

Give me that old time religion. Dates we never hear anymore. 1881

1881

Russell called his followers to serve God diligently, to give everything to the service of his Kingdom. He believed God was filling the ranks of the 144,000 and the time to join the anointed 'little flock' would soon come to a close.¹ The opportunity to be among the anointed would end in 1881.² After that time, it would be the job of the anointed to call people to become part of the Great Multitude. Because this date was based on the 1874 return of Jesus which was vacated, it also is no longer a pertinent date.

¹ Russell, *The Time Is at Hand* (1889), 235. "As in the type that date—three and a half years after the death of Christ—marked the end of all special favor to the Jew and the beginning of favor to the Gentiles, so we recognize A.D. 1881 as marking the close of the high calling, or invitation to the blessing peculiar to this age - to become joint-heirs with Christ and partakers of the divine nature."

² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, 632. "It was also reasoned that the end of God's special favor to natural Israel down to 36 C.E. might point to 1881 as the time when the special opportunity to become part of spiritual Israel would close."