

# The Discerner

the voice of... **Religion Analysis Service**

A QUARTERLY EXPOSING  
UNBIBLICAL TEACHING & MOVEMENTS

Volume 38, Number 1

January • February • March 2018

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*"Hereby know we the spirit of truth  
and the spirit of error" 1 John 4:6*

# **The Discerner**

Volume 38, Number 1  
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## **WITH THIS ISSUE**

We have two articles in this issue. The first is part one of a two-part article updating the amazing changes occurring in the Jehovah's Witnesses cult. There can be little doubt that the Watchtower Organization is a false religion unworthy of the trust that millions of its followers have placed in it.

Our second article is by our Canadian friend Bary Gaudrealt on the marks of cults. Mr. Gaudrealt does an excellent job of showing the biblical warning signs that a group has departed from biblical orthodoxy and has become a snare of Satan.

We conclude with a quiz on the first century world of the New Testament.

God bless you our Discerning readers!

*Steve Lagoon*

President, Religion Analysis Service

## **INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER CINDY MARTY**

We are excited to announce our newest Board Member, Cindy Marty. Cindy and her husband Paul live in Minnesota (the Twin Cities area). Cindy grew up in a family of Jehovah's Witnesses. Her's was a difficult journey, escaping from the clutches of the Watchtower as an adult, and eventually finding faith in Jesus Christ.

Cindy and Paul were eventually called to work as missionaries in the Ukraine. Paul supported a micro-enterprise and finance program with Hope International. At the same time, Cindy taught English at the Zaporozhye Bible College. This presented Cindy with regular opportunities to share her 'testimony of salvation' regarding her deliverance out of the false Watchtower cult and into the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul and Cindy were also involved in planting Children's Bible clubs known as Tomorrow Clubs International. They continue to spend a portion of every year overseas involved in missionary work. We are excited to have Cindy join our Board and to have her experiences and gifts to further the work and mission of Religion Analysis Service.

You can read her full testimony in the article, "Set Free to Serve Him" in the January–February–March 2017 issue of *The Discerner*

# THE CHANGING WORLD OF THE WATCHTOWER: NEW LIGHT OR DEMONIC DECEPTION? PART 1

by Steve Lagoon

They say that if you don't like the weather in Minnesota, "wait five minutes." Another saying is that, "the only constant in life is change." I began researching the Jehovah's Witnesses organization in 1980, and the one thing that stands out after almost four decades is the amazing changes that have occurred in the teachings and practices of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

That the Watchtower organization continues to undergo change should not be a surprise.

Cults are not bound or anchored to the Scriptures, but rather are taken captive by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14) that flows from the whims of their leaders. Each change in leadership brings new twisted doctrines leading to their destruction (2 Peters 3:16).

This is in distinct contrast to biblical Christianity in which each generation faithfully adheres to God's unchanging Word. Since God's word doesn't change, neither should the essential beliefs of Christians following that Word.

Again, this is not the case with the Jehovah's Witness organization whose ever-changing doctrines are a testimony to its unfaithfulness to the Scriptures. Though they pay lip service to being Berean Christians (Acts 17:11), the only thing their organization is truly led by is their Governing Body, a group of men in New York totally unqualified for the high and lofty position they claim for themselves.

An examination of these changes will make clear that the Watchtower is both a false prophet and a completely unreliable guide to the millions that have been deceived by its false teachings.

## **The Mindset or Mentality of Jehovah's Witness**

It seems that most Jehovah's Witness are unconcerned about the Watchtower's constant record of change. They have been thoroughly brainwashed into believing both that the Watchtower alone can properly interpret the Bible, *and that the changing doctrines are actually a sign that they are in the truth.*

These facts are both amazing and tragic. How Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) and fools cultists into believing that wrong is right.

Let us consider what it is like to be a Jehovah's Witness. They take the current teachings of the Watchtower door to door, day after day, presenting its teachings as God's truth, passionately studying and defending these doctrines.

Then a new issue of the Watchtower comes out, rejecting the organization's previous teaching, and presenting a new 'official' understanding. Immediately, without question, the Jehovah's Witness must (and usually do) reject the old teaching and embrace the new. They are to believe and defend the so called "New Light" just as passionately as they did the old (This is the case even with doctrines that had been taught for decades).

This is a quite remarkable example of Watchtower brainwashing. A small group of men in New York change their minds about what the Bible teaches, and millions of followers instantly adapt their revised interpretations.

Indeed, it gets worse, for often the Watchtower will go back and forth on the same issue, returning to interpretations it had previously rejected. I suspect that this must cause hermeneutical whiplash for the Jehovah's Witnesses who are trying to keep up with all the changes!

The purpose of this article is to examine the incredible claims of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society. Is it really the sole representative and unique messenger of God on earth? Does its own record bear this out? We shall conclude by showing that the Watchtower's doctrine of "new light" is not biblically or logically defensible.

### **A Note on References in this Article**

A word of explanation is appropriate concerning the citations in this article. In most cases, I will first provide the citation from the official Watchtower source, often followed by a second citation from a non-Watchtower source providing further information on the subject, for those who may want to dig deeper.

It should be noted that many quotes are taken from the JWfacts.com website which is an excellent source of information on the Jehovah's Witnesses by Paul Grundy.

## Early Changes

There are many things that were practiced by the early Jehovah's Witnesses (then known as the International Bible Students until 1931) that are now rejected.

For example, while the Watchtower currently condemns the celebration of holidays like Christmas, the early Jehovah's Witnesses had no such qualms. Indeed, the Watchtower magazine encouraged the "Bible Students" to give Watchtower subscriptions as Christmas gifts.<sup>1</sup> Today, the Watchtower shuns the symbol of the cross, yet earlier Watchtower literature was emblazoned with the cross.<sup>2</sup> Today, the Watchtower condemns paganism and the occult, and yet such was the source of its prophetic claims concerning the year 1914, arrived at from Russell's speculations about pyramidology.<sup>3</sup> Today the Watchtower condemns patriotism, yet during World War One, the Watchtower encouraged its readers to buy United States War Bonds.<sup>4</sup>

Such examples could be multiplied ad nauseum. But for the moment, let's shift the focus to some current changes.

## Continuing Changes in Practice

It seems that changes are occurring in Watchtower teachings and practices at a dizzying pace. For instance, it is breathtaking for longtime observers to consider the changes to Watchtower magazines themselves (Watchtower & Awake). In recent years, both publications had been cut back to only six issues a year each (down from twice monthly).

Now, even more changes are being reported. Alexandra James reported on the JWVictims.org website:

According to a letter sent out about their annual meeting, Jehovah's Witnesses will reduce the number of issues of the **public** edition of the Watchtower, and the Awake magazine, to **three each per year**. It was also stated, "The number of books, brochures, tracts, contact cards, and videos that will be featured in the field ministry is being reduced," and, "Beginning January 2018, specific monthly literature offers will

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1 *Watchtower* 11/15/1907 p. 4094; see Christmas entry in David Reed, Index of Watchtower Errors, Grand Rapids MI (Baker Book House, 1990) 72.

2 *Watchtower* 1/1/1891 p. 1277; See Cross entry in Reed, Index, 73.

3 *Watchtower* 9/1881 p. 272; See Pyramid entry in Reed, Index, 113.

4 *Watchtower*, May 15, 1918, p. 152; Christy Harvey Darlington, An Analysis of the Watchtower's Historical Position on War: Has the Watchtower Organization Always Been as Neutral as They Claim? Colorado Springs CO (Witnesses for Jesus, Not Dated/ Circa 1995) 1.

be discontinued. More emphasis will be placed on starting and continuing conversations.”<sup>5</sup>

Further, it is reported that the Watchtower is discontinuing the publication of their *Annual Yearbook of the Jehovah’s Witnesses* altogether.<sup>6</sup>

Practical changes are occurring as well. The organization has discontinued the weekly *Theocratic Ministry School* meeting that had been a long-time staple of the Jehovah’s Witness experience.<sup>7</sup>

### **Watchtower Claims for Authority**

We have considered some changes from the time of the early Jehovah’s Witnesses, and have also noted some current and ongoing changes in practice. At this point we will examine the bold claims the Watchtower organization makes as representing God on earth.

The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society claims to be God’s unique channel of communication to the world today. It alone, and particularly the Faithful and Discreet Slave (i.e. its governing body) speaks for God. They teach that only its members are in right communion with God; that personal salvation is only possible through its organization.

### **Is the Watchtower God’s Sole Channel of Communication?**

For instance, the Watchtower claims:

Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do.<sup>8</sup>

Where does this extravagant claim leave those who lived for 1800 years before the founding of the Watchtower in 1879? What, also, of those who have had only the Bible and not the Watchtower? The Watchtower simply claims for itself greater importance than even the Word of God. What sheer audacity and sacrilege for the leaders of

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5 Alexandra James, October 8, 2017, Watchtower’s Annual Meeting Announces More Odd Decreases In Literature and Online Content, <https://jwvictims.org/2017/10/08/watchtowers-annual-meeting-announces-more-odd-decreases-in-literature-and-online-content/>.

6 Jehovah’s Witnesses To Apparently Cease Publication of Their Annual Yearbook ... We All Know Why, Alexandra James, October 7, 2017, <https://jwvictims.org/2017/10/07/jehovahs-witnesses-to-cease-publication-of-their-annual-yearbook/>.

7 Theocratic Ministry Meeting Gone as 2015 Annual Meeting, September 24, 2015, <http://jwsurvey.org/cedars-blog/theocratic-ministry-school-gone-as-2015-annual-meeting-announcements-leaked-in-advance>

8 *Watchtower* 12/1/1981 p. 27; Reed, Index, 67.

the Watchtower to usurp for themselves the place that belongs to the Word of God alone:

“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”(2 Timothy 3:16–17).

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2: 5).

### **Salvation Dependent on the Watchtower?**

It is breathtaking to consider the boldness of the Watchtower’s claim that salvation itself is dependent on being associated with the Jehovah’s Witnesses:

“That faithful slave is the channel through which Jesus is feeding his true followers in this time of the end. It is vital that we recognize the faithful slave. Our spiritual health and our relationship with God depend on this channel.”<sup>9</sup>

“We need to obey the faithful and discreet slave to have Jehovah’s approval.”<sup>10</sup>

“Since Jehovah God and Jesus Christ completely trust the faithful and discreet slave, should we not do the same?”<sup>11</sup>

“It is vital that we appreciate this fact and respond to the directions of the ‘slave’ as we would to the voice of God, because it is His provision.”<sup>12</sup>

### **The Watchtower “Prophet”**

The Watchtower even assumes the role of prophet. For instance:

So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? IDENTIFYING THE PROPHET These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? . . . This “prophet” was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small

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9 *Watchtower* 7/15/2013 p.20; Paul Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>

10 *Watchtower* 7/15/2011 p. 24, Simplified English Edition; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>

11 *Watchtower* 2/15/2009 p. 27; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>

12 *Watchtower* 6/15/1957 p. 370; Duane Magnani, *Who is the Faithful & Wise Servant: A Study of Authority Over Jehovah’s Witnesses, The Fourth Edition, Revised and Expanded*, Clayton CA (Witness Inc., 1988) 76.



group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian Witnesses. Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a 'prophet' of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?<sup>13</sup>

This is a case of the Watchtower, to use a figure of speech, wanting to have its cake and eat it too. That is, the organization wants all the respect and status of a biblical prophet with none of the responsibility. Therefore, it will frequently hedge its claims by denying that it is infallible. Biblically, one is either a true prophet or a false prophet. There is no prophet "in a sense." There is no such thing as a non-inspired prophet. One false prophecy makes the alleged 'prophet' a false prophet!

Former Jehovah's Witness Lorri MacGregor commented:

Since the Witnesses claim to be God's prophet, we are free to put them to the Bible test for a prophet, found in Deuteronomy 18:18-20 . . . The Watchtower has invited us to examine their record, and we will.<sup>14</sup>

As Lorri MacGregor, and so many others have found, the Watchtower's record shows it to be, without question, a false prophet.

### **Examining the Watchtower's "Prophetic Record"**

We will now examine the record of the Watchtower to evaluate its claimed status as God's prophet and sole channel of salvation. We shall find numerous examples of flip-flopping in Watchtower literature which make it abundantly clear that the alleged 'new light' is not from God

### **144,000 and 1935: Was Heaven Closed in 1935?**

The Watchtower has engaged in much speculation concerning their interpretation of the number 144,000 found in both chapters 7 and 14 of the Book of Revelations. Indeed many small sects have claimed that they were (or are) this little flock of true Christians on earth totaling 144,000. The early Watchtower taught that the number 144,000 referred to all true members of the body of Christ. But during the time of Rutherford's leadership, the members of the Watchtower

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<sup>13</sup> *Watchtower* 4/1/1972 p. 197.

<sup>14</sup> Lorri MacGregor, *What You Need to Know about Jehovah's Witnesses*, Eugene OR (Harvest House Publishers, 1992) 124.

organization exceeded that number creating a need to revise their interpretation.

The Watchtower's explanation was that 144,000 referred only to those Christians that had a heavenly hope; only they needed to be born again, and the rest would form a great crowd with only an earthly hope after Armageddon. Since they had reached that number by 1935, essentially, it meant that heaven was full or closed:

“Logically, the calling of the little flock would draw to a close when the number was nearing completion, and the evidence is that the general gathering of these specially blessed ones ended in 1935.”<sup>15</sup>

“Hence especially after 1966 it was believed that the heavenly calling ceased in 1935. Thereafter, any called to the heavenly hope were believed to be replacements for anointed Christians who had proved unfaithful.”<sup>16</sup>

These Watchtower references (from 1995 and 2007) show their mindset that the full number of heavenly believers was realized by 1935 and that no one after that time should expect to be among the number of 144,000 (with the exception of replacing an apostate that had been of the 144,000).

### **1935 Heaven Closed Date Dropped**

But we shall see that the Watchtower's clarity began to waver on the matter: “We cannot set a specific date for when the calling of Christians to the heavenly hope ends.”<sup>17</sup>

This statement seemed to open the door to the possibility that becoming a member of the anointed class did not close in 1935, and led to an amazing reaction. For the first time in decades, the actual number of Jehovah's Witnesses claiming to be of the 144,000 anointed actually began to rise. Though the number partaking at the annual memorial service had been around 8,000 for decades, it began to climb from about 8,000 to 18, 000.<sup>18</sup>

Tied into the Watchtower distinction between the anointed 144,000 (with a heavenly hope) and the great crowd (with only an earthly hope) is the idea that only the anointed make up the Faithful

15 *Watchtower* 2/15/1995 p.19; Grundy, <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/quotes/1935.php>

16 *Watchtower* 5/ 1 2007, pp. 30–31; Grundy, <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/144000.php>

17 *Watchtower* 5/1/2007 p. 31.

18 Paul Grundy, <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/memorial-partakers.php>. It is the speculation of the author of this article that the Watchtower may be preparing to drop the distinction between the anointed 144,000 and the great crown altogether. Time will tell.

and Discreet slave class that leads the Watchtower organization, providing meat in due season for the great crowd. In other words, only the 144,000 could comprise the Faithful and Discreet Slave charged with leading the organization and directing its teachings through the pages of the organization's literature.

But, eventually, this interpretation stretched credulity as it was most unlikely that those who were Jehovah's Witnesses in 1935 were still actually leading the organization today.

"This generation" the 1914 generation (1951–1995)

Another problem with the Watchtower's prophetic timetable is the length of time that has passed since 1914. This is a problem since the Watchtower had long proclaimed that the generation that was alive and experienced the events of 1914 would live until Armageddon:

But there are people still living who were alive in 1914 and saw what was happening then and who were old enough that they still remember those events. This generation is getting up in years now. A great number of them have already passed away in death. Yes Jesus pointedly said: 'This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur.' Some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. This means only a short time is left before the end comes!<sup>19</sup>

The Watchtower taught from 1951 to 1995 that Armageddon's coming was linked to the survival of the 1914 generation, although there were refinements as to what 'generation' meant. Did it mean people who were old enough to understand the events in 1914, or did it refer to anyone who was born by that year? A century has passed since 1914, and no verbal or mental gymnastics can save the claim that the generation still survives in any meaningful way.

### **"This generation" Decoupled from 1914 (1995–2008)**

Finally, the interpretive damn burst in 1995 when Watchtower leaders rolled out their new interpretation of the meaning of Jesus' phrase "this generation" in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:34). It was a straightforward abandonment of the previous view:

In our preceding article, we noted how the wicked Jewish generation that called for the blood of Jesus met its end. What, then, of the ruinous generation of mankind that even now opposes or ignores him? When will judgment on this faithless

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19 *The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life*, Brooklyn New York (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1968) 95.

generation be executed? Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah's people have at times speculated about the time when the "great tribulation" would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914. However, we "bring a heart of wisdom in," not by speculating about how many years or days make up a generation . . . Rather than provide a rule for measuring time, the term "generation" as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical period, with their identifying characteristics.<sup>20</sup>

So the recent information in The Watchtower about "this generation" did not change our understanding of what occurred in 1914. But it did give us a clearer grasp of Jesus' use of the term "generation," helping us to see that his usage was no basis for calculating—counting from 1914—how close to the end we are.<sup>21</sup>

Amazingly, the Watchtower tried to make this important change seem like a minor adjustment. Nor should it be missed that the Watchtower was here criticizing a practice it had been advocating for a generation (40 years)! The new view was that 'this generation' referred to anyone living in the post 1914 world, and not necessarily to those who were actually alive in or before 1914.

Specifically, the Watchtower now argued that "this generation" referred to those wicked peoples of the world that rejected the message of Jehovah's Witnesses. The reaction to this new view created new problems for the leaders of the Watchtower Organization since the new interpretation seemed to remove the sense of prophetic urgency. Set free from the feeling of impending doom, Jehovah's Witnesses took a breath, which seemed to be too complacent for their Watchtower taskmasters.

### **"This generation" the anointed (2008–2010)**

In reaction to this complacency, a new view came forth after just 13 years:

As a class, *these anointed* ones make up the modern-day "generation" of contemporaries that will not pass away 'until all these things occur.' This suggests that some who are Christ's anointed brothers will still be alive on earth when the foretold great tribulation begins.<sup>22</sup>

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20 *Watchtower*, 11/1/1995, p. 16; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/generation.php>.

21 *Watchtower* 6/1/1997, p. 28; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/generation.php>.

22 *Watchtower* Feb 15, 2008, p. 24; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/generation.php>

This new view now claimed that the ‘generation’ that would not pass away referred only to the remaining ‘anointed’ Jehovah’s Witnesses, rather than the wicked post-1914 generation that rejected the Watchtower’s message.

This is as about a 180 degree change of view you could make. The focus of “this generation” shifted away from “wicked” opposers of the Watchtower and to the very leadership of the Watchtower itself. It seems that the Bible is just so much silly-putty that the Watchtower leaders can shape any which way they wish, with no concern about what Jesus actually meant!

Nevertheless, the claim continued to remove a sense of prophetic urgency since there could still be new anointed brothers replacing those that apostatized.

### **“This generation”: anointed overlapping (2010–present)**

However, since the last view did not have the effect hoped for, a new view was necessary a mere two years later:

John Barr ... twice read the comment: ‘Jesus evidently meant that the lives of the anointed ones who were on hand when the sign began to be evident *in 1914 would overlap with the lives of the other anointed ones* who would see the start of the great tribulation.’ We do not know the exact length of ‘this generation,’ but it includes these two groups whose lives overlap. Even though the anointed vary in age, those in the two groups constituting the generation are contemporaries during the part of the last days. How comforting it is to know that the younger anointed contemporaries of those older anointed ones who discerned the sign when it became evident beginning in 1914 will not die off before the great tribulation starts!<sup>23</sup>

This latest view amazingly takes away with one stroke the key change made in 1995 by resuming the idea that “this generation” is linked (after all) to 1914 with the mere addition of the overlapping idea. Therefore, it restores a sense of prophetic urgency since new anointed Jehovah’s Witnesses cannot continue being added indefinitely. But eventually (should the Lord tarry), it will result in another false prophecy, as even an overlapping generation cannot be extended into perpetuity.

Now, we shall consider other examples of Watchtower flip-flops.

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23 *Watchtower* 6/15/2010 p.5; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/generation.php>

## **Watchtower View of Christ's Presence**

Originally, the Watchtower taught that Jesus' invisible presence began *in 1874*:

“The Millennium began in 1874 with the return of Christ.”<sup>24</sup>

“Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874.”<sup>25</sup>

## **Jesus Presence began in 1914**

“Since 1914, how remarkably events in this bloodstained earth have confirmed that year to be the start of the “day” of Jesus' presence!”<sup>26</sup>

Former Governing Body member of Jehovah's Witnesses Ray Franz commented:

Today the several millions of Jehovah's Witnesses believe and teach that Christ's invisible presence began in 1914. Very few realize that for nearly fifty years the Watch Tower Society announced and heralded, in their role as prophet, that such invisible presence began in 1874. As late as 1929, fifteen years after 1914, they were still teaching this.”<sup>27</sup>

## **Ray Franz on Christ's Kingdom Rule**

Ray Franz notes a similar change with regard to the date the Watchtower has taught concerning Christ's kingdom rule:

Jehovah's Witnesses today believe that Christ officially began his kingdom rule in 1914. The Watch Tower taught for decades that this took place in 1878.<sup>28</sup>

Likewise, former Jehovah's Witness elder David Reed documented the original Watchtower position on the timing of Christ's kingly rule: “The Formal inauguration of his [Jesus] kingly office dates from April 1878, A. D.”<sup>29</sup>

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24 *The Finished Mystery*, The International Bible Students Association, 1917, p. 386.

25 *Watchtower* 1/01/1924 p. 5.

26 *Revelation: Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, Brooklyn New York (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1988) p. 24.

27 Raymond Franz, *Crisis of Conscience*, Second Edition, Atlanta GA (Commentary Press, 1992) 147.

28 Franz, *Crisis*, 147

29 The International Bible Students Association, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Volume. 4, *The Battle of Armageddon*, p. 621; Reed, Index, 97.

## **Kingly Rule from 1914**

As Franz alluded to, the current position is that Christ's kingly rule began in 1914: "This means that Jesus Christ began to rule as king of God's heavenly government in 1914."<sup>30</sup>

## **Armageddon by 1914**

The founder of the Watchtower organization, Charles Taze Russell, had an elaborate system of prophetic speculation with the year 1914 being the farthest possible timing for the arrival for Armageddon:

"Battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced.<sup>31</sup>

## **Armageddon by 1915**

Lorri MacGregor showed how the failure of Russell's 1914 prophecy led to some embarrassing revisions of his books:

Armageddon would end in 1914 (*The Time Is at Hand*, page 101, 1911 edition). Armageddon would end in 1915 (*The Time Is at Hand*, page 101, 1915 edition. Today, J. W.'s expect Armageddon any minute!<sup>32</sup>

## **Armageddon by 1918**

Or would Armageddon be in 1918?: "It is the Day of Vengeance, which began in the world war of 1914 and which will break like a furious morning storm in 1918."<sup>33</sup> "Also, in the year 1918, when God begins to destroy the churches and the church members by the millions."<sup>34</sup>

## **Armageddon by 1925**

Or would it be in 1925?: "The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in the Scriptures, even more clearly than that of 1914."<sup>35</sup> "Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark

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30 *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*, Brooklyn New York (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1982)141.

31 *Studies in the Scriptures, The Time is at Hand*, Volume 2, p. 101 (The International Bible Students Association, 1888) 101; E. B. Price, *Our Friends: The Jehovah's Witnesses*, Revised and Enlarged Edition,(Strathfield, Sydney Australia, 1986, 10.

32 MacGregor, *Need To Know*, 125.

33 *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 7, The Finished Mystery* (The International Bible Students Association, 1917) p. 404; Reed, Index, 103.

34 *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 7, The Finished Mystery*(The International Bible Students Association, 1917, p. 485; Price, *Our Friends*, 10).

35 *Watchtower* 7/15/1924 p. 211; Reed, Index, 105.

the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old.”<sup>36</sup>

### **Armageddon coming soon in 1941**

Or would it be in 1941?: “In the remaining months before Armageddon.”<sup>37</sup>

### **Armageddon by 1975**

After his failed predictions involved with the *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* campaign, Joseph Rutherford, “Confessed to the [Watchtower] headquarters staff regarding the 1925 fiasco: ‘I made an ass of myself.’”<sup>38</sup>

Indeed, Rutherford even claimed in 1931 that:

“They [the Watchtower organization] also learned to quit fixing dates for the future and predicting what would come to pass on a certain date, but to rely . . . upon the word of God.”<sup>39</sup>

Unfortunately, Watchtower leaders did not take heed to this warning, nor to that of Jesus Christ who said: “No one knows about the day or hour” (Matthew 24:36) of His coming in judgment.

By the middle of the 1960’s, and under the guidance of future president Frederick Franz, the Watchtower began to speculate about the year 1975, and eventually led millions of Jehovah’s Witnesses to expect Armageddon in that year. For example:

“There are only about ninety months left before 6000 years of man’s existence on earth is completed . . . The majority of people living today will probably be alive when Armageddon breaks out.”<sup>40</sup>

“Does that not warm our hearts? Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service.

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36 Joseph F. Rutherford, *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, Brooklyn New York (International Bible Students Association, 1920) 97; Reed, Index, 104).

37 *Watchtower* 9/15/1941 p. 288; Reed, Index, 106.

38 Matthew Alfs, *The Evocative Religion of Jehovah’s Witnesses*, Minneapolis MN (Old Theology Book House, 1991) 254.

39 Joseph Rutherford, *Vindication, Book One*, Brooklyn New York (The International Bible Students Association, 1931) 338–339; Randall Watters, *Thus Saith Jehovah’s Witnesses: 120 years of revealing documents from the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society, Third Edition*, Manhattan CA (Common-Sense Publications, Revised 2002) 96.

40 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, 3/1968 p. 4; Reed, Index, 107.



Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end."<sup>41</sup>

"Are we to assume from this study that the battle of Armageddon will be all over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ will begin by then? Possibly . . . It may involve only a difference of weeks or months, not years."<sup>42</sup>

Following the failed 1975 prediction, the Watchtower leadership tried to blame this false prophecy on its overzealous followers. But finally, after five years, the Watchtower confessed:

"Considerable expectation was aroused regarding the year 1975 . . . Statements published that implied that such realization of hopes by that year was more of a probability than a mere possibility. It is to be regretted . . . the publication of the information that contributed to the buildup of hopes centered on that date."<sup>43</sup>

### **Who is the Faithful and Discreet Slave: The Body of Christ**

Let us now consider the unique terminology the Watchtower organization uses to describe its leadership structure. The group is known as the "Faithful and Discreet Slave" ("Faithful and wise servant, KJV) based upon Jesus' parabolic statement in Matthew 24:45. While Jesus was speaking in figurative terms concerning those who faithfully await His second coming to earth, the Watchtower has misapplied the passage as portending an actual leader or leaders that would guide true Christians in anticipation of his return.

In the Watchtower's interpretation of Jesus' parable, *the food that the servant gives to the householders is the Watchtower literature*. There is, of course, no justification for this woodenly literalistic interpretation. Nevertheless, Jehovah's Witnesses are convinced that their organization is this appointed leader to the world's true Christians in the end time.

Given the high place of importance the Watchtower society has attached to this alleged "faithful and wise servant," its inability to clearly identify the same over its history is remarkable.

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41 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 2/1974, p.3; Watters, Thus Saith, 103.

42 *Watchtower* 8/18/1968, p. 499; Reed, Index, 108.

43 *Watchtower* 3/15/1980, p. 17; Reed, Index, 110.

Grundy shows that the first view of the Watchtower was that the “servant” was a composite including all Watchtower followers; the 144,000 that they believed comprised the body of Christ:

Who then is that *faithful* and wise servant whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household,” to give them meat in due season? Is it not that “little flock” of consecrated servants who are *faithfully* carrying out their consecration vows—the body of Christ—and is not the whole body individually and collectively, giving the meat in due season to the household of faith—the great company of believers?<sup>44</sup>

### **The Faithful and Discreet slave: Russell in his person**

Eventually, the idea evolved that the “servant” or ‘Slave” was Charles Taze Russell in his person:

Thousands of the readers of Pastor Russell’s writings believe that he filled the office of “that faithful and wise servant,” and that his great work was giving to the Household of Faith meat in due season. His modesty and humility precluded him from openly claiming this title, but he admitted as much in private conversation.<sup>45</sup>

It should not be missed that the above quotation is an official and authoritative Watchtower statement declaring that despite any humility on Russell’s part, he was in fact, the faithful and wise servant in his person.

### **The impact of Russell’s death in 1916**

Russell’s death created a problem for Rutherford and the new leadership that followed him. If Russell was in fact the Faithful and Discreet Slave, and had now died, how would the Bible Students receive their meat in due season? The Watchtower’s answer was that Russell continued to lead the Watchtower organization from beyond the grave:

This verse shows that, though Pastor Russell has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the harvest work. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world.<sup>46</sup>

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44 *Watchtower* Oct/Nov, 1881, p.5; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>

45 *Watchtower* 12/1/1916, p. 356; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>.

46 *Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 7, The Finished Mystery*, The International Bible Students Association, 1917, p. 144).

## Russell Worship

It is difficult to fully comprehend the personality cult that had developed among the Bible Students for the leadership of Charles Russell. Indeed, it bordered on blatant idolatry as this quote from the Watchtower following his death shows:

Charles Taze Russell, thou hast, by the Lord, been crowned a king; and through the everlasting ages thy name shall be known amongst the people, and thy enemies shall come and worship at thy feet.<sup>47</sup>

Seven years after Russell's death, while Rutherford was consolidating his own power among the Bible Students, they still continued the fiction that Russell was the Faithful and Discreet slave and "ruler over all the Lord's goods":

We believe that all who are now rejoicing in present truth will concede that Brother Russell faithfully filled the office of special servant of the Lord; and that he was made ruler over all the Lord's goods.<sup>48</sup>

## Faithful & discreet slave: 144,000 anointed ones

Eventually (in 1926) Rutherford stripped Russell of the Faithful and Discreet slave appellation and applied it to Jesus and the 144,000 anointed ones:

Seeing then that The Servant of Jehovah is The Christ, and that The [body of] Christ is composed of Jesus and the faithful members of his body, we find it proper to apply the term "Servant" to Jesus Christ alone or to Jesus Christ and the members of his body collectively as one; and sometimes it is applied only to the members of the body of Christ yet on earth.<sup>49</sup>

The idea was that the 144,000 were a composite group charged by God with leading the Watchtower organization; that they would all be involved in the food distributed to the domestics in the form of the literature produced by the organization. It was fiction only true in theory; the real power was with Rutherford.

So, it was the 144,000 anointed ones (minus those who had passed away) that comprised the Faithful and Wise Slave that ostensibly led

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47 *Watchtower* 12/1/1916, p. 6015 reprints

48 *Watchtower* 3/1/1923, p.68; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>, Magnani, Who is the Faithful & Wise Servant, 111.

49 *Watchtower* 1927 Feb 15 p.53; Grundy, <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/faithful-discreet-slave.php>

the Watchtower Organization (including all those in the great crowd) and that view largely prevailed through the end of the century:

Today, the faithful and discreet slave is made up of the remnant of Kingdom heirs. These are anointed Christians, the remaining ones on earth of the 144,000, who “belong to Christ.”<sup>50</sup>

### **Faithful & Discreet Slave: The Governing body alone**

The most recent Watchtower interpretation was to simply acknowledge what had been in fact the long-time practice; the Governing Body alone is the Faithful and Discreet Slave:

In keeping with Jesus’ pattern of feeding many through the hands of a few, that slave is made up of a *small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food during Christ’s presence*. Throughout the last days, the anointed brothers who make up the faithful slave have served together at headquarters. In recent decades, that slave has been closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Note, however, that the word “slave” in Jesus’ illustration is singular, indicating that this is a composite slave. The decisions of the Governing Body are thus made collectively.<sup>51</sup>

What should not be missed is just how malleable Bible interpretation is when disconnected from serious biblical study and is instead held at the whim of men totally unqualified for the task.

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50 *Watchtower* 8/1/1995, p. 16.

51 *Watchtower* 7/15/2013, p.22.

# 22 UNDENIABLE MARKS OF A CULT

by Bary Claud Gaudrealt

In the world today, there are many religions, most claiming to have or to be the truth. Among those professing Christianity, many claim to be the one true church. But there are many marks indicative of false cults. This article will show these *marks* in order to sound the warning about the spiritual danger these cults present. It is Scripture that shows the real from the false, and which will be our source of discernment.

All Scripture Citations from the New American Standard Bible (NASB, 1977) unless otherwise noted.

## **I. CULTS OFTEN CLAIM THEIR CHURCH AND THEIR TEACHINGS WERE FOUNDED BY A SO-CALLED MESSENGER(S), PROPHET(S) OF GOD).**

A. “And *from among your own selves men* will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:30). B. “For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you hear him beautifully” (2 Cor. 11:4).

## **II. CULT LEADERS ARE DESCRIBED AS:**

A. *Ungodly*: “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

B. *False Brethren*: “But it was because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage” (Gal. 2:4).

C. *False Accusers*: “Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good” (2 Tim. 3:3 KJV).

D. *Anti-christ*: “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the anti-christ” (2 John 7).

E. *False christs*: “For false Christ’s and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect” (Matt 24:24).

F. *Heretics*: “A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject” (Titus 3:10. KJV).

G. *False prophets*: “But false prophets also arose among the people” (2 Peter 2:1a).

H. *False teachers*: “Just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves” (2 Peter 2:1b).

### **III. NAMES GIVEN BY THE BIBLE TO DESCRIBE CULTIC TEACHINGS:**

A. *The commandments of men*: “(which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men” (Col 2:22).

B. *Doctrines of demons*: “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Tim 4:1).

C. *Diverse and strange doctrines*: “Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefited” (Heb 13:9).

D. *Damnable Heresies*: “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2:1 KJV).

### **IV. CULTS OFTEN CLAIM THEY ARE A RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL APOSTOLIC CHURCH WHICH WAS LOST THROUGH A COMPLETE GLOBAL APOSTASY. THE BIBLE PLAINLY TEACHES THAT THERE WILL NEVER BE A COMPLETE GLOBAL APOSTASY DURING THE CHURCH AGE.**

A. “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and *the gates of Hades shall not over power it*” (Matt 16:18).

B. "To Him be the *glory in the church and in Christ to all generations forever and ever Amen.*" (Eph 3:21).

C. "Beloved while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

**V. CULTS OFTEN CLAIM TO BE THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH. THE CULTIST'S DEFINITION OF THE TRUE CHURCH MISSES THE FOLLOWING BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. *The true Church is composed of Holy Spirit baptized persons:* "For by one Spirit you were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13).

B. *The true Church has Christ alone as its Head:* "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22).

C. *The church is unified by the triune God:* "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:4–6).

D. *The true church is devoted to the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer:* "And they were continually devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42).

**VI. CULTS OFTEN TEACH THAT IF ONE LEAVES THEIR CHURCH THEY WILL LOSE THEIR SALVATION. BIBLICALLY, ONCE A PERSON IS GENUINELY SAVED ONE HE/ SHE, CANNOT LOSE HIS/ HER SALVATION. THEREFORE, IF A PERSON LEAVES HIS/HER CHURCH THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR SALVATION. CULTS TEACH THIS FALSE DOCTRINE IN ORDER TO TRAP MEMBERS OUT OF FEAR OF LOSING THEIR SALVATION.**

A. "And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" (John 10:28–29).

B. “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ our Lord” (Rom 8:38–39).

**VII. CULTS USUALLY DO NOT ALLOW MEMBERS TO CHALLENGE ITS LEADER’S TEACHINGS. THE BIBLE, HOWEVER, CALLS CHRISTIANS TO CHECK OUT ALL THEY ARE TAUGHT, BY COMPARING IT TO GOD’S WORD.**

A. The great apostle Paul’s teachings were examined to see if they matched up with the Scriptures. “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

B. Christians are called to examine any person who claims he is preaching the truth of the Word of God. “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good” (1 Thess 5:21).

**VIII. CULTS TEACH THAT ONE IS SAVED BY THEIR OWN GOOD WORKS. THE BIBLE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT AN UNBELIEVER’S OWN RIGHTEOUS WORKS DO NOT MERIT SALVATION BEFORE GOD.**

A. “For all of us have become come like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away”(Isa 64:6).

B. “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of your selves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast” (Eph 2:8–9).

**IX. CULTIST DO NOT HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES THAT IF ONE IS A GENUINE CHRISTIAN, THEY CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION.**

A. “and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand” (John 10:28–29).

B. “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).



**X. CULTS ARE LEGALISTIC IN NATURE. CHRISTIANS ARE TO REFRAIN FROM LEGALISTIC JUDGMENT OF OTHER BELIEVERS.**

A. “One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God” (Rom 14:5–6).

B. “Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ”(Col 2:16–17).

**XI. CULTS ATTACK THE BIBLE ITSELF BY ADDING TO AND/OR BY SUBTRACTING FROM IT, CHANGING ITS CONTEXTUAL MEANING. THE BIBLE STRONGLY WARNS AGAINST SUCH TAMPERING.**

A. “*You shall not add to the word* which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you” (Deut 4:2b).

B. “*Do not add to His words* Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar” (Prov 30:6).

**XII. CULTS DISTORT OR TWIST BIBLICAL PASSAGES TO SUPPORT THEIR TEACHINGS.**

A. “as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction” (2 Pet 3:16).

B. “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:29–30 ESV).

**XIII. THE CULTIST TAKES SCRIPTURE OUT OF CONTEXT TO SUPPORT THEIR TEACHINGS.**

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God” (1 John 4:1–3).

#### **XIV. CULTS ARE MASTER COUNTERFEITERS.**

A. “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matt 7:15).

B. “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose ends shall be according to their deeds” (2 Cor. 11: 13–15).

#### **XV. CULTS OFTEN HAVE THEIR OWN ALLEGED INSPIRED SCRIPTURES.**

A. “For if one comes and *preaches another Jesus* whom we have not preached, or you receive *a different spirit* which you have not received, or *a different gospel* which you have not accepted you bear this beautifully” (2 Cor. 11:4).

B. “But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8–9).

#### **XVI. CULT LEADERS ARE OFTEN GUILTY OF PLAIGARISM.**

A. Mary Baker Eddy plagiarized from Phineas Parkhurst Quimby’s *Science of Man* (1850’s) and many other sources of her time (See, Martin Gardner, *The Healing Revelations of Mary Baker Eddy: The Rise and Fall of Christian Science*, Prometheus Books, 1993).

B. Ellen G. White, plagiarized from James White, *Life has its Incidents*, (1868) as well as other writers of her time (See Walter T. Rea, *The White Lie*, Moore Publishing Company, 1983). C. Joseph Smith Jr. (mid 1800’s) plagiarized largely from the *King James Bible* and other writers of his time (See, Jerald and Sandra Tanner, *Joseph Smith’s Plagiarism of the Bible in the Book of Mormon*, Salt Lake City UT (Utah Lighthouse Ministry, 2013).

#### **XVII. CULTS OFTEN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL AND RESTRICT MEMBERS FROM STUDYING OUTSIDE**

**MATERIALS, ESPECIALLY ANY LITERATURE CRITICAL OF THE GROUP. SUCH RESTRICTIONS INCLUDE:**

- The Bible
- Theological books (Evangelical)
- Commentaries (Evangelical)
- Apologetical Materials
- Exposés on cultic teaching

**XVIII. CULTISTS ARE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY PHILOSOPHY, EMPTY DECEPTION, TRADITIONS OF MEN AND ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD.**

A. “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world rather than according to Christ” (Col 2:8).

B. “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the anti-christ” (2 John 1:7).

**XIX. CULT LEADERS ARE OFTEN GREEDY.**

A. “And He said to them, *Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed*; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions” (Luke 12:15).

B. “*and in their greed they will exploit you with false words*; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep” (2 Peter 2:3).

**XX. CULTS OFTEN HAVE OCCULTIC TEACHINGS.**

A. “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and *doctrines of demons*” (1 Tim 4:1).

B. “But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, *demonic*” (James 3:14–15).

**XXI. CULTISTS OFTEN UNWITTINGLY PERMIT SATAN’S PRESENCE TO HAVE AN INFLUENCE IN THEIR CHURCHES.**

A. “Behold, I will cause those of the *synagogue of Satan*, who say that they are Jews, and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you”(Rev. 3:9).

B. “I know where you dwell, *where Satan’s throne is*; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells” (Rev 2:13).

## **XXII. CULTIST ARE OFTEN GUILTY OF FALSE PROPHECY.**

A. “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deut 13:1–3).

B. “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him” (Deut 18:22).

## **Conclusion**

Let us be dedicated to a local church that is committed to the fundamental and evangelical teachings of the Christian Church; let us hold firmly to the faith once delivered to the Saints (Jude 3).

## QUIZ: NEW TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

1. Which Jewish party denied the doctrine of the resurrection?
  - a. The Sadducees
  - b. the Pharisees
  - c. The Herodians
  - d. The Essenes
  
2. . Which body of water did Jesus walk on?
  - a. The Jordan River
  - b. The Mediterranean Sea
  - c. The Sea of Galilee
  - d. The Pool of Siloam
  
3. Which leader ordered the slaying of Bethlehem's children in order to kill the infant Jesus?
  - a. Caesar Augustus
  - b. Pontius Pilate
  - c. Herod the Great
  - d. Harold and his purple crayon
  
4. . Where did Judas betray Jesus?.
  - a. the Mount of Olives
  - b. The Temple Mount
  - c. Mount Sinai
  - d. The Field of Blood (Akeldama)
  
5. This Roman leader who severely persecuted early Christians, even burning Christians to illuminate his garden?
  - a. Nero
  - b. Caligula
  - c. Antiochus IV Epiphanes
  - d. Joseph Stalin

6. This man served as a general in the Jewish revolt against Rome and later wrote important historical works (The Jewish Wars and The Antiquities of the Jews) about the period after the Roman victory.
- a. Joshua
  - b. David Ben Gurion
  - c. Robert Zimmerman
  - d. Flavius Josephus
7. Fortress where 960 Jews committed suicide rather than to surrender to the Roman army in A. D. 73.
- a. The Valley of Kidron
  - b. The Antonia Fortress
  - c. Masada
  - d. Death Valley
8. This Roman general (and later Emperor) destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70.
- a. Charles Spurgeon
  - b. David Livingstone (I presume)
  - c. John Wesley
  - d. William Carey
9. This Roman governor initially resisted, but ultimately capitulated to the demands of Jewish leaders to have Jesus crucified despite the pleas of his wife.
- a. Felix
  - b. Oscar
  - c. Pontius Pilate
  - d. Herod Antipas
10. The Roman town where the apostle Paul was imprisoned when an earthquake struck, leading to the salvation of the Jailer.
- a. Athens
  - b. Philippi
  - c. Ephesus
  - d. Troas

Answers:

1, a; 2, c; 3, c; 4, a; 5, a; 6, d; 7, c; 8, c; 9, c; 10, b

**Personal Notes on the Articles:**

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