
Captives of a Concept

Don Cameron
Former member of a
Body of Elders of Jehovah's Witnesses

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(See his "Commentary & Essays" at <http://www.commentarypress.com/>)

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Important Terms

Watchtower (or Watch Tower) Society: A world-wide religious organization with its Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. Its most well known publications are *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Its claimed founder, Charles Taze Russell,¹ published the 1st issue of “Zion’s Watch Tower” in July 1879. – See Appendix, p.144

Jehovah: The English rendering of the “Divine Name” for God the Father. Some religions prefer the Hebrew “Yahweh.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses: The millions of people associated with this religion. Prior to 1931 they were known as “Bible Students.”

Governing Body: A dozen or so elderly Witnesses in Brooklyn who have had the final say on the organization’s teachings since 1976. Prior to 1976 the one man who was the president at the time made all the final decisions.²

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom: The Governing Body’s very important 750-page book of the history of the Watchtower Society published in 1993. Although it contains thousands of details that don’t matter, it also contains a few that do. It’s a matter of knowing what to look for and where to find them.

Charles Russell & Joseph Rutherford: What needs to be known about this religion centers on the teachings of these two men from about 1876 to 1919. **Note:** Although Russell is thought of as the Society’s first president, page 576 of the *Proclaimers* book says that a man by the name of W. H. Conley was the initial president from 1881 to 1884. Russell didn’t officially become its president until the Society was legally incorporated in 1884. But he had always been the driving force behind this religion from the early 1870s until his death in 1916.

“Christ’s invisible presence”: This term corresponds to what everyone else calls “the Second Coming of Christ” referred to at Matthew 24:3. The Society teaches that Jesus returned to begin his “invisible presence” in 1914. But they explain that it was “not by his personally returning, even invisibly, to the vicinity of the earth, but by his directing his attention toward the earth as ruling King.” - See Appendix, p. 143

Mathew 24:45-47: This is the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology because its claim that it *is* “the only true religion” is based upon the way they interpret this passage. – See Chapter 2, page 18.

Proverbs 4:18: This may be the 2nd most important Scripture in Watchtower theology because it is used to explain away all their former teachings which suggest that it is *not* “the only true religion.” – See Chapter 8, page 63.

¹There are many “Bible Students” today who feel that although Russell was the founder of the WatchTower Society in the late 1800s, he is *not* the founder of the religion of Jehovah’s Witnesses. They believe that Joseph Rutherford is their founder. See their reasoning at http://www.nsbible.org/pastor_not_founder.htm

² *Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom*, pp. 109,110.

Foreword

ACCORDING to the annual report for the year 2009 some 7 million Jehovah's Witnesses spent about 1.5 billion hours distributing hundreds of millions of pieces of literature while going door-to-door and conducting about 7.6 million Bible studies in 236 lands. All that activity resulted in about 18.2 million people attending their annual "Memorial of Christ's Death."

But as will be shown, all this effort has been in support of an illusion—an illusionary concept that has become the 'foundation cornerstone' of the Watchtower religion upon which everything else rests. It is a concept that dominates and controls the thinking of those who write the literature as well as the Witnesses who read it.

In order to understand this illusionary concept and how it affects Jehovah's Witnesses it is *not* necessary to compare the teachings of the Bible or other religions with the teachings of the Watchtower Society because...

It isn't what Jehovah's Witnesses believe about the Bible that has made them captives of a concept. It is what they believe about the Watchtower Society that has done it.

But there are two things that *are* necessary to compare...

1. *The Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 (the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology)³ with...*
2. *Watchtower history as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47.*

The reason why this comparison is necessary is because the concept holding Jehovah's Witnesses captive is based upon the outcome of it. If the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47 *and the specific event mentioned in verse 47* did in fact happen in Watchtower history, then everyone on earth may want to consider leaving their present religion and joining this one. But if it didn't happen, then Jehovah's Witnesses may want to consider leaving it. This single Scripture/Event is *that* important to the existence of their religion today.

Those who make this comparison *before* they get baptized by the Watchtower Society don't get baptized. Most who make it *after* they got baptized re-

³ Although Witnesses don't think of it this way, Matthew 24:45-47 is the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology because their religion stands or falls on what did or did not happen in connection with it.

alize that they made a mistake.⁴ For when this comparison is made, at least three things become evident...

1. God and Jesus Christ have never had anything to do with the Watchtower organization.
2. Its Governing Body has not told Jehovah's Witnesses the whole truth about the organization's history, especially as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47.
3. Their repeated warnings about former Witnesses, whom they like to call "apostates," turns out to be Watchtower propaganda that does not protect Jehovah's Witnesses from being misled. Rather, it prevents them from noticing that they are already being misled—not by those they *distrust* the most *outside* their organization but by those they *trust* the most *inside* their organization.⁵

An example of the above point #3 appears on page 11 of the March 1, 2002 *Watchtower*⁶ where what is said is obviously not designed to encourage Witnesses to examine anything for themselves. Rather, they demonize those who try to encourage Witnesses to check up on what their Governing body has told about the organization's history by labeling them 'apostate servants of Satan.' Their propaganda then goes like this...

If we entertain the false reasoning of such ones, our confidence in Jehovah's Word of truth, the Bible, can be weakened and our faith can die.

While it is true that some Witnesses who "entertain" what so-called "apostates" have to say *do* lose confidence in the Bible and their faith in God *does* die, it is not because of "the false reasoning of such ones." Rather, it is because of coming to realize that the false reasoning and the false history was coming from their religious leaders who claimed to represent "the only true God" in "the only true religion."

Others simply lose confidence in the Watchtower Society. And what dies in the process is their faith in its Governing Body. Then they begin looking for an alternative way to worship God.⁷

This brings up the question: How is it possible for such men to be anything but completely truthful with those who depend on them for all of their "direc-

⁴ See Chapter 5, "The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made"

⁵ See Chapter 9, "Watchtower Propaganda Keeps Them Captive"

⁶ See also pages 17 and 18 of the September 15, 2002 *Watchtower*.

⁷ See page 136, "An Alternative to 'God's Organization.'"

tion and guidance in matters of worship”?⁸ The first answer that may come to mind is that the Society’s religious leaders are no different than the religious leaders of Jesus’ day whom he said were ‘hypocrites, serpents, and offspring of vipers.’⁹ But there is something that the apostle Paul said that might be an alternative explanation that doesn’t necessarily require these men to be hypocrites, serpents or offspring of vipers...

Because they did not accept the love of the truth
...that is why God lets an operation of error go to them that
they may get to believing the lie. – 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

Only God knows if this is how He has been dealing with these men, but if this is what is going on it would explain a lot. Once they “get to believing the lie” then the lie becomes the truth in their minds. And once that happens it doesn’t matter what the Bible says or what went on in the Society’s history. *Nothing will be allowed to disprove the lie.* Anything that is contrary to it will either be ignored, as is done throughout their *Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom* book, or else it will be manipulated to force it to apparently fit the lie, as is also done throughout their *Proclaimers* book. And yet they will do these things while thinking they are being candid in their efforts to uphold the truth.¹⁰ Apparently this is one of the strange ways the human mind is capable of working when “God lets an operation of error go to them that they may get to believing the lie.”¹¹

And so, what is the particular lie that God has let the Governing Body get to believe? It is the concept or premise upon which their religion rests. A concept so powerful that upholding *it* rather than upholding *the truth* is what influences and ultimately controls the decision-making process of not only the men of the Governing Body but all the rest of Jehovah’s Witnesses as well.

⁸ March 15, 1998 *Watchtower*, p. 21

⁹ Matthew chapter 23

¹⁰ In the *Foreword* to their *Proclaimers* book they say they “have endeavored to be objective and present a candid history.” But they cannot be truly candid because their history does not agree with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. See Chapter 3.

¹¹ *Captives of a Concept* leans toward this explanation as to why the men of the Governing Body think and act the way they do. This explanation doesn’t excuse them when they mislead Jehovah’s Witnesses about the organization’s history, but it does offer a possible explanation why they are able to do it without apparently bothering themselves. Several examples in this study will demonstrate their inability to always tell the truth which would seem to indicate that they have not yet accepted the *love* of the truth. - See Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do.”

The Concept

THE concept that held about one hundred members of The Branch Davidians captive was their belief that **David Koresh was God's chosen individual** to teach them what he wanted them to believe.

The concept that held about one thousand members of The People's Temple captive was their belief that **Jim Jones was God's chosen individual** to teach them what he wanted them to believe.

The concept that still holds millions of Jehovah's Witnesses captive is their belief that **the Watchtower Society is God's chosen organization** to teach them what he wants them to believe; that all of God's directions to mankind comes through this one "channel of communication."

A main difference between the above concepts is the one through whom God is thought to 'speak.' In the cases of Koresh and Jones, it was *men*. But with Jehovah's Witnesses it is *an organization* – "**God's organization.**"¹²

The following statement by former Governing Body Member Raymond Franz may well be *the best explanation that has ever been written about what makes Jehovah's Witnesses 'tick'...*

*I try in my own mind and heart to understand the feelings of all [Jehovah's Witnesses], including those of the Governing Body. Based on my own [60 years] experience among them I believe that they are, in effect, the **captives of a concept.** The concept or mental image they have of "**the organization**" seems almost to take on a personality of its own, so that the concept itself controls them, moves them, or restrains them, by*

The concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive is their belief that the Watchtower Society is God's organization.

¹² The Society promotes the belief that whatever *they* say, it is as if *God* is the One who is speaking. For example, the February 1, 1967 *Watchtower* says, "What (the Witnesses) are telling people is what God in his Word says; he is the one talking.... So too, God uses men to speak to those within the congregation of believers... When they give counsel... it is God who is speaking by means of them.' The article also asks, "How can one identify the organization through which God is speaking to mankind today?" p. 72. On page 15 of the May 1, 2000 *Watchtower* the Governing Body reminds Witnesses that, "Jehovah speaks to us through the Bible and by means of 'the faithful and discreet slave' [organization]." – See Chapter 6, "Who Is God's Organization?"

**Their
concept of
“the
organization”
is the
dominant,
controlling
force in their
lives without
them
realizing it.**

*molding their thinking, their attitudes, their judgments... **The ...concept of “the organization”... becomes, in fact, the dominant, controlling force.***¹³

Total belief in this concept explains why Jehovah’s Witnesses are so willing to accept whatever comes to them from the Watchtower Society no matter how complicated it is or how impossible it may be to understand, and even if it doesn’t make any sense to them. They view what comes from “God’s organization” as coming from God himself.¹⁴

Once people become thoroughly convinced that God is speaking to them directly or by means of some other person or organization they must act in harmony with their belief or else feel guilty before God Almighty if ever they were to disagree or fail to follow the directions being given. This is certainly true with Jehovah’s Witnesses. It is likely that it was the same with the followers of Koresh and Jones. The destruction of the World Trade Center buildings on 9/11/01 and suicide/homicide bombings show how far people are willing to go when they believe that what they are doing is what God wants (or requires) them to do.

**Everything is
explained
and
understood
from the
standpoint
that the
Society is
God’s
organization.**

One of the things that makes the Watchtower’s organizational concept so powerful is that nobody notices that it is “in fact, the dominant, controlling force” in their decision-making process. But it controls them by molding the thinking of those who write the literature (under the direction of the Governing Body) as well as the Witnesses who read it. *Everything is explained and understood from the standpoint that the Watchtower Society is God’s organization.*

The following is the kind of statement that is accepted, not because it is stated or even suggested anywhere in the Bible, but because those reading it are captives of this organizational concept...

¹³ *Crisis of Conscience*, p. 296.

¹⁴ One Witness expressed her personal feelings in front of her congregation this way: “When I receive my *Watchtower* magazine in the mail I feel that I am getting a letter from God.” But it is not likely that she or any Witness would say this in front of non-Witnesses who are not captives of the same concept.

If we highly respect God's inspired prophets of by-gone days, and particularly God's Son [which Witnesses do], should we not also respect the human agency that Jehovah is using today [i.e. the Watchtower Society]?¹⁵

Such reasoning only works on those who believe that the Society is “the human agency that Jehovah is using today.” For everyone else there is no connection between respect for God’s Son in heaven and the Watchtower Society on earth.

It isn’t just that Jehovah’s Witnesses simply *believe* this concept – *it’s what that belief does to them.*¹⁶ Among other things it prevents most of them from noticing anything wrong no matter how wrong it is. And in case anyone does think they notice something wrong, they are warned that they must never try to do anything about it but simply wait for God to do something about it because, after all, ‘It is *his* organization’...

If [you]¹⁷ have become thoroughly convinced that this is Jehovah’s organization that he is guiding and directing his people [i.e. Once you are a captive of this concept], [you] shall not be unsettled by anything that happens ... If [you] really have faith [you] will know that if something is wrong God will straighten it out eventually.¹⁸

The more Jehovah’s Witnesses allow themselves to be controlled by the above reasoning, the more spiritually mature they are considered to be. But of course, the only way “God will straighten it out eventually” is if the Society is in fact ‘God’s organization that he is guiding and directing his people.’ Once this concept is accepted, some pretty strange

This concept blocks most Jehovah’s Witnesses from noticing anything wrong no matter how wrong it is.

“If you really have faith you will know that if something is wrong God will straighten it out eventually.”

¹⁵ June 1, 1997 *Watchtower*, p.10

¹⁶ Raymond Franz explained what it did to him: “My belief in the organization as God's only agency on earth caused me to do what I did at that time without particularly great qualms of conscience. - *Crisis of Conscience*, p. 47

¹⁷ The original pronouns in this quote were “we” which give the false impression that the counsel being given even applies to the religious leaders who are providing it. But in actual practice it only applies to everyone else. Since 1976 it applies to everyone except the Governing Body. When *they* think “something is wrong” they change it. None of the rest of Jehovah’s Witnesses are allowed to change anything. – See Chapter 6, “Who Is God’s Organization?”

¹⁸ May 1, 1957 *Watchtower*, p.284.

**The
Society's
religious
leaders
have made
themselves
indispensable
to the
salvation
of mankind.**

**To
question,
doubt or
disagree
with 'God's
organization'
is to
question,
doubt and
disagree
with God!**

See
Footnote 22

things can be said without bothering anyone. For example, although they know that the Bible says that one must come to Jesus Christ for salvation, it doesn't concern them when the Society claims that mankind must also come to *them* for salvation...

*[Our] witness yet includes the invitation to **come to Jehovah's organization for salvation.***¹⁹

They know the Bible doesn't say such a thing but since they believe that when Armageddon strikes (in the very near future) only those who are in "approved association"²⁰ with the Watchtower Society will be saved, they don't see anything wrong with such a statement. But again, if the Society *isn't* God's organization then it has nothing to do with the salvation of anyone.

Belief in this concept has given the men of the Governing Body tremendous control over the thinking of the rest of Jehovah's Witnesses. To question *them*, to doubt *them*, to disagree with *them* becomes the same as questioning, doubting and disagreeing with God himself! And since Witnesses are very sensitive about doing anything that would displease God, they try hard not to notice anything that might cause them to question, doubt or disagree with "his organization."²¹

Witnesses are reminded often enough that it is very offensive to Jehovah God if ever they were to question or doubt anything provided by his "faithful and discreet slave organization"...

[YOUR] VIEW OF THE [ORGANIZATION]
*If [you] have once established what instrument God is using as his "slave" to dispense spiritual food to his people, **surely Jehovah is not pleased if [you] receive that food as though it might contain something harmful.** [You] should have confidence in the channel God is using.*²²

¹⁹ November 15, 1981 *Watchtower*, p.21. – Also see Chapter 6, "Who Is God's Organization?"

²⁰ April 1, 1986 *Watchtower*, p.31.

²¹ See Chapter 6, "Who Is God's Organization?"

²² February 15, 1981 *Watchtower*. Here again the original pronouns were plural "we." But surely the Governing Body never thinks that the food *they are providing* "might contain something harmful."

Here they begin their reasoning by reminding the Witnesses of the concept (“the instrument God is using”), and end with another reference to it (“the channel God is using”), and then make their point in the middle that ‘surely Jehovah is not pleased if anyone doubts anything that the men of the Governing Body are providing in the way of spiritual food. Again, this kind of reasoning is very intimidating to people who are captives of the Watchtower’s organizational concept.

Witnesses don’t notice how often they accept what comes from the Society simply because they believe it is God’s organization rather than because they can prove it to themselves from the Bible.

It is just as former elder Peter Gregerson so often observed during some fifty years of association with the Watchtower Society...

*It seemed that everything always [comes] back to the question: **Is the Watchtower Society and its leadership the “faithful [and discreet] slave [organization]?”***²³

Everything always comes down to the question, Is the Watchtower Society God’s organization?

The Point: Of all the things that *can* be known about this religion, there is only one thing that *needs* to be known...

<u>What Can Be Known</u>	<u>What Needs To Be Known</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paradise earth 2. Everlasting life (You will never die) 3. God’s name “Jehovah” 4. God’s name is not “God” or “Lord” 5. God is not a Trinity 6. Jesus is not God 7. Jesus didn’t die on a cross 8. The soul is not immortal 9. Hell is not hot 10. The dead are not conscious 11. The earth will not be destroyed 12. The sign of the last days 13. The new heavens 14. The new earth 15. God’s Kingdom (Government) 16. Christian neutrality 17. Blood Transfusions 18. The “sign” of Christ’s presence 	<p>Is the Watchtower Society God’s organization?</p>

Of all the things that can be known about the Watchtower religion, there is only one thing that needs to be known.

²³ *Witnesses of Jehovah* video - <http://www.goodnewsdefenders.org/>

**All
Watchtower
teachings are
dependent
upon what
“God’s
organization”
currently
says the
Bible says.**

See p. 82,
“The Final
Authority of
Watchtower
Teachings”

**Whatever is
going on today
has nothing
to do with
whether or not
the Society is
God’s
organization.**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Christmas, birthdays, holidays 20. How to identify the true religion 21. World Empire of false religion 22. Armageddon 23. The resurrection of the dead 24. When “death will be no more” 25. Born Again 26. The “superior authorities” 27. The “end of the Gentile times” 28. Baptism 29. Etc. | <p>Is the
Watchtower
Society
God’s
organization?</p> |
|--|---|

The reason why the answer to the question in the right hand column is the only thing that needs to be known is because all other Watchtower teachings are dependent—not on what the Bible says but, as will be shown, *on what “God’s organization” currently says the Bible says*. This has been proven to be true over and over again by the Witnesses’ willingness (i.e. *requirement*) to change what they believe the Bible says whenever “God’s organization” changes what it says the Bible says.²⁴

If the Watchtower Society truly is God’s one and only organization that he is using to teach mankind the truth from his Word the Bible (which is what Witnesses believe), then all anyone needs to do is believe everything that currently shows up in the above left hand column whether they understand it or not (which is what Witnesses do).

If you could ask them, “Do you believe the Watchtower Society is God’s organization?”—they will all confidently answer, “Yes.” But if you asked them *why* they believe that it is you will get a variety of answers which usually have to do with what the Society is teaching and doing today.²⁵ But according to their official teaching, *whatever is going on today has nothing to do with whether or not the Watchtower Society is God’s organization*.

²⁴ See Chapter 3 to get an idea of just how often Jehovah’s Witnesses have had to change what they believed the Bible says. And that was just relative to the Society’s teachings between 1876 and 1919. There have been many other beliefs that have changed since 1919.

²⁵ The June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* lists several “identifying marks” that “determine who today has divine backing.” They include, (1) “They base their teachings on the Bible,” (2) “They use and publicize God’s name, Jehovah,” (3) “They reflect God’s joyful personality,” (4) “They base their conduct and their decisions on Bible principles,” and (5) “They are organized in the manner of first-century Christian congregation.” - p.13,14. But according to their official teaching based on their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, whatever the Society is teaching or doing today has nothing to do with whether or not it is, or ever has been God’s organization.

The Only Way An Organization Could Be God's Organization

It is evident that the only way any organization could be God's organization would be if God appointed it as such. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Watchtower Society received that appointment in the spring of 1919 in fulfillment of the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology—Matthew 24:45-47.²⁶

On the Watchtower's official website under the heading, "What Jehovah's Witnesses Believe" they list forty of their teachings. But their most important teaching, the only teaching that needs to be known —"The Watchtower Society is God's organization"—is not mentioned.²⁷

Which Comes First?

The usual way of thinking is that if Jehovah's Witnesses can first see that things they believe about the Bible (in the above left hand column) are not true, *then* they will realize that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization. But it usually has to work the other way around.

They need to at least begin to have serious doubts about the Society first before they can allow themselves to begin to consider that what they believe about the Bible may not be true.

NEXT: The following chapter will explain their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 followed by an examination of the organization's history to see if the way they interpret this Scripture did in fact happen in Watchtower history. If their interpretation and history do agree with each other then there may be a chance that the Watchtower Society is God's organization today, but if they do not agree then there is no chance no matter what they are teaching today.

The only way any organization could be God's organization would be if God appointed it to be His organization.

Jehovah's Witnesses usually need to come to realize that what they believe about the Watchtower Society may not be true before they can allow themselves to consider that what they believe about the Bible may not be true.

²⁶ Jehovah's Witnesses don't think of Matthew 24:45-47 as the most important Scripture in their organization's theology because their Governing Body doesn't present it to them that way. This may be because their Governing Body may not think of it this way either. But that doesn't mean it isn't the most important Scripture in their theology. This religion could not exist without the way they interpret this Scripture. Just as the Christian religion would not exist **if Jesus is not God's Son**, the Watchtower religion would not exist **if the Watchtower Society is not God's organization.**-

²⁷ http://www.watchtower.org/library/jt/index.htm?article=article_01.htm

*** Matthew 24:45-47 ***
**The Most Important Scripture
 In Watchtower Theology**

It is not necessary to disagree with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. It is necessary to understand it, and then hold them to it.

THEIR most detailed explanation of Matthew 24:45-47 is presented in the book *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*.²⁸ It was written by the Society's most respected "eminent Bible scholar" Frederick Franz.²⁹ He was the president of the Watchtower Society from 1977 until his death in 1992.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For the purpose of this study it is only necessary to *understand* their interpretation of this passage of Scripture—not to agree or disagree with it. Whether it is *Biblically* correct doesn't matter. The only concern here is if it is *historically* correct. That is, does what went on in their history agree with the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47 in their January 15, 2008 *Watchtower*:

When Christ inspected the faithful and discreet slave' in 1918, he found those anointed ones on earth to be faithful in providing spiritual 'food at the proper time.' Hence, Jesus was pleased thereafter to appoint them "over all his belongings." (Read Matthew 24:45-47) - p. 24

Their teaching is that Jesus returned in 1914 to begin his Second Coming or "invisible presence"³⁰ in fulfillment of Matthew 24:3. Then in 1918 he began to make an examination of all the religions claiming to represent him to see if any of them had been faithfully and discreetly providing

²⁸ Published in 1973. See Chapter 17, "THE SLAVE WHO LIVED TO SEE THE 'SIGN,'" pages 349-357.

²⁹ *Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, page 109. Frederick Franz was the uncle of Raymond Franz.

³⁰ See explanation of "invisible presence" in "Important Terms." It is only important to know that their "invisible presence" corresponds to what everyone else refers to as "the Second Coming of Christ" of Matthew 24:3. For the purpose of this study, it helps to temporarily assume that Jesus did return in 1914 and then hold them to that teaching.

true teachings of the Bible (spiritual food) at the proper time during his absence. They say that the only religion he found doing so was the Watchtower Society and therefore **Jesus appointed them over all his earthly interests or “belongings” in the spring of 1919.**

Notice that the *only* reason Jesus would have made the above appointment is *if he had found them providing ‘spiritual food at the proper time.’* Their *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* book explains this very critical point under the heading “Time of Inspection by the Slave’s Master.” On pages 350-355 Frederick Franz explains...

*The serving of food, **the right sort of food at the proper time** was the issue. It **had to be according to this** that a decision must be rendered by the returned master [Jesus]...On inspecting [the Society] in the year **1919** C.E... Jesus Christ did find the appointed “slave” faithful and discreet in the feeding of his [disciples].*

Jehovah’s Witnesses know that this “food” and “feeding” refers to the teachings that come from the Watchtower Society. It is evident that Jesus would not base his decision *in 1919* on what the Society would be teaching *today*.³¹ Rather, as Franz explained on pages 349 and 350...

*Could they, by even their latest record [of teachings] **down till 1919** prove that they themselves were the composite “faithful and discreet slave” class of Jesus Christ?... The **quality** of the food itself was to be considered. – para. 40*

And so Jesus would make his decision in 1919 based upon what they had been teaching “down till 1919.” He would check the “quality” of those teachings to make sure they were *the right things to be teaching and the right time to be teaching them* (“the right sort of food at the proper time”). What was Jesus’ decision? The book simply asserts that they “met the test.” – p. 350, para. 40

The most important event in Watchtower history.

It is evident that Jesus would not have made a decision in 1919 based upon what the Society is teaching today.

³¹ The Governing Body prefers to draw attention to what the Society is teaching *today*, as they do in that June 1, 2001 *Watchtower*.

This then is the very precise way they interpret and apply Matthew 24:45-47. This is the only official basis for their claim to being God’s “faithful and discreet slave organization” and “the only true religion” today.

And so when Jehovah’s Witnesses are asked, “Why do you believe the Society is God’s organization,” they all *should* answer...

Because of Jesus’ appointment in 1919 in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47.

If they were to think about this matter (which they usually don’t), especially if they were reminded of President Franz’s explanation in their *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* book, some might be able to agree that whether or not the Society has God’s backing today as His organization ultimately depends upon what decision Jesus would have made in 1919—a decision based solely upon what they had been teaching down till 1919.

Jesus’ Decision in the Spring of 1919

(The Most Important Event in Watchtower History)

If Jesus acknowledged the Society as his “faithful and discreet slave organization” and therefore appointed them “over all his earthly interests” in 1919 then there is at least a chance that they are still God’s organization today. But if he didn’t make that appointment in 1919 then there is no chance no matter what they are teaching today.³²

There is only one way to know what decision Jesus would have made in 1919. Therefore according to their interpretation, there is only one way to know if the Society could be God’s organization today: **By examining the same teachings they say Jesus examined in 1918-1919 to see if they could have passed such an exam.** Jehovah’s Witnesses have never done this. - See “The One Mistake All Jehovah’s Witnesses Have Made,” page 44.³³

The only way to know if the Watchtower Society could be God’s organization today is to examine the same teachings they say Jesus examined in 1918-1919.

³² On page 16 of the June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* it says that people ‘reach the conclusion that Jehovah’s Witnesses are practicing the true religion based on the Society’s teachings and conduct *today*.’ But they *should* reach this conclusion based only upon the Society’s teachings and conduct *down till 1919*.

³³ See page 161, paragraph 4 in the *Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life* book in the Appendix, p. 145

1	<i>The</i>	1	The Society's teachings since 1919 were not part of the record that Jesus would have examined in 1918-1919.	T O D A Y
8	<i>Teachings</i>	9		
7	<i>Jesus</i>	1		
6	<i>Examined</i>	9		

What the Society is doing or teaching today would not have entered into Jesus' decision in 1919.

Although the Society no longer publishes any of the literature that they say Jesus examined in 1918-1919, they have made such an examination possible today with the publication of the organization's history in their book *JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*. It contains enough direct statements and references to other books that Jesus would have examined (which are available on the Internet)³⁴ so that it is possible today to know what decision he would have made in 1919.

Using Watchtower Standards To Judge Watchtower Teachings

The religious leaders of the Watchtower have always set strict standards when judging other religions. According to Matthew 7:2 Jesus would have judged the Society's teachings from 1876 to 1919 using those same standards.³⁵ The first two are the same ones mentioned by President Frederick Franz. The last two are stated on page 14 of the June 1, 2001 *Watchtower*.³⁶ The following 'Standards Chart' will visually show which of the forty-eight teachings being considered did or did not meet the Society's standards...

The standards used to judge the Society's teachings are the same ones they use to judge everyone else.

<i>Watchtower Standards</i>	Yes	No
1. Right Teachings		
2. Right time to be teaching them		
3. Teaching that God revealed his Word		
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		

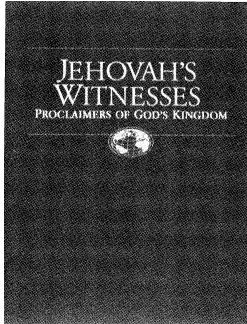
³⁴ Search for "Studies in the Scriptures," and "The Finished Mystery." Hardbound volumes and ready-to-read transcripts are available on several websites.

³⁵ Matthew 7:2: "With what judgement you are judging, you will be judged." One of the websites that provides a tremendous amount of material and information from 1876 to 1919 is www.freeminds.org

³⁶ The June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* says, "Logically, to enjoy God's backing, one must (1) teach only what God reveals in his Word, and (2) reject teachings based on human wisdom or tradition." Logically then, in order for the Society to have "God's backing" today they "must" have met these two standards from 1876 to 1919.

3

48 Teachings Jesus Examined



Even if Witnesses are able to notice what their "Proclaimers" book says, they do not realize what it means.

#1

The Second Coming of Christ

40 Years Too Early Then 29 Years Too Late

Surely Jesus would have noticed what they were teaching about his Second Coming, or "invisible presence" as they prefer to call it. – Matthew 24:3³⁷

Today they teach that he returned to begin his Second Coming in 1914. But the *Proclaimers* book explains that this was *not* what they were teaching before, during and for many years after Jesus' "inspection" in 1918-1919. On pages 46 and 47 it explains that in 1876...

[Second Adventist Nelson Barbour] succeeded in convincing Charles Taze Russell that Christ's invisible presence [Second Coming] had begun in 1874.

Page 133 mentions this again along with a footnote explaining that "a clearer understanding of Biblical chronology" [pointing to 1914] was published in 1943.³⁸ Even if Witnesses are able to notice what is being said about this matter, they are unable to notice what it means.

What It Means

1. The first thing it means is that the Society didn't meet any of their own standards relative to their teaching about the Second Coming of Christ. Their 1874 date was never (1) the right teaching, or (2) the right time to

³⁷ See "Important Terms" for their explanation of Christ's "invisible presence." It corresponds to what most everyone else refers to as "the Second Coming of Christ" in fulfillment of Matthew 24:3. Most translations render this verse, "What will be the sign of your coming?" But the Society's *New World Translation* renders it, "What will be the sign of your presence?" The Greek word in question is "parousia." – See Appendix B of "The Sign of the Last Days – When? – 'Coming' or 'Presence' – What Do the Facts Reveal?" by Carl Olof Jonsson—Wolfgang Herbst, Commentary Press, P.O. Box 43532, Atlanta, Georgia 30336

³⁸ The footnote refers to the 1943 book *The Truth Shall Make You Free* that changed the date of Jesus' return from 1874 to 1914. Page 209 of *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* refers to this same 1943 book where the Society's new understanding of the end of six thousand years of man's existence "did away with the year 1874 C.E. as the date of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ."

NOTE: There is some evidence that Rutherford first mentioned 1914 as the beginning of Christ's Second Coming in the 1930s. But the *Proclaimers* book doesn't mention any date prior to 1943. Either way it wouldn't make any difference because the change of date was made long after Jesus' examination was over.

be teaching it. (3) It had not been what God reveals in his Word, and (4) had been based on human wisdom. Therefore it should have been rejected when Russell first heard about it from Nelson Barbour in 1876.

<i>Christ's Second Coming In 1874</i>	Yes	No
1. Right Teaching		X
2. Right Time to be teaching it		X
3. Teaching that God revealed in his Word		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

2. It also means that if Jesus did return in 1914, neither President Russell nor President Rutherford ever knew it.³⁹ It is possible that there is not a single Jehovah's Witness who realizes this. What are the chances that God would select such prominent men for his sole "channel of communication" but then never communicate to them when His Son had returned?
3. It isn't just that they didn't know that Jesus' Second Coming began in 1914. They both insisted that they *did* know that it happened in 1874. What are the chances that "the God of *truth*" would deliberately allow his earthly channel to misinform the whole world about his Son's return for almost seven decades (1876-1943)?
4. The title of *The Watchtower* magazine included the words "Herald of Christ's Presence"...



According to what they teach today, from 1879 to 1914 it was announcing that he was present *when he wasn't!*

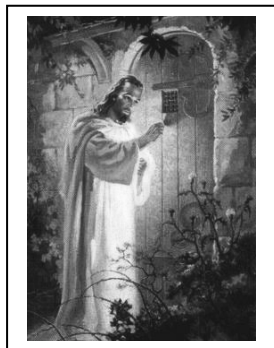
If Jesus' Second Coming began in 1914 it means that neither Russell or Rutherford ever knew it.

See Footnote

According to what they teach today, for thirty-five years (1879 to 1914) their magazine announced that Jesus was present when he wasn't.

³⁹ Russell died in 1916. Rutherford died in 1942. According to the *Proclaimers* book, the date for Christ's Second Coming ("invisible presence") was not changed to 1914 until the year following Rutherford's death. Therefore, if Jesus returned in 1914 neither man ever knew it. This should come as quite a surprise to most Witnesses if they were able to realize it. See Chapter 21, "Correcting Their Mistake."

If Jesus arrived in 1914 he would have had to knock for 29 years since they didn't realize he returned in 1914 until 1943.



The Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 and what went on in their history do not agree.

5. Since they believed that Jesus had returned in 1874 it means that they were not watching for his return in 1914. And yet in Luke's parallel account (12:37) Jesus said that they would be "happy" only if 'on arriving (he) found them watching for his return.' But he would not have found them watching in 1914 because they believed he had already arrived forty years earlier.
6. Luke 12:36 says, "At (Jesus) arriving and knocking they may **at once** open to him." But if he arrived and began knocking in 1914 but they didn't acknowledge his arrival until 1943, it means that he would have had to knock for **twenty-nine years** before they opened to him.
7. Since in 1914 they were the only religion that believed that Jesus had already returned, it means that they were the only Christian religion that was *not* watching or waiting for his return in 1914. And yet Jehovah's Witnesses have been led to believe that they were the only religion that *was* watching for his return in that year.⁴⁰

Why It Matters

Again, the purpose of this examination is to make sure that what was going on in the Society's history agrees with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. In this case it is evident that they don't agree. There is nothing in Jesus' illustration or the Society's interpretation of it that allows for his "faithful" slave to not realize that he had returned until almost 30 years after the fact (1914 to 1943). And it certainly doesn't allow his "discreet" slave to so indiscreetly misinform the whole world about when he had returned for almost seven decades (1876-1943).

Surely the Society had not been either faithful or dis-

⁴⁰ Page 713 of the *Proclaimers* book refers to the December 1, 1984 *Watchtower*. That magazine contains a series of articles dealing with "Christian watchfulness." On page 14 it says, "So when Christ's invisible presence began in 1914, happy were [Jehovah's Witnesses] to have been found watching." But that is not true. There wasn't anyone associated with the Watchtower Society who was watching for Christ's "invisible presence" to begin in 1914 because they all believed that it had already begun forty years earlier. In the same way, today they are still not watching for his "invisible presence" to begin – not because they believe that it happened in 1874, but because now they believe it happened in 1914.

creet relative to the time of the Second Coming of Christ. And yet the only way they even have a chance of being God's organization today is if they had been both faithful and discreet from 1876 to 1919.

How the Governing Body Explains It

The *Proclaimers* book simply ignores all the above as if there is no significance to the fact that the Society's first two presidents (three if you count W.H. Conley) misinformed everyone who listened to them about the most important event in Christian history since the *First* Coming of Christ. i.e. the *Second* Coming of Christ. Instead, they spin this very negative fact into something positive:

C.T. Russell was a man of positive conviction. Convinced that Christ's invisible presence had begun [in 1874], he was determined to proclaim it to others[He] felt that Christ's presence must be proclaimed.
- p. 47⁴¹

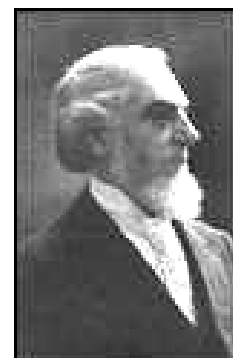
But no matter how "positive" Russell's "conviction" was; no matter how "convinced" he was; no matter how "determined" he was doesn't change the fact that what he "proclaimed" for the rest of his life wasn't true. But again, the *Proclaimers* book simply ignores any significance to this fact while pointing the finger at everyone else when it mentions a pamphlet that Russell wrote in order "to counteract wrong views regarding the Lord's return."⁴² But Russell was never able to counteract *his own* wrong view. It wasn't counteracted (according to what they teach today) until 27 years after his death.

In a personal letter to me dated 2/20/85 they said...

Those in Christendom professing to be Jesus' disciples did not discern his invisible presence, from and after 1914, therefore proved to be asleep and unworthy of receiving any privileges in connection with dispensing spiritual food.

They had not been "faithful" by waiting for God to reveal the date of Christ's Second Coming. And they had not been "discreet" when they announced the wrong date not only down till 1919 but all the way down till 1943 (67 years).

C.T. Russell



⁴¹ Obviously the Governing Body's thinking here is not being molded by the truth but by their need to uphold their illusionary "God's organization." And that concept does not allow for Russell to have been a false teacher about anything, let alone something as important as the Second Coming of Christ.

⁴² *The Object and Manner of Our Lord's Return*

But the Society didn't discern his invisible presence from and after 1914 either.⁴³ If the lack of discernment on the part of Christendom proved that *they* were asleep and unworthy of receiving Jesus' appointment, then wouldn't the Society's identical lack of discernment mean that *they too* were asleep and therefore just as unworthy of receiving any privileges in the dispensing of spiritual food?

Their letter may not be so much a deliberate attempt to mislead as it is an indication of the lack of clear thinking on the part of the Society's religious leaders and their writers. And yet these are the men Jehovah's Witnesses depend on for their entire spiritual "food at the proper time."

#2

"We Are Not Your Faithful & Discreet Slave."

***For 30 years
(1897 - 1927)
the Society's
official teaching
was that
Russell was
Jesus' faithful
and
discreet
slave.***

***Therefore
the official
teaching
was that
the Society
was not
that slave.***

Today the Governing Body teaches that Charles Taze Russell (by himself alone) never was "the faithful and discreet slave" of Matthew 24:45. But the *Proclaimers* book points out that there was a critical period of time in the Society's history when *they taught that he was*.⁴⁴

On page 142 it explains that in 1881 Russell originally taught the he was *not* that "slave" – just as they teach today. But on page 143 it acknowledges the extremely important point that a few years later he changed his mind...

Over a decade [after 1881] Brother Russell's wife publicly expressed the idea that Russell himself was the faithful and [discreet slave]. The view that she voiced concerning the identity of the "faithful [and discreet slave]" came to be generally held by (Jehovah's Witnesses) for some 30 years.⁴⁵ Brother Russell did not reject their view...[After those 30 years] the understanding expressed by Brother Russell in 1881

⁴³ If Jesus' invisible presence (Second Coming) began in 1914, the Society discerned it twenty-nine years too late. See margin note on page 93

⁴⁴ Until their 1993 *Proclaimers* book it has been very difficult for the Governing Body to admit that the Society used to teach that Russell was "the faithful and discreet slave." But now when they do admit it, they do so in such a way that obscures the significance of what that fact means. It's possible that this is because even the men of the Governing Body don't get the sense of what it means.

⁴⁵ The teaching that Russell was this "slave" was more than just "generally held." It was the Society's official teaching from 1897 to February 15, 1927. This would be like saying, "It is generally held that 1+1=2."

[that he was not that “slave”] was reaffirmed in The Watch Tower of February 15, 1927.

What this is *saying* is very important. It is saying that from about 1897 to February 1927 (30 years) the Society was teaching that Russell was “the faithful and discreet slave” and therefore that *the Society was not that slave*. What this *means* is even more important...

Witnesses do not get the sense of what this means.

What It Means

The first thing this means is that if they are correct today when they teach that Charles Russell was not Jesus’ “faithful and discreet slave,” then what they were teaching from 1897 down till 1919 was not true. It had been based on Russell’s wife’s “human wisdom.”⁴⁶

<i>Russell Was “Faithful and Discreet Slave”</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching		X
2. Right time to be teaching it		X
3. Teaching that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

According to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, in 1919 Jesus was saying, ‘You are my faithful and discreet slave.’ But according to their history they were saying, ‘We are not your faithful and discreet slave.’

It also means that according to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, in the spring of 1919 *Jesus* was saying to those associated with the Society...

You are my faithful and discreet slave.

But according to their history, *they* were saying...

We are not your faithful and discreet slave!

They believed Charles Russell was Jesus’ “slave.” And since he died in 1916 they taught that he was in heaven with Jesus. Therefore they were teaching that the Society was not the “faithful and discreet slave.” If Jesus did in fact try to appoint them in 1919 *they rejected it*.⁴⁷ And they continued

⁴⁶ On page 143 of the *Proclaimers* book it says, “Brother Russell’s wife expressed the idea that Russell himself [alone] was the faithful and [discreet slave].”

⁴⁷ Until February of 1927 Rutherford said that to deny that Russell was Jesus’ faithful and discreet slave was “a repudiation of the Lord.” - See May 1, 1922 *Watch Tower*, page. 132.

In order for the Society to be God's organization today, their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 and their history must agree.

This is another important instance where they do not agree.

In order to uphold their illusion the Governing Body has to misrepresent the reality.

In order to recognize when they do this one needs to know the reality.

to reject his offer every day for the next eight years until February of 1927.

If in 1919 Jesus (or anyone else) had asked the question in Matthew 24:45, “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave?” they would have answered according to what they believed – “Charles Taze Russell.” There wasn’t anyone on earth or in heaven who could change Rutherford’s mind until he himself changed it in 1927. But that was too late.

Why It Matters

This is another case where the Society’s history does not fit their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. There is no suggestion in Jesus’ illustration or the Society’s interpretation of it that this slave didn’t know who he was and therefore would mistakenly refuse to accept Jesus’ appointment for even one day let alone almost three thousand days (eight years). Surely this was not “proper and timely spiritual food” relative to the identity of the most important slave on earth.⁴⁸

How The Governing Body Explains It

They don’t even try to explain it in the *Proclaimers* book. They simply treat this matter as if it doesn’t matter. But when they *do* try to explain it they often misrepresent what the Society was teaching at that time, as they do on page 16 of the January 15, 1994 *Watchtower* where they say, “In **1919** that slave was identified as the remnant of anointed Christians.” But that’s not true. They didn’t identify that slave this way until **1927**. In 1919 that slave was still identified as Charles Russell. – See pages 26-28

# 3	The Sewing Machine & Christ’s Thousand-year Reign—1873
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Today Jehovah’s Witnesses are looking forward to the beginning of the one thousand-year Reign of Jesus Christ. But the ‘food’ that Russell had provided right up to his

⁴⁸ See paragraph 4 on page 161 of *Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life* in the Appendix, p. 145.

death was that his Reign had *already* begun. In his *Foreword* to the 1916 Edition of *The Time Is At Hand* he said...

*The Bible chronology*⁴⁹ *herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year Days, beginning with Adam are ended,*⁵⁰ *and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873.*

Russell placed great emphasis on the modern inventions that had come into existence since 1873 as proof that Christ's thousand-year Reign had begun in that year. The very first invention he offered as proof was...

The sewing machine, one of the first, began to reach its perfection 43 years ago.⁵¹

The very first thing that Russell mentioned to prove that Jesus' 1000-year Reign had begun in 1873 was the perfecting of the sewing machine.

<i>Christ's Reign Began In 1873</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching		X
2. Right time to be teaching it		X
3. Teaching that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

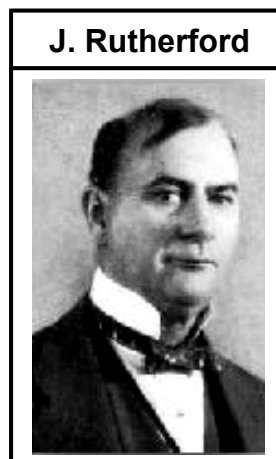
The Governing Body again treats this incorrect teaching as having no significance other than the fact that Russell was mistaken. They are unable to allow themselves (or the rest of Jehovah's Witnesses) to think in terms of what Jesus would have thought about it when deciding if the Society had been truly faithful and discreet about what they had been teaching about his thousand-year Reign.

NEXT: Just about the time they say Jesus began his examination of the Society's teachings, the next president (Joseph Rutherford) changed the date of Christ's Reign. He did it in connection with what he said Jesus and his Father were going to do in the upcoming year of 1925. Keep in mind that *he was teaching these things all during Jesus' examination.*

⁴⁹ They always claim that their calculations are based on "Bible chronology." But when those calculations turned out to be incorrect it means that there were only Watchtower chronologies.

⁵⁰ Many years after 1919 they changed the date for the end of this six thousand years to 1975. Today the significance of the end of six thousand years of human existence is no longer mentioned.

⁵¹ "Foreword" to the 1916 Edition of *The Time Is At Hand*, pp. http://www.nsbible.org/sits_v2/v2s0.htm



4

“Millions Now Living Will Never Die!”⁵²

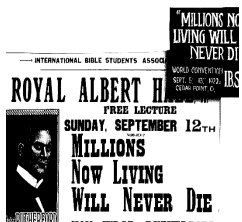
In February of 1918 (just when they say Jesus began his examination) President Rutherford began a worldwide public lecture campaign with the above dramatic title. In 1920 he published a booklet with the same name. The reason why millions of people then living would never die was because Jesus was going to begin his one thousand year Reign in 1925. He also assured everyone...

*We may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the prophets of old.*⁵³

They and many other “faithful men of old” would then become “Princes” in all the earth to help in the administration of Christ’s Kingdom on earth. Then just as confidently he concluded...

*Based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that million now living will never die.*⁵⁴

But as it turned out, millions then living *did* die. Jesus *didn’t* begin his thousand-year Reign and he *didn’t* resurrect anyone in 1925.⁵⁵



INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOC.
ROYAL ALBERT H.
FREE LECTURE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-TH
MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE
HOW THAT BIBLE PROPHECY

All during Jesus’ examination Rutherford was teaching that millions then living would never die.

<i>Millions Now Living Will Never Die – 1925</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching		X
2. Right time to be teaching it		X
3. Teaching that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

⁵² See complete copy of *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* at www.heraldmag.org/olb/

⁵³ *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, page 89.

⁵⁴ *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, page 97

⁵⁵ 72 years later the Governing Body was still unable to let go of Rutherford’s catchy phrase. On page 11 of the January 1, 1997 *Watchtower* they ask, “Why can we confidently expect that “millions now living will never die?”” They answer: “In the early 1920’s, a featured public talk presented by Jehovah’s Witnesses was entitled ‘Millions Now Living Will Never Die.’ This may have reflected over-optimism at that time. But today that statement can be made with full confidence.” Also see page 32 of March 4, 1981 *Awake!*

Why It Matters

Jesus' illustration doesn't allow for his "faithful and discreet slave" to be proclaiming a false teaching or prophecy at *any* time, *especially not all during the time he was examining them.*

How the Governing Body Explains It

In this case the *Proclaimers* book *does* refer to Rutherford's "Millions Campaign" at least eight times and even points some of the above things out. On page 632 it says...

In the lecture "Millions Now Living Will Never Die," delivered by J.F. Rutherford ... attention was directed to the year 1925... On the basis of what was said... this year was associated with expectations of resurrections of faithful pre-Christian servants of God with a view to their serving on earth as princely representatives of the heavenly Kingdom.

The book doesn't tell us "what was said" but does admit that Rutherford was "mistaken." As with all their other teachings that were not true, this one is also treated as if it didn't matter that Rutherford's message was false. Note their following comments on page 425...

What an exciting message they proclaimed! ... Newspaper notices and billboards were used to advertise the lectures. The subject was intriguing.⁵⁶

What they are saying here is all true. The only problem with Rutherford's "exciting message" was that *it wasn't true.* The Governing Body presents this matter as if it didn't matter that Rutherford's message was false. On page 632 they go on to mention some of the wonderful blessings it would have meant for mankind *if* that message *had* been true. They then conclude with a very positive...

What a happy prospect! Though mistaken, they eagerly shared [Rutherford's false message] with others.

For seven years Rutherford had said that millions then

Rutherford kept proclaiming the false message that millions then living would never die throughout the entire period of time they say Jesus was examining him to make sure that what he was teaching was true.

The Governing Body simply ignores any significance to the fact that Rutherford's message wasn't true.

⁵⁶ Would Jesus have thought that Rutherford's "subject was intriguing"?

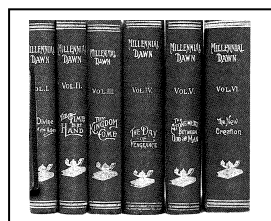
**Nathan Knorr
(the Society's
president
from 1943 to
1977) said that
God was re-
sponsible for
the preaching
of "Millions
Now Living
Will Never
Die."**

living were never going to die, and that Jesus' thousand-year Reign would begin in 1925, and that he was going to resurrect Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in that same year. Although none of these things happened the Governing Body appears to be proud of the fact that they eagerly shared that false message with others. It is difficult to picture Jesus finding anything worth sharing in Rutherford's message.⁵⁷

Even worse, if that's possible, on page 698 of the November 15, 1955 *Watchtower* President Knorr went so far as to say that *God was the One who was responsible for the preaching of Rutherford's message!* Under the heading, "Jehovah Is In His Holy Temple" it says...

*Stirring up increasing interest in them, **Jehovah caused to be preached** from 1918 the startling public message, "Millions Now Living Will Never Die."*

This is amazing. How can anyone say such a thing? And how can Jehovah's Witnesses read what they are saying and not notice anything wrong with it? The answer to both questions must be that it is one of the consequences of believing what they want or need to believe so deeply that such things can be said and read without bothering those who write and read them.



These books and/or transcripts of them are available on the Internet. Search for "Studies in the Scriptures" or by specific name such as "The Time is at Hand." See footnote 59

There was still much more that Jesus would have noticed during a 1918-1919 examination. Both Russell and Rutherford had set numerous dates for specific events that they said were arrived at by understanding "Bible chronology" and "Bible prophecy." Most of them are contained in a series of seven books called *Studies in the Scriptures*. Russell wrote the first six and Rutherford was responsible for the seventh.⁵⁸ Those books were the primary source of "food at the proper time" until several years after Jesus' inspection was over. The following is a partial list of other dates and events associated with them that the Society even-

⁵⁷ On the back cover of the May 22, 1989 *Awake!* the Governing Body used very large bold letters to again announce, "Millions Now Living Will Never Die." Although this had turned out to be just a wild assertion when Rutherford said it in the 1920s, they just as confidently insist that this time, "This is no wild assertion." They say the same things on page 31 of the April 8, 1984 *Awake!* On page 8 of the October 1, 1983 *Watchtower* is the article, "Millions Now Alive Will Never Die Off Our Earth."

⁵⁸ The *Proclaimers* book has at least 16 references to these books. Read them at www.nsible.org/library.htm

tually acknowledged were not true. Of course, Jesus would have known they were not true the moment they started teaching them...

38 Other Dates/Events That Didn't Happen

#5: 1799: The beginning of "the last days" or "time of the end"	<u>RUSSELL</u>
#6: 1829: The beginning of an understanding of the mysteries of prophecy	
#7: 1844: Wise virgins went forth to meet the Bridegroom	
#8: 1846: God's sanctuary was cleansed	
#9: 1873: End of 6000 years of human existence	
#10: 1874: The return of Christ to begin his Second Coming	
#11: 1874: The beginning of the 40-year Harvest or preaching work	
#12: 1874: Second cry, "Behold the Bridegroom."	
#13: 1874: The beginning of the Battle of Armageddon	
#14: 1878: God's Kingdom was "set up" in heaven	
#15: 1878: Beginning of Christ's Kingdom Rule	
#16: 1878: The fall of "Babylon the Great" (false religion)	
#17: 1878: Beginning of "Times of Restitution."	
#18: 1881: Close of "the heavenly calling" (spiritual Israel)	
#19: 1881: Resurrection of all the "dead in Christ"	
#20: 1914: The anointed Christians would be taken to heaven before 1914	
#21: 1914: The end of the "Harvest" or preaching work	
#22: 1914: God's Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth	
#23: 1914: Jesus would be present as earth's new Ruler	
#24: 1914: All Gentile nations would be destroyed by God by the end of 1914	
#25: 1914: Jerusalem would begin to rise from the dust of divine disfavor to honor	
#26: 1914: Israel's blindness would begin to be turned away	
#27: 1914: This year would be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect man	
#28: 1914: Battle of Armageddon would end	
#29: 1914: Peaceful blessings would begin to be recognized on earth	
#30: 1914: Complete destruction of "Babylon the Great" (all other religions)	
#31: 1914: The "last days" would end in 1914	
#32: 1915: God's Kingdom will be fully established near the end of 1915	
#33: 1915: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven soon after 1914	
#34: 1918: God's 'fire' from heaven would fall on Christendom	
#35: 1918: Millions of church members of Christendom would be destroyed by God	<u>RUTHERFORD</u>
#36: 1918: Christendom would go down to oblivion as a system.	
#37: 1918: God will destroy the churches wholesale	
#38: 1920: There would be worldwide all-embracing anarchy.	
#39: 1920: All earthly governments will pass away.	
#40: 1920: All republics will disappear in the fall of 1920	
#41: 1925: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven.	
#42: 2914: End of the thousand-year Reign of Christ	

In the July 1894 *Watch Tower* Russell stated, "We see no reason for changing the figures—nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, *God's dates*, not ours." Rutherford said that his date of 1925 was "indisputable." All of the above dates/events were said to be in fulfillment of *Bible* prophecies. But they all turned out to be unfulfilled *Watchtower* prophecies.⁵⁹ Keep in mind that all of the teachings considered in this study are ones that *the Society* now acknowledges were not true.

⁵⁹ The references to all the above can be found at <http://www.freeminds.org/history/part1.htm> under the heading, "Spiritual Food at the Proper Time." Russell's *Studies In The Scriptures* and Rutherford's *The Finished Mystery* are available at <http://www.freeminds.org/sales/tempsale.htm>

Although the Governing Body treats all 48 teachings in this study as having no importance to Witnesses today, they would have been very important to Jesus in 1919.

<i>Russell's & Rutherford's 38 Dates/Events</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teachings		X
2. Right time to be teaching them		X
3. Teaching that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

Why It Matters

Although the Governing Body (and therefore the rest of the Witnesses) treats all this *wrong* food at the *wrong* time as having no importance today, these teachings would have been very important to Jesus in 1919 if he was examining them to make sure they were serving the *right* food at the *right* time.

On pages 200 and 201 the *Proclaimers* book specifically mentions four other “Practices That Have Been Abandoned” sometime *after* 1919...

43 Christmas

They didn't stop celebrating Christmas until more than seven years after Jesus' inspection was completed.

44 Birthdays

They didn't stop celebrating birthdays until several years after 1919.



45 The Cross

Today the cross is said to be of pagan origin. But it was predominantly displayed on the front cover of every issue of the *Watch Tower* magazine up to October 15, 1931.

46 The Great Pyramid of Gizeh

On page 201 the *Proclaimers* book explains...

*For some 35 years Pastor Russell taught that the Great Pyramid of Gizeh was God's stone witness, corroborating Biblical time periods.*⁶⁰

⁶⁰ One of those “time periods” was that Jesus' Second Coming began in 1874.

Russell used internal measurements of this pyramid—one inch equals one year (“inch years”)—to arrive at dates such as 1874 for the return of Christ, which he said corroborated the Bible’s date of 1874. In an edited version of a paper published in the JW Research Journal, Vol. 6, #2, July-December, 1999, Jerry Bergman, Ph.D. explained...

The pyramid was of such major importance to early Watchtower theology that a huge ten-foot concrete pyramid was selected as a fitting memorial to C.T. Russell when he died. It still stands close to Russell’s grave near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Russell specifically condemned mysticism as demonism and taught that the pyramid had nothing to do with mysticism but was a second revelation, a “Bible in stone” which both added to and confirmed the Holy Scripture record. (1904:313-376).



The *Proclaimers* book says that nine years after Jesus’ inspection was over Rutherford “abandoned the idea that an Egyptian pyramid has anything to do with true worship.”⁶¹ And 24 years after 1919 they also abandoned the year 1874.

THE
CORROBORATIVE TESTIMONY
OF
GOD’S STONE WITNESS
AND
PROPHET
THE GREAT PYRAMID IN
EGYPT

<i>Christmas/Birthdays/Cross/Pyramid of Gizeh</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teachings		X
2. Right time to be teaching them		X
3. Teachings that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

***All during
Jesus’
examination
they were
teaching that
the Pyramid of
Gizeh was
“the Bible
in stone.”***

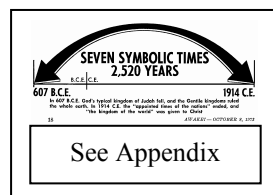
What It Means

Today these four teachings are considered so offensive to God that any Witness who believes or practices even one of them would be disfellowshipped—deserving of God’s

⁶¹ Russell’s book *Thy Kingdom Come* has a 69-page chapter dealing with the Great Pyramid of Gizeh in which he said that Jehovah God designed it and reasoned on “the conjecture that Melchizedek was its builder.” (pages 358,322) If the *Proclaimers* book is correct today when it says that this pyramid has nothing to do with true worship, it means that it had nothing to do with true worship all those years when Russell and Rutherford taught that it did. There are at least hundreds of statements in just this one chapter alone that were “based on human wisdom.” According to the June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* this entire chapter should never have appeared in the Society’s literature if they expected to have God’s backing.

NOTE: See Russell’s gravesite, which includes a large replica of the above pyramid with an engraved cross on one side at <http://www.freeminds.org/history/cemetery.htm>

“everlasting punishment.” If they are so wrong today when the Society *doesn't* teach them, they must have been just as wrong during all the years they *did* teach them. If these teachings would fail an examination by Jesus today, they would have failed his examination in 1918-1919.



For thirty-eight years Russell had foretold that the period of time God had allowed the Gentile nations to rule would come to an abrupt end in 1914 when God was going to destroy all of them. But that didn't happen in 1914.

As of 2010 it still hasn't happened.

47 “End of the Gentile Times”-1914

Of all the dates that Russell had set for so many specific events, there is only one that the Society retains today. They still teach that 1914 marked “the end of the Gentile times” (or “the appointed time of the nations”) in fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy at Luke 21:24.⁶² But what Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice is that their religious leaders have changed the *meaning* of this expression.⁶³ They had to change it because none of the things that Russell said would happen - which would prove that the Gentile Times had ended - happened.⁶⁴ For example, on page 99 of his *The Time Is At Hand* (published in 1889) he said...

*Within the coming twenty-six years **all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved...** In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that **the final end of the kingdoms of this world ... will be accomplished by the end of AD 1914.***⁶⁵

In other words, “the end of the Gentile times” meant the literal end of the Gentile nations. But as it turned out not a single Gentile nation was “overthrown and dissolved” by God in 1914 let alone all of them.

⁶² Russell got this teaching from the same Nelson Barbour who convinced him that Jesus’ Second Coming began in 1874. - (See *Proclaimers* book, pages 134,135.)

⁶³The meaning of “the end of the Gentile times” was changed from referring to the complete end of their rule, to refer to the end of their “*uninterrupted* rule” (1975 Yearbook, p. 72). Their rule being **invisibly** interrupted in 1914 by an **invisible** Jesus Christ who was **invisibly** present as he was being **invisibly** enthroned to begin his **invisible** rule from the **invisible** heavens! Jehovah’s Witnesses have no problem accepting this explanation because it comes from what they believe to be God’s **visible** organization. - May 15, 1976 *Watchtower*.

⁶⁴ See the seven predictions that Russell gave in 1889 which he said would prove that the Gentile Times will have ended in 1914 at <http://www.bibletoday.com/V2/Default.htm> But none of them happened.

⁶⁵ In the 1916 edition of *The Time Is At Hand* Russell changed “by the end of A.D. 1914” to “near the end of A.D. 1915.” But even as of A.D. 2010 “the final end of the kingdoms of this world” still hasn’t happened.

<i>End of the Gentile Times in 1914</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching		X
2. Right time to be teaching it		X
3. Teachings that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

How The Governing Body Explains It

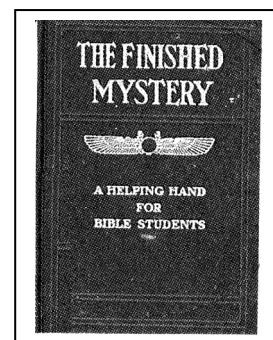
Once 1914 came and went without Russell's prophecy(s) being fulfilled, the leadership has had two choices: (1) Admit that their Gentile Times chronology, which they got from Nelson Barbour, was just as incorrect as the Second Coming chronology which they also got from Barbour, or (2) Change the meaning of "the end of the Gentile times"⁶⁶ so that they can continue to believe (and proclaim) that Russell's prophecy *was* fulfilled in 1914.⁶⁷ Unfortunately for the Witnesses they have chosen the latter. It's also unfortunate for those responsible for this switch because even though Jehovah's Witnesses don't notice what they have done, God surely does.

The Society got their 1914 "Gentile Times" chronology from the same person who gave them their 1874 "Second Coming" chronology.

#48 The 1,200 Furlongs of Rev. 14:20 (Scranton Pa. to Brooklyn, NY)

Jesus would not have completed an examination without taking a close look at their most up-to-date book of "food at the proper time"—*The Finished Mystery* published in 1917. Although the *Proclaimers* book has several references to this book it hardly, if ever, quotes from it. This is because there is little if anything in it that the Society still teaches today.

For example, on page 230 it uses a full page of calculations to prove that the "1,200 furlongs" mentioned in Rotherham's translation of Revelation 14:20 referred to the distance between the place where *The Finished Mystery* was written (Scranton, Pa) and the place where it was printed (Watchtower headquarters in Brooklyn, NY). They no longer teach such a thing.⁶⁸



There are hundreds of statements in just this one book that the Society today says are not true. Jesus would have known this the moment the book was published in 1917.

⁶⁶ Footnote #63

⁶⁷ See pages 88-90 for misleading information about what was expected to happen in 1914.

⁶⁸ See the book's calculations at <http://www.escapefromwatchtower.com/food.html>

<i>The 1,200 Furlongs of Rev. 14:20</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching		X
2. Right time to be teaching it		X
3. Teachings that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

Romans 13:1: A Special Case

This was one teaching that they got right. They were correctly teaching that these “superior authorities” were the earthly governments, and so they would have passed Jesus’ examination on this particular subject.

This is one teaching that would have passed Jesus’ examination.

<i>Superior Authorities = Governments</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching	X	
2. Right time to be teaching it	X	
3. Teaching that God revealed in Bible	X	
4. Rejected because of human wisdom	X	

But the problem here is that ten years later in 1929 Rutherford changed these “authorities” into “Jehovah God and Jesus Christ.”⁶⁹

Rutherford threw out a teaching that was “revealed by God in his Word” and replaced it with one that was “based on human wisdom.”

<i>Superior Authorities = God & Jesus Christ</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teaching		X
2. Right time to be teaching it		X
3. Teaching that God revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom		X

The Society then provided that wrong food for the next 33 years until 1962 when they changed this teaching back to what it had been during Jesus’ examination.

What It Means

It means that the Society’s second president threw out a teaching that had been “revealed by God in his Word” and replaced with one that was “based on human wisdom.” This

⁶⁹ *Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom*, page. 147.

was the exact opposite of what the June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* says “must” be done in order to have God’s backing.⁷⁰ Is it possible that a truly *faithful* and *discreet* slave of Jesus Christ would ever do such a thing?

True, Jesus would not have taken this into account since it happened after 1919, but it is an example to show that even after his examination was over they continued to provide spiritual food that was “based on human wisdom.”

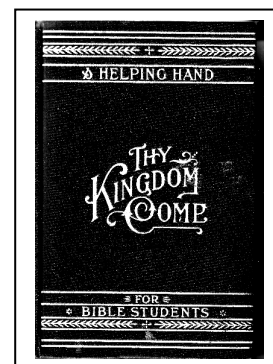
Thousands of Portions of Wrong Food Served Millions of Times

The forty-eight teachings considered in this study made up only a small portion of what Russell and Rutherford had mistakenly thought was “proper and timely spiritual food”⁷¹ from 1876 to 1919. All of their statements, arguments, applications, reasonings, interpretations, explanations, illustrations and chronologies that were used to support those teachings were also improper and untimely.

For example, in Russell’s *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891) he reasoned for sixty-seven pages that the Great Pyramid of Gizeh was “God’s stone witness and prophet.”⁷² Although that was just one false teaching, every sentence in those pages that supported it was also false.

Every other chapter in just this one 380-page book is full of statements that the Society now says are not true.⁷³ For another example, Chapter 2 (“Study II”) uses thirty-six pages to prove that the “Time of the End” (“the last days”) began in 1799 and would end one hundred fifteen years later in 1914. But sometime after 1919 they changed that teaching and now say that the “last days” began in 1914 and will end sometime in the near future. Therefore, every sentence in that chapter that Russell used to support what he believed was also wrong spiritual food at the wrong time.

**Jesus
would have
examined
everything
Russell and
Rutherford
had taught and
how many
times they
taught them
from 1876 to
1919.**



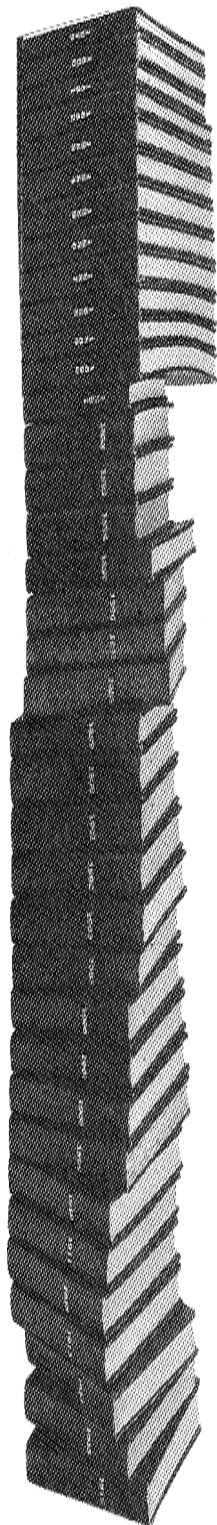
According to what they teach today, much if not most of what is contained in just this one 380-page book was ‘wrong food at the wrong time’

⁷⁰ That June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* says, “To enjoy God’s backing, one *must* teach *only* what God reveals in his Word and *reject* teachings based on human wisdom.”

⁷¹ See Page 161, paragraph 4 of the *Knowledge* book in the Appendix, p. 145.

⁷² *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891) pages 311-380.

⁷³ “Study IX” entitled, “Thy God Reigneth!” contains at least eighty-eight statements within its eight pages that were not true and therefore was ‘wrong food at the wrong time.’ – See pages 301-308



The same is true with some fifty pages of his chapter, “Restoration of Israel” in which he reasoned that God’s favor would eventually return to the nation of Israel. But after 1919 they changed their mind on that teaching too.

Russell and Rutherford provided *so much* wrong spiritual food *so often* for *so long* (both in print and public lectures) that it’s not possible to put a number on all of it. But to get an idea of just how high that number was, consider that one teaching about the 1,200 furlongs of Revelation 14:20 referring to the distance between Scranton, Pa. and Brooklyn, NY. Rutherford didn’t ‘serve’ that portion of spiritual food just one time in one public lecture. He served **850,000 times** in 850,000 copies of *The Finished Mystery*.⁷⁴ And all the wrong food in Russell’s *The Time Is At Hand* was served **4,000,000 times** in 4,000,000 copies of that book. How high would the number be when *all* of the Society’s wrong spiritual food from 1876 to 1919 was added up?

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are some teachings that have not changed since 1919. They include: God’s name is not “God,” God is not a Trinity, Jesus is not God, the soul is not immortal, hell is not hot, the dead are not conscious, and the earth will not be destroyed. But there were others who taught these same things before and after 1919.⁷⁵ If these teachings passed an examination by Jesus, they would have passed no matter who was teaching them.

* End of Jesus’ Examination *

NEXT: What would Jesus have thought about all this? What decision would he have made? According to the Society’s interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, his decision in the spring of 1919 would be the most important event in Watchtower history because the Watchtower religion *now* stands or falls on Jesus’ decision *then*.

⁷⁴ The *Proclaimers* book refers to “the 850,000 edition” of *The Finished Mystery* on page 69.

⁷⁵ On page 622 of the *Proclaimers* book it acknowledges that Russell was not the only one who taught these things but it was just that he did a better job of publishing them than anyone else. See also page 45 under the heading, “Influence of Others.”

Matthew 24:47 - Most Important Event In Watchtower History

NEITHER Frederick Franz or Jesus Christ said that only *some* of their teachings had to be correct only *some* of the time. Franz said that in order to receive the appointment mentioned in Matthew 24:47 they “had” to have been providing (1) the *correct* Bible teachings (2) at the *proper* time. And according to the June 1, 2001 *Watchtower*, their teachings *must* also have been (3) *only* what God had revealed in his Word, and (4) that they had rejected *all* teachings that were based on human wisdom or tradition. But as the following chart shows, they didn’t meet *any* of their standards relative to *any* of the teachings considered in this study...

<i>48 Pre-1919 Watchtower Teachings</i>	Yes	No
1. Right teachings		X
2. Right time to be teaching them		X
3. Teachings that God had revealed in Bible		X
4. Rejected because of human wisdom?		X

Before considering what Jesus would have decided after reviewing *everything* Russell and Rutherford had provided in the way of “food at the proper time” from 1876 to 1919, it is interesting to read what the Governing Body has admitted about *some* of their wrong practices and teachings just between 1914 and 1918...

[Jehovah’s Witnesses] sold themselves because of wrong practices and came into bondage to the world empire of false religion [Satan’s organization...] An outstanding instance of this occurred during World War I of 1914-1918.⁷⁶

None of these 48 Watchtower teachings met a single Watchtower standard.

It is not necessary to prove that any of these teachings were not true. The Governing Body already admits they were not true.

See footnote 238 on page 122

The Society was in Satan’s organization from 1914 to 1918!

⁷⁶ November 15, 1980 *Watchtower*, pages 26, 27. Note: It was Russell and Rutherford who were the cause all their wrong practices. The rest of the Witnesses just believed what they were told to believe.

Then on page 17 of the August 15, 1991 *Watchtower* they say...

*In the year 1919... [the Society] came out of **Satan's organization**....*

These are amazing admissions. For, according to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, in 1918 Jesus was checking to make sure that the Society qualified as *God's organization*, and yet he found them involved in *Satan's organization* ever since he arrived in 1914!

On page 621 of the *Proclaimers* book they ask, "Was God particularly using Charles Taze Russell?" They then explain under what circumstances he would *not* have done so...

*It certainly could not be expected that God would use C.T.Russell **if he did not loyally adhere to God's Word.***

Would Jehovah's Witnesses think that Russell "was indeed used by God in a special way" if they realized how often he did not "loyally adhere to God's Word"?

After reviewing just some of the things he taught when "he did *not* loyally adhere to God's Word," it would seem that they are leading their readers to conclude that God did *not* use Russell. But not so. In fact, they want them to conclude just the opposite...

*As Jehovah's Witnesses today review the work that he did, **the things he taught**, they have no doubt that Charles Taze Russell was, indeed, used by God in a special way.⁷⁷*

Apparently the things he taught they are referring to are not the same things reviewed in Chapter 3.

"The Very Stones Would Cry Out"

Finally, on page 622 the Governing Body says...

*Brother Russell ... did not claim credit for what he taught. He was an outstanding student of the Bible. But he explained that this remarkable understanding of the Scriptures was due to "the simple fact that God's due time had come." He said, "**If I did not speak... the very stones would cry out.**"— Luke 19:40*

⁷⁷ But Jehovah's Witnesses today have *not* reviewed the work that Russell did or the things he taught.

But what is so “outstanding” is how much Russell taught that *wasn't* true. One of the things that is so “remarkable” is that, according to what the Society teaches today, he never knew when Jesus returned to begin his Second Coming. It doesn't help his case to point out that “Russell did not claim credit for what he taught.” Surely God didn't claim credit for it either. And so it looks like it would have been far better if Russell “did *not* speak and *let* the very stones cry out.” Those stones would not have proclaimed a single incorrect teaching, date, event, chronology or prophecy.⁷⁸

*** The Appointment of Matthew 24:47 ***
The Most Important Event
In Watchtower History

And so, what would have happened at this most important event in Watchtower history? What decision would Jesus have made in the spring of 1919? Would he have agreed with former President Fredrick Franz who said...

*Jesus **did** find the appointed “slave” faithful and discreet in the feeding of his disciples.⁷⁹*

Or would Jesus have agreed with former Governing Body Member Raymond Franz who said...

*It would be **an insult to Christ Jesus** to say that he selected this organization on the basis of what it was teaching as of 1919.⁸⁰*

Matthew 24:47
Jesus'
decision in the
spring of 1919

—
To appoint
or not
to appoint?

Which
Franz
would
Jesus
have
agreed
with?

Jehovah's Witnesses will pick the wrong answer because they have *not* ‘reviewed the work that Russell and Rutherford did and the things they taught’—especially in connection with Matthew 24:45-47. They have all made this same mistake.

⁷⁸ On page 11 of the August 15, 2002 *Watchtower* they say, “[Jesus] loved divine truths far too much to replace them with his own thinking.” According to this reasoning, Russell and Rutherford must *not* have had this same ‘love of divine truths’ because they both made a practice of replacing divine truths with *their* own thinking.

⁷⁹ *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has approached*, pp. 349-355. As essential as this foundation teaching is to the very existence of the Watchtower religion, the *KNOWLEDGE That Leads to Everlasting Life* (1995) book explains it with the simple assertion that, “Proper and timely spiritual food was being dispensed by” the Society. - See page 161, paragraph 4 in the Appendix, p. 145.

⁸⁰ *In Search of Christian Freedom*, page 145.

The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made

**All
Witnesses
have failed to
carefully
examine the
Society's
claim to
being God's
"faithful and
discreet
slave
organization"
based upon
what Russell
and
Rutherford
had been
teaching
from 1876 to
1919 in
fulfillment of
Matthew
24:45-47.**

ALL those who are now Jehovah's Witnesses have failed to carefully examine the Watchtower's claim of being God's "faithful and discreet slave organization" based upon what Russell & Rutherford had been teaching down till 1919 in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47. And all those who become Jehovah's Witnesses in the future will make this same mistake.

Although some of them may be familiar with some or even several of the teachings mentioned in Chapter 3, they don't get the sense of what they mean because they don't make the connection between those teachings and Jesus' examination of them to "make sure"⁸¹ that proper and timely spiritual food had been dispensed.

This is not just a little mistake. It's a big mistake! For once people come to believe that Jesus made that Matthew 24:47 appointment in the spring of 1919, from that moment on they become captives of that belief—captives of the illusionary concept that all of God's direction to mankind comes only through the Watchtower Society. It then dominates and controls the thinking of those who write the literature as well as the Witnesses who read it.

How Their Free Bible Study Program Causes This Mistake

The Watchtower's free Bible study program is set up in such a way that Bible students become convinced that it is God's organization before they ever get to Matthew 24:45-47. Their 191-page "Bible Study Aid" (*Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*) doesn't even mention Matthew 24:45-47 until page 161. By then the student doesn't need

⁸¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:21. One of the first Scriptures Witnesses learn is the one that tells them to "make sure of all things." But they all failed to make sure of the most important thing—the Society's claim of Jesus' appointment in the spring of 1919.

any proof that the Society is God's organization and so the *Knowledge* book doesn't provide any. It simply asserts that "proper and timely spiritual food was being dispensed" down till 1919 and therefore, "using the 'faithful slave' and its present-day Governing Body, God directs his organized people" today.⁸²

Students have no reason to question this assertion because it is simply stating something they already believe. It's just that what they already believe isn't true.

How To Avoid Making This Mistake

It is much easier to avoid this mistake than it is to correct it after it has been made.⁸³ Before considering their offer of a free **Bible study** one should ask for a **history study** first in order to find out if this is in fact the organization that Jesus appointed to teach the Bible to the rest of mankind. But those who do a history study first don't ask for a Bible Study later. And Witnesses who do a history study later (after they were baptized) realize that they should have done it sooner (before they were baptized).

Those who do avoid or correct this mistake usually end up concluding the same thing Peter Gregerson concluded...

There is no possible way that Christ Jesus, as a Judge, could have looked at this information [from 1876 to 1919] and have given the authority that [is] claimed by the Watchtower Society.⁸⁴

Surely God would not have provided them with an interpretation that could only be fulfilled by rewriting and/or ignoring the Society's true history. And yet that is what the leadership has had to do in order to keep themselves and their millions of followers⁸⁵ convinced that those associated with the Society down till 1919 had been so faithful and discreet about what they had been teaching that they received the most important appointment that any earthly or-

Their Bible Study program leads the student to believe that the Society is God's organization for the wrong reasons.

Those who do a history study sooner don't ask for a Bible study later.

Witnesses who do a history study later realize they should have done it sooner.

The only way their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 can agree with the organization's history is to rewrite the organization's history.

⁸² See page 161, paragraph 4 in the Appendix, p. 145.

⁸³ See Chapter 21 for suggestions on how to help those who have already made this mistake.

⁸⁴ *Witnesses of Jehovah* video - <http://www.goodnewsdefenders.org/>

⁸⁵ See page 101, "Whom Have Jehovah's Witnesses Been Following?"

If the Watchtower Society could pass an examination by Jesus Christ today it means that they would have failed the same exam in 1919.

The time to pass an examination is when it is given, not several years after it is over.

“God’s organization” exists only in the minds of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

ganization could possibly receive—to be God’s sole “channel of communication” to all the rest of mankind.

It doesn’t register with Jehovah’s Witnesses that if the Society could pass a “food-at-the-proper-time” examination by Jesus Christ today, it means that they would have failed the same exam in 1919 because so much of what they had been teaching *then* was not what they are teaching *now*.

For example, if Jesus returned in 1914 to begin his Second Coming, they would pass that portion of his exam today because that is what they teach today. But they would have failed that part of the exam in 1919 because then they taught that he returned in 1874. The same is true with the rest of the forty-eight teachings mentioned in Chapter 3. They would have failed every one of them.⁸⁶ Even if the Society understands everything correctly today, it is too late. The time to pass an examination is when it is given, not years or decades after it is over. And according to the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47, Jesus’ examination was over in the spring of 1919.

Up to this point the question has been, “Is the Watchtower Society God’s organization?” Once that question is answered, from this point on that organization does not exist in reality. It is just an illusion that exists only in the minds of Jehovah’s Witnesses. The organization that does exist is ‘The Watch Tower’s organization,’ which is not governed by Jesus Christ from heaven but by a few elderly men from Brooklyn, New York.

NEXT: The following discussions will try to explain how the Watchtower’s religious leaders have been able to keep themselves (apparently) and millions of others convinced that their fictional “God’s organization” is real no matter what contrary evidence exists from inside or outside the Bible. It would seem to be a study of how the human mind is able to keep itself from having to face the truth when “God lets an operation of error go to them that they may get to believing the lie.” – 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

⁸⁶ They would have also failed the thousands of statements, arguments, applications, reasonings, interpretations, explanations, illustrations and chronologies that they used to support those 48 wrong teachings.

Who Is “God’s Organization”?

A starting point in understanding this illusionary concept is to understand just *who* rather than *what* the expression “God’s organization” normally refers to in actual practice. There are several interchangeable terms that have been used to refer to it:

THE SOCIETY
THE ORGANIZATION
JEHOVAH’S ORGANIZATION
JEHOVAH’S VISIBLE ORGANIZATION
GOD’S THEOCRATIC ORGANIZATION
JEHOVAH’S EARTHLY ORGANIZATION
GOD’S CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION
GOD’S SPIRIT-DIRECTED ORGANIZATION
THE FAITHFUL & DISCREET SLAVE⁸⁷ ORGANIZATION

In order to see the reality of this religion it is helpful to understand just who the various terms for “God’s organization” refer to.

As with any organization, there is one person or a small group of people who make the final decisions that affect everyone else associated with that organization. It isn’t a faceless “organization” that makes those decisions. It’s these *people* who make them. Since 1976 these people in the Watchtower organization have been a dozen or so elderly men of “the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses.” The March 15, 1998 *Watchtower* explains...

Presently the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses is composed of ten (men)... They offer spiritual direction to [all other] Jehovah’s Witnesses... The Witnesses gladly look to the mature brothers of the Governing Body for...direction and guidance in matters of worship.⁸⁸ p. 21.

⁸⁷ Of all the terms used, “the faithful and discreet slave” is the only one that occurs in the Bible (at Matthew 24:45). But there is no suggestion in the Bible that this term refers to “God’s organization.” A more recent Christian-sounding term that they have come up with is “The Christian Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

⁸⁸ And as will be shown, those who *don’t* “gladly look to the mature brothers of the Governing Body for direction and guidance in matters of worship” are disfellowshipped! – See Chapter 10, page 76 ff.

On pages 109 and 110 of the *Proclaimers* book the Governing Body explains...

Only since 1976 have the activities been under the direction and control of a body of men. Prior to 1976 everything was under the direction and control of the one man who was the president.

NOTE: On October 7, 2000 public affairs director James N. Pellechia announced that *the administrative duties* of the organization would be taken over by "lower ranking members" so that the Governing Body can "concentrate more on the ministry of the Word."

Therefore, the few men of the Governing Body still determine what everyone else must believe.

Starting January 1, 1976, all the activities of the Watch Tower Society...have been brought under the supervision ...of the Governing Body....Jehovah's Witnesses were fed spiritually before 1976. But an examination of what has taken place since then under the direction of the Governing Body...reveals that the waters of truth have flowed out in ever greater quantities and in more diversified forms.

Prior to that time such direction and guidance was attributed to just the one man who was the president. The May 15, 1995 *Watchtower* acknowledges that prior to 1976...

*The matter[s] of the operation [and teachings] of the Watchtower Society ...were largely **in the hands of its president.*** - p. 22

Concerning the Society's President Charles Taze Russell, the *Proclaimers* book says...

*Throughout his life **Russell had been 'the Society.'*** *The work centered around his dynamic determination.* - p.63

The same was true with Rutherford and Knorr. But Jehovah's Witnesses tend not to think of any of these men. They simply think of "God's organization." But again, it is not an abstract "the organization" that decides what everyone else must believe. Prior to 1976 it was the president who made those decisions. Since 1976 a small governing body of men has made them. In actual practice then, the various terms used for "God's organization" refer to these men who are hidden behind those terms. The following example helps to show this to be the case.

Jehovah's Witnesses are often reminded of the need to be loyal not only to God but also to "his organization." For example, in the October 1, 2001 *Watchtower* they ask the question, "What does it mean to be LOYAL?" They answer, "Loyalty to God also includes loyalty to his organiza-

tion.” Witnesses certainly want to be loyal to God. But they are often reminded that they cannot be loyal to God if they are disloyal to his organization. Today the only way they can be loyal to “God’s organization” is to be loyal to the men of the Governing Body. In order to be loyal to them they must accept whatever they are currently providing in the way of spiritual food. Prior to 1976 ‘loyalty to God and/or his organization’ required acceptance of whatever was provided by the one man who was the president.⁸⁹

On page 296 of his *Crisis of Conscience* Raymond Franz explained it this way...

*When [the men of the Governing Body] urge “loyalty to the organization” they must know, they certainly should know, that...they are talking about loyalty to the source of the teachings, the source of the authority. Whether the Governing Body members acknowledge it or whether they prefer not to think about it, the fact remains that in these crucial aspects **they, and they alone, are “the organization.”***

The Men Hidden Behind “God’s Organization”

The illusion for Jehovah’s Witnesses is that they are being loyal to God by being loyal to “his organization.” The reality is that they have only been loyal to the men who have formed the leadership of the Watchtower religion—the *men who have been hidden behind the various terms used for “God’s organization.”*⁹⁰

The Illusion

**“GOD’S
ORGANIZATION”**

The Reality

- **Prior to 1976** -
The **man** who was the
president

- **Since 1976** -
The **men** of the
Governing Body

The illusion for Witnesses is that they are being loyal to God by being loyal to “his organization.” In reality they have only been loyal to the men who have been hidden behind the terms used for “God’s organization.”

⁸⁹ This has especially been true since Rutherford’s presidency.

⁹⁰ Rutherford was the one who first introduced the idea of “God’s organization.” Up until that time they had been thinking in terms of Russell as “the faithful and discreet slave” which eventually became the faithful and discreet slave “class” or “organization” once Rutherford decided that Russell was not that slave.

While their intention is to trust and be submissive to God, Jehovah's Witnesses have ended up trusting and being submissive to men.

See *Psalms*. 146:3

One of the things that convinces Jehovah's Witnesses that religious groups like the *Branch Davidians* and *The People's Temple* did not have God's backing is because the men who were their leaders demanded unquestioning trust and submission to their directions. Witnesses have no difficulty seeing that fact. But they are unable to see that they are doing the very same thing when they give their unquestioning trust and submission to "God's organization." In their thinking they are trusting and submitting to *God* by trusting and being submissive to *his organization*.

Despite the honor and respect that Watchtower leadership has always expressed toward the Bible as being God's Word, they have never been able to allow it to help them notice anything that would suggest that the Society is not God's organization. If it were some other religion with such a record of failed teachings and prophecies, they would be first in line to say that God and Jesus Christ would not have anything to do with it.⁹¹ But since it is *their* religion, and especially since they believe it is *God's* religion, their position is "We shall not be unsettled by anything that happens."⁹²

NOTE: On page 297 of his "Crisis of Conscience" Ray Franz offers the following possible explanation why the men of the Governing Body apparently don't feel a keen sense personal responsibility when something they were teaching turns out to be wrong... "It was the organization that did it, not us,' seems to be their thinking. And believing that 'the organization' is God's chosen instrument, the responsibility is passed on to God. It was His will... People may have been hurt by (their) wrong decisions...(but) any mess that is made, God will do the cleaning of it for 'the organization.'"

NEXT: Once this illusionary organizational concept is accepted as the truth,⁹³ *they will not allow anything to disprove it.* For example, no matter how many false teachings or prophecies the Society has ever had, they all *must* be explained in such a way so that the Society still ends up being God's organization. The following chapter shows how they have been able to eliminate every false teaching and prophecy the organization has ever had.

⁹¹ See Chapter 16, "What If This Was Another Religion?"

⁹² May 1, 1957 Watchtower, page 284.

⁹³ That is, Once they get to believing the lie. - 2 Thessalonians 2:11

No False Teachings or Prophecies – Why Not?

HERE is another interesting study that shows what can happen to man's thinking and reasoning ability when God lets an operation or error go to them.⁹⁴

The Governing Body realizes that Jesus would never have appointed an *unfaithful* or *indiscreet* false teacher or false prophet over any of his "earthly interests."⁹⁵ And therefore in order to uphold the lie that "the Society is God's organization" (which they believe to be the truth), they have had to do *something* with Russell's and Rutherford's teachings and prophecies that were false.

But how can they convince anyone (including themselves) that those men didn't have any false teachings or prophecies when they had so many of them? Here is how they accomplish this seemingly impossible feat...

Avoiding the Word "False"

The 750 pages of the "Proclaimers" book simply avoids the word "false" in connection with anything the Society has ever taught no matter how false it was. In place of the word "false" such teachings have been referred to as "past truths"—thereby not only avoiding the word "false" but using the word "truth" in its place. The word "false" is usually reserved for all other religions which just happen to be full of "false teachers," "false teachings," "false prophets" and "false prophecies" and therefore are "false religions." The end result is that the Watchtower Society alone ends up being "the only true religion."

Jehovah's Witnesses have been so conditioned by the organization's reasoning on this matter that they look forward to "new truths." Rather than being *negative* evidence

***They remove
the word
"false"
then refer
to those
teachings as
"past truths."***

***According
to the
"Proclaimers"
book, the
Society has
never had one
single false
teaching or
prophecy!
How is this
possible?***

⁹⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

⁹⁵ Matthew 24:47

indicating that a previous teaching must have been false, which would suggest that the Society may not be God's organization, "new truths" are viewed as *positive* evidence which proves that 'God is continuing to refine his organization.' This is another indication of how deeply captive everyone is to the concept that "the Society is God's organization" and therefore why it is so difficult for them to escape from it.

They refer to their prophecies as "Bible prophecies" until they realize that they are not true. They then drop the word "prophecy."

See page 55 for a long list of the terms they use once they realize that what they had been prophesying or teaching was not true.

Removing the Word "Prophecy"

They also remove the word "prophecy" in connection with their prophecies once it is realized that they are not true. All during the period of time Russell's and Rutherford's dates/events were being proclaimed they were said to be "in fulfillment of Bible prophecy." This has been true of every prophecy that has ever come from the Watchtower Society. That's why Jehovah's Witnesses have believed them. But once their prophecies are discarded, the word "prophecy" is also discarded.

Since all those dates/events in Chapter 3 have been changed or dropped because they did not occur or come true, it means that they were not *Bible* prophecies after all. They were only *Watchtower* prophecies – prophecies that originated with men rather than Jehovah God. That would explain why none of them came true. If they had come from Jehovah they *would* have come true. These conclusions are based upon the Bible's simple explanation of what false prophets do...

1. They present what they say "in the name of Jehovah"
2. But "the word does not occur or come true"⁹⁶

The *Proclaimers* book states more than once that Russell never took credit for any of the dates/events he came up with. When, for example, it is realized that he said that all his dates were "[Jehovah's] dates," and Rutherford said that

⁹⁶ Deuteronomy 18:20-22. None of their prophecies have ever been presented "in the name of the Watchtower Society." Rather, as they say on page 365 of the June 15, 1964 *Watchtower*, "Jehovah is the one behind all of it" (i.e. their "prophesying"). - See top of page 55 of this chapter.

the date of 1925 was “based upon the promises set forth in [Jehovah’s] Word”—and and yet what these men so often said did not occur or come true—it looks like the Bible is trying to tell them that those men were false prophets. But the Governing Body will not allow the Bible to tell them that. Why not? Because such a conclusion does not fit what they have chosen to believe; what they *need* to believe.

Notice how they respond when someone tries to point these things out to them...

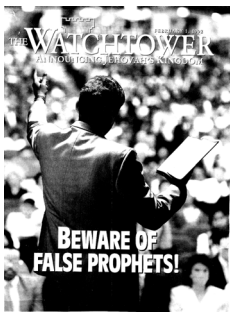
Some opposers claim that [Russell and Rutherford were] false prophets. These opponents say that dates have been set, but nothing has happened.⁹⁷

The Governing Body knows that the above “opposers” and “opponents” are correct. Their *Proclaimers* book shows that many “dates *have* been set, but *nothing* has happened” over and over again. And so why doesn’t this fact convince them that Russell and Rutherford were at least false teachers if not false prophets?

Again, the answer to this question cannot be found in the evidence. It is hidden in the realm of their need to believe what they want to believe. In order for their entire lives not to have been wasted by following an illusion, these men must be able to believe that the Society is God’s organization no matter what contrary evidence exists. But they know they cannot believe it if Russell and Rutherford were false teachers/prophets. And they also know (even if only subconsciously) that if those men were false teachers/prophets then they themselves as members of today’s Governing Body are out of a job. If Russell and Rutherford were not part of Jesus’ “faithful and discreet slave class” then the present members of the Governing Body aren’t either.

And so, in order for the Watchtower Society to exist today, these men must be able to explain what those men did in such a way that they don’t come out looking like false teachers or false prophets. They accomplish this in the above article by using the two techniques mentioned previously. Here is how they answer the above “opposers”...

**The
Governing
Body will not
allow the
Bible to tell
them that
Russell and
Rutherford
were false
teachers or
false
prophets.**



How is it possible for a false prophet to warn others to “beware of false prophets” and yet not notice that they are talking about themselves? This chapter tries to explain how they are able to do it.

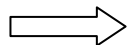
⁹⁷ March 15, 1986 *Watchtower*

They avoid the words “false” and “prophecies” and then say they are not false prophets.

*Yes, [we] have had to revise **expectations** from time to time...but the need to revise **our understanding** somewhat does not make us false prophets...[Such revisions were just for] **expectations needing some adjustment.**⁹⁸*

Here they not only avoid the word “false,” they change their prophecies into “expectations,” “our understanding,” and “expectations needing some adjustment.” Another example: Although the *Proclaimers* book mentions *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* several times, it never uses the words “false” or “prophecy” in connection with it. But during the time they are teaching or proclaiming such things they use terms like the following...

What they call their teachings and prophecies during the time they are proclaiming them.



“the truth”
 “rich truths”
 “Bible truths”
 “great truths”
 “revealed truths”
 “precious truths”
 “jewels of truth”
 “unsealed truths”
 “Scriptural truths”
 “established truths”
 “liberating truths”⁹⁹
 “pure language”
 “Bible teachings”
 “Bible prophecies”
 “Scriptural beliefs”
 “unfailing prophecy”
 “extraordinary prophecy”
 “the Creator’s promise”
 “the teachings of Jehovah”
 “Jehovah’s prophetic word”
 “the sure word of prophecy”
 “true teachings of the bible”
 “revealed truths of Jehovah”

They reinforce these expressions by saying that God is responsible for all their “prophesying”...

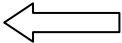
⁹⁸ What they have had to revise are Russell’s and Rutherford’s false teachings and false prophecies, not simply their “expectations needing some adjustment.” - See Chapter 3.

⁹⁹ They used to refer to current teachings as “present truth.” - See *Proclaimers* book, page 121. They look forward to “new truths.” They refer to their religion as “The Truth.” They have also used “infallible truth,” “Christian truth” and “God’s truth.” About the only term they don’t use is “the Gospel truth.”

*Through [the Watchtower Society, Jehovah] is having carried out prophesying on an intensified and unparalleled scale. All this activity is not an accident. **Jehovah is the one behind all of it.***¹⁰⁰

But once they realize that Jehovah was *not* behind what they had been “prophesying” they then change what they call them into...

- “errors”
- “mistakes”
- “misplaced zeal”
- “unrealized hopes”
- “previous failures”
- “misinterpretations”
- “misunderstandings”
- “our understanding”
- “misplaced optimism”
- “wrong expectations”
- “hopes and expectations”
- “premature expectations”
- “misplaced expectations”
- “disappointed expectations”
- “errors in their teachings”
- “incomplete concepts”
- “inaccurate concepts”
- “serious disappointments”
- “formerly cherished views”
- “mistakes in their understanding”
- “views in need of refinement”
- “an expressed opinion”
- “cherished errors”
- “wrong beliefs”
- “old truths”
- “past truths”



What they call their teachings and prophecies after they stop proclaiming them. Notice the absence of the word “false.”



After 1925 president Rutherford stopped teaching that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were going to be resurrected in 1925. Instead of referring to his previous teaching as “false,” he said it had only been “an expressed opinion.”

“expectations needing some adjustment”

“matters on which corrections of viewpoint have been needed”¹⁰¹

This substitution technique allows them to openly discuss their failed prophecies like *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, even showing large billboards advertising it¹⁰²

¹⁰⁰ June 15, 1964 *Watchtower*, page 365

¹⁰¹ Most of these expressions are scattered throughout the *Proclaimers* book. The last one comes from page 136 of their *Reasoning from the Scriptures* book.

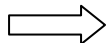
¹⁰² *Proclaimers* book, pages 163, 426

The word “false” is freely used when referring to other religions and their teachings.

If these terms should rightly be applied to teachings that are not true, then Jesus would have applied them to all those 48 “godless myths” mentioned in Chapter 3. What are the chances he would have then said, “Well done, good and faithful slave”? (Matthew 25:21)

since it was only “an expressed opinion.”¹⁰³

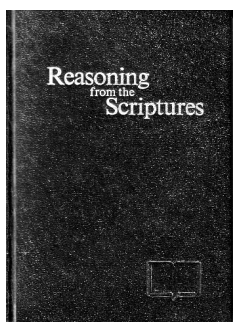
But when other religions teach things that the Society says are not true, they use a different set of expressions...



“falsehoods”
 “false stories”
 “false teachers”
 “false teachings”
 “false doctrines”
 “false prophets”
 “false prophecies”
 “false religious views”
 “false religious teachings”
 “false religious philosophies”
 “doctrines with pagan religious routes”
 “God dishonoring doctrines of Babylon the Great”
 “the disfiguring of God”
 “nauseating teachings”
 “God dishonoring”
 “pagan doctrines”
 “godless myths”

Russell & Rutherford Fit the Society’s Own Definition of False Prophets

The Governing Body insists that what Russell and Rutherford did does not come under the Bible’s definition of false prophets at Deuteronomy 18:20-22. What about their own definition?



False Prophets

*Individuals and organizations (1) proclaiming messages that they attribute to a superhuman source but that (2) do not originate with the true God and (3) are not in harmony with his revealed will.*¹⁰⁴

Russell and Rutherford (1) attributed *their* messages to a superhuman source, (2) none of *their* messages men-

¹⁰³ Their willingness to admit their “mistakes” is presented as a sign of their humility and therefore further evidence that ‘this is truly God’s organization.’ But they have never admitted to what they have *really* been guilty of doing. To be truly candid they would have to admit to having produced numerous false teachings and false prophecies. But that would make them a false teacher and a false prophet which would then disqualify them as Jesus’ “faithful and discreet slave” which in turn would bring an end to the Watchtower religion. To date they have been unable to face such a reality.

¹⁰⁴ *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, page 132. Also on page 4 of the April 15, 1995 *Watchtower* they define prophecies as follows: “Information written in advance about what definitely would occur in the future.”

tioned in Chapter 3 originated with God and (3) they were not in harmony with his revealed will. Therefore they were *not* false prophets? According to their own definition they were.¹⁰⁵

Russell & Rutherford did what the Society says false prophets do.

What Doesn't Matter

In their efforts to convince themselves that Russell and Rutherford were not false prophets, the Governing Body has apparently not noticed that it doesn't matter if they were false prophets or not. Note again what former President Frederick Franz said in his *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has approached...*

*The serving of food, **the right sort of [Bible teachings] at the proper time** was the issue. It had to be according to this that a decision must be rendered by [Jesus].*¹⁰⁶

If Rutherford's *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* was a false prophecy it certainly was not "the right sort of food at the proper time." *But even if it was just "a mistake" it was still not the right sort of food or the proper time to be serving it.* Even if Rutherford was not a false prophet he was still guilty of providing wrong spiritual food relative to the extremely important matter of Christ's Kingdom, along with all the rest of the improper, untimely spiritual food he provided from both his own and Russell's writings.

Even if all of the teachings in Chapter 3 were just "mistakes," they were still wrong spiritual food at the wrong time. None of them would have passed an examination by Jesus Christ.

And even if none of the teachings considered in Chapter 3 come under the Bible's definition of false prophecies, they were still teachings that were not true on very serious matters such as the time of Jesus' Second Coming and the end of the world.

And so it doesn't matter what the Governing Body chooses to call all those failed attempts to set dates.¹⁰⁷ They were all wrong food at the wrong time which, according to

¹⁰⁵ On page 136 of *Reasoning from the Scriptures* they excuse themselves by saying that they "do not claim to be *inspired* prophets." But the Bible doesn't say that it's OK to put Jehovah's name on their teachings and prophecies by calling them "the teachings of Jehovah" or "the Creator's promise" as long as they don't claim to be inspired. NOTE: They don't need to point out that they are not inspired.

¹⁰⁶ Pages. 349-355

¹⁰⁷ See page 55 for the very long list of what they have chosen to call their failed attempts to set dates.

the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47, disqualified them as Jesus' "faithful and discreet slave." And according to their June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* not a single one of those teachings/prophecies mentioned in Chapter 3 should have ever appeared in the Society's literature because none of them were "what God reveals in his Word."

Although they have figured out how to admit to making mistakes and say, "It doesn't matter," they have not figured out how to admit to making false teachings and prophecies and say, "It doesn't matter."

What The Watchtower Society Has Never Been Able To Admit

Despite the thousands of portions of 'wrong food at the wrong time' that Russell and Rutherford provided during all those years down till 1919, the Society has never been able to admit that those men were false teachers or false prophets. The most fundamental reason why not is because they simply cannot do so and still claim that the Watchtower Society is God's organization.

Although the leadership has figured out how to admit that Charles Russell and Joseph Rutherford had made *mistakes* and then say, "It doesn't matter," they have not been able to figure out how to admit that they were *false teachers* or *false prophets* and still say, "It doesn't matter."

Do Their Motives Matter?

One other factor that may help explain why Witnesses don't notice any false teachers or prophets associated with the Watchtower Society has to do with *motives*. One of the consistent things that comes through when reading the Governing Body's warnings about false teachers and prophets is that the *real* ones, they say, *deliberately* teach things that they *know* are not true and/or proclaim things that they *know* are false for the purpose of *intentionally* misleading others. But they view Russell and Rutherford (and themselves) as sincere men who never *intentionally* tried to mislead anyone. Whatever mistakes the Society has made have been due to their love for God and being "zealous – even overzealous—to see God's will accomplished."¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ *Proclaimers* book, page 714. Also, on page 17 of the December 1, 2002 *Watchtower* they say, "Their motive is pure." Watchtower leadership has never accepted that 'pure motive' excuse when anyone else tries to use it. The standards they use to judge everyone else is, "Sincerity alone is not enough" and John 4:24's "Those worshipping God *must* worship in...truth."

If this is a factor that affects the leadership's thinking it is not based on the Bible. Although some false teachers and prophets may be deliberate frauds with the intent of misleading people for strictly selfish motives, the Bible (and even their own definition) doesn't say that such motives are requirements for false teachers and prophets. It doesn't matter how sincere they may or may not be. It isn't motives that label people false teachers and prophets. It is their false teachings and prophecies that do it. – See Deuteronomy 18:20-22 & Matthew 7:15-20

It isn't motives that label people false teachers and prophets. It's their false teachings and prophecies that do it.

A Spirit-Directed, Uninspired True Prophet?

Here is another example of how faulty reasoning eventually catches up with those who try to force the Bible to uphold their illusion...

The Governing Body does not deny that the organization claims to be, or acts as God's prophet.¹⁰⁹ What they do deny is that they are inspired.¹¹⁰ Somewhere along the way someone came up with the idea that it's all right to put God's name on their teachings and prophecies *as long as they don't claim to be inspired*. But this causes a problem that they apparently haven't noticed yet. According to the Bible there are only two kinds of prophets:

- **True Prophets**
- **False Prophets**

True prophets are inspired by God. False prophets are not...

- **Inspired true prophets**
- **Uninspired false prophets**

But the Watchtower's religious leaders have created a third kind of prophet that is a mixture or combination of

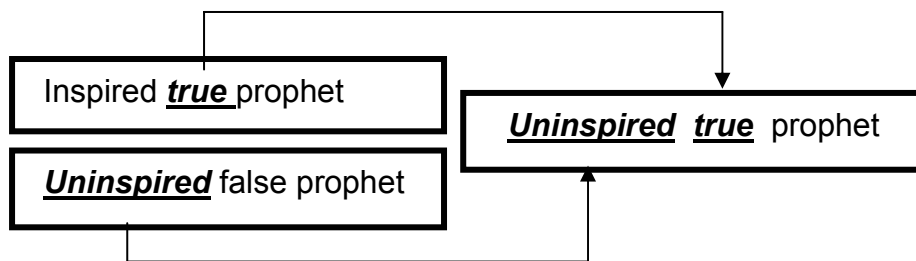
¹⁰⁹ See page 197 of the April 1, 1972 *Watchtower*. and pages 70 and 292 of the book, "The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah." On pages 40, 41 of the January 15, 1959 *Watchtower* they ask, "Whom has God actually used as his prophet?" They answer, "Jehovah's Witnesses are deeply grateful today that the plain facts show that God has been pleased to use them." NOTE: Jehovah's Witnesses themselves are not the ones who have created the Society's prophecies. They have simply passed on the prophecies of their religious leaders.

¹¹⁰ On page 136 of *Reasoning from the Scriptures* they say, [We] do not claim to be *inspired* prophets."

They end up claiming to be God's 'spirit-directed, uninspired true prophet.'

Is it possible for a true prophet to be directed by God's Spirit and yet is not inspired by God's Spirit?

both a true prophet and a false prophet...



Added to this is the fact they also claim to be “God’s *spirit-directed* organization.”¹¹¹ Therefore, when you add up all the things they *do* and *don’t* claim to be, they end up a kind prophet that has never before existed. They now have an illusionary ***Spirit-directed, uninspired true prophet*** to go along with their illusionary ***God’s organization***.

They Are Unable To See What They Are Saying

(March 22, 1993 *Awake!*)

Here is an example of the truth being right in front of their eyes and yet they are unable to see it. On the above *Awake!* masthead page they are trying very hard to explain why Russell and Rutherford “should not be viewed as false prophets such as those warned against at Deuteronomy 18:20-22.” On page 4 they explain why not...

*Never did they presume to originate predictions “in the name of Jehovah.” Never did they say, ‘**These are the words of Jehovah.**’*¹¹²

But then toward the bottom *of this very same page* they then go on to predict the following...

¹¹¹ “God’s spirit-directed organization” appears in their 2nd baptismal vow. See footnote # 156 on page 82.

¹¹² Deuteronomy 18:22 simply says that a false prophet is (1) one that “speaks in the name of Jehovah,” and (2) “the word does not occur or come true.” And that is the way it has been many times with the Watchtower Society. The Bible doesn’t say that one must claim to be inspired in order for this definition to apply. During the time they are proclaiming things as “revealed truths of Jehovah” or “the teachings of Jehovah” they never say, “But remember, we don’t claim to be inspired.” They only say this when explaining why something they use to teach “in the name of Jehovah” did not occur or come true.

*This [Awake!] magazine builds confidence in **the Creator's promise** of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away.*

Is there a difference between saying “**These are the words of Jehovah**” and “**This is the promise of Jehovah**” (i.e. the Creator’s promise)? The above promise was printed in every *Awake!* magazine for many years until November of 1995 when the Governing Body finally realized that it wasn’t the Creator’s promise. It had only been *their* promise.

This does not seem to be so much a case of a deliberate attempt to mislead as it is an example of their inability to realize what they are saying. All they can see is that they are giving an explanation that satisfies themselves that Russell and Rutherford were not false prophets, even though their argument completely falls apart when **they then go on to say what they just got through saying the Society has never said**. It would seem to be one of the side effects of trying to force the Bible to uphold the lie they have committed themselves to believe.

The religious leaders of the Watchtower Society have always proudly put Jehovah’s name on all their teachings and yet deny that they have ever said anything “in the name of Jehovah.” But when talking about other religions *that don’t even use Jehovah’s name* they say, “Jehovah will expose the falsehood of these prophecies of the clergy. He will not fulfill *what they are saying in his name.*” - March 1, 1994 *Watchtower*, p. 11

Matthew 7:15-20*

An operation of error shows up again when explaining Jesus’ simple illustration at Matthew 7:15-20 about how to recognize false prophets. The point he made was that they can be recognized by “their fruits” (verse 20). Just as we can recognize rotten apple trees by the rotten or worthless apples they produce, we can also recognize ‘rotten false prophet trees’ by the worthless false prophecies they produce.

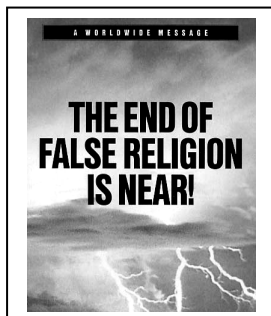
They say they have never said, “These are the words of Jehovah.” But then on the very same page they go on to say, ‘This is the promise of Jehovah.’

**Is there a difference between saying “These are the words of Jehovah” and “These are the teachings of Jehovah”?
See page 78.**

*** Note from the author:**

“I’ve tried not to compare what the Bible says with what the Society says. But here is one exception that I just could not let go by without pointing out the difference.”

**The
Watchtower's
2006
Worldwide
Message:**



**They change
the subject
of Jesus'
illustration
from "false
prophets" to
"the true
religion."**

But the Governing Body usually switches Jesus' subject from how to identify **false prophets** (which looks like the Watchtower Society) to how to identify the **true religion** (which always ends up being the Watchtower Society). For example, in the fall of 2006 they sent Jehovah's Witnesses out on a worldwide campaign with the message, **"The End of False Religion is Near!"...**

*A widely respected religious figure, Jesus Christ, indicated that **false religion** produces bad works, just as a "rotten tree produces worthless fruit. (Matthew 7:15-17)*

Then under "False Doctrine" they list several teachings of other religions that they don't agree with as some of the "worthless fruit" that Jesus was talking about. Later under the heading **"How to identify true religion"** they refer to some of the Society's own teachings as the "good fruit" that Jesus was talking about. The end result is that they alone come out being the only true religion while all others are false religions that will soon be destroyed by God.

But Jesus didn't indicate anything about true or **false religion**. He introduced his illustration with the words, "Be on the watch for the **false prophets**" (v.15) and ended it with, "Really, then, by their fruits you will recognize those men." (v.20)¹¹³

Jesus' illustration leads the reader to at least wonder if perhaps the Watchtower Society may be one of the false prophets he was talking about. But the Society's application of his illustration leads the reader to conclude that they are the true religion. That's quite a difference. It's difference that not only the average Witness doesn't notice, but one that even their religious leaders may not notice.

NEXT: There are some other Scriptures they routinely use to explain away everything the Society has ever taught that was not true.

¹¹³ On page 17 of the February 1, 1988 *Watchtower* they even go so far as to leave off verses 15 and 20 so that what Jesus was specifically talking about (i.e. "false prophets") doesn't show up. On page 208 of the April 1, 1973 *Watchtower* under the heading, "Avoid Distorting Scriptures to Prove a Point," they say, "It is imperative that we avoid willfully misapplying a text to prove our point." But here is an example where they *say* the right thing but *don't do* what they say. They distort Jesus' illustration to prove their point that the Society is the true religion. See Chapter 12, "What They Say Is Not What They Always Do."

Using The Bible To Keep Themselves Captive

THE Governing Body knows as well as anyone that the Bible *should* be used “for setting things straight.”¹¹⁴ But the *Proclaimers* book shows that they are unable or unwilling to allow the Bible to set things straight relative to the Society’s claim to being God’s organization. Here are some of the Scriptures they have found, and the way they use them, which only serve to keep themselves and their followers locked into the concept holding them captive...

Proverbs 4:18

“The path of the righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established.”

While **Matthew 24:45-47** is the 1st most important Scripture in Watchtower theology because it is the basis for their claim that the Society *is* God’s organization, **Proverbs 4:18** may be their 2nd most important Scripture because it is so often used as the basis for explaining away most everything that suggests that the Society *isn’t* God’s organization. The *Proclaimers* book presents their interpretation of Proverbs 4:18 under the heading, “How Jehovah Leads His People”...

*If a person has been in a dark room for a long period of time, is it not best if he is exposed to light **gradually**? Jehovah has exposed his people to the light of truth in a similar manner; he has enlightened them **progressively** - Proverbs 4:18 - p. 708*¹¹⁵

First of all, if Jehovah’s Witnesses would ever look up this verse for themselves they might notice that it doesn’t

**The
Society’s
2nd most
important
Scripture is
Proverbs 4:18.**

**Changes
in their
teachings
must fit the
way they
interpret
Proverbs 4:18.**

¹¹⁴ 2 Timothy 3:16

¹¹⁵ The way they interpret Proverbs 4:18 it is as if they blame God whenever they misunderstand the Bible. For example: If God had revealed the correct date of Jesus’ Second Coming to Russell in 1876, then he, Rutherford and Knorr would not have announced the wrong date for 67 years. Therefore, whose fault was it that they got that date wrong?

mention anything about God or how he leads his people to understand anything. But since we are trying not to compare what the Society says with what the Bible says, our interest here is only, (1) to understand their interpretation of Proverbs 4:18 (as explained above), and then (2) see if that is the way it works when they apply it to their teachings that have changed.

The Second Coming of Christ ¹¹⁶

(Change of Date from 1874 to 1914)

The following graphic demonstrates what a progressive enlightenment of this 1914 event might look like...

Russell (1876-1916) No Light ‘We don’t see the date.’	Rutherford (1917-1942) ‘Some Light, but not enough to see the correct date yet.’	*1943 To Date* Light of Truth is fully bright ‘We clearly see the date 1914.’
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This would fit the way they interpret Proverbs 4:18. It would be as if the “light of truth” on this teaching was hooked up to a **DIMMER** switch that gradually brought this “light” from **OFF** to fully **ON** or bright over a period of 67 years. *But that’s not the way it happened.*

Their change in this teaching does not fit their interpretation of Proverbs 4:18.

If we assume that Jesus returned in 1914, it means that all during those 67 years they taught that he returned in 1874 the “light of truth” on this matter was **OFF**. Presidents Charles Russell and Joseph Rutherford spent their whole lives in the above “dark room” where they were never able to see the time of Jesus’ return.¹¹⁷ It wasn’t until the year after Rutherford’s death that the next president (Knorr) simply turned the “old light” about 1874 **OFF** and the “new light” about 1914 **ON**. There was nothing gradual about it. Of course, if Jesus didn’t return in 1914 it means that Jehovah’s Witnesses are still in that dark room where the light of truth is still **OFF**.

¹¹⁶ Matthew 24:3. The Society prefers “invisible presence.” – See “Important Terms,” p. 7

¹¹⁷ By way of review, the *Proclaimers* book says that Russell first learned of the date 1874 for Christ’s Second Coming in the year 1876. That’s what he then taught until he died in 1916. That’s what Rutherford taught until he died in 1942. The next president (Knorr) didn’t change that date to 1914 until 1943. See Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” page 22.

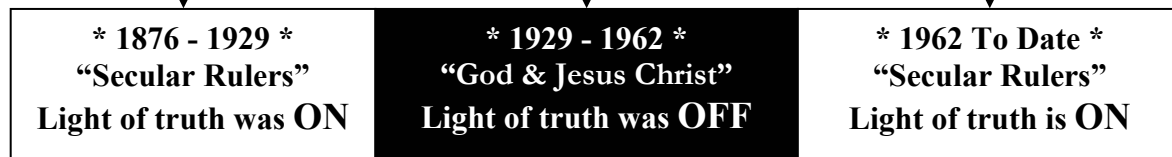
“Superior Authorities” of Romans 13:1

One example of progressive understanding the *Proclaimers* book mentions on page 147 has to do with the identity of the “superior authorities” of Romans 13:1. It explains that from 1929 to 1962 the Society incorrectly taught that these authorities were God and Jesus Christ. And that in 1962 “it was acknowledged that ‘the superior authorities’ were the secular rulers.” But neither is this an example of progressive understanding. From 1929 to 1962 they were not saying that the light of truth was not bright enough for them to clearly see who these authorities were. All during those 33 years they insisted that “light” was fully **ON**.¹¹⁸

The above article doesn’t mention that prior to 1929 they were teaching the same thing they have been teaching since 1962. As mentioned previously, this was one of the teachings that Russell got right. But in 1929 Rutherford used Proverbs 4:18 and turned that “light of truth” **OFF** when he said that these authorities were God and Jesus. Then 33 years later President Knorr used Proverbs 4:18 again to turn that light back **ON**. The following graphic shows the way their ‘light of truth switch’ worked relative to Romans 13:1...

**The
Society’s
“light of truth”
relative to
Romans 13:1**

**1876 - ON
1929 - OFF
1962 - ON**



Even if Proverbs 4:18 did have something to do with how God gradually and progressively reveals the proper understanding of the truth, this is certainly not an example of him doing so.

This same **ON-OFF-ON** switching was used relative to the identify of the “faithful and discreet slave.”¹¹⁹

**This teaching
does not
fit their
Interpretation
of Proverbs
4:18.**

¹¹⁸ On page 312 of “The Truth Shall Make You Free” (1943) they said, “*The Watchtower* published the Scriptural exposition of Romans chapter 13. In 1929 the clear light broke forth. That year...the *Watchtower* showed that Jehovah God and Christ Jesus, rather than worldly rulers, are ‘The Higher Powers.’” But in actual fact, that *Watchtower* turned the “clear light” about the identity of “the higher powers” **OFF**. It then remained **OFF** for 33 years.

¹¹⁹ If Russell was not this “slave” it means that the *Watchtower*’s “light of truth” was **ON** from 1881 to 1897–**OFF** from 1897 to 1927–**ON** since 1927.

Matthew 24:36

*“Concerning that day and hour [of the end of the world] **nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son.**”*

To show how far the Governing Body needs to push the Bible in order to force it to support the “progressive enlightenment” way they interpret Proverbs 4:18, consider how they apply what Jesus said above...

Jesus said that he didn't know when the world would end. But Russell and Rutherford said they did know.

*Jesus, when on earth admitted that **he did not know** the day or hour that the present system of things would end.¹²⁰*

The point they are making on pages 708 and 709 of the *Proclaimers* book is that this shows that God dealt with his Son the same way he dealt with Russell and Rutherford—by *revealing things to all three of them progressively*.

It is hard to believe that whoever wrote this didn't notice that *while Jesus admitted that **he didn't know** when the present system of things would end, both Russell and Rutherford insisted that **they did know*** (Russell/1914; Rutherford/1925). Jesus never tried to set a date for that event but was willing to faithfully and discreetly wait for his Father to reveal when this present system of things will end. Russell and Rutherford were not able to wait.

The Watchtower's Spiritual Light Switch

The Society interprets Proverbs 4:18 as if it was a DIMMER switch. But they use an ON/OFF switch.

The reason why their DIMMER switch application of Proverbs 4:18 doesn't support their progressive enlightenment explanation is because they don't use a DIMMER switch. They use a simple ON/OFF switch. Whatever they are currently teaching is most often said to be the result of the “light of truth” being fully “bright” or ON. But when they come to realize that what they have been teaching isn't true, they simply turn the old teaching OFF and call it “old light” and turn the new teaching ON and call it “new light.” Again, this is not the way they interpret Proverbs 4:18.

And then there is the Scripture they regularly use which

¹²⁰ *Proclaimers* book, page 709

they say shows that Jesus' *disciples* were guilty of doing the very same thing that the Society has done...

Acts 1:6

"Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?"

What possible way could this one single question explain away everything the Society has ever taught that has not been true? They explain it this way...

*Does the fact that [the Society] has had some premature expectations¹²¹ [including all those mentioned in Chapter 3] mean that they are not being led by God? **Not any more than the disciples' question about the imminence of the Kingdom in their day mean that they were not chosen and led by God.** – Acts 1:6¹²²*

Here they are comparing all of the Society's "premature expectations"¹²³ which they have published in billions of pieces of literature all over the world for over one hundred years, with this one simple ten-word question the disciples asked just one time in private, *and saying that there is no difference.*

On page 78 of the *Proclaimers* book they specifically mention Rutherford's *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* as an example of 'a similar misplaced expectation.'

But what is the similarity between the disciples' very private question because they *didn't* know when the kingdom would be restored, and Rutherford's very public eight-year worldwide campaign during which he insisted that he *did* know when the kingdom would be restored?

What is the similarity between the disciples' question they asked just once, and those 67 years when Russell and Rutherford boldly announced to the whole world that Jesus had returned in 1874? And what is the similarity with all those other false dates/events that Russell insisted were "God's dates"?

They use Acts 1:6 to show that Jesus' disciples did the same thing that Russell and Rutherford did.

They say that Rutherford's "Millions Now Living Will Never Die" was no more of a mistake than the disciples' question in Acts 1:6.

¹²¹ They again change their "false prophecies" into "premature expectations." See page 55

¹²² Page 709 refers to Acts 1:6 twice. It is also referred to on pages 78 and 639.

¹²³ See Chapter 7, "No False Teachings or Prophecies – Why Not?" page 51.

What is the similarity between the disciples simple question they asked just once, and those 67 years Russell and Rutherford proclaimed that Jesus had returned in 1874?

“Any portion of Scripture can be used to explain just about anything that Witness writers want it to.”

In order for there to be a similarity they would have done something similar. If they had gone out on a multiyear worldwide campaign publicly announcing the false message that Jesus was going to restore the kingdom to Israel on some specific date, *then* there might be a similarity. But of course they never did such a thing.

What does it mean when men can come up with such reasoning? And what does it mean when millions of Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice anything wrong with it?¹²⁴ Again, it would seem to be a case of everyone needing to believe what they want to believe so strongly that they won’t allow themselves to notice that there is no similarity between what Jesus said in Matthew 24:36 or the question his disciples asked in Acts 1:6, and all those things that Russell and Rutherford taught that were not true.

And so, while it is true that there is *no* reason to believe that the simple question Jesus’ disciples’ asked him means “that they were not chosen and led by God,” there *is* reason to believe that the multiple wrong answers Russell and Rutherford taught for decades *does* mean “that *they* were not chosen and led by God.”

The most fundamental reason why Jehovah’s Witnesses and their religious leaders are unable to notice the above difference is because the concept holding them captive won’t allow them to notice it.

They don’t subscribe to the idea that, “You can use the Bible to prove anything you want.” But their religious leaders have proven that *they* have that ability. So much so that former Witness and author James Penton stated...

*Watch Tower interpretations over the years have often become so bizarre that almost any portion of Scripture can be used to explain almost anything that Witness writers want it to.*¹²⁵ – See Appendix, p. 147

As long as they believe that the Watchtower Society is God’s organization Witnesses will continue to accept all of their interpretations no matter how bizarre they are.

¹²⁴ Some Witnesses may notice something is wrong but don’t dare to say or do anything about it. – See Chapter 17, “No Honorable Way Out of the Watchtower Religion.”

¹²⁵ *Apocalypse Delayed*, page 178.

In the “Foreword” to their *Proclaimers* book they say...

*The editors of this volume have endeavored to be objective and to present **a candid history**.*

But no matter how hard they may have endeavored for 750 pages to present a truly candid history, they couldn't do it because they are unable to face a truly candid history, especially as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. They inherited that interpretation and are now stuck with it. To date they have not been able to figure a way to get out of it.

In order to uphold their illusionary “God’s organization” they have to spin their history to force it to apparently agree with the way they interpret this Scripture. And they have also had to spin the Bible (Proverbs 4:18; Acts 1:6, etc) to force it to apparently explain all of Russell’s and Rutherford’s wrong food at the wrong time so that it either (1) comes out as right food at the right time, or else (2) that it doesn’t matter that it was wrong food at the wrong time.¹²⁶

NEXT: There is another major problem the Governing Body has had to deal with. Many former Witnesses and others *have* made the truly candid history of the Watchtower Society available in book form and on the Internet.¹²⁷ Their only defense has been to try to convince Jehovah’s Witnesses not to listen to anyone who has anything to say about the Society or its Governing Body. They have had to resort to a method that has been used throughout history by those in authority to keep those under their influence from leaning what they prefer them not to know.

**The
Governing
Body
will not be able
to present
a candid
history
of their
organization
until they are
able to face
a candid
history of it.**

¹²⁶ See Chapter 7, “No False Teachings or Prophecies – Why Not?”

¹²⁷ See Chapter 18, “The Internet – The Watchtower’s Worst Nightmare” Most of the information that is being provided by ex-Witnesses and others is the Society’s own literature that Jehovah’s Witnesses have never seen.

Watchtower Propaganda Keeps Them Captive

THE Governing Body has had an excellent article about propaganda on their website.¹²⁸ If only Jehovah's Witnesses could apply the information *to the Society* they might be able to realize that they are the victims of Watchtower propaganda. But of course, if they did apply it that way they would be disfellowshipped.

It discusses various ways 'the cunning propagandist agitates the emotions by exploiting insecurities, by capitalizing on the ambiguity of language.' They then point out several 'tricks and tactics' such propagandists use "which prove all too effective."

Here is one of the tricks they say the cunning propagandist uses...

*Some people insult those who disagree with them by **questioning...motives** instead of focusing on the facts.*

**The
Governing
Body
does the
exact same
thing that
they say
"the
cunning
propagandist"
does.**

And yet this is *exactly* what the Governing Body does in their March 15, 1986 *Watchtower* where they are referring to "those who disagree with them"...

*Some opposers claim that Jehovah's Witnesses are false prophets. These opponents say that dates have been set, but nothing has happened. Again we ask, **What is the motive of these critics?** -p. 19*

Instead of "focusing on the facts" that the Society has indeed set many dates "but nothing has happened," they immediately 'insult those who disagree with them by questioning their motives,' *just like they say the cunning propagandist does.*

And there is something else they do that they say the cunning propagandist does—"Name-calling"...

¹²⁸ www.watchtower.org – Search "Propaganda." The article originally appeared in their June 22, 2000 *Awake!* magazine.

*Name-calling slaps a **negative, easy-to-remember label** onto a person, a group, or an idea. The name-caller hopes that the label will stick. If people reject the person or the idea on the basis of the negative label instead of weighing the evidence for themselves, the name-caller's strategy has worked.*

In the above March 15, 1986 *Watchtower* the Governing Body “slaps” those who disagree with them with the negative labels—**opposers**, **opponents** and **critics**. In that same article they repeatedly use their all-time favorite negative, easy-to-remember label—**apostate!** This latter label really sticks because it convinces Jehovah’s Witnesses to “reject the person or the idea on the basis of this negative label instead of weighing the evidence for themselves.”

Note their powerful propaganda in the same article that “agitates the emotions” and is obviously not designed to encourage Witnesses to weigh any evidence for themselves...

Their favorite Name-calling label is “apostate.”

*The Devil and other **opposers of true worship** are **skilled in deception**. We should never forget that they stand every ready to **break our integrity** if they can. Their **propaganda** is designed to **weaken our faith, to cool our love for God...The only satisfaction, of a perverted kind, may come in beginning to beat one's fellow slaves with slander and half-truths....** At Proverbs 11:9 we are told, “By the mouth of the one who is an **apostate** brings his fellowman to **ruin**.”...Therefore, resolve in your heart that you will never even touch the **poison** that **apostates** want you to sip. Heed the wise but firm commands of Jehovah to **avoid completely** those who would **deceive you, mislead you, turn you aside into the ways of death**. If we love Jehovah with our whole heart, soul, and mind, while loving our neighbor as we love ourselves, we will have no room for penetration by **apostate thinking**.¹²⁹*

‘Anyone who reads “Captives of a Concept” is breaking the two greatest commandments Jesus gave to mankind.’

Mark 12:30,31

This article includes a picture with the caption, “Do you wisely destroy **apostate** material?” It shows a Witness

¹²⁹ March 15, 1986 *Watchtower*, page 14. When the Society exposes other religions they say that it is “in imitation of Christ.” But when others do the same thing to them it is ‘in imitation of Satan.’ - See *Proclaimers* book page 122

throwing a letter she just received in the garbage even before the mailman has left her porch. Next to it under the heading, “Have No Dealings With **Apostates**” the Governing Body again does the very same thing they say that the cunning propagandist does. Instead of “focusing on the facts” they ‘bend the rules of logic’ with the following reasoning...

*What will you do if you receive a letter or some literature, open it, and see right away that it is from an **apostate**? Will curiosity cause you to read it, just to see what he has to say? ... If out of curiosity, we were to read the literature of a known **apostate**, would that not be the same as inviting this **enemy of true worship** right into our home to sit down with us and relate his **apostate ideas**?... We need not conclude that we have to read a book¹³⁰ or a pamphlet that is **filled with slander and half-truths** in order to refute the **false claims** and teachings of **opposers**.*

**The
Governing
Body always
reinforces
their
propaganda by
insisting that
what they are
saying is coming
from God.**

And if all the above isn't enough to convince Jehovah's Witnesses not to read anything *about* the Society that isn't written *by* the Society,¹³¹ they liken whatever “apostates” want them to look at to “pornographic material” that would result in “spiritual fornication.”¹³² And, as they always do, they bring in their biggest ‘Gun’ of all...

*When a fellow human tells us, ‘Do not read this’ or, ‘Do not listen to that,’ we may be tempted to ignore his advice. But remember, in this case **Jehovah is the One who tells us in his Word what to do**. And what does he say about **apostates**? “Avoid them.”*

The March 1, 2002 *Watchtower* shows that nothing has

¹³⁰ Two books the Governing Body was especially concerned about in 1986 (and ever since) were *Apocalypse Delayed* by Professor of History and Religious Studies James Penton, and *Crisis of Conscience*, written by their former associate and fellow member of their Body, Raymond Franz. The Governing Body has never attempted to point out any slander or half-truths in these books. Their only defense has been to try to convince Jehovah's Witnesses not to read what *anyone* has to say about the Watchtower Society or its Governing Body. Without ever mentioning names, this would include Penton and Franz.

¹³¹ The literature that these so-called “apostates” are trying to encourage Witnesses to look at is the Society's own literature. Their *older* literature that tells the truth about what the Society used to teach, and their *newer* literature that so often misrepresents what they use to teach. – See Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do.”

¹³² Again, the “material” that “apostates” want Witnesses to notice is their own literature.

changed since 1986...

*“Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light,” we are told. Likewise, **his servants, including apostates, are “deceitful workers”** who “also keep transforming themselves in ministers of righteousness.” If we entertain the **false reasonings** of such ones, our confidence in Jehovah’s Word of truth, the Bible, can be weakened and **our faith can die.** – page 11.¹³³*

In the February 15, 2004 *Watchtower* they ask, “How can we guard against being deceived by **apostates?**”¹³⁴ The answer of course is to know the truth about their organization. They cannot be deceived if they know the truth. But the Governing Body’s answer is for Witnesses to “avoid them by steering clear of their reasonings—whether in person, in printed form or on the Internet.”

If the Governing Body had told the Witnesses the truth about the organization’s history in the first place they would not now have to work so hard to try to keep them from listening to those who *are* telling them the truth. But of course, if they *had* told these people the truth in the first place they would not now be Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Their propaganda not only demonizes *people*, it also demonizes religious *literature* that isn’t written by the Watchtower Society...

*It would be foolhardy, as well as a waste of valuable time, for Jehovah’s Witnesses to accept and expose themselves to **false religious literature that is designed to deceive ...** Hence, it is out of wisdom and respect for God’s counsel that Jehovah’s Witnesses do not make a practice of exchanging valuable Bible study aids containing Scriptural truth for religious literature that disseminates error or **apostate** views.¹³⁵*

If the Governing Body had told the truth about the organization’s history in the first place they would not now have to work so hard to try keep the Witnesses from listening to those who are telling them the truth about it.

They demonize religious literature that isn’t written by the Society.

¹³³ In the December 1, 2002 *Watchtower* their propaganda shows up again when they say, “We can deflect and extinguish Satan’s burning missiles of false accusations and **apostate** teachings.” p. 22

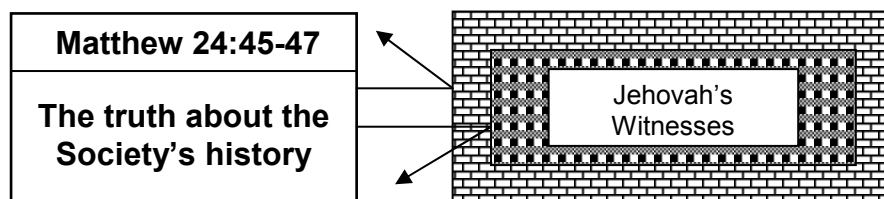
¹³⁴ “Apostate” is the most hateful, disparaging term in Watchtower vocabulary. And yet, on page 15 of the December 1, 1998 *Watchtower* they say, “It would be unscriptural for us to use disparaging terms when referring to ones who do not share our beliefs.

¹³⁵ May 1, 1984 *Watchtower*, “Questions From Readers,” p. 31. Here too, the so-called “false religious literature” that the Governing Body was most concerned about in 1984 was written by their former Governing Body member, Raymond Franz.

Those who are captives of their God’s organization concept are unable to notice that what they are being told has nothing to do with “respect for God’s counsel” but rather is simple propaganda that misleads them to distrust those outside their religion who are telling them the truth, while at the same time keeps them trusting those inside their religion who are unable and/or unwilling to tell them the truth.¹³⁶

The Governing Body’s propaganda is like a thick brick wall that keeps those outside the organization (who know the truth) from reaching those on the inside (who don’t know the truth). But it isn’t just Watchtower **propaganda** that bocks them. Many have created their own inner wall of **willful blindness** that keeps them from wanting to notice anything that might suggest that the Watchtower Society may not be God’s organization.¹³⁷

The truth about the organization’s history has a difficult time reaching Jehovah’s Witnesses.



There are numerous reasons why it is so difficult for Jehovah’s Witnesses to want to find out that the Society is not God’s organization. Some of them are discussed in Chapter 17, “No Honorable Way Out of the Watchtower Religion.” One belief in particular is a major factor for many Witnesses. It is a hand-me-down from Rutherford’s *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*.

They believe that the end of this present “system of things” is so close that as long as they remain loyal to God and “his organization”¹³⁸ they will continue to live on into God’s “new world that is about to replace the present, wicked, lawless system of things” in which “death will be

Witnesses believe that if they remain loyal to “God’s organization” they may never have to die.

¹³⁶ On page 17 of the March 1, 2003 *Watchtower* Witnesses are reminded, “Trusting in Jehovah means trusting those whom he trusts. For example, Jehovah has arranged for ‘the faithful and discreet slave’ to care for the earthly Kingdom interests... We trust in Jehovah’s arrangement.” This is another mistake all Witnesses make.

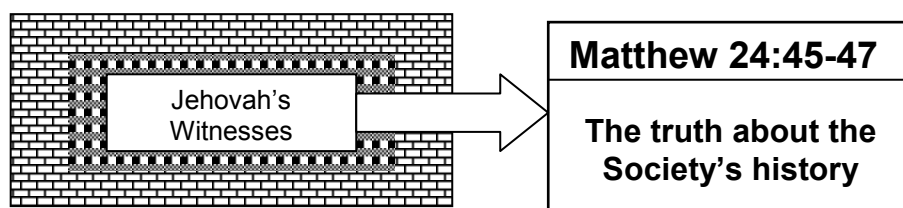
¹³⁷ I can recall a period of time when I purposely would not look into the organization’s history because I wasn’t ready to notice anything that might suggest that the Society was not what I thought it was.

¹³⁸ As explained on page 49, in order for Witnesses be loyal to “God’s organization” they must be loyal to the men of their Governing Body by accepting whatever they are currently teaching whether it is true or not.

no more.”¹³⁹ It is this promise, which they are told is “the Creator’s promise,” that attracts many people to accept their offer of a free Bible study. Once they become convinced that the Society is God’s organization then that hope sustains them through whatever hardships they have to face.

But if the Society is *not* God’s organization then that would mean that that belief, as it is presented, may be just as much an illusion as is their “God’s organization.” It’s not easy to go from believing that you are never going to die to all of a sudden realize that you are. But this is one of the realities that Witnesses must eventually be willing to face if they want to stop living an illusion and let go of the concept that has been holding them captive.

In order to weigh the evidence for themselves they will have to somehow push through both their own inner wall of willful blindness and that outer wall of Watchtower propaganda, rhetoric, sophistry,¹⁴⁰ intimidation and the guilt associated with questioning or doubting “God’s organization.” This is very difficult for them to do. In fact it may be impossible without divine intervention.¹⁴¹



It's not easy for Witnesses to go from believing that they are never going to die to all of a sudden realize that they are.

It would seem that it will take divine intervention to overcome Watchtower propaganda.

NEXT: What about the fact they all believe the same no matter where they live on earth? They are told that this is one of the proofs that the Society is God’s organization. Doesn’t this count for anything? Not when it is realized *why* they have their “unity of belief.”

¹³⁹ The Scripture they like to quote when going door-to-door is Revelation 21:4, which says, “And [God] will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” Who would not want to be around when that happens? But they believe that in order to be around when that happens one must have “approved association with Jehovah’s Witnesses.” See next chapter, p.80.

¹⁴⁰ Sophistry: “Clever or plausible but unsound and tending to mislead.” - Webster

¹⁴¹ See “The Kind of Witness God Chooses to Help” on page 120.

Why Jehovah's Witnesses Have Unity of Belief

ONE of the things that keeps Jehovah's Witnesses convinced that the Watchtower Society is God's organization is the fact that no matter where they live on earth they all believe the same. But the question is, Why do they have their "unity of belief"? They will answer this question the same way the July 15, 1996 *Watchtower* answers it...

*Since our beliefs are based on God's Word, all of us speak in agreement.*¹⁴²

The actual reason why all Jehovah's Witnesses believe the same can be seen by looking at their teachings that have changed.

But this too is just an illusion. The real reason why they all "speak in agreement" can be seen by looking at their teachings that have changed, such as those mentioned in Chapter 3. What Witnesses don't notice is that they have had this same unity of belief even when the Society's teachings have *not* been based on the Bible.¹⁴³ This means that there must be another fundamental reason why they all believe the same.

One of the times this reason showed up was in a court case in Scotland in 1954. Although this example has to do with just one of their former teachings, the principle that came out of that trial applies to all their teachings whether they have ever changed or not.

The Walsh Court Case

During that trial former Vice President Hayden Covington¹⁴⁴ was being questioned about the Society's former

¹⁴² The June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* lists this as the first reason listed under the heading, "Identifying Marks of Those Having God's Backing" - p. 13

¹⁴³ Whatever they are *currently* teaching is *always* said to be "based on the Bible." But when a teaching has to be changed it should become evident to Witnesses that it had *not* been based on the Bible. But it doesn't register this way with them. Changes in teachings are always presented as 'progressive revelation (according to Proverbs 4:18), which proves that God is continuing to refine his organization.' And so this is how Witnesses view such changes.

¹⁴⁴ Covington was the Society's vice president from 1942 to 1945. - *Proclaimers* book, p. 91.

teaching that Jesus had returned in 1874 to begin his Second Coming. Note carefully the reason he gave as to *why* Jehovah's Witnesses had unity of belief about that teaching even though it was not true and therefore had not been based on the Bible...

Q: *It was promulgated as a matter which must [have been] believed by all members of Jehovah's Witnesses that the Lord's Second Coming took place in 1874...?*

A: *It was a false statement or an erroneous statement in fulfillment of a prophecy 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 ...*

Q: *Back to the point now. A false prophecy was promulgated?*

A: *I agree to that.*¹⁴⁵

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 prophecy was wrong and said so, he would be disfellowshipped?*

A: *Yes ... Our purpose is to have unity.*

Q: *Unity at all costs?*

A: *Unity at all costs...*

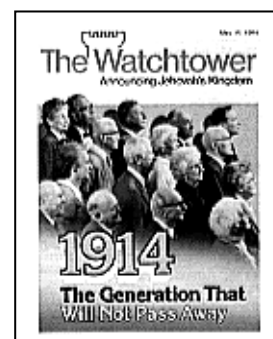
Q: ***A unity based upon an enforced acceptance of false prophecy?***

A: ***That is conceded to be true.***¹⁴⁶

Former vice president Hayden Covington acknowledged that unity of belief in this case was not because their teaching was based on the Bible but because it was "based upon an enforced acceptance of false prophecy."

There was no suggestion that their unity of belief on this subject was because it was based on the Bible. Covington knew that if it was the Society would still be teaching it in 1954, just as they would still be teaching it today. The reason he ultimately had to concede was that their unity of belief was "based on enforced acceptance." Witnesses were forced to either (1) accept that admitted "false prophecy" so the Society could maintain its "unity at all costs," or else (2) be disfellowshipped so the Society could maintain it.

In order to see that this is still the reality today, the following example will deal with their more recent former teaching that the generation of 1914 would not pass away before the "new world" will be here.



¹⁴⁵ This may be the only time in history when a Watchtower representative admitted that the Society has ever produced a "false prophecy." But this admission has never appeared in the Society's literature. See Chapter 7, "No False Teachings or Prophecies – Why Not?"

¹⁴⁶ See pages 24 and 25 of *In Search of Christian Freedom* for the transcript of this portion of the trial.

For many years that teaching was said to be “the Creator’s promise” in the masthead page of every *Awake!* magazine until it was abandoned in November of 1995.¹⁴⁷ As in the case of their teaching about Jesus’ Second Coming in 1874, this one too had to be believed as long as the Society was teaching it even though it had never been based on the Bible.

Governing Body’s Letter September 1, 1980¹⁴⁸

The Society’s teaching about the generation of 1914 was said to be “the Creator’s promise” until they stopped teaching it in 1995. Witnesses are told not to think of that teaching as having been “false” but that it was simply “an expectation needing some adjustment.”
See Chapter 7

By 1980 there were some Witnesses who had concluded on their own that the Society’s generation of 1914 teaching was not based on the Bible—fifteen years before the Governing Body was able to figure that out.

On September 1, 1980 the Governing Body sent a letter to all their traveling overseers, instructing them on how to handle Witnesses who refused to believe everything that the Governing Body was teaching at that time, which therefore included the one about the generation of 1914. The first thing to notice in their letter is that whereas in 1954 Witnesses would have to *say* or *promote* their contrary view in order to be disfellowshipped, this 1980 letter says...

*Keep in mind that to be disfellowshipped, an apostate¹⁴⁹ **does not have to be a promoter** of apostate views.*

Keep their generation of 1914 teaching in mind while reading the Governing Body’s reasoning...

*If a baptized [Witness] abandons the teachings of Jehovah,¹⁵⁰ **as presented by the faithful and discreet slave...***

¹⁴⁷Before November of 1995 the *Awake!* said, “Most important, this magazine builds confidence in *the Creator’s promise* of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away.” But in November of 1995 that statement was changed to read, “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.” Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice that this change means that prior to 1995 it must have been just the Governing Body’s promise.

¹⁴⁸ See photocopy of this letter on pages 292 and 293 of *Crisis of Conscience*.

¹⁴⁹ The Society uses the word “apostate” to refer to any Witness or ex-Witness who disagrees with whatever is currently being taught, even if what the “apostate” believes is true and the Society’s teaching is false!

Notice that they are not talking about abandoning “the teachings of Jehovah” as presented in the Bible, but “as presented by the faithful and discreet slave” which means the men of the Governing Body since they are the ones doing all the presenting. But their generation of 1914 teaching was *not* one of the “teachings of Jehovah” (as the Governing Body discovered fifteen years after they wrote this letter). Therefore, those who had abandoned *that* teaching had only abandoned one of the Governing Body’s false teachings. Their letter continues...

*If [a Witness] persists in believing other doctrine...if ...he continues to believe the apostate ideas and rejects **what has been provided through the “slave class”** then appropriate judicial action should be taken [i.e. Disfellowshipping].*

Here again their concern is for Witnesses who abandon, not what is provided through the Bible, but through the “slave class” which again refers to the men of the Governing Body since they are the ones doing all the providing.

Therefore, any Witness who abandoned that false generation of 1914 teaching before the Governing Body abandoned it in 1995 was to be disfellowshipped for apostasy even though it was the Governing Body that had been guilty of not only teaching something that wasn’t true, but had presumptuously put Jehovah’s name on it. It was just another one of the teachings of the Watchtower that they had mistakenly claimed was one of “the teachings of Jehovah.”

Notice how the above letter would look now that it is known that their generation of 1914 teaching was not true...

*‘If a Witness abandons **the Governing Body’s false teaching** about the generation of 1914; if he continues to reject **their false teaching** then he must be disfellowshipped.’*

Why is it alright for the most responsible men in the organization to put God’s name on their false teachings by

If a Witness abandons a Watchtower teaching they are disfellowshipped for “apostasy.” But if the Governing Body abandons that same teaching, it is “new light from God.”

¹⁵⁰ Recall back on pages 60 and 61 when they said, “Never did they say, ‘These are the words of Jehovah.’” But again, is there a difference between saying, “These are the *words* of Jehovah” and “These are the *teachings* of Jehovah”?

calling them “the teachings of Jehovah,” but it is not alright for the most lowly Witnesses to reject such teachings? The answer? “Because the Society is God’s organization.”¹⁵¹

April 1, 1986 Watchtower

Six years later the April 1, 1986 *Watchtower* warned Jehovah’s Witnesses again about the requirement that they must accept everything the Governing Body is teaching at any given time...

What goes unnoticed is that so many of the Society’s teachings that they said were “true teachings of the Bible” were not. And yet Witnesses have been required to believe them or be disfellowshipped.

Approved association with Jehovah’s Witnesses requires accepting the entire range of the true teachings of the Bible, including those Scriptural beliefs that are unique to Jehovah’s Witnesses. p. 31

When this article was written in 1986 the generation of 1914 teaching was still one of their ‘unique beliefs.’ Although it wasn’t a ‘true teaching of the Bible’ or a ‘Scriptural belief,’ Jehovah’s Witnesses were still *required* to accept it or be disfellowshipped. Such statements never take into account that so many of the Society’s teachings that they *said* were “the true teachings of the Bible” *were not*.¹⁵²

Once the Governing Body rejected that teaching in November of 1995, from then on in order to have “approved association with Jehovah’s Witnesses” everyone else had to reject it. In other words, in order to have unity of belief *before* 1995 Witnesses were required to *accept* that teaching. But in order to have their unity of belief *after* 1995 they were required to *reject* it. If the Governing Body would express themselves the way things are in actual practice, their above statement would look like this...

The Reality 

*‘Your approved association with the men of the Governing Body requires that you accept the entire range of their teachings **whether they are the true teachings of the Bible or not.**’*

¹⁵¹ Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice how often they accept the Society’s explanations and interpretations solely because they believe it is God’s organization rather than because they can really understand them or because they are clearly stated in the Bible.

¹⁵² Chapter 3 only covers some of their teachings between 1876 and 1919 that have changed. Many others have changed since 1919.

This is the reality. But if they *did* express themselves this way, who would pay any attention to them? It's possible that they don't express it this way because *even they do not realize that this is the reality.*

Playing By Watchtower Rules Or Else!

When the leadership realizes that one of their teachings is not true they usually avoid calling it “false.” Rather it is referred to as “old light” that is replaced with “new light” according to the way they interpret Proverbs 4:18.¹⁵³ Only those who are willing to play by these rules are granted “approved association with Jehovah’s Witnesses.”¹⁵⁴

**Approved
association
with their
religious
leaders
requires
accepting the
entire range
of their
teachings
whether they
are based on
the Bible
or not.**

Why Jehovah’s Witnesses Have Unity of Belief	
<i>Illusion</i>	<i>Reality</i>
Because they base all their teachings on the Bible. ¹⁵⁵	Because their Governing Body does not allow anyone in their religion who disagrees with them—even if what they are teaching isn’t true.

NEXT: Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that the Bible is the final authority for what they believe. But this too is just another illusion they must live in if they want to remain in good standing within “The Christian Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

¹⁵³ See Chapter 7, “No False Teachings or Prophecies – Why Not?”

¹⁵⁴ On page 136 of *Reasoning from the Scriptures* they explain: “Matters on which corrections of viewpoint have been needed have been relatively minor.” Question: Announcing the wrong date for the Second Coming of Christ for 67 years was “relatively minor”? How minor is it when a religion puts God’s name on their false teachings (i.e. “the teachings of Jehovah”) no matter how minor those teachings may be? And how minor is it for the Witnesses who have been disfellowshipped and lost their relationship with all of their friends and family members because they could not accept one of the Society’s relatively minor matters?

¹⁵⁵ In a footnote on page 633 of the *Proclaimers* book the Governing Body quietly acknowledges that the Society’s dates that turned out to be incorrect had been “based on misunderstandings” rather than based on the Bible. Unfortunately, many families have been destroyed because of the leadership’s “misunderstandings.” Many of their remarkably similar experiences are posted on the Internet.

The Final Authority of Watchtower Teachings

THE Watchtower has produced many fine articles dealing with the need to study the Bible in order to gain understanding and discernment of God’s Will. One of the first Scriptures Witnesses learn is 2 Timothy 3:16...

All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

Prior to 1985 the 2nd question of the Society’s baptismal vows expressed it like this...

Jehovah’s Witnesses think in terms of getting their Bible beliefs from God through Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. But this too is just another illusion.

*Have you dedicated yourself to **God** to do his will henceforth as he reveals it to you through **Jesus Christ** and through the **Bible** under the enlightenment of the **holy spirit**?¹⁵⁶*

They may picture a sort of ‘chain of command’ looking something like this...



But this too is just another illusion because this is not how it works. The October 1, 1967 *Watchtower* makes it very clear that God doesn’t reveal anything to anyone on

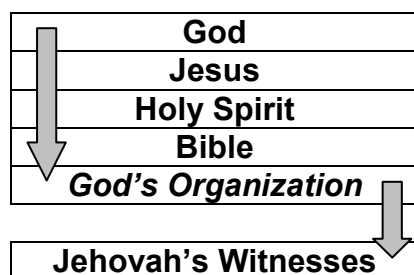
¹⁵⁶ In 1985 the Governing Body removed every direct reference to “God,” “Jesus Christ,” “the Holy Spirit” and “the Bible” from this 2nd question and replaced them with the Watchtower organization! Like this: “Do you understand that your dedication and baptism identify you as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses in association with God’s spirit-directed organization?” This states it the way things really are. This vow brings them into association with the men in Brooklyn, NY rather than the God in heaven. – June 1, 1985 *Watchtower*

earth apart from the Watchtower organization...

*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. [The Watchtower Society] is serving as "[God's] sole visible channel, **through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come**. Those who recognize Jehovah's visible theocratic organization therefore must recognize and accept this appointment of the "faithful and discreet slave" and be submissive to it.¹⁵⁷*

Although they may not realize what they are saying, they are in fact saying, 'No one on earth can properly understand the Bible unless they are submissive to the men of the Watchtower's Governing Body!'

The following graphic represents what is being said here...



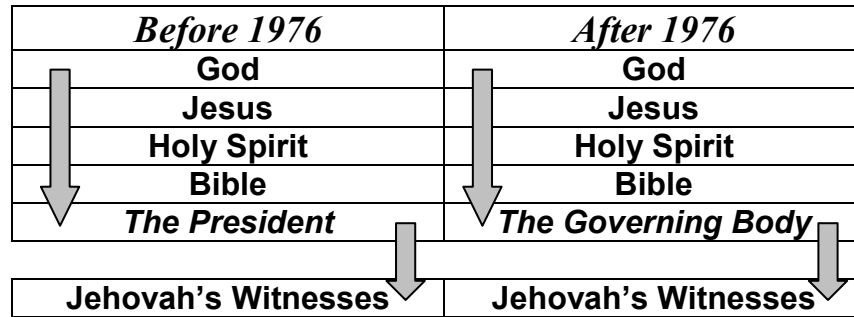
This correctly shows that Jehovah's Witnesses don't receive their "teaching, reproof and setting things straight" directly from the Bible. These things reach them *only after they have been filtered through "God's organization."* This explains why every time the organization gets something wrong all the rest of Jehovah's Witnesses also get it wrong. — See the forty-eight teachings in Chapter 3 that they all got wrong.

But this still doesn't show the reality. As explained previously, when it comes to the *source* of the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, the term "God's organization" refers to the men who are hidden behind that term. And so these men need to be seen...

Witnesses receive their teachings of the Bible only after they have been filtered through "God's organization."

¹⁵⁷ October 1, 1967 *Watchtower*, pp. 587,590. One would *have* to be a captive of the Watchtower's organizational concept to be able to read this and not notice anything wrong with it.

**Witnesses
have never
received
their
Spiritual
instruction
directly from
the Bible. They
have always
received it
from the
few men
forming the
leadership
of the
Watchtower
religion.**



This now correctly shows that Jehovah's Witnesses have always received their "spiritual instruction," not from an abstract "God's organization," but from the very few men who have formed the leadership of the Watchtower religion. Today it is just as that March 15, 1998 *Watchtower* correctly states...

The Witnesses gladly look [not to the Bible but] to the mature brothers of the Governing Body for direction and guidance in matters of worship.¹⁵⁸

Although they have their own Bible translation and are encouraged to read it, they are not free to understand anything in it that is different from the way "the mature brothers of the Governing Body" understand it. Today any Witness who tries to bypass the Governing Body in an effort to understand the Bible on their own becomes subject to being disfellowshipped for apostasy.

But there is still one final adjustment that needs to be made in the above graphic in order for it to fit the true reality of this religion. Although it correctly shows that the Witnesses don't get *their* Bible understanding directly from God through Jesus or the Holy Spirit, *it gives the false impression that their religious leaders do*. But it is evident that they didn't get any of those teachings mentioned in Chapter 3 from God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit or the Bible. Therefore, a graphic representation should show that fact...

¹⁵⁸ Witnesses who *don't* 'gladly look to the Governing Body for their guidance and direction' are disfellowshipped!

<i>Before 1976</i>	<i>After 1976</i>
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
<i>The President</i>	<i>The Governing Body</i>
↓	↓
Jehovah's Witnesses	Jehovah's Witnesses

OR

<i>Before 1976</i>	<i>Since 1976</i>
<i>The President</i>	<i>The Governing Body</i>
↓	↓
Jehovah's Witnesses	Jehovah's Witnesses

← **The Reality**

This is the reality. This is obviously the way it has been when it comes to the Society's teachings that have not been true. It visually shows that those teachings did not come from God through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit or the Bible. They came from the "misunderstandings" of their religious leaders. The reason those teachings were not true was not due to the Society's explanation that 'God chose to reveal the truth about them progressively' (according to the way they interpret Proverbs 4:18).¹⁵⁹ Those teachings were not true simply because they didn't get any help from God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Bible—just as the above graphic depicts.

The reason why they have had to change their teachings is not because of Proverbs 4:18 but because they didn't get any help from God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Bible.

But what about their teachings that really are "the true teachings of the Bible"? For example, they and the Bible both teach that "Jesus is the Son of God."¹⁶⁰ Did they get that "Scriptural belief" from God through Jesus Christ under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit because they are God's organization? There are reasons to answer "No."

In the first place, according to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 there is no reason to believe that the Watchtower Society has ever been God's organization.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁹ See Society's interpretation and application of Proverbs 4:18 beginning on page 63.

¹⁶⁰ John 20:31

¹⁶¹ See Chapter 3, "48 Teachings Jesus Examined."

Their concept of “God’s organization” prevents them from noticing that the Bible is not the final authority for what they believe.

And so, there is no reason to believe that God has exclusively revealed anything to them. And secondly, the fact that they sometimes teach the same things the Bible teaches doesn’t prove anything more than the fact that David Koresh and Jim Jones sometimes taught the same things the Bible teaches.¹⁶²

The Final Authority For What Jehovah’s Witnesses Believe	
<i>Illusion</i>	<i>Reality</i>
The Bible	Prior to 1976: The President Since 1976: The Governing Body

NEXT: The following chapter will present a few important examples which show that although the men of the Governing Body understand what it means to be honest, they are not always able to tell the truth about the organization’s history because the truth doesn’t fit what they want (or need) to believe. This practice more than any other would seem to demonstrate their apparent lack of sufficient “love of the truth” that the apostle Paul mentioned. For if they *loved* the truth it would seem that they would not be able to do what they are so often caught doing in the next chapter.

¹⁶² It would be difficult for the Society to have the Bible for over one hundred years and not understand *anything* correctly.

What They Say Is Not What They Always Do

THE Governing Body knows what it means to be honest as can be seen from the way they define the word...

What Does It Mean To Be Honest?

To be honest means to be truthful ...Honesty requires you to be ...straightforward...not deceptive or misleading...Reasonably, only truthful men qualify to represent [God].¹⁶³

Jehovah's Witnesses naturally assume that these men do what they say about honesty. They view them as the most honest men on earth since they claim to represent "the only true God" in "the only true religion." But, as will be shown, they do not always *do* what they *say* about what it means to be honest.¹⁶⁴

There is difference between **making a mistake** and **being dishonest**. For example, Russell made a mistake when he prophesied that God was going to bring an end to all earthly kingdoms by the end of 1914. And so if the men of the Governing Body were "truthful men" they *must* be "straightforward, not deceptive or misleading" and simply acknowledge Russell's false prophecy.¹⁶⁵ But they cannot acknowledge that fact if they plan on keeping their illusionary "God's organization" going. As mentioned previously, they know that God would never have had anything to do with Russell if he had been a false prophet or even a false teacher. And since they are not ready to admit such a thing, their only alternative is to be less than honest.

In the following example they not only don't tell Jehovah's Witnesses that Russell's prophecy about 1914 was false, *they mislead them to believe that it came true.*

There is a big difference between making a mistake and being dishonest.

In order to uphold their illusionary "God's organization" they cannot always be honest.

¹⁶³ February 15, 1988 *Watchtower*, p. 4

¹⁶⁴ The religious leaders of Jesus' day had this same problem. That's why Jesus said about them, "Do not do according their deeds, for they say but do not perform." – Matthew 23:3

¹⁶⁵ What made Russell's mistake so serious was when he said that the prophecy about 1914 came from God, when in fact it had only come from Russell. See next page under the heading "The World Magazine."

“The World Magazine” (August 30, 1914)

On page 60 of their *Proclaimers* book is a small insert with the heading, “Look Out for 1914.” It then correctly quotes the August 30, 1914 issue of *The World Magazine* (shown below) where it said...

Although the Governing Body correctly quotes “The World Magazine,” they lead the reader to believe something that is not true.

The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy.¹⁶⁶

In those days Witnesses were known as “Millennial Dawners” because they believed that Christ’s millennial Reign had begun, or dawned, in 1873. Russell’s “25 Year Prophecy” had been written in 1889 in his book “The Time Is At Hand.”

As it turned out, the time was not at hand for the end of all Kingdoms in 1914.

THE World Magazine, August 30, 1914

END OF ALL KINGDOMS IN 1914

“Millennial Dawners” 25 Year Prophecy



According to the Calculations of Rev. Russell’s “International Bible Students,” This is the “Time of Trouble” Spoken of by the Prophet Daniel, the Year 1914 Predicted in the Book “The Time Is at Hand,” of which Four Million Copies Have Been Sold, as the Date of the Downfall of the Kingdoms of Earth.

THE terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy.

For a quarter of a century past, through preachers and through press, the “International Bible Students,” best known as “Millennial Dawners,” have been proclaiming to the world that the Day of Wrath prophesied in the Bible would dawn in 1914.

“Look out for 1914!” has been the cry of the hundreds of travelling evangelists who, representing this strange creed, have gone up and down the country expounding the doctrine that “the Kingdom of God is at hand.”

The Bible speaks of a “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.” This prophecy of Daniel the Millennialist identify as the “Day of Wrath,” the “Battle of Armageddon,” the “Time of the Lord,” and the so-called “End of the World,” references to which are plentiful in the Scriptures.

Although millions of people must have listened to these evangelists, although one of their books, “The Time Is at Hand,” has had a circulation of more than four million copies, and although their propaganda has been carried on through religious publications and a number press agencies involving hundreds of country newspapers, as well as through lectures, debates, study classes, and even moving pictures, the average man does not know that such a movement of the “Millennial Dawn” exists.

He knows the leader’s face, perhaps, having seen all hundreds of times at the head of some religious world by the preaching of the Gospel? Would that it might be so! But the Scriptures show us that such will not be the case. It is evidently not the saints who are to constitute the Lord’s great army, referred to by the prophets. The army of the saints is but a “little flock,” while here is the Bible’s description of

... as a strong people not in battle array. “Before their face the people shall be much pained, all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men, they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not touch their ranks. And they do not press one another, every one on his beaten track do they go forward; and they pass through between warlike weapons, and change not their purpose. “Into the city they hasten forward; they shall run upon the wall; they shall climb into the houses; through the windows they make their entrance like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble; the sun and the moon shall be dark and the stars shall withdraw their shining. And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army; for his camp is very great; for he is strong that smote his word; for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who can abide it?” (Isa. 34: 2, 11.)

This, these Bible students have been claiming since 1896, is a Scriptural description of the army which was to overrun the earth in 1914. But where was there such an army? In the same book Rev. Russell speculated on the subject and reached two very definite conclusions.

First, this description did not apply to any undisciplined mob. Second, there was so little time for the prophecy to be fulfilled that the army must, even then, have been forming somewhere. The author did not declare it as an absolute certainty, but reasoned that the great army which was to destroy the nations was the very army already being recruited by them in order to perpetuate their national lives.

“The armies on which they depend for defense,” he wrote, “are the armies of the common people. These millions of disciplined warriors have wives and sons and daughters and brothers and sisters and friends in the ranks of the common people, with whose interests their own are linked. Their armies of thrones and kingdoms is secured only by imposed orders, and made endurable by a remuneration which they are fast coming to consider an satisfactory compensation for the hardships and privations they and their families must undergo, not to mention perils of

¹⁶⁶ The first page of *The World Magazine* article (above) appeared on page 13 of the August 15, 1989 *Watchtower*. It is difficult to believe that this article was written by some unbiased news reporter. The wording and the reasoning comes across just like Russell’s way of writing. It is very possible that this is simply one of his articles that he was able to have published in this magazine. But the Governing Body quotes it to give the impression that even a worldly magazine recognized that Russell’s prophecy came true. The March 15, 1955 *Watchtower* quotes from this article on pages 173-176.

But the Governing Body must know, or they certainly *should* know that *that magazine was mistaken*. Russell had not prophesied the beginning of a war in Europe in 1914. In fact on page 226 of the July 15, 1894 *Watch Tower* he predicted the exact opposite...

*Bear in mind that the end of 1914 is **not** the date for the **beginning**, but the **end** of the time of trouble.*

The prophecy *The World Magazine* article was referring to was contained in its title, “**END OF ALL KINGDOMS IN 1914**” (which is not mentioned in the *Proclaimers* book). *That* was what Russell had prophesied twenty-five years earlier in 1889 on page 99 of *The Time Is At Hand*...

*Within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved.... We consider it an established truth that the final **END OF THE KINGDOMS** of this world...will be accomplished by the end of A.D. **1914**. – 1889 Edition¹⁶⁷*

But obviously that’s not what happened in 1914. Not even one kingdom came to its end by God, let alone all of them. And so, why would the Governing Body ever want to refer anyone to this article which proves that Russell’s prophecy was false?

Apparently someone in the organization noticed that the title - “**END OF ALL KINGDOMS IN 1914**” - was *not* what happened. And so they realized that something needed to be done to explain this apparent false “extraordinary prophecy.” They’ve had two choices: (1) Admit that it was false, or (2) figure out a way to prevent the reader (and perhaps even themselves) from noticing that it was false. As stated above, the solution they chose in that insert on page 60 of the *Proclaimers* book was to simply not mention the article’s title. But on page 17 of the October 8, 1973 *Awake!*

What happened in 1914 was just the opposite of what Russell had foretold.



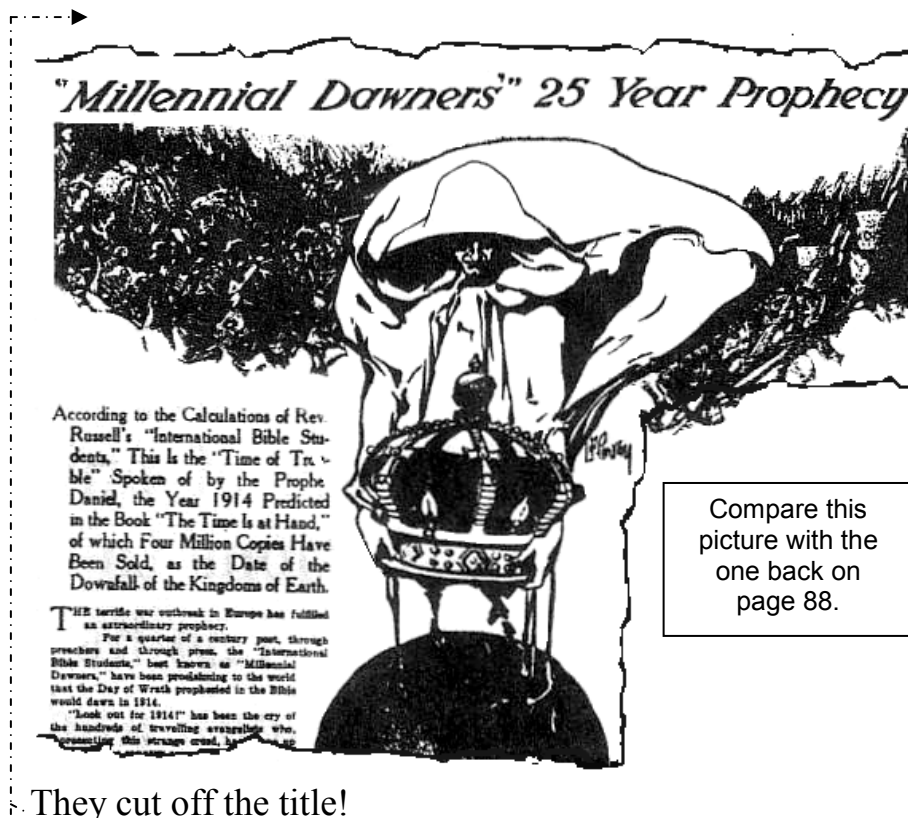
“The Finished Mystery”
FOR OVER FORTY YEARS
Pastor Russell
Preached and taught through every man in the world
That the Present Great World

NOTE:

This clipping appears on page 560 of the *Proclaimers* book. It was originally written during World War I. It states that ‘for over 40 years Russell had taught that the present world war would commence in 1914.’ But that’s not true. Russell had foretold that “1914 is *not* the date for the *beginning* but the *end* of the time of trouble.”

¹⁶⁷ The March 15, 1955 *Watchtower* refers to the above August 30, 1914 *The World Magazine* article and includes the above quote from “The Time Is At Hand.” For whatever reason, the writer isn’t able to notice that what was going on by August 30, 1914 is not what Russell had prophesied in 1889. It didn’t happen “by the end of 1914” either. The post-1914 Editions of *The Time Is At Hand* changed “by the end of A.D. 1914” to “near the end of 1915 A.D.” But it didn’t happen near the end of 1915 either. As of the year 2010 it still hasn’t happened! See pages 99 and 101 of *The Time Is At Hand* at http://www.nsbible.org/sits_v2/v2s4.htm

they show the same front page of the article but with one important difference...



It doesn't bother Witnesses when their religious leaders don't tell them the truth because they don't realize they are not being told the truth.

Without a title the reader cannot see what 25-Year prophecy the magazine is referring to. The paragraph next to the *Proclaimers* book insert changes the prophecy from referring to the "end of all kingdoms in 1914," to the 'end of the Gentile Times in 1914.'¹⁶⁸ Although Russell *did* proclaim that the Gentile Times would end in 1914,¹⁶⁹ he did *not* proclaim that the terrific war outbreak in Europe would begin in 1914. But the way the insert and the paragraph next to it are written, they give the false impression that Russell's "extraordinary prophecy" came true when World War I broke out in Europe.

It doesn't bother Jehovah's Witnesses when their Governing Body misleads them like this because they don't realize that they are being misled. They tend not to notice anything their Governing Body doesn't tell them to notice.

¹⁶⁸ Russell's Gentile Times prophecy was a **38-year** (not 25-year) prophecy that he began to proclaim in 1876.

¹⁶⁹ See footnote #63 on page 36 where the Society changed the meaning of "the end of the Gentile Times."

They have been warned not to think beyond what they are told to think. Otherwise they may be accused of thinking independently of God and/or his organization which can easily gravitate to disloyalty to God and/or his organization.

It is not so easy to understand why it doesn't bother their Governing Body to publish information about the organization's history that they must know is not true. What molds their thinking in such a way that enables them to do this? One thing seems certain. It isn't molded by that love of the truth mentioned by the apostle Paul. And it would also seem that the operation of error he mentioned is very active in their thinking process. That error apparently convinces them that God doesn't mind if they are less than honest in order to convince those who listen to them that Russell's prophecy about 1914 came true.

The Point: Although Russell made a serious *mistake* when he put God's name on his own prophecy,¹⁷⁰ what the Governing Body is doing to cover up his mistake is ***dishonest***. And according to that principle Paul mentioned, the reason why they are dishonest is because they apparently do not have sufficient love of the truth to keep them honest. As long as they choose to believe the lie that "the Society is God's organization" they will never be able to be honest when talking about the organization's history that relates to that lie.¹⁷¹

As long as they choose to believe the lie, they will be unable to be honest about the organization's history that relates to that lie.

Another example: Chapter 3 presented forty-eight instances when Russell and Rutherford had *dogmatically, immodestly, presumptuously and indiscreetly run ahead of God by wildly speculating* about numerous dates and events. With all these qualities in mind, take note of the following question and answer that the Governing Body allowed to be printed in the June 1, 1997 *Watchtower* where they state that the Society does not do *any* of these things...

¹⁷⁰ Recall when Russell said that 1914 was one of "God's dates," not his. See bottom of page 33.

¹⁷¹ What if the Governing Body is not *deliberately* trying to mislead anyone? What if their misleading information is caused by living with their illusion for so long that they have lost track of what the reality is? If this is the case then they shouldn't be governing anyone. - See the side note on page 93.

QUESTION: *Why can we have utmost confidence in the faithful and discreet slave?*

ANSWER: Modesty on the part of the faithful and discreet slave class...prevents it from **presumptuously running ahead** and **wildly speculating about things**...The slave class strives to avoid being **dogmatic**¹⁷².... Never should we become impatient with Jehovah's [organization] **indiscreetly** trying to **rush ahead of God**.¹⁷³

They say they do not do what the Society has done many times.

See 48 examples in Chapter 3

Rutherford said that the date 1874 was "Scripturally, scientifically, and historically correct beyond a doubt." How much more dogmatic can anyone be?

See footnote

They then conclude their point with this amazing statement...

*How reassuring it is to know that the channel Jehovah is using ... **does not do so**. It is both faithful and discreet.*

Such a statement is not just deceptive and misleading, it is outright false. The men of the Governing Body surely must know that Russell and Rutherford did all the things they say "the channel Jehovah is using does not do." And yet they allowed these dishonest statements to be published in millions of copies of their magazine all over the world.

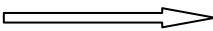
Next example: On page 353 of *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, former President Frederick Franz is referring to their often mentioned Watchtower convention that was held in Cedar Point, Ohio on September 1-8, 1919. He said...

It indicated to the world who it was that the returned Lord Jesus had found to be his "faithful and discreet slave" class. This made the "slave" class happy.

But this too is not true. As explained in Chapter 3 under the heading "We Are Not Your Faithful & Discreet Slave," in 1919 the Society was still teaching that this "slave" was just one person, Charles Russell. They didn't teach that it

¹⁷² While Rutherford was proclaiming the wrong date for Christ's Second Coming, he said that "present truth chronology" (pointing to 1874) was "Scripturally, scientifically, and historically correct beyond a doubt." How much more dogmatic can anyone be? But the year after his death the next president decided it wasn't "beyond a doubt" and changed the date to 1914. – See June 15, 1922 *Watch Tower*

¹⁷³ Here they are unintentionally saying that Russell and Rutherford were not discreet, because those men *did* "rush ahead of God" many times. Surely they had not been careful enough about what they said.

was a “class” of people until February of 1927. Rutherford and his associates would not have been “happy” about being Jesus’ “faithful and discreet slave” until that’s what they believed. And that didn’t happen until seven and one half years after the above Cedar Point convention. 

A final example of their misleading, deceptive kind of dishonesty shows up in the statement below. Here the Governing Body is quoting an unnamed Witness who was oblivious to the fact that he has ever been misled by the Society. His attitude is presented as an example that all Witnesses should have toward “Jehovah’s visible organization.” Under the heading “Confidence in the ‘Slave’” they quote this Witness as having said...

*Jehovah’s visible organization is a tremendously dependable source. **Never once has it misled me in any way.** Everything it has said has been based on God’s Word.*¹⁷⁴

While in the process of suggesting that they have never misled *anyone* they are misleading *everyone*.

Whatever the cause of this practice¹⁷⁵ of not doing what they say about honesty, it comes as quite a shock to those who are able to notice it. Here is the reaction of a former elder from Ireland, Martin Merriman...

*What really shocked me to my core was this: We were so convinced that the Governing Body would never tell one lie. They would always speak the truth no matter what the truth was. That is a fabrication; it is a lie. They have lied to us. They have deceived us. And we have the documented evidence. And because we have spoken about it, we were silenced. And that’s what will happen to any Jehovah’s Witness listening to this program. And he knows it in his heart.”*¹⁷⁶

“How do such discrepancies get past the editors of the Watchtower? Are their writers so unfamiliar with their own history as published in their own literature? Or [have] even those who write the [literature] themselves become subject to the mind-altering effects of their own indoctrination? Otherwise, how can such blatant misrepresentations be defined as anything less than dishonest?”

Beacon

http://www.xjw.com/1914_lies.html

¹⁷⁴ June 15, 1964 *Watchtower*, p.365. Note: None of the teachings considered in Chapter 3 were “based on God’s Word.” They were based on Russell’s and Rutherford’s “misinterpretations” of God’s word.

¹⁷⁵ These examples of dishonesty are not the exception. Whenever the dates 1914 or 1919 appear in their current literature, what is being said should be carefully checked to make sure that it is true. But checking up on “God’s organization” is something that is very dangerous for Jehovah’s Witnesses to be caught doing. When I was caught doing it I was told that Satan had gotten a hold of me.

¹⁷⁶ *Witnesses of Jehovah*, - <http://www.goodnewsdefenders.org/>

That “documented evidence” is contained in the Society’s own literature. This is why former elder Leonard Chretien said...

**“Their
greatest
enemy is
their own
literature.”**

*Their greatest enemy is their own literature.*¹⁷⁷

The evidence found in the *Proclaimers* book, for example, proves that so many of their teachings “down till 1919” did not meet their own standards set out in their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 (“right food at the right time”). Nor did they meet their standards they set in the June 1, 2001 *Watchtower* (“they must be only what God reveals in his Word”).

Astronomer Carl Sagan made the following observation about the Society’s explanation when the world did not end in 1914 as Russell had predicted for some thirty-eight years...

**‘It is
astonishing
that the
Watchtower
religion
has any
adherents
at all.’**

*One prominent American religion confidently predicted that the world would end in 1914.... It is astonishing in the face of such transparent evasions that this religion has any adherents at all... The fact that [the Watchtower Society] can be so **shamelessly dishonest**,¹⁷⁸ so contemptuous of the intelligence of [its] adherents, and still flourish does not speak very well for the tough-mindedness of [Jehovah’s Witnesses].¹⁷⁹*

THE WORLD HAS ENDED
Millions Now Living Will Never Die
Free Lecture by
HON. J. F. RUTHERFORD
Member New York City Bar

It is not that the world of today has ever been so opportune in its condition for conversion and better the time moment, the time of opportunity with Jehovah’s Witnesses is now. The time has come when the world is ripe for the harvest of the truth. The time has come when the world is ripe for the harvest of the truth. The time has come when the world is ripe for the harvest of the truth.

AT HIPPODROME FORMERLY NATIONAL THEATRE
PRINCE STREET NEAR SHERIDAN

There was a period of time after 1914 when they taught that the world had in fact ended in 1914.

While it is easy to apply the apostle Paul’s words about not accepting the love of the truth to the Society’s religious leaders, they may also apply to some of the rest of Jehovah’s Witnesses as well. Although it is true that they are the ones who are being misled, it isn’t as if they are helpless to notice when something is wrong. Their willingness to believe and teach everything they are told “no matter what happens” suggests that they too may not have sufficient love of the truth which would protect them from believing the lie.

¹⁷⁷ *Witnesses of Jehovah* video - <http://www.goodnewsdefenders.org>. See also <http://quotes.watchtower.ca/>

¹⁷⁸ They cannot always be honest about the organization’s history because of their need to uphold an illusion.

¹⁷⁹ Broca's Brain, (Ballantines Books, New York, 1982 pp. 332-3). Although Sagan doesn’t mention the Watchtower Society or Jehovah’s Witnesses by name, he is obviously talking about them when he refers to the American religion that “confidently predicted that the world would end in 1914.”

Some may practice willful blindness because their need for the security that comes from believing the lie outweighs their need to know the truth.¹⁸⁰ They may be using the counsel they receive from those who are misleading them as an excuse not to accept any responsibility for allowing themselves to be misled.¹⁸¹ They may reason, “Surely God won’t hold *me* responsible if *his* organization is telling me something that is wrong.” Such reasoning is similar to Adam’s attitude when confronted about why he had disobeyed God. In effect he said to God, “Surely you won’t hold *me* responsible since I only did what that woman *you* gave me told me to do.” - Genesis 3:12

Of course, it is not possible to know what is going on in the hearts of the Governing Body members or the rest of Jehovah’s Witnesses. But many times the leadership inadvertently provides an explanation of their own conduct while they are in the process of explaining someone else’s conduct. An excellent example of them doing this appears on page 3 of the August 1, 2001 *Watchtower* under the heading “Belief Versus Truth”...

It does not take deliberate lies to develop mistaken beliefs. Often we believe a thing simply because we want to believe it. One professor says that even scientists ‘often fall in love with their own constructions.’ Their beliefs becloud their critical judgment. They may spend a lifetime in vain trying to shore up mistaken beliefs. – Jeremiah 17:9¹⁸²

If it did not take deliberate lies to *develop* their mistaken belief in a fictional “faithful and discreet slave organization,” then perhaps it doesn’t necessarily take deliberate lies to *uphold* that mistaken belief.

It is evident that the men of the Governing Body have fallen in love with their construction of “God’s organization.” And just like the above scientists, they have spent a lifetime trying to shore up their mistaken belief.

‘Surely God won’t hold me responsible if his organization is telling me something that’s wrong.’

They often inadvertently explain their own conduct while in the process of explaining someone else’s conduct.

They have fallen in love with their illusion.

¹⁸⁰ See Chapter 17, “No Honorable Way Out Of The Watchtower Religion”

¹⁸¹ See the essay at <http://www.commentarypress.com/essay-brainwashing.html>

¹⁸² Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it?”

Who Molds Their Thinking?

It never enters the Witness' mind to apply this information to make sure that they have not allowed someone to mold their thinking without them being aware of it.

The ones Jehovah's Witnesses listen to "are themselves misled (and) corrupted in their thinking."

Watchtower leaders have deceived themselves.

THERE is an article in the April 1, 1999 *Watchtower* that asks the question, "Who Molds Your Thinking?" It explains how to protect one's thinking from being molded by someone else without them realizing it. But it never enters the Witness' mind to apply the counsel being given to make sure that *they* have not allowed *their* thinking to be molded by someone else without them realizing it. Note the following statements that Jehovah's Witnesses never think of applying to themselves...

Can you really be sure that someone is not, in fact, molding your thinking, without your even being aware of it?

Witnesses are so sure this hasn't happened to them that they cannot even conceive of such a possibility. This only makes it easier for their religious leaders to 'mold their thinking without them even being aware of it.'

The fact is that how you think, and hence how you act, is always influenced in some way by the feelings and views of those to whom you listen.

The *only* one Jehovah's Witnesses listen to is "God's organization"—the men of their Governing Body. Prior to 1976 they only listened to whoever was the president at the time.

If (the ones you listen to) are themselves misled or corrupted in their thinking, "deceivers of the mind," as the apostle Paul described them, then beware!

This is a major problem for Jehovah's Witnesses because their religious leaders "are themselves misled" and "corrupted in their thinking" because of their commitment to uphold a fictional "God's organization." In order to uphold it they *have* to be "deceivers of the mind" – their own minds first, and then the minds of all those who listen to them. Witnesses do not consider the possibility that their religious leaders have deceived themselves.

Do not become complacent and think that no one could ever influence you. Most likely it is already happening—more frequently than you might care to admit—without your even noticing.

But they *have* become complacent because they believe they have found the one and only organization that God is using to guide them into the “New World.” They feel that the One influencing them is God.

People tend to feel that everyone else is vulnerable, but they are not.

Jehovah’s Witnesses feel that they are the only people on earth who are not being misled.

We cannot be too seriously manipulated if we know what is going on.

But that’s just it—they *don’t* know what is going on. And many of them don’t want to know. They go out of their way not to notice anything that might suggest that the Society isn’t what they think it is—what they want it to be. This makes it very easy for them to be “seriously manipulated” by the people they trust the most.

Lack of information can be just as lethal as misinformation.

Witnesses not only lack information about the Society’s history in relation to Matthew 24:45-47, they continually receive misinformation about it from their religious leaders.¹⁸³

[To keep from being misled] the key is ‘knowing from what persons you learn things,’ to be sure that they are people who have your best interests at heart, not their own.

But they *don’t* know ‘from what persons they learn things.’ They think of the men of their Governing Body just like Martin Merriman used to think of them. And that is

Jehovah’s Witnesses feel that they are the only people on earth who are not being misled.

They not only lack information about the Society’s history, they often receive misinformation about it

Whose interests does the Governing Body have at heart when they misrepresent the organization’s history?

¹⁸³ Here is one example of misinformation from their booklet, *Jehovah’s Witnesses In The 20th Century*: Under the heading “1914” they say, “*Not all* that was expected to happen in 1914 did happen.” But in order for that statement to be true it would have to read, “*Nothing* that was expected to happen in 1914 did happen.”

For example, they expected that 1914 would see the *end* of “the War of the Great Day of God Almighty” (Armageddon) which would result in the total destruction of all Gentile nations by Jesus Christ. But instead, 1914 only saw the *beginning* of a much smaller war that didn’t see Jesus destroy even one Gentile nation let alone all of them. See Chapter 12, pages 88-90.

that, “They would always speak the truth no matter what the truth was” because ‘they have the Witnesses’ best interests at heart, not their own.’¹⁸⁴ But as shown in the last chapter, they do *not* always speak the truth, which strongly suggests that they do not always have the best interests of Jehovah’s Witnesses at heart. Whose interests did they have at heart when they included that insert on page 60 of the *Proclaimers* book that misleads the reader to believe that Russell’s prophecy about 1914 came true?¹⁸⁵ If not their own, then whose?

You must be willing to fill your mind with the truth contained in “the holy writings,” God’s inspired Word, the Bible.

But Witnesses who fill their minds with anything different than the way the Governing Body tells them to fill it will be disfellowshipped.

The Problem This Kind of Article Causes For Jehovah’s Witnesses

***Witnesses are
unable to
apply this
information
to those who
are misleading
them.***

There is nothing wrong with this article. The problem is that Jehovah’s Witnesses are unable to apply it to whom they listen—to the men who are misleading them. Their illusionary God’s-organization concept prevents them from doing so. In their minds, if they were to try to apply this information to “God’s organization” it would feel to them as if they were checking up on God in order to make sure that *he* hasn’t been misleading them.

And so, this article doesn’t protect them from having their thinking adversely molded without them being aware of it. Instead, it reassures them that this hasn’t happened. As a result they go right on allowing their thinking to be molded by men who are themselves misled and corrupted in their thinking. The fundamental cause is their belief that God is dealing with them by means of the Watchtower’s so-

¹⁸⁴ See Martin Merriman’s comment on the bottom of page 93.

¹⁸⁵ See pages 88-90.

called “faithful and discreet slave organization.” As long as they believe this concept they will remain captives of it and gladly allow their thinking to be molded by their religious leaders without them even being aware of it.

Only when they can break free from the Watchtower’s organizational concept way of worshipping God will they be able to stop ‘gladly looking to the men of its Governing Body for direction and guidance in matters of worship.’¹⁸⁶

Only then can their thinking be molded by God through Jesus Christ under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. – See Chapter 11

***Witnesses
have always
allowed their
thinking to be
molded by
their religious
leaders with-
out them being
aware of it.***

Who Has Molded Their Thinking?	
<i>Illusion</i>	<i>Reality</i>
God	Prior to 1976: The President Since 1976: The Governing Body

¹⁸⁶ March 15, 1998 *Watchtower*, p.21 says, “Jehovah’s Witnesses gladly look to the mature brothers of the Governing Body for direction and guidance in matters of worship.” See also Chapter 6, “Who Is God’s Organization?”

“Slaves of Men or Servants of God?”

THE above title leads a series of articles in the March 15, 1998 *Watchtower*. It warns of the “Dangers of Following Men”...

*A strong leader-oriented relationship can lead to an unhealthy emotional and spiritual dependency.*¹⁸⁷

Then as expected, the Governing Body goes on to assure the reader that this hasn’t happened to Jehovah’s Witnesses. They then say...

*Some may have been told that Jehovah’s Witnesses belong to a religious organization that enslaves its members, exercises authoritarian control over them (and) unduly restricts their freedom.*¹⁸⁸

**The
Governing
Body
denies
that they
exercise au-
thoritarian
control over
Jehovah’s
Witnesses.**

As much as the Governing Body may like to believe that they don’t exercise authoritarian control or restrict the freedom of Jehovah’s Witnesses, their official statements belie any attempt to deny such control.¹⁸⁹ For examples...

1. According to that 1954 Walsh Court Case, their insistence on “unity of belief at all costs” necessitates that Witnesses *must* accept even the Society’s false teachings and prophecies during the time they are being proclaimed—or else be disfellowshipped. (p.77)
2. According to the April 1, 1986 *Watchtower* they are *required* to accept “the entire range” of the Governing Body’s teachings, including the ones that are not true or be disfel-

¹⁸⁷ With Jehovah’s Witnesses, it is ‘a strong *organization*-oriented relationship’ which has “led to an unhealthy emotional and spiritual dependency.” They cannot conceive of worshipping God apart from “his organization.” This is one of the factors that makes it so difficult for them to consider leaving even when they become aware of very serious wrongs.

¹⁸⁸ The article then continues, “Jehovah’s Witnesses know that these concerns are unwarranted. Therefore they invite you to check for yourself. After careful consideration, draw your own conclusions. Are the Witnesses servants of God, as they claim, or actually slaves of men?” The answer to their question is obvious to everyone except Jehovah’s Witnesses.

¹⁸⁹See Chapter 10, “Why Jehovah’s Witnesses Have Unity of Belief.”

lowshipped. (p.80)

3. According to that September 1, 1980 Governing Body letter, Witnesses are not even permitted to simply *believe* anything different than what the Governing Body is currently teaching, even if what they believe is true and what the Governing Body is teaching isn't (as was the case with their generation of 1914 teaching)—or else be disfellowshipped. (p.78)

***How
much more
authoritarian
can an
organization
be?***

How much more authoritarian can an organization be?

Whom Have Jehovah's Witnesses Been Following?

Who were Jehovah's Witnesses following when they believed those forty-eight teachings mentioned in Chapter 3? Certainly not God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit or the Bible. In 1943 why did they all stop believing that Jesus had returned in 1874? Did everyone reach that conclusion at the exact same time because of their personal study of the Bible? Or was it because the Society's president stopped teaching it in 1943?

Who have Jehovah's Witnesses followed in regard to the identity of the "superior authorities" of Romans 13:1? Up until 1929 they would have said that they were following God's Word the Bible when they believed that these "authorities" referred to the earthly governments. But if that is a true teaching of the Bible (which it apparently is), then why did they all stop believing it when Joseph Rutherford stopped teaching it in 1929? And if what Rutherford was teaching was the *real* "Bible truth" then why did they all stop believing what he taught when the next president stopped teaching it 33 years later in 1962?

What this latter example shows is the extremely important point that even when the Society happens to be teaching something that is a true teaching of the Bible, that isn't the reason why Jehovah's Witnesses believe it. They believe it because "God's organization" is teaching it. If you asked them about this they would sincerely deny that this is

***The most
fundamental
reason why
Jehovah's
Witnesses
believe what
they believe
is not
because
the Bible
teaches it
but because
"God's
organization"
teaches it.***

true—not because it isn’t true, but because they just don’t realize that it is true.

The following graphic shows how the Branch Davidians and People’s Temple were bound to the dictates of their religious leaders—which Witnesses *are* able to see...

David Koresh	Jim Jones
The Branch Davidians ↓	The People’s Temple ↓

But on page 19 of the March 15, 1998 *Watchtower* Witnesses are told how to avoid giving the impression that *they too* are bound to the dictates of *their* religious leaders...

It is not a false impression that Jehovah’s Witnesses are bound to the dictates of their religious leaders.

See Chapter 10

*In order to avoid misunderstandings, Jehovah’s Witnesses try to be careful about how they express themselves. Instead of saying, “the Society teaches,” many Witnesses prefer to [say], “the Bible says.” In this way they...avoid giving the **false impression** that Witnesses are somehow bound to the dictates of some religious sect.*

But as has been shown, they *are* bound to the dictates of their religious leaders. And so in order to avoid giving a false impression they *should* say “the Society teaches” rather than “the Bible says.” That’s what they should have said about every one of those teachings in Chapter 3 since none of them were what the Bible says.

The following graphic shows the way it has been with the Watchtower religion, which Witnesses are *not* able to see¹⁹⁰

Russell - Rutherford - Knorr - Governing Body
Jehovah’s Witnesses ↓

Why Personal Study of the Bible Is Dangerous For Jehovah’s Witnesses

The December 1, 2001 *Watchtower* has a couple of

¹⁹⁰ A main reason Witnesses haven’t noticed that they have been simply following men is because the men they have been following deny it. On page 117 of the *Proclaimers* book the Governing Body says, “In no way have Jehovah’s Witnesses become a sect built around the personalities of (Russell, Rutherford, Knorr, Frederick Franz, or the present Governing Body). Instead, they have but one leader, ‘the Christ.’” This is one of numerous instances where what they *say* is not the way it *is*. Jehovah’s Witnesses make the mistake of automatically assuming that what is said *is* the way it is.

articles instructing Witnesses on how to “Enjoy Personal Study of God’s Word.” Although it gives many practical suggestions on how to do this, it also sets the rules which limit what they are allowed to learn from their personal study of God’s Word...

[Your] private reading of the Bible is not enough. *Jehovah...uses his faithful and discreet slave [organization] to help [you] understand his Word at the right time. – Matthew 24:45-47.*

When people first start to study with the Watchtower Society they are told that the Bible is all they need to become “fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.”¹⁹¹ But later, after they are ‘captured,’ they are told that the Bible won’t do these things for them unless they receive “help” from “God’s faithful and discreet slave organization.”

Witnesses are not allowed to understand anything in the Bible that is different from the way they are ‘helped’ to understand it.

But the Society’s leadership doesn’t just “help people understand his Word,” they *require* everyone to understand it *and misunderstand it* the same way they do. Witnesses who are unable or unwilling to understand it the way they are ‘helped’ to understand it are disfellowshipped for apostasy. The unstated reality of Bible study in this religion goes something like this...

‘You should study God’s Word the Bible—but just make sure you don’t understand anything in it that disagrees with the way we require you to understand it, even if you are right and we are wrong - or else!’

← **The Reality**

It is not only much *easier* for Jehovah’s Witnesses to leave all the serious study of the Bible up to their religious leaders, it is much *safer*.

Who Have Witnesses Followed?	
<i>Illusion</i>	<i>Reality</i>
Jesus Christ	Prior to 1976: The President Since 1976: The Governing Body

NEXT: What about matters of conscience?

¹⁹¹ 2 Timothy 3:16

Bible or Watchtower Trained Conscience – Which?

AS with so many other subjects, there have been many fine Watchtower articles about our conscience and how God created us with this “inner sense of right and wrong”...

*A good conscience, one that is **Bible-trained**, can remind us of the way in which (God’s) spirit wants us to walk ... By learning to rely on our **trained Christian conscience**, we can make good choices even when there is no specific direction in writing... A clean, **Bible-trained conscience** is a good gift from God.¹⁹²*

The men of the Governing Body have taken God’s gift of personal conscience away from Jehovah’s Witnesses.

This all sounds about right. But what Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice is that the men of their Governing Body have taken this gift away from them. These men have made themselves the determiners of what are and what are not matters of conscience. Here are just a couple examples that show this to be the case...

Example #1: There is “no specific direction in writing” in the Bible about saying “Happy Anniversary” or “Happy Birthday.” But Jehovah’s Witnesses are only allowed to say “Happy Anniversary.” They will be disfellowshipped if they say “Happy Birthday.”¹⁹³

There may be many Witnesses who don’t see much difference between the above two greetings and don’t understand why saying a simple “Happy Birthday” would be deserving of the “everlasting punishment” Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25:46. If it wasn’t “God’s organization” making

¹⁹² May 1, 2000 *Watchtower*, p. 16

¹⁹³ They will be disfellowshipped if they do not repent from saying “Happy Birthday” and promise never to say it again. The typical counsel that elders give in such cases usually comes down to, “Do you believe the Society is God’s organization?” And then, “Even if the Society is mistaken on this matter, are you willing to wait for Jehovah to correct his organization?” If they answer “No” to either question they will be disfellowshipped for apostasy.

such an issue about this it wouldn't bother their consciences to say "Happy Birthday." But they bow to the collective conscience of the Governing Body.¹⁹⁴ If these men ever change their minds and decide to leave it up to individual conscience, it is possible that some Witnesses will acknowledge birthdays while others may not. But at least their decisions would be based on their own consciences.¹⁹⁵

Example #2: "Alternative Civilian Service": When Jehovah's Witnesses refuse military service some countries offer them a non-military alternative such as working in a civilian hospital on weekends for a specified period of time. For decades Witnesses were required to refuse the offer which meant they would go to jail. Those who accepted it were to be considered as having disassociated themselves from the congregation and therefore were treated just as if they had been disfellowshipped. Most Witnesses went to jail. This was the Governing Body's unyielding position until the May 1, 1996 *Watchtower* when they finally left the decision to accept alternative service up to individual conscience.

The Point: Even when Witnesses are able to exercise their conscience it is only because their Governing Body grants them that right. There is no allowance for conscientious disagreement with their current teachings.

**Even when
Witnesses
are able to
exercise
their own
conscience
it is only
because the
Governing
Body
grants them
that right.**

"Why Do You Believe What You Believe?"

Under this heading the Governing Body says, "*The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines every person's 'right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.' This right includes the freedom 'to change his religion or belief if he wants to do so.'*" But as has been shown, Witnesses who try to exercise any of these human rights will be disfellowshipped.¹⁹⁶ - See Chapter 10

**The United
Nations
Universal
Declaration
of Human
Rights**

¹⁹⁴ If they don't bow to the Governing Body's conscience they will be disfellowshipped.

¹⁹⁵ One of the problems the Governing Body has created for itself comes from their insistence that all Witnesses must "speak in agreement." This makes it difficult for them to leave anything up to individual conscience because that could lead to a situation where Witnesses do *not* all "speak in agreement."

¹⁹⁶ August 1, 2001 *Watchtower*, p. 4. Witnesses who insist on their right to freedom of thought, conscience or the freedom to change their religion, will be disfellowshipped for apostasy.

What If This Was Another Religion?

IF the teachings and prophecies considered in this study had come from some other religion, the Governing Body would likely apply all those terms mentioned back on page 56 to it and its teachings...

“falsehoods”
 “false stories”
 “false teachers”
 “false teachings”
 “false doctrines”
 “false prophets”
 “false prophecies”
 “false religious views”
 “false religious teachings”
 “false religious philosophies”
 “doctrines with pagan religious routes”
 “the disfiguring of God”
 “God dishonoring”
 “pagan doctrines”
 “godless myths”

If some other religion was guilty of doing what the Watchtower organization has done, the Governing Body would identify it as part of Satan’s organization.

If that same religion claimed to be God’s organization and his sole channel of communication to all mankind and that it was the only true religion, Jehovah’s Witnesses would reject such claims and say that its historical record and the present conduct of its religious leaders proves that it is part of Satan’s organization – “the world Empire of false religion.”¹⁹⁷

If its religious leaders did what the Society’s religious leaders have done in order to ignore, alter, misrepresent and cover-up their historical record, the Governing Body would likely apply the same terms to them as Jesus applied to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23.

What would the Governing body say about members of that religion who were accused of being apostates just be-

¹⁹⁷ The Society’s interpretation of the “Babylon the Great” of Revelation 18:1-5

cause they could not consciously accept everything their religious leaders required them to believe, even if what they were teaching wasn't true? It is likely that they would commend them for following their God-given conscience rather than bowing to the dictatorship of their religious leaders.

If Jehovah's Witnesses saw some other religion doing all the things their religion is guilty of doing, they could only wonder why anyone would want to have anything to do with it. And so that brings up the fair question: Why do *they* have anything to do with the Watchtower religion since it *is* guilty of doing all these things? What makes the difference?

It is their concept of "the organization" that makes the difference. It forces them to either *not notice* that their religion is guilty of doing all these things, or else to *ignore* all the things it is guilty of doing because in their minds, "No matter what happens it is *still* God's organization." If anything is wrong then it is their responsibility to wait patiently until God sees fit to straighten things out in his own due time.¹⁹⁸ Those who cannot wait are thought of as having "turned their backs on God" and therefore deserve to be disfellowshipped and shunned "in order to keep God's organization clean."¹⁹⁹

Again and again, the reasoning of both the Witnesses and their Governing Body is dominated and controlled by their concept of "God's organization."²⁰⁰ But as Raymond Franz pointed out, "It is a concept that did not originate with God. There is no reason to believe that He will feel compelled to support it."²⁰¹

NEXT: Even when Witnesses begin to become concerned about what their religion is guilty of doing, there are many factors that make the thought of leaving an extremely difficult decision to make.

If Jehovah's Witnesses saw some other religion doing what their religion is guilty of doing they could only wonder why anyone would want to have anything to do with it.

"It is a concept that did not originate with God. There is no reason to believe that He will feel compelled to support it."

¹⁹⁸ See the 'You shall not be unsettled by anything that happens' reasoning from the May 1, 1957 *Watchtower* on page 13.

¹⁹⁹ See next chapter p. 110.

²⁰⁰ Review Raymond Franz's comments on pages 11 and 12.

²⁰¹ *Crisis of Conscience*, p. 345

No Honorable Way Out of the Watchtower Religion

***The
Governing
Body has
made
leaving their
religion
a very
painful,
life-altering
process.***

FOR most Jehovah’s Witnesses, leaving the Watchtower religion is not just a simple matter of saying, “I quit.” The Governing Body has made it a very painful, life-altering process. There is no honorable way out of this religion.

The God’s-organization reasoning that has been inculcated into their minds goes like this...

*‘Since the Society is God’s organization then **there can never be a legitimate reason for anyone to ever leave it.** Even in the remote possibility that something is wrong, then it is the obligation of God’s people to wait for him to make whatever corrections he sees fit to make. Therefore, when anyone does leave, there must be something seriously wrong with that one.’²⁰²*

And then when “God’s organization” demonizes those who leave as ‘apostate servants of Satan the Devil,’²⁰³ the Witnesses who remain cannot help but believe that such ones must have “turned to the dark side”²⁰⁴ or, the way they usually express it, “turned their backs on God,” when in fact their consciences can no longer allow them to believe that the Society is God’s organization.²⁰⁵

There are only two options open to those who cannot accept the Society’s claim of divine authority. They can (1) voluntarily disassociate themselves, or else (2) they will be forcefully disfellowshipped.²⁰⁶ In either case, verses 9-11 of 2 John are applied to them...

²⁰² If the Society is *not* God’s organization then this reasoning is *not* reasonable.

²⁰³ March 1, 2002 *Watchtower*, p.11

²⁰⁴ An expression from “Star Wars.”

²⁰⁵ There is no allowance for freedom of conscience when it comes to disagreeing with what the Society is currently teaching – even if what they are teaching isn’t true.- See Chapter 10.

²⁰⁶ Some Witnesses try to leave quietly in order to avoid disassociation or disfellowshipping. It may depend on how aggressive their elders are whether or not they will be allowed to simply walk away. It will definitely depend on whether or not the one leaving is caught saying anything against “God’s organization.”

*Everyone that pushes ahead and does not remain in **the teaching of the Christ** does not have God...Never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. For he that says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.*

This Scripture is presented to the Witnesses as justification for their requirement to shun those who leave. Those who do not shun them lay *themselves* open to being disfellowshipped. Although John referred only to those who rejected “the teaching of *the Christ*,” the Governing Body says that this includes the teaching of *the Watchtower Society*. They apply John’s words as if he had said...

*‘Everyone that pushes ahead and does not remain in **the teaching of the Watchtower** does not have God. Never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. For he that says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.’²⁰⁷*

This very application showed up at the “Committee Meeting” (or trial²⁰⁸) of Gene Flanigan. The elders kept telling him that by not accepting a particular teaching of the Watchtower Society he was not remaining in the teaching of the Christ according to 2 John 9-11. He then asked, “Do you want me to remove the words ‘the teaching of the Christ’ from my Bible and replace them with ‘the teaching of the Watchtower Society?’” One elder answered, “Yes, because there is no difference.” Flanigan then handed them his letter of disassociation.

But why do elders and most Witnesses tend to think this way? By now the answer should be obvious: It is their concept of “the organization” that molds their thinking, their attitudes and their judgments.”²⁰⁹

Although they are not required to totally shun members of their immediate families living in the same house, it is not difficult to imagine the strain that exists when a hus-

**Witnesses
don’t
see any
difference
between “the
teaching
of the Christ”
and the
teaching
of the
Watchtower
Society.**

²⁰⁷ Although Witnesses may not *consciously* think this way, this *is* the way it works. Those who reject any “teaching of the Watchtower” (even the ones that are not true) are viewed as apostates

²⁰⁸ A “Committee Meeting” is normally presided over by 3 elders. No spectators are allowed. In his *Apocalypse Delayed*, James Penton explains: “The system of judicial committees serves as the ultimate control mechanism among the Witness faithful, and a terrible one it is.” p. 249

²⁰⁹ See Raymond Franz’s statement on pages 11 and 12.

band or wife is thought of as “an apostate servant of Satan the Devil!” Many family relationships have been destroyed by what the Governing Body refers to as “a loving arrangement.”²¹⁰

Keeping God’s Organization Clean?

They present their disfellowshipping and shunning-of-apostates policy as the Bible’s way of “keeping God’s organization clean.” But this is another instance where looking at their teachings that were not true brings out a different reason that has nothing to do with keeping an organization that belongs to God clean.

Take for example their teaching about the generation of 1914 that the Governing Body didn’t realize was a mistake until 1995. Who was responsible for making the organization unclean during those years they said that that false teaching was one of “the teachings of Jehovah?”²¹¹

Was it those Witnesses who could not conscientiously accept their teaching and were therefore disfellowshipped for apostasy in accordance with the Governing Body’s instructions in their September 1, 1980 letter? Or was it the men who created that teaching and insisted that it was “the Creator’s promise”²¹² and then placed it in hundreds of millions of copies of their literature and spread them all over the world for decades?²¹³ How does disfellowshipping people who cannot accept a false teaching keep an organization clean?

And so, what *does* disfellowshipping and shunning Witnesses who disagree with the Governing Body really accomplish? For one thing, as mentioned in Chapter 10, it maintains their ‘unity of belief at all costs’—a unity at the *expense* of truth rather than a unity *based* on truth.

How does disfellowshipping people who reject a false teaching keep an organization clean?

²¹⁰ See September 8, 1996 *Awake!* article, “Why Disfellowshipping Is a Loving Arrangement,” p. 26. See also the August, 2002 *Kingdom Ministry*.

²¹¹ See Governing Body’s letter on pages 78 and 79.

²¹² See the masthead page of every *Awake!* magazine prior to November of 1995.

²¹³ That false teaching also referred to on page 716 of the *Proclaimers* book that was written in 1993 – two years before that teaching was dropped in 1995. It says, “The ‘generation’ that was alive in 1914 is fast approaching. The end cannot be far off.”

But perhaps even more important to the men of the Governing Body is that their disfellowshipping/shunning policy effectively blocks the majority of Witnesses who don't know what is going on from finding out things about the organization that the Governing Body prefers they don't know.

They do have a provision for reinstating “apostates” and thereby removing their apostate label. All they have to do is show “true repentance” to their local elders’ satisfaction. But how does one repent from understanding the truth about something before the Governing Body understands it?²¹⁴ Do they say to their elders, “I’m so sorry that I correctly understood the truth about the generation of 1914 before Jehovah revealed it to his organization”?

How does one repent from finding out that the Watchtower Society is not God’s organization or that its Governing Body is not always honest? It would seem that in such cases the repentance needs to come from those who have been responsible for the false teachings and the misleading information. So far that has never happened.

The above may help explain why most Jehovah’s Witnesses are not too anxious to start a process that may end up convincing them that the Society isn’t God’s organization—which in turn will likely result in their being disfellowshipped—which in turn will result in the loss of all their friends. And unless their family members are also ready to face the truth, they will likely lose their close relationship with them—even the possible loss of their marriage mates and children.²¹⁵

But as difficult as it is to walk away from this religion, there are those who have been able to do it. Many of them are now trying to help others come to know what they discovered by using a means that has become the Watchtower’s worst nightmare.

How does one repent from finding out that the Watchtower Society is not God’s organization?

Those thinking about leaving must be willing to face the possibility of the loss of relationships with their family members who do not leave with them.

²¹⁴ When Witnesses are disfellowshipped for rejecting one of the Society’s teachings that the Governing Body later discovers was not true, they will remain disfellowshipped. But the charge against them changes from “not keeping up with God’s organization” to “running ahead of God’s organization.” No one is allowed to stop believing a false teaching before the Governing Body stops teaching it. – See their 9/1/80 letter on page 78.

²¹⁵ Go to any search engine on the Internet and type, “Jehovah’s Witnesses.” Many ex-Witnesses have placed their personal experiences there. See Chapter 18, “The Internet – The Watchtower’s Worst Nightmare.”

The Internet – The Watchtower’s Worst Nightmare

The Governing Body has no legitimate defense against what they and their predecessors have done. They can only try to keep Jehovah’s Witnesses from realizing what they and their predecessors have done.

IF the Society’s literature is their greatest enemy, then *the Internet is their worst nightmare*. This is because their greatest enemy, which contains (1) everything they have ever said that wasn’t true, and (2) everything they have ever said to cover up what they have said that wasn’t true—is plastered all over the Internet for the whole world to see. The Governing Body doesn’t appreciate this arrangement because (1) they have no control over the information that is being made available, and (2) they have no *legitimate* defense for what they and their predecessors have done.

Their only defense has been to resort to their weapon of choice—Watchtower propaganda. It is designed to convince Jehovah’s Witnesses not to look at anything anyone has to say about the Society or its Governing Body...

*Some **apostates** are increasingly using...**the Internet** to spread false information²¹⁶ about Jehovah’s Witnesses. As a result, when sincere individuals do research on our beliefs, they may stumble across **apostate propaganda**... Avoiding all contact with these opponents will protect us from their corrupt thinking.*
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As usual, their propaganda does not focus on any facts but immediately resorts to their favorite name-calling word “apostates” so that “sincere individuals” will ‘reject the information on the Internet on the basis of the negative label instead of weighing any of the evidence for themselves.’²¹⁸ Their propaganda doesn’t protect anyone from *their own* “false information” and “corrupt thinking” which springs from living their illusion.

²¹⁶ Most of the “information” that is being provided on the Internet is the Society’s own literature. Whatever is “false” in their literature is not the fault of those who are putting it on the Internet.

²¹⁷ May 1, 2000 *Watchtower*, p. 10. Another ‘weapon’ they have used is to try to shut down websites that allow readers to examine the Society’s older literature. See <http://quotes.watchtower.ca/>

²¹⁸ See Chapter 9, “Watchtower Propaganda Keeps Them Captive”

Just as the religious leaders in the first century tried everything they could think of to convince the Jews not to listen to anything Jesus or his disciples had to say about them, the Watchtower's religious leaders do everything they can think of to convince Jehovah's Witnesses not to listen to anything anyone has to say about them or their organization.²¹⁹

And just like those religious leaders in the first century had to misrepresent Jesus and his disciples in order to convince the Jews that they deserved to be dead, the Governing Body misrepresents those they call "apostates" today in order to convince Jehovah's Witnesses that they deserve to be considered *as* dead.²²⁰

As mentioned on page 73, if the Society's religious leaders had told the truth about the organization's history in the first place, they would not now have to work so hard to prevent their followers from learning about it.

The evidence considered in this study makes up only a small portion of that which exists. But no matter how much there is or how it is presented, evidence will not benefit those who refuse to look at it as the Governing Body instructs Jehovah's Witnesses to do. Evidence can only help those who are not only willing to make contact with it, but then are able to get the sense of what it means.

NEXT: When everything is taken into consideration it's a wonder that anyone ever 'escapes' from the Watchtower religion. In order to permanently set themselves free from it they will need to come to realize that the concept that has been holding them captive is not true.

***The
Governing
Body must
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those they call
"apostates"
in order to
convince
Jehovah's
Witnesses
not to listen
to them.***

***Evidence can
only help
those who are
not only will-
ing to make
contact with it,
but are able
to get the
sense of what
it means.***

²¹⁹ On page 31 of the March 15, 1987 *Watchtower* they explain, "The (Jews in Jesus' day) had permitted their opinion of Jesus to be shaped by the religious leaders who hated him because he had exposed them as false teachers whose actions were not in harmony with their claims of being representatives of the true God." And yet *this statement perfectly fits the way it is with the Watchtower's religious leaders and Jehovah's Witnesses today!* Witnesses have permitted their opinion of "apostates" to be shaped by their religious leaders who hate them because they have exposed them as false teachers whose actions are not in harmony with their claims of being representatives of the true God. It is fascinating to observe how people (who are captives of an illusory concept) can have the ability to notice a serious mistake made by others, but are unable to notice when they are making the exact same mistake.

²²⁰ Witnesses are instructed to view all those who have been disfellowshipped or disassociated as though they were literally dead. This helps to assure that they will never want to have anything to do with "apostates."

The Key To Their Escape

The key to unlock themselves from their captivity is to come to realize that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization.

SINCE the concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive is their belief that the Society *is* God's organization, then the key to releasing themselves from their captivity is to come to realize that it *isn't* God's organization.

This sounds simple enough in view of the fact that all the evidence they need to know is so abundant and readily available.²²¹ It *would* have been simple for them if they had seen the evidence before they got baptized. And as explained in Chapter 16, it would be simple for them today if it was some other religion that was involved. But because they *are* baptized and it *is* their own religion it is extremely difficult for most of them to want to even look for this key let alone find it and then use it to unlock themselves and walk away from the Watchtower religion.

As shown in Chapter 3, it isn't for any lack of evidence that prevents them from realizing that Jesus would never have appointed anyone associated with the Watchtower Society to anything in 1919. It is their unwillingness to look at the evidence and/or their failure to understand it in connection with Matthew 24:45-47. This is that one mistake they have all made.²²² If they had not made it, it seems likely that they would not now be associated the Watchtower Society. This is suggested by the fact that Witnesses who *have* corrected that mistake no longer believe that the Watchtower Society is God's organization.

NEXT: In order to escape the concept holding them captive, something more powerful than evidence is needed no matter how undeniable or unequivocal it may be.

²²¹ That evidence is contained in their own literature. Go to any Internet search engine and type "Jehovah's Witnesses." Many ex-Witnesses are simply trying to help Jehovah's Witnesses look at the things in their own literature that they have missed.

²²² See Chapter 5, "The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made"

Evidence Alone Is Not Enough

*“We have all experienced the futility of trying to change a strong conviction ... Suppose an individual believes something with his whole heart [which Witnesses do]; suppose further that he has a commitment to this belief [which Witnesses have], that he has taken irrevocable actions because of it [which Witnesses have done]; finally, suppose that he is presented with evidence, **unequivocal and undeniable evidence**, that his belief is wrong: what will happen? The individual will frequently emerge, not only unshaken, but even more convinced of the truth of his beliefs than ever before.”²²³*

Jehovah’s Witnesses are very familiar with the above phenomenon. They have observed it many times during their door-to-door and Bible Study ministry while ‘trying to change the strong convictions’ of others. But what they have not noticed is that others have experienced this same phenomenon when trying to change *the Witnesses’* strong convictions.

I had spent 20 years trying to help others learn about what I had mistakenly thought was “the Truth.” I then spent my final year as a Witness trying to help the local elders come to learn that what we thought was the Truth wasn’t. And while I was not surprised to discover that the majority of non-Witnesses had no interest in anything I had to say about our religion, I was very surprised at the time to discover that none of the elders had any interest in anything that I had to say about our religion either.

The following personal experience helped to teach me that “unequivocal and undeniable evidence” is not the determining factor as to whether people with “a strong conviction” in an illusion will be able to get the sense of what has happened to them.

Unequivocal and Undeniable Evidence

(Jehovah’s Witnesses and The Mexican Army First Reserve)

I gave each elder in my congregation copies of official Watchtower letters to and from the Branch Office in Mexico which showed that President Knorr had allowed the

Something other than unequivocal, undeniable evidence is needed for Jehovah’s Witnesses to be able to get the sense of what has happened to them.

²²³ *When Prophecies Fail* (1956), p. 4

The Society's president permitted Witnesses in Mexico to illegally bribe government officials in order to have them falsify a document which enrolled them in the Mexican Army First Reserve.

Witnesses in that country to illegally bribe government officials in order to have them falsify a certificate, which then indicated that they had successfully completed one year of military basic training and were enrolled in the Mexican Army First Reserve.²²⁴ (Witnesses in all other parts of the world are told that such conduct is unacceptable.)

I tried as gently as I could to explain to the elders that I had come across this information but could not verify if it was true or not. I asked them to write to the Governing Body just to inquire if there was anything to these letters. I wanted them to see the Governing Body's reaction to a legitimate question that I knew they would have no intention of answering. But they refused.

They were not concerned in the slightest whether the letters were true. Their only concern was that I had them. They asked, "Where did you get these letters?" I said that they were included in the book written by former Governing Body member Raymond Franz. They then asked, "What are you doing reading a book written by an apostate?" That was their only response to these letters.

Later I was able to sit down with the congregation's most humble elder and carefully go through the letters so that he understood what they were saying. His only response was this:

"If the Society isn't God's organization then I might as well eat, drink and be merry."

'If the Society is not God's organization then there is no God!'

I understood him to mean that as far as he was concerned, if the Society isn't God's organization then *there is no God!*²²⁵ When the other elders reached the point of not wanting me to show them anything else, they made the following private comments to me:

"I would rather go to my grave being deceived than to find out that the Society isn't who they say they are."

"They can't tell us the truth about the organization's history because if they did the organization would fall apart."

²²⁴ See "Double Standards" in *Crisis of Conscience*. The letters were copied with the author's permission.

²²⁵ The Governing Body is well aware of these letters. But they have never attempted to explain them.

“I know there are problems. But I can wait 30 years for Jehovah to correct his organization.”

“I don’t care if every member of the Governing Body is apostate. I will do whatever they say because I know that Jehovah is using this organization no matter what.”

These statements came from the “spiritually mature” men that the Governing Body had appointed “under the guidance of the Holy Spirit” to shepherd the local congregation. These are the ones the members of the congregation look to for protection against those who would deceive and mislead them.²²⁶

But how can an elder protect his congregation from being deceived if he himself would rather be deceived than to have to face the truth? How can an elder protect anyone from apostates if he doesn’t care if every member of his Governing Body is apostate? And how can an elder protect the congregation from being misled if he is perfectly willing to allow his own Governing Body to mislead them? The answer of course is, he cannot.

As long as elders are unable to face the truth they cannot protect anyone from being misled by their religious leaders who themselves are unable to face the truth. When loyalty to the Society,²²⁷ no matter what happens, takes precedence over loyalty to the truth, no matter what happens, *those who lead will mislead and those who follow will be misled.*

Eventually the elders did come up with the answer to all my concerns. What happened was that a former elder was complaining to me about how the elders had unfairly deleted him as an elder a while back. I recommended that he read *Crisis of Conscience*. I said that it might help him understand why elders think and act the way they do. The next day he handed the book back to me (without reading any of it) and said, “We need someone to lead us by the hand.” He then reported me to the local elders who subsequently disfellowshipped me for apostasy. In this way they apparently felt that they were keeping God’s organization clean.

**How can
elders
protect their
congregation
if they them-
selves don’t
care if they
are being
deceived and
lied to by the
men of their
Governing
Body
who are
apostates?
They can’t!**

**When those
who lead
mislead,
and those
who follow
are misled...**

**“We need
someone to
lead us by
the hand.”**

²²⁶ Notice how their concept of “God’s organization” controlled their thinking.

²²⁷ I tried to resign as an elder in 1978. They rejected my request and instead *deleted* me on the grounds of “Disloyalty to the Society.” At the time I felt like I was being charged with being disloyal to God!

A couple of days before they announced my disfellowshipping I hand-delivered about a hundred copies of a ten-page letter to members of the congregation in order to give them the opportunity to hear my side of the story; to see some of the evidence that I knew their elders had no intention of showing them. As far as I know, only one family got the sense of that letter.²²⁸

When Ten Thousand Words Won't Make Any Difference

I came across a saying that may help to explain an underlying factor that nullifies unequivocal and undeniable evidence. It went something like this...

When ten thousand words won't make any difference, but one word can make all the difference...

*When dealing with those who **are ready to face the truth**, one word may make all the difference. But if they **are not ready to face the truth**, then ten thousand words won't make any difference.²²⁹*

My ten thousand words didn't make any difference to any of the elders I spoke to. And it did seem that it was because they were not willing or able to face the truth about the Watchtower Society at that time.

But I also keep coming back to what the apostle Paul explained to the Thessalonians. Although he didn't have the Watchtower Society specifically in mind, the principle he stated would seem to apply to anyone when it comes to the truth about God. Of the ones he was referring to he said...

Because they did not accept the love of the truth that is why God lets an operation of error go to them that they may get to believing the lie.²³⁰

According to this, the reason why some Witnesses cannot *face* the truth is because they haven't yet accepted the *love* of the truth. It is evident that those elders had not accepted it when they told me that they didn't care if they

²²⁸ The family got so much sense of my letter that they all eventually disassociated themselves.

²²⁹ Highly paraphrased from an unknown source.

²³⁰ 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

were being deceived and lied to by a bunch of apostates. There was an operation of a whole lot of error going on in their thinking at that time. With what result? They were able to continue “believing the lie” that the Watchtower Society is God’s organization. Since that’s what they wanted to believe then God let them believe it. As far as I know God is still letting them believe it.

This explanation provides a possible answer why some Witnesses are bothered by what they see going on within their organization while others who see the same things are not bothered. They can say they are “*in the Truth*” as often as they like, but it is only when they are confronted *by the truth* that it becomes evident whether or not they have accepted *the love of the truth*.

***It is only
when they are
confronted by
the truth that
it becomes
evident
whether or not
they have
accepted the
love of the
truth.***

The Different Kinds of Jehovah’s Witnesses

Not all Jehovah’s Witnesses are at the same comfort level with their relationship with the Watchtower Society...

1. Some Witnesses are concerned about what they see going on and are able to set aside the propaganda and even their own willful blindness and are already in the process of examining the evidence for themselves.²³¹ Many of them are searching the Internet (usually anonymously) looking for answers. They know they are walking a very thin line because if another Witness (even a member of their own family) finds out that they checking up on “God’s organization ” they may be reported to the elders in order to “readjust their thinking.”²³²
2. There are Witnesses who are either not aware of any problems (usually newly baptized) or are perfectly willing to “wait on Jehovah to correct his organization” no matter what is wrong or how long it takes.
3. Some stay with the organization despite the problems they see only because they cannot see anything better. They believe that “there is nowhere else to go.” – See Chapter 22
4. Others stay in order to keep from being disfellowshipped, which would destroy their relationship with their family members who are not ready to leave with them.

²³¹ See graphic on page 75.

²³² Elders’ bottom-line readjustments often come down to the following two questions: “Do you believe the Society is God’s organization?” and, “Even if the Society is wrong, are you willing to wait on Jehovah to correct his organization?” A “No” answer to either question leads to disfellowshipping for apostasy.

There may be many unhappy Jehovah's Witnesses who either don't know what to do, or don't dare to do anything about it.

5. There are others who continue because they are in a comfortable routine and don't want anything to upset it. They may not even care if the Society really is God's organization or not.
6. Some Witnesses have reached the point where they just go through the motions as they keep hoping and praying for "a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things."²³³
7. And then there are those who don't try very hard to apply Bible principles in their lives despite their association with "God's organization." Thousands of Witnesses are disfellowshipped each year for immorality of some kind.²³⁴
8. Finally, there may be many unhappy Jehovah's Witnesses who are concerned about what they see going on but either don't know what to do, or don't dare to do anything about it.²³⁵

It's not always easy to identify the various types of Witnesses, especially when more than one is present. For example, both Witnesses at the door may have serious questions or doubts about Watchtower doctrines or policies but they don't dare to express their concerns in front of the other Witness. Amongst themselves they tend to want to show how loyal they are to God's organization. It is only when you can speak with them privately that they may be more willing to express their true feelings or concerns.

No matter how deeply captive they are to their organizational concept and no matter what pressures there are to keep them there, it is not so deep and the pressures are not so great that God cannot help them escape. And no matter how long they have been living an illusion, it is not so long that God cannot help them see the reality. In other words, no matter how impossible it may seem from a human standpoint for Jehovah's Witnesses to be able to realize what has happened to them, it is not impossible *if God chooses to help them.*

The Kind of Witness God Chooses to Help

²³³ This has been stated on the masthead page of every *Awake!* magazine.

²³⁴ They have even had to deal with the serious problem of child molesters within their "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." – See www.watchtowerdocuments.com and www.silentlambs.org

²³⁵ There is one other kind of Witnesses. They feel that the Society's leadership has seriously deviated from the Christian religion Jesus had in mind. They are anonymously trying to reform the organization from the inside. But most former Witnesses feel that it is not possible for the Society to be reform in any meaningful way.

If God lets those who do not accept the love the truth believe the lie then perhaps He helps those that do have that love to stop believing the lie. This is also suggested in the instructions that Paul gave to Timothy about how to bring the truth to the attention of those who believe the lie...

Paraphrase of 2 Timothy 2:23-26

*'A slave of the Lord does not need to fight Jehovah's Witnesses, but needs to be gentle towards them, instructing them with mildness as **perhaps God may give them repentance** leading to an accurate knowledge of the truth about the Watchtower Society and they may come back to their proper senses.'*



The Bible's Instructions for helping Jehovah's Witnesses discover the truth about their religion.

Although it is good to have evidence that Jehovah's Witnesses need to know (like that found in Chapter 3) and to be able to present it in a mild and gentle way, whether or not they will be able to get the sense of it ultimately depends on what God does. Notice that it isn't the evidence that will lead them to an accurate knowledge of the truth about their religion. *It is God giving them repentance* that will do it. And according to what Paul said previously, it appears that God only gives it to those who "accept the love of the truth." – 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

It isn't the evidence that will lead them to the truth about the Watchtower Society.

It is not possible to force anyone to accept that kind of love or to change a Witness who isn't ready to face the truth into one who is.²³⁶ But it may be possible to help some kinds of Witnesses notice some of the interesting things their *Proclaimers* book is willing to tell them, and then leave it up to God to enable them to get the sense of what it all means.²³⁷

The following presents some personal observations and thoughts about how I would go about trying to apply what Paul told Timothy above - while always keeping in mind that there is nothing I can say or do that will bring them "back to their proper senses." Only God can do that.

²³⁶ It would be nice if there was a way to help Witnesses *want* to face the truth about their religion. But their wanting to do so can only come from within themselves. Their *need* to know the truth must outweigh their *fear* of knowing it. But for those who do become ready to *face* the truth, the Internet has made it relatively easy for them to *discover* the truth. – See Chapter 18, "The Internet – The Watchtower's Worst Nightmare," p. 112.

²³⁷ The 750 page *Proclaimers* book may be available on the Internet.

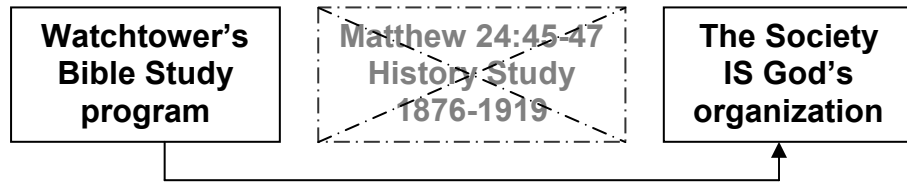
Correcting Their Mistake

Matthew 24:45-47: "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom [Jesus] appointed over his [disciples], to give them their [spiritual] food at the proper time? Happy is that slave if [Jesus] on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you he will appoint him over all his [earthly interests]." (See Luke's account at 12:35-44)²³⁸

IN order to escape the concept holding them captive, Jehovah's Witnesses will need to correct the mistake that caused them to become captives in the first place...

The Mistake

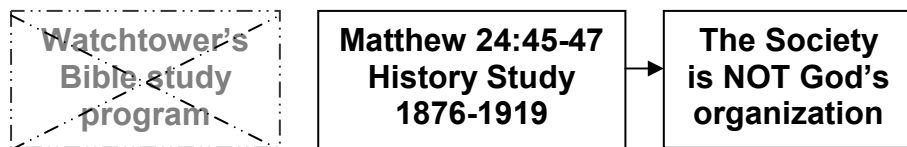
In order to escape the concept holding them captive they will have to correct the mistake that caused them to become captives in the first place.



In order to correct this mistake they will need to go back and examine what the Society had been teaching down till 1919 in connection with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47²³⁹ ...

Correcting The Mistake

It isn't necessary to prove that the Society's pre-1919 teachings were false.



The easy part about such an examination is that it isn't necessary to try to prove that any of those teachings mentioned in Chapter 3 were false. The Governing Body already admits that they were false.²⁴⁰ The difficult part is not just getting Jehovah's Witnesses to notice the Society's pre-1919 teachings that were not true. Many already know

²³⁸ Review "Matthew 24:45-47 – The Most Important Scripture in Watchtower Theology," p. 18 ff.

²³⁹ Chapter 5, p. 44 ff.

²⁴⁰ The fact that they have changed all those teachings mentioned in Chapter 3 means that they recognized that they were all false. It's just that they don't use the word "false" when referring to them. See page 55 for the long list of the other terms they use in place of the word "false."

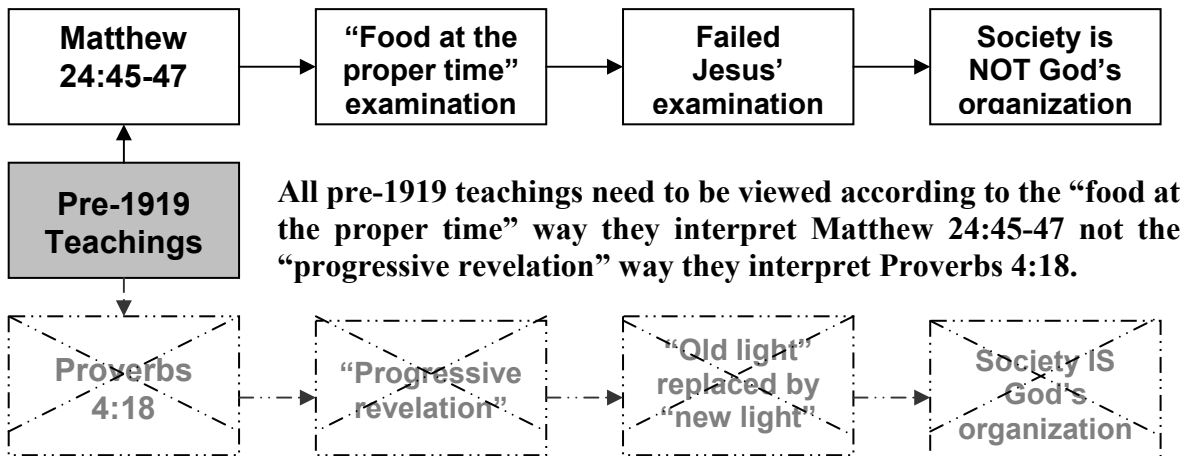
about some of them. The difficult part is **getting them to look at those teachings today the same way Jesus would have looked at them in 1919.**

For example, many Witnesses have heard at least something about Rutherford’s *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*. The *Proclaimers* book openly refers to it several times.²⁴¹ But it doesn’t register with them that Rutherford was teaching that “godless myth”²⁴² right in front of Jesus Christ all during the year they say Jesus was examining him to make sure that what he was teaching was “proper and timely.” Why don’t they notice this? Or if they do notice it, why doesn’t it concern them?

Jehovah’s Witnesses need to look at the Society’s pre-1919 teachings the same way Jesus would have looked at them in 1919 rather than the way their Governing Body looks at them today.

Watch Out For Proverbs 4:18

A major factor that prevents them from realizing that the Society would have failed a food-at-the-proper-time examination in 1919 is the way have been trained to apply Proverbs 4:18. They simply view all of their former teachings (including all those mentioned in Chapter 3) as “old light” that were eventually corrected by “new light” according to the “progressive revelation” way they interpret this Scripture.²⁴³ But all pre-1919 Watchtower teachings need to be viewed in light of the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47 rather than the way they interpret Proverbs 4:18...



²⁴¹ Review Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” pages 30-22.

²⁴² “Godless myth” is one of the terms the Society uses when referring to the teachings of other religions that they say are not true. See the long list of other uncomplimentary terms they use on page 56.

²⁴³ See Chapter 8, “Using the Bible to Keep Themselves Captive,” page 63.

IMPORTANT POINT: Even if Proverbs 4:18 did have anything to do with how God progressively reveals the truth to his people, the Society would have to first pass Jesus' examination before it could apply that way to them.²⁴⁴

More and more Witnesses are becoming self-motivated to make this examination because of their concerns about things that they see going on which are not consistent with the Society's claim to being God's organization. But there may be others who have similar concerns but don't realize that the answer to them lies in correcting the above mistake by making the above examination. The following presents a different way of thinking that gives Witnesses a reason to help someone else make this examination whether the Witnesses feel the need to make it for themselves or not. It tries to take into account their way of looking at things.

A different way of thinking that takes into account the way Jehovah's Witnesses look at things.

They are instructed to teach about their organization as soon as possible.

In the process of teaching someone else that the Society is God's organization they may teach themselves that it isn't.

Teaching Themselves the Truth

Jehovah's Witnesses don't spend a billion hours a year looking for someone to teach them anything—especially that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization.²⁴⁵ Their purpose is to teach everyone else that it is. They are instructed to do so as soon as possible...

*Bible students need to get acquainted with **the organization** of the "one flock" Jesus spoke about at John 10:16. They must appreciate that identifying themselves with **Jehovah's organization** is essential to their salvation (Rev. 7:9, 10, 15) Therefore, we should start directing our Bible students to **the organization** as soon as a Bible study is established.²⁴⁶*

This different way of thinking tries to take advantage of **their desire to teach others** that the Watchtower Society is God's organization in the hope that in the process **they may teach themselves** that it *isn't*. This possible

²⁴⁴ See pages 64-68 where it explains that the 'DIMMER-switch' way they interpret Proverbs 4:18 is not the way their changes in their teachings occur. They simply turn old teaching OFF and new ones ON.

²⁴⁵ The May 1, 1984 "Questions From Readers" says, "Witnesses do not go to people's doors searching for truth or enlightenment. Rather, they already have devoted countless hours learning the truth from God's Word and, having taken in the "good news," they are obediently going forth to share it." But they have *not* spent "countless hours learning the truth" about their organization's history.

²⁴⁶ November, 1990 *Kingdom Ministry*

outcome is based on a principle of teaching the apostle Paul explained to the Romans. It may be the most mild and gentle way of teaching ²⁴⁷ and therefore the most effective and convincing way of learning when it comes to something as personal as one's spiritual beliefs...

*Do you, the one teaching someone else not **teach yourself?** - Romans 2:21*

According to this principle, if Jehovah's Witnesses can become involved in teaching someone else about the Society's history they may teach themselves the truth about it. The easiest way to get them involved is to **ask for their help to learn about it**. Since their Governing Body instructs them to teach others about their organization as soon as possible, they should be pleased to do whatever they can to help those who ask about it. Especially when their January, 2004 *Kingdom Ministry* tells them...

When starting a conversation, you will likely have a subject in mind. However, if the person indicates that some other issue is of pressing personal interest, do not hesitate to discuss that instead if you are able to do so, or offer to return with some helpful information.

Here their Governing Body is obligating them to be willing to talk about whatever "issue is of pressing personal interest" to those they meet in their ministry. The only issue that needs to be discussed is the history of the Watchtower Society as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47.

The Best Way to Get Along With Jehovah's Witnesses

When it comes to the Bible, Jehovah's Witnesses view themselves as the teachers and everyone else on earth as potential students. The only time they view themselves as students is when "God's organization" is the teacher. Therefore, the best way to get along with them is to **let them be the teachers**. Remember that it isn't a matter of trying to

**Ask for
their help to
understand
Watchtower
history.**

**The only issue
that needs to
be discussed
is the history
of the
Watchtower
Society
in connection
with Matthew
24:45-47.**

**Let them be
the teachers.**

²⁴⁷ 2 Timothy 2:24,25

teach them that they are wrong but rather that *they may teach themselves* the truth about their organization's history while they are in the process of "teaching someone else" about it. – Romans 2:21

Although the Witness is the teacher, the student picks the subject.

Although they would like to teach the same things that mistakenly convinced them that the Society is God's organization (see left hand columns on pages 15,16), these subjects should only be considered if a history study proves that this is the organization that God has chosen to teach these things to the rest of mankind.

But although they are the teachers, the above *Kingdom Ministry* tells them that they should **let the student pick the subject.**

There are several advantages to being the student.

The Student/Teacher Relationship

There are several advantages to being the student. For one thing the student doesn't have to teach or prove or convince the teacher of anything. The student has the freedom to ask questions, listen, read, research, make observations and then accept or reject what is being taught.

This student/teacher relationship also eliminates debating, which seldom accomplishes anything.²⁴⁸ Debating occurs when there are two or more teachers trying to out-teach each other. But when there is only one teacher there is no one to debate with.

You don't want them to defend the Society's history. You want them to discover it.

Also, as long as Jehovah's Witnesses feel they are the ones doing the teaching they are not as likely to go on the defensive when the subject of the organization's history comes up. You don't want them to *defend* that history—you want them to *discover* it. And the longer they are not on the defensive the better chance there is for them to discover it.

It is not easy to remain a passive student when the student knows the truth and the teacher doesn't. It takes constant effort to fight the tendency to want to teach. But as soon as Witnesses sense that someone is trying to teach

²⁴⁸ See comments from *When Prophecies Fail* on top of page 115.

them something negative about their organization or its Governing Body their minds shift into a defensive mode. Once that happens the learning process usually comes to an end.

Watchtower History Study

As explained on page 45, a history study needs to be conducted before a Bible study is even considered because *it is a history study—not a Bible study—that proves whether or not the Society is God’s organization.* If Watchtower history showed that this is the organization that Jesus appointed in the spring of 1919 to teach the Bible to everyone else, *then* it would make sense to take them up on their offer of a free Bible study. But again, those who do a history study first don’t ask for a Bible study later.

Teaching Watchtower history is not easy for Jehovah’s Witnesses for a couple of reasons...

1. They have not studied it themselves.
2. There isn’t any program set up for them to teach it.

But the above *Kingdom Ministry* gives them an easy way out. It tells them that if they are not able to discuss a particular subject at the time, they should “return with some helpful information.” The helpful information they need to return with is their 750-page *Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom* book. If they don’t offer to do this I would ask them to do it.²⁴⁹

“Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom”

The Book of Watchtower History

The easiest way for them to teach what is in this book is to ***let people read it for themselves.*** If they really care

Witnesses don’t realize that it is a History Study, not a Bible Study, that proves whether or not the Watchtower Society is God’s organization.

²⁴⁹ Some Witnesses may offer to explain some of the Society’s history ‘off the top of their head.’ If they do it will come out the same way it was explained to them. I made the mistake of just accepting what I was told about the Society’s history. The first question I asked was, “Aren’t Jehovah’s Witnesses the ones who foretold the end of the world a time or two?” The answer I got was, “No. It was other religions that have done that.” I don’t feel that the Witness who gave me that answer was intentionally lying. He was just repeating what he had been told. It wasn’t until twenty years later that I finally looked up the answer to my question for myself. The point is that although it is alright to listen to what Witnesses have to say about the Society’s history, don’t wait twenty years to check to see if what they said was true. The Internet has made it much easier to learn the true history of the Watchtower Society than it was in the 1970s.

The easiest way for Witnesses to teach about the Society's history is to let people read the "Proclaimers" book for themselves.

**- THE GOAL -
Helping Witnesses notice some things they should have noticed before they got baptized.**

It is essential that the starting point in the study of the Society's history is their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 and then hold them to it.

about helping others learn about their organization they should be willing to lend it to those who ask for it. Although this book is not as candid as it claims to be, it is candid enough about a few very important former teachings that might begin to get the attention of some Witnesses if only they were able to notice what it says. If it does get their attention they may then become self-motivated to want to look at the Society's actual pre-1919 literature (Russell's *Studies In The Scriptures* and Rutherford's *The Finished Mystery*) to teach themselves if there was anything else the Society had been teaching that would not have passed an examination by Jesus Christ in 1919.

Those who do look will discover numerous other false teachings (including the thirty-eight listed on page 33) along with the thousands of false statements and reasonings that were used to support them. They may finally begin to realize that they have not been told the truth about the organization's history.

'Once the Bell Has Been Rung'

The following presents an approach that may help some Witnesses 'hear' some of the things their *Proclaimers* book has to say whether they are ready to face the truth or not. At least they will hear some things they were not aware of and "once the bell has been rung it cannot be unring." If what they hear has no effect on them today because they are not ready to face the truth, it may have some effect in the future if they ever do become ready to face it.

The Starting Point: Matthew 24:45-47²⁵⁰

As the student, the first thing I would mention that I learned from the *Proclaimers* book is the importance of their teaching that the Society is God's organization. I would acknowledge that if it is then I would want to know it. I would mention how often the book refers to Matthew 24:45-47 to explain the reason why God selected the Watchtower Society was because they were the only reli-

²⁵⁰ A question that may get Witnesses thinking about Matthew 24:45-47: "Why did God select the Watchtower Society rather than some other religion?" Answer is on page 161 of the *Knowledge* book. (Appendix, p. 145)

gion that had been teaching the right things at the right time down till 1919. And that is why they received the appointment mentioned in verse 47.²⁵¹

I would make sure that that not only *I* understand it the way the Society teaches it, but also that *they* understand it the way the Society teaches it. As important as this Scripture is to the very foundation of the Watchtower religion, Jehovah's Witnesses have just accepted what they were told about it without checking to make sure that what they were told is true. This is that one mistake they have all made.²⁵² But as their student I am not going to make that same mistake. With the help of the *Proclaimers* book I will try to conduct the same examination of the Society's pre-1919 teachings that they say Jesus conducted.²⁵³

Although Jehovah's Witnesses have never done this themselves they should have confidence that whatever the *Proclaimers* book says will be the same as what they have been led to believe. The following are a few important pre-1919 teachings that I personally would mention that I learned from their book and how they affect me.

Russell, Rutherford, 1914 & The Second Coming of Christ

Out of some 18.2 million people who had anything to do with the Watchtower Society in 2010²⁵⁴ it is possible that not a single one of them realizes that the *Proclaimers* book says that the Society's first two presidents never knew that Jesus returned in 1914 to begin his Second Coming or "invisible presence" (assuming he did return in that year). And so I would let them know that I was surprised to learn this from their book. I would think that most Witnesses will be just as surprised, although they may not care to show it. But whether they are willing to admit it or not, they will have heard something they didn't know, and 'once the bell has been rung'...

Make sure that everyone understands Matthew 24:45-47 the way the Society teaches it.

The student needs to avoid making the same mistake the teacher made.

It is possible that there isn't a single Witness who realizes that the Society's first two presidents (three if you count W. H. Conley) never knew about Jesus' return in 1914.

See page 7.

²⁵¹ See *Proclaimers* book Index under the heading, "Faithful and discreet slave."

²⁵² Chapter 5, "The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made," page 44.

²⁵³ Their *Knowledge* book explains their interpretation on page 161. See Appendix, p. 145.

²⁵⁴ In 2009 18,2 million people attended their annual "Memorial of Christ's Death."

These are things Witnesses have never thought about. But they are hearing someone else think about them.

While trying very hard to remain the student I would wonder out loud why God apparently didn't want Russell or Rutherford to ever know when his Son had returned, especially when he knew they were teaching the wrong date (1874) and that he was going to send Jesus to examine what they were teaching to make sure that they were teaching the right date (1914). What sense does that make? It doesn't make any sense. But God is going to have to help them realize that it doesn't make any sense. And it also doesn't fit their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. What Russell and Rutherford taught about the time of the Second Coming of Christ for almost seven decades was never proper or timely. – Review Chapter 3, pages 22-26.

'We are not your faithful and discreet slave.'

Witnesses don't notice that since the Society denied being Jesus' "slave" in 1919 that therefore they did not accept his appointment of that "slave" mentioned in Matthew 24:47.

I would mention what I learned on page 143 where it says (without saying) that in 1919 the Society denied being Jesus' "faithful and discreet slave" and therefore they did not accept his appointment mentioned in verse 47. Here too I would wonder why God did not let them know that they were this "slave" so that they would have accepted Jesus' appointment when they say he offered it. God knew that what they were teaching was not true and therefore that they would fail his Son's examination on such an important matter. Again, what sense does that make? - Review Chapter 3, pp. 26-28

"Millions Now Living Will Never Die"

Although Witnesses may be familiar with this title, they don't think about the fact that President Rutherford was teaching several things about this subject that were not true *all during the period of time they say that Jesus was examining him* to make sure that he was faithfully and discreetly dispensing "proper and timely spiritual food."²⁵⁵ But I (the student) would let the teacher know that I *do* think

²⁵⁵ Page 161 of their *Knowledge* book leads the reader to believe that Rutherford had been dispensing "proper and timely spiritual food" while Jesus was examining him. See paragraph 4 in the Appendix, p. 145.

about that fact. I would quote some of the strange things the *Proclaimers* book says about Rutherford's "exciting message they proclaimed" and wonder how they can say such positive things about a teaching that failed Jesus' examination. – Review pages 30-32

“The World Magazine” (August 30, 1914)

“The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy.”²⁵⁶

I would try to bring this subject up because it is referring to “an extraordinary prophecy” that does not exist. But as the student I would not try to just tell them that it doesn't exist. I would ask them to find it for me because it isn't mentioned in the *Proclaimers* book.²⁵⁷ If they will sincerely try to find a 25-year prophecy where Russell had foretold the beginning of a war in Europe (or anywhere else on earth) in 1914 **they will teach themselves that it does not exist.**²⁵⁸ Will they care? They might if they have “accepted the love of the truth.” - 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

**Ask to see
Russell's
prophecy.
Everyone who
tries to find
it will teach
themselves
that it does
not exist.**

Christmas, Birthdays, the Cross and the Great Pyramid of Gizeh

Depending how things are going, I might mention the above four teachings that the *Proclaimers* book says were “abandoned” sometime after 1919.²⁵⁹ While Witnesses tend to automatically process those teachings through Proverbs 4:18 and simply dismiss them as “old light,” I would process them through Matthew 24:45-47 and notice that they too would have failed a food-at-the-proper-time examination in 1919.

²⁵⁶ Review Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do,” pp. 88-90

²⁵⁷ As explained back on page 90, the paragraph next to the above insert in the *Proclaimers* book changes the prophecy *The World Magazine* was referring to in its title from the “End of All Kingdoms in 1914” to ‘the end of the Gentile Times in 1914.’ In order to notice the switch one needs to see the title of the article as shown on page 88. But the *Proclaimers* book does not show or even mention the title.

²⁵⁸ Review Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do,” pages 88-91.

²⁵⁹ Pages 200, 201. See also Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” pages 34, 35.

How Would I Have Reacted?

Today my reaction to a study of the history of Watchtower Society is to conclude the same things Peter Gregeron and Raymond Franz concluded following their own history studies.²⁶⁰ I would let the Witness teacher know that I don't see how the Society could have passed an examination by Jesus Christ based on what they had been teaching down till 1919.²⁶¹

It took me almost nine years from when I first sensed that something was seriously wrong to when I was able to realize that it meant that the Watchtower Society was not God's organization.

I have often thought about how I would have reacted to such a study when I still believed that the Society was God's organization—when I was still a captive of that concept. I can remember a period of several years after I first realized something was seriously wrong in 1976 that I was not ready to discover that the Society wasn't God's organization. I was perfectly willing to be challenged about what I believed about God's name, the Trinity, hell, the soul, and the condition of the dead. But if someone tried to direct me to the Society's history I distinctly remember going out of my way not to look (willful blindness). If something did get through to me I was able to rationalize that whatever went on in the past did not matter today. I had been trained to think that way and that training worked for several years.

Although what had been bothering me caused me to resign as an elder in 1978, it wasn't until about 1984 that I was finally ready to face the truth, even if it meant that the Watchtower Society was not God's organization. Once I reached that point I allowed myself to do a history study. It didn't take very long after that to conclude that God has never had anything to do with this organization. But I'm afraid that even if the *Proclaimers* book had been available in 1976, it might not have been able to help me until I was ready to face the truth in 1984.

²⁶⁰ Pages 43 and 45.

²⁶¹ NOTE: I would expect that they will want to bring up some of the Society's teachings that have not changed since 1919 such as God's name, the Trinity, Jesus is not God, immortality of the soul, the condition of the dead, and hell. If they do, then as mentioned in footnote #74 on page 40, I would refer them to page 622 in the *Proclaimers* book where it acknowledges that the Society was not the only religion that was teaching these same things. And that if these teachings would have passed Jesus' examination in 1919 they would have passed no matter who was teaching them.

How Will Jehovah's Witnesses React?

Although it may be possible to bring some of those teachings considered in Chapter 3 to their attention, it is not possible to effect how they will react to them. How they react will depend on what kind of Witnesses they are.²⁶² If they have “the love the truth”²⁶³ in them somewhere, and if they are ready to face the truth, and especially if God is in the process of giving them repentance,²⁶⁴ then what they hear may cause them to feel the need to conduct their own history study with Matthew 24:45-47 in mind in order to correct the mistake they originally made before they got baptized.

But if they have not reached this point then they will likely not feel the need to do anything except “wait on God to correct his organization.”²⁶⁵

Regardless of the kind of Witnesses that are out there, the above approach is designed to get them to at least ‘hear the bell ring.’ According to what Paul told Timothy, all any human can do is to ‘ring’ it as mildly and gently as possible. God will have to help them understand what the ‘ring’ means. - 2 Timothy 2:23-25

“Would You Welcome a Visit?”

This question appears on the back cover of every *Watchtower* magazine and on the Society's website. It leads to an invitation to their “free Bible study” program. Although millions of people have accepted their offer, they did so without ever learning about the organization's true history. Is there anyone on earth who could know its history (and therefore how often it is misrepresented today) and still accept their offer? I would let them know that I am unable to do so.

FINALLY: Evidence is only able to help those who are willing to meet up with reality...

***How
Jehovah's
Witnesses
react to what
they hear will
depend on
what kind of
Witnesses
they are.***

***Man can only
'ring the bell.'
God will have
to help
Jehovah's
Witnesses
understand
what the
ring means.***

***Is there any-
one on earth
who could
know the
Society's true
history and
still ask them
for a for a
Bible study?***

²⁶² “The Different Kinds of Jehovah's Witnesses,” page 119

²⁶³ 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

²⁶⁴ 2 Timothy 2:25

²⁶⁵ May 1, 1957 *Watchtower*, p. 284. See Chapter 1, page 13.

When Illusion Meets Up With Reality

“I cannot believe that ‘ignorance is bliss,’ or that there is any kindness in encouraging people to live in illusions. Sooner or later, illusion must meet up with reality.” – Raymond Franz

ILLUSION has met up with reality for thousands of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Many of them have related their remarkably similar experiences on the Internet. In most cases the transition from illusion to reality has been long and usually painful²⁶⁶ but they are now grateful to no longer be captives of the illusionary concept that God was dealing with them by means of the Watchtower’s fictional “faithful and discreet slave organization.” I don’t know of anyone who allowed themselves to meet up with reality and then say, “I’m sorry I learned the truth about the Watchtower Society.”

One of the major concerns for those who have met up with reality is where else they can go to worship God. All those years they were convinced that the Society *is* God’s organization they were equally convinced that every other religion *isn’t*. Some may feel like that elder who said that if the Society isn’t God’s organization then he might as well go out and “eat, drink and be merry” because it meant to him that there is no God.²⁶⁷

Such feelings are the result of years of being reminded and reminding others that there is nowhere else to go, or that there is no other acceptable way to worship God. Amazingly, the Scripture that the Watchtower’s leaders have always used to prove that there is nowhere else to go *is the very Scripture that says there is—John 6:68.*

***The Scripture
they use to
prove that
there is
nowhere else
to go to
worship God
is the very
Scripture
that says
there is.***

²⁶⁶ It took me nine years to make the transition from when I first sensed that something was seriously wrong to when I was able to conclude that the Society’s wasn’t God’s organization. With the advent of the Internet the needed evidence is much more readily available now and so the transition can be much shorter for those who are ready to face the reality.

²⁶⁷ p. 115

John 6:68

Jesus had just asked Peter if he wanted to follow someone else. Peter answered...

*Lord, whom shall we go away to? **You** have sayings of everlasting life. – John 6:68*

Peter was acknowledging that there is nowhere else to go but to Christ. But note what the Governing Body does with Peter's response...

NOWHERE ELSE TO GO
*We will be impelled to serve [God] loyally **with his organization** if we remember that there is nowhere else to go for life eternal. – John 6:66-69²⁶⁸*

On page 18 of the March 15, 1988 *Watchtower* their explanation goes like this...

*Peter knew there was nowhere else to go because **Jesus** had "sayings of everlasting life. Are you as determined to remain loyal [not to Jesus but] to **Jehovah's organization**?*

Even if Witnesses look at John 6:68 they are unable to notice what it says. What they see is *as if* Peter had said...

*Lord, **where** [not "whom"] shall we go away to? **The Watchtower Society** has sayings of everlasting life.*

This switching of Peter's words from the *person* of Jesus Christ to the *organization* of the Watchtower Society without anyone noticing the switch, testifies to how deeply captive everyone is locked into the concept holding them captive.

Note the following reasoning that convinces Witnesses *why* there is nowhere else to go to worship God...

Suppose a person was to separate himself from [the Watchtower Society]. Where could he go? Is he not faced with the same issue that confronted Jesus' apos-

Witnesses have been led to believe that there is nowhere else to go to worship God apart from the Watchtower Society.

They change Peter's words from referring to the person of Jesus Christ to the organization of the Watchtower Society

²⁶⁸ November 15, 1992 *Watchtower*, p. 21

NOTE: Although it isn't necessary to compare what the Bible says with what the Society says, this is another example where it is difficult not to point out the difference. Also see Matthew 7:15-20 on page 61.

... tles when he asked them if they also wanted to leave him? The apostle Peter rightly replied: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life." (John 6:68) There is nowhere else to go but to (1) 'Babylon the Great,' the world empire of false religion, or (2) into the clutches of Satan's political wild beast.²⁶⁹

Notice again how they equate one's relationship with the Watchtower Society today with the apostle's relationship with Jesus Christ in the first century. Their position is that there are only three possibilities open to mankind...

***Is the
Watchtower
organization
the only
alternative to
Satan's
organizations?***

GOD'S organization: The Watchtower Society	(Matthew 24:45-47)
SATAN'S religious organization: "Babylon the Great"	(Revelation 18:2-4)
SATAN'S political organization: "The wild beast"	(Revelation 20:10)

These are the only possibilities Jehovah's Witnesses can see. *If* this is all there is then maybe the Watchtower Society isn't so bad after all no matter what went on in its history. But *is* this all there is?

An Alternative to "God's Organization"

Ron Frye²⁷⁰ offers some insight and suggestions for those who have been captured by illusionary concepts and are willing to consider a *fourth* possibility of simply 'going to Christ' as Peter acknowledged above...

Some who come away from a highly structured religious system find themselves confused and disoriented religiously. They may not even be sure what they believe anymore. Why?

The root of the problem lies in the failure of having built on the "rock" of obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ. They allowed men to determine for them what constituted obedience rather than listening to Christ.

Then when their relationship with these men came to an end the foundation upon which they had structured their house of faith was washed away. The end result was loss of spiritual security.

When the loss of spiritual security is coupled with the loss of family and friends and a whole way of life, the experience becomes extremely burdensome. It is at that point a person is most vulnerable

²⁶⁹ March 15, 1988 *Watchtower*, pp. 18,19

²⁷⁰ For information about Ron Frye go to <http://www.xjw.com/ronmavis.html>

and in danger of a permanent loss of faith.

If this would happen to us we should learn from it and avoid a recurrence of such a calamity. It should make us more determined to rebuild our structure of faith on a better foundation, namely, obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ – not looking to men or organizations to give us direction.

There is no security in man-made religious structures. The only security to be had is that which accompanies obedience to Jesus Christ. This constitutes God’s will for us – being obedient to the commands of his Son.

There simply is no other way. It matters not what men and religious organizations say that go beyond what Christ has said. Men and or organizations may cast themselves in the role of savior, as does the Watchtower Society.²⁷¹ When they say you must be with US; you must be loyal to US; you must be obedient to US – they are assuming the place that only Christ occupies.²⁷²

Some people buy into these presumptuous claims and get trapped and become captives of other men. Because a religious sect attracts some and grows to become a sizable religious entity does not validate it as approved and blessed by God. Any number of such groups can point to such growth and expansion.

To be sure, many powerful works have been performed by such groups and continue to be performed. But their powerful works – done in the name of God – do not validate their ministry. – Matthew 7:21-23

What brings recognition from Christ and validates ones Christian course is doing the Father’s will. And how do we determine the Father’s will? By listening to his Son. And how do we listen to his Son? By meditating on his recorded word; by putting into practice what we learn and by looking to him as the living Lord in our life.

We have access to Christ in a living way when we address him as our mediator in prayer. He is alive to plead to the Father in our behalf. The spirit of Christ can comfort and sustain us. – 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 8:9,34²⁷³

The religious leaders of the Watchtower Society have assumed a place that only Christ occupies.

Someone else expressed an alternative to “God’s organization” this way...

²⁷¹ On page 21 of the 11/15/81 *Watchtower* they say, “Come to Jehovah’s organization for salvation.”

²⁷² The Watchtower’s religious leaders have never said, ‘YOU must be loyal to US’ or ‘YOU must be obedient to US.’ They say, “WE must be loyal/obedient to **God’s organization.**” But that *means* just what Ron Frye is saying. If only they would say it this way Jehovah’s Witnesses just might be able to notice that their religious leaders are in fact “assuming a place that only Christ occupies.” See Chapter 6, “Who Is God’s Organization?”

²⁷³ Ron Frye’s *The Christian Respondent*, <http://www.xjw.com/cr-ordr.html>

“Beware of organization.”

Beware of "organization." It is wholly unnecessary. The Bible rules will be the only rules you will need. Do not seek to bind others' consciences, and do not permit others to bind yours. Believe and obey so far as you understand God's Word today, and so continue growing in grace and knowledge and love day by day. - The Watchtower 9/15/1895

The men who said these things would not be permitted to have “approved association” with Jehovah’s Witnesses or its Governing Body today.²⁷⁴ The first statement was made by one of their former traveling overseers. The latter was made in 1895 by the Society’s President Charles Taze Russell!²⁷⁵ It would seem that the “rules you will need” to worship God have changed considerably since Russell wrote those words.²⁷⁶

Many former Jehovah’s Witnesses have released themselves from their self-imposed captivity that was created by the illusionary concept that God was dealing with them by means of the Watchtower organization. But since then many have once again allowed themselves to come into captivity. But this time it’s the one mentioned by the apostle Paul...

Going from being obedient to the men of the Governing Body to being obedient to the Christ.

*For we are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God; and **we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ.***²⁷⁷

The Governing Body does not permit anyone to be obedient to the Christ apart from themselves.

Most Jehovah’s Witnesses have sincerely tried to do what Paul said here. But in the process they got sidetracked by the “reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God” by the men who have formed the leadership of the Watchtower religion. As a result they have unintentionally become obedient to those men—men who will not permit their followers to be obedient to the Christ apart from themselves.

²⁷⁴ April 1, 1986 *Watchtower*. See Chapter 10, p. 80

²⁷⁵ September 15, 1895 *Watch Tower*.

²⁷⁶ One has to wonder what Russell would think today about the religion that claims him as its founder. It is now a religion that is not just an “organization” but claims to be *God’s* “organization.” It is now a religion that could not exist without “organization” – something Russell said was “wholly unnecessary.”

²⁷⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:5

But there are many former Witnesses who *have* become obedient to the Christ apart from the Watchtower's Governing Body. As difficult as it was to let go of the illusion that had sustained many of them for decades, they are now grateful for whatever help they received along the way to see the reality.

In Conclusion

It is hoped that this information may help the reader better understand...

1. The illusionary concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive.

2. How it has been maintained by a very few men who are themselves captives of the same concept and who have been unable to face the reality of their religion.

3. Why it is so difficult for Witnesses to not only face the reality that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization, but then to make the life-altering decisions that the reality forces upon them. And that even with divine intervention such a realization and the decisions that must follow will take time.

It is also hoped that this information may make it easier to *look forward* to the Witnesses' next visit rather than *dreading it*.

***Those who are
ready to meet
up with reality
must then
make the
life altering
decisions that
the reality
forces upon
them.***

Review

1. The only thing that needs to be known about this religion:

Is the Watchtower Society God's organization? All other teachings depend upon what "God's organization" currently says the Bible says, whether the Bible says it or not. Pages 15,16

2. The only way to know if the Watchtower Society is God's organization today:

According to their own interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 the only way they could be God's organization today is if they passed Jesus' examination of what the Society had been teaching down till 1919 and therefore received the appointment mentioned in verse 47. The only way to know if they would have passed such an examination in 1919 is to make the same examination they say Jesus made then. It is evident that what the Society is teaching today in 2010 has nothing to do with whether or not they would have passed an examination by Jesus Christ in 1919. Pages 20, 46

3. The concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive:

"The Watchtower Society is God's organization." They believe that all of God's direction to mankind comes only through this one "channel." This organizational concept is the dominant controlling force in their lives without them realizing it. Page 11

4. The most important teaching in Watchtower theology:

"The Watchtower Society is God's organization." It is just as Peter Gregeron observed, "Everything always comes back to the question (not "Is Jesus the Christ?" but) "Is the Watchtower Society God's organization?" – Page 15

5. The most important Scripture in Watchtower theology:

Matthew 24:45-47. Their claim to being God's organization is based upon the way they interpret this Scripture. Page 18

6. The most important event in Watchtower history:

Their claim that Jesus appointed the Society over all his earthly interests in the spring of 1919 in fulfillment of Matthew 24:47. Pages 19,41

7. The one mistake all Jehovah's Witnesses have made:

They all failed to examine the Society's claim to be "God's faithful and discreet slave organization" based upon what it had been teaching down till 1919 A.D. in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47. The reason why there are millions of Jehovah's Witnesses as of 2010 A.D. is not because they all *did* make this examination. It is because they all *didn't* make it. Page 44

8. Who is "God's organization"?

In actual practice the terms used for "God's organization" refer to the very few men who have been hidden behind those terms. Prior to 1976 they referred to the one man who was the president. Since 1976 they refer to the men of their Governing Body. No one can be loyal to "God's organization" unless they are loyal to their religious leaders by accepting all their current teachings - including the ones that are not true. Pages 47-50

9. Why Jehovah's Witnesses don't notice that the Society has had numerous false teachings and prophecies:

The men they look to for their spiritual guidance and direction usually avoid using the words "false" or "prophecies" when referring to their teachings and prophecies that were false. Page 51

10. The 2nd most important Scripture in Watchtower theology:

Proverbs 4:18. They use this verse to explain away every teaching that turns out not to be true. Without realizing it, they are blaming God whenever they misunderstand something. For example: If God had revealed the correct date of Jesus' return to Russell in 1876 then he, Rutherford and Knorr would not have announced the wrong date for 67 years. And so, whose fault was it that they got that date wrong? - Page 63.

11. Why All Jehovah's Witnesses Believe the Same:

Because their Governing Body does not allow anyone in their religion who disagrees with what they are currently teaching—even if what they are teaching isn't true. – Pages 76-81

12. Those whom Jehovah's Witnesses have followed:

Their willingness to change what they believe whenever their religious leaders change what they teach shows that they have been following those men rather than God's Word. It also shows that the final authority for what they believe is their religious leaders rather than the Bible. Pages 82, 101,102

13. Why the Governing Body cannot present a truly candid history of the Watchtower Society:

They are not able to face a truly candid history of it.²⁷⁸

14. The key to escape from the concept holding Jehovah's Witnesses captive:

They need to come to realize that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization. Page 114

15. Why it is so difficult for Jehovah's Witnesses to even want to look for the above key, let alone find it and then use it to unlock themselves and walk away from the Watchtower religion:

They know what lies ahead of them if they leave. The Governing Body has made leaving their religion a very painful, life altering experience. One must face the real possibility of losing their close relationship with their family members who do not leave with them. Page 108

16. How might they be helped to notice the key to their escape, whether they are ready to use it or not:

Ask them for a history study of the Watchtower Society. If they can become involved in teaching about the organization's history they may teach themselves some of the truth about it. – Romans 2:21, Pages 45, 127

17. If everything the Watchtower Society is teaching today is true it would mean that it is *not* God's organization. Why?

If they could pass an examination by Jesus Christ today it means that they would have failed the same examination in 1919 because so much of what they are teaching *now* is not what they were teaching *then*. The time to pass an examination is when it is given, not decades after it is over. And they themselves say that Jesus' examination was over in the spring of 1919. – Page 46.

18. With so many external and internal factors involved in keeping Jehovah's Witnesses captive of an illusory concept, how is it possible for any of them to escape?

On page 53 of the *Proclaimers* book the Governing Body says...

It took real courage in [Russell's day] to withdraw from one's church.

It takes no less courage today for Jehovah's Witnesses to withdraw from their 'church.' It is so difficult in fact that according to 2 Timothy 2:25, it will take divine intervention.

²⁷⁸ Of all the men who have formed the top leadership of the Watchtower religion for over one hundred years, to date Raymond Franz is the only one who has been able to face the reality.

Appendix

The Watchtower Society's 1914

It isn't necessary to know anything about 1914 other than the fact that as of the year 2010 the Society still teaches that Jesus' Second Coming or "invisible presence" began in that year in fulfillment of Matthew 24:3.



18

AWAKE! — OCTOBER 8, 1973

The year 1914 is arrived at through rather involved interpretations of both the Scriptures and ancient history as they relate to the destruction of Jerusalem by the King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) in 607 B.C.E.²⁷⁹ Charles Russell got his interpretations from the same man who taught him that Jesus' Second Coming occurred in 1874 (Nelson Barbour). Although they eventually let go of 1874 (in 1943), as of 2010 they have not been able to let go of 1914 – yet.

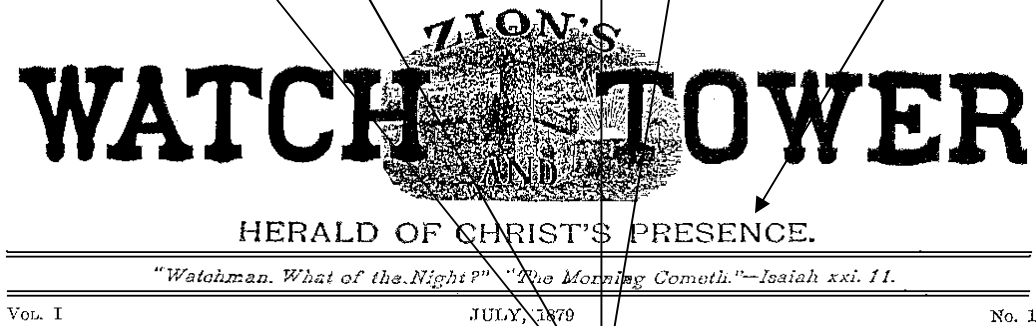
When Russell taught it, 1914 only related to "the end of the Gentile Times." But after his death in 1916 the date gradually came to also be associated with other things including the beginning of "the last days," the Second Coming of Christ and the beginning of his Kingdom Rule. - See page 36

This subject is *so* complicated and involved that most Witnesses would prefer that nobody ask them *how* they arrive at that date. But again, for the purpose of this study it isn't necessary to understand how they arrive at 1914. It is only necessary to know that this is the date they assign to the Second Coming of Christ and then hold them to it. – See page 22ff.

²⁷⁹ If you want to get an inkling of just how complicated this teaching is, go to pages 95-97 of the *KNOWLEDGE That Leads to Everlasting Life* book under the heading, "Kingdom Rule – When?" If you *really* want to dig into this matter as deep as it can get, read "The Gentile Times Reconsidered" by Carl Olof Jonsson.

The First Watch Tower Magazine – July, 1879

According to what the Society teaches in 2010, there were at least 5 stated objectives of Russell’s original magazine that turned out to be “amiss.” (1) Jesus was **not** “invisibly present” in 1879. (2) They were **not** living in “the last days.” (3) It was **not** “the day of the Lord. (4) It was **not** “the end of the Gospel age, and. (5) they were **not** living in “the dawn of the ‘new age.’” What are the chances that Russell’s magazine would have passed an examination by Jesus Christ in 1919?



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PROSPECTUS

This is the first number of the first volume of "Zion's Watch Tower," and it may not be amiss to state the object of its publication.

That we are living "in the last days"—"the day of the Lord"—"the end" of the Gospel age, and consequently, in the dawn of the "new" age, are facts not only discernible by the close student of the Word, led by the spirit, but the outward signs recognizable by the world bear the same testimony, and we are desirous that the "household of faith" be fully awake to the fact, that—

"We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling
To be living is sublime.

And not alone to help awaken, but to assist them to "put on the whole armor of God, that they may be able to stand in the evil day;" and, besides all this, that giving all diligence, they add to their faith, virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, self control, [temperance,] brotherly kindness, charity; when, as a result of these indwelling and flourishing graces, they shall be God-like [godly].

But, recognizing the beauty and necessity of these adornments of the spiritual man, they fail not to recognize that the merit toward God lies not in these moral virtues, but in Christ's perfect sacrifice, and though adorned by all these gems of character, we could not be recognized as God's children now, nor permitted ever to enter His presence without the robe of Christ's righteousness, the "wedding garment" necessary to our participation in "the marriage of the Lamb."

Christians to whom an apology would be needed for directing

attention to these things, should blush and be ashamed. Every thing desirable, hopeful and precious stands closely and ever connected with them. They embrace nearly all the great motives to faith, watchfulness, abstinence, holiness.

PROSPECTUS

"This is the first number of the first volume of 'Zion's Watch Tower,' and it may not be amiss to state the object of its publication.

That we are (2) living 'in the last days' – (3) 'the day of the Lord' – (4) 'the end of the Gospel age, and consequently, (5) in the dawn of the 'new age.'"

address at once as per notice on this page. If you have a neighbor or friend who you think would be interested in or benefited by its instructions; you might call it to their attention; thus preaching the Word and doing good unto all men as you have opportunity.

The terms, fifty cents a year, (postage paid,) are moderate; but to all interested and desirous of having it, who cannot afford to pay, we will gladly send it free, but you must ask that ye may receive.

IN RE "THE LAST TRUMP"

Bro. H. B. Rice, editor and publisher of *The Last Trump*, has been obliged by circumstances beyond his control to suspend its publication. Knowing that such a course was probable, we two months ago proposed to Bro. Rice that we would supply *The Watch Tower* to his subscribers, instead of *The Trump*, up to the close of their subscriptions, and we invited him to speak to his old subscribers, and others of the body of Christ, through Zion's Watch Tower.

He has accepted both propositions, sent the list of subscribers, and in an open letter to them says, "I will endeavor to contribute something to *The Watch Tower* every month," &c. As we are much crowded, we have published this letter as a supplement, and sent it to the subscribers of *The Last Trump*.

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“Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life”

(Page 161, paragraph 4)

Just as the Christian religion could not exist if nobody believed that Jesus is *God’s Son*, the Watchtower religion could not exist if nobody believed that the Watchtower Society is *God’s organization*.

But as essential as their organizational concept is to the existence of the Watchtower religion, the above “Bible Study aid” only offers one short sentence to explain why God selected the Watchtower Society over all other religions as his “faithful and discreet slave” in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47...

NOTE:

This paragraph asks, “In 1914, who did the ‘faithful and discreet slave’ prove to be?” As far as the Society was concerned, in 1914 that “slave” proved to be Charles Russell. It didn’t prove to be what this paragraph is saying until 1927.

(See pages 26, 27)

Jesus said that at the time of his presence in Kingdom power, “the faithful and discreet slave” would be found providing “food at the proper time” for His followers. (Matthew 24:45-47) When Jesus was installed as heavenly King in 1914, who did this “slave” prove to be? Certainly not the clergy of Christendom. For the most part, they were feeding their flocks propaganda that backed up their own national governments in World War I. But proper and timely spiritual food was being dispensed by [the Watchtower Society] [They] preached God’s Kingdom rather than man’s governments. As a result, over the years millions of righteously disposed “other sheep” have joined the anointed “slave” in practicing true religion. (John 10:16) Using the ‘faithful slave’ and its present-day Governing Body, God directs his organized people to make spiritual food, clothing, and shelter available to all who wish to have these provisions.

→ **“They preached God’s Kingdom rather than man’s governments.”** ←

This single statement in the middle of the only paragraph in this entire book that mentions Matthew 24:45-47 is surrounded by so much assertion,²⁸⁰ rhetoric²⁸¹ and sophistry²⁸² that it makes it difficult to notice how little actual evidence is being provided to prove that God is ‘using the Watchtower Society and its present-day Governing Body to provide spiritual food, clothing and shelter to all the rest of mankind.’

²⁸⁰ **Assertion:** “To state positively with great confidence but with no objective proof.”

²⁸¹ **Rhetoric:** “The art or science of using words effectively in speaking or writing so as to influence or persuade...artificial eloquence.”

²⁸² **Sophistry:** “Reasoning sound in appearance only... Clever or plausible but unsound and tending to mislead.”

IMPORTANT NOTE: Although the men who have formed the Watchtower leadership have been experts in the use of assertions, rhetoric and sophistry, this does not necessarily mean that they have always used their abilities to intentionally mislead. The need to uphold their illusionary “God organization” *in their own minds* may be the driving force behind the use of their abilities. – See the insert on page 95 where they refer to some scientists who “fall in love with their constructions” and spend a lifetime trying uphold their mistaken beliefs.

As explained in Chapter 5, the reason why Bible students are willing to accept so little evidence is because by the time they get to this paragraph they already believe that the Society is God's organization. The paragraph is simply stating something they already mistakenly believe.

But what about the fact that they “preached God's Kingdom rather than man's governments”? Does that count for anything?

First of all, according to what the Society teaches today, most of what Russell and Rutherford had preached about God's Kingdom was not true. The following are some of the things that they no longer preach about it...

- 1) The 1000-year Reign of Christ in God's Kingdom began in 1873
- 2) The King of God's Kingdom had returned in 1874.
- 3) God's Kingdom was set up in heaven in 1878
- 4) Jesus was installed as King of God's Kingdom in 1878
- 5) Jesus began ruling as the King of God's Kingdom in 1878.
- 6) Under God's Kingdom the dead in union with Christ were resurrected in 1881.
- 7) Under God's Kingdom anointed Witnesses would be taken to heaven before 1914.
- 8) God's Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth by 1914.
- 9) God's Kingdom would destroy all false religion by end of 1914.
- 10) God's Kingdom would destroy all Gentile nations by the end of 1914
- 11) God's Kingdom would destroy false religion and Gentile nations near the end of 1915.
- 12) Jesus would begin ruling God's Kingdom in 1925
- 13) Under God's Kingdom Jesus would resurrect Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in 1925

Secondly, when *all* the “spiritual food, clothing and shelter” that Russell and Rutherford provided from 1876 to 1919 is examined it becomes evident that most of it was *not* proper or timely. According to what the Society teaches today those two men were responsible for *thousands* of portions of improper and untimely spiritual food that they served *millions* of times.²⁸³

Note: It isn't as if millions of people were aware of the things considered in this study and decided to join the Watchtower religion anyway. The reason why there are millions of Jehovah's Witnesses today is because they are *not* aware of these things. Although they may have read the *Knowledge* book several times (first as a student and later as the teacher), they have never checked to see if “proper and timely spiritual food” really had been dispensed down till 1919. – See Chapter 5, “The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made”

²⁸³ Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” pp. 39,40. George Swetnam, the official historian for the Pittsburgh Bicentennial in 1958-1959 wrote: “Pastor Russell traveled constantly, covering more than a million miles, delivering more than **30,000 sermons and lectures and talks**, writing **books totaling over 50,000 pages**, which have reached a circulation of more than **20,000,000 copies**.”

Daniel 12:10 & Malachi 3:3

Daniel: *“Many will cleanse themselves and whiten themselves and will be refined.”*

Malachi: *“(Jesus) must sit as a refiner and cleanser of silver and must cleanse the sons of Le’vi;’ and he must clarify them like gold and like silver.”*

Here are a couple more examples of what James Penton said about using the Bible to “explain almost anything that Witness writers want it to.” In this case the Witness writers want to explain away all of organization’s former teachings that were not true (including the 48 mentioned in Chapter 3).

The usual way of thinking is that the more false teachings a religion has had the more they prove that it is NOT the true religion. But the Governing Body has figured out a way to interpret the above Scriptures in such a way so that the more false teachings the Society has had the more they give the opportunity to prove that it IS the true religion.

Here is how they do it...

*“The Bible speaks of a very vital and important prophecy, that is, **the refinement**. (Daniel 12:10 and Malachi 3:3) **We can be glad** that some of the teachings the Society had taught (“down till 1919”) are no longer taught now.”*

*“**This is evidence that Christ is truly refining his temple** as the Bible had prophesied. Whenever it is pointed out that a teaching was incorrect, **we can be thankful we’re being refined.**”²⁸⁴*

Just as Proverbs 4:18 says nothing about how God “gradually” and “progressively” reveals the truth to the Watchtower Society,²⁸⁵ the above Scriptures say nothing about how Jesus has “cleansed” or “refined” the Society’s teachings that have not been true. The only possible way the Society’s interpretations have a chance of being correct would be if the Society really is “God’s organization.”

²⁸⁴ Even though what Malachi said has to do with cleansing and refining “the sons of Le’vi” the Governing Body applies what he said to the Watchtower Society.

²⁸⁵ See Chapter 8: “Using the Bible To Keep Themselves Captive.”

Removing the Foundation Cornerstone of the Watchtower Religion

Jehovah's Witnesses realize that the foundation cornerstone of the Christian religion is that "Jesus is the Christ."²⁸⁶ What they don't realize is that the foundation cornerstone of their religion is that "the Watchtower Society is God's organization." Everything always comes back to the question, not "Is Jesus the Christ?" but "Is the Watchtower Society God's organization?" - p. 15

The purpose of this study has been to identify the above 'stone' and then remove it by understanding the Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 and then holding them to it while examining the organization's history that relates to their interpretation.

Once this is done it destroys the foundation upon which the Watchtower religion rests. Witnesses who are willing to face the result of such an examination are then able to let go of the illusionary concept that has been holding them captive. – See *Foreword*, p. 8, par. 2

²⁸⁶ Ephesians 2:20

