10/15 632)

Fred Franz changed the start and end dates of the 2300 day to June 1, 1938 and October 8, to 1944:

> If Jehovah's "holy place" is "brought" or "restored" to what it should be, then we should count the days from the time when previously it was in the "right condition" from Jehovah's viewpoint. At the earliest this was on June 1, 1938, when the official magazine of Jehovah's anointed remnant of underpriests at His sanctuary, namely, *The Watchtower*, published Part One of the article entitled "Organization," so as to state more fully the theocratic requirements for it…
> Jehovah's "sanctuary" or "holy place" was "brought into its right condition" on time, at the end of the 2,300 evenings and mornings, in early autumn (October 8-22) of the year 1944. (w1971 12/1 724, 727; w2001 1/15 28

A number of amendments were made to the Charter of the Watch Tower Society of Pennsylvania at the annual meeting on October 2, 1944 particularly the change to voting rights.

Until 1944 voting members had many votes in proportion to their money donations. This was changed in 1944 to one vote per person. In 1971 *The Watchtower* stated that this

amendment fulfilled the prophecy of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:9-14. (Yearbook 1975, 246-247; w1971 12/1 726)

Russell had explained the 2300 days as ending in 1846. (Studies III, 105-108, 119, 305) Rutherford's interpretation made the 2300 days run from 1926 to 1932, which he claimed was "truth", "made clear" and "shown" by the "Lord". (World Recovery 1934, 55; Your Will 1958, 216)

Nevertheless in 1971 the "truth" that the "Lord" had "shown" was changed, thus proving the Lord's previous truth wrong.

(See also: *DAYS OF DANIEL*)

TWO WITNESSES (Revelation 11:3)

Revelation 11 tells of two prophesying "witnesses" who get killed and after 3½ days are resurrected.

Russell interpreted this as the Old and New Testaments. (w1880 April, p.87)

He altered this and made the two witnesses refer to two kingdoms — the invisible heavenly kingdom set up in 1878 and the visible earthly kingdom in Palestine in 1914/1915. (Studies IV, 651-652)

In the book *Light* Volume 1 (1930) Chapter 11 Rutherford changed the interpretation again and claimed that the imprisonment of eight WTS leaders including himself in 1918 and their release in 1919 was the fulfilment.

The eight fellows were sentenced under the Espionage Act. Slosson (1958) writes:

> The espionage act of June 15, 1917, forbade false statements which might injure the prosecution of the war, incitements to disloyalty, obstruction of recruiting, and similar attempts to impede the activities of the government.

On May 7, 1918, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York issued a warrant for the arrest of eight WBTS men — J.F. Rutherford, W.E. Van Amburgh, C.J. Woodworth and G.H. Fisher (the two who compiled *The Finished Mystery*), F.H. Robison, A.H. Macmillan, R.J. Martin and Giovanni DeCecca.

At the trial that followed the court concluded that distribution of the book *The Finished Mystery* flouted the Espionage Act.

The *Yearbook* (1975) explains:

> DEATHBLOW FOR "TWO WITNESSES"
>
> After early October 1914, Christ's anointed followers proclaimed that the Gentile Times had ended and that the nations were approaching their destruction at Armageddon. (Luke 21:24; Rev. 16:14-16) These figurative "two witnesses" declared this mournful message for the nations for 1,260 days, or three and a half years (October 4/5, 1914, to March 26/27, 1918). Then the Devil's beastly political system warred against God's "two witnesses," eventually 'killing' them as far as their tormenting work of prophesying "in sackcloth" was concerned, to the great relief of their religious, political, military and judicial foes. (Rev. 11:3-7; 13:1) That was the prophecy, and it was fulfilled. But how? On May 7, 1918, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York issued a warrant for the arrest of certain principal servants of the Watch Tower Society…

(See also: VAN AMBURGH)

TWOFOLD APPLICATION

Jesus foretold things for "this generation" i.e. his generation some of which seemingly did not occur. JWs therefore claim the prophecy has two fulfilments, a "miniature fulfilment" and a 20th century fulfilment from 1914 onwards:

> Though Jesus' disciples were thinking only of the immediate future, Jesus' reply on that occasion was to have a twofold application… (Let Your Kingdom Come 1981, 107

Jesus, however, said nothing regarding two fulfilments. JWs predictions based on this notion have failed time and time again.

TYPE

A "type" is an Old Testament person, nation, event or object that serves as a prophetic pattern or to illustrate something to occur in the future which is referred to as its "antitype".

According to JWs unfaithful, ancient Jerusalem was a prophetic type that foreshadowed today's "Christendom" and Naomi (Ruth's mother in law) was a prophetic type picturing the "remnant" of the 144,000 who joined the Russellite cult before 1919.

(See also: *PICTURES*)

TYRE

An ancient city-state on the coast of Palestine that Rutherford claimed pictured the Catholic Hierarchy. (Religion 1940, 303)

REFERENCES:

Aron, R. Jehovah's Witnesses 'a cruel cult', *The Age,* March 15, 2013

Barbour, N.H. & Russell, C.T. 1877 *Three Worlds, And The Harvest of This World,* Rochester, N.Y.

Bergman, G. 1998 *The Theocratic War Doctrine*, Witness Inc.

Douglas, J.D. (Organizing Editor) 1982 *New Bible Dictionary*, Second Edition, Inter-Varsity Press — Lie, Lying p.697

Harrison, B.G. 1978 *Visions of Glory*, Simon & Schuster

Investigator Magazine #189, September 2019, pp 37-43, Thousands of Revisions in JW Theology

Jehovah's Witnesses: A Statistical Survey 1992, Pussywillow Press

Johnston, Chris
https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/slamming-the-door-on-jehovah-20130315-2g6fo.html

Report of Case Study Number 29, October 2016, p.58, Commonwealth of Australia

Service Year Reports of JWs Worldwide (since 2017) https://wol/jw.org/

Slosson, P.W. 1958 *The Great Crusade and After*, Quadrangle Paperbacks, p.67

Yearbook of JWs (various dates 1927-2016) WBTS

https://ed5015.tripod.com/
https:/investigatormagazine.net/