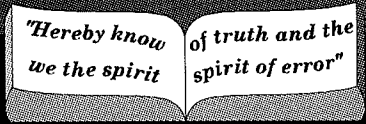


# The Discerner



Volume 19, Number 1

Jan • Feb • Mar 1999

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HERESY-EXPOSING  
QUARTERLY

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Published Quarterly  
Price \$4.00 for 4 issues  
Foreign subscriptions extra

P.O. Box 22098  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422-0098  
Printed in the United States  
1-612-535-8715 / 1-800-562-9153  
FAX 612-537-5825

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## EDITORIAL

*By William A. BeVier*

Robert Hill has for several years studied the Jehovah's Witnesses and their offshoots. He previously has written articles for The Discerner and we welcome another article from him. This one relates to the Jehovah's Witnesses and the many web sites of information available on this cult.

The Discerner has not published an article about the Church of Scientology since 1968. Recent developments in the cult and what has happened since 1968 caused us to reexamine the movement and report on the information found.

This issue also includes reviews of two new books and a listing of new publications we now have available.

All of you should have recently received a copy of our semi-annual newsletter (except our foreign subscribers who have the newsletter enclosed with this issue of The Discerner). You know that we are in the process of preparing a new Catalog.

The newsletter produced a number of renewals to The Discerner from people who had inadvertently let their subscriptions expired without renewing. A reminder to look at your mailing label. If your label reads "XIX-1" your subscription expires with this issue. "XIX" indicates the volume (1999), and the numbers 1-4 indicate the four issues each year.

We have received a number of welcome responses with the renewals. Individuals have provided gift subscriptions for others. We can either let the recipient know who provided the subscription or you can remain anonymous. Perhaps your pastor or some other friend is not a subscriber and you believe they would benefit from or appreciate receiving The Discerner. Why not give them a gift subscription?

Above all, please pray for the continuing ministry of R.A.S. Almost daily we have contact with someone who needs the information or help R.A.S. can provide. These are difficult times spiritually for many people.

We also still have the need of an office manager. Recently we have received two inquiries about the position, pray the Lord will direct.

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# The Watchtower Entangled on the Web

*By Robert C. Hill, Th.B*

The information age is promulgating the truth about Christianity through many mediums but none contain the unique possibilities the World Wide Web offers. The Internet is a fascinating place for finding material covering all branches of human knowledge. Using this electronic medium for researching cults is no exception. One advantageous characteristic is the Internet's ability to find information. To do this task the Internet employs *search engines*. These are word driven tools that can locate and amass a tremendous number of Web sites as the following examples show. Type in the words "Jehovah's Witnesses" on the Microsoft Web page search engine ([www.MSN.com](http://www.MSN.com)) and it lists 10,690 links. Go to AltaVista's engine ([www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)) and an impressive 16,649 links can be found. Infoseek ([www.Infoseek.com](http://www.Infoseek.com)) contains 9,784 sites incorporating these words.

Not all Web sites are beneficial regarding content and the sites listed under the words "Jehovah's Witnesses" in the search engines are both pro and con in the provision of JW material. The last fact should not be taken lightly and discernment is needed when visiting some of the Web pages. Even the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society itself now maintains a web presence as well as numerous pro-Watchtower theology sites. This article will explore only some links which offer excellent information and services for Christians who have a burden to evangelize Jehovah's Witnesses. It is a good idea to bookmark these [a feature that saves an Internet address for future use] as content changes often.

The type of material varies. There are plenty of articles and overviews expanding a whole gamut of JW issues and theology. One unique aspect of the Internet is the availability of the most recent news coming from a wide variety of news services. For instance, Philadelphia's on line version of its newspaper *The Inquirer* ([www.phillynews.com](http://www.phillynews.com)) ran the following item in its November 27, 1998 issue, "Russia seeks to ban Jehovah's Witnesses" by Dave Montgomery of Knight Ridder News Service. Montgomery states that in February of 1999 the Russian court is to make a ruling on the legality of the

Watchtower's presence in the country. He states there are 200,000 JWs in Russia and that they have a law "that would 'liquidate' religious organizations if a court rules they are engaged in antisocial behavior...which depicts Jehovah's Witnesses as a cult that is stirring social discord by claiming to be the only true religion." This type of news article probably is not in many local newspapers, but with the Web, news can be searched and read from around the world.

Many larger cult ministries have an on-line presence, including Religion Analysis Service Inc., the parent ministry of *The Discerner*. At this site ([www.ras.org](http://www.ras.org)) a person can order books, pamphlets and tracts on all the major and many minor cults. For example, Religion Analysis Services carries some 57 titles and tracts related to Jehovah's Witnesses alone. They also feature the table of contents and editorials from past issues of their journal and maintain excellent links to other anti-cult ministries.

Well-known ex-JW and author, David A. Reed, provides another site which should be bookmarked in everyone's browser ([www.cftf.com](http://www.cftf.com)). This site contains the online edition of *Comments from the Friends*. Also maintained at this site is a "Watchtower Victims Memorial" which lists many Witnesses who have died because of believing in various Watchtower teachings. These controversial teachings have included a ban against transfusions, blood fractions and certain transplants. The memorial is a sad tribute to those who followed the teachings of the Watchtower even to their deaths. Another feature of Reed's site is the *Reference Desk* where detailed information is but a click away. The latest offerings include an article on hidden pictures in various Watchtower publications and an article on "Jimmy Swaggart and the Watchtower Society," among other items.

Randy Watters, publisher and editor of *Free Minds* also has a very informative site. This ex-JW actually worked at Bethel Headquarters as a writer for the Watchtower before he left and stated his ministry of refuting the Society. Watters' site, *Watchers of the Watch Tower World* ([www.freeminds.org](http://www.freeminds.org)) has the added features of video and audio clips. One audio clip contains Ray Franz, a onetime member of the Watchtower governing board now disfellowshipped, addressing the issue of "Life After the Watchtower." Ever wonder what J. F. Rutherford sounded like? Well, the second President of the Society is another selection on Randy's list of audio clips and is heard

delivering his "Who Will Survive Armageddon?" address. A person can also purchase original Watchtower publications through the "Watchtower Antiquarian." There is even alive webcam view of Watchtower headquarters near the Brooklyn Bridge which can be accessed from the comfort of one's home. Another feature of this site is the "Hot Topics" pertinent to the Watchtower, such as, "The Ray Franz Incident," or "Testimonies of Former Bethelites," to name a few. Randy also maintains a "News Wire on Jehovah's Witnesses." Some of the more recent news items include: "Watchtower Spokesman Paul Gillies Speaks Out on Blood (6/14/98)"; "France fines Witnesses \$50 million in taxes (updated 7/6/98)" and "Jehovah's Witness dies after refusing blood transfusion [sic] (12/12/98)." Anyone interested in JW news can also sign up for the free Watchtower News mailing list at this site.

The "Official Web Site of Ex Jehovah's Witnesses" is *The Watchtower Observer* (<http://watchtower.observer.org>). The table of contents alone is worth the visit for the sheer amount of information. I stopped printing the contents about half way through the list with the printer at page 29! One current topic is entitled "Jehovah's Witnesses and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich!" Original Watchtower documentation which refutes current writings by that organization is there for all to see. For example, photocopies of the 1934 yearbook of JWs are at this site along with such articles as "Erich Frost—Watchtower Leader and Traitor!"; "Revisionist History"; and "False History" to note a few entries. A copy of a letter addressing the German issue, sent to the President of the Watchtower by author and professor Dr. M. James Penton can also be read. He writes on August 11, 1995:

The Watch Tower Society has long attempted a cover-up of the most dishonest sort. While your organization properly censures other religious communities for their compromises with and support of Nazism, it tries to claim that Jehovah's Witnesses, and Jehovah's Witnesses alone, never were guilty of such compromise. Yet history tells a different story. The "Erkarung" or "Declaration" published by the Watch Tower Society at the Berlin Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses in June 1933 is, in itself, clear evidence that the Society's president, Judge J. F. Rutherford, as [sic] accompanied by N. H. Knorr, manifested anti-Semitism, hostility to Great Britain and the United States, and to the League of Nations. Furthermore, the "Erkarung" clearly states that

Jehovah's Witnesses supported the aims of the "Third Reich."

This and other interesting material can be found here. A discussion board is at this site as well.

*The Watchtower Inquiry*

(<http://home.powertech.no/feustus/jwe.shtml>) is another excellent link to include in your bookmarks. This Web site has the following categories: New, Awaken issues, Related sights, 100 Great Links, and Today's Watchtower Quote. A person can read such items as "WatchTower letter of disassociation," or "Facts you won't be Told when Jehovah's Witnesses call at your Door," or "The year 1975 and the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's prophetic insights about that year."

From the links on the previous site I went to (<http://www.ziplink.net/~ewl/jw>) where a full copy of the Watchtower's "Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock' Kingdom Ministry School Textbook" is available. This book is something only the elders of the Watchtower are allowed to read while the general membership is not authorized to know its contents, unless of course, they have Web access! The Watchtower's own statement concerning how this book is to be handled is printed on its cover page,

A copy of this textbook is issued to each appointed elder, and he may retain it as long as he continues to serve as an elder in any congregation. At such time as he should cease to serve in that capacity, his copy of the book must be handed over to the Congregation Service committee, since this publication is congregation property. No copies are to be made of any part of this publication.

This book explains the inner-workings of officiating as overseers of JW members. Some of the chapter headings include: "How Overseers Teach" ; "Help Your Brothers to Reach all by Evangelizing"; "Sharing on a Judicial Committee" ; and "Handling Cases of Wrongdoing with Wisdom and Mercy." This is the manual that gives the groundwork of disfellowshipping and should be of interest to anyone involved with evangelizing JWs.

Another interesting site is *Watch the Tower—Official Web Site of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses*

(<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/2919/main2.html>). Several main features are at this Web site. Some are, "Beliefs and Activities of the Watchtower Cult," "Russell's Pyramid

Gravestone,” and “Ultimate Children’s Nightmare!” Also featured is an original scanned page taken from one of J. F. Rutherford’s books where he promises, “Perpetual health, no more fear of the landlord, no more vicious animals, glass eyes, false teeth, wooden legs or bald heads, all this by 1926!” Other features include some of Randall Watters’ sound clips from the 1960’s to 1997. Various District Overseers can be heard touting Watchtower theology and their infamous date setting for the year 1975.

Another excellent forum for discussing JW’s is called *Watchtower Review: a forum for discussion regarding Jehovah’s Witnesses* (<http://www.serve.com/larryi/wwwboard.html>). On the opening page of this site is an insightful quotation taken from the late Dr. Walter Martin, “Controversy, for the sake of controversy is sin; Controversy for the sake of truth is a divine command.” Previous messages are archived while posted messages are removed after five days then archived. Online searches of various Bible verses from many versions including Greek texts and the Watchtower’s *New World Translation* can be made. A person can also make Greek word searches via the word itself or Strong’s numbers to aid in the discussions. These forums offer great opportunities to take part in the various arguments presented by the Watchtower Current postings to include discussions on “How can the Governing body be part of the 144,000?” and “1914—Gentile Times/Lord’s Return?” This forum can help sharpen one’s apologetics and polemics, all with the desire to bring the lost to Christ. This site also has JW news and open polling to questions about JW’s. A recent question asked, “Does a paid ‘clergy’ have a Scriptural basis?” The viewer has several options from which to vote and see current results.

#### *All Along the Watchtower*

(<http://home.sol.no/~jansh/wteng/jwindex.html>) should also be bookmarked. This site contains some 11 pages for its index. The major headings are: “What’s New!”, “Human Factor”, “Other Doctrine Issues”, “Humor”, “Watchtower Publications”, and “Why I Created this site.” The site owner gives the purpose of his site:

Part of the reason is that we know that the information the JW’s give about themselves is incomplete at best, and even highly deceptive in many cases. Becoming a Jehovah’s Witness will dramatically change your life, and the lives of your friends and family. Should you ever leave the organi-

zation or fail to meet its goals for you, you will very likely find yourself with *no* friends, alone in the world.

Some of the in depth articles have such topics as, "Earthquakes and the Historical Facts," Comprehensive list of Watchtower Dates," and "Does God Work Through an Organization?" This site contains much needed information for evangelizing JW's including access to "Tower of Darkness: Hidden Pictures in Watchtower Literature." It proclaims this page as, "One of the most popular JW-related pages on the whole Net, and definitely the most controversial."

Many sites maintain links to other Web pages. At *Jehovah's Witnesses: The Watchtower & Jehovah's Witnesses* (<http://members.theglobe.com/cldj2/jw.html>) some great topics at other sites are annotated and linked. These are only a mouse click away. Some of the links at this site have been mentioned in this article but there are many more which can be explored for the resources on JW's.

For those who have been involved with ministering to Jehovah's Witnesses since the 1980s the following names should be familiar. It is Kevin and Kathleen Quick's Web page, *K&K Ministries* (<http://web4.superb.net/kevinquick/kkministries>). I happen to have purchased one of Kevin's books, *Reasoning with Jehovah's Witnesses*, around 1988. It is now out of print but is offered by Kevin and his wife free of charge at their site. This book and another of Kevin's books can be read with links and contact information. The purpose of this site is expressed on the opening page:

It is our desire and prayer that my experiences and research during my involvement with Jehovah's Witnesses in the early 1980's will be of help to many who are currently struggling with the claims of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. It is our wish that they may understand the excellence of historical, Biblical Christianity, and that they may find eternal life and peace by placing their trust in the biblical Jesus.

Matthew J. Slick has a very good site as well. Check out *Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry* (<http://www/carm.net>) Click on the Jehovah's Witnesses' button for several brief but good articles covering the JW's. Some of the titles available at his site include: "What do Jehovah's Witnesses Teach?" and, "a Test: do you have the True Jesus?"



*Alpha and Omega Ministries* (<http://www.aomin.org>) also contains useful information for evangelizing JW's. This site has several scholarly articles including such titles as, "Granville Sharp's Rule: Titus 2:23; 2 Pet. 1:1," and "Historical Honesty and the Watchtower Society: Ignatius and the Deity of Christ" are few of their offerings. Check here too for possible future debates and discussions involving JW issues by Dr. James White.

Another excellent site is *The Watchman Expositor* (<http://www/watchman.org>). The people at the Expositor include many articles previously published in their journal of the same name. Articles on JW's include those written between 1989 and 1998 and cover a wide expanse of issues. Take for example the titles and subject matter on the online articles for the year 1998: "Working Out Their Salvation"; "The Watchtower and Wholly Other, Holy Spirit"; and "Jehovah's Witnesses and the Immortal Soul." There is a lot of good resource material at this site.

These ministries on the Web are only a few of the total number existing in Cyberspace. There are many more that are just as good as these briefly described, each in its own way presenting the truth of Christ and His Church. Overall the Watchtower no longer has full control of what its members are reading as many JW's are searching the material from these very sites in the privacy of their own homes. Many are in discussion groups or chat rooms debating issues and theology with born again Christians. The Internet is but one more tool at our disposal. Early indications point to the Web's ability to entangle the theology and teachings of the Watchtower all to the glory of Christ.

# CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

*By William A. BeVier*

These are just a few of the headlines that have appeared in the print media over the past 20 years relating to Scientology. Some media identified Scientology as a cult as early as 1950 (see Time, July 24, 1950, p. 64; Newsweek, Oct. 16, 1950, p. 59; American Mercury, Aug. 1951, p. 76; and Time, Sept. 3, 1951). In addition to printed publications, several TV programs have been devoted to Scientology both on the major networks and on cable, e.g., A&E Cable, Dec. 14, 1998, "Inside Scientology."

What or who is the source and cause of all this negative publicity?

"Scientology: Anatomy of a Frightening Cult" (Reader's Digest, May 1980, pp. 1-6), "Did Two Scientist Spies Come in from the Cold?" (Christianity Today, Sept. 17, 1982, pp. 32-36), "Scientology leader's wife is sentenced" (Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Sat., Jan. 8, 1983, p. 10A), "Secret Scientology doctrine says Earth was once ruled by evil alien" (Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Thurs., Nov. 7, 1985, p. 18A), "Scientology: The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power" (Time, May 6, 1991, pp. 50-57), "Scientology: A Dangerous Cult Goes Mainstream" (Reader's Digest, Oct. 1991, pp. 87-92, a condensation of the Time magazine article), "Scientology loses" (Minnesota Christian Chronicle, March 17, 1994, p. 5A), "Germany blasts U.S. actors for supporting Church of Scientology" (American Jewish World, Jan. 24, 1997, p. 11).

## LAFAYETTE RONALD HUBBARD

Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, a.k.a. L. Ron Hubbard, a.k.a. Ron, a.k.a. the Commodore (self-awarded rank, though shortly before his death he promoted himself to "admiral"), a.k.a. LRH, born March 13, 1911, departed this world January 24, 1986.

There are two basic accounts of the man's life, his own and the truth. Also, it is noted by careful study, that his own accounts (more than one) vary in their details.

Among other claims (believed by many of his followers), Hubbard was raised in his early years by his maternal grandparents on his grandfather's 35,000 square mile ranch in Montana. In truth his grandfather was a small-time veterinarian who once owned a livery stable in Kalispell, Montana and later a coal yard in Helena (matters of public record). Neither qualify as a cattle ranch covering one-quarter of the state of Montana.

Hubbard also claimed to have traveled and studied extensively as a teenager in the Orient. In fact, his travels in the Orient were with his mother on board U.S Navy ships on their way to join his father, a U.S Navy officer stationed on Guam. Again, the truth. The President Madison, with the 16-year old Ron and his mother on board, went from San Francisco to Honolulu. From Honolulu the ship visited Yokohama and Kobe, Japan for a total of three days. From there the ship made port calls in Shanghai and Hong Kong. From there the ship went to Manila in the Philippines, where the two transferred to the USS Gold Star for the final voyage to Guam. That was the extent of Ron's Oriental travels and studies as a teenager (though he kept a daily diary). He was six weeks in Guam before being sent back to Montana to finish high school (which he didn't do, because he ran away and rejoined his parents in Guam).

In 1929 the Hubbard family returned to the States, and the next year Ron enrolled in George Washington University in Washington, DC, where his father was stationed at the time. Ron's attention was apparently not on his studies because of a variety of other activities. At any rate, he was placed on academic probation, and after two years of college and a "D" average grade, he dropped out (or was "dismissed") from the University in 1932. All of this is a matter of official records.

Later Hubbard claimed he had been among the first to study "nuclear physics" (he took one course in physics, according to his transcript, with a low grade); he claimed to have studied at Princeton University (attended a six-weeks military course there during World War II); and he claimed a "Ph.D." degree from Sequoia University (a degree "mill" operating from a two-story house in Los Angeles, eventually closed by the State of California for being fraudulent).

During most of the 1930's Hubbard made a marginal living as a fiction writer, especially in the area of science fiction.

As World War II approached, and with his father a career Navy officer (howbeit, not very successful, he was commissioned in 1919 as a Supply Officer, not a "line" officer, and retired as Lieutenant Commander after WWII ), Ron thought of entering the Navy. With the help of a U.S. Congressman known to the family, L. Ron Hubbard was granted a commission as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Naval Reserve in 1941. Because of his background as a writer, Hubbard was assigned in the area of military public relations.

Hubbard's account of his contributions to the war effort state that he was ordered to the Philippines at the outbreak of U.S. involvement in the war, he was the first U.S. casualty in the war (A Brief Biography of L. Ron Hubbard), he served in the South Pacific until rushed home in 1942 to command a corvette in the North Atlantic against German submarines, becoming Commodore of Corvette Squadrons in 1943. (To the knowledge of anyone in the U.S. Navy during WWII, the British had corvettes, but the U.S. Navy did not.) By the end of the war he claimed he had served in all five theaters, had been severely wounded, received 21 decorations, and in 1944 was taken crippled and blind to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital near Oakland (Facts About L. Ron Hubbard). All of this is probably believed by many of his followers.

Unfortunately for Hubbard, his movements during WWII are all a matter of public record, thanks to the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. True, he was commissioned a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Naval Reserve in 1941 and called to active duty in July 1941. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1945.

Hubbard had in 1933 married a woman named Polly Grubb, from a family of comfortable means. The couple had taken a trip together on a small boat along the west coast of Canada toward Alaska. During the trip, Ron Hubbard had taken photographs. After a few weeks in Navy public relations, Hubbard was transferred to the Navy's Hydrographic Office in Washington to annotate the photographs he had taken on the trip with his wife. That assignment only lasted two weeks. After a leave, he was transferred to the Third Naval District in New York for training as an Intelligence Officer. By this time the Hubbards had two children, a son, L. Ron Hubbard, Jr., age seven, and a daughter, age five.

When the war started for the U.S., Hubbard was sent to the Philippines. He got as far as Brisbane, Australia. There he

antagonized his senior officer so much that he was ordered back to the States in February 1942. Australia was as close as L. Ron Hubbard ever got to combat. The report sent back on Hubbard was not complimentary (Dispatch from U.S. Naval Attaché, Melbourne, 14 February 1942, cited by Russell Miller, Bare-Faced Messiah, p. 98).

Hubbard was reassigned in San Francisco censoring cables. Not liking the assignment, Hubbard applied for sea duty. He was sent to a ship building yard in Massachusetts where some fishing trawlers were being converted to Navy gunboats. While in Massachusetts a report came to the Navy Department of past debts owed by LTJG Hubbard. Apparently his father had at times the same problem.

Before Hubbard could take his small craft to sea, he was relieved from command. An official report read he was "not temperamentally fitted for independent command" (cited by Miller, p. 99). The Navy was evidently then in great need of officers, because Hubbard was next sent to the Submarine Chaser Training Center in Florida for additional training.

In April 1943 Hubbard took command of a new submarine chaser in Portland, Oregon. On the ship's shakedown cruise to San Diego, off the coast of Oregon, the ship "encountered" one of two Japanese submarines. The ship made six attacks, dropping all its depth charges. Hubbard then radioed for a resupply. Two Navy blimps and four other ships joined Hubbard's ship in the search for the elusive enemy submarines.

Having been resupplied, Hubbard's ship made depth charge attacks all the next day. The blimps and other ships saw no evidence of enemy submarines. After 68 hours of attacks, Hubbard's ship was ordered back to port.

The Navy opened an investigation into the incident. The official report was that there was no evidence of submarines in the area and that Hubbard's ship had probably attacked a known magnetic deposit at the bottom of the sea (a factor known to give false sonar reports).

In May 1943 Hubbard's ship made it to San Diego as part of the escort of a new aircraft carrier. The next month Hubbard's patrol craft, apparently without knowing it, sailed into Mexican territorial waters. While there Hubbard ordered the crew to open fire on what were Mexican islands.

After an official investigation, Hubbard was relieved of his command (after only 80 days). He was reassigned to an office in San Diego. He almost immediately reported himself sick with a number of ailments, including malaria and ulcers. He spent three months in a hospital.

From the hospital Hubbard was sent to a six-weeks course at San Pedro, California in small craft. Hubbard was then sent to Portland, Oregon to be the navigation officer on a cargo ship then under construction. In July 1944 the ship was commissioned and put to sea. In September, before the ship could depart for the war zones, at his request, Hubbard was transferred to the School of Military Government then at Princeton University in New Jersey. It was a four-month course. From this experience, Hubbard could claim he attended an Ivy League university.

In January 1945 Hubbard was sent to the Navy Civil Affairs school in Monterey, California for additional training. But in April he again reported sick with a possible ulcer. After being released from the hospital, he again reported sick almost immediately. This time he was sent to Oak Knoll Hospital in Oakland. It was now September and the war was over. He was hospitalized, not as the results of wounds (as he later claimed to his followers) but for "epigastric distress" (stomach trouble).

The Navy discharged Hubbard in December 1945, and the next day he applied to the Veterans' Administration for a disability pension, claiming ulcers, back, and hip problems, among other things. His correspondence with the VA lasted for several years and he was eventually awarded a 40% disability pension.

He also claimed, as noted above, he was given 21 medals. His Navy record indicates four routine service metals, none of a personal meritorious nature.

Remember, as many have pointed out, L. Ron Hubbard had spent years as a fiction writer. Reading what he says about his journeys in the Orient and his supposed World War II record compared with the existing and public official records, leads one to believe he didn't know fiction from truth, especially when it concerned him personally. This will be seen again when Hubbard's "theology" is considered.

## DIANETICS AND SCIENTOLOGY

After the war, Hubbard returned to writing fiction and associating with other fiction writers. In this area he was recognized among his peers.

Instead of rejoining his wife and children in Bremerton, Washington after discharge from the Navy, he drove to Pasadena, California and moved into a mansion owned by a John Parsons, a scientist, but also a student of black magic and the occult. Parsons had an interest in science fiction, and this attracted Hubbard. Hubbard had been introduced to Parsons and the mansion in August 1945 while still in the Navy. He stayed there once while on leave (instead of visiting his family).

Hubbard soon won the affection of Parson's live-in girlfriend, one Sara Elizabeth Northrup.

In the meantime, Hubbard's wife and children had moved in with Hubbard's retired parents. But Hubbard was sending his wife no money and she had financial needs. In fact, he was living in California on whatever he could borrow.

In 1946 Hubbard formed a business partnership with Parsons and Sara, mostly with Parson's money. Then Hubbard and Sara left for Florida to purchase a yacht to use in the business.

Several months later it became apparent to Parsons he had been conned. Hubbard had gotten away with his girl and \$10,000. Parsons went to Florida, dissolved the "partnership," got what money back he could plus a promissory note and returned to California.

Hubbard was continuing to write letters to the Veteran's Administration citing his deteriorating physical condition (now his failing eyesight included, so he couldn't work as a writer - though he continued to write until his death years later).

The object was an increased pension. Sara even wrote a letter in his behalf, claiming she had known him for many years (VA archives, cited by Miller, p. 129).

Hubbard sold a boat he had purchased with Parsons' money, and with some money in hand, he asked Sara to marry him. The record is that on August 10, 1946 the 35-year old L. Ron Hubbard married 21-year old Sara Northrup in Chestertown, Maryland. Sara did not know then that Hubbard was already married to Polly Grubb and that he had two children in Bremerton, Washington. Bigamy is a crime in every state.

Remember, this is a man who founded a "church" which has thousands of followers around the world today. The following year, Polly Grubb Hubbard divorced L. Ron Hubbard.

It was in the May 1950 issue of Astounding Science Fiction magazine that Hubbard first wrote of "Dianetics." The word had earlier been used in the 1930s by a German psychologist. Scientology literature claims Dianetics comes from two Greek words, dia (through) and nous (soul), i.e., what the soul is doing to the body (Church of Scientology Flag Service, 1982). Evidently either the German psychologist or L. Ron Hubbard, or both, didn't know Greek very well. Any one familiar with Greek knows that nous means "mind" and psyche means "soul." The very word Dianetics, itself, is not understood by those who put their "faith" in it.

Hubbard wrote his book bearing the title Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health (Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, Inc.) in 1950. At first, it was not a "best seller." Originally it was heralded as the common man's way to free himself, by himself, of all his problems, physical, mental, spiritual, financial, etc. Applying the book would bring about world peace.

Also originally the book was slanted toward psychology, though Time magazine reported in a 1976 article that Hubbard had said in a public meeting in 1949 that if one wanted to get rich, he should start his own religion and not be writing for a penny a word. The statement has often been ascribed to Hubbard, but he asserted the remark should be attributed to George Orwell in 1938 ("L. Ron Hubbard Speaks Out," interview by Sue Lindsay, West Coast Review of Books, Nov. 1983, p. 63). Whether or not Hubbard first said it, he certainly believed and practiced it.

Even after Dianetics was published, Hubbard still had financial problems. But a following of loyal believers in his system arose. One was a real estate developer in Wichita, Kansas named Don Purcell. Hubbard moved to Wichita and opened a center propagating his ideas, supported financially by his new-found friend. A business deal was arranged that the Wichita man would become a partner and so part-owner of Dianetics. A falling out took place between the partners, and Hubbard moved on to Phoenix, Arizona. There he delivered what has become known as "The Phoenix Lectures" out of which Scientology developed. At one time Dianetics and Scientology



were separate because Hubbard's former partner in Wichita claimed ownership of "Dianetics." The Wichita man finally gave up the struggle for ownership, and Hubbard regained full control of the name "Dianetics" and the book. He then was able to combine the book with his new concept of Scientology.

Before leaving Wichita Hubbard married a third time. His second wife had divorced him in 1951. His new bride was the 19-year old Mary Sue Whipp, then two months pregnant. It was March, 1952 (Miller, pp. 200-202). Hubbard was then age 41. It was also in Wichita that Hubbard "invented" the E-meter and coined the word "Scientology."

Soon after Dianetics was published Hubbard found himself in conflict with professional psychology and psychiatry, plus the medical profession. Psychologists and psychiatrists rejected his claims of being able to solve all human problems with his system. For example, the claim that a person's IQ could be raised significantly by following dianetics. The medical profession denounced his claims to offer physical health. At one time Hubbard was offering "MD" degrees. This resulted in one of many, many court cases involving Hubbard and Scientology. Hubbard claimed "MD" meant "master of dianetics." The court ruled "MD" meant something else in U.S. society and ordered him to desist.

From that time on Hubbard and his followers were critical of psychology, psychiatry, and the entire medical profession. Later when ill, Hubbard even was reluctant to go to a medical doctor.

His encounters with the medical profession and increasing problems with the Internal Revenue Service (by 1954 Hubbard was making money from this writings, lectures, etc.) were contributing factors in his declaring Scientology a "religion." In this country one cannot legally make false claims in the fields of science, but it is done all the time in the field of religion. With Scientology a "religion," Hubbard could make most any claim he desired. Further, with Scientology a religion he would be free from many of the restrictions the IRS puts on profit making organizations, e.g., taxation.

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Hubbard expanded Dianetics into clubs, foundations, institutes, and other organizations. He claimed they were non-profit (except that 10% of the proceeds went directly to L. Ron Hubbard).

Money increasingly came to Hubbard. In a 1976 Time article it was claimed Hubbard had boasted to friends he had \$7 million in Swiss bank accounts. He did have numbered accounts in banks in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and elsewhere. When the FBI searched one of his ships in 1977 they found over \$2 million in cash.

In 1954 Hubbard established the Church of Scientology in Los Angeles. Other "churches" soon followed in Washington, DC and eventually in other countries. Application for tax-exemption immediately followed. This brought Hubbard and Scientology into a prolonged struggle with the IRS, and eventually the FBI and the Federal courts.

Marital troubles had again entered Hubbard's life back in 1950, before his divorce from his second wife. At his orders, two of his followers "kidnapped" his daughter by his second marriage and took her from California to Arizona. Hubbard was then estranged from his second wife. The wife was then forcibly taken from California to Arizona. While in Arizona she signed a statement that she had willingly left California (after the threat that she would never see her daughter again). After returning to California and knowing her daughter was safe, she refuted the statement and filed for divorce (Los Angeles Examiner, Wed. Apr. 11, 1951, Sec. I-9). Among other things, she claimed Hubbard had abused her (The Mirror, Los Angeles, Mon., Apr., 23, 1951). Russell Miller reports that later the daughter, by then grown, sought to contact her father. Hubbard refused to see her and wrote her a letter stating he was not her father but that her father was a former associate of his. Further, the girl's mother and Hubbard were never really married, he had just taken Sara in to be kind to her (the county record of a marriage in Chestertown, Maryland notwithstanding).

L. Ron Hubbard, Jr., son of his first marriage, joined his father and from 1949 to 1959 was a close associate. Then they had a falling out (a pattern in L. Ron Hubbard, Sr.'s life?) and the son left Scientology, even changing his name to Ron DeWoff to avoid identification with his father. He later sued unsuccessfully to obtain his father's estate.

Hubbard's third marriage to Mary Sue produced four children, all of whom lived for several years on one of Hubbard's ships.

In fact, for several years Hubbard spent most of his time literally "at sea" on a ship he renamed the Sea Org ("Org" being one of Hubbard's abbreviations for organization). Hubbard eventually had so many "technical" terms that he had such books as Scientology Abridged Dictionary (1970) and Dianetics and Scientology Technical Dictionary (1975) published. One of the documents in hand has a "Glossary" to explain Scientology's terms. William J. Peterson (Those Curious New Cults in the 80's) states that Hubbard's language could come only from a science-fiction writer. The frequent use of nautical terms reflect his years in the Navy. When at sea he was called the "Commodore." Scientologists who served on these ships signed "trillion year" contracts before joining the crews.

**To Be Continued**

# BOOK REVIEWS

## The Final Drama

By John F. Walvoord

*Reviewed by Rev. Ervin D. Ingebretson*

Several major Bible expositors state that one-fourth of the entire Scriptures deals with predictive prophecy and that one-half of this prophetic writing has already been fulfilled literally. In the light of these facts, it is essential that this block of Scripture be faithfully taught from our pulpits and in other venues.

It is refreshing to have a distinguished Bible scholar exegete these eschatological passages. Dr. Walvoord., the author of The Final Drama, is Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology and Chancellor at Dallas Theological Seminary. He is an internationally known theologian and Bible teacher who has written extensively on prophecy and related issues.

A major question raised when interpreting Bible prophecy is the time sequence relationship of the millennium to other events (i.e., the Rapture of the Church, the Tribulation, and the Second Coming). In the discussion among theologians three major views are prominent. They are premillennial (Rapture, Tribulation, and Second Coming precede the Millennium); post-millennial (world gets better and better through Gospel preaching until it reaches golden age and then the Second Coming); and the amillennial (no literal millennium, but Christ in His Second Coming will usher in the new heaven and the new earth and the eternal state).

Dr. Walvoord, who interprets Scripture literally unless the context dictates otherwise, teaches that the Bible presents the premillennial view of eschatology. In The Final Drama he discusses fourteen keys which he considers important in understanding the prophetic Scriptures. In using quantities of Scripture he compares the interpretation of each view in substantiating the premillennial position.

Brief discussions on three of the fourteen keys will help to illustrate the author's approach. The first selected is the per-

son of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the center of all true theology and also eschatology. Dr. Walvoord cites many Old Testament Scriptures that predict the First Coming of Christ, His functions, His death, and His Second Coming. From a prophetic standpoint the most important office that Jesus Christ will fulfill is to occupy the throne of David as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords for a period of one thousand years (e.g., Rev. 20:4-6), ruling literally from Jerusalem. The Second Coming of Christ is a major theme of both Old and New Testaments. The author cites Scriptures that places the Rapture of the Church and Tribulation prior to the Second Coming.

Another key the author discusses is the place of the nation Israel in the fulfillment of prophecy. Some people have seriously questioned Israel's role in future events because of her long-term disobedience to God. Also some have held that the place of Israel is being given to the Church. The author firmly states that Israel is a subject of future prophecy in both the Old and New Testaments. He cites the substance of the major covenants, the promise of the land and its restoration that reflect Israel's place in future events.

A third sample key is the Millennium. This refers to the thousand years of Christ's future reign on earth that follows the Second Coming. This doctrine has divided the Church into three major factions as previously described. The author draws on the Old and New Testaments to describe the events which logically follow the Second Coming and occur during this thousand year period. He concludes that those Scriptural accounts best satisfy the premillennial view.

Dr. Walvoord is primarily concerned that the Scriptures be interpreted correctly. He writes this clear presentation with the hope that it will reduce serious confusion in better understanding this very important segment of Scripture.

[R.A.S. stocks this book.]

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### Israel the Land and the People

H. Wayne House, General Editor

*Reviewed by Rev. Ervin D. Ingebretson*

The eyes of the political world are focused upon a relatively small piece of real estate in the Middle East in which a nation is seeking to maintain its identity and reach a peace agreement with a people group of historic kinship. The present situation and future state of Israel are as unsettled as its past.

There are some real spiritual issues beyond these contemporary concerns. Are Jewish people defined by their citizenship, by their worship, by their birthright or by something else? Who is Israel today and what is her prospect for the future?

There is confusion in the church today regarding the position of Israel in God's plan. One popular view is that the church is replacing Israel today. Some hold the opinion that targeting Jewish people with the Gospel is anti-Semitic. Some have espoused the theory of Universalism a fallacious assumption that all will be saved. Or, some hold to a two-covenant theology in which Jews are required to obey the commandments specified in the Old Testament and the church to comply with New Testament teaching.

This book to which twelve major theologians have contributed declares (1) the church is not Israel; (2) God is not finished with His people, the Jews; (3) the church is comprised of God's people but has a different goal and different future than Israel has.

The General Editor has assembled these essays in five separate parts. The first part deals with identity issues. The point is clear throughout the Hebrew Scriptures that the land of Canaan belongs to God and He has given it to Abraham and his descendants. Of all the nations on the earth, Israel was singled out as the one that would experience an intimate relationship with God. The Apostle Paul in Romans chapters 9-11 explains God's election of a remnant, identified as such because of their acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah.

The historical issues developed in part two deal with the church's rejection of Israel based upon the Jew's denial of the Living Torah of God, the Messiah. The church believed it was

the recipient of the blessings of God once irrevocably given to the physical lineage of Jacob. Many in Christendom believe no place exists where people receive such special unique blessing. Important point made by essayist: To reject Israel is to reject the tree from which the church has received its life and its future.

How Scriptures verify the identity of Israel is the thesis of part three. In spite of its persistent disobedience to God, the Old Testament depicts God's care and concern for Israel. It figures largely in the New Testament as well. Jesus' ministry had a special focus on the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The Apostle Paul initially went to the Jews, preaching the Gospel in their synagogues. Romans chapters 9-11 are pivotal in Paul's message of salvation to the Jews (the same as to the Gentiles) and the saving of a remnant in prophetic events. God's message, the New Covenant, proclaimed by Jeremiah (30:1-31:1) declares that the land will be restored to the nation and that the Jewish people will be as permanent as the laws of nature - an eternal people.

The identity of Israel with "the land" is the major consideration in dealing with theological issues in part four. The key to biblical theology of the land is God's ownership of the land. God's Person and character, His discipline of Israel are vitally linked to the land. Dispersion and restoration are essential elements in the theology of "the land." Jesus' teaching included these elements. One writer on the subject of theological issues emphasizes the redemptive mission of the Messiah Servant and the Israel Servant (emphasis on "Servant") in the fulfillment of the plan of God. Another writer cites Scripture to indicate that "in your seed all nations will be blessed."

Part five is appropriately identified by a call to celebration of the past, present and future fulfillment of God's plan. He is worthy of our praise. We are called to celebrate God's sovereignty, His fidelity, and His mercy in dealing with Israel. We are further called to celebrate the opportunity mandated in the Great Commission to present the Gospel to all (Jew and Gentile) in spite of seeming obstacles.

Each of the contributors to this important work have done a scholarly analysis of the relevant biblical texts and have demonstrated their commitment to the inerrant Word of God. In the light of increased confusion about Israel and its place in God's plan, this is a "must" reading for clarification and the reinforcing of God's revelation.

[R.A.S. stocks this book.]

## NEW BOOKS WE ARE OFFERING

There is such a proliferation of books coming out weekly, even daily, that the average person would be hard pressed to keep abreast of all these books. We are presenting a brief description and summary of some of the newer books that we will be stocking for you to consider. These are not only dealing with cults but also with subjects and events that are important in today's world.

Many books deal with prophecy and endtimes but there are also new books on some of the issues that face us today, i.e., alternative medicine, suicide and euthanasia, creation vs. evolution, etc.

The following books we now carry at R.A.S. and these will be included in our new catalog, which is being prepared.

### **A new series titled**

### **"Zondervan Guide to Cults and Religious Movements."**

Truth and Error: Comparative Charts of Cults and Christianity by Alan W. Gomes (\$5.99 + postage and handling), 1998.

This book is an introduction to the entire Zondervan series and a quick reference guide to the cults and religions discussed in the series. It brings together in one volume the charts from the various guides to the cults/religions and shows how they differ from historic biblical Christianity.

The books in this series include: a concise introduction to the groups, an overview of the group's theology in their own words, a biblical response, tips for witnessing effectively to the particular group, a bibliography with sources for future study, a chart comparing the group's beliefs with biblical Christianity, and a glossary.

Hinduism, TM and Hare Krishna by J. Isamu Yamamoto (\$5.99 + postage and handling), 1998.

Thus particular book in the series starts with the root religion of Hinduism. TM, a Hindu-based movement, became popular in the 1960's as a way to therapy and psychological well-being after being endorsed by the Beatles and the Beach Boys. Another Americanized form of Hinduism is Hare Krishna. It is important to know about these Eastern religions and their impact on North America.



“Jesus Only” Churches by E. Calvin Beisner (\$5.99 + postage and handling), 1998.

This is a book in the Zondervan series which deals with Oneness (or “Jesus Only”) Pentecostals, an offshoot from early Pentecostalism. They deny the Trinity by claiming that there is only one God and Jesus is the Father and the Holy Spirit. They also require water baptism for salvation and works are essential. These books provide reliable information and insight to what otherwise might be confusing and unclear.

Unitarian Universalism by Alan W. Gomes (\$5.99 + postage and handling), 1998.

This book is in the Zondervan Guide Series. Although the Unitarian/Universalist Association (UUA) is not a large or better known religious group in America, it is important because it is a “politically correct” movement which is prevalent in politics and on college campuses. It is known for its tolerance of “alternative lifestyles” and beliefs, including homosexuality, radical feminism, and abortion on demand. To them the Bible is a myth and Jesus Christ is one of many inspirational, but fallible, teachers. A group in which 49.5% are college graduates. A well researched study.

### **The following books are on the subject of prophecy.**

The Final Drama by John F. Walvoord (\$10.95 + postage and handling)

This excellent book was published in 1997 by Kregel Publications and is reviewed above in our Book Review section. It is a practical guide which outlines the major issues in prophetic studies. It gives a clearer picture for those confused by previous studies by others.

Israel: The Land and the People by H. Wayne House, General Editor (\$18.95 + postage and handling), 1998.

Another book in our Book Review section reviewed by Board member, Ervin Ingebretson. An important subject for Christians to be informed on in light of the events unfolding quickly in our day.

### **In the General Section of our Catalog:**

Dictionary of Cults, Sects, Religions and the Occult by George A. Mathers and Larry A. Nichols (\$29.95 + postage and handling), 1993.

This is a significant reference book which includes not only well-known groups, i.e., Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Islam, etc., but other groups not as well-known but those which are increasingly more visible and invasive. It gives the beliefs and practices of the various cults and religions, their history and many illustrations and charts, as

well as a bibliography for each of the groups and movements. A good resource to have to refer to when information is sought on the many groups on the scene today.

Y2K: A Reasoned Response to Mass Hysteria by Dave Hunt (\$9.95 + postage and handling), 1998.

Y2K stands for the "Year 2000." Many people are painting a grim picture of what will happen because of a computer glitch which took place some 20 years ago. If all the predictions are true, utter chaos will result and a worldwide collapse of civilization as we know it will occur. The author, Dave Hunt, after careful investigation and interviews with top management and computer experts argues that the dangers have been overstated and that Y2k has no direct relationship to biblical prophecy and that the growing sense of fear and panic poses a greater damage than Y2K itself! He presents a biblical response and trust in God's Word. While it is prudent to have some food on hand for emergencies and other sensible provisions, our reaction, the author states, should be as stated in Mt. 6:25-26, 31-34.

Y2K: Family Survival Guide by Jerry MacGregor and Kirk Charles (\$9.95 + postage and handling), 1998.

This book takes an opposite view to the book, Y2K: A Reasoned Response to Mass Hysteria by Dave Hunt. Interestingly, both are published by Harvest House and perhaps Hunt's book just mentioned should be read first. This book is extremely detailed and gives some practical advice usable in any emergency situation. It strikes us that the best preparation we can make is the spiritual one and readiness for the Lord's return.

The God of the Bible and Other Gods by Robert P. Lightner (\$10.95 + postage and handling), 1998.

Is the Christian God unique among world religions is the question this book answers. It is a three part survey of: 1. Doctrine concerning the Bible - what does the Bible say about itself? 2. The Bible's teaching about God - what does the Bible say about the Person of God, and 3. The contrasts between the biblical view of God and the views held by major world religions and cults. A clear chart and synopsis of major cults and religions and appendices are included. An important subject for our focus.

### **Under Liberal and Miscellaneous subjects in the Catalog:**

From the Bio Basic Series:

Suicide and Euthanasia by Gary Stewart, General Editor (\$3.99 + postage and handling), 1998.

A small booklet in the Bio Basic Series on ethical questions facing us today. This book answers specific questions on suicide and

euthanasia. It is designed to help us think through these important - life and death - issues and make the right decisions.

Alternative Medicine by Gary Stewart, General Editor (\$3.99 + postage and handling), 1998.

Another booklet in the Bio Basic Series. This one answers questions pertaining to the many alternatives there are today apart from conventional medical treatment, some not bad, but others with questions as to a Christian's partaking considering their origins and mystical and occult association.

### **Under Evolution:**

Creation vs. Evolution: What You Need to Know by John Ankerberg and John Weldon (\$1.99 + postage and handling). 1998.

This 16-page fold-out, a quick reference guide to the subject of evolution, is well done. It takes 21 major scientific errors and contrasts what evolutionists claim and what scientists and scientific facts declare. There is a most interesting development in the last generation which is that thousands of skilled scientists have abandoned belief in evolution and become creationists. They even agree that there is little viable evidence for evolution.

(There is also a new book which was reviewed in Vol. 18, No. 3 and RAS carries titled Darwin's Leap of Faith, co-authored by John Ankerberg and John Weldon, 1998.)

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