DICTIONARY of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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UGANDA
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Uganda and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	97	98,234		
1980	152	78,947	488	24,590
1985	320	46,875	1,220	12,295
1990	766	22,230	2,945	5,782
1995	1,678	11,681	5,737	3,417
2000	2,582	8,479	8,015	2,731
2005	4,051	6,616	13,281	2,018
2010	5,271	5,938	17,799	1,759
2015	7,112	5,073	23,157	1,558
2018	8,179	4,774	28,147	1,387
	Ave.			
2019	8,348	5,303	31,300	1,415
2020	8,681	4,826	21,525	1,946
2021	8,982	4,772	31,600	1,356
2022	9,085	4,942	28,907	1,553
2023	9,400	4,884	30,800	1,489
2024	9,909	4,632	36,200	1,268
2025	10,615	4,325	34,400	1,336

Since 2019 the WTS has based the ratio calculation for publishers on the average instead of the peak.

UKRAINE
Publishers and Memorial attendance in Ukraine and their ratio to the population:

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1995	60,000	868	165,800	314
2000	112,700	439	252,000	196
2005	137,200	343	264,500	180
2010	149,900	306	271,400	169
2013	150,900	301	254,000	179
2015	142,700	298	236,300	180
2018	138,500	305	217,400	194
	Ave.			
2019	128,100	344	208,800	211
2020	127,600	317	230,700	176
2021	128,400	323	264,200	157
2022	122,700	335	211,528	194
2023	105,200	391	185,900	221
2024	100,478	377	173,600	218
2025	97,900	398	165,700	235

UNASSSIGNED TERRITORY
An area not assigned to any congregation for door-to-door work.

UNBAPTIZED PUBLISHER
A new convert who has undergone basic instruction, and is conforming to JWs doctrine and standards and thinking about baptism, can join the door-to-door activity and lodge a form to report his "ministry". About 10% of publishers at any one time are unbaptised. Probably their turnover and drop-out rate exceeds the rate among the baptized.

UNBELIEVER
Non-JWs not associating at meetings are considered to be unbelievers.

If a JW is married to a non-JW the latter is considered to be an "unbelieving mate" even if he or she believes in God. However, "…it is a very unwise thing for a Christian to marry an unbeliever." (w1972 6/15 364)

In the New Testament a "believer" is a person who believed the gospel (good news) about Jesus. To JWs a "believer" is anyone who accepts current JWs doctrines.

UNBELIEVING MATE
The non-JW spouse of a JW is an "unbelieving mate" even if he or she goes to another church and believes the Bible.

UNCOVERED (1937)



A 64-page booklet authored by Rutherford criticising the doctrines of purgatory, immortality of the soul, the primacy of Peter in the early Church, Peter as the first pope, the

use of images for worship, and the Trinity doctrine.

Rutherford calls the Catholic Hierarchy "liars", "teachers of lies" (p.53), "arrogant" and "scornful" (p.54). Their refusal to debate with him is presented as proof of inability to support Catholic belief from the Bible. (pp 58-59, 4)
[Some years earlier a theologian who had read C.T. Russell's seven volumes, originals and revised editions, sought public debate. It never happened because of the requirement that he would not "refer to any quotation or book published by the International Bible Students Association." In this instance refusal to debate definitely was "inability to support" WTS belief. See the entry *Shadduck, B.H.*]

Rutherford in *Uncovered* says: "The chief means employed by the Devil to accomplish his purpose is religion and the teaching of religious doctrines, which have some appearance of truth but which are in fact fraudulent." (p.22)

At that time (1937) hundreds of WTS doctrines had changed, prophecies had repeatedly failed, and at least 100,000 people (about 80% of membership) had left the WTS cult in the previous 20 years.

The opening paragraph in *Uncovered* therefore is more true of JWs than of the Catholic Church:

> To first gain one's confidence and then to induce that person to believe a false representation which affects his liberty, property or life is a work of fraud upon the person deceived. (p.3)

Since Rutherford's death the JWs hierarchy has itself refused public debate, probably because a well-informed opponent could expose their hundreds of revised interpretations, discarded doctrines and failed predictions.

See: *DIVISIONS/SPLINTER GROUPS*)

UNDESERVED KINDNESS
This expression replaces the word "grace" in the New World Translation and in conversation among JWs.

UNDERSTAND
Anyone who accepts JWs doctrines is said to "understand" those doctrines. A person who rejects a doctrine "cannot understand" or has "difficulty in understanding". Such labels are used even of persons who understand the doctrines but reject them because he is able to refute them:

> There are some among us who still have difficulty in understanding many of the truths that God has given to his people since 1922... <u>But those who oppose the work of the Lord in the earth, and who refuse the food he has provided for his people, cannot understand</u>, even as the Lord by the prophet says: A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this. Ps. 92:6. (w1931 11/1 326)

The JWs hierarchy has made hundreds of alterations to Rutherford's theology since he wrote the preceding paragraph in 1931. It follows that JWs today "oppose the work of the Lord", "refuse the food he has provided", are "brutish" and "fools", and don't "understand".

Despite thousands of changes made to their interpretations of Bible verses and prophetic predictions since Russell's time, JWs believe they alone have "properly understood" the Bible:

> Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind. (w1967 10/1 587)

No reasonable and informed person, only an indoctrinated person, would regard thousands of errors as evidence of "proper understanding".

UNFAITHFUL
JWs regard ex JWs and people in Christian denominations as "unfaithful".

This label is non-negotiable, and considered true by definition. The phrase "unfaithful Christendom" appears 463 times on the *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD which covers *The Watchtower* from 1950 and most other WTS publications from 1970.

JWs, however, do not call themselves "unfaithful Christendom" in the many doctrines they had wrong, and Christian denominations who were right "faithful Christendom"! Why not? Because JWs utilize "diverse weights and divers measures". (Proverbs 20:9-11) They have different standards for themselves and others!

Even when remembering their false predictions such as Armageddon to occur in the 20th century JWs consider themselves "faithful" and "Christendom" unfaithful.

UNFAITHFUL [EVIL] SLAVE (Matthew 24:48-51)

A scripture and a label that Russell afterwards applied to N.H. Barbour who had jointly until 1879 ruled their cult. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 386)

Rutherford re-interpreted Matthew 24:48-51 as the breakaway groups from his cult in 1917 to the 1920s who rejected *The Finished Mystery* (1917). Such groups became the "unfaithful slave class":

> …this book crystallized the opposition of the 'evil slave' class. (Qualified to be Ministers 1955, 314)

Rutherford's evaluation of the "evil slave class" was completely condemnatory, never a positive word. Even after Rutherford's death the post-1917 breakaway-groups were described as "guilty", "abusive", "self indulgent" and "religious hypocrites". (Your Will 1958, 327)

Although the JWs leaders altered over 1000 interpretations of Bible passages as interpreted in *The Finished Mystery* (1917), which is much more of the book than the so-called "unfaithful slave" in 1917 rejected, they do not call themselves "unfaithful", "guilty" and hypocrites. Converts who, around 1920, sold the book are still, today, described as "faithful". (See: *FINISHED MYSTERY, THE*)

Around 2012 the Governing Body ousted the "anointed remnant of the 144,000" from the "faithful slave class" and only the Governing Body remained in that group. Does this make the newly ousted "remnant" members part of the "unfaithful slave class" since they reject *The Finished Mystery* even more completely than the 1917-1920s "hypocrites" did? No.

The difference is that today **all** JWs reject the teachings of *The Finished Mystery* because it is full of theological and spiritual rubbish, whereas in 1917 the book was regarded as the truth from Jesus which only "unfaithful" ones rejected.

UNITED IN WORSHIP OF THE ONLY TRUE GOD (1983)

An official WTS book in which JWs are urged to respect and obey the WTS and the "faithful slave". To do otherwise is to disparage Christ and God. Obedience to the Organization and the Bible provides "freedom", "real freedom" and "great freedom". (pp 40-41)

The book instructs JWs to do more preaching (pp 91-93); claims that the last generation before Armageddon started by 1914 (pp 169, 181); and that 1914 is when the Kingdom "that will never be brought to ruin." was established (p.78). Other JWs doctrines are also reaffirmed.

UNITED NATIONS

> Instead of bidding welcome to the King of glory, and telling the people of his kingdom and the blessings it will bring, they ["The ecclesiastics"] openly unite with the Devil in his schemes to control the peoples of the earth in a compact designated as the League of Nations; and piously and fraudulently they declare it to be the "political expression of God's kingdom on earth". (Deliverance 1926, 229, 271)

To JWs the United Nations, and the League of Nations prior to it, is Satan's substitute for the 1914 Kingdom of God:

> The very League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations, represent an international conspiracy against God's kingdom, which was born in the heavens in 1914... This international organization for peace and security is a deceptive counterfeit for God's kingdom... (Babylon The Great Has Fallen 1963, 596)

> The UN is actually a blasphemous counterfeit of God's Messianic Kingdom by his Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ… (Revelation, Its Grand Climax at Hand 1988, 248)

> As God views it, the United Nations is a colossal world conspiracy. Why? Because … it calls upon the peoples of all nations to support it in establishing worldwide security by man's efforts. It even proclaimed 1986 to be the "International Year of Peace." It thus proves itself to be a conspiracy against the "Prince of Peace" and against Jehovah's covenant with him for the everlasting Kingdom. (w1987 4/1 19)

JWs predict that the UN will attack them after it annihilates false religion but will then be annihilated by God's angels — in 1971 this was "imminent:

> All the nations are now on the march to Har-Magedon! … The confrontation with God is **imminent**! … See there the

United Nations organization! Will it be able to stand its ground and repel the divine onslaught? Divine prophecy says No! (w1971 10/15 623)

Revelation 13 & 17 Beast

Revelation 13 describes a beast with seven heads and a body spotted like a leopard. JWs believe this spotted beast symbolizes the seven major empires of history.

Verse 14 introduces the "image" of the spotted beast. The "image", to JWs, is the League of Nations (founded in 1920) and the United Nations.

Revelation 17 introduces a beast with seven heads and of scarlet color. This beast, claim JWs, is the same as the "image"— it's the League and the UN:

> The League is now dead, and since World War II the "image" has been the United Nations… (Babylon the Great has Fallen 1963, 509)

> The United Nations of today…this modern scarlet-colored beast is an image of the leopard-spotted wild beast from the sea, which is a summation of all seven world powers, the beastly "image" is also in itself a world power or "king," hence "an eighth king." (ibid p.594)

Revelation 17 also describes a prostitute named "Babylon the Great" seated on the scarlet, seven-headed beast. To JWs the prostitute is "the world empire of false religion".

The world's religions supposedly "climbed" the beast and began "riding" it in 1919:

> …in January of 1919 when the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America called the then-proposed League of Nations "the political expression of the kingdom of God on earth. (Babylon The Great Has Fallen 1963, 581)

> …the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America went on record as proclaimers that the League would be "the political expression of God on earth." And the U.S. Senate received an avalanche of mail from religious groups urging it to ratify the Covenant of the League of Nations.

> Jehovah's Witnesses did not jump on the band wagon. Even before the peace treaty was confirmed (in October), J.F. Rutherford gave a discourse at Cedar Point, Ohio, on September 7, 1919, in which he showed that not the League of Nations but the Kingdom set up by God himself is the only hope for distressed humanity. While acknowledging that a human alliance to improve conditions could accomplish much good, those Bible Students were not turning their backs on God's own Kingdom in exchange for a political expedient set up by politicians and blessed by the clergy. (Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom 1993, 192)

JWs also consider the UN an "eighth world power":

> The United Nations, as the successor of the old League of Nations, is a "world power" in that its member nations, influence and organization are world wide in scope…

> This wild beast also has seven heads to correspond with the seven world powers that have been on the world scene in past centuries and down to the present. But the whole scarlet-colored wild beast, heads included, comes to be like an "eighth king," in that the United Nations is a tool used by the member nations in attempting to impose a collective will upon the nations as a whole, while holding on to their respective sovereignties.

> The United Nations does not have much power in itself, not even having an army, except where the members make specific provision for this. It really derives its existence and power from the nations that make up its membership. Particularly is this true of the Anglo-American world power that took the initiative to bring into existence first the League of Nations and then the United Nations. (Rev. 13:11-15) Before it goes into destruction along with all the nations to whom it owes its existence, the Scriptures show that this "eighth" world power, with the prominent ruling elements taking the lead as the "ten horns" of the beast, will turn on "Babylon the Great," the world empire of false religion, and destroy it.—Rev. 17:12-18. (w1980 11/15 30)

The UN — JWs believe — will turn on and destroy the world's false religions:

> Yes, the nations will use the scarlet-colored wild beast, the United Nations, in

> destroying Babylon the Great. (Revelation Its Grand Climax at Hand! 1988, 258)

Until 1975 this was anticipated for the 1970s and after that was still predicted to occur "within our twentieth century". (See: *TWENTIETH CENTURY*; *DATES*)

When JWs prophetic dates fail the leaders either revise the interpretation or postpone the fulfilment and anyone who complains is excommunicated. In this instance it was postponed. The following was published in 2000 which was the absolute final year by which the UN should have destroy so-called "false religion":

> [20] Whom will Jehovah use to discipline rebellious Christendom? We find the answer in the 17th chapter of Revelation. There we are introduced to a harlot, "Babylon the Great," representing all the world's false religions, including Christendom. The harlot is riding a scarlet-colored wild beast that has seven heads and ten horns. (Revelation 17:3, 5, 7-12) The wild beast represents the United Nations organization. Just as the ancient Assyrian destroyed Samaria, the scarlet-colored wild beast "will hate the harlot and will make her devastated and naked, and will eat up her fleshy parts and will completely burn her with fire." (Revelation 17:16) Thus the modern-day Assyrian (nations associated with the UN) will deal Christendom a mighty blow and will crush her out of existence.
> [21] Will Jehovah's faithful Witnesses perish along with Babylon the Great? No. God is not displeased with them.
> (Isaiah's Prophecy Volume I 2000, 153)

Double Fulfilment

Another Bible passage which JWs claim refers to the UN is "the desolating sacrilege" or "the disgusting thing that causes desolation" mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24:15.

This verse refers to the Roman legions that besieged Jerusalem in 66-70 CE. But JWs believe Matthew 24 has two fulfilments. (w1999 5/1 12) In the second fulfilment the "disgusting thing" is the League of Nations from 1929 until the 1940s and then the UN:

> Demonstrating the confidence of Jehovah's servants that this prophecy would be fulfilled, *The Watchtower* of January 1, 1921, focused on it in connection with developments in the Middle East. Subsequently in its December 15, 1929, issue, on page 374, *The Watchtower* definitively said: "The whole tendency of the League of nations is to turn the people away from God and from Christ, and it is therefore a desolating thing, the product of Satan, and an abomination in the sight of God." So in 1919 "the disgusting thing" appeared. In time, the League gave way to the United Nations. Jehovah's Witnesses have long exposed these human peace organizations as disgusting to God's sight. (w1999 5/1 15)

Aside from a little positive comment about the UN after the WBTS registered with it as a non-government organization in 1991, the JWs leaders have uniformly criticized the UN and anyone approving of it. They teach that everyone (except JWs) will "worship the image of the beast" i.e. the UN. The "mark" in the right hand or on the forehead (see Revelation 13:16-18) signifies worship and approval.

Until 1995 the JWs leaders predicted that Armageddon would strike before the people who witnessed 1914 died out:

> Bible chronology shows that since the autumn of 1914 C.E. we have been living in the "last days" of this system of things. Jesus Christ indicated that these "last days" would not extend beyond the life-span of the generation seeing their start. (Matt. 24:34) Hence, at least some people who witnessed the horrors of World War I will see the complete end of government by imperfect men and the brining in of prosperity under the kingdom of God. (w1972 10/1 582-583)

Since all JWs who "witnessed the horrors of World War I" are now dead, the destruction of Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and other religions by the UN should be long finished.

The UN today is often marginalized, depressed by debt, and unable to agree on resolutions or effectively enforce them. The United States and allies, not the UN, took action in 2003 when Iraq opposed inspections for weapons of mass destruction. For the UN to attack all religions would require all governments to surrender their sovereignty and endorse aggression against their own citizens! It not only failed to happen at the dates predicted but still looks unlikely!

The League opposed slavery, and by intention and action endorsed peace, and did much good. In this way it was a "political expression of God's Kingdom" since God's rule will be peaceful. (Isaiah 2:1-4) Striving for peace is not "blasphemous" since the Bible says "Let

us then pursue what makes for peace." (Romans 14:19)

Furthermore, when JWs call the League a "conspiracy against God's Kingdom". But which "God's kingdom"? Until 1925 the WTS preached an invisible kingdom set up in 1878 which turned out to be a fantasy and its predicted take-over of the world in 1915 and 1925 were false predictions. (See: *KINGDOM*) The WTS discarded the 1878 Kingdom decisively in 1925 but continued to condemn "Christendom" for never accepting it!

The 1914 kingdom, likewise, is imaginary. Its inauguration is worked out by adding 2,520 years to 607 BCE when, according to JWs, Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon. The Bible, however, does not teach such a calculation; and the historical date for Jerusalem's destruction is 586 BCE (See also: *KINGDOM; GENTILE TIMES*)

Millenarian Movement and The League

JWs believe that the interpretation of the "scarlet wild beast" as being the League originated with the WTS.

However, a large millenarian movement existed in the 19th and 20th centuries, which published hundreds of books about Bible prophecy. It included famous scholars such as C.I. Scofield (*The Scofield Reference Bible*) and W.E. Vine (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*) both of the Open Brethren sect.

C.F. Hogg and W.E. Vine in *Touching the Coming of the Lord* (1919) wrote:

> Such a League of Nations, for instance, as is proposed to-day as a panacea for natural wrongs, not only has been foretold in Scripture as the last resource of international politics, but its failure has likewise been predicted.

Not only does this seem to be where Rutherford got the idea that the "scarlet wild beast" is the League but it also refutes the JWs claim that all religions welcomed the League as "the political expression of God's kingdom" since a significant group did not.

Previous Interpretations

The WTS had at least two previous interpretations of Revelation 17.

In the 1917 interpretation, the scarlet beast was the Pagan Roman Empire and the harlot the Catholic Church. (The Finished Mystery 1917, 249)

In the 1930 interpretation the scarlet beast was the Hague International Peace Conference with its International Court and the harlot was Christendom. (Light II 1930) JWs leaders initiated the current interpretation in 1942 when they realized the League was dead and could not destroy Christendom as predicted in their book *Light II* (1930) (See: *SCARLET BEAST*)

UNITED NATIONS — RESOLUTIONS

JWs have, at several of their International Conventions, announced resolutions against the League of Nations and the United Nations.

For example in 1963:

> 1. WE JEHOVAH'S witnesses, met together in [City, State, Country], in one of the "Everlasting Good News" assemblies being held in a continuous chain around the whole world this year of 1963, do this day declare and resolve as follows:
>
> 2 THAT the one living and true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, whose name is Jehovah, is the only God whom we fear and glorify. Him alone will we worship; for him only will we be witnesses in the universal contest now in progress over the question, Who is the Everlasting, All-wise, All-powerful God? and him alone will we urge all peoples everywhere, of whatever race, nationality, tribe, color and language, to worship as the true God without equal;
>
> 3 THAT the Holy Bible, written under inspiration originally in Hebrew, Aramaic and ancient Greek, is his written Word. It is the channel of the one revealed religion that is the absolute truth and that is the unerring guide to pure worship acceptable to God;
>
> 4 THAT God the Creator, to whom his own written Word gives the name Jehovah thousands of times, is the King of Eternity and the Eternal Sovereign of the universe, and to him we owe our supreme allegiance and unqualified obedience. Only by his permission and tolerance have men set up political governments for what is understood to be the public good. His permission for this was not to continue forever or even indefinitely, but was to be brought to an end by the establishment of the kingdom of his beloved Son, the Messiah or Anointed One, the Christ, who was named Jesus when on earth as a perfect

man. In the year 1914 the combination of events began on earth that he said would be a visible sign to us that Jehovah God had taken his sovereign power in that year and had set up the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ for the government of this earth. According to the published information from the Holy Bible, the time then came for all the political nations to yield their sovereignty in the earth peaceably over to the heavenly kingdom of God's enthroned Son Jesus Christ. World history shows that, instead, more than a score of nations, led by Christendom, engaged in a global war for world domination. Because of this course the nations entered into the "time of the end" foretold in the Holy Bible, which will reach a conclusion in their violent destruction;

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

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

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

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

9 THAT we accept the Bible's proof that Satan the Devil is the "ruler of the demons" and also the "ruler of this world," from whom our Leader Jesus Christ refused to accept any throne of rulership. But ever since the days of Nimrod, king of Babylon, the political system of this world has accepted its throne of political rulership from the satanic "ruler of this world," and to this ruler the worldly political system has paid his fixed price for the throne, rendering him worship and service. Since the decisive year of 1914 the political system of human government

has refused to vacate this throne and cease rendering service to the "ruler of this world." For this reason the darkness of God's disfavor has settled down on the kingdom of this worldly political system, and there is no political light to show human rulers the way out of the increasing "anguish of nations." With no repentance they persist in their works for self-salvation, and blaspheme God for paining them by having His witnesses showing that their doomed condition is beyond healing through human remedies;

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

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

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

UNITED NATIONS — THE WBTS AN NGO

JWs consider the United Nations to be Satan's substitute for God's Kingdom. Therefore it would be inconsistent for the WBTS to be linked to the UN.

Bates (2001) reported that the WBTS had joined the UN as an NGO (Non Government Organization) in 1991: "Being a recognised NGO with the United Nations — as more than 1,500 organisations are — gives status though not grants."

As an NGO with the UN the WBTS was obliged to: "disseminate information … in support of the UN". WBTS literature in the 1990s therefore included some positive comment and one WBTS article was even listed on the UN website.

The UN website states:

> Since the founding days of the United Nations in San Francisco, NGOs have made valuable contributions to the international community by drawing attention to issues, suggesting ideas and programmes, disseminating information and **mobilizing public opinion in support of the UN** and its Specialized Agencies. Association with DPI constitutes a commitment to that effect.

Because the WBTS, as an NGO, was obligated to "disseminate information … in support of the UN", it in effect had agreed to support "the Devil's … political expression of God's kingdom".

JWs denied the matter until the WBTS was exposed as listed in the 2001-2002 *UN Directory* published by the UN Department of Public Information. The Governing Body then sent the following letter to the branch offices:

> November 1, 2001
> Dear Brothers,
> Because of published allegations by opposers that we have secret links with the United Nations, a number of branches have inquired about the matter and we have replied. This circular letter replaces any replies we have given earlier and is sent to all branches…
>
> Our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in 1991 was to have access to research material available on health, ecological, and social problems at the United Nations library facilities. We had been using the library for many years prior to 1991, but in that year it became necessary to register as an NGO to have continued access. Registration papers filed with the United Nations that we have on file contain no statements that conflict with our Christian beliefs. Moreover, NGOs are informed by the United Nations that association of NGOs with the DPI does not constitute their incorporation into the United Nations system, nor does it entitle associated organizations or their staff to any kind of privileges, immunities or special status.
>
> Still, the Criteria for Association of NGOs — <u>at least in their latest version</u> — contain language that we cannot subscribe to. When we realized this, we immediately withdrew our registration. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention.
>
> We trust that the above is helpful in counteracting the attempts of opposers to discredit us…
> Your brothers, Chairman's Committee

Criteria for Association unchanged

The implication, underlined above, that the Criteria for Association were different in 1991 when the WBTS joined is mistaken. The criteria were the same throughout the 1990s:

CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

a. The NGO must **support and respect** the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
b. The NGO must be of recognized national or international standing;
c. The NGO should operate solely on a non-for-profit basis and have tax-exempt status;
d. The NGO must have the commitment and the means to **conduct effective information programmes** with its constituents and to a broader audience about UN activities by publishing newsletters, bulletins and pamphlets; organizing conferences, seminars and round tables; or enlisting the attention of the media;
e. The NGO should have an established record of continuity of work for a minimum of three years and should show promise of sustained activity in the future;
f. The NGO should have a **satisfactory record of collaboration with UN Information Centres/Services or other parts of the UN System** prior to association;
g. The NGO should provide an audited annual financial statement, conducted by a qualified, independent accountant;
h. The NGO should have statutes/bylaws providing for a transparent process of taking decisions, elections of officers and members of the Board of Directors.

To "support", "conduct information programmes" and "collaborate with" the UN is, in JWs belief, "worship of the wild beast".

To join an organization demonstrates endorsement, apostasy, disloyalty, worship

The Watchtower says that to join any "worldly organization" endorses its general objectives and principles, amounts to worship, and a JWs who does this has "disassociated himself". Consider the YMCA:

> In joining the YMCA as a member a person accepts or endorses the general objectives and principles of the organization. He is not simply paying for something he receives, such as when buying things being sold to the public at a store. (Compare 1 Corinthians 8:10; 10:25.) Nor is his membership merely an entry pass, as when a person buys a theater ticket. Membership means that one has become an integral part of this organization founded with definite religious objectives, including the promotion of interfaith. Hence, for one of Jehovah's Witnesses to become a member of such a so-called "Christian" association would amount to apostasy.
>
> Some individuals have on occasion not become members but have paid a onetime admission fee, viewing this as simply paying for a commercial service available. Even in this regard it is wise to consider whether this course will adversely affect the consciences of others (w1979 1/1 31)

Consider also Malawi:

> The "mark" of the beast would identify the one having it as belonging to that "wild beast," giving it full support…
>
> Take the African county of Malawi, for example. There all citizens have been required to become members of the country's only existing political party, the "Malawi Congress Party." A membership card costing about twenty-five cents (U.S.) identifies the bearer as 'acquiescing to the principals of the ruling political party'…
>
> Were they [JWs] to identify themselves as giving unquestioning support to any political arrangement, they would be acting contrary to the Bible's teaching… Jehovah's Witnesses have promised to give unqualified allegiance exclusively to God and Christ. Any act on their part that would indicate otherwise, therefore, would be an act of disloyalty. Such an act would be taking away from God and Christ their rightful due and so would be worship of the "wild beast"…
>
> No matter how insignificant the act required may seem, a Christian's engaging in such worship would mean his being disloyal to God and Christ. (w1976 10/15 635)

A JW who joins a political organization would be judged "by his actions" by the elders and excommunicated. Here are the rules:

> Also, a person might renounce his place in the Christian congregation by his actions, such as by becoming part of a secular organisation the objective of which is contrary to the Bible and, hence, is under judgment by Jehovah God. (Compare Revelation 19:17-21; Isaiah 2:4.) So if a person who is a Christian chooses to join those who are disapproved by God, it would be fitting for the congregation to acknowledge by a brief announcement that he has disassociated *himself* and is no longer one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Such a person would be viewed in the same way as a disfellowshipped person. (Organised to Accomplish Our Ministry 1983, 151)
>
> A disfellowshipped person may be reinstated in the congregation when he gives clear evidence of repentance, demonstrating that he has abandoned his sinful course of conduct and is desirous of having a good relationship with Jehovah and his organisation. The elders are careful to allow sufficient time, perhaps many months, a year or even longer, for the disfellowshipped person to prove that his profession of repentance is genuine. (ibid, 149)

WBTS Withdraws it Membership

Following an expose in *The Guardian* newspaper of London (Bates, S. Sect accused of hypocrisy over association with organisation it has demonised, October 8, 2001) the JWs Governing Body and WBTS directors were not disfellowshipped as other JWs would have been. The WBTS merely withdrew its UN membership as an NGO.

UNITED STATES

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1922	2,814			
1926	5,200			
1931	13,600			

1936	25,000		35,200	
1940	45,100		58,900	
1945	66,700			
1950	108,100	1,390		
1955	187,100	868		
1960	250,900	702		
1965	327,600	581		
1970	388,900	524	836,100	244
1975	561,000	378		
1980	565,000	389	1,362,000	162
1985	723,000	330	1,658,000	144
1990	850,000	289	1,864,000	132
1995	956,000	274	2,111,000	124
2000	988,000	277	2,153,000	127
2005	1,036,000	282	2,257,453	129
2010	1,178,000	259	2,485,000	123
2015	1,232,000	261	2,475,000	130
2018	1,235,000	265	2,441,000	134
	Ave.			
2019	1,207,000	273	2,417,000	136
2020	1,211,000	273	2,069,000	160
2021	1,242,000	268	2,461,000	135
2022	1,230,000	272	2,344,000	143
2023	1,220,000	276	2,355,000	143
2024	1,236,000	272	2,409,000	140
2025	1,250,000	274	2,378,000	144

UNITED TESTIMONY PERIOD

JWs tract distributions in the 1930s, which were synchronized in many countries.

UNITING FORCE

> HAS religion as a whole been a uniting force in the world? Or, rather, has it been a force for death and destruction? In answer we must say, the world has witnessed a century of conflict—ignited by nationalism but fueled by religion. (w1985 9/1 7)

JWs claim they have the "uniting force of Jehovah's spirit" (Yearbook 1989, 146) and the "Uniting force of truth":

> Have you been learning the "pure language" necessary for survival? Just as each language has a distinct pattern of words and grammar, so the truth, as it comes in God's word the Bible and as he has revealed its understanding to us in these "last days," has a pattern that we can come to learn, an inner harmony. It is based on the theme of God's kingdom of righteousness. Once a person learns this "pattern of healthful words," as Paul described it, by coming to an accurate knowledge of the Scriptures, then he can speak it without hesitation to others, not accenting or coloring it with unsound doctrinal twistings. (2 Tim. 1:13; 2 Pet. 3:16) That Christendom has not learned this "pure language" is clear from the confusing mixture of Scriptural and philosophical "dialects" she speaks. (w1973 9/1 528)

Any group, however, that accepts members after lengthy indoctrination and throws out dissenters will be united. The Nazi military was very united! The *Watchtower* religion has produced over 100 breakaway sects besides millions of other defectors who left without forming cults. Despite claiming to have no "unsound doctrinal twistings" the WTS has published thousands of "unsound doctrinal twistings" such as:

> Revelation 16:16 calls it the "war of the great day of God the Almighty," Armageddon. This war will come in the twentieth century. (Awake 1961 2/22 8)

JWs were united around this particular "twisting" not by its "truth" or "pure language" or because God's "spirit" produced it, but by indoctrination and disfellowshipping of dissenters.

The ongoing exit from the JWs sect, due to its constantly changing "truth" and countless "unsound doctrinal twistings, has made JWs a divisive religion.

UNITY

Uniformity in belief and practice is considered so essential by the JWs leaders that thousands get excommunicated over minor differences. Unquestioning obedience to the hierarchy and acceptance of everything in the publications even if erroneous is non-negotiable.

Yet Russellism began partly as a rebellion against obedience to church leaders by people claiming they seek freedom.

In 1916 *The Watch Tower* said:

> Babylon's method is to take all power and authority out of the hands of the people of God and put it into the hands of one person or a clique of preachers or bishops or elders. Our aim continually is to preserve the liberty of each ecclesia and have each recognize its own authority and responsibility. (wr1916 11/1 5983)

From 1919-1938 Rutherford gradually ousted non-conforming elders and most of the original Russellites from his Organization. He implemented "Babylon's method" and made himself the "one person" with "all power". Rutherford discouraged marriage among his

followers and sex among the already-married, insisted that everything he published be regarded as coming from Jehovah, banned the "holy spirit", made workers at his headquarters rise by the bell, eat by the bell and sleep by the bell, and called people who objected "complainers".

Rutherford retained the allegiance of the majority of publishers by:

- Setting new prophetic dates which left Armageddon only "months" away — this kept people compliant because they were afraid to die;
- Regularly publishing reminders in *The Watchtower* that Armageddon meant death;
- An extensive spy system with everyone watched by someone else;
- A policy of provoking public strife and riots — since a minority group embattled by external opposition has little energy for in-group disputes. [See: *WITNESSING*]

Followers were also played against each other. For example, when the elder arrangement was ended in 1932 the congregations retained apparent autonomy by being allowed to choose "service committees" by voting. Candidates for such service committees were, however, selected by Rutherford. After being elected the committees cooperated with Rutherford and the elders were ignored. In 1938, when the original elders had little remaining influence Rutherford ended the voting. (See also: *CONTROL*)

Increased autocratic rule along with failed prophecies brought high defection rates. But new recruits came out of the great economic depression of the 1930s. These found purpose in "God's Organization", felt hope at the prospect of an early Armageddon, and saw opportunity for making money by selling WTS books.

All learned from Rutherford's books and no deviation from their content was tolerated. There could be no brilliance, no independent thinking and (almost) no higher education while in the sect. Everyone also had to be politically inactive and busy declaring the imminence of Armageddon.

A few (such as Franz, Schroeder and Barry) had university educations and positions of prominence, but in general it was the uneducated who joined and/or stayed.

In 1931 Rutherford wrote:

> All who do not work together harmoniously to the glory of God and in unity in declaring the kingdom message are merely making a noise... The church has come to that blessed unity mentioned by the apostle. (w1931 12/1 362)

By 1950 some of Rutherford's excesses, such as the ban on marriage and the 60-hour-per-month activity quota for publishers, were modified. Morality and ethical standards were introduced. The Organization began to look outwardly impressive. People of a hundred nations were united under "Jehovah and Jesus" — in practice under Knorr and Franz — all working purposefully and apparently peacefully while anticipating Armageddon.

Organizational unity, the prospect of never having to die, and extensive advertising attracted increasing numbers:

> For the first time I saw real brotherhood — all races meeting peacefully, no prejudice because of skin color, a true unity. (g1984 9/22 26)

Unity was a regular topic at meetings and in publications. The word "unity" appears 4764 times on the *Watchtower Library* CD for 2007.

JWs leaders called the unity "a matter of amazement for observers" (w1974 1/15 44) and "This happy unity, like that of a flock in a pen." They often quoted comments of praise from observers and new recruits:

> It appears that you people have been inspired from heaven — this is wonderful. If only the whole world had a society like yours, there would be no problems in the world. (w1984 1/1 25)

Entry into this unity is preceded by indoctrination — baptism candidates must accept the WTS as God's Organisation, the Governing Body as corresponding to the Apostles, and WTS writings as coming from God.

Elders in 1st century Jerusalem supposedly formed a "world governing body" obeyed by Christians world-wide. Similarly JWs leaders must be obeyed without question. Unity is assisted by keeping followers on a treadmill of activity — everyone kept busy and regularly urged to do more:

> Furthermore, the binding tie between the true disciples is strengthened by having a similarity of work... (w1944 12/15 375)

Unity is reinforced by:

- Governing Body policies and doctrines being taught at meetings and in books;
- Regular reminders that destruction is "at hand";
- Regular instruction to avoid "worldly thinking" and "apostates".
- A ban on reading anything critical of JWs. (See: *CONTROL; INDOCTRINATION*)

Even failed prophecy does not break Governing Body control. About 20% of followers defected in 1974-1980. But, stimulated by warnings about Armageddon, and that the last generation was nearing its end, JWs in 1980 started increasing again.

After recovering from the 1975 fiasco the Organization again experienced "wonderful", "thrilling", "delightsome" increase. Unity was stressed as strongly as ever. The word "unity" and synonyms thereof occurred almost 30 times in the six pages of w1985 1/1 10-15. Publication after publication stressed unity. (w1983 9/15 10-20; w1984 3/15 3-19; w1985 3/15 15-20) It is "our glorious unity" (w1984 3 /1 19) due to which "we do not share the fear of the disunited world". (w1984 3/1 19)

World unity under the Governing Body

JWs unity is "the foundation for world unity". (w1984 3/15 10-11) Their conventions illustrate the world peace and unity to come:

> These experiences help us appreciate the unity and joy of these Kingdom proclaimers. It will certainly be a wonderful time when all people recognize Jehovah as King and submit to his rule. Then disunity will be a thing of the past. (w1984 7/1 7)

However, the only way to "recognize Jehovah as King and submit to his rule" is to obey the Governing Body.

The purpose of JWs unity is to make it the springboard leading to international unity under the JWs leaders through the WTS:

> So, no world peace and unity can come until there is a change in the attitude of people… It is largely a matter of education, putting in people's minds and hearts a real reason for unity.
>
> …Nonetheless, **international unity will be brought about**. It will be done by the only one who can reach the hearts of people and change attitudes and personalities. This one is the Creator. But he does not change attitudes arbitrarily. Rather, he has the educational program that moves people to change, because he knows what they need. He is supervising the program…
>
> It is the international society known as Jehovah's witnesses.
>
> Do these people actually have unity among themselves in all phases of life and activity? That they do have it is evident to all who have observed their large assemblies in operation, or who have attended their Christian meetings in local Kingdom Halls. Where do they get it? From studying and following God's Word the Bible… (w1973 5/1 281)

Most JWs anticipate a supernatural Armageddon in which opposition to JWs is wiped out by angels and by catastrophes such as super-size earthquakes.

However, if JWs become numerous enough they could organize "Armageddon" themselves and liquidate opposers and regard this as God acting through his "spirit directed organization"! (See: *GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION*)

For the present JWs unity is also a source of division because countess doctrines have been revised or discarded, and prophecies have failed for more than 20 dates, but everyone had to unitedly accept every error as "Bible truth". Over 100 sects have split off from JWs; many are actively proselytizing; some have over 5,000 members; and the total defectors from JWs number millions. This refutes the boast that the WTS and JWs provide "the foundation for world unity".

JWs cite I Corinthians 1:10 and Ephesians 4:1-6 which mention "agreement" and "oneness of spirit" among the Christians in Corinth and Ephesus. 1st century Christians, however, tolerated local differences — Jewish Christians kept the Mosaic Law to maintain peace with other Jews but Gentile Christians did not. (Acts 21; Ephesians 1:11-18)

UNITY — COVINGTON TESTIMONY

JWs leaders maintain within their Organization "unity at all costs". Anyone who opposes unity — even if unity requires acceptance of false prophecy — is "worthy of death". This was stated by Hayden C. Covington, the WBTS's legal counsel, at the Douglas Walsh court case in Scotland in 1954:

> Q.- Is it not vital to speak the truth on religious matters?
> A.- It certainly is.

Q.- Is there in your view room in a religion for a change of interpretation of Holy Writ from time to time?
A.- There is every reason for a change in interpretation as we view it, of the Bible. Our view becomes more clear as we view the prophesy fulfilled by time.
Q.- You have promulgated – forgive the word – false prophesy?
A.- We have – I do not think we have promulgated false prophesy, there have been statements that were erroneous, that is the way I put it, and mistaken.
Q.- Is it a most vital consideration in the present situation of the world to know if the prophesy can be interpreted into terms of fact, when Christ's second coming was?
A.- That is true, and we have always striven to see that we have the truth before we utter it. We go on the very best information we have but we cannot wait until we get perfect, because if we wait until we get perfect we would never be able to speak.
Q.- Let us follow that up just a minute. It was promulgated as a matter which must be believed by all members of Jehovah's Witnesses that the Lord's Second Coming took place in 1874?
A.- I am not familiar with that. You are speaking on a matter that I know nothing of.
Q.- You heard Mr. Franz's evidence?
A.- I heard Mr. Franz testify, but I am not familiar with what he said on that, I mean the subject matter of what he was talking about, so I cannot answer any more than you can, having heard what he said.
Q.- Leave me out of it?
A.- That is the source of my information, what I have heard in court.
Q.- You have studied the literature of your movement?
A.- Yes, but not all of it. I have not studied the seven volumes of "Studies in the Scriptures", and I have not studied this matter that you are mentioning now of 1874. I am not at all familiar with that.
Q.- Assume from me that it was promulgated as authoritative by the Society that Christ's Second Coming was in 1874?
A.- Taking that assumption as a fact, it is a hypothetical statement.
Q.- That was the publication of a false prophesy?
A.- That was the publication of a false prophesy, it was a false statement or an erroneous statement in fulfilment of a prophesy that was false or erroneous.
Q.- And that had to be believed by the whole of Jehovah's Witnesses?
A.- Yes, because you must understand we must have unity, we cannot have disunity with a lot of people going every way, an army is supposed to march in step.
Q.- You do not believe in the worldly armies, do you?
A.- We believe in the Christian army of God.
Q.- Do you believe in the worldly armies?
A.- We have nothing to say about that, we do not preach against them, we merely say that the worldly armies, like the armies of the world today, are a part of Satan's Organization, and we do not take part in them, but we do not say the nations cannot have their armies, we do not preach against warfare, we are merely claiming our exemption from it, that is all.
Q.- Back to the point now. A false prophesy was promulgated?
A.- I agree that.
Q.- It had to be accepted by Jehovah's Witnesses?
A.- That is correct.
Q.- If a member of Jehovah's Witnesses took the view himself that that prophesy was wrong and said so he would be disfellowshipped?
A.- Yes, if he said so and kept persisting in creating trouble, because if the whole organisation believes one thing, even though it be erroneous, and somebody starts on his own trying to put his ideas across then there is disunity and trouble, there cannot be harmony, there cannot be marching. When a change comes it should come from the proper source, the head of the organisation, the governing body, not from the bottom upwards, because everybody would have ideas, and the organisation would disintegrate and go in a thousand different directions. Our purpose is to have unity.
Q.- Unity at all costs?
A.- Unity at all costs, because we believe and are sure that Jehovah God is using our organisation, the governing body of our organisation to direct it, even though mistakes are made from time to time.
Q.- And unity based upon an acceptance of false prophesy?
A.- That is conceded to be true.
Q.- And the person who expressed his view, as you say, that it was wrong, and was disfellowshipped, would be in breach of the Covenant, if he was baptised?
A.- That is correct.
Q.- And as you said yesterday expressly, would be worthy of death?
A.- I think - - -

Q.- Would you say yes or no?
A.- I will answer yes, unhesitatingly.
Q.- Do you call that religion?
A.- It certainly is.
Q.- Do you call it Christianity?
A.- I certainly do.
(pp 345-348 of the Douglas Walsh court transcript)

Page 356 of the court transcript says:

Q.- Do you know of any religion of the world, as you would put it so called which has as its set up of publishing what is later proved to be untrue but requiring of its members that under pain of spiritual death they must accept that untruth?
A.- I do not know of any other organisation except Jehovah's Witnesses.

UNIVERSAL DOMINATION
A key theme by Rutherford was: "Who will rule the earth?" Eventually it would be God via Rutherford's Organization. This theme continued after Rutherford's death:

The issue of universal domination is now the leading question to be settled to God's glory, and the day of wrath against all objectors to His universal domination is nigh at hand. (The Kingdom is at Hand 1944, 317)

UNIVERSAL ORGANIZATION
God's angels in heaven organized in ranks to do God's bidding, and the WTS (and associated corporations) on Earth headed by the Governing body, together form God's "universal organization".

UNIVERSAL WAR NEAR (1935)
Booklet by Rutherford about the universal war of Armageddon which in 1935 was so close that the "witness work" was "almost done" and only a "few months" remained:

During the past fifteen years Jehovah's witnesses have been giving this testimony to the nations… The Scriptural evidence and the physical facts strongly indicate that such witness work is now almost done. (p.26)

During the few remaining months until the breaking of that universal cataclysm the powers that rule the nations of the earth will continue to make treaties… (p.27)

UNTHANK, STEVEN (c.1968-)
In 2006 the Victorian Government introduced a checking system to help protect children below the age of 18 from harm.

The Working with Children (WWC) Check created a mandatory checking standard across Victoria to help keep children safe by preventing people who pose a risk from working with them in either paid or volunteer work. The WWC Check was introduced under the *Working with Children Act 2005* and *Working with Children Amendment Act 2010*.

The Check was phased in from 2006 to 2011 and has the general requirement:

If you work or volunteer with children you may need to apply for a WWC Check. Employers, volunteer organisations and agencies must ensure that any of their staff or volunteers who need a WWC Check have applied.

It was estimated 650,000 Victorians would have to apply to have the Check (costing about $80) but JWs headquarters concluded it did not apply to JWs "ministers".

Steven Unthank, a former JW, attempted to launch a private criminal prosecution against JWs headquarters in 2011 for not requiring JWs elders to submit to "Working With Children" police checks.

Graeme Hammond in the *Sunday Herald Sun* reported:

Former Witness taking on Watch Tower

A FORMER Jehovah's Witness is to launch a private criminal prosecution against the religion's world headquarters.

His action is in protest at its refusal to require church elders to submit to Working With Children police checks in Victoria.

Steven Unthank, who says he was a victim of sexual assault by a church elder in Queensland, says he is taking the drastic step to protect children within the religion and at homes where Jehovah's Witnesses doorknock…

Victoria's Working With Children Act requires ministers of religion who have regular unsupervised contact with children to apply for background checks and the Catholic and Anglican churches say all ministers and volunteer workers routinely apply for such checks.

> Although Jehovah's Witnesses say all members become ordained ministers at baptism, a spokesman for the Watch Tower Society said … "We don't typically work with children, we don't have Sunday schools, so that law doesn't apply to us," the spokesman said. (April 10, 2011)

Mr Unthank discontinued the prosecution apparently due to financial constraints.

UPTON, BRENDA

Since all JWs including "pioneers" and workers at branch offices and printing factories are volunteers the WTS often avoided compensation payments for serious accidents, dismissing the injured back into the community.

The following is from the *Daily News*:

> Jehovah's loses comp case
> Church may be forced to pay millions
>
> Jess Wisloski and Adam Lisberg
>
> A 46-year-old woman who devoted her life to the Jehovah's Witnesses said she was forced to move from their Brooklyn compound after she was seriously injured while serving the church.
>
> But a judge's ruling this week that she is entitled to worker's compensation payments could end up costing the church millions of dollars.
>
> Brenda Upton and her husband, Michael, took a vow of poverty and moved to the Witnesses' Brooklyn headquarters in 1998 to work as chiropractors for other church members.
>
> She injured her spine while running to catch a bus at an upstate church compound later that year…
>
> The church took care of her medical care until 2001, when she and her husband were asked to leave and were given a $79,000 stipend.
>
> But Workers' Compensation Law Judge Stephen Goldstein ruled Wednesday that Upton is entitled to $400 a week in workers' compensation payments. "I'm finding they were not religious volunteers," Goldstein said. "They were engaged, particularly Dr. Brenda Upton, in a number of work-like activities."
>
> The Witnesses vowed to appeal the ruling, saying Upton and the other 5,800 Witnesses who live and work in the church's New York operations are volunteers, not employees.
>
> But if the decision stands, the Witnesses — and other religious organizations — could potentially face millions of dollars in workers' compensation insurance premiums and payments, said church lawyer John Miller…
> (January 6, 2006, Daily News, L.P.)

URGENT

Another word to express the nearness of the completion of the JWs preaching or "harvest" and of Armageddon:

> The harvest work is urgent for a second reason. Soon it will be completed. (w1988 1/1 18)

The 1374 occurrences of "urgent" on the *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD refer mainly to the urgent action necessary to survive Armageddon such as more preaching or greater conformity to doctrine.

URUGUAY

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

	Peak	Ratio 1 to	Memorial	Ratio 1 to
1970	3,199	875		
1975	4,689	589		
1980	4,303	639	12,400	221
1985	5,329	561	15,200	196
1990	7,755	377	18,900	154
1995	10,300	293	23,100	131
2000	10,600	287	21,300	142
2005	11,000	289	24,500	129
2010	11,600	279	25,489	127
2015	12,031	285	23,583	145
2018	11,915	294	23,579	149
	Ave.			
2019	11,887	291	23,581	147
2020	11,929	291	24,153	144
2021	12,078	289	29,798	117
2022	11,878	294	25,010	140
2023	11,825	296	22,407	156
2024	11,871	290	22,441	153
2025	11,966	291	21,978	159

USED BY JEHOVAH

Anyone who preaches the JWs message (w1983 2/1 26), donates money to the WTS, or works for the Organization is "used by

Jehovah''. The phrase appears 302 times on *Watchtower Library* (2007) CD.

UZBEKISTAN

A central Asian country north of Afghanistan not listed by name in the WTS's yearbooks or "Service Year Report" but has its statistics (of JWs publishers) included in a grouping labelled "Other Lands" (where JWs experience restrictions).

Forum18 News Service (www.forum18.org/) of Oslo, Norway, reported:

> 10 February 2012
> UZBEKISTAN: Renounce your beliefs or you won't be released
>
> By Mushfig Bayram,
>
> Two Jehovah's Witness prisoners of conscience near the end of their jail sentences in Uzbekistan, Olim Turaev and Sergei Ivanov, are due to face new criminal trials…
>
> The two – jailed in 2008 for four and three and a half years respectively — began their sentences in open labour camps. But in 2009 they were both moved to "more punitive general regime prison" in Tavaksay after they asked the authorities to be amnestied. While serving their sentences, the two – along with another Jehovah's Witness prisoner of conscience – were in summer 2011 "visited by a prison official and told that they would not be released at the end of their terms unless they renounced their faith", Forum 18 was told…
>
> As well as the three Jehovah's Witness long-term prisoners, many Muslim and Protestant prisoners of conscience are serving long sentences for exercising their right to freedom of religion or belief. In March 2010 … Protestant Tohar Haydarov was sentenced to 10 years in jail…

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