



“Since we do not want our worship to be in vain, it is important for each one of us to examine his religion. We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God’s Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such an examination. It should be the sincere desire of every one of us to learn what God’s will is for us, and then to do it.” - (The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life 1968 p.13 “Why It Is Wise to Examine Your Religion”)

“Can there be false religion? It is not a form of religious persecution for anyone to say and to show that another religion is false. It is not religious persecution for an informed person to expose publicly a certain religion as being false, thus allowing persons to see the difference between false religion and true religion.”- (*Watchtower* November 15, 1963 p.688 “Execution of Divine Judgment upon False Religion”)

“An open mind is free from the fetters of prejudice, which by one dictionary is defined as follows: 'A judgment or opinion, favorable or unfavorable, formed beforehand or without due examination; a mental decision based on other grounds than reason or justice; especially, a premature or adversely biased opinion.'

“A necessary part of life is that we make decisions and reach judgments. But decisions made 'without due examination' or judgments reached 'on other grounds than reason or justice' are evidences of a closed mind.

“Having an open mind, on the other hand, means to be receptive to new information and ideas. It means being willing to examine and to evaluate information without a biased attitude. By retaining what is worthwhile and rejecting what is worthless, we can reach definite conclusions on a solid basis and still leave our minds open to further revision should additional information become available at a future time. He who feels he has learned it all can be sure that this attitude will prevent him from ever learning more.

#### “Why People Have Closed Minds

“A closed mind may indicate lack of knowledge. We may know so little about a subject, or have information so distorted or incomplete, that the facts necessary to reach proper conclusions are missing.” - (*Awake!* November 22, 1984 pp.3-4 “An Open or a Closed Mind—Which Do You Have?”)

Keeping these quotes in mind, we can clearly see that we should examine our own religion with an open mind. The Watchtower itself encourages such examination. In fact “The Watchtower... invites careful and critical examination of its contents in the light of the Scriptures.” (*Watchtower* August 15, 1950 p. 263)

So then, let's ask some critical questions, shall we?

- ***What is the biblical basis for asserting that Jesus Christ returned “invisibly” in 1914?***
- ***If Jesus returned in 1914 and chose the Watchtower organization\* as his “faithful and discrete slave”, what made it so especially different from the rest of Christendom?***
- ***If the Watchtower organization was, in fact, chosen by Christ in 1914, has it continued to remain “faithful and discrete” in its teachings and actions?***
- ***Can a member of the Watchtower organization ask these basic questions without repercussions?***

\*“Watchtower” and “Watchtower organization” is used in this thesis synonymously with the collective “organization” comprised of the Christian Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses (CCJW), the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania (WBTS of PA.), the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York (WBTS of NY), the International Bible Students Association (IBSA), and other smaller affiliate corporations, congregations, committees, etc.

## What is the biblical basis for asserting that Jesus Christ returned “invisibly” in 1914?

An appendix article on page 215 of the book What Does the Bible Really Teach? attempts to address this question in a section entitled “1914—A Significant Year in Bible Prophecy”. I will now duplicate that article in full, including footnotes. I will also offer commentary on its statements in ***bold italicized*** text at certain points.

DECADES in advance, Bible students proclaimed that there would be significant developments in 1914. What were these, and what evidence points to 1914 as such an important year?

***What "significant developments" did "Bible students" proclaim exactly? Did the "significant developments" they proclaim actually occur?***

As recorded at Luke 21:24, Jesus said: “Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times of the nations [“the times of the Gentiles,” *King James Version*] are fulfilled.” Jerusalem had been the capital city of the Jewish nation the seat of rulership of the line of kings from the house of King David. (Psalm 48:1, 2) However, these kings were unique among national leaders. They sat on “Jehovah's throne” as representatives of God himself. (1Chronicles 29:23) Jerusalem was thus a symbol of Jehovah's rulership.

***Okay...***

How and when, though, did God's rulership begin to be “trampled on by the nations”?

***Wait a second... We jumped here. In the first paragraph the article stated that "Jerusalem was thus a symbol of Jehovah's rulership". Christ indeed prophesied that Jerusalem would be trampled upon by the nations, but there's a distinct but important difference between a symbol of God's presence on Earth and God's literal sovereignty itself.***

This happened in 607 B.C.E. when Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians. “Jehovah's throne” became vacant, and the line of kings who descended from David was interrupted. (2Kings 25:1-26)

***Did it really? Why is it that both biblical scholars and secular historians agree that Babylon invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the temple in either 586 or 587 B.C?***

Would this 'trampling' go on forever? No, for the prophecy of Ezekiel said regarding Jerusalem's last king, Zedekiah: “Remove the turban, and lift off the crown. ... It will certainly become no one's until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him.” (Ezekiel 21:26, 27) The one who has the legal right to the Davidic crown is Christ Jesus. (Luke 1:32, 33) So the 'trampling' would end when Jesus became King.

***Didn't Jesus say in Luke 21:24 that Jerusalem will be [future tense] trampled? What is there in Luke 21 to indicate that Jesus was prophesying something that occurred in the past?***

When would that grand event occur? Jesus showed that the Gentiles would rule for a fixed period of time. The account in Daniel chapter 4 holds the key to knowing how long that period would last. It relates a prophetic dream experienced by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He saw an immense tree that was chopped down. Its stump could not grow because it was banded with iron and copper. An angel declared: “Let *seven times* pass over it.” Daniel 4:10-16.

In the Bible, trees are sometimes used to represent rulership. (Ezekiel 17:22-24; 31:2-5) So the chopping down of the symbolic tree represents how God's rulership, as expressed through the kings at Jerusalem, would be interrupted. However, the vision served notice that this 'trampling of Jerusalem' would be temporary--a period of “seven times”. How long a period is that?

Revelation 12:6, 14 indicates that three and a half times equal “a thousand two hundred and sixty days.” “Seven times” would therefore last twice as long, or 2,520 days. But the Gentile nations did not stop 'trampling' on God's rulership a mere 2,520 days after Jerusalem's fall. Evidently, then, this prophecy covers a much longer period of time. On the basis of Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6, which speak of “a day for a year,” the seven times would

cover 2,520 years.

***Is it just me or does this sound terribly convoluted? The "seven times" of Daniel 4:16 along with the tree itself are both clearly explained in Daniel 4:20-27. To get 2,520 years out of "seven times" in Daniel is poor exegesis to say the least.***

***First the article states "In the Bible, trees are sometimes used to represent rulership". Absolutely, in this case it was used to represent the rulership of King Nebuchadnezzar as explained for us in the account of Daniel itself (Daniel 4:22). From there it goes on to state "So the chopping down of the symbolic tree represents God's rulership, as expressed through the kings at Jerusalem, would be interrupted." That statement does not follow the previous one. Where in scripture does it ever indicate that the tree represents "God's rulership, as expressed through kings at Jerusalem"? The article is quite literally reading in to the scriptures something that's not there.***

The 2,520 years began in October 607 B.C.E., when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and the Davidic king was taken off his throne. The period ended in October 1914. At that time, "the appointed times of the nations" ended, and Jesus Christ was installed as God's heavenly King.\*--Psalm 2:1-6; Daniel 7:13, 14.

***William Miller<sup>1</sup> used this exact line of reasoning to prove how the world would end in 1843. Suffice it to say he was disappointed. He used a bogus start date of 677 B.C for the fall of Jerusalem. Is 607 B.C.E really any more valid?***

***C. T. Russell later used this reasoning, adopted from the Second Adventists, to first predict the return of Christ in 1873<sup>2</sup>. When that failed, he later claimed that Christ really did return, but did so invisibly in 1874<sup>3</sup>.***

***He then predicted that the world would end in 1914<sup>4</sup>. When that failed, he predicted it would end in 1915<sup>5</sup>. The end finally came in 1916... for Russell. Rutherford then predicted that Armageddon had indeed started in 1914, but that the world would finally come to an end in 1925<sup>6</sup>. When that failed as well, the "invisible return" idea was re-dated to 1914<sup>7</sup> from 1874.***

***What all three of these men failed to understand was Acts 1:7 where Jesus said "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."***

Just as Jesus predicted, his "presence" as heavenly King has been marked by dramatic world developments--war, famine, earthquakes, pestilences. (Matthew 24:3-8; Luke 21:11) Such developments bear powerful testimony to the fact that 1914 indeed marked the birth of God's heavenly Kingdom and the beginning of the last days of this present wicked system of things.--2Timothy 3:1-5.

***Actually, Jesus Christ specifically warned against false prophets that would claim He had returned "invisibly" (Matthew 24:24-27).***

[Footnote]

\* From October 607B.C.E. to October 1 B.C.E. is 606 years. Since there is no zero year, from October 1 B.C.E. to October 1914 C.E. is 1,914 years. By adding 606 years and 1,914 years, we get 2,520 years. For information

<sup>1</sup>See Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology Selected from Manuscripts of William Miller with a Memoir of his Life by Joshua V. Himes. For information in summary, consult Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>) or any other such exhaustive online Encyclopedia for the "Great Disappointment" or "William Miller".

<sup>2</sup>See Evidences for the Coming of the Lord in 1873; or the Midnight Cry by Nelson H. Barbour (a close associate of Russell's, compare Jehovah's Witnesses: Proclaimers of God's Kingdom [1993] p. 120)

<sup>3</sup>The Time Is At Hand (Studies in the Scriptures Vol. 2) (1906) p.240, Thy Kingdom Come (Studies in the Scriptures Vol. 3) (1908) p.216

<sup>4</sup>Watchtower October 1890 p.1 (r1243), 01/15/1892 p.1355, 07/15/1894 p.231 (r1677)

<sup>5</sup>The Time Is At Hand (Studies in the Scriptures Vol. 2) (1915 Edition) pp. 39, 40, 77, 99, 101, 235, 242

<sup>6</sup>Millions Now Living Will Never Die (1920) pp. 88-90, 97, Golden Age 01/04/1922, p. 217, Watchtower, 05/15/1922 p. 150, Ibid. 09/01/1922 p. 262, 04/01/1923 p. 106

<sup>7</sup>Watchtower 03/01/1925 pp. 67-74, "Birth of a Nation"

on Jerusalem's fall in 607 B.C.E., see the article "Chronology" in *Insight on the Scriptures*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

***It's interesting to note that both Miller and Russell made the "zero year" mistake.***

***Miller originally proclaimed the world would end in 1843. People got on their rooftops in white robes expecting Jesus to return on one particular night that year. When nothing happened they were understandably disappointed and stopped following Miller. When Miller realized there's no 0 year, he adjusted his prediction to 1844 and gained even more followers (who were subsequently disappointed).***

***Russell originally claimed that Jerusalem fell in 606 B.C.<sup>8</sup>, and from that derived 1914 via Miller's 2,520 year mumbo jumbo. When the world failed to end in 1914, he realized there's no 0 year and moved the date up a year just like Miller to 1915 and was similarly disappointed.***

***Now here's where it gets really interesting however...***

***After Russell died, it was realized that WWI seemed too significant to just pass up. Rutherford, therefore, retroactively changed history (which he did frequently with old Watchtower reprints<sup>9</sup> anyhow) and moved the date for the fall of Jerusalem back one year from 606 to 607 in order to preserve 1914<sup>10</sup>. I think any rational person would start to wonder about the historical validity of 607 B.C.E based on that fact alone.***

So, basically to paraphrase... In order for 1914 to have any kind of validity at all, 607 B.C.E must first be a valid historical date. I would like to emphasize here, however, that this is not a matter of secular history versus the biblical record.

The truth of the matter is that the Bible is simply silent on the matter. The Bible does not give absolute dates, but only *relative* dates. The date of 586/587 B.C.E is based on the same evidence we use to establish the date of the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C.E. The 70 years referenced in Jeremiah 25:11 could not possibly be a period from 607 B.C.E. to 537 B.C.E. How could it be when it explicitly states "these nations will have to serve the king of Babylon seventy years"? The "king of Babylon" was **dead** for two years in 537 B.C.E. He was killed when Babylon was overthrown two years earlier in 539 B.C.E.

It would be much more logical and historically coherent to assert that the "seventy years" of Jeremiah 25 were those of servitude beginning in 609 B.C.E. When Judah rebelled against Jehovah's servant, Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 25:9), the temple was destroyed and the nation was taken into captivity in 586/7 B.C.E. This would be historically accurate, harmonize with prophecy, and would really be the most sound biblical interpretation overall.

There's only one problem here, however... According to the October, 15, 1988 edition of *The Watchtower* "The Babylonians came in 607 B.C.E. and stripped Jerusalem bare. Her people and her wealth were carried off to Babylon. The city was destroyed, the temple was burned, and the land was left desolate." We thus see that the destruction of the temple and the decimation of Jerusalem are tied to the same year (which is historically true). However, that year is cited as being 607 B.C.E. If we substitute 607 B.C.E for the historically accurate and biblically sound date of 586/7 B.C.E we come to 1934/5 not 1914. That's assuming that the "seven times" can be reasonably interpreted as a period of 2,520 years (which is a convoluted supposition at best).

<sup>8</sup>Revelation: Its Grand Climax At Hand! (1988) p.105 (Box)

<sup>9</sup>For instance, compare editions of The Time Is At Hand prior to mid-1912 with editions after mid-1912, p. 101. The change was done in the middle of the printing run for the 1912 edition of 1,209,000. The March 1, 1915 *Watch Tower* called attention to *some* of these changes, on page 5649 of *Reprints*. It said: "We call attention to a few slight changes which have been made in four pages of Vol. II. and six pages of Vol. III., 'STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES.' These are all trivial and do not alter the real sense and lesson, but conform to the facts as we have them today." Then are listed the changes pointed out above, from pages 77-81 of The Time Is At Hand, but for some reason the changes on pages 99-101 are not listed. As to the claim that the real sense is not altered, the reader may judge for himself. The proper way of handling changes such as these is to label the changed books as "Revised Editions."

<sup>10</sup>One has only to search for "607 B.C.E" on any search engine (i.e. [Google.com](http://www.google.com)) to see how particular this year is to Watchtower chronology. While Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, and others claim Jerusalem fell in 606 B.C., and actually reliable historians claim it was either 586 or 587 B.C, it is only the Watchtower organization that claims it was 607 B.C.

## **If Jesus returned in 1914 and chose the Watchtower organization as his “faithful and discrete slave”, what made it so especially different from the rest of Christendom?**

First of all, we have to ask what is the “faithful and discrete slave” in the first place? Rather than simply accepting the limited interpretation of the Watchtower, which could not possibly claim to be unbiased in this matter (as it claims to be a primary channel of the “faithful and discrete slave class” itself), we would do good to examine claims of more neutral third-party Bible expositors. Considering that the Watchtower has used Matthew Henry's Commentary before for its own citations, perhaps we should see what Henry has to say on the matter of Matthew 24:45-51. The following is from Matthew Henry's Commentary (In One Volume) p. 1331:

[1] Concerning the *good servant*; he shows here he is—a *ruler of the household*; what, being so, he should be—*faithful and wise*; and what, if he be so, he shall be eternally—*blessed*.

*First*, We have here his place and office. He is one *whom his Lord has made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season*. The church of Christ is his household, or family, standing in relation to him as the Father and Master of it. Gospel ministers are appointed *rulers* in this household; not as princes but as stewards, or other subordinated officers; not as lords, but as guides. They are rulers by Christ; what power they have is derived from him. The work of gospel ministers is to give to Christ's household their meat in due season, as stewards. Their work is *to give*, not take to themselves, but give to the family what the Master has bought, to *dispense* what Christ has *purchased*. It is to give *meat*; not to give *law* (that is Christ's work), but to deliver those doctrines to the church which, if duly digested, will be nourishment to souls. They must give the meat that is *sound and wholesome*. It must be given *in due season*, that is, whenever any opportunity offers itself; or time after time, according as the duty of every day requires.

It goes on from there, but I think it's quite clear by now that it is Henry's opinion that the “faithful and discrete slave” most simply refers to “gospel ministers”. Any who have been called to this ministry must be “faithful and discrete” in their execution of this task. This is in contrast to the “evil slave” who beats his fellow servants with legalistic dogma and utter hypocrisy, but we'll get to that part later.

In the mean time, I should point out that C. T. Russell had his own peculiar interpretation of this passage in Matthew 24. He fancied himself as none other than the sole holder of this supposedly singular office. Consider the following quote:

“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” - *Watchtower* December 1, 1916 p.357

Currently, of course, the “faithful and discrete slave” is interpreted by The Watchtower organization as a peculiar class comprised of the “remnant” of 144,000 “anointed” people still left on Earth who supposedly administrate the Watchtower organization collectively, despite the complete disconnect between the “Governing Body” and the mass of people it supposedly represents. If the “Governing Body” truly represents the collective will of the “anointed” remnant, when are these special members ever consulted? One has only to ask any special JW who claims to be “of the anointed” to find out.

All that aside, the entire question of organizational legitimacy for the peculiar sect, self-styled “Jehovah's Witnesses”, rests with the claim that Jesus Christ returned invisibly in 1914 and examined all of the various organizations in Christendom to determine who would be his exclusive “faithful and discrete slave”. With that in mind, let's compare and contrast the “Bible Student” organization of 1914-1925 with that of “Christendom”.

## Things in Common

1. *Worship of Jesus Christ.* Both C.T. Russell and J. F. Rutherford felt it was completely proper to worship Jesus. They felt this was completely acceptable, even though they both simultaneously taught that Jesus Christ is none other than Michael the Archangel (thus permitting and/or encouraging creature worship). This doctrine wasn't changed until 1954<sup>11</sup>. The Watchtower charter<sup>12</sup>, which was last amended in 1944, still states that the organization is founded in part “for public Christian worship of Almighty God and Christ Jesus;” (Article VII, p. 172). On that point, it's an interesting fact to note that the Watchtower is thus currently in violation of its own charter. I think we all can agree that it no longer promotes the “public Christian worship of... Christ Jesus”.
2. *Christmas Celebrations.* As the photo on the right illustrates, Christmas was still celebrated<sup>13</sup> at Watchtower headquarters until at least 1926. That's 10 years after Russell died (Rutherford himself is in the photo at the end of the center table), 12 years after 1914, and 7 years after Christ's supposed “temple inspection” of 1919<sup>14</sup>.
3. *Blood Transfusions.* Blood transfusions weren't banned until 1945<sup>15</sup>. In fact, Russell specifically stated<sup>16</sup> that blood, even as solely a dietary restriction as it is commonly interpreted, is no longer binding on Christians.
4. *“Heavenly Hope”.* The concept of a subclass of people that don't enjoy Christian salvation, but instead are supposed to be content with languishing on Earth forever, wasn't invented until 1935<sup>17</sup>. Until then, the 144,000 was thought to refer to faithful “Bible Students” who would be raptured at some very near point in the future.



<sup>11</sup>Compare *Watchtower*, 01/01/1954, p. 31 with *Ibid.*, 07/15/1898 or *Ibid.*, 08/15/1941

<sup>12</sup>The charter in question is for the “Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania” and is on the public record in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Additionally it's interesting to note that Article IX states “A member may be suspended for a period or expelled for cause upon wilfully violating any of the by-laws, reasonable rules, or ordinances of the Society, or upon becoming out of harmony with any of the Society's purposes...” Considering that Article VII clearly states it is one of “the Society's purposes” to engage in “public Christian worship of... Christ Jesus” it would seem that a good number of members, including the Governing Body itself, should be “suspended for a period or expelled” as the entire organization has definitely become “out of harmony” with this stated “purpose”.

<sup>13</sup>In the *Watchtower* 12/01/1904 p.364 there is a most interesting statement regarding Christmas: “Even though Christmas is not the real anniversary of our Lord's birth, but more properly the annunciation day or the date of his human begetting (Luke 1:28), nevertheless, since the celebration of our Lord's birth is not a matter of divine appointment or injunction, but merely a tribute of respect to him, it is not necessary for us to quibble particularly about the date. We may as well join with the civilized world in celebrating the grand event on the day which the majority celebrate - 'Christmas day.'”

<sup>14</sup>Compare *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* (1999) p. 300 to *Revelation: Its Grand Climax At Hand!* (1988) p. 184. The Watchtower claims through these two books that the 1,290 days of Daniel 12:11 refers to the exact same period as the 1,260 days of Revelation 12:6. Or January to September for Daniel and Spring to Autumn for Revelation. In regards to Daniel the League of Nations was actually proposed by the Paris Peace Conference on January 25, 1919. If we add 1,290 days to this date we come to August 7, 1919. That's several weeks shy of “September” to be sure. Furthermore, the Autumnal Equinox occurs on September 22 in the Northern Hemisphere which is yet more weeks off from August 7th.

<sup>15</sup>*Watchtower* 07/01/1945 p. 201

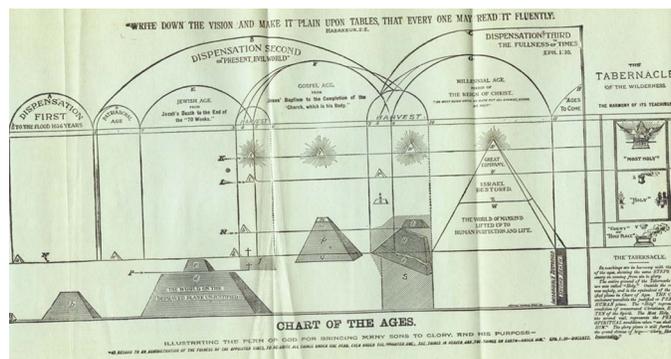
<sup>16</sup>*Watchtower* 04/15/1909 p. 116

<sup>17</sup>According to the Watchtower, these are Jehovah's Grandkids - *Watchtower* 11/1/1989 p. 20

5. *God's Name*. While most Jews and Christians alike agree that God's name is Jehovah<sup>18</sup> (or, more accurately, Yahweh), the Watchtower is fond of pointing out that “Jehovah's Witnesses” are the only ones loudly proclaiming this fact as though it were a secret otherwise. Ironically enough, however, the Watchtower's own usage<sup>19</sup> of Jehovah was roughly the same if not less than the typical frequency found throughout Christendom at the time. In fact, it could be argued that the only reason its usage has diminished in modern times (especially in favor of the more accurate transliteration Yahweh, for instance) is that many would rather not be associated with the “Jehovah's Witnesses” sect.
6. *Tobacco*. Although tobacco usage was discouraged throughout the organization's history (as it is in many churches), it was not considered an offense incompatible with membership until 1973<sup>20</sup>. In fact the entire practice of disfellowshipping, as it is understood by “Jehovah's Witnesses”, was not practiced until 1944.
7. *The Cross*. It wasn't until 1936<sup>21</sup> that Rutherford introduced the “torture stake” theory. Until then it was commonly understood, as it is by secular historians, that Jesus was crucified. The cross itself was commonly depicted in scenes of the crucifixion throughout the Watchtower, and the cross was found on the cover of Zion's Watchtower for years after Russell's death. The particular cross featured was inside of a crown, but we'll get to that later.

## Some Differences

1. *The Pyramid of Giza*. Until the day that he died, Russell taught that the pyramid of Giza was “God's stone witness” corroborating biblical prophecy. The pyramid was an essential part of his entire eschatology, and he outlined detailed measurements of its interior shafts and general dimensions. This detailed study is known as pyramidology and is one of the finest examples of quack science in which Russell was involved (other examples include phrenology<sup>22</sup>, astrology<sup>23</sup>, and numerology<sup>24</sup>). The “Proclaimers” book on page 201 gives a brief nod to this extensive obsession of Russell's, but downplays it completely. The truth of the matter is that Russell had a whole fold-out chart called the “Chart of the Ages” printed within the The Divine Plan of the Ages (republished as Studies in the Scriptures (Volume 1)).



<sup>18</sup>“Jehovah” itself is derived from “Jehovah” which evolved from “Jehouah” which was the first English transcription of the Divine Name made in William Tyndale's translation of the Pentateuch (1530). “Jehouah” was created by ignorantly transposing the vowel markers of “adonai” (Heb. for “Lord”) over the four consonants YHWH. Most scholars agree that the vowel markers in the Hebrew texts used were not pronunciation guides but simply a visual reminder to the reader to simply say Adonai rather than attempt to pronounce the Name. For a comprehensive overview on the subject, visit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahweh>

<sup>19</sup>Let the honest-hearted reader compare the frequency of “Jehovah” throughout the Watchtower's assorted literature before 1931 with other religious literature of that time period. Of course, if you're a faithful JW you are basically prohibited from doing either, aren't you?

<sup>20</sup>Watchtower 05/15/1995 p.23

<sup>21</sup>Compare Riches (1936) p.27 with Reconciliation (1928) p.168

<sup>22</sup>Watchtower 01/15/1915 p.19 (r5611)

<sup>23</sup>Watchtower 05/01/1903 p.131 (r3184)

<sup>24</sup>If you've ever gotten a headache trying to figure out how “seven times” comes to 2,520 years, it becomes pretty obvious that the Watchtower is obsessed with numerological supposition to this day.

2. *Freemasonry*. While it is difficult to absolutely prove whether or not C. T. Russell was a Freemason himself (considering that it's a secret society, that's to be expected), his extensive association with them is a matter of public record. For instance, he used Masonic “signals” in the form of symbols such as the “Cross and Crown”. While your average JW may have a faint recollection of *Zion's Watch Tower* usage of a cross on its cover, many are completely ignorant of its true significance. It was not merely a cross, but the “Cross and Crown”, a symbol of the Knights Templar<sup>25</sup>. Additionally Russell held sermons and other gatherings in Masonic temples<sup>26</sup>, a practice that has continued decades<sup>27</sup> after his death. As illustrated on the right, the “Watchtower Bible and Tract Society” erected a memorial for Russell several feet from his grave. It is a large stone pyramid with a “Cross and Crown” symbol inscribed above a plaque which reads “WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY”



3. *Fraud*. Through the pages of *Zion's Watch Tower*<sup>28</sup>, C. T. Russell advertised wheat seed for sale at \$1.00 a pound (quite expensive for the day). He called it “Miracle Wheat” and it was claimed, among other things, that the wheat would grow five times as much as any other wheat on the market. The proceeds were to go to the “Watch Tower” and be used for publishing Russell's sermons. When the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*<sup>29</sup> published a cartoon mocking the venture, Russell sued for libel, asking \$100,000 damages. When Government tests determined that there was, in fact, nothing special about the wheat at all, the *Eagle* won the suit.
4. *False Prophecies*. Throughout the entire history of the Watchtower organization, it has published explicit dates for Armageddon, the Lord's Return, etc. All of them have inevitably failed<sup>30</sup>. Since 1975, the Watchtower has generally refrained from making explicit statements. However, before 1925 the Watchtower, Russell, and his associates continually set dates that were since proved false. Some dates include 1873, 1874, 1875 (mostly from Barbour), 1914, 1915, 1918, and 1925.

Suffice it to say, if Jesus did truly return “invisibly” in 1914 why would he possibly pick Russell's organization then? In 1914 it was perfectly acceptable and encouraged to worship Jesus, celebrate Christmas, and boldly display the cross on religious literature. “Jehovah” was not used in evangelistic literature anymore than the rest of Christendom, all the “Bible Students” figured they were going to Heaven, and members could drink, smoke, and accept blood transfusions (even eat blood as Russell figured the dietary restriction didn't apply either).

<sup>25</sup>The Knights Templar is the highest Order of the “York Rite”. It is roughly equivalent to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree of the “Scottish Rite” within Freemasonry.

<sup>26</sup>In the 1913 Convention Report of the International Bible Students page 120 “Temple of God” sermon, Pastor Russell states “I am very glad to have this particular opportunity of saying a word about some of the things in which we agree with our Masonic friends, because we are speaking in a building dedicated to Masonry, and we also are Masons. I am a Freemason.”

<sup>27</sup>If you use your *Watchtower Library* CD to search for “Masonic”, within the search results you'll notice scheduled assemblies and other gatherings throughout the years held at Masonic Lodges and Temples.

<sup>28</sup>*Watchtower* 03/15/1908 p.86 (r4152), Ibid. 09/01/1910 p. 279 (r4674), Ibid. 06/15/1911 p.178 (r4844)

<sup>29</sup>*The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 01/01/1913 pp.1-2 “Miracle Wheat Scandal”, Ibid. 01/22/1913 p.2 “Russellite Beliefs”, Ibid. 01/23/1913 p.3 “Testimony on Wheat”, Ibid. 01/25/1913 p.16 “Financial Statements Proving Russell's Absolute Control” by Secretary-Treasurer Van Amberg, Ibid. 01/27/1913 p.3 “Government Experts Testify on 'Miracle Wheat' and Ascertain Its Ordinarity”, Ibid. 01/28/1913 p.2 “Prosecution and Defense Closing Arguments”, Ibid. 01/29/1913 p.16 “Russell Loses Libel Suit”

<sup>30</sup>For a comprehensive overview of quotes illustrating the Watchtower's great plethora of false prophecies over the years, navigate to this URL—<http://www.geocities.com/paulblizard/dates.html> or just google for “Watchtower False Prophecies”

One could argue that the Watchtower organization was chosen based on its Arian<sup>31</sup> theology, but then, plenty of other organizations assert the same heresy to this day. Examples include the Unitarian Universalists or the Arian Catholics (not to mention all of Islam, New Age, or any other movement that denies the Deity of Christ while affirming the Deity of “Jehovah”).

In summary, the only real distinguishing characteristics peculiar to the “Bible Students” in 1914 is their numerous false prophecies, lies, and involvement in Freemasonry and other occult practices (a.k.a **Satanism**).

<sup>31</sup>Arius of Alexandria was a fourth century heretic who first proposed the christology employed by the Watchtower to this day. Visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arius> for more information.

## **If the Watchtower organization was, in fact, chosen by Christ in 1914, has it continued to remain “faithful and discrete” in its teachings and actions?**

“How will you respond when pointed statements are made about false religious teachings and corrupt practices? Will you immediately condemn the person or organization making the exposé? Do you feel it is all right to teach lies and misrepresent God’s Word, but wrong to expose the error? Contrary to what some may think, it is not unkind and unloving to lay bare falsehood and corruption.”- (*Watchtower* March 1, 1966 p.132 “Should Falsehood and Corruption Be Exposed?”)

Putting aside the Watchtower's sordid past for a moment, let's examine the Watchtower's more recent history. Has the “organization” truly demonstrated itself to be in the hands of a “faithful and discrete slave”? A number of recent issues would seem to challenge that assertion. Consider the following...

- Why did the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York* join the UN as an NGO in 1992 and remain a member for 9 years until it was exposed by *The Guardian*<sup>32</sup> newspaper in 2001? (Exhibit A)
- Why was the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania* along with the *The European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses* registered as NGO's for the “OSCE<sup>33</sup> Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance”? (Exhibit B)
- Why has the “Watchtower Society” profited from warfare technology stocks<sup>34</sup> for some 16 years?
- The latest Kingdom News 37 tract entitled “*The End of False Religion is Near*” states “Even churches that condemn immorality have tolerated religious leaders who have sexually abused<sup>35</sup> children.” Has not the Watchtower organization done exactly that?
- Does not all of this amount to blatant hypocrisy?

If you write to the “Society” and ask the two first questions they will send you in reply what amounts to a form letter. To the first question in regards to the WBTS's UN membership, the organization's official position is basically that they joined to gain access to “research material... at the United Nations library facilities.” This official explanation (Letter A) makes little sense, considering that the library in question (the Dag Hammarskjöld) is accessible to the public online<sup>36</sup>. No NGO membership is required! Now, it could be argued that certain areas of the physical library itself are off-limits to the public, but then does that really justify associating with the “wild beast”<sup>37</sup> as a UN NGO?

The second form letter in regards to the Watchtower's investment in warfare technology basically asserts that “The Watchtower Society was erroneously listed as a stockholder...” The letter plainly contradicts SEC legal filings that have been filed repeatedly for at least 16 years. Whether or not the Watchtower asked for the donated stocks, it is an undeniable fact that as a chief stockholder the WBTS has received no less than 52 SEC filings plus *at least* 60 official news releases from REGI.

<sup>32</sup>*The Guardian* October 8, 2001 “Jehovah's Witnesses link to UN queried”, Ibid. October 15, 2001 “‘Hypocrite’ Jehovah's Witnesses abandon secret link with UN”. Both of these articles are available online at this URL--<http://www.guardian.co.uk/> Specifically <http://www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,,565199,00.html> and <http://www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,,574175,00.html>

<sup>33</sup>The OSCE is the “Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe”. It is roughly the European equivalent to NATO. For more information visit <http://www.osce.org/about/>

<sup>34</sup>For a comprehensive overview check out this URL--<http://www.geocities.com/wtgreed/article.htm>

<sup>35</sup><http://www.watchtowerinformationsservice.org/index.php/sexual-child-abuse/video-my-molester-is-still-a-jehovahs-witness-elder/>

<sup>36</sup><http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/>

<sup>37</sup>*Revelation: Its Grand Climax at Hand!* (1988) p. 248

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
**DPI NGO**  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
SECTION

United Nations, DPI/NGO Resource Centre, Room L-1B-31  
Tel: (212) 963-7233, 7234, 7078 \* Fax: (212) 963-2819 \* E-mail: [dpingo@un.org](mailto:dpingo@un.org)

4 March 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently the NGO Section has been receiving numerous inquiries regarding the association of the **Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York** with the Department of Public Information (DPI). This organization applied for association with DPI in 1991 and was granted association in 1992. By accepting association with DPI, the organization agreed to meet criteria for association, including support and respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes with its constituents and to a broader audience about UN activities.

In October 2001, the Main Representative of the **Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York** to the United Nations, Giro Aulicino, requested termination of its association with DPI. Following this request, the DPI made a decision to disassociate the **Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York** as of 9 October 2001.

Please be informed that it is the policy of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations to keep correspondence between the United Nations and NGOs associated with DPI confidential. However, please see below the paragraph included in all letters sent to NGOs approved for association in 1992:

“The principal purpose of association of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations Department of Public Information is the redissemination of information in order to increase public understanding of the principles, activities and achievements of the United Nations and its Agencies. Consequently, it is important that you should keep us informed about your organization's information programme as it relates to the United Nations, including sending us issues of your relevant publications. We are enclosing a brochure on the “The United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations”, which will give you some information regarding the NGO relationship.”

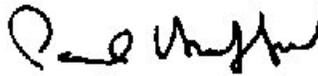
In addition, the criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI include the following:

- that the NGO share the principles of the UN Charter;
- operate solely on a not-for-profit basis;
- have a demonstrated interest in United Nations issues and a proven ability to reach large or specialized audiences, such as educators, media representatives, policy makers and the business community;

- have the commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes about UN activities by publishing newsletters, bulletins and pamphlets, organizing conferences, seminars and round tables; and enlisting the cooperation of the media.

We expect that you will share this information with your concerned colleagues, as we are unable to address the scores of duplicate requests regarding the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society that are being directed to our offices. Thank you for your interest in the work of the United Nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Hoeffel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Hoeffel  
Chief

NGO Section  
Department of Public Information



MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS  
EXTERIORES Y DE  
COOPERACION

12/05/2005 MINISTERIO  
03/06/2005  
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y DE COOPERACION

**LIST OF NGOs  
REGISTERED FOR  
THE OSCE CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SEMITISM AND  
ON OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE**

(Cordoba, 8 and 9 June 2005)

COUNTRY	NGOS
<b>ALBANIA</b>	<p>RBA (Rromani Baxt albania) LAZE, Juljana (coordinador)</p> <p>Institute of Camera Studies Tirana HYSENI, Daniel (Miembro Consejo) GAZMEND, Haxhia (Pte. Consejo)</p>
<b>GERMANY</b>	<p>Jugendschutz.net GLASER, Stefan (Jefe Proyecto)</p> <p>Initiative 9 Nov. 1938 FRANKE RUTH, Barbara DZIALOWSKI, ABRAHAM</p> <p>Ramer Center for German-Jewish Relations LAGODINSKY, Sergey</p> <p>American Jewish Committee PALLADE, Yves (coordinador antisemitismo)</p> <p>German-Jewish Relations BERGER, Deldre</p> <p>European Jewish Congress (EJC) KNOBLOCH, Charlotte (Vice-Presidente)</p> <p>Center for Research on Antisemitism Technical University Berlin WETZEL, Jullane ( Dr.)</p> <p>Kreuzberg Initiative Against Anti-Semitism. JIKELI, Günther</p> <p>Amadeu Antonio Foundation Berlin KAHANE, Anetta (Presidenta)</p> <p>Moses-Mendelssohn for European-Jewish Studies,</p>

	<p>Transatlantic Institute WEISBLATT, Karen (Director Ejecutivo) STERN, Ken (Especialis anti-semitismo y Extrem.</p> <p>Centre Européen Juif d'Information CHARHON, Pascale (Director)</p> <p>Church of Scientology International –European Human Rights Office WALSH, William (Consejero Legal) WEIGHTMAN, Martin (Dr.Derechos Humanos)</p> <p>TUJS (Turkish Union of Jewish Students) ASAL, Semi (Vice-Presidente)</p> <p>European Union of Jewish Students LANDE, Jardena</p> <p>World Jewish Congress VAN EMDEN, Gidon Andre WEINBER, Serge (Asesor) BAROUCH, Avi (Asesor)</p> <p>B'nai B'rith Europe LEVY-BENTOLILA, David (Presidente)</p> <p>The European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses GILLIES, Paul (Consejero ) GILLET, Marcel (Consejero)</p> <p>Ilga- Europe (0032 2 609 5412) PREDEVILLE, Patricia (Dr.Ejecutivo) ANMEGHICHEAN, Maxim (Director Programas)</p>
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
BULGARIA	<p>Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria "Shalom" OSCAR, Alexander KALO, Emil (Presidente) MASHIAH, Eva MELAMED, Victor</p>
CANADA	<p>Organization-Canadian Jewish Congreso OSTROFF, Michael</p> <p>World Jewish Congress RONEN, Moshe (Vice-Presidente)</p> <p>Canadian Jewish Congress PRUTSCHI, Manuel (Vice-Presid.Ejecutivo Nacional) MORGAN, Ed(Presidente) MORGAN, Anna –( 446-635-2883)</p>
CYPRUS	

	<p><b>North American Board of Rabbls</b> ROSENBAUM, Jay (Secretario General)</p> <p><b>American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors</b> BLOCH, SAM (Presidente)</p> <p><b>Open Society Justice Initiative</b> GORIS, Indira Xiomara (Coordinador programa) NEILD, Rachel Mary (Asesor Principal)</p> <p><b>The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights</b> GAER, Felice (Director) RIFKIND, Robert S. (Miembro) KESSLER, Sybil (Abogacia y Oficial de Editorial)</p> <p><b>American Jewish Comité</b> BAKER, Gabriel SIDEMAN, Richard (Pte. Consejo Gobierno)</p> <p><b>Internacional Center for Law and Religion Studies Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School (001-801-422-6842)</b> DURHAM, Jr., W.Cole DOXEY, Gary Bushman (Dr. Jefe) CARDON, Craig Allen (Becario)</p> <p><b>Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America</b> EHRENBERG, Betty ( Dr.Internacional)</p> <p><b>American Friends of Likud (212-308-5595)</b> RAPPAPORT, Eric</p> <p><i>International League For Human Rights</i> <i>ARSENAULT, Robert (Vice-presidente)</i> <i>Arizona ADL (520-326-6680 / 520-979-9177)</i> <i>BRADY, Karen (Profesora Religion)</i></p> <p><i>Freedom House (202-296-5101 ext.136)</i> <i>SHEA, Nina (Director)</i></p> <p><i>Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania (845-306-0711)</i> <i>ALLEN, Gregory</i></p>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	
<b>FINLAND</b>	
<b>FRANCE</b>	<p><b>Simon Wiesenthal Centre</b> COOPER, Abraham SAMUELS, Simón</p> <p><b>OPHI (Observatoire pour la prevention de la haine sur Internet)</b> JAKIC, Frédérique HOUBE, Philippe (Tesorero)</p>

**WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483 • Tel. 718 560-5000

██████████ November 1, 2001 No. ██████████

Via CompuServe

Branch Committee  
██

Dear Brothers:

Because of published allegations by opposers that we have secret links with the United Nations, a number of branches have inquired about the matter and we have replied. This circular letter replaces any replies we have given earlier and is sent to all branches. To anyone inquiring within your branch territory you might respond according to what is stated below:

Our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in 1991 was to have access to research material available on health, ecological, and social problems at the United Nations library facilities. We had been using the library for many years prior to 1991, but in that year it became necessary to register as an NGO to have continued access. Registration papers filed with the United Nations that we have on file contain no statements that conflict with our Christian beliefs. Moreover, NGOs are informed by the United Nations that "association of NGOs with the DPI does not constitute their incorporation into the United Nations system, nor does it entitle associated organizations or their staff to any kind of privileges, immunities or special status."

Still, the Criteria for Association of NGOs—at least in their latest version—contain language that we cannot subscribe to. When we realized this, we immediately withdrew our registration. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention.

We trust that the above is helpful in counteracting the attempts of opposers to discredit us.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Chairman's Committee

c: Administration Offices Desks  
Legal Department  
Office of Public Information

28-11-02 12:15

Page 03

Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses

2621 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2317 Phone: (845) 306-1100

November 11, 2002

Dear

However, we will now be glad to address your questions about the allegation that the Watch Tower Society owns stock in the Rand Cam Corporation.

After looking into this matter when it was first raised, we found that none of the legal corporations used by the Governing Body in caring for Kingdom interests own stock in the Rand Cam Corporation or any associate company involved in developing the diesel engine in question. The facts are that two brothers originally involved in inventing and developing the engine made a private agreement years ago (of which we were not notified) to send a portion of any profits realized from the venture to the Watch Tower Society as a gift for its worldwide work. Subsequently, circumstances required that rights to ownership and developing the engine be transferred to a holding company not controlled by them. The Watch Tower Society was erroneously listed as a stockholder in information published by the holding company, and this error has now been corrected. Hence, the charge is totally false. Moreover, the Watch Tower Society has received no contributions as a result of the original private agreement made between the two brothers.

We trust the above comments will be helpful to you. We send our warm love and Christian greetings.

Your brothers in Jehovah's service,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

It is quite clear to the discerning individual that the Watchtower's explanations do not stand up to the facts. In regards to the Watchtower's involvement with the UN the Watchtower claims "Our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in 1991 was to have access to research material available on health, ecological, and social problems at the United Nations library facilities."

According to the UN<sup>38</sup> "Anyone with a valid United Nations Headquarters grounds pass, including [specialized agencies](#), accredited media and NGO staff, is able to visit the library. Due to security constraints in place at the United Nations Headquarters complex, the library is not open to the general public. The vast majority of recent documentation is available to everyone electronically. Members of the public are invited to visit [depository libraries](#) located worldwide if they are in need of documentation in hard-copy format. The library provides online access to tools that assist clients in finding and using United Nations documentation including, [UN Documents Research Guide](#), the [UN Info Quest](#) (UN-I-Que) database, and an [e-mail reference](#) service."

While "the [Dag Hammarskjöld] library is not open to the general public" more than enough "research material" is "available to everyone electronically" and the Watchtower could have also simply visited a local "depository... if they [were] in need of documentation in hard-copy format". The library's catalog itself is easily available online<sup>39</sup> which offers the ability to conveniently search bibliographic records, voting records, and speeches. That's not to mention depository libraries which can fax over any information from the main library if necessary. Even if the Watchtower felt it was necessary to gain access to the main UN library, a "grounds pass" is all that is necessary.

Even if it *was* necessary to register for NGO status with the UN in order to gain access to such "research materials", would such association be justifiable? Consider the following quote: "A person might renounce his place in the Christian congregation by his actions, such as by becoming part of a secular organization that has objectives contrary to the Bible and, hence, is under judgment by Jehovah God." - [Organized to Do Jehovah's Will](#) p. 155

I think any knowledgeable JW would agree that the Watchtower views the UN as having "objectives contrary to the Bible and, hence, is under judgment by Jehovah God." Additionally, consider the example of the YMCA. Here's another quote in that regard...

"In joining the YMCA as a member a person accepts or endorses the general objectives and principles of the organization. He is not simply paying for something he receives, such as when buying things being sold to the public at a store. (Compare 1 Corinthians 8:10; 10:25.) Nor is his membership merely an entry pass, as when a person buys a theater ticket. Membership means that one has become an integral part of this organization founded with definite religious objectives, including the promotion of interfaith. Hence, for one of Jehovah's Witnesses to become a member of such a so-called 'Christian' association would amount to apostasy.

"Some individuals have on occasion not become members but have paid a onetime admission fee, viewing this as simply paying for a commercial service available. Even in this regard it is wise to consider whether this course will adversely affect the consciences of others? 1 Cor. 8:11-13. " - *Watchtower* January 1, 1979 "Questions From Readers"

The UN is definitively the largest promoter<sup>40</sup> of "interfaith" in the world. All things considered then, in principle hasn't the "Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc." disassociated itself from the "Christian congregation"? Why then is this corporate<sup>41</sup> "person" continued to be used by the "Governing Body"?

The truth of the matter is that the WBTS joined the UN as an NGO affiliate of the DPI for the obvious purpose of political involvement. As the letter from the UN (Exhibit A) clearly states, "the organization agreed to meet criteria for association, including support and respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes with its constituents and to a broader

<sup>38</sup><http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/libraryfaq.htm>

<sup>39</sup><http://unbisnet.un.org/>

<sup>40</sup>Consider the "Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace" (<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/22June2005.html>)

<sup>41</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate\\_personhood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_personhood)

audience about UN activities." The WBTS did exactly that when it printed UN propaganda in the pages of *The Watchtower* publication<sup>42</sup>.

After years of lambasting the UN as the "wild beast" of Revelation and denouncing other religious organizations for their affiliation<sup>43</sup> with it, is not the Watchtower's own actions extremely hypocritical? If the Watchtower claims a lack of understanding on the matter (which is frankly absurd) then it's not very "wise" is it? And if it knew exactly what it was doing, then it wasn't very "faithful" to God now was it?

In regards to the Watchtower's financial involvement in warfare technology, the second letter states "We found that none of the legal corporations used by the Governing Body in caring for Kingdom interests own stock in the Rand Cam Corporation or any associate company involved in developing the diesel engine in question."

This is quite simply false. One has only to search this Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) archives<sup>44</sup> for this filed<sup>45</sup> statement: "Rand Energy Group is owned 51% by Reg Technologies Inc. and 49% by Rand Cam Engine Corp. Rand Cam Engine Corp. is a privately held company whose stock is reportedly owned 50% by The Watchtower Society, a religious organization, 34% by James McCann and the balance by several other shareholders. Mr. McCann has indicated that he donated the shares held by The Watchtower Society to that organization but has retained a voting proxy for those shares." Within the 10KSB forms filed "The Watchtower Society" is listed as owning 5,073,200 shares. What's the relationship between all these companies exactly? A convenient chart, available online<sup>46</sup>, is displayed on the following page.

<sup>42</sup>For instance, the November 22, 1998 issue of the *Awake!* magazine is listed on one of the UN's subsidiary websites as a reference article on the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/materials/articles.htm>)

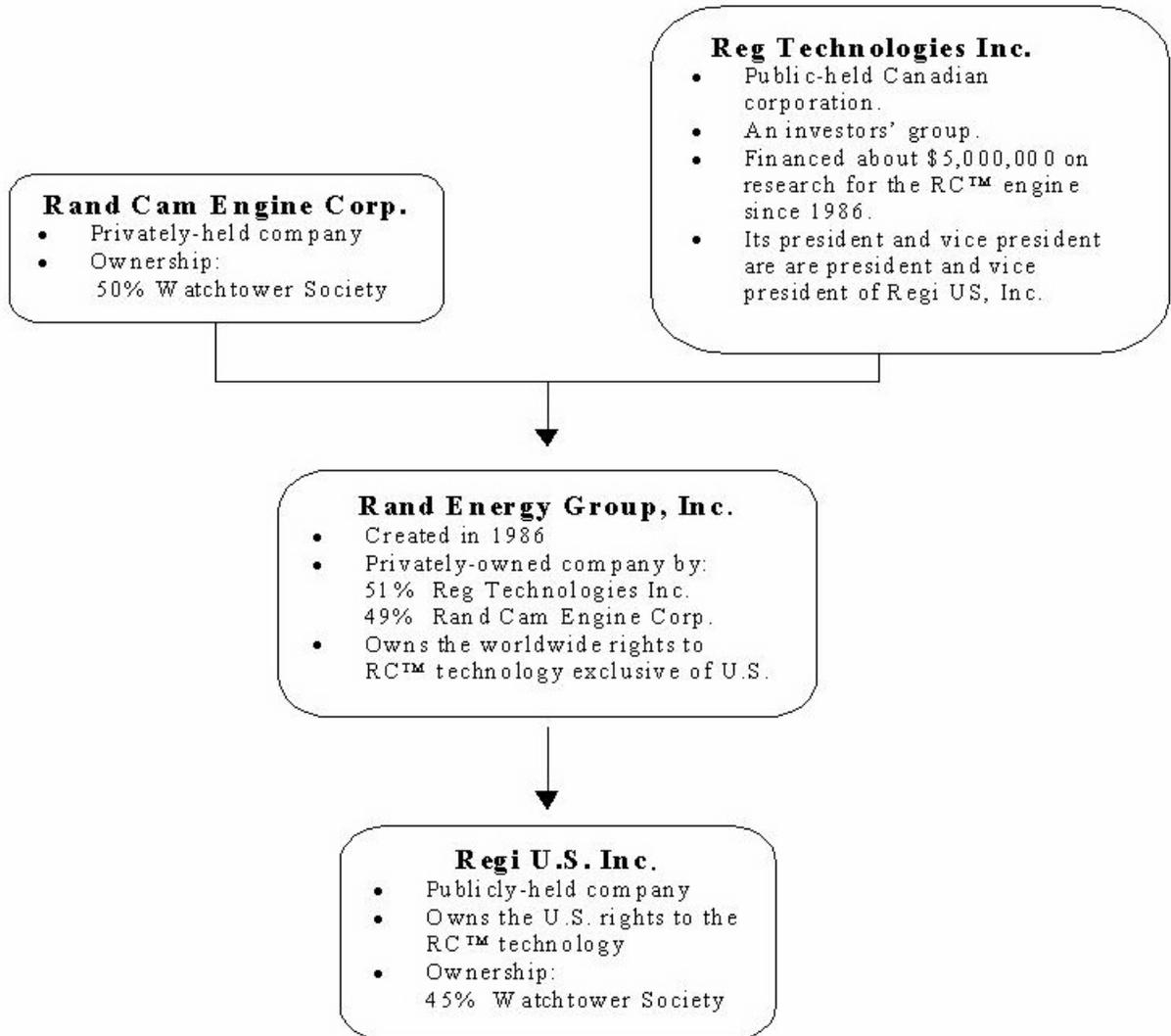
<sup>43</sup>*Watchtower* 06/01/1991p.17 "Their Refuge—A Lie!" condemns Christendom with the following quote, in part, from Robert Muller "no less than twenty-four Catholic organizations are represented at the UN." The article, however, omits Muller's previous sentence which explains what these "organizations" are. Here's the quote in context "All major world religions are accredited to the United Nations as **non-governmental organizations**. For example, no less than twenty-four Catholic organizations are represented at the UN." [Emphasis Added]

<sup>44</sup>Simply go to <http://www.sec.gov> and click "Search". Search for Company Name "REGI" and click the first search result. Limit your results to form type "10ksb" and click "Retrieve Selected Filings" to get these results—<http://www.sec.gov/cgi-bin/browse-edgar?type=10ksb&dateb=&owner=include&count=40&action=getcompany&CIK=0000922330>. Open any of the several filings from 1996 to 1998 to search for "Watchtower" and see where it is listed.

<sup>45</sup><http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/922330/0000891020-96-000634.txt>

<sup>46</sup>Image copied from an article on Geocities previously mentioned in a prior footnote—<http://www.geocities.com/wtgreed/article.htm>

## Relationship between the "Sister Companies":



It's a matter of public record what all these companies do<sup>47</sup> and where their money comes from. In some cases it's a little obscure, and apparently that's exactly what the Watchtower is counting on in order to cover its tracks in regards to its financial dealings. Just like its involvement in the UN, the Watchtower's financial dealings with war profiteers is hypocritical in the extreme.

Finally we come to the two last issues. There is no response, to my knowledge, from the Watchtower in regards to its *current* (as of at least 2005) NGO status of the “Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania” and the “European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses”. What excuse, if any, they may come up with in that regard will no doubt be just as hollow and ancillary to the point as their letter in regards to their other “Watchtower” corporation.

The sexual abuse scandal is still ongoing as ever with more and more lawsuits filed from abuse victims. Meanwhile local elders are instructed<sup>48</sup> to “Never turn over records, notes, documents, or reveal any confidential matter sought by subpoena without receiving direction from the Legal Department.” In other words, the “organization” would rather protect pedophiles than simply comply with the law.

Relatively recently the Legal Department of the “Society” argued in California courts<sup>49</sup> for “clergy penitent privilege” in order to protect itself from civil damages incurred by negligence in not reporting allegations of child abuse. They lost.

While the Watchtower boldly condemns “Christendom” for taking part in political affairs, supporting warfare, and tolerating sexual abuse, it has done all of the above itself. This is anything but “faithful and discrete”. Instead it illustrates an organization that presents an outward facade of righteousness while inwardly being anything but.

“Woe to YOU, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because YOU cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of plunder and immoderateness. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup and of the dish, that the outside of it also may become clean.

“Woe to YOU, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because YOU resemble whitewashed graves, which outwardly indeed appear beautiful but inside are full of dead men’s bones and of every sort of uncleanness. In that way YOU also, outwardly indeed, appear righteous to men, but inside YOU are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

– Matthew 23:25-28, NWT

<sup>47</sup><http://www.regtech.com/>

<sup>48</sup>The July 1, 1989 letter from the Watchtower to “All Bodies of Elders in the United States” can be downloaded in PDF format from this URL—<http://www.reexamine.org/BOE/1989-07-01.pdf>

<sup>49</sup><http://www.silentlambs.org/documents/CARulingonDiscoveryMotions.pdf>

## Can a member of the Watchtower organization ask these basic questions without repercussions?

If you are “one of Jehovah's Witnesses”, you probably already know the answer to that question. You probably knew it before it was asked on the very first page. You probably are consciously or sub-consciously aware that by your mere reading of this paper you are doing something wrong in the eyes of the “organization”. Of course, if you have been open-minded enough to read this far you may be starting to seriously question whether that matters anymore.

In the first page I listed some quotes that seem to encourage you to verify your religion, remain open-minded, and ask critical questions of any “religious organization with which [you] may be associated”. But, if you've been a JW for any length of time you realize that really only means any *other* religious organization. While the Watchtower defends its nearly libelous attacks on other organizations with the claim that “it is not a form of religious persecution for anyone to say and to show that another religion is false”, everyone on the inside knows that that really only applies to “us”. When others demonstrate that the Watchtower and its religion is “false” that indeed is considered “religious persecution”.

Consider the following quote...

“For example, what will you do if you receive a letter or some literature, open it, and see right away that it is from an apostate? Will curiosity cause you to read it, just to see what he has to say? You may even reason: ‘It won’t affect me; I’m too strong in the truth. And, besides, if we have the truth, we have nothing to fear. The truth will stand the test.’ In thinking this way, some have fed their minds upon apostate reasoning and have fallen prey to serious questioning and doubt.

[...]

“Like gangrene, apostate reasoning is nothing but quick-spreading spiritual death. And since the members of the congregation are like one body, there is a danger that others may be infected. If the one spreading apostate teachings cannot be restored to spiritual health by loving but firm application of the balm of God’s Word, amputation of this member (disfellowshipping) may be the only alternative for the protection of other members of the body.” - (*Watchtower* March 15, 1986 March 15 pp.10-15 “Do Not Be Quickly Shaken From Your Reason”)

So now that the Watchtower tells us what books to burn, what propaganda should we fill our minds with then?

“In Jehovah’s organization it is not necessary to spend a lot of time and energy in research, for there are brothers in the organization who are assigned to do that very thing, to help you who do not have so much time for this, these preparing the good material in *The Watchtower* and other publications of the Society. But you do not study enough? Take this suggestion: Often the very best and most beneficial studying you do is that done when you read a new *Watchtower* or *Awake!* or a new book with the joy of getting the new truths and a fresh view.” - (*Watchtower* June 1, 1967 p.338 “Move Ahead with Jehovah’s Organization”)

Ah, yes, who needs to “spend a lot of time” actually researching things when it's all been done for us by our ever-loving overlords? The spoon-fed “truths” we get from the “faithful and discrete slave” should keep us completely occupied so we don't get any dangerous ideas and veer into “independent thinking<sup>50</sup>”. It's a good thing Our Theocratic Big-Brother Organization has appointed these thought police for us, isn't it?

<sup>50</sup>*Watchtower* 01/15/1983 p.22 “Exposing the Devil’s Subtle Designs” subheading “**Avoid Independent Thinking**”

If you're still reading, you may be asking at this point “Well what do I do from here then?” and/or “If this isn't God's Organization (TM), what is?”

To answer these questions as best I can, let me quote a couple passages that might help...

“After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” tell him, “The Lord needs it.”' Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They replied, 'The Lord needs it.' They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.” - Luke 19:38-35

“Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.' 'Where do you want us to prepare for it?' they asked. He replied, 'As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, “The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there.' They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.” - Luke 22:7-13

That's God's “organization”. It is spontaneous. It is miraculous. It is personal. It is **now**. The Watchtower is not our mediator<sup>51</sup>. There is only one mediator: Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5). Nothing stands between us and God, for the Word *is* God (John 1:1). God is so close to a Christian that He dwells within him as His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16). While believers should definitely gather together to build each other up (Hebrews 10:24,25), Christ is present in even the smallest of gatherings (Matthew 18:20).

Jesus said “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). The Watchtower organization is not “the truth”, Jesus Christ is. Following the tenants of any religious organization is not “the way”, Jesus Christ is. No one comes to the Father through anyone else but Jesus. For as Christ went on to say in the very next verse--“If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him” (John 14:7).

Your gut reaction in all of this might be “All this talk about Jesus... what about Jehovah?” For that I'd like to digress for a moment and first give you another quote...

“One of the remarkable facts, not only about the extant manuscripts of the original Greek text, but of many versions, ancient and modern, is the absence of the divine name.” - The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures p.11 “Foreword”

That's right, for the over 200 times we find “Jehovah” in the NWT's version of the New Testament, there simply is no basis for that translation. The word found is “kyrios”, which is Greek for “Lord”. This is not to be confused with the over 6,000 times “YHWH” is found in the Old Testament. While many translations of the OT render the tetragrammaton as “LORD”, in the NT the original Greek really does simply say “Lord” where the NWT often translates “Jehovah”.

So where is “Jehovah” in the New Testament then? Well, to answer that question, in the eighth chapter of John “the jews” asked Jesus who he was. Christ states in John 8:58 this (according to the NWT): “Most truly I say to YOU, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been.” After this statement they picked up stones to hurl at him. Now, according to the Watchtower this verse is simply talking about Christ's pre-existence. While I agree that's certainly the case, there's something more to this verse than is apparent in the NWT's theologically biased rendition. Let's look at the original Greek found in the Wescott & Hort Text shall we?

<sup>51</sup> *Watchtower* 04/01/1979 p.31 “Questions from Readers”

“Ἀμήν ἀμήν λέγω ὑμῖν, πρὶν Ἀβραάμ γενέσθαι ἐγὼ εἰμί.” In the KIT itself we find the literal translation is as follows “Amen amen I am saying to you, Before Abraham to become I am.” Why is this significant? Well, in Christ's day the Greek Septuagint had been around for years. It was a popular translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. It just so happens that it translates Exodus 3:14 with “ego eimi”, that is: “I AM”.

This is exactly why the Jews picked up stones to hurl at Christ. He was claiming to be Jehovah...

John 1:18 states “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.” This is the same God that revealed Himself to Samuel through His Word (1 Samuel 3:21). God did so when He came and *stood* at the end of Samuel's bed and spoke to him (1 Samuel 3:10). This is the same God with whom Jacob wrestled (Genesis 32:24) and who Jacob saw “face to face” (Genesis 32:30). This is the same God who Abraham “remained standing before” and “approached” when he was pleading for Sodom (Genesis 18:22,23). Finally this was the same God who said “Let us make man in *our* image” (Genesis 1:26).

If you're still reading, at this point you're probably asking “Didn't Jesus say that the Father is greater than he?” That's absolutely true. He also said “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). So what does this all mean?

In his book Pilgrimage Through the Watchtower, Kevin Quick sums up the matter more concisely than I could ever hope in a series of densely packed scriptures. Quick graciously has his entire book accessible online, free of charge, at “<http://www.kevinquick.com/kkministries/books/pilgrimage/>”. So here's a small applicable section from Chapter 6 “The Study”:

Jehovah is the only true God (undisputed).

Jesus is the creator (Gen 1:26-27, Is 44:24, John 1:3, Rom 11:36, John 1:10, Eph 3:9, Col 1:15-16 [cp. Ps 89:27, Gen 41:51-52, Jer 31:9], Heb 1:8,10, 3:3-4) and sustainer (Col 1:17, Heb 1:3) of all things. He is the Savior (Is 43:11, Is 45:21, Hos 13:4, Titus 1:3,4, 2:13, 3:4, Titus 3:6, 2 Pet 1:1). He gives things that only God can give (John 1:12-13, Rev 2:23). He is the judge of all (John 5:22,23, 2 Cor 5:10) and has authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7,10, Luke 5:21, 5:24, 1 Cor 8:12, Eph 4:32). He is all-seeing (1 Ki 8:39, Rev 2:23), omniscient (1 Ki 8:39, Matt 9:4, 12:25, Mark 2:8, Luke 6:8, 9:47, John 11:1, Col 2:2-3, Rev 2:23 [cp. 1 Ki 8:39]), and omnipresent (Matt 18:20, 28:20). Jesus was eternally preexistent (Micah 5:2, John 1:1, Col 1:17, Heb 7:3) and He never changes (Heb 1:8,10, 13:8). It is proper to serve Him (John 12:26, Rom 1:1, 1 Cor 4:1, 2 Cor 5:15, Gal 1:10, Phil 1:1, Col 3:24, 4:12, Jas 1:1, Jude 1), to pray to Him (John 14:14 [Kingdom Interlinear], Acts 7:59-60, 9:14, 9:20-21, 22:16, 22:17-19, Rom 10:9, 11-13, 1 Cor 1:2, 2 Cor 12:8-9, 1 Ti 1:12, Rev 22:20), to give Him glory (Is 42:8, 48:11, Dan 7:13-14, John 1:14, 5:22-23, 11:4, 13:31-32, 16:13-15, 17:5, Acts 3:13, Phil 2:9, Col 1:16, 2 Thess 1:12, 2 Pet 3:18, Rev 1:5-6, 5:11-14), and to worship Him (Matt 2:2,8,11, 4:10, 14:33, 28:9,16-17, John 9:38, Heb 1:6, Rev 5:8, 14:7 [cp. Acts 10:25, Rev 19:10, 22:8-9]). Jesus is Lord (Deut 10:17, Matt 12:8, John 20:27-28, Rom 10:9,11-13, Eph 4:4-5, James 2:1, Rev 17:14, 19:16) and is sovereign with His Father (Matt 25:31, 28:18, John 3:31,35, 13:3, 16:15, 17:10, Phil 2:9-11, Heb 1:2, 2:8, Rev 22:3). Being the Son of God (John 5:18, 10:28-33,36), He is also truly God (Deut 32:36,39, Is 9:6, 10:21, 43:10, 44:6 [cp. Is 48:12, Rev 1:17-18, 2:8, 21:6-7, 22:12-16,20], Matt 1:23, 13:41, John 1:1, 2:19,21 [cp. Acts 2:24], 5:18, 8:19,28,58-59 [cp. Ex 3:14; LXX], 10:28-33, 12:44, 13:19, 14:7-9, 15:13, 18:4-6, 20:28,29, Acts 20:28, Eph 3:19, Phil 2:6, Col 2:9, 1 Ti 3:15-16, Titus 2:13, Heb 1:3,4,8 [cp. Ps 45:6], 3:1-4, 2 Pet 1:1, 1 John 5:20, Rev 22:1-4) and Jehovah (Zech 2:8-11, 11:12-13 [cp. Matt 26:14-15], 12:1,10 [cp. Rev 1:7], 14:3-5 [cp. Matt 25:31, Acts 1:11-12], 14:5 [cp. 1 Thess 3:13], Matt 3:3, Mark 1:2-3, Luke 3:4, John 1:23, Luke 1:76 [cp. Is 40:3], Matt 21:15-16 [cp. Ps. 2:6], John 17:11,12, Rom 10:9,11-13 [cp. Joel 2:32], Phil 2:9, 1:4, 1:8,10 [cp. Ps 102:22-25]), together with His Father.

The Holy Spirit is a Person (Matt 3:16, 10:20, Mark 1:10, Luke 12:12, John 1:32, 14:16-17,26, 15:26, 16:7-8,13-15, Acts 1:16, 5:3,9, 10:19-20, 15:28, 20:23, Rom 8:16, 1 Cor 12:11, Eph 4:30, Heb 3:7, Heb 10:15, Rev 22:17), and is God (Gen 1:2 [cp. vs. 1], Matt 12:32, Luke 12:10, John 14:26, Acts 1:16 [cp. Heb 1:1], Acts 5:3-4, 28:25 [cp. Heb 1:1], 2 Cor 13:14, Heb 10:15-17) together with the Father and with the Son.

The Old Testament in several places indicates plurality in the Godhead (Gen 1:1,2,3, 1:26, 3:22, 11:7,9, Gen 18, 19:24, Ex 23:20-23 [cp. 1 Cor 10:4], Is 48:12,16, 63:7-14, Zech 2:8-11, 3:2). As mentioned above, the Bible indicates both the deity of Christ and the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit. These factors, together with the deity of the Father (undisputed), produce a description of the Godhead in trinity. Especially in the New

Testament, these three Persons are repeatedly spoken of as cooperating collectively (Matt 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, Matt 28:19, Luke 1:35, John 3:34-35, John 14:26, 16:13-15, Acts 2:32-33, 38-39, Rom 15:16,30, 1 Cor 12:4-6, 2 Cor 3:4-6, 13:14 [cp. 1 John 1:3], Gal 4:4-6, Eph 4:4-6, Heb 10:12,15, 1 Pet 1:2).

Now, entire volumes have been written about this uniquely Christian doctrine on the super-personal nature of God. Suffice it to say it is, in fact, what the Bible teaches. God is not a finite organism that dwells amongst the stars somewhere like the Watchtower teaches. He is not an impersonal abstraction like the Eastern mystics teach. God is much more than us, yet we are made in His image. He is both transcendent and personal. So personal, in fact, that His *personality* is three-dimensional. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three gods, but only One God. Cliché I know, but true.

Rather than continue to argue this point, I will now simply encourage you to investigate the matter for yourself. If you come to the same conclusion that I have, you will quickly see that the Watchtower preaches a completely different Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4). Jesus is LORD, God, and Savior. He alone is our salvation.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - Ephesians 2:8-10

What can you do to receive this “gift of God”?

“If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'” - Romans 10:9-13

When Peter healed a crippled beggar, Annas the high priest and others asked him “By what power or what name did you do this?” (Acts 4:7) In answer to this question Peter replied: “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

As was previously cited in the study above, Jesus Christ said “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” - John 14:14. It is not simply that we ask in his name, but that we ask *Him*. Call upon the Lord Jesus. Ask Him to save you and He will. Pray to God for Truth and He will give it (John 16:13). He is the Truth and thus He will give Himself making you His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Organizations are tools created by men. They are just as useful (or malevolent) as those that use them. We don't need organizations, we need God. “We must obey God rather than men!” - Acts 5:29

Call on Christ and come to know Him. You needn't slave for multinational corporations. Jesus has already done all the work. You need only accept the free gift God offers. To the Jews that had believed in him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” - John 8:32

It is my sincere desire that you come to know the Way and the Truth—Jesus Christ. It's not about your organizational affiliation (or lack thereof). It's not about how much of a “bible student” you are. It's all about Him. Make a commitment to Christ today, and He will change your life forever.

God Bless. Eirene kai Agape.

- Jon

## Further Reading

### Books

Crisis of Conscience by Raymond Franz

The Gentile Times Reconsidered: Chronology & Christ's Return by Carl Oloff Jonsson

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

The Kingdom of the Cults by Walter Martin

Apocalypse Delayed by James Penton

Reasoning with Jehovah's Witnesses by Kevin Quick (also available online)

### Web Links

<http://www.607v587.com/> — “Is 607 B.C.E the correct date for the fall of Jerusalem?”

<http://www.ajwrb.org/> — “Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood”

<http://www.bible.ca/jw.htm> — “Jehovah's Witnesses Exposed”

<http://www.carm.org/witnesses.htm> – CARM's section on “Jehovah's Witnesses”

<http://www.freeminds.org/> — “Watchers of the Watchtower World”

<http://www.heraldmag.org/olb/Contents/bsllinks/Russell.htm> – Old literature hosted by “Bible Students”

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6861723185926041712&q=Jehovah> – “Witnesses of Jehovah”

<http://www.jehovahs-witness.com/> — “Jehovah's Witness Discussion Forum”

<http://www.kevinquick.com/kkministries/> — K&K Ministries

<http://www.quad-central.com/> — “Watchtower Crucial Criteria”

<http://www.randytv.com/> — “Watchtower Audio and Video”

<http://www.strictlygenteel.co.uk/> — “Theocratic Resources” hosted by a self-professed JW

<http://www.towerwatch.com/> — “TowerWatch Ministries”

<http://www.watchtowerinformationservice.org/> — Watchtower Information Service (includes “Quotes”)

<http://www.watchtowernews.org/> — Latest news on the Watchtower from Randall Waters and company

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses) — Comprehensive overview from Wikipedia

<http://www.witnessinc.com/> — “Witness, Inc. - Ministry to Jehovah's Witnesses”