

Food for Thinking Jehovah's Witnesses

ZIONS TOWER of the MORNING TRACT PUBLICATIONS P. O. Box 3261 Southfield, MI 48037-3261



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FOOD FOR THINKING JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

PART I

INTRODUCTION

"The truth will set you free!" John 8:32

JESUS MADE a true statement in John 8:32 when he said, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Jesus said those words to the Jews who believed on him, but also in the hearing of the Scribes and Pharisees who wanted to kill him. The question then arises, how were those Jews who believed on him to be made free? Free from what? As they said, they were not in bondage to anyone. But we ask, were they really free?

It seems quite clear that Jesus was referring to the *traditions and teachings* of the Pharisees. As he pointed out in the 23rd chapter of Matthew, though they *claimed to* sit in Moses' seat, they did not follow the teachings of Moses, but bound up *heavy loads* on men. Claiming to sit in Moses' seat, and that Abraham was their father, they took the position that *they* were the successors of Moses and Abraham by Jehovah's arrangement. Therefore, whatever *interpretation* they put upon the law was to be accepted *as though from God*.

That position and attitude has prevailed these many years *even to this day*. It was shortly after the Apostles passed from the scene that the Catholic Church came into existence. *They* took that same position: that now they were the *channel* by which the great God Jehovah was dealing with his people. They claimed that Peter was the first Pope, that from that time all Popes were successors to Peter, and whatever the Catholic Church was to *bind on earth was to be bound in heaven*. If one were to sin against or disagree with them on spiritual matters, that one was considered *sinning against God* Many Protestant churches have made similar claims.

A Channel of God?

Today we have yet another organization making the same claim, i.e., that *they* are the channel by **which Jehovah God** is now dealing with his people. That channel is what this organization likes to call "the faithful and discrete slave class" who in turn use the Watchtower Bible & Tract

Society to publish what it likes to call "the truth" or "newly revealed truth from Jehovah God."

That the Watchtower Society takes the position that it is used *by Jehovah* by and through this "faithful and discrete slave class" is well documented in its publications. It says this class is in fulfillment of Matt. 24:45-47, and that Jehovah God is now using them to disseminate Bible truths by and through the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society and by the use of the Watchtower magazine. (See *The Watchtower*, 1963, page 338, par. 17).

The Watchtower, 1958, pages 485-488, under the heading "The Watchtower Society in God's Purpose," endeavors to relate the "Society" with Jehovah's *channel of communication*, starting with Abel down through the Apostles and then to our day *culminating* with the "Society." Even stronger words are used in *The Watchtower*, 1952, page 79, par. 10, in which it states "... God interprets and teaches, *through Christ* the chief servant, who in turn uses the discrete slave as the *visible* channel..." meaning of course the "Society." On that same page in par. 11, it further states ". . . The truths we publish are the ones provided through the discrete slave class or organization ..."

Stronger yet, is a statement made in *The Watchtower*, 1965, page 351, in answer to a "Question from readers" which asks the question, "How can it be said that God's visible organization was made strictly Theocratic in structure by 1938?..." In summary, their answer is that by 1932 The Watchtower Society began to be controlled by God or was God ruled and by 1938 was fully God ruled or fully Theocratic.

By their own claim, all scriptural explanation comes from Jehovah God and is published in *The Watchtower*. *Now* if this be true, then there will be no contradiction or changing of explanation from one *Watchtower* to another. Stated another way, *what was published as truth since 1938 must still be truth today*. (Mal. 3:6)

An Unchanging Organization?

With this thought in mind, let us go on to see if the facts support their contention. Is the Watchtower Society (Channel) indeed as unchanging as the God it claims to represent?

In the book entitled "Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose," written in dialogue fashion, on page 14, mention is made that for the first time, in 1929, the Watchtower made known to their people the true meaning of Rom. 13:1-7; namely that Paul in this scripture was not referring to the governments of this world, but was referring to Jehovah God and Christ Jesus. And in the book "Let God Be Tine" written in 1952, published by the Watch Tower Society, we read on page 248, referring to Rom. 13:1-7: "The higher powers there mentioned are the principal ruling factors of God's congregation, namely, the invisible governing body of God's kingdom ..." Again, in The Watchtower, 1952, page 375, par. 6, we read: "The Superior authorities Paul is speaking of could not refer to the political powers of Caesar governments. In the scriptures at Rev. 13:2. NW, the Bible specifically states that Satan is the one who has empowered and authorized the old world Caesars. Hence the superior authorities in Rom. 13 which God commissions include only the theocratic ruling authorities and exclude Caesar's authorities. . ."

But now note what was written in *The Watchtower*, 1962, page 683, par. 7, discussing this same subject. "...Paul is telling God's holy ones how to conduct themselves among men outside 'the Christian congregation, 'all men' including even an enemy who does evil to Christians, hence an individual found outside the congregation, not inside, then, right afterwards, Paul passes on to his

discussion of the 'Superior Authorities' and thus has his sights focused on, not what is inside the congregation, but what is outside it. So the 'Superior Authorities' have their setting logically in the world *outside* the congregation ... *"

Not Founded By Pastor C. T. Russell

Note the asterisk at the end of the quote, which refers to a footnote at the bottom of the page. That footnote refers to "*The Divine Plan of the Ages*" a book written in 1886 by the founder of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, Charles Taze Russell. The reference is to page 266 which gives in effect the same explanation now given by *The Watchtower* of 1962 on Rom. 13:1-7.

We note here, that the claim is absolutely *untrue* Jehovah's *Witnesses* were founded by C. T. Russell. He died in 1916. *Jehovah's Witnesses*, per se, were founded *in 1931* by none other than J. F. Rutherford who radically changed name and doctrine beyond recognition and substituted instead *his own theology*. That theology has become the very *basis* of the Witnesses' teaching today. A greater detail as to the many doctrinal changes will follow in our *Part Two* - A *Refutation of Selected Doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses*.

For decades Charles Taze Russell's legacy has been associated with Jehovah's Witnesses in published accounts that *inaccurately* list him *as their founder*. In 1997, Professor David S. Doran corrected the matter by writing the editor of *The Cambridge Biographical Encyclopedia* and delivering a more accurate account of Brother Charles Taze Russell's life. Through Professor Doran's efforts, the second edition *presenting the truth* was published in 1998 and reflects these changes. We quote as follows:

"Russell, Charles Taze, known as Pastor Russell (1852-1916). Religious leader, founder of what is commonly called the "Bible Student Movement," born in Pittsburgh, PA. As a Congregationalist, he struggled with the concept of eternal torment, his subsequent studies leading him to conclude that the Biblical *hell is oblivion*, that the millennium began in 1874, and that a period of social and political upheaval would lead to a peaceable kingdom on earth. After his death, *many followers abandoned* his Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (1879), which under the leadership of Joseph Rutherford moved in other directions and ultimately --became known as Jehovah's Witnesses (1931)." -- Bible Students Newsletter, p. 7, Spring, 1999

Watchtower Structure Changes

"A press release issued Tuesday (October 14, 2000) by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania Inc., as the Witnesses are officially called, talked about "revisions" in legal structure and said that they were dictated by the need to keep pace with growth."

"Some 'revisions.' The president resigned, the ruling Governing Body was stripped of its legal power, and three new corporations were set up to run the society's U.S. operations. Milton Henschel, 80, the fifth president, stepped down after eight years, along with six other directors of the Watchtower Society. *He remains a member of the Governing Body*, which had run the 5.9-million member society *with an absolutist hand*."

"The Governing Body was not abolished, but under the new setup, it will oversee only religious affairs, among them Bible doctrine, evangelization and pastoral care. Henschel's successor as chief legal officer is Don Adams, 75, a longtime insider who has spent 54 years at the world headquarters in Brooklyn Heights."

"But, even more significant than the change at the top was the corporate realignment, with three new not-for-profits formed to assume control of U.S. legal and administrative operations. One will oversee construction of houses of worship and technical assistance. Another will supervise personnel. A third will direct a wide range of congregational services. "I don't believe Witnesses look to any one person now as their leader," Pellechia said."

From: News and Views | City Beat | Saturday, October 14, 2000

What would one suppose the reason for this momentous change might be? Could it be that they are being accused of having a central head and that they don't wish to be identified in this way? After all, the accusation was made by the Society in the past that Bible Students were following after a man, Charles Taze Russell who dressed in haberdasher's fashions and presented out-of-date teachings from the Bible, whereas they continued to progress in "New light?" They have restructured with multitudinous corporations and have continued their "Governing Body," that makes all the rulings in matters of faith directly under Christ and by His Spirit. How Can this be? As you will see in the succeeding pages, there have been many changes backward and forward on the doctrines of the *Watchtower* as published in its pages.

The above changes were not subject to the vote of the congregations. They were just told that this is the way it is now going to be. There will be no central head. There will only be the governing body who will make all decisions in religious matters. The *Watchtower* organization rules with absolutist power – "an absolutist hand" – and this has not changed. You knew where things were coming from with one at the top; but with this change you are left in the dark as to who made the ruling or changes. This is not God's way. His way is clearly outlined in His Word – it is the rule of the congregation – *Laodicea*. (Rev. 3:14-22)

The Elders, and not autocrats, are chosen by the Congregations after a democratic fashion according to their recognized Spirituality and submission to righteous requirements. (1Timothy 3:1-13) They are not "appointed in every place" except to begin the ecclesia arrangement which was new at that time and the Apostles were specially guided by the Holy Spirit. They were the ones upon whom the tongues of fire appeared. In our modern day, it becomes an excuse for the Society's "flock" to render absolute control and obedience to an arranged program adopted by the leadership. You will not have any dissenters; for if they would dare to differ a trial would be called for, they would be disfelowshipped and would be looking in from the outside. This is very wrong and represents powerful control or domination. It is the same method as that adopted by the Roman Catholic Church.

If the "Channel" became cleansed in and after 1919, and was completely cleansed by 1938, and as stated in the *Watchtower* 1959, page 601, the elective Elders before that time were not mature or theocratic. Why does that channel now go back to the explanation given in 1886? What happened to that "Channel," or its "governing body" from 1919 or 1938 to 1962? Had it or they been tuned to the wrong station?

Watchtower Contradictions: The Ransom

Those who are members of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society often have *misconceptions* in regards to the Society's early years and history. Those who take the lead among the Jehovah's Witnesses [The Watchtower's Governing Body] have written about the years before 1925 as though there was a governing body in existence in those early years of the Society. While it is believed by many that a governing body did exist in 1918, *in reality no governing body existed until recent years*.

The Watchtower leaders have often presented distorted and sometimes outright false statements concerning the things taught by Charles Taze Russell and the early Watch Tower movement. The truth is that Charles Taze Russell never advocated such an organization that now exists as "Jehovah's Witnesses." After Russell's death, "Judge" Joseph Franklin Rutherford usurped authority through legal trickery. He began to teach new ideas that took his followers farther and farther away from the Bible.

One of the greatest changes he effected was on *the ransom*. The teachings of *The Watchtower* and those of the earlier *Zion's Watch Tower are so different* that they have been viewed as *two different entities*. The reader should note that when we refer to *The Watchtower*, we mean the *modern-day publication* produced by the leaders of "Jehovah's Witnesses." When we refer to *Zion's Watch Tower*, we mean the publication that was being produced before "Judge" Rutherford invented a new organization called "Jehovah's Witnesses."

We will now proceed with examining how the two different doctrines concerning the ransom has led the modern-day Watchtower leaders into self-contradiction.

According to the modern-day *Watchtower* leaders, Messiah "came to inspect his slaves in 1918." (The Watchtower, March 15, 1990, page 13) According to this same Watchtower:

"Well, by then [1918], who had given sincere truth-seekers the correct understanding of the ransom sacrifice....?"

The answer given is:

"The facts show that it was the group of anointed Christians associated with the publishers of the magazine Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence..."

(The reader should note that in 1918 there was no "Jehovah's Witness" organization.) Oh, how the writers in that article have laid a trap for themselves! How so? If Zion's *Watch Tower* was printing the *truth about the ransom-sacrifice in 1918*, then what the modem-day Watchtower is teaching *cannot possibly be true*. Let us show what we mean.

What is the teaching of The *Watchtower* of today concerning the ransom-sacrifice? The March 15, 1990 *Watchtower* answers:

"Jesus came 'to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.' (Mark 10:45) But who are the many? Adam is evidently excluded because he was a perfect man who deliberately chose to disobey God and *died as unrepentant*, willful sinner." The article goes on to say:

"The course taken by each individual determines whether he will benefit from Jesus' sacrifice. Like Adam, the willfully wicked *do not* have the *ransom merit* and eternal life *forced* upon them. As Christ said: 'He that *exercises faith* in the Son has everlasting life; he that disobeys the Son will not see life, but *the wrath of God remains upon him*.' (John 3:36)"

Thus The *Watchtower* of today would make all who disobey the Watchtower leaders [who supposedly represent Jesus] in this life *as willfully wicked*, and receiving *no benefit* from the ransom. (This *disregards* John 12:46-48, which shows that those who disobey Jesus today *will be judged in the resurrection day*. In this life, the wrath, inherited from Adam, simply remains upon him.) Likewise, according to the present-day Watchtower leaders, Adam would receive no benefit from the ransom.

Now compare this with Zion's *Watch Tower* of 1918 (August 15, 1918):

"When this ransom price shall have been formally delivered over to Justice in the end of this Gospel age, then, it will ... have been *exchanged for Adam and his posterity*, the world of mankind, all of whom will be immediately transferred by the Father to the Son, that the work of the Millennial Kingdom may begin. The *ransom price is designed to bring to Adam* and his race the earthly life and the earthly life-rights and honors which were lost in Eden through disobedience." (Italics added by us. See Reprints, page 6314)

Again in Zion's Watch Tower of October 1, 1918 (Reprints, page 6337), we find this statement: "As in the one man Jesus Christ **both Adam and all his children** will be justified from the original condemnation, that which came upon the human race because of Adam's disobedience."

Please note that in the two quotes above, from the early Zion's *Watch Tower* in 1918 that the ransom is presented quite differently from that in 1990. In 1918 Adam and all his posterity are to benefit from the ransom. In 1990, according to present-day Watchtower leaders, *Adam will receive no benefit from the ransom, nor will many billions of mankind* living today that might be destroyed during the destruction of Satan's world.

A little reflection on the above should lead one to see that if Zion's Watch Tower was teaching the truth concerning the ransom in 1918, then what The Watchtower of today is teaching is false, for they do not teach the same thing. Of course, just because the whole world receives benefits from the ransom of Jesus *does not mean* that "everlasting life" will be "forced" upon them. It only means that they will be given full opportunity to come into harmony with Jehovah and His Son, Jesus. Those of the world who then refuse will eventually be eternally destroyed in the second death at the end of the 1,000-Year Reign of Jesus when the Kingdom is returned to the Father. (Revelation 20:7-9; Psalm 37:9,10; Matthew 25:41,46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9,10; 1 Corinthians 15:24) With Zion's Watch Tower of 1918 we are in general agreement on this; therefore we are in disagreement with The Watchtower of modern times which would deny that Jesus gave his life as "a ransom for all." (1 Timothy 2:5,6) It is this "ransom for all" teaching that will actually vindicate Jehovah as not only the rightful ruler, but that his ways are best in all things. It is only through the "ransom for all" that all the wicked will come to know Jehovah. A Psalm 83:18; Compare Ezekiel 16:62.63.

We must, in all honesty, state that The Watchtower today does believe that millions of the unsaved dead will be awakened in the resurrection day and given opportunity to obey Jesus during the millennial kingdom. (See The Watchtower, March 15, 1990, page 31) In this we see an inconsistency of logic, however. On page 4 of the March 15, 1990 Watchtower we read:

"When Adam sinned, he lost *everlasting perfect human life*, with all rights and prospects. Hence, *the same thing was redeemed* by means of Jesus' ransom sacrifice."

How anyone could make this statement and then turn around and deny its clear meaning is beyond logic. If Adam's "everlasting perfect human life" was redeemed by the ransom, then it would clearly mean that Adam would be released from sin's condemnation of death. To reason otherwise would destroy the entire principle of the ransom.

The claim is made that Adam did not repent. The Scriptures nowhere state this. We are not informed as to whether he did or did not repent. There are some reasons to believe that he did have a change of heart. But Jehovah did not offer to him any deliverance based upon his repentance. Rather, another method of deliverance was vaguely suggested when Jehovah stated to the serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head, and you will bruise him in the heel." (Genesis 3:15) How much better are the ways of Jehovah than the reasoning of man!

http://www.geocities.com/biblestudent/food4jws 10/20/96

A FINAL WORD ON THE RANSOM FOR ALL

We feel that it is very important to make clear the fact of what Judge Rutherford states -- Contradicting what he said in '*Deliverance*," 1926 -- in the later book '*Riches*," pages 152, 153 written in 1936 where he said:

"This is conclusive proof that the ransom sacrifice does **NOT** inure **TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL** creatures automatically, but results **ONLY** to those who **EXERCISE FAITH** in God and Christ Jesus and who obey God's Word. This is not at all out of harmony with the statement made at 1Timothy 2:5,6, to wit: "The man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all.' The ransom sacrifice here refers to **ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE**, and **NOT TO ALL** men regardless of belief." (emphasis added)

WHAT, IN REALITY, DO WE BELIEVE THE RANSOM TO BE?

RANSOM. Christian Bible Students believe that the ransom-salvation doctrine teaches that our Lord's ransom price *was laid down at Calvary* and brings a release *by a resurrection* (or the stopping of death) for mankind when God (in the future at the completion of the church) *applies it's merit to* the (otherwise) *everlasting death* of Adamic sin penalty. (1Tim. 2:5,6, Lev. 16:14,15,20) It gives a way then, in the kingdom, next age for a full opportunity out of individual sins unto full salvation – full atonement before God.

Such blessings will come when the "robed" (Rev. 7, Lev. 16:24,25), sons-of-God, "Church class," judged in this age, having had the imputation of the ransom merit, were spirit-begotten and had proven faithful unto death, will receive their reward (born again) in heaven. There they shall be kings, priests, and judges, to reign with Christ over all mankind in the world's day of judgment Kingdom in the Millennium. There, mankind will have that opportunity for full salvation, full at-one-ment with Almighty God as they pass over the Isaiah Chapter 35 "highway of holiness." Life will be forever -- no more death to the obedient.

And all because of God's *love* for man in sending his son to be a ransomer – *directly for father Adam* and thereby, *all* of his posterity -- us born in him. With a thousand piece-points, the ransom in a few paragraphs is so challenging; but a blessing for a beautiful *defense of the truth* in God's Plan of the Ages." -- ZTM

Watchtower Contradictions: The Lord's Presence

"...Bible chronology also fixes the time for Christ's second presence and the assuming of his right to rule as at 1914; this date was published in The *Watchtower* as early as 1879, 35 years before 1914." [The Sign of Christ's Presence, p.3]

Once again the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society* [legal representatives of the Jehovah's Witnesses] have been caught in a lie. As is quite often the case with the Society, when it wishes to re-write its history, no specific information relating to the 1879 *Watch Tower* issue is provided, [e.g. no date, no page number, no paragraph, etc.]

In a similar situation, the Watchtower of January 15, 1993 p. 5 states: "The Watchtower has consistently presented evidence... that Jesus' presence in heavenly kingdom power began in 1914."

How does the author know for sure that the *Watchtower* is lying? For one, the original *Watch Tower's* are in his personal library. Both the Originals and the Reprints for those years were reviewed for the 1914 date, as well as a "computer database search" of the complete set of *Watch Tower's* from 1879 - 1916, the search came up void, empty. The *claims of the tract were not found.*

Could there have been an oversight on our part? Possibly, but not probable. As a Bible Student historian, the facts show that the Watchtower Society did not even espouse the 1914 date for Jesus' second presence *until 1943*. So the Society *could not have published the year* 1914 for Jesus' second presence. In fact, evidence shows that for some thirty since 1914, the Society taught 1874 as the year of Jesus' return.

Let the evidence stand on its own, the Society's own writings is sufficient enough to condemn them. Below are some quotations from the Society's own publications which further reveal that they could not have published the 1914 date for Jesus' second presence in 1879, because they believed, up to 1943, that Jesus' second presence started in 1874.

"It is true that the editor and publisher of Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Second presence calculated that the "presence" or *parousia* of the heavenly bridegroom began in the year 1874 C.E. ...In the year 1943 the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society published the book '*The Truth Shall Make You Free*." In its chapter 11, entitled "The Count of Time" it did away with the insertion of 100 years into the period of the Judges and went according to the oldest and most authentic reading of Acts 13:20, and accepted the spelled-out numbers of the Hebrew Scriptures. This moved forward the end of six thousand years of man's existence into the decade of the 1970's. Naturally *this did away with the year 1874 C.E.*" [God's Kingdom Of A Thousand Years Has Approached. 1973. pp. 206, 209.]

"Pastor Russell adhered closely to the teachings of the Scriptures. He believed and taught that we are living in the time of the second presence of our Lord, and that His presence dates from 1874; that since that time we have been living in the "time of the end" -- the "end of the Age," during which the Lord has been conducting His great Harvest work; that, in harmony with the Lord's own statement, this Harvest work is separating true Christians designated as "wheat," from merely professing Christians, designated as "tares," and gathering the true saints into the Kingdom of the Lord. It is here interesting to note that Jesus said, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over His Household, to give them meat in due season?" [Watch Tower Dec. 1916, pg. 357 [R5998]]

"There are two important dates here that we must not confuse, but clearly differentiate, namely, the beginning of "the time of the end" and of the presence of the Lord. "The time of the end" embraces a period from 1799 A.D., as above indicated, to the time of the complete overthrow of Satan's empire and the establishment of the kingdom of Messiah. The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874, as above stated." [Lord's Return pg. 27, 1929]

"The second coming of our Lord therefore began in 1874..." [Creation, p. 291, early editions, p. 310 later editions, 1927]

"The Scriptural Proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D." [Prophecy, p. 65, 1929]

"No one can properly understand the work of God at this time who does not realize that since 1874, the time of the Lord's return in power, there has been a complete change in God's operations." [Watchtower Sept. 15, 1922, p. 278]

"The Scriptures show that the second presence was due in 1874 ... This proof shows that the Lord has been present since 1874." [Watchtower March 1, 1923, p. 67]

"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." (Watchtower Jan. 1, 1924, p.5]

"The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D. This proof is specifically set out in the booklet entitled *Our Lord's Return*". [Prophecy 1929 pp. 65-66.]

"Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt ... that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874." [Watchtower 1924, January, 1, p. 5.]

We can only wonder at what prompts the Society to make such blatant lies, as in the tract and *Watchtower* quoted above.

What do they have to gain from it? Any informed person can uncover these lies. Can it be that they are trying to impress on the minds of the Jehovah's Witnesses their feigned breknowledge? The rank and file Jehovah's Witnesses do not have access to older *Watch Tower* publications, many Kingdom Hall Libraries do not even stock the older literature, and those that do, are not readily available to the Witnesses or are considered taboo to look at.

The above is by no means an isolated example of the dishonest statements made by the Watchtower Society. In fact the Society's latest history book, *Jehovah's Witnesses Proclaimers of God's Kingdom [1993]*, contains many sugar-coated versions of embarrassing episodes in *Watchtower* history, and includes statements which contradict historical accounts printed in their earlier publications.

Why would an organization that claims to speak for God make such claims? This is just another attempt on the part of the Watchtower Society to re-write their history in a favorable light. But history shows that the light is getting dimmer, and that the skeletons within the Society's closets and being revealed. The facts show that the Society is nothing more than a publishing house, and Jehovah's Witnesses are nothing more than their salesmen.

There are many sincere people within the rank and file Jehovah's Witnesses, and we wish them the Lord's enlightenment and pray that they will soon know the truth ... for the Truth is truly what sets one free.

Sodom, Gomorra, The Flood and Armageddon

While many examples could be given of their doubly changing explanation of scripture, one more should suffice. That is their explanation of the resurrection of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. First, let it be pointed out that sincere Bible students, who were once associated with the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, including Charles Taze Russell, believed and taught that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah will *be resurrected* during the Millennium, and for that matter still do. Even J. F. Rutherford taught the same. (See the first *Watch Tower*, July 1879, page 8, and "Studies in the Scriptures" by Charles Taze Russell, also the books Creation and Vindication by J. F. Rutherford.)

Now then, reviewing the *Watchtowers* from 1952 to 1960, keep in mind that the "Faithful and discrete slave class" who publish *The Watchtower* is supposed to be the "*Channel*" used by Jehovah God.

"...Our previous consideration of 2 Peter 2:5-9, has shown that those destroyed by God at Sodom and Gomorrah are eternally cut off . . ." (*Watchtower*, 1952, page 335, par. 8)

"... So those who die at Armageddon will pay the same penalty as the people of Sodom did, that is, they will not have a "resurrection of judgment" during the 1,000 year judgment day, but they will stay dead forever . . . " (*Watchtower*, 1955, page 200, par. 2, top of page)

"Since the supreme judge never makes a mistake, there is no need for him to take under review any judgments that he has passed. His judgments are final. That means the people that perished in the flood of Noah's day will *never* be resurrected to stand trial again. The same is true with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah as well as Adam and Eve..." (*Watchtower*, 1960, page 53, par. 4)

Now note the *complete reversal* of that position as published ,in the *Watchtower* of 1965, in an article entitled "Who will be resurrected from the dead," page 137, quoting from par. 15, "... Were those Sodomites worse than the rest of the Canaanites? No; ... And Peter does not say that the Sodomites and Gomorrah were destroyed everlastingly..."

Again, after quoting from Jesus words at Matt. 10:15, it makes this statement, "... It would be necessary for former inhabitants of that land to be present on the judgment day..." (*Watchtower*, 1965, page 479)

In all our research, we can find no admission that any misunderstanding or mistake was made in previous *Watchtowers*, or previous "Truths" which were claimed to come from Jehovah since 1938, implying that any wrong understanding came from a time before 1938. Yet in regard to the above mentioned examples (the Superior Authorities, and the Sodomites) *The Watchtower* again endorses the *old truths*, rather than the "New Light" of the 1950's. We can only ask, was the God of the Watchtower Society *confused* before 1962 or is he confused now? If the Watch Tower Society is now *God ruled*, is it the one described in 2Cor. 11: 12-15?

The Jewish People are Jehovah's Witnesses

The name, Jehovah's Witnesses or Witnesses of Jehovah -- however else used -- is a scriptural concept. But to whom did the Lord give this title?

Has the Lord instructed Christians to be witnesses for Jehovah or witnesses for Jesus?

There is *not a single New Testament scripture* that calls Christians the witnesses of Jehovah. On the other hand, the New Testament *commissions Christians to be the "witnesses of Jesus"* (Acts 1:8; Rev. 20:4) and the "ambassadors of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20). The commission given to Christians by Jesus was *that they should be his witnesses in all the world* by preaching the Gospel (Matt.24:14).

But the Jewish people witnessed for Jehovah in a different way. It was not because Israel preached God's Word that they were called His "witnesses." Rather, it was because God revealed His glory to others by the miraculous manner in which he dealt with them.

In three instances in the Old Testament God said to Israel, "Ye are my witnesses." These three times are to be found in Isaiah 43 and 44. In these two chapters, Isaiah establishes five historic facts concerning who are the "Witnesses" of Jehovah.

The "Witnesses" of Jehovah....

Were *delivered* from the land of Egypt (43:3)
Offered animal sacrifices to the Lord (43:23) *Transgressed* the Law Covenant (43:24,25)
Are forgiven for the Lord's sake (43:25)
Are being re-gathered from all over the world to the Holy Land (43:5,6)

These five stated identifications are true only of one people -- the Jews! Therefore, it is clear that *the Jewish people* -- the "ancient people," "my chosen" -- *are the real "Witnesses" of Jehovah* (44:7; 43:20).

But *in case anyone concludes* that the Jews *have long since forfeited this title*, the last scriptural assertion concerning the "Witnesses" of Jehovah was *a prophecy that is only now* in the process of fulfillment. The Jewish people are being re-gathered from all over the world to the Land of Israel. Their re-gathering has been motivated not only by religious fervor -- as some might have expected -- but this does not matter. The Bible reveals that after the Jews are re-gathered in their Land, then the Lord will bring them through experiences that will gradually increase their faith and enkindle a true religious vitality that will reach their "inward parts" and fit them for their special role in God's Kingdom on earth (Isaiah 2:1-4).

How Are the Jewish People the "Witnesses" of Jehovah?

The Jewish people are the "Witnesses" of Jehovah from two standpoints. First, God has revealed His power and glory by the miraculous manner in which He has dealt with them (Isaiah 43:9-12). God delivered them from Egypt, led them through the Red Sea, sustained them in the wilderness, led them through the River Jordan, gave them the land of Canaan -- and *made them a nation*. During

their chastening and dispersion, the phenomenal preservation of the people of Israel over the centuries as a distinct and homogeneous people among nations is itself a miracle of history. They have left blood-stained footprints of martyrdom in every nation they have trod. Neither persecution, nor famine, nor any other force was able to cause them to be assimilated. However, after 2,000 years contrary to every pattern of history -- they are re-established in their homeland, an independent nation. Surely the Lord's power and glory has been witnessed through this people!

The second way they are the "Witnesses" of Jehovah is how their history proves the validity of God's Word -- the Bible. Every detail of their history has been prophesied and fulfilled... or is in the process of fulfillment. Their original *establishment as a nation*, their *destruction as a nation* and *dispersion as a people*, their re-gathering, the circumstances of their re-gathering, their future role -- *all were prophesied in the Bible*. All this detailed fulfillment is an extraordinary witness to the *immutability* of God's Word. Therefore, *these are the reasons why* the Lord has said of the Jewish People-"YE ARE MY WITNESSES, SAITH JEHOVAH."

Promises to Christians – and to the Jewish People

The "Jehovah's Witnesses" today -- like other replacement-theology-believing Christians -- do not see any special future for the Jews. However, from the standpoint of God's choice "they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:28,29 NAS). Since God promised that the Seed of Abraham would inherit the Land and bless all the families of the earth out of Jerusalem (Genesis 22:18,19; Jeremiah 32:41; Isaiah 2:2,3) -- what right have any Christians to annul this promise? These blessings were never forfeited. These promises are "FOREVER." (Amos 9:14,15).

If we say God has cancelled his promises to the children of Israel, what confidence can we have in His promises to us as Christians?

For more information on this topic read our free booklet, <u>The Time to Favor Zion is Come!</u>
http://www.bible411.com/

Catholic Church Comparisons

In view of the foregoing, one cannot help but see a *parallel* between the Watchtower Society and the Catholic Church. Both claim succession to previous channels instituted by God. Both claim the exclusive right to interpret the Bible, both will disfellowship their own if the right to dictate to their members is questioned. Both *rule by fear*, in the case of the Catholic Church, it is fear of Hell fire or purgatory, in the case of the Watchtower Society it is an everlasting cutting off, or second *death*.

There is one notable difference however. While the Catholic Church held their people in bondage by ignorance of scripture, the "Society" holds their people in bondage by *expedient misapplication of Scripture*. And if one wants to be in good standing "with Jehovah" then one dare not question this so called "Channel." The penalty is being disfellowshipped, or totally alienated from all other members. Is this the Christian way? We think not. Rev. 18:4

But, Lord To Whom Sha11 I Go?

But where will you go? Jehovah knows when even the sparrow falls; God's arm *is not shortened* that it cannot save. The Bible assures us of that. If reasonable doubts have been raised in your mind, call now upon those true promises of Jehovah, and know that he is able to guide you and set you free of such human fears. Your Bible has the same truthful words and promises that other Bibles do. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in study and Christian works. (2 Tim. 1: 7)

There are *many 'Free' Bible student groups* which do *not bind and enslave* members by regimentation and fear tactics. Some of these date back to the days of Pastor Russell and are not *bound by creed fences* but are free to appreciate the truth. You will find these groups happy to include you in their fellowship and witness activities, and just as willing to allow you *the freedom* to go elsewhere if you choose. Why not look up one of them today? You will find they speak the same language you do. The address given below: will bring all the information you will need.

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PART II REFUTATION OF SELECTED DOCTRINES OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. The Gospel Age is designed for the development of a *heavenly class* only, not an earthly class.

WRITTEN TO THE CHURCH ONLY

A. The **New Testament books** are addressed to the saints only. Thus the admonitions therein given apply only to the *church* class. Any other application amounts to distortion and plagiarism of the Word of God, and presumption by a denial for the only calling of this age which Jehovah God, Himself, has made.

They shuttle believers into a *created* present earthly hope which is not available *until* the *completed called church class in heaven* begins their reign and the "spirit and the bride say come" to partake "freely of the waters of life." (Rev. 22:17) The kingdom on earth for mankind is *after* the coming "great time of trouble" or "Armageddon" which ends the rule of the "kingdom of this world." (Dan. 12:1; Rev. 11:15; Dan. 2:44)

- 1. Rom. 1:6.7 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ... called to be saints.
- 2. 1 Cor. 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, *called to be saints*.
- 3. 2 Cor. 1:1 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with *all the saints* which are in all Achaia.
 - 4. Eph. 1:1 To *the saints* which are at Ephesus.
 - 5. Phil. 1:1 To *all the saints* in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi. etc, etc.

Gospel Age Calling Is Only To Heaven

B. The scriptures mention *only one calling during* the Gospel Age - to membership in the body of Christ. Any other call of the Gospel Age *would be a deception and a fraud*. The word "church", Greek word "*ekklesia*," rendered "congregation" in the New World Translation, means "*that which is called out*"; it refers to the 144,000 members of the little flock.

- 1. Eph. 4:4,5 *There is one body*, and one Spirit, even as *ye are called in one hope* of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism.
 - 2. Heb. 3:1 Holy brethren, *partakers of the heavenly calling*.
- 3. 1 Cor. 12:13.27 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body; now ye are the body of Christ.
 - 4. Matt. 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.
 - 5. 2 Pet. 1:10 Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure.
- 6. Phil. 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the *high* calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- 7. Acts 15:14 God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.
- 8. Rom. 8:28 We know that all things work together for good; to them that love God, to them who are the *called* according to his purpose.
- 9. Rom. 1:6,7 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ ... called to be saints.
- 10. I Pet. 2:9 Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.

Christian Congregation For Saints Exclusively

- C. The set-up of the *Christian congregation* is for the *development of the saints*, the body of Christ, the *church*.
- 1. Eph. 4:11-13 He gave some apostles ... for the *perfecting of the saints*, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of *the body of Christ*.
- 2. Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost [Spirit] hath made you overseers, to *feed the church of God*.

Heavenly Promises To God's Servants Alone Require Faithfulness Unto Death

- D. *Heavenly promises* are the only ones given to God's servants at this time. Those promises require *faithfulness unto death*.
- 1. Rom. 8:17 If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and *jointheirs with Christ*; if so be that we suffer with him that we may be also *glorified together*.
- 2. Rom. 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing *seek for glory and honor and immortality*, *eternal life*.
- 3. 2 Tim. 2:11,12 If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also *reign with him* (Note the admonitions in the same chapter which Jehovah's Witnesses apply to themselves: 2 Tim. 2:24 The servant of the Lord must not strive. 2 Tim. 2:1,5 Study to show thyself approved.)
- 4. 2 Pet. 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be *partakers of the divine nature*.
- 5. Rev. 2:10 Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a ["the" original Greek text] crown of ["the" original Greek text] life.

Armageddon Survival Not Promised

- E. There are *no promises* of Christians *living through Armageddon*.
- Zeph. 2:3 Seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.
 - 1. This is not a definite promise; note, "it may be."
- 2. The hiding might refer not to living through unharmed but rather to not seeing the terrible destruction and suffering by being hidden in death, as in Job. 14:13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave ... until thy wrath be past.
- 3. It is believed to refer to the "holy" "remnant" only -- an admonition to "Covenant keeping fleshly Israelites." (Isa. 4:3-6) True Fleshly Israelites with whom God will begin His Kingdom. Daniel's natural people will be written in the "book of the living." (Daniel 12:1)
 - 4. Isa. 24:6 Inhabitants burned and few men left. (Does *not* specify righteousness).

Great Multitude A Heavenly Class

- F. The great multitude of Rev. 7:9-17 is not an earthly class, *but a heavenly class* those *who were called* but who were less faithful than the 144,000.
- 1. They are shown to serve him day and night *in his temple* (verse 15). Thus they are in heaven, closely associated with the *church*, *the temple class*, who are in heaven.
 - a.1Cor. 3:16 Ye are temple of God.
 - b.1 Pet 2: Ye, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood,
 - c. Rev. 3:12 "a pillar in the. temple...")
- 2. Psa. 45:4. The virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee ... into the King's palace. (This Psalm describes four classes the church or bride; *the great multitude or virgins that follow*, the ancient worthies or princes in all the earth; and finally mankind in general.)

Other Sheep Are Of The Earth

- G. The "other sheep" class mentioned by Jesus in John 10:16.
- 1. They might refer to an earthly class, but *no scriptures* tell us that they are to be gathered now.

The earthly class will gain everlasting life by obedience under trial or judgment (krisis) which lies before them during the Millennium AFTER the church class is completed and glorified. (John 5:25,28,29) They will have to prove faithful under conditions which are not as difficult as now, and their rewards will be correspondingly less.

SEE COMPARISON CHART BELOW:

Little Flock VS. Other Sheep

2. Age Comparison: "Little Flock" vs. - "Other sheep"

Gospel Age

Matt 16:24 If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Matt. 7:14 Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life.

Matt. 7:14 And few there be that find it.

2Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.

2Tim. 3:12 All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Rom. 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to him...and be ye not conformed to this world.

Millennial Age

Rev. 22:17 - "The Spirit and the bride say Come ... And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (The bride is the church glorified, not in the flesh.)

Isa. 35:8,9 - An highway shall be there ... the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there ... but the redeemed shall walk there.

Isa. 60:5 - The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee. (Isa. 17:12,13)

Rev. 20.23 - Bound him (Satan) 1,000 years ... that he should deceive the nations no more.

Psa. 72:7 - In his days shall the righteous flourish and abundance of peace.

Psa. 72:8.11 - He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth ... all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

Hindrance of God's Word Condemned

- H. Jesus condemned the Scribes and Pharisees for preventing the common people from hearing Jesus' message and responding to the heavenly calling.
 - 1. Matt. 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, nor suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

The heavenly *hope is robbed from the believers* under the guise that they should give their attention to the earth and that God *told them to do so*. The Great Multitude of Revelation 7 became by them an earthly dass. We quote from *Riches*, Pages 324, par. 1 bot., 325 top, 1934 by J. F. Rutherford:

Chapter VIII, GREAT MULTITUDE

"Now we see a company that exactly fits the description given in Revelation seven concerning the great multitude. During the past few years, and within the time when 'this gospel of the kingdom is preached as a witness', there have come forward great numbers (and they are still coming) who confess the Lord Jesus as their Savior and Jehovah as their God, whom they worship in spirit and in truth and joyfully serve. These are otherwise called 'the Jonadabs'. These are being baptized in symbol, thus testifying that they have consecrated themselves to do the will of God and have taken their stand on the side of Jehovah and serve him and his King; thus they have cleaned up and are now 'arrayed in white robes'. Thus the great multitude is definitely identified, NOT as a spirit begotten class whose hopes are for a 'place in heaven,' but as a class trusting in the Lord, and who hope for everlasting life on the earth as a gift from Jehovah God through Christ Jesus our Lord."

- 2. There is no Scriptural proof that those who respond to the message of truth at this time are not eligible for the heavenly calling. As long as there is an opportunity to suffer for righteousness and truth, the promises of a heavenly reward remain available.
- a. Matt. 5:10-12 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs **IS** the *Kingdom of heaven*. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for *great is your reward in heaven*.
- b. There is only the *one call now in effect* and that is to the heavenly calling. "Ye were called in the one hope of your calling" Ephesians 4:4. There is no other hope presently. There is *no call now to the earth*. "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh." Joel 2:28 "The Spirit and the Bride say come and whosoever will let him take of the water of life freely." Rev. 21:17 The Church of the first born ones includes *both priests and Levites* who are shown in the following types which are unalterable. (Hebrews 12:23) Bride and Companions Psalm 45. Levites and priests Book of Leviticus. No inheritance in the land. Wise and Foolish Virgins --Matt 25. There can be *no call to the earth until the Bride class reigns in*

heaven and this has not yet happened. The "spirit and the Bride "say come." Then and only then with there be opportunity for the world to obtain life.

Part III JUDGMENT

I. People who lived in *so-called* "Judgment Periods" will be resurrected. All final judgment for the world is reserved for the Millennial Judgment Day

World's Resurrection Contingent On Redemption of Adam

A. Adam.

- 1. Adam was a sinner and was justly sentenced to death. But so are all of his children.
 - a. Rom. 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one.
 - b. Rom. 3.23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
- 2. If Adam had not sinned, no ransom from the penalty and its concomitants would be needed. The "ransom for all" -- 1Tim. 2:5, (Greek -- antilutron corresponding ransom, Wescott and Hort, Greek English Interlinear) consisted of the sacrifice of the perfect man Jesus to redeem, or as a "corresponding ransom" for, the perfect man Adam who had sinned and brought us under the death penalty. Incidentally Adam's offspring were condemned and incidentally they are redeemed.
- a. God's law stated: Deut. 19:21 *Life shall go for life*, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.
- b. The results of the ransom for *all* are as far-reaching **as the results** of the transgression.
 - (1) 1 Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
- (2) Rom. 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of *one* judgment came upon *all* men to condemnation: even so by the righteousness of *one* the free gift came upon *all men* unto justification of life.
 - (3) 1Tim. 2:5,6 The man Christ Jesus who gave himself a *ransom for all*.

While the church, the heavenly class, have *faith* in the blood of Christ, it should be recognized that "*exercising faith in the ransom*" is not prerequisite in order raise *mankind from the dead*. Mankind, the vast majority of whom had no knowledge of the ransom, will *surely* "come forth" at Jesus' command to "all in that are in the graves [See note on the Greek word *mnemeion to follow*]." (John 5:28) They will, *at that time under trial*, have the *ransom-guaranteed opportunity for life*, *to believe* on Jesus and *to receive the Son of God* as do Christians in this age.

All – Not "All Kinds Of People" "The Many" Not Just Some – But All

(Note: In all three of these verses the same Greek word "pas" is used. It is also used in Matt. 24:14 - This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in *all* the world for a witness. In these four instances the New World Translation is inconsistent, rendering it "all" in Matt 24:14 and 1Cor. 15:22, but "all kinds" in Rom. 5:18 and footnote of 1Tim. 2:6.)

- (3) Heb. 2:9 That he (Jesus) by the grace of God should taste death for *every* man.
- (4) Matt. 20:28 The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (This text *cannot* be understood to *contradict* the thought of a ransom for all, since in Rom. 5:19 the same Greek word polus rendered "many" is shown to mean "the many" or "all" "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.")

A Covering of Skins For Adam and Eve

- 3. The slaying of animal sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed forward to Christ's sacrifice to *cover sins*. Since it *was God's intention to redeem Adam from death* he provided him with a coat of skins -- a covering by God for release by "the shedding of blood."
- a.. Gen. 3:21 Unto Adam also *and to his wife* did the Lord God make *coats of skins* and clothed them. This was the earliest of hope of future recovery to Adam, Eve and his posterity.
- 4. There are no scriptures to show *that Adam is excepted from the benefits of the ransom* for all.

The Judgment of the Antedi1uvians Not Final For Mankind

B. The world in Noah's day.

- 1. The disobedient angels, who were largely responsible for the evil and corruption in Noah's day, were *not then judged*. Since their judgment day is still future, it seems reasonable that the people will also be judged in the future.
- a. Gen. 6:4-12 There were giants in the earth in those days ... when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same *became mighty men* which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the *wickedness of man* was great in the earth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was *filled with violence*.
- b. 2 Pet. 2. God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (*tartaroo*), and delivered, them into chains of *darkness*, to be reserved unto judgment.
- c. Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness *unto the judgment of the great day*.
- 2. Rom. 5:12-14 Therefore as sin came into the world through *one* man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned sin indeed was in the world before the

law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned **from Adam to Moses**, even over those **whose sins were not** like the transgression of Adam. (Rev. Standard Version) (From God's standpoint the sins of the people who lived in the period from Adam to Moses were **not** considered to be of the same magnitude or accountability as Adam's. If then the sins of these people were to some degree less willful than Adam's, it would seem reasonable that they would be eligible for the general resurrection and the opportunity of gaining life in the Millennial Judgment Day.)

- 3. There are no scriptures to show that the people in Noah's day are excepted from the benefits of the ransom.
 - 4. No Scriptures show people's individual accountability or trial for everlasting life.

Sodom and Gomorrah Await Future Kingdom Judgment

C. Sodom and Gomonrah.

- 1. The Sodomites would have *repented* and not been destroyed if they had received as *much light* as Capernaum in Jesus' day. *Sodom's judgment day is yet future*.
- a.Matt. 11:23,24. For if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it *would have remained until this day*. But I say unto you, That *it shall be* more tolerable for the land of Sodom *in the day of judgment*, than for thee.
- b. Matt. 10:15 It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in *the day of judgment*, than for that city.
 - 2. The scriptures definitely prophesy the return of the Sodomites from death.
- a. Ezek. 16:55,61,62 When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, *shall return* to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate ... Then thou shalt remember thy ways and be ashamed ... and 1 will *establish my covenant* with thee. (Are we in our wisdom and great boldness, able to rule *in the place of* Jehovah God or His Son Jesus Christ, whose teaching this was?)
- b. Jude 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner ... are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Of this scripture is understood to mean Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed and are *not* to come forth in the resurrection, it would contradict the scriptural promises just cited. A harmonious understanding is obtained by noting that "eternal" is from the Greek aionos meaning "age lasting," Thus the people of these cities were blotted out not for all eternity but only until the close of the age, that is, the Gospel Age, and will come forth in the resurrection of the Millennial Judgment Day.)

3. No Scripture showing individual trial (or everlasting life).

Israel, Scribes and Pharisees Await Future Judgment

D. Fleshly Israel In Jesus Day.

- 1. Jesus clearly said that the period of his earthly ministry was not a time of judgment.
- a. John 12:47.48 If any man hear my words, and *believe not*, *I judge him not* for I came *not to judge the world* but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my

words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day (The last day is the time of the resurrection - John 11:24.)

- 2. The Scribes and Pharisees must come forth from the dead in the Kingdom in order to "see" Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They will be "thrust out" of the positions of rulership due to their unfaithfulness.
- a. Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, *in the kingdom of God*, and you yourselves thrust out.
 - 3. Even those who crucified Jesus were considered as doing it in ignorance.
- a. Acts 3:12-17 Ye men of Israel ...ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you...I wot that through *ignorance ye did it*, as *did also your rulers*.

Jew Not Cast Off Eternally - The Time To Favor Zion Is Come

4. Spiritual Israel, the church class, gains the chief favor, the heavenly reward, but *natural Israel is not cast off eternally*.

a.Rom. 11:2,15,25,26,32 - God *hath not cast away his people* which he foreknew ... Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded ... For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall *the receiving of them be, but life how the dead* ... Blindness in part is happened to Israel *until* the *fullness of the Gentiles be come in*. And so *all Israel shall be saved* -- For God hath concluded *them all in unbelief*, that he might have mercy upon all.

Rutherford Casts Off The Jew

This brings us to our next consideration: By what authority does Jehovah's Witnesses *steal* those promises made to fleshly Israel which the great Jehovah has made and when they **must** be understood as literal only. They plagiarize those promises with great boldness to themselves. (Vindication II, 1932, by J.F.Rutherford) They as a created class claim to inherit all of the natural promises of natural fleshly Israel or Zion? We quote from Vindication II, (1932) their own words:

Vindication II, 1932, CHAPTER IX, HIS FAME, Pages 347, 348 "After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses, whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen; but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.' [Ezek.](39:26-28) ... The concluding verse of this prophecy shows that the prophecy does not apply to the natural descendants of Abraham, even though there are now some of them back in Palestine. Note the prophecy says: 'I have poured out my spirit upon Israel.' That will not be true as to natural Jews, as such. 'Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God.' [Ezek.] (39:29)

Vindication II, (1932) CHAPTER VIII, CONSOLATION, Pages 257, 258: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds; to cast it out for a prey.' (36: 5)... 'Prophesy, therefore, concerning the land of Israel; and say unto the mountains and to the hills, to the rivers and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen.'-- [Ezek]36: 6."

"There was a partial fulfillment of this prophecy upon Palestine in the days of Ezekiel and Nehemiah. The complete fulfillment could not apply to the literal land of Palestine. The Jews were evicted from Palestine and 'their house left unto them desolate' because they rejected Christ Jesus, the: beloved and anointed King of Jehovah. To this day the Jews have not repented of this wrongful act committed by their forefathers. Many of them have been returned to the land of Palestine, but they have been induced to go there because of selfishness and for sentimental reasons. During the long period elapsing from the time of their expulsion to the present day the Jews have not 'borne the shame of the heathen' for Jehovah's sake, nor for the name of Christ... In contrast to this, during the World War the Jews received recognition of the heathen nations. In 1917 the Balfour Declaration, sponsored by the heathen governments of Satan's organization, came forth, recognized the Jews, and bestowed upon them great favors. In this the seventh world power took the lead. Now Big Business and other wings of Satan's organization place the Jews alongside of and in the same category as the Gentiles. Heretofore even God's people have overlooked the fact that the affairs of God's kingdom with reference to the things of earth are of far greater importance than the rehabilitation of that little strip of land on the eastern side of the Mediterranean sea. The Jews have received more attention at their hands than they have really deserved. Therefore this prophecy must have its chief fulfillment upon the true people of God's kingdom which are now on the earth."

Vindication II, 1932, CONSOLATION 294,295: "The prophecy beginning with the sixteenth verse pictures or illustrates the unity, harmony and cooperation of God's remnant [of Jehovah's Witnesses] following their experiences pictured by the dry bones. 'Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: and join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.' – [Ezek.]37: 16, 17:

In miniature this prophecy was fulfilled upon fleshly Israel in the year 536 B.C. and thereafter. Only fifty thousand Jews, the remnant of the nation, left Babylon under Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest: These representative members of all the twelve tribes became settled again as one people in the land of Palestine. In harmony with this Peter addressed them at Pentecost and said: 'Therefore let all the house of Israel know.' (Acts 2:.36) Here likewise Paul speaks of 'our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and tight'. (Acts 26: 7) There seems to be no reasonable ground for applying the prophecy of Ezekiel 37: 15-28 to the Jews now in Palestine."

It becomes quite clear where and why and by whom the changes were made back there in 1932. The Judge, J. F. Rutherford decided to change his views toward the Jew in this year and take their honor from God unto himself and his associates. He once believed in a hope for the Jew in this position of honor -- inheriting the promises from God as His "chosen people." He wrote several books expressing that view. In 1925 his book as called *Comfort to the Jew*. After that he wrote another message of comfort on behalf of the returning Jewish people to Palestine,

in 1929 called *Life*. He failed to see the materialization of Gods promises. In his shortsightedness, he appropriated those promises to natural Israel to Jehovah's Witnesses – even that of the land as symbolic. He plagiarized the Word of God. Hr denied the Jew their rightful place and blessing.

Because he could not see the ability of God to give to Israel His spirit he said, "I have poured out my spirit upon Israel. That will not be true as to natural Jews, as such." God will give Israel His spirit and put it within them and they shall live after both Church and Great Company are complete. (Joel 2:29,28) A claim was made of only a partial fulfillment 586 BC concerning their return to their land. The argument presented was they were evicted from the land. They crucified Christ and were unrepentant of their forefather's deed to this day. Their house was left desolate. That warfare was accomplished in 1878. (Isa. 40:,2) He claims, many have returned but for selfish and sentimental reasons. That the Jew has not borne the shame of the heathen for Jehovah's sake. The Jews now bear the shame of the nations and will bear that shame when they are attacked at the time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7-9 Not seeing the purposes of God, he states that the Balfour declaration of 1917 was through Satan's organizations and that big business places the Jew alongside the Gentiles. The Balfour declaration was the result of Weitzman's discovery of "nitro-glycerin" which helped the British win the war. A request was made earlier to Lloyd George for Palestine to be the national homeland of the Jewish people. The request was made in 1914, at the exact end of the times of the Gentiles. It was granted in 1917. God works through natural ways. Finally, he says that the affairs of God's kingdom are "of far greater importance than the rehabilitation of that little strip of land on the eastern side of the Mediterranean sea. The Jews have received more attention at their hands than they have really deserved." That little strip of land is very important to God. He says that they will be planted there forever. (Amos 9:15) Rutherford appropriates Ezekiel 37 which concerns the whole house of fleshly Israel and after replacement-theology fashion found in the nominal church, spiritualizes it to apply to Jehovah's Witnesses. He concludes here by saying, "There seems to be no reasonable ground for applying the prophecy of Ezekiel 37: 15-28 to the Jews now in Palestine." Here the application is in error for verse 21 clearly says, they are to be taken from among the nations (where they had been scattered) "and bring them into their own land." "I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel (never mind Palestine or the Palistinians) and one King shall be king to them all: and they shall no more be two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all." (Ezek 37:22)

Our reply is this: No one is ever, ever is authorized to take to themselves promises that are clearly intended for God's chosen people. A Scripture *must be understood literally* when it can be and *symbolically when it cannot be*. That is a simple rule that *must be applied* in the understanding of God's Word. When God writes His Word and another would presume to teach *contrary to that clearly defined Word*, that is *teaching another Gospel!* And the Apostle writes, "Let him be accursed!" (Gal. 1:8) Romans 11:1 -- "Has God cast away his (natural) people (whom he foreknew)? God forbid." Romans 11:26 -- "There shall come out of Zion (Christ and his glorified church) the deliverer and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." Romans 11:25 -- "Blindness in part is happened unto Israel, until the fullness (number) of the Gentiles be come in." Romans 11:28 -- "They are beloved for the Father's sake." Romans 11:26 -- "And so all Israel shall be saved." Read Studies in the Scriptures, Volume 3, Page 243, Chapter VIII, The Restoration of Israel and find the truth on this subject that has so badly been attacked.

New Covenant Future And Will Be Made With Israel And Extends To All Earth's Families

- 5. New Covenant is yet to be made with natural Israel and their iniquity forgiven.
- Jer. 31:31 Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that *I* will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah ... not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt ... I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts ... for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for *I* will forgive their iniquity, and *I* will remember their sin no more:
- 6. *Only* natural Israel was scattered, *not the Jehovah's Witnesses*. Thus natural Israel is unmistakably *referred to in the following prophecies:*
- a. Ezek. 11:16-20 Thus saith the LORD God, although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries ... I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered and I will give you the land of Israel...And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh ... And they shall be my people, and I will be their God (The recovery from the Diaspora has not happened in 586B.C. or at any other time as claimed. It is only in recent years that they have returned and reestablished a nation. How can anyone ever say Jehovah was their God back then and that they were his people in the absolute sense when His law is put within their hearts? They shall yet have God's spirit in them at the close of Armageddon and become His people in the full sense in the kingdom age.)
- b. Jer. 32:37-41 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely... And I will make an everlasting covenant with them...yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land
- c. Jer. 24:6,7, For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant *them*, and not pluck *them up* ... and I will be their God: *for they shall* return unto me *with* their whole *heart* (This has never happened. To deny this is to *deny God the right* to *speak His own Word*!)
- d. Amos 9:14,15 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards ... and I will plant them *upon their land and they shall* NO MORE be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God. (Captivity is from the Hebrew SHEBOOTH, meaning figuratively "a former state of prosperity."

Note: The *correct view* as to *natural Israel* was firmly held, with some modification, by the Society as expressed in "Comfort To *the Jew*," 1925 and "Life," 1929 until the book "Vindication 1,2,3" by J. Rutherford came out, in 1931,2 changed -- their theology, making THEM exclusively beneficiaries of all promises pertaining to the sheep of Israel.

The Remnant or Holy Ones of Israel and Their Ancients To Teach The World In The Kingdom Age

6. The Jew to be used as teacher nation in the Millennium.

- a. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; ... ten men shall take hold out of all the languages (nations of the world) of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you for we have heard that God is with you." Zech. 8:23.
- b. "as ye were a curse among the heathen (nations, Gentiles),... *ye shall be a blessing*." Zech. 8:13
- c. And they shall bring your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all the nations ... to my holy mountain Jerusalem ... And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites (the Holy Remnant of fleshly natural Israel who will *both teach and serve*. The Priests and Levites were to teach the Law). 2 Chron. 17:9
- d. But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok ... *shall teach my people* the difference between holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. Ezek. 44:15,24,25.
- e. Let us go up ... to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion (the glorified the Christ) shall go forth the Law (of the NEW Covenant) and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isa 2:3; Mic.5:2. According to, Hertzel Yearbook Number 5, and because of their attitude, Israel regards Jehovah's Witnesses as antizionistic.

No Guarantee For Jehovah's Witnesses To Survive Armageddon

E. The World from 1918 to Armageddon.

- 1. Some definitely survive Armageddon who were unrighteous and disobedient.
- a. Zeph. 3:8,9 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the pray: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy, for then will I turn to the people a pure language that *they may all call upon the name of the Lord*, to serve Him with one consent. (The righteous *already know* the pure language.)
- b. Psa. 46:1-10 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, Therefore we will not fear though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea ... *the heathen raged*, the kingdoms were moved; he uttered his voice, the earth melted... Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth, He maketh wars to cease unto the ends of the earth: Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. (God will be exalted among *the heathen* who were raging just prior to God's desolating work.)
- c. Zech. 14:1-3,12-19 "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle ... then shall the Lord go forth and fight *against those* nations as when he fought in the day of battle ... And it shall come to pass In that day that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them ... And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left out of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the

Lord of hosts ... And it shall be, that who so will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King ... even upon them staff be no rain ... There shall be the plague wherewith the LORD shall smite the heathen that come not up (Some that are left were aggressors in Armageddon and again shall be disobedient).

d. Isa. 24:19-22 - The earth is utterly broken down ... shall be removed ... and it shall fall ... and it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high and *the kings of the earth upon the earth*, and they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are *gathered in the pit* and shall be shut up in the prison, and *after many days shall be visited*, (This being visited shows that *the rulers, etc.*, who went down into death at Armageddon, *will be resurrected* from the dead.)

2. The Marking And Slaying of Ezek. 9:4-6 and Rev. 7:1-3 Is Not Literal

- a. In both accounts a destruction follows the marking
- (1) Ezek. 9:4-6 And the Lord said unto him, go through the midst of the city ... and set a Mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof, and to the others he said in mine hearing, go ye after him through the city and smite ... slay utterly ... but come not near any man upon whom is the mark.
- (2.) Rev, 7:1-3 And after these things I saw four angels standing ... holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow ... and another angel ascending ... having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to with the fire of my jealousy, for then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent. (The righteous already know the pure language.)
- b. Psa. 46:1-10 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea ... the heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved; he uttered his voice, the earth melted... Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth, He maketh wars to cease unto the ends of the earth: Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the heathen. I will be exalted in the earth. (God will be exalted among the heathen, who were raging just prior to God's desolating work.)
- c. Zech. 14:1-3,12-19 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle ... then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle ... And it shall come to pass in that day that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them ... And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left out of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts-And it shall be, that who so will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King ... even upon them shall be no rain ... There shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up." (Some that are left were aggressors in Armageddon and again shall be disobedient).
- d. Isa. 24:19-22 The earth is utterly broken down shall removed ... and it shall fall ... And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high and the kings of the earth upon the earth, and they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall be visited. (This being visited shows that the rulers, etc., who went down into death at Armageddon, will be resurrected from the dead.)

- 2. The marking and slaying of Ezek. 9:4-6 and Rev. Z:1-3 are not literal.
- a. In both accounts a destruction follows the marking work. Ezek. 9:4-6 And the Lord said unto him, go through the midst of the city ... and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof, and to the others he said in mine hearing, go ye after him through the city and smite ... slay utterly ... but come not near any man upon whom is the mark. Rev, 7:1-3 And after these things I saw four angels standing-holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow... and another angel ascending ... having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom It was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying hurt not the earth ... till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
- b. Note that the Revelation account continues that only the 144,000 were sealed, showing the marking to *be symbolic of* acceptance in the heavenly bride class, and the slaying symbolic of rejection or casting off from this position, not to *sealing of Jehovah's Witnesses* and destruction of all others.
- (1) Rev. 7:4 And I heard the number of *them which were* sealed and there were sealed an *hundred* and forty and four
- 3 Some Scriptures speak of mankind or certain ones not *rising again*. This refers to their not rising *throughout the reign of sin* and death, but in the Millennial Age *they will come forth* in the resurrection.
- a. Job. 14:10-15 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? ... So man *lieth down*, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep ... If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee.
- b. Isa. 26:14-19 They are dead, *they shall* not *live*, they are deceased, *they shall* not *rise*. .. Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead **body shall they** arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust ... and **the earth shall cast out the** dead
- c. Jer. 51:57 And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and *they shall sleep a perpetual sleep*, and not *wake*. (Here the thought is they shall not wake till the Millennial Age since "perpetual" is from the **Hebrew OLAM** defined as "age or age-lasting", showing they will sleep *till the* end of *the present* age.)
- d. Psa. 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. (Here the word "hell" is the Hebrew SHEOL and the word "turned" is the Hebrew SHUB defined as turn back or return" and is rendered "return again" 369 times in the King James Version, as in Gen. 3:19 Till thou return unto the g ground Thus the wicked will first be resurrected to trial BEFORE being sentenced for return to hell or a second death, if they persist in their wickedness. (Consider such uncomplicated Scriptures as John 5:28,29 already mentioned, "all in their graves" ... "they that . done evil' UNTO A RESURRECTION by judgment (Greek KRISIS a trial time of an average minimum of 100 years within Christ's Millennium. Isa. 65:20 A resurrection of the just and the unjust Acts 24:15. To contradict this would be to say that Christ did not die "the just for the unjust." "Men make God's love too narrow, by false limits of their own," said the poet.)
 - e. Psa. 90:3 Thou turnest man to *destruction* ... and sayest return...
 - 4. The Judgment and Separation of the Sheep and Goats is not taking place now.

- Matt. 25:31-46 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with *him, then* shall he sit upon the *throne of his glory*. and *before him shall be gathered all nations:* and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats ... Then shall they answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
- a. First the Church class must *be completed and* glorified, since they *are the "holy* angels" who are with Jesus at the time. .-"Angels" is from the Greek word a AGGELOS, meaning "messengers", as in James 2:25 Rahab the harlot was justified by works, when she had received the *messengers*.
 - (1) Rev. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne
 - (2) 1 Cor. 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge *the world*?
- (3) Col. 3:4 When Christ who is our life *shall appear*, then shall ye also appear $with \ him \ in \ glory$.
- b. The judgment is *based on the works done: feeding* the strangers, *clothing* the naked, *visiting* those in prison and the sick, etc. These are symbolic of an attitude of love and helpfulness to fellow men, assisting each other up *the highway of holiness* toward perfection during the Millennial Age.
- c. Jesus' brethren (verse 40) are those who do God's will. Mark 3:34,35 Behold, my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother. The term brethren need not be limited to the Church in the Gospel Age but can also apply to those who do God's will in the Millennial Age- (Consider the fact that in the eternal future when all shall have been completely tried, found obedient and made perfect, God will be the Father of mankind, angels, the church, and Christ a brotherhood of sons Sons of Jehovah God. How wonderful!) Those who would so limit it (to try to prove the setting is not future) run into the inconsistency of having the sheep class (earthly) ministering the food, etc. (truth) to Christ's brethren (the Church class) while they really believe the reverse is true that the spirit-begotten remnant of the Church class ministers the truth to the other sheep class.
- d. A similar account of *the judgment day is* given in Rev. 20:4,11-15 and is definitely shown to be during *the* reign *of Christ and the completed* Church in heaven. And I *saw thrones*, and they sat upon them, and judgment *was given to them ... they... reigned with Christ ...* And I saw a great white throne ... and I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God ... and the dead were *judged* out of those things written in the books, according *to their works. It* is not speaking of their past works alone but works mainly done in the kingdom age day *when they are subject to* judgment according to the works they do then as the church is now *judged* according to their works. "I know thy works", etc. It is not a "Scott-free" program. All *in earth* during the Kingdom Age will be subject to a judgment trial by the "Great Mediator" Christ and his Church then reigning.

F. The Millennial Age - the Judgment Day taught in the Bible.

- 1. There is a day of judgment, the Millennial Age, rather than various judgment periods.
 - a. Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world

- b. 2 Pet. 3:7,8 Against the *day of judgment* and perdition of ungodly men ... one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,
 - 2. That time is yet future.
- a. Micah 4:1-4 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains ...and he shall *judge* among many people ... Neither shall they learn war any more ... and *none shall make them afraid*.
- b. Psa. 96:10-13 Say among the heathen that *the Lord* reigneth, ... He shall *judge the people righteously*. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad ... for he cometh to *judge the* earth He shall *judge* the world with righteousness, and the people *with his* truth.
- c. Isa. 26:9,10 For when thy *judgments* are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will *team* righteousness. Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in *the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly*.
- d. Psa. 72:2-8 He shall judge the people with righteousness ... In *his days* shall the righteous flourish ... He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.
 - 3. That judgment *day will be for* the whole world
- a. John 5:28.2 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (judgment). (The New World Translation is *misleading* in rendering the Greek word MNEMEION (grave, in the King James Version) as "*memorial tombs*" since the correct *definition is* monument, grave, tomb, or memorial", which gives the thought of *man's memory* of his loved ones, and does not refer to God's memory at all. All the dead are in God's memory and will be *raised for judgment* Those who then prove unfaithful will be destroyed eternally.)
- b. Acts 24:15 There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.
- c. Phil. 2:10,11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- d. Rom. 14:10,11 For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

G. Second Death.

- 1. The "ransom for all" sacrifice releases *Adam and his* offspring from first death (Adamic), but second death is a death from which there will never *be a resurrection*.
- 2. An individual *must* be released (reckonedly or *actually*) from Adamic death *before it is possible* to suffer *second* death.
- a. Before the Gospel Age none were *released from Adamic death*, *so none could have suffered second death*. 2 Tim. 1:10 By the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
- b. During the Gospel Age, only those who are enlightened with the truth, *justified* by the blood of Christ (reckonedly *released* from Adamic death), and spirit begotten, and who *then* deny Christ and fall away from the truth go into second *death*. *Only the prospective* members of the body of Christ are now *justified and* on *trial*.

- (1) Heb. 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once *enlightened*, and have *tasted* of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of *the Holy Spirit*, and have *tasted* the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if *they* shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing *they crucify* to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.
- (2) Heb. 10:26-29 For if we sin willfully after that we have received *the knowledge* of *the truth*, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for *judgment* and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that *despised Moses' law* died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer *punishment*, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the *blood* of *the COVENANT wherewith HE was* sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (As with ancient Israel, there was a covenant relationship with the person who was cut off).
- (3) Matt. 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against *the Holy Ghost (Spirit)* shall not be forgiven unto men. (The point here is sin against the Holy Spirit brings liability. Some sins against the Holy Spirit are not forgiven and may be punished with stripes, as will be those outsiders who witnessed that great light of Jesus' first advent. Others, now having a covenant relationship to that Spirit in turning against it, God or Jesus, are punishable with eternal or second death).
- c. During the Millennial Age, after coming forth in the resurrection (actually *released* from Adamic death), those who *continue* to be disobedient to God will fall into second death. The *whole world will then* be on trial for life or death (second death).
- (1) Acts 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.
- (2) Jer. 31:29.30 In *those days* they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape (Adam sinned), and the children's teeth are set on edge (his posterity have inherited sin and death *and the "soul" or being dies* because of inheritance from father Adam), But every one shall die for his own iniquity: Every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.
- (3) Ezek. 20:20,21 *The soul that* sinneth, it shall die. (It is God's Law of righteous standards. This is why death came to Adam's soul or being and why inherited death was *passed on* to our souls or beings. We make the point that Jesus' "ransom for all" provided the means for our soul's recovery and full restoration to eternal life). The son *shall not* bear the iniquity of the father (Adam, as does his posterity) neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son ... the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed ... he shall surely live, *he* shall not die.
- (4) Psa. 145:20 The LORD preserveth all them that love Him: but all the wicked will He destroy. (Whether of the present called or those of the kingdom age.)
- (5) Rev. 20:12-15. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God (with Satan bound and the judges in place); and the books were opened and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were *judged* out of the things written in the books, according to their works, and the sea gave up *the dead* which were in it; and *death* and hell (hades, *the* grave) delivered up the dead which were in them: and *try were judged* every man *according to their works* (*See previous note*). And death and the grave were cast into the lake of fire This is the second death. And whatsoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (not a place of torment but a clearly defined "second death).

H. Conclusion

- 1. Adam and all his children are under God's condemnation and dead in his sight, without any standing before him, until they learn of and exercise faith in the ransom blood regardless of the fact that "ransom for all" will bring all mankind out from the grave in the kingdom age. It makes no difference whether one dies at an early age by a specific act of God or later in life by so-called natural causes; both are the results of sin and divine condemnation.
 - a. Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.
 - b. Matt. 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.
- c. John 3,18 He that believeth not is condemned *already*. (The condemnation came upon all and still rests upon those who *believe not* until they do believe.)
- d. 1 Tim. 2:4 (God) who will have all men to be saved and to come into the knowledge of the truth. (Note the sequence saved or brought back from the dead first, then enlightened so they may choose whether to serve God and live or disobey and die the second death.)
- 2. The view that God desires to destroy *all people* except **those** of one denomination is not in harmony with God's will. God desires *to bless*, not *to* destroy mankind.
- a. Luke 9:53-55 And they did not receive him ... and when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven ... But *he* turned, and rebuked *them*.
- b. Isa. 60:2-5 Darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall arise ... the *abundance* of *the sea shall be converted* unto thee.
- c. Acts 3:25 And in thy seed shall all *the kindreds* of the *earth be blessed* (Other texts where this promise is recorded use the word "nations", but here the promises made more all-inclusive with the word "kindreds", or "families" as in the New World Translation.)
 - d. John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will *draw all men* unto me.
- e. Luke 2:10,14 Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, ... on earth peace, good will toward men. (The New World Translation when it uses the phrases "all kinds of people" and "men of good will." The true meaning is compromised! It constricts the grace of God. The good news is *to and for all people*. Peace on earth is not limited to "men of good will." It is the good wig of God *toward* all *mankind* and for which world He so loved that he gave His Son to die. John 3:16; I Tim. 2:4).
 - f. Ezek. 18:18 God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

PART IV ''NEW LIGHT'' IS REALLY A DEPARTURE INTO ERROR

- A. **Prov. 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light**, that shineth more *and more* unto the perfect day.
- 1. This text could hardly be referring to a steadily increasing light of truth all through the Gospel Age.
 - a. In Jesus' day it was already shining brightly.
- (1) John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I *am the light of the world*, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.
- b. Soon after the apostles fell asleep, he truth became mixed with error in the great falling away. History shows that during the "Dark Ages" error held sway. Certainly the truth was not shining more brightly than in Jesus' day.
- (1) 2 Thess. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first,** and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.
- 2. This text refers not to a continual changing of what constitutes the truth but to an increasing appreciation of *the truth* in our own individual lives as we study it and live by it.
- 3. The text may also have reference to a clearer understanding of Bible prophecies as they are being fulfilled more completely before us.

B. Restoration of Truth.

- 1. Meat in due season was provided by means of a faithful and wise servant.
- Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season.
 - 2. The truth was restored at the Lord's second presence.
- Luke 12:43 Blessed is *that servant*, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
- 3. Brother Charles Taze Russell was *the* servant, or as pictured in Revelation, the special messenger to the seventh period of the church, just as other individuals such as Luther were used in former periods of the church's history.

- Rev. 2:20 The seven stars are the angels (Greek AGGELOS, "messengers") of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.
- 4. The servant received all *the basic doctrines* of truth from the Lord, while former messengers received only certain phases of *truth*. Thus he would need no successors.
 - a. Luke 12:44. He will make him ruler over all that he hath.
- 5. Both the faithful and wise servant and the evil servant *are* individuals, not organizations, since their work is in connection with fellow-servants, who also are individuals.
- Matt. 24:46,49 If that evil servant shall say in his heart, my lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants.
 - 6. The "meat in due season" consisted of:
- a. A restoration of the doctrines taught by Jesus and the apostles which had been contaminated as the church fell away. Jude 3 Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
- b. An understanding of certain *time features* of God's plan which were not to be revealed until then.
 - (1) Dan. 12:9,10 Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the *time* of the end ... None of he wicked shall ^understand, but the wise shall understand.

C. Doctrines are not to be continually changing.

- 1. What was truth in 1916 is still *truth*; or else we would have to say that the truth" movement was an "error movement" at one time. Once doctrine has been proved by the Word of God, it *is truth* and is not to be cast off a few years later.
 - a. 1 Thess. 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
 - b. Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the *apostles'* doctrine.
- c. Eph. 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.
- d. Rom. 16:17 Brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned.
- e. Heb. 13:9 Be not carried about with divers *and* strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.
- f. Col. 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ... to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue *in the faith* grounded and settled, and *be not* moved away from the hope of the gospel.
 - g. Mal. 3:6 For I am the Lord, I change not.

D. So-called "new light" has not clarified the truth.

It has merely resulted in going back to the old error of restricting the love and mercy of God.

(See Doctrinal Comparison Chart on next page.)

DOCTRINAL COMPARISON CHART

Truth (Held in 1916)

Featured doctrine of the ransom for all, with the entire human race to receive the benefits. Salvation not limited to present life. Doctrine of restitution of all things, the themesong of the Bible, the hope of the entire world. All will come forth in the resurrection in order to receive full knowledge and opportunity. All final judgment for world reserved for Millennial Judgment Day. Activity in Lord's service based solely on love, not fear. Second death not highlighted. Purpose of spreading gospel is the calling out from the world of the members of the heavenly class, not a dividing work to result in life or death to the heaver.

Two salvations - a heavenly for the faithful followers of Jesus who during the Gospel Age are persecuted for his sake; and an earthly for the remainder of mankind who do not come into harmony with God until the Millennial Age. Life in heaven is the only calling of the present.

Elders and deacons *elected by the brethren* of the individual Ecciesia's to positions of service. The Lord's will expressed by his people. *Individual responsibility* to prove all doctrines and practices from the Blble.

Kingdom rule not to be set up in the earth until *the entire heavenly class is glorified. Will* be manifest to all by resurrection of ancient worthies, who will assume control.

The Divine purpose has many time features. There is accurate historical evidence from both the civil and the added Biblical accounts of chronology. These establish seven millennia that are related to the prophetic record.

Christ's second advent. One of the unique harvest fearures of present truth is the invisible presence of Christ. This relates to Jesus' own words as well as many prophecies. Those activities during the harvest or ending time are in his charge. Failure to discern this feature puts one in the position creating a kingdom now.

The Society has had many failed expectations among which are 1925 and 1974. More recently the 70 years desolation has been questioned relative to 1914. There is little confidence in chronology anymore as there is no date.

Relative to the lack of definition of any form of chronology is a *lack of confidence* in the invisible return of Christ. They had once inaccurately believed the return of Christ to be 1914 prior to establishing his kingdom in the earth (*Deliverance*, 1925). It is an enigma for which they have no answers and leads to the nominal "coming again."

Error ("New Light")

Ransom restricted to exclude Adam and many others by introducing idea of various *judgment periods* in which many are judged now and will not come forth in the resurrection.

Restitution minimized to such an extent that earth needs to be populated by Armageddon survivors. Of the many presently alive, only those who now serve Jehovah faithfully will come forth in the resurrection. Work of the future judgment day minimized.

Fear of second death stressed for those who do not strictly obey "the society" and fear of Armageddon for those who hear the message now and do not respond. Salvation gained only by being part of the New World society.

Newly interested ones must suffer for righteousness' sake but are not eligible for the heavenly calling. Life on earth promised as reward for present faithfulness. "Other sheep" class now being gathered.

Servants appointed by headquarters in Brooklyn, accepted as from Jehovah. "Theocratic rule" introduced. Doctrines and practices taught by "the society" must be accepted without question from the Governing body.

"The society" regarded as Jehovah's organization, ruling with

Kingdom authority now even though remnant of the heavenly class is still in the flesh.

DOCTRINAL COMPARISON CHART

TRUTH (HELD IN 1916)

ERROR (NEW LIGHT)

RANSOM:

Featured doctrine of the ransom for all, with *the* entire human race to receive the benefits. Salvation not limited to present life nor are unbelievers limited to faith *in the* ransom NOW to be resurrected.

RESTITUTION:

Doctrine of restitution of all things, the themesong of the Bible, the hope of the entire world. All will come forth in the resurrection in order to receive full knowledge and opportunity. All final judgment for world reserved for Millennial Judgment Day.

PURPOSE OF WITNESSING:

Activity in Lord's service *based* solely on love, not fear. Second death not highlighted. Purpose of spreading gospel is the calling out from the world of the members of the heavenly class, not a dividing work to result in life or death to the hearer.

REWARDS:

Two salvations - a heavenly for the faithful followers of Jesus who during *the* Gospel Age are persecuted for his sake; and an earthly for the remainder of mankind who do not come into harmony with God until the Millennial Age. Life in heaven is the *only* calling of the present. The Great multitude is in heavenly temple.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Elders and deacons *elected* by *the* brethren of the individual Ecciesias to positions of service. The Lord's will expressed by his people. *Individual responsibility* to prove all doctrines and practices from the Bible.

RANSOM:

Ransom restricted to exclude Adam and many others by introducing idea of various judgment periods in which many are judged now and will not come forth in the resurrection

RESTITUTION:

Restitution minimized to such an extent that earth needs to be populated by Armageddon survivors. Of the many presently alive, only those who now serve Jehovah faithfully will come forth in the resurrection. Work of the future judgment day minimized.

PURPOSE OF WITNESSING:

Fear of *second death* stressed for those who do not strictly obey "the society" and fear of Armageddon for those who hear the message now and do not respond. Salvation gained only by being part of the New World society.

REWARDS:

Newly interested ones must suffer for righteousness' sake but are not eligible for the heavenly calling. Life on earth promised as reward for present faithfulness. "Other sheep" class now being gathered. From 1934 onward, the Great Company is a special class now being selected for the earth

CHURCH ORGANIZATION:

Servants appointed by headquarters in Brooklyn, accepted as from Jehovah. "Theocratic rule" introduced. Doctrines and practices taught by "the society" must be accepted without question from the Governing body.

DOCTRINAL COMPARISON CHART

(Continued)

TRUTH (HELD IN 1916)

ERROR (NEW LIGHT)

KINGDOM RULE:

Kingdom rule not to be set up in the earth until the entire heavenly class is glorified. Will be manifest to all by resurrection of ancient worthies, who will assume control.

TIME FEATURES:

The Divine purpose has many prophetic time features. The Biblical accounts of chronology are precise and flawless. It is an accurate assist to the watchers that they might know. These clearly establish seven millennia that are related to the prophetic record.

PRESENCE:

Christ's *second advent*. One of the unique harvest features of present truth is the *invisible presence of* Christ. This relates to Jesus' own words as well as many prophecies. Those activities during the harvest or ending time are *in his charge*. Failure to discern this feature puts one in the position creating a kingdom now.

ISRAEL:

In God's program, the Jew is special. Whoever blesses Israel, God will bless. They are still His people. The Bible is filled with many Israeli promises. Bible truth points to holy Israel and Ancients as dispensers of Gods blessings to Gentiles.

KINGDOM RULE:

"The society" regarded as Jehovah's organization, *ruling* with Kingdom authority now even though remnant of the heavenly class is still in the flesh.

TIME FEATURES:

The Society has had *many failed expectations* among which are 1925 and 1974. More recently the 70 years desolation has been questioned relative to 1914. There is little confidence in chronology anymore as there is no date.

PRESENCE:

Relative to the lack of definition of any form of chronology is a *lack of confidence* in the invisible return of Christ. They had once inaccurately believed the return of Christ to be 1914 prior to establishing his kingdom in the earth (*Deliverance*, 1925). It is an enigma for which they have no answers and leads to the nominal "coming again."

ISRAEL:

Jehovah's Witnesses having believed in fleshly Israel until 1931, have ever since wrongfully misappropriated to themselves, God's promises to His chosen people, fleshly Israel. To the contrary, St. Paul makes this crystal clear in Romans 11.



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