

Jehovah's Witnesses

Dr. Shawn Nelson



Outline

Overview

Practices

Beliefs & Responses

Mistranslations

False Prophecies

Shady Founder

Tips for Sharing

Followers

- **8.7 million** involved in evangelism.
- **1.4 billion hours** spent preaching.
- Bible studies with more than 5.9 million individuals.
- **120,000** congregations.
- They're **growing...**
increased 0.7% in 2021

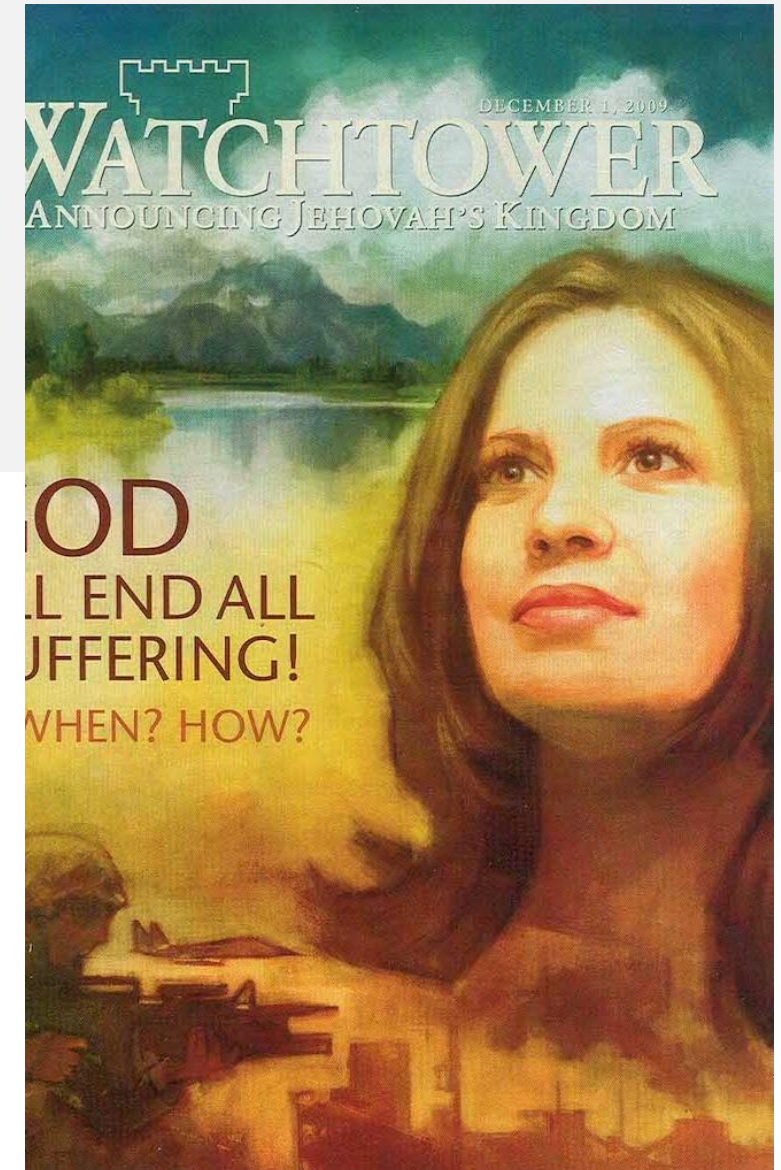
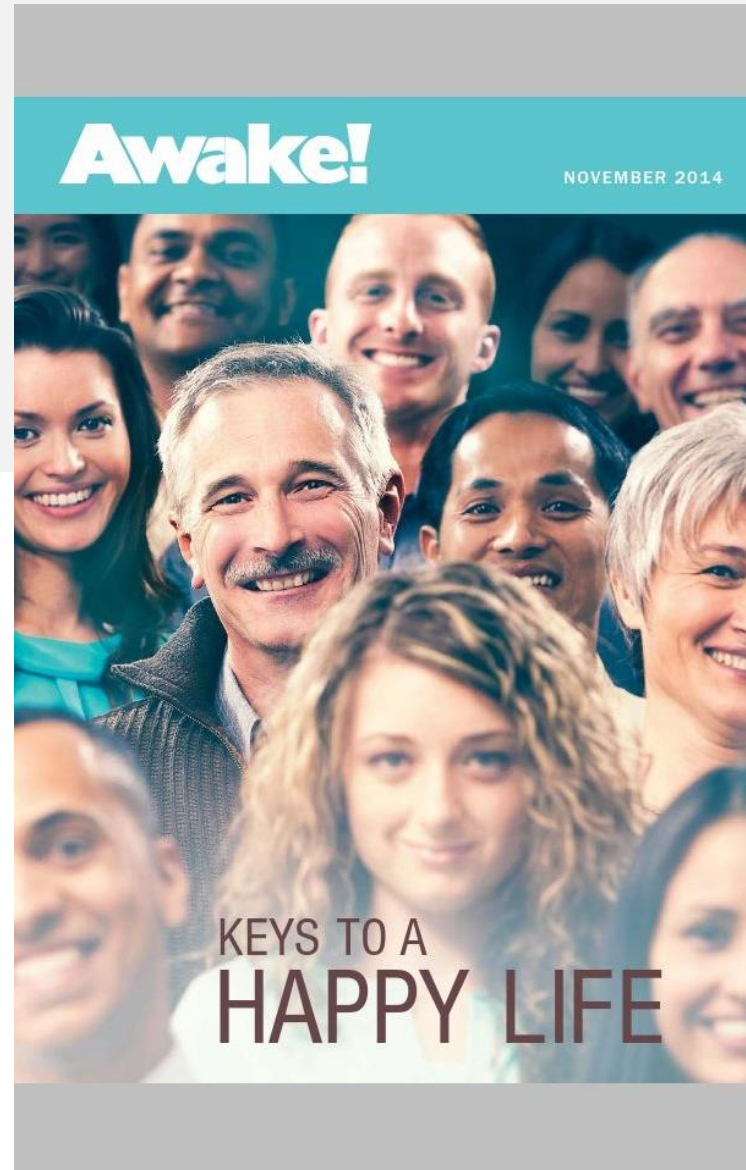
+609,000 people in 1 year





Publishing

- Focused on **distributing print material**.
 - *Awake!* – for the public.
 - *The Watchtower* – instructs members on doctrines.
 - The New World Translation – their “translation” of the Bible.
- Can find everywhere, doctor’s offices, doorsteps, beaches, etc.
- **227 million copies** of the New World Translation.



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A good Jehovah's Witness...

- Will **refuse military service**.
- Will not **sing national anthem**.
- Must not **salute the flag**.
- Must not take part in **politics**.
- Must not **vote**.
- Must not serve in **jury duty**.
- Will not observe **national holidays**.
- Will not celebrate Christian holidays like **Christmas** and **Easter**.
- Cannot celebrate **birthdays**.

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A good Jehovah's Witness... (Cont'd)

- Must use God's proper name (Jehovah).
 - This is required for proper worship.
- Must **refuse blood transfusions**.
 - Even for life & death situations
 - Based on interpretation of Acts 15.

Acts 15:28–29 – “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you **abstain from things** offered to idols, **from blood**, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

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A good Jehovah's Witness... (Cont'd)

- Will only study from the **New World Translation**.
- Must **avoid independent thinking**.
 - Questioning the Watchtower is not allowed.
 - Followers must interpret the Bible as the organization tells them to.
 - The teachings of the *Watchtower* are all-encompassing and **must direct every area of life**.

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A good Jehovah's Witness... (Cont'd)

- Will not have **outside friends**.
 - Most limit social interaction with **non-Witnesses**.
 - Must only hang out with **Christians** for the purpose of winning them over.
- Must **work for their salvation**.
- Must be baptized **by them**.
 - **Baptism is required for salvation**.
 - Previous baptisms performed by other denominations are not valid.

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A good Jehovah's Witness... (Cont'd)

- Must be active in a **local congregation**.
 - Called Kingdom Halls
 - Meetings are largely devoted to study of Watch Tower Society literature and the Bible.
 - All congregations study same material each week.
 - About **3½ hours per week**: 2 mid-week meetings and 2 weekend meetings.
- Must “canvas” about **20 hours per week**
 - Required to submit an individual monthly "Field Service Report"



DISFELLOWSHIPED

...or else face being excluded!

- Those who do not follow **all doctrine and practices** are excommunicated / shunned / disfellowshipped.
- Members **must avoid anybody who is disfellowshipped** (even family).

God's Organization

- Truth is knowledge that is only available to Jehovah's Witnesses.
 - Truth can **only be learned** through *The Watchtower*.
- They teach they are **God's "visible organization"** on earth.
 - God's kingdom is a literal government in heaven.
 - It was established in heaven in 1914 when Jesus returned spiritually.
 - Jehovah's Witnesses serve as representatives of the kingdom on earth.
- Members of the Governing Body **provide divine guidance** to properly interpret the Bible.
 - Must not try to interpret the Bible yourself.
 - Must not study any other materials.
- Exclusive
 - Only Jehovah's Witnesses represent true Christianity.
 - You and every other person in every denomination are **not real Christians** (really worshipping Satan).





Biggest Challenge...

“To the average Jehovah’s Witness, the Watchtower has the greatest theologians and Bible experts. He is told that the Watchtower has great Greek and Hebrew scholars when in reality they do not have even one such scholar. The Watchtower is “God’s visible theocratic organization on earth.” It is “God’s only channel of truth.” The leaders of the Watchtower are “the greatest religious authorities since the Apostles.” To question the teaching or the authority of the Watchtower is to be in danger of being disfellowshipped. You are not to read other religious books. All religious issues are solved in Brooklyn, and nowhere else can the truth be found.”

Robert A. Morey, *How to Answer a Jehovah’s Witness*, 13, 14.

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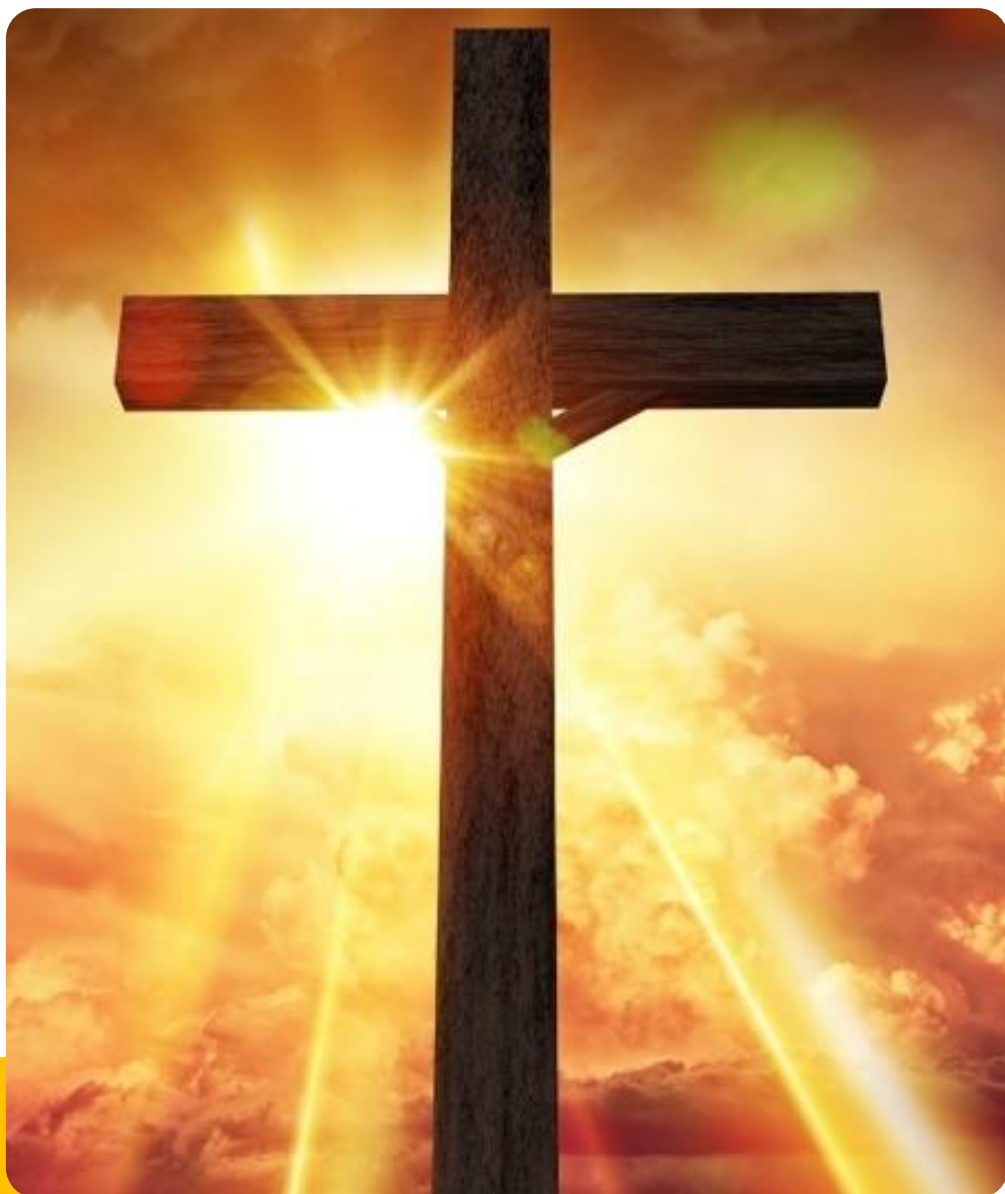
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They deny everything...

- Deny Christ's deity
- Deny the Trinity
- Deny personality of the Holy Spirit
- Deny bodily resurrection of Christ
- Deny salvation by God's grace / the atonement
- Deny Jesus' visible return
- Deny eternal soul
- Deny hell

If you look at what they deny, and believe those things,
you are solidly in the Christian camp!

JW's view of Jesus

- Jesus is **God's only direct creation**. Everything else was created through Christ by means of God's power.
- Jesus is not God but **“a god.”**
- Jesus **did not die on a cross** but a stake or (single upright post).
- Jesus is also **Michael** the Archangel.



Bible's teaching on Jesus

- A central theme of the Old Testament is that **God is the creator** of everything that was made.
- But the New Testament says **Jesus is creator** of everything that was made.
- Therefore, Jesus is God.



Jesus is not a
created thing
but **created**
every **created**
thing.


John 1:1–3 (NASB)—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things came into being by Him, and *apart from Him nothing came into being* that has come into being.**

Colossians 1:15–17 (NASB)—And He is the image of the invisible God (εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου), the first-born of all creation. For **by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, **and in Him all things hold together.**



There can't be a lesser "god."

- We are not supposed to worship any other God (Ex. 34:13).
 - This is blasphemy, a horrific sin!
 - The word "a god" is a mistranslation of John 1.
-



4 Witnesses
To Jesus being God

The Old Testament says that Messiah would be God

- The Messiah would be **the Lord, King and God.**

Isaiah 9:6—For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Also Psa. 110:1; Isa. 51:11, Zep. 3:14-15; Psa. 45:6; Isa. 42:10; Zep. 3:17)

- The promise was that **Yahweh/Jehovah, the LORD**, was coming to dwell among people.

Zechariah 2:10—“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the **LORD**.

Leviticus 26:12—I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

Zechariah 9:9—“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, **your King** is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Also Eze. 37:27; Psa. 68:18.

- It would also be **Yahweh Himself who would be crucified.**

Zechariah 12:10—“... [LORD talking] they will **look on Me whom they pierced**. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

- Jesus claimed to be this Messiah and in so doing claimed to be God.

John 4:25–26—The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

Jesus claimed to be God

1. He claimed to be Yahweh, or the **“I AM” LORD** of the Old Testament (Jn. 8:58). The Jews clearly understood what he was saying because they **picked up stones to stone him** (v. 59).
2. He **forgave sins**. The understood this as a **claim to deity** (Mk. 2:5-7).
3. He claimed he should be **honored in the same way** the Father is honored (Jn. 5:23).
4. Only God is to be worshiped (Mt. 4:10; Ex. 20:1-4; Deut. 5:6-9) and **Jesus accepted worship** from the disciples (Mt. 14:33; 28:17), the rich young ruler (Mt. 9:18), a leper (Mt. 8:2), a Canaanite woman (Mt. 15:25), the women at the tomb (Mt. 28:9), Thomas (Jn. 20:28), a blind man (Jn. 9:38), a Gerasene man (Mk. 5:6) and James and John’s mother (Mt. 20:20).
5. He **put his words on the same level as God’s words**. He said his words would not pass away (Mt. 24:35) and will judge all (Jn. 12:48).
6. Jesus accepted the **titles of deity** (Jn. 20:28; Mt. 16:17-18).

Jesus's disciples claimed Jesus was God

- John says, “In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God, and the **Word was God.**” (John 1:1)
- Paul says:
 - “In Christ **all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form**” (Col. 2:9)
 - “He is the **image of the invisible God**” (Col. 1:15)
 - Jesus “did not consider **equality with God** something to be grasped” (Phil. 2:6)
 - Christ is the “eternally **blessed God**” (Romans 9:5).
- Hebrews says:
 - Jesus is the “brightness of His **(God’s) glory**, and the **express image** of His person”
 - Jesus “**upholds all things** by the word of his power” (Heb. 1:3)
 - Hebrews applies Yahweh (the LORD) to Jesus, proving that Jesus is Yahweh of the Old Testament (compare Heb. 1:8-9 with Psa. 45:6-7 and Heb. 1:10-12 with Psalm 102:25–27)

History confirms early belief in Jesus's divinity

- The **early church fathers** testified to Jesus's divinity:
 - Polycarp (AD 69-155)
 - Ignatius (AD 50-117)
 - Justin Martyr (AD 100-165)
 - Melito of Sardis (died c. AD 180)
 - Irenaeus of Lyons (AD 130-202)
 - Clement of Alexandria (AD 150-215)
 - Tertullian (AD 150-225)
 - Hippolytus of Rome (AD 170-235)
 - Origen (AD 185-254)

*E.g., Polycarp: "...believe in our Lord and **God Jesus Christ** and in his Father who raised him from the dead." (Letter to Ephesians, 1.1)*

- The belief was formally ratified at **Nicea (AD 325)** but was around from the beginning.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN COUNCILS

#	Name	Date	Results (Not Exhaustive)
1	First Council of Nicea	AD 325	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One God (Jesus not a lesser God, condemning Arianism).• Christ is divine, of the same nature as the Father.
2	First Council of Constantinople	AD 381	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deity of the Holy Spirit proclaimed.
3	Council of Ephesus	AD 431	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christ was one person with two natures: fully human and fully divine (condemning Nestorianism).• Said Mary was the 'God-bearer' or the 'mother of God' (Θεοτόκος); Did not say <i>Mary</i> is God, but that <i>baby Jesus</i> was fully God even in the womb (condemning idea Jesus later become God at his baptism).
4	Council of Chalcedon	AD 451	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reaffirmed three previous councils.• Reaffirmed Christ has two natures (not one or even mixed natures like the Eutychians/monophysites were teaching)
5	Second Council of Constantinople	AD 553	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Condemned heretical views about Christ's nature: Arianism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism, monophysitism and adoptionism.• Perpetual virginity of Mary; Said Mary was always a virgin—not just before but even after Jesus was born. (Protestants reject this; cf. Mk. 6:3 and Mt. 13:55-56).

JW's view of Holy Spirit

- They deny the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is God's "active force" (impersonal).



Bible's teaching on the Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit is a person with a **mind** (Ro. 8:27), **emotions** (Eph. 4:30) and **will** (Heb. 2:4; Acts 13:2).
- Romans 8:27—Now He who searches the hearts knows what the **mind of the Spirit** is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
- Ephesians 4:30—And **do not grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- Acts 13:2—As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to **Me** Barnabas and Saul for the work to which **I** have called them.”





JW's view of Salvation

- Salvation is by **good works**, following the teaching and practices of the Watchtower.
- Jesus's death **made it possible** for us to now **save ourselves**.
- His death washed away Adam's sin, so we **can now do good works**.
- They **deny salvation** by **grace** through **faith**.



Bible's teaching on Salvation

- Salvation is only by **faith in finished work of Christ** on cross (Rom. 3:10; 3:23; Gal. 3:24; Eph. 2:8–9)

Ephesians 2:8–9—For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 3:10—As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one...”

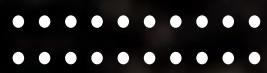
Romans 3:23—for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God...”

Galatians 3:24—Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be **justified by faith**.

A group of people in ancient attire walking on a rocky path. The central figure is a man with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a brown cloak, walking towards the right. He is surrounded by other people in various robes and head coverings, some looking towards him. The background is a rocky, hilly landscape.

JW's view of the resurrection

- Jesus was raised a **spirit being**.
- They deny Jesus was raised in a physical body.



Bible's teaching on the Resurrection

- Jesus was raised in a **physical body**.
- Jesus said a **spirit** does not have **flesh and bones** (Luke 24:39)
- Jesus **ate fish** after resurrection to **prove** he had **physical body** (Lk. 24:41-43)



JW's view of Jesus's return

- Jesus returned invisibly in 1914.
- They deny his visible return.



Bible's teaching on Jesus's return

- Jesus's return will be so visible it will be like lightning.

Matthew 24:27—For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.



JW's view of the afterlife

- They reject immortality of the soul and hellfire
- They deny hell (there will be a resurrection, but unbelievers will be annihilated).



Bible's teaching on the Afterlife

- Hell is eternal, conscious torment (Mark 9:47-48; Mt. 13:42; Rev. 19:20; 20:10)

Mark 9:47–48—And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—where ‘Their **worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.**’

Revelation 19:20—Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were **cast alive into the lake of fire** burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10—The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be **tormented day and night forever and ever.**

- There is no soul sleep; to be absent from body is to be present with Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:20-22)

2 Corinthians 5:8—We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

Philippians 1:20–22—according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and **to die is gain...**



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Mistranslating John 1:1 – Jesus is “a god”

- The Watchtower says that if there is no definite article in front of “God” then it must be translated “a god”.
- This is wrong...



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Jehovah's Witnesses website. The logo "JW .ORG" is on the left, followed by the text "Jehovah's Witnesses" and a language selection icon. The navigation menu includes "HOME", "BIBLE TEACHINGS", "LIBRARY", and "NEWSROOM". Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail reads: "Library > Online Bible > New World Translation (2013 Revision)".

1 In the beginning was the Word, ⁺ and the Word was with God, ⁺ and the Word was **a god.** * ⁺ **2** This one was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into existence through him, ⁺ and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.

Mistranslating John 1:1 – Jesus is “a god”

- The Watchtower says that if there is no definite article in front of “God” then it must be translated “a god”.
- This is wrong...
- There are many places even in John 1 where “God” doesn’t have a definite article.
- You would have to translated all these verses the same way.
- If the other mentions of “God” without the definite article refer to God, why can’t verse 1 refer to Jesus being “God”?

1 Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. 2 οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. 3 πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν. ὃ γέγονεν 4 ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων· 5 καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν.

6 Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος, ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· 7 οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσιν δι’ αὐτοῦ. 8 οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ’ ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός.

9 Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον, ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. 10 ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. 11 εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. 12 ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, 13 οἱ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκὸς οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρὸς ἀλλ’ ἐκ θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν.

14 Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. 15 Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγεν λέγων· «οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον· ὁ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. 16 ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· 17 ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο. 18 Θεὸν οὐδεὶς ἑώρακεν πώποτε· μονογενὴς θεὸς ὁ ὢν εἰς τὸν κόλπον τοῦ πατρὸς ἐκεῖνος ἐξηγήσατο.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from a God, whose name was John

John 1:12,13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of a God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of a God.

John 1:18 No one has seen a God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

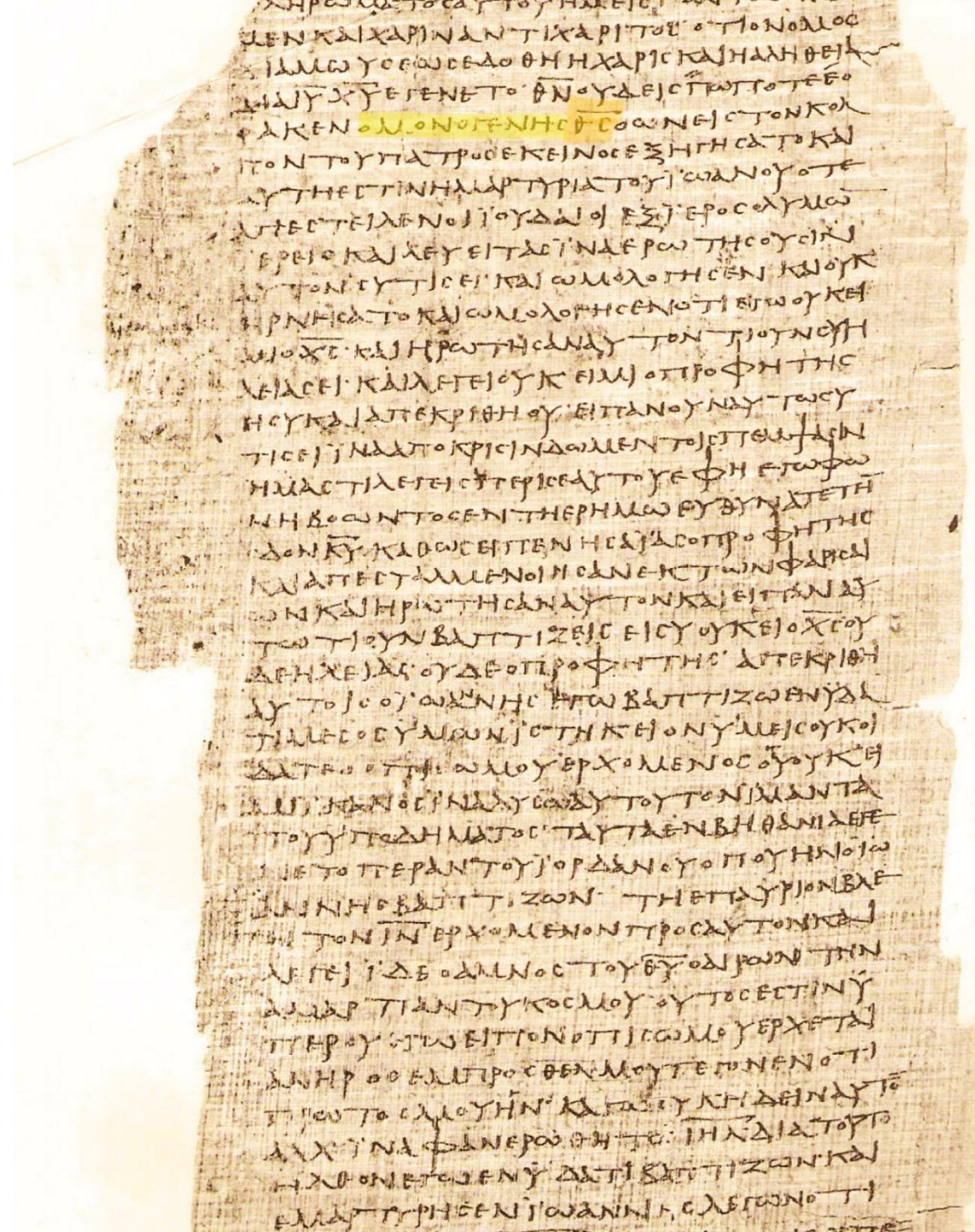
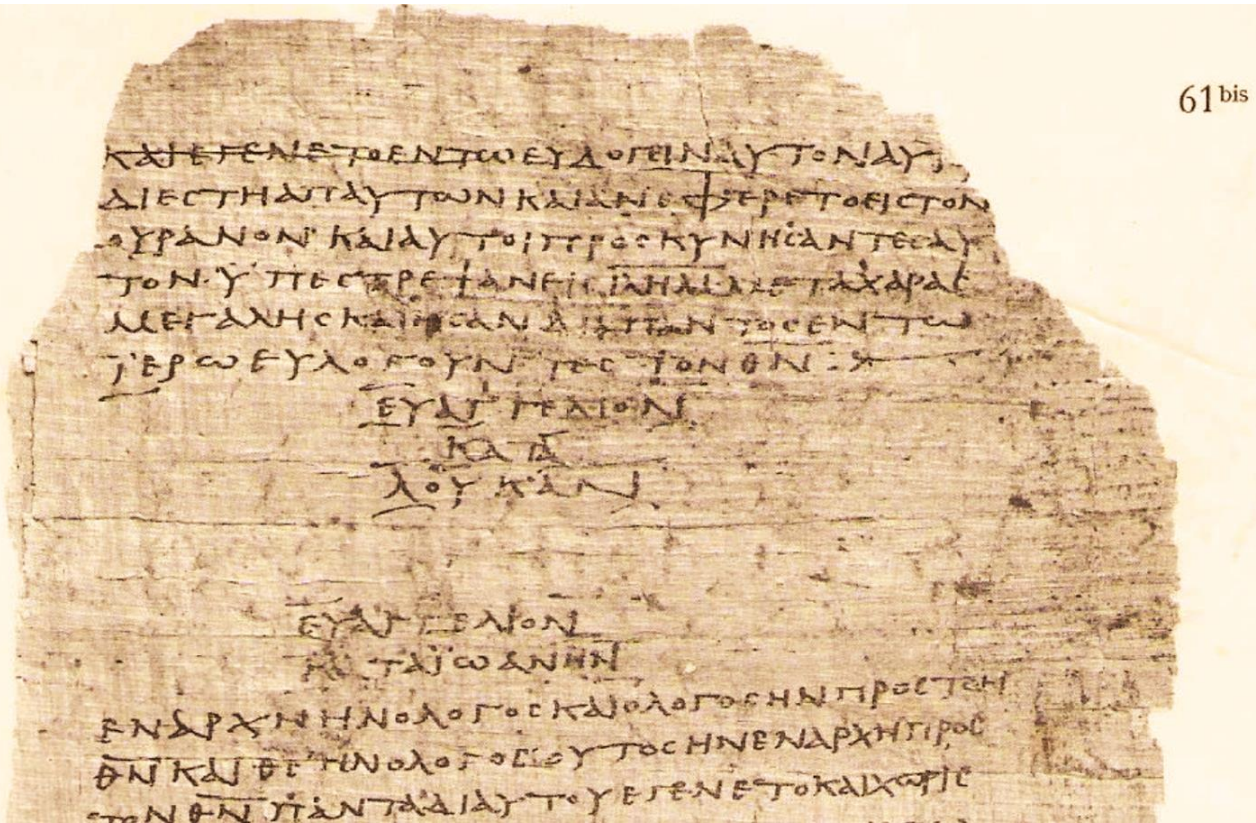


Manuscripts have “only begotten God”

- This is Papyrus 66 (p66), one of the **oldest**, well-preserved New Testament manuscripts known to exist. It is dated to AD 200-225.
- John 1:18 reads: “No man has seen God at any time; the **only begotten God**, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

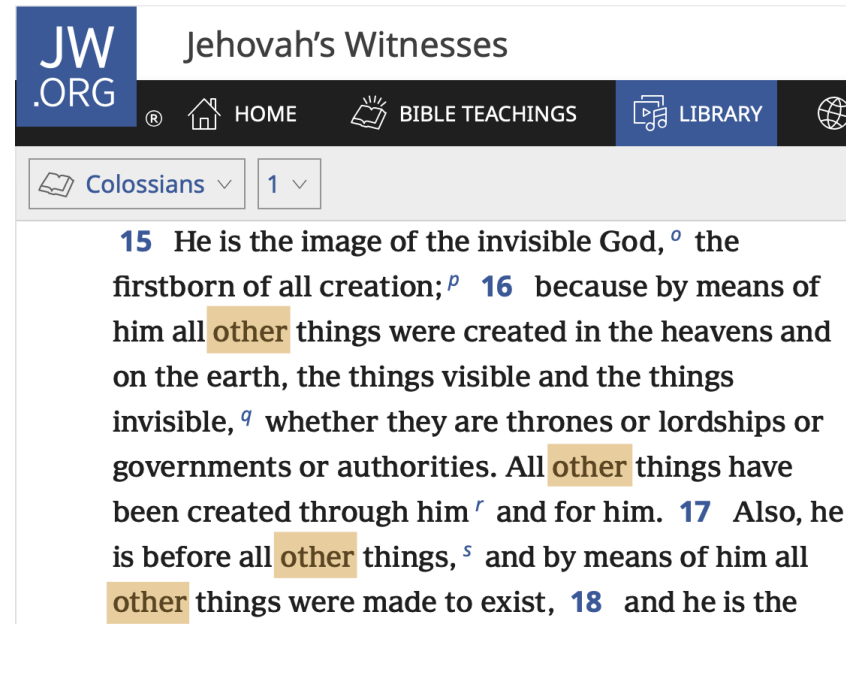
Another Early Manuscript

- This is Papyrus 75 (p75). Considered "the **most significant**" papyrus of the New Testament to be discovered. Also dated to AD 200-225.
- Was **part of a collection**: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John... already by 200 AD.
- It also reads *monogenes theos* ("only begotten God"); see right.



Mistranslating Colossians 1 – Inserting “other”

- The New World Translation adds the word “other” to change the meaning of Colossians 1:15-17.
- But this word is not there!



JW .ORG Jehovah's Witnesses

HOME BIBLE TEACHINGS LIBRARY

Colossians 1

15 He is the image of the invisible God,^o the firstborn of all creation;^p **16** because by means of him all **other** things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible,^q whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All **other** things have been created through him^r and for him. **17** Also, he is before all **other** things,^s and by means of him all **other** things were made to exist, **18** and he is the

Μετὰ χαρᾶς 12 εὐχαριστοῦντες τῷ πατρὶ τῷ ἰκανώσαντι ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν μερίδα τοῦ κλήρου τῶν ἁγίων ἐν τῷ φωτί· 13 ὃς ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας τοῦ σκούτου καὶ μετέστησεν εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ υἱοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ, 14 ἐν ᾧ ἔχομεν τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, τὴν ἄφεσιν τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν·
15 ὃς ἐστὶν εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου,
πρωτότοκος πάσης κτίσεως,
16 ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα
ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,
τὰ ὄρατὰ καὶ τὰ ἀόρατα,
εἴτε θρόνοι εἴτε κυριότητες ?? not here
εἴτε ἀρχαὶ εἴτε ἐξουσίαι·
τὰ πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν ἔκτισται·
17 καὶ αὐτός ἐστιν πρὸ πάντων
καὶ τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ συνέστηκεν,

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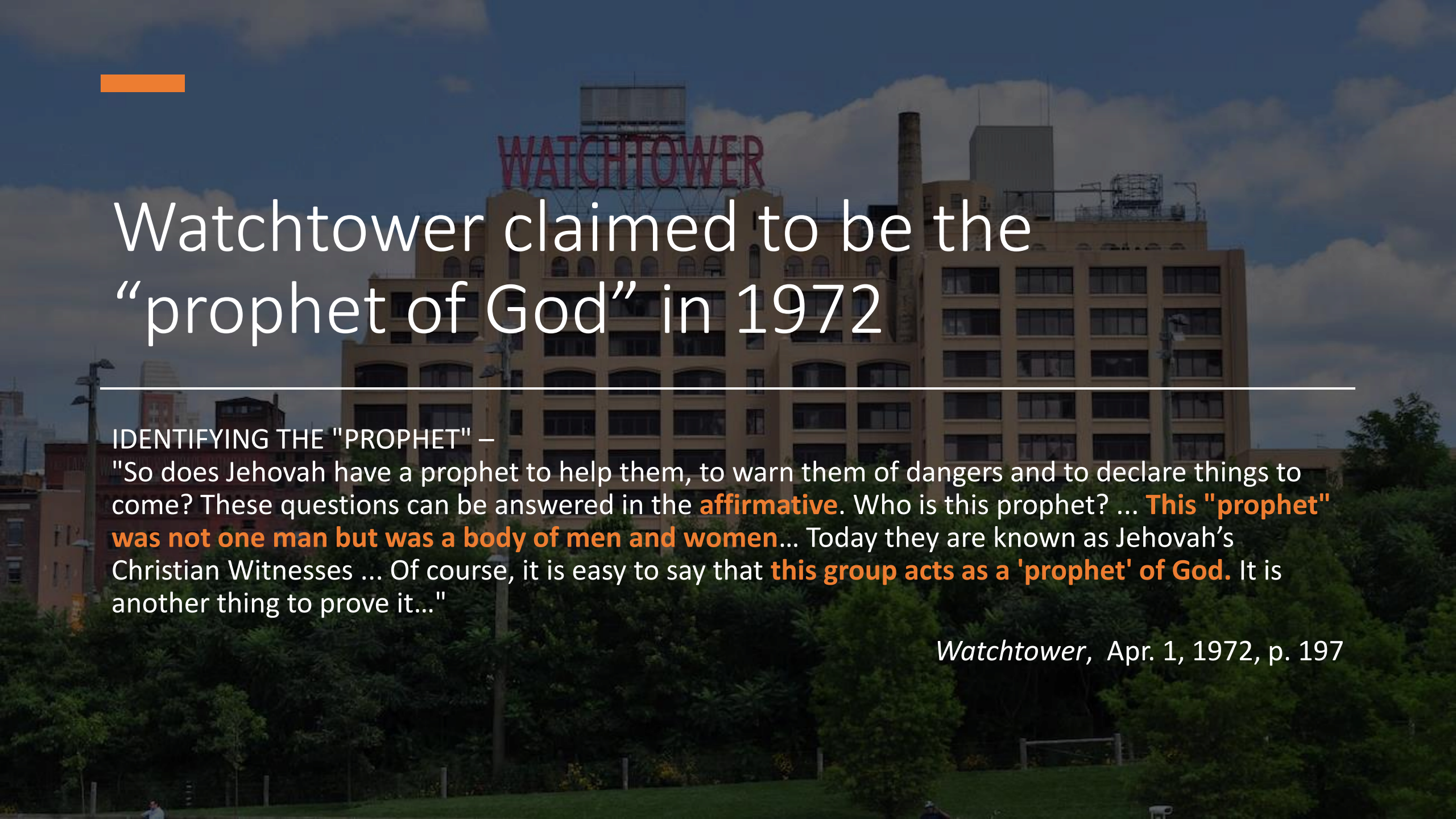

A photograph of a desert landscape with sand dunes under a bright, hazy sky. In the foreground, a bleached animal skull with large, curved horns lies on the sand. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. A large, light-colored circular graphic element is on the right side of the image, containing text.

False Prophecies

The Watchtower has made *many* unfulfilled predictions about major biblical events.

Deuteronomy 18:22 "when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, **if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken**; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

Matt 7 - Jesus said you'll know false prophets by their fruit.



Watchtower claimed to be the “prophet of God” in 1972

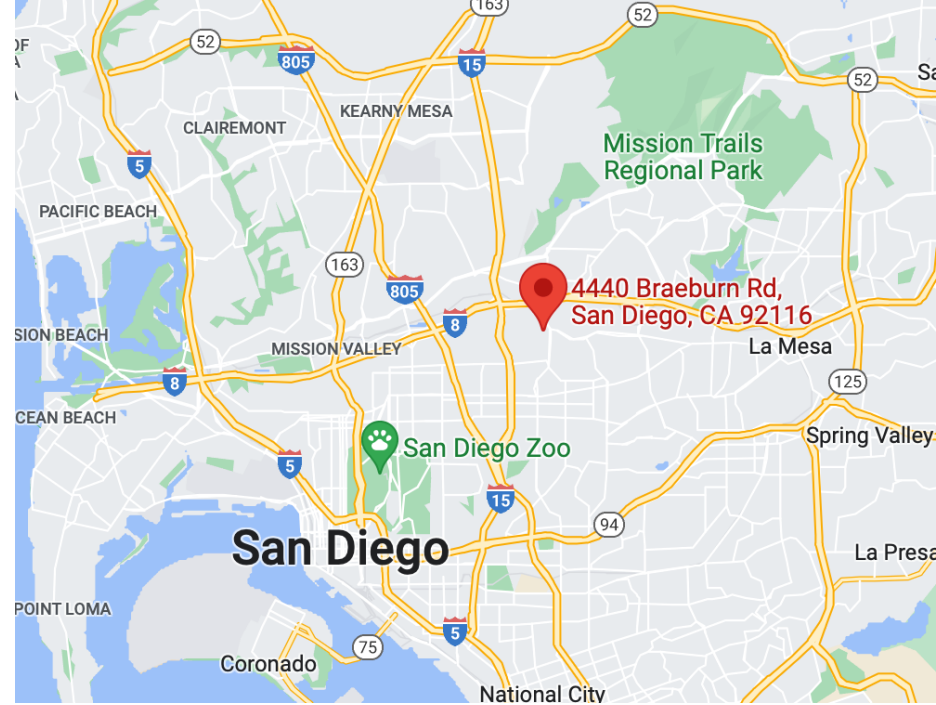
IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET" –

"So does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? These questions can be answered in the **affirmative**. Who is this prophet? ... **This "prophet" was not one man but was a body of men and women**... Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian Witnesses ... Of course, it is easy to say that **this group acts as a 'prophet' of God**. It is another thing to prove it..."

Watchtower, Apr. 1, 1972, p. 197

A history of false predictions

- 1874** Christ returned invisibly, and Armageddon began! (Zion's Watch Tower, January 15, 1892, 22)
- 1889** Battle of Armageddon will end in 1914. (*Studies in Scriptures*, Vol. 2, 76–7, 99, 101)
- 1914** THE WORLD DOES NOT END WITH ARMAGEDDON! (See prediction in 1889.). The Society later changes the prediction. They began to predict that 1914 began the "Last Generation" and that some of those alive in 1914 would live long enough to survive Armageddon and live forever on a paradise earth. (*The Watchtower*, May 1, 1967, 262)
- 1917** God will destroy "the churches wholesale and church members by millions" in 1918. (*Studies in Scriptures*, Vol. 7, 485)
- 1918** CHURCHES ARE NOT DESTROYED! (See prediction in 1917.)
- 1920** Therefore **we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old....**" (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 89–90)
- 1924** "The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in the Scriptures...." (*The Watchtower*, July 15, 1924, 211)
- 1925** ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB DO NOT RETURN! (See prediction in 1920.)
- 1938** Because the end is so near, Jehovah's Witnesses are advised to wait until after Armageddon to marry and rear children. (*The Watchtower*, November 1, 1938, 323–4)
- 1941** Armageddon is said to be only months away. (*The Watchtower*, September 15, 1941, 288)
- 1942** Abraham and "those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any day now." (*The New World*, 104)
- 1943** The end of "Six Thousand Years of Human History" is mathematically shown to be 1972. (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, 152)
- 1966** "Six Thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975 ..." followed by the millennial reign of Christ. (*Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, 29–30)
- 1972** SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE DOES NOT END! (See prediction in 1943.)
- 1975** SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE DOES NOT END! (See prediction in 1966.)
- 1988** Jehovah's Witnesses are reminded "Most of the generation of 1914 has passed away." The generation will not pass all away until the end! (*Awake!*, April 8, 1988, 14) (See prediction in 1914.)
- 1989** The year 2000 marks the completion of Christian missionary work and the beginning of the thousand-year reign of Christ. "The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for a work that would be completed in our 20th century." (*The Watchtower*, January 1, 1989, 12)
Note: this was quietly altered in the bound volume and CD-ROM editions to read "in our day."
- 1995** The Watchtower changes the "Creator's promise." The word "generation" is no longer based on a human life span. (Compare *Awake!* mastheads before October 22, 1995, 4 and after November 8, 1995, 4 to see how the "Creator's promise" was altered. See also *The Watchtower* November 1, 1995, 16–20.) (See prediction 1914.)
The Great Tribulation is now declared to be Imminent. (*The Watchtower*, November 1, 1995, p. 19 par. 12 and p. 20 par. 15)
- 2000** THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY WORK WAS NOT COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY. (See prediction 1989.)
- 2007** The Anointed Class now declared to be open to any Jehovah's Witness who "has determined in his heart that he is now anointed and begins to partake of the emblems at the Memorial. ("Questions from Readers," *The Watchtower*, May 1, 2007, 30–31)
The number 144,000 is no longer taken literally, but symbolically for all those who claim to be "anointed ones."



Beth Sarim

- They were so sure about 1925 that they even bought a house in San Diego for Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah and Samuel!
- 4440 Braeburn Rd, San Diego, CA 92116



obtained the dominion (Dan. 2: 37, 38); Medo-Persia existed before it conquered Babylon; and so with all kingdoms: they must first have existed and have received superior power before they could conquer others. So, too, with God's Kingdom: it has existed in an embryo form for eighteen centuries; but it, with the world at large, was made subject to "the powers that be," "ordained of God." Until their "seven times" shall end, the Kingdom of God cannot come into universal dominion. However, like the others, it must obtain power adequate to the overthrow of these kingdoms before it shall break them in pieces.

So, in this "Day of Jehovah," the "Day of Trouble," our Lord takes his great power (hitherto dormant) and reigns, and this it is that will cause the trouble, though the world will not so recognize it for some time. That the saints shall share in this work of breaking to pieces present kingdoms, there can be no doubt. It is written, "This honor have all his saints—to execute the judgments written, to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron"—of strength. (Psa. 149: 8, 9.) "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they [the empires] be broken to shivers."—Rev. 2: 26, 27; Psa. 2: 8, 9.

But our examination, in the preceding volume, of the great difference in character between the Kingdom of God and the beastly kingdoms of earth, prepares us to see also a difference in modes of warfare. The methods of conquest and breaking will be widely different from any which have ever before overthrown nations. He who now takes his great power to reign is shown in symbol (Rev. 19: 15) as the one whose sword went forth *out of his mouth*, "that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." That sword is the TRUTH (Eph. 6: 17);

and the living saints, as well as many of the world, are now being used as the Lord's soldiers in overthrowing errors and evils. But let no one hastily infer a *peaceable conversion* of the nations to be here symbolized; for many scriptures, such as Rev. 11: 17, 18; Dan. 12: 1; 2 Thes. 2: 8; Psalms 149 and 47, teach the very opposite.

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A. D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16: 14.), which will end in A. D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. The gathering of the armies is plainly visible from the standpoint of God's Word.

If our vision be unobstructed by prejudice, when we get the telescope of God's Word rightly adjusted we may see with clearness the character of many of the events due to take place in the "Day of the Lord"—that we are in the very midst of those events, and that "the Great Day of His Wrath is come."

The sword of truth, already sharpened, is to smite every evil system and custom—civil, social and ecclesiastical. Nay, more, we can see that the smiting is commenced: freedom of thought, and human rights, civil and religious, long lost sight of under kings and emperors, popes, synods, councils, traditions and creeds, are being appreciated and asserted as never before. The internal conflict is already fomenting: it will ere long break forth as a consuming fire, and human systems, and errors, which for centuries have fettered truth and oppressed the groaning creation, must melt before it. Yes, truth—and widespread and increasing knowledge of it—is the sword which is perplexing and wounding the heads over many countries. (Psa. 110: 6.)

1914 would "end" world governments

"...the 'battle of the great day of God Almighty' (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced."—The Time is At Hand, Studies in the Scriptures, vol. 2, 1886, 1911 edition, p. 101

Outline

Overview

Practices

Beliefs & Responses

Mistranslations

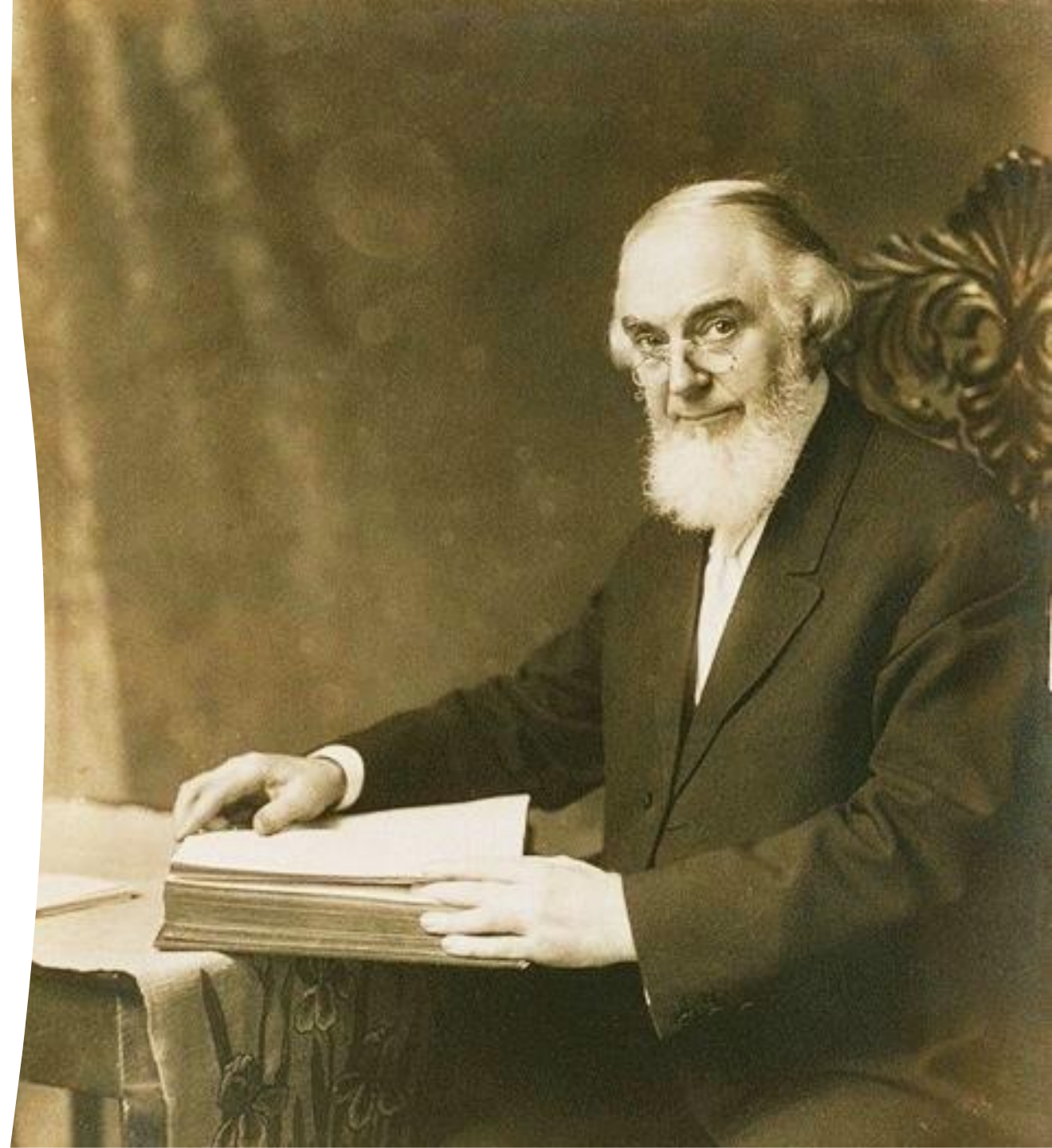
False Prophecies

Shady Founder

Tips for Sharing

Charles Taze Russell (1870–1916)

- Founded the Watch Tower Society.
- Issue #1 – **Divorced / wouldn't pay alimony.**
 - Married Maria Ackley in 1879. She divorced him in 1897. Had to pursue him for alimony.
- Issue #2 – **Sold fake "miracle seeds"**
 - Charles Russell was a seller of "miracle wheat seeds"
 - He claimed they produced 5x more than any other seeds
 - The Brooklyn Daily Eagle challenged his claims, and he took them to court in 1913.
 - He lost his case after his seeds were proven to be inferior.
- Issue #3 – **Lied under oath** that he knew Greek.
 - Russell sued a Canadian pastor who spoke up about his teaching.
 - He testified in court that he knew the Greek alphabet.
 - In cross-examination, he admitted that he "might make a mistake on some of them" and then finally testified that **he was not familiar with the Greek language** (Russell v. Ross, 1913).



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Tips for Sharing

- Be **compassionate** and **loving**.
 - “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion on them**, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.” (Mark 6:34) **Don’t slam the door** in their faces; be **polite**, etc.
- **Share your testimony** of how you received eternal life through Christ.
 - They are trained to **not take anything** from you. They are trained on **every possible response** you could give (See Reasoning book) But **they will listen to your testimony** of how you got saved. Tip: what life was like, what happened, what like today (emphasize relationship with Jesus and rest).
- **Focus on the prophecies** that discredit the Watchtower as a “False Prophet.”
 - The biggest problem is the **question of religious authority**. You have no religious authority in the eyes of a Witness. Even the Bible has no real authority, because only the Bible **as it’s correctly interpreted** by the Watchtower has authority.
 - Must demonstrate that the **Watchtower is not trustworthy or reliable**. In 100 years of giving prophecies, there’s been a **100% failure rate**. A true prophet will be right 100% of the time (Duet. 18:20-22)

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