

ARTICLE 1

Give me that Old Time Religion: 1919

References available on request.

There is no doubt that the average Jehovah's Witness believes that they possess the truth. They believe that God has and still does speak to them through the "faithful and discreet slave of Matthew." This leads them to make two assumptions. The first is that they alone understand the Bible correctly. The second is that the message that they receive from the Watchtower is a message from God. In fact, salvation itself is contingent on a good relationship with the Watchtower.

This understanding is re-enforced by the Watchtowers claim, "Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channeling an ever-increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the "waters of life" featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. ..." This is a reference to the Watchtower's teaching that in 1919 God chose the Watchtower as his sole representative on earth.

FIRST ARGUMENT, if we grant the premise that Matthew 24:45-51 does imply God is choosing his visible organization on earth in 1919, is there adequate evidence to see if Jesus would have chosen the Watchtower?

The following criterion would be accepted by most or all Jehovah's Witnesses. They are derived from Watchtower articles that mention Jesus appointment of the Watchtower in 1919. Those articles are listed in the body of the paper below. In general, it is clear that the faithful and discreet slave would provide good food, (spiritual leadership and Biblical teaching) that would help the domestics be healthy. That food was to be provided in due season (in a timely and appropriate fashion). The food would not contain error but instead would present truth. Because truth is always true it is possible that teachings could be expanded but they would never contradict old truths.

Since this is self-explanatory, I think we can now ask about the teaching from the time of the first Bible studies up until 1919. Would Jesus see the teachings and acknowledge them as true?

It seems that there were many significant theological errors that Jesus would have found during the inspection. It was taught that Jesus returned in 1874, Charles Taze Russell was said to be the faithful and discrete slave from the late 1800s until 1927, the Millennium began in 1873, Christmas was celebrated, Birthdays were celebrated, the Cross was featured on the front page of the Watchtower, the banner on the top of the Watchtower proclaimed "Herald of Christ's Presence, the Pyramid of Gizah was believed to be a prophetic stone, all pre-1914 prophecies failed and were "re-interpreted" after the fact. Russell taught that: 1799: The beginning of "the last days" or "time of the end", 1829: The beginning of an understanding of the mysteries of prophecy, 1844: Wise virgins went forth to meet the Bridegroom, 1846: God's sanctuary was cleansed, 1873: End of 6000 years of human existence, 1874: The return of Christ to begin his Second Coming, 1874: The beginning of the 40-year Harvest or preaching work, 1874: Second cry, "Behold the Bridegroom.", 1874: The beginning of the Battle of Armageddon, 1878: God's

Kingdom was “set up” in heaven, 1878: Beginning of Christ’s Kingdom Rule, 1878: The fall of “Babylon the Great” (false religion), 1878: Beginning of “Times of Restitution.”, 1881: Close of “the heavenly calling” (spiritual Israel), 1881: Resurrection of all the “dead in Christ”, 1914: The anointed Christians would be taken to heaven before 1914, 1914: The end of the “Harvest” or preaching work, 1914: God’s Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth, 1914: Jesus would be present as earth’s new Ruler, 1914: All Gentile nations would be destroyed by God by the end of 1914, 1914: Jerusalem would begin to rise from the dust of divine disfavor to honor, 1914: Israel’s blindness would begin to be turned away, 1914: This year would be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect man, 1914: Battle of Armageddon would end, 1914: Peaceful blessings would begin to be recognized on earth, 1914: Complete destruction of “Babylon the Great” (all other religions), 1914: The “last days” would end in 1914, 1914-1919 The Watchtower was in captivity to Babylon during those years. , 1915: God’s Kingdom will be fully established near the end of 1915, 1915: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven soon after 1914, Rutherford claimed: 1917: The 1,200 Furlongs of Rev. 14:20 refer to distance between Scranton Pa. where the Finished Mystery was written and Brooklyn, NY where it was published., 1918 Millions Living Will Never Die, 1918: God’s ‘fire’ from heaven would fall on Christendom, 1918: Millions of church members of Christendom would be destroyed by God, 1918: Christendom would go down to oblivion as a system., 1918: God will destroy the churches wholesale, 1920: There would be worldwide all-embracing anarchy., 1920: All earthly governments will pass away., 1920: All republics will disappear in the fall of 1920, 1925: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven., 1914: End of the thousand-year Reign of Christ. All of these previous teaching have been changed or significantly altered since 1919.

With the exception of 1914 the beliefs that have been carried forward unchanged are held in part by other groups and denominations. Since the Jehovah’s Witnesses are not the only group to hold those particular beliefs, they could not have been the basis for selection. For instance, other groups were non-trinitarian and other groups denied Hell. Based on the existing evidence it would appear extremely unlikely that Jesus would have chosen the Watchtower based on the earlier criteria. In addition, the organization admits that in 1919 it was coming out of bondage to Babylon at that point. Logically it does not appear that Jesus would have been able to appoint the Watchtower but in reality, this is the weakest of three arguments against that appointment.

SECOND ARGUMENT: When did the Watchtower state that Jehovah chose the faithful and discrete slave and who was he/it.

This would seem to be a very straightforward question except that it isn’t. It turns out that the topic is quite complicated. It seems that the claim that God has been speaking through his faithful and discreet slave goes back well before 1919. As early as 1879 it was believed that the Watchtower was the channel God has chosen to bring forth His truth. In 1881 Russel alluded to the fact that the faithful and discreet slave was a composite of faithful believers. However in just a few short years he would be identified by his wife as the faithful slave himself. He apparently entertained the idea and it was mentioned in 1916, after his death, that only his modesty kept him from openly claiming the title. When Russell died, Rutherford kept his memory alive even insisting that Russell continued to direct the Watchtower from heaven. Until 1927 people

continued to venerate Russell as God's faithful and discreet slave. After 1927 Rutherford, who had consolidated his political position began to move Russell's memory aside, teaching that the faithful and discreet slave was a composite rather than an individual. However, until 1927 Russell was viewed as God's channel. An article in 1922 demonstrates how serious this sentiment was. Russell's influence on his followers was immense. His popularity and the adulation given him as God's mouthpiece established the power that is still wielded by the Governing Body, whose members are believed to speak for God. , However, as time passed 1914 and 1919 gained new significance. When the prophecies of 1914 failed and were re-interpreted, 1919 was the time inspected the temple and began a time of judgment. Curiously, the Watchtower literature is remarkably silent about God having appointed the governing body as the faithful and discreet slave in 1919. It isn't until 1927 that we see any pushback on the idea that Russell was the faithful and discrete slave. Since Russell was still directing the efforts of the Watchtower in 1919 it appears that they went 8 years without the possibility of a corporate faithful and discrete slave. Much more damaging if the fact that there are no early accounts of this appointment. That is inexplicable. If God were to appear in church service and appoint the pastor as his sole representative on earth it would at least make the church newsletter. In this case it does not appear that there was any awareness of the event until forty years later. The earliest references seem to be 1960 , 1973 , 1975 , 1983 , 2001 , 2005 , and 2012 . In those years the pivotal year of 1919 is mentioned and the appointment of the faithful and discreet slave is discussed. This would be exactly how a myth would develop. In reality this becomes a non-falsifiable event. There seems to be no historical basis at all. If the event had occurred it would have had great prominence immediately. If Jehovah had actually appointed the Watchtower as his sole channel of truth in this age, and had made the Organization His organization, it would have been a major event. It should have filled every issue and publication. Instead, as noted before, we have a non-falsifiable event, seen by no one and with no objective proof of ever having occurred. It does not get mentioned for four decades and only in the last 50 years has the narrative advanced. This is inexplicable. If this event had occurred and there was any sort of proof the Watchtower would have tremendous influence. Instead, the account is to be accepted because, those who claim the event gave them sole ownership of the truth, say it is true.

THIRD ARGUMENT: Is there any evidence that Jesus appointed the Watchtower as his visible organization on earth in the year 1919?

There are other reasons to question the 1919 appointment. Both 1918 and 1919 are derived from 1914. 1914 was a date that Charles Taze Russell adopted from Nelson Barbour, an Adventist. They had studied together for some time and they worked together producing a newspaper. The 1914 date was derived using the year/day theory and was based on 606 BC as the date of the fall of Jerusalem. This date had been inherited from John Aquila Brown. This date does not seem to have been widely known and flies in the face of all current scholarship. Raymond Franz, an ex-governing board member, in *Crisis of Conscience* discusses the fact that there was a struggle within the Watchtower trying to support the 607 BCE date. He states, "Months of research were spent on this one subject of 'Chronology' and it resulted in the longest article in the Aid publication. Much of the time was spent endeavoring to find some proof, some backing in history, for the 607 BCE date so crucial to our calculations for 1914. Charles Ploeger, a member

of the headquarters staff, was at that time serving as a secretary for me and he searched through the libraries of the New York city area for anything that might substantiate that date historically. We found absolutely nothing in support of 607 BCE All historians pointed to a date twenty years later.” In this same time period, a Jehovah’s Witness in Sweden was working on undergirding the 607 date. However, as he studied, he found that the evidence against the date was overwhelming. He presented his information to Watchtower Headquarters and was eventually disfellowshipped for his efforts. In 1983 he printed the first version of “The Gentile Times Reconsidered.” This book refutes the 607 date from several different approaches. It is a powerful and logical look at the date the Watchtower has used to undergird its theology. As is obvious, if the 607 date is wrong the 1914 date and all that rests on it, including any 1919 appointment, is also wrong. The book should be a must read for any person interested in 1914. It also addresses works by Jehovah’s Witness apologists seeking to refute criticism of 607. However, because it is not approved, it will not be read because many are captives of the idea that the governing body is God’s visible organization. This is believed even though there is no foundation for the belief. In fact, there is good evidence that it is not so. There is a link to the book in the footnotes below, 19.

Conclusion:

Argument 1: Having evaluated the history it is difficult to make a logical argument for the selection of the Watchtower. The “food” is bad. It is untimely. There are more than forty significant theological or prophetic errors. God does not make theological errors, men do.

Argument 2: There is difficulty discerning who was supposed to be the faithful and discreet slave because there are two different narratives, both endorsed and both mutually incompatible. Russell was acknowledged as the faithful and discreet slave from the late 1890s until 1927. In 1927 it was taught that this had been an error and that it was a corporate faithful and discreet slave that was to have existed. This was 8 years after the supposed appointment of 1919. It was also 40 years before we see an account of what should have been the most important event in JW history. This is inexplicable. Finally, there is no historical basis to the appointment. No one saw it or participated in the event. It appears much more like the development of a myth.

Argument 3: Does the 1919 date have any logical prophetic basis.

No, it is dependent on 1914. There is no support for the selection of 1914. No non-JW historian or archeologist supports a 606 or 607 date. The evidence against it is overwhelming. In addition, the significance of 1914 itself has been altered several times.

Overall, it appears then that the basis for Watchtower’s claim to be God’s sole organization on earth is rooted in self-promotion and not fact.

ARTICLE 2

Introduction:

There is no doubt that the average Jehovah's Witness believes that they possess the truth. They believe that God has and still does speak to them through the "faithful and discreet slave of Matthew." This leads them to make two assumptions. The first is that they alone understand the Bible correctly. The second is that the message that they receive from the Watchtower is a message from God. In fact, salvation itself is contingent on a good relationship with the Watchtower.

As you had correctly pointed out the idea of organization is critical to the discussion. What is God's arrangement? Is there any justification for the claims? In order to assess that I have done some research. I believe it to be accurate and fairly exhaustive. I look forward to any corrections or additional references. Below are a number of truth claims made by the Watchtower that reflect this idea and support the understanding that God has chosen the Watchtower and its board.

Only those who follow the Watchtower can understand the Bible:

"Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force. (Zech. 4:6) Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book. . . . How very much true Christians appreciate associating with the only organization on earth that understands the 'deep things of God!'" Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Praise Jehovah With His People," *Watchtower*, July 1, 1973, 402, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1973%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

"As the canon of books of God's Word was expanded and the Christian Greek Scriptures were added to complete the Bible, each book was written directly to the Christian congregation or to a member of the Christian congregation in its behalf. Thus, the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason, the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Finding Freedom with Jehovah's Visible Organization," *Watchtower*, October 1, 1967, 587, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1967%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

The Watchtower represents God, is God's only visible organization on earth.

"The Scriptures and the facts clearly establish that the commission given to the 'faithful and wise servant' is grounded in the Word of the Lord. There is only one organization on earth today fulfilling the righteous requirements outlined in this commission from the Lord. The Society, represented by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, is the only one." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Righteous Requirements," *Watchtower*, July 1, 1943, 204, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1943%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

There is no room for personal opinion or disagreement.

“We must show our understanding in these matters, appreciating our relationship to the visible theocratic organization, remembering the fate of those like Korah and Achan and Saul and Uzziah and others who forgot the theocratic order. Are we assigned as individuals to bring forth the food for the spiritual table? No? Then let us not try to take over the slave’s duties. We should eat and digest and assimilate what is set before us, without shying away from parts of the food because it may not suit the fancy of our mental taste. The truths we are to publish are the ones provided through the discreet-slave organization, not some personal opinions contrary to what the slave has provided as timely food. Jehovah and Christ direct and correct the slave as needed, not we as individuals. If we do not see a point at first we should keep trying to grasp it, rather than opposing and rejecting it and presumptuously taking the position that we are more likely to be right than the discreet slave. We should meekly go along with the Lord’s theocratic organization and wait for further clarification, rather than balk at the first mention of a thought unpalatable to us and proceed to quibble and mouth our criticisms and opinions as though they were worth more than the slave’s provision of spiritual food. Theocratic ones will appreciate the Lord’s visible organization and not be so foolish as to pit against Jehovah’s channel their own human reasoning and sentiment and personal feelings.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Jehovah’s Theocratic Organization Today,” *Watchtower*, February 1, 1952, 79-80, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1952%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

We need the Watchtower to explain the Bible to us.

“We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the 'faithful and discreet slave' organization.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Do We Need Help to Understand the Bible?”, *Watchtower*, February 15, 1981, 19, accessed June 9, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1981%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

Watchtower publications are the means by which Jehovah has chosen to reveal his will.

“It should be expected that the Lord would have a means of communication to his people on the earth, and he has clearly shown that the magazine called The Watchtower is used for that purpose.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “The Watchtower,” *1939 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1939), 85, accessed August 4, 2018, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Yearbooks/1939%20Yearbook%20\(yb39-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Yearbooks/1939%20Yearbook%20(yb39-E).pdf).

“All who want to understand the Bible should appreciate that the "greatly diversified wisdom of God" can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Channel to Understanding the Bible,” *Watchtower*, Oct 1, 1994, 8, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1994%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

We must not deny the Watchtower. That would be denying God.

“We cannot claim to love God, yet deny his word and channel of communication.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Following Faithful Shepherds with Life in View,” *Watchtower*, October 1, 1967, 591, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1967%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

To study only the Bible leads to error.

“They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such ‘Bible reading,’ they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom’s clergy were teaching 100 years ago, and some have even returned to celebrating Christendom’s festivals again, such as the Roman Saturnalia of December 25! Jesus and his apostles warned against such lawless ones.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Serving Jehovah ‘Shoulder to Shoulder,’” *Watchtower*, August 15, 1981, 28-29, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1981%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

The Watchtower has the rediscovered Gospel.

“This is something that they unwittingly do this article. Let the honest-hearted person compare the kind of preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom done by the religious systems of Christendom during all the centuries with that done by Jehovah’s Witnesses since the end of World War I in 1918. They are not one and the same kind. That of Jehovah’s Witnesses is really “gospel,” or “good news,” as of God’s heavenly kingdom that was established by the enthronement of his Son Jesus Christ at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914. (Luke 21:24)” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “If God Has an Organization, What Is It?” *Watchtower*, May 1, 1981, 17, accessed July 30, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1981%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

The Watchtower is our place of safety and salvation.

"...there is but one place of safety, and that is to be in and to abide in the organization of Jehovah God." Riches (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1936), 101.

"That they (JW's) must adhere absolutely to the decisions and scriptural understandings of the Society because God had given it this authority over his people." *Watchtower*, May 1, 1972, 272.

"Consider too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone in all the earth is directed by God's holy spirit or active force." *Watchtower*, July 1, 1973, 402.

"Come to God's organization for salvation"!! *Watchtower*, November 15, 1981, 212.

"To receive everlasting life in the earthly paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it." *Watchtower* February 15, 1983, 12.

Underlying Concepts

It was recently suggested that a good topic for exploration would be “God’s Arrangement”. On reflection that seemed to be an excellent idea. If the premise that God has chosen the Watchtower to be His visible organization on earth is true, then everyone should want to become a Jehovah’s Witness. It is a very logical conclusion. On the other hand, if there is no evidence to suggest that the premise is true it is quite logical to understand that the organization is guided not by God but by men.

It may be that the parable of Matthew 24:45-51 is the most important section of Scripture for any Jehovah’s Witness to think about. If this parable is detailing the setting aside the Watchtower as the faithful and discreet slave, it is the foundation upon which the organization rests. If not, then the authority of the organization is undercut. This seems logical and helps to explain what happens when JW’s and traditional Christians discuss an issue. Traditional Christians generally choose to develop their positions based on Biblical exegesis and historical evidence. Jehovah’s Witnesses, on the other hand, believe Christians are in deep error. They believe the only way that the Bible can be correctly interpreted is with the guidance of the governing body. Jehovah’s Witnesses do not research to find the truth, they receive it from the Watchtower. This difference guarantees different theological conclusions. So, the question is, “Is faith in the governing body based on Matthew 24 justified?” Did God appoint the Watchtower organization to be his mouthpiece to the world in 1919? If we can answer that one question, we will know which way we should go about finding the truth. The Watchtower claims it is the sole channel God uses to provide faithful Christians with his word. Because of this they believe that Biblical knowledge is unavailable without the assistance of the Watchtower. They believe and teach that salvation itself cannot be attained unless we are in relationship with God’s organization. Is this true?

To explore the topic, we should look at three questions:

- 1.) If we grant the premise that in 1919, following the parable in Matthew 24:45-51, Jesus did indeed inspect the temple. Is there evidence that Jesus would have chosen the Watchtower following the inspection?
- 2.) During the period in and around 1919 who is the faithful and discreet slave according to the Watchtower?
- 3.) Is there evidence that a selection took place in 1919? There are a couple of lines of evidence that seem to point away from that assumption.

The weight of evidence found in when answering these three questions should help to determine whether the Watchtower organization speaks with God’s authority.

Section 1. If we grant the premise that Matthew 24:45-51 does imply God is choosing his visible organization on earth in 1919, is there adequate evidence to see if Jesus would have chosen the Watchtower?

I think the following criterion would be accepted by most or all Jehovah's Witnesses. They are derived from Watchtower articles that mention Jesus appointment of the Watchtower in 1919. Those articles are listed in the body of the paper below. In general, it is clear that the faithful and discreet slave would provide good food, (spiritual leadership and Biblical teaching) that would help the domestics be healthy. That food was to be provided in due season (in a timely and appropriate fashion). The food would not contain error but instead would present truth. Because truth is always true it is possible that teachings could be expanded but they would never contradict old truths.

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¹ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "*Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*", (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1959), 22.

GOD'S CHANNEL SHOWS SIGNS OF IDENTITY: So you see, Tom, in many ways the evidence was beginning to accumulate that, of all the early voices heard, Jehovah had chosen the publication we now call The Watchtower to be used as a channel through which to bring to the world of mankind a revelation of the divine will and, through the words revealed in its columns, to begin a division of the world's population into those who would do the divine will and those who would not. For this reason, 1879 was a turning point in the work. This little group, headed by C. T. Russell, had now been tested and had been found fit to undertake the great preliminary campaign leading up to the climax expected in 1914.

² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Zion's Watchtower (Allegheny, Penn.: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, 1881), October/November, 291.

We believe that every member of this body of Christ is engaged in the blessed work, either directly or indirectly, of giving meat in due season to the household of faith. "Who then is that *faithful* and *wise servant* whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household," to give them meat in due season T Is it not that "little flock" of consecrated servants who are *faithfully* carrying out their consecration vow--the body of Christ -and is not the whole body individually and collectively, giving the meat in due season to the household of faith-the great company of believers

³ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1916) December 1, 357.

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

insisting that Russell continued to direct the Watchtower from heaven.⁴ Until 1927 people continued to venerate Russell as God's faithful and discreet slave.⁵ After 1927 Rutherford, who

⁴ Joseph Rutherford, *The Finished Mystery* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1917), 144, accessed March 20, 2018, <http://www.jwfacts.com/publications/studies/Studies-7-the-finished-mystery-1917.pdf>. "And another angel.— Not the 'voice of the Lord,' mentioned in the preceding chapter, but the corporate body—the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, which Pastor Russell formed to finish his work. This verse shows that, though Pastor Russell has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the Harvest work. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the Glad Tidings."

⁵ "The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as his channel through which to make known the glad tidings to many thousands, which glad tidings the whole world soon shall know. It is a great privilege to be one of its officers." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1917) January 15, 22.

"We cannot classes too strongly urge upon the pilgrim brethren, therefore, that they emphasize to the various the necessity of adhering strictly to the message which the Lord gave through this chosen channel. Any departure from the message at this time must necessarily be displeasing to the Lord and work a detriment to those thus turning aside to accept some other message or scheme." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1917) March 1, 65.

"Again the awake world watchman, the "slave" class, must undertake another world educational campaign following their restoration as witnesses after 1919. Such a global work has now been under way for more than forty years and is reaching its fruitful culmination. The facts show that during this time and up to the present hour the "slave" class has served as God's sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439.

"Pastor Russell's warning to Christendom, coming direct from God, has been of the imminent collapse of the present "Christian" civilization in a welter of war, revolution and anarchy, to be succeeded by the early establishment of the Kingdom of God. In all his warnings he claimed no originality. He said that he could never have written his books himself. It all came from God, through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit." Joseph Rutherford, *The Finished Mystery* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1917), 387.

"The man of linen was the Laodicean servant, the Lord's faithful and wise steward, Pastor Russell. When Pastor Russell saw this, he turned pale. Ezekiel seeing the man in linen, types Pastor Russell thereafter seeing himself to be the antitype of that man—one of the most prolific writers of the Age, and the only one to write and publish widely the glad tidings of the actual Second Presence of Christ." Joseph Rutherford, *The Finished Mystery* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1917), 418.

"With regard to the identification of the "faithful and wise servant" of Matthew 24:45-47, this book finally acknowledges (on pages 142, 143, 626) that, "for a number of years" the *Watch Tower* magazine did indeed set forth the view that Charles Taze Russell was that chosen "faithful and wise servant," and that, from 1896 on, Russell himself acknowledged "the apparent reasonableness" of this view. It does not acknowledge the fact that Russell not only viewed as "reasonable" the application to an individual (himself) as the specially chosen "faithful and wise servant" but that (in the very *Watch Towers* the book lists in its footnote) he actually *argued* for it as the true Scriptural application, rather than the position he had taken back in 1881. Rather than acknowledge this, the new history book misleadingly continues to place emphasis on Russell's 1881 statement in which he applied the figure to the entire "body of Christ." The book does not inform its readers that in the October 1, 1909 issue of the *Watch Tower* Russell described as his "opponents" those who would apply the term "faithful and wise servant" to "all the members of the church of Christ" rather than to an individual. Nor does it tell its readers that the special issue of the *Watch Tower* of October 16, 1916 stated that, while not openly claiming the title, Russell "admitted as much in private conversation." And while acknowledging finally that for years after his death the *Watch Tower* magazine itself promoted the view of Russell as "that servant," the book gives the reader no idea of the *insistence* with which this was done, as in stating that everyone having a knowledge of God's divine plan must truthfully admit that "he derived that knowledge from studying the Bible in connection with what Brother Russell wrote; that before such time he did not even know that God had a plan of salvation"; or in describing those questioning any of Russell's teaching as having "rejected the Lord" because of rejecting his special servant. Likewise it does not explain the

had consolidated his political position began to move Russell's memory aside, teaching that the faithful and discreet slave was a composite rather than an individual.⁶ However, until 1927

paradox created by the Watch Tower's own teaching: on the one hand, the present-day teaching that in 1919 Christ Jesus definitely selected, approved and identified a "faithful and wise servant *class*," and, on the other hand, the fact that in that very same year of 1919 and for years thereafter the very ones supposedly so chosen believed the "faithful and wise servant" was *not a class* but an *individual*, Charles Taze Russell, selected many decades before 1914 by a reigning Christ who had become "present" since 1874. Raymond Franz, *Crisis of Conscience*, 4th ed. (Atlanta, GA: Commentary Press, 2004), 67-68.

⁶ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1927) 7, 53, 54, 55, 56,

7, The church **has** never been free from this subtle influence of the enemy. It is not an unusual thing for **some** man, prominent **amongst** the brethren in present; truth, to be exalted among his brethren. He possesses, possibly, more than the ordinary ability; he shows much devotion to the Lord, and the Lord uses him; some of his special admirers give him much glory and honor; he loves the adulation and receives it gladly from his brethren; he begins to think more highly of himself than he should think, and his brethren have their minds upon him as a great example and forget to look to the Lord.

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

54, The proof is quite clear and convincing that the second presence of our Lord dates from 1874, and that from that time forward the Lord Jesus has been gathering together those who have made a covenant with the Lord God by sacrifice. (Psalm 50:5) Jesus declared that he would be present in the end of the age and conduct the harvest work, which would mean a gathering work_ (Matthew 13 : 30) The fact that a great harvest work progressed from about 1874 forward is the best evidence of the Lord's presence at that time and since.

55, It does not seem reasonable to apply these verses to the time of the presence of the Lord in 1874. So far as the facts show there was no one at that time who was specially examined and found approved and made ruler over all of the Lord's goods. There was no one in 1874 feeding the household of faith meat in due season. It was after that time that the work of the harvest appeared, and particularly the work of restoration of the truths concerning the ransom, restitution and the second presence of the Lord. Since the words of the Master show that he refers to the time when he arrives to take account with his Servant, the irresistible conclusion is that the scripture applies in 1918; that is, after the Lord came to his temple and began taking account with those to whom he had committed kingdom interests. The scriptures heretofore cited prove beyond a question of a doubt that God's chosen Servant whom he approves and in whom he delights is The Christ; that The Christ consists of Jesus and the faithful members of his body; and that the Scriptures often speak of the body members as the Lord, because they are a part of the Lord. (Acts 9: 4, 5) The inference must now drawn that when the Lord comes to his temple he finds a faithful and wise Servant class. Since Jesus speaks of his body members as himself, and since the Scriptures definitely locate The Servant as The Christ, then the irresistible conclusion **is** that "*the faithful and wise servant*" mentioned by the Lord is a class, made up of those whom he finds faithful at the time he comes to his temple.

56, All who answer truly must admit that there is but one small body of Christian people on earth, and that these are working harmoniously together to this end, and that there is none other so doing. The same class of Christians collectively are feeding each other upon the Word of God, and are diligently endeavoring to feed the prisoners who are also of the household of faith. 48 There seems to be no ground, within the meaning of the Scriptures, for concluding that "the faithful and wise servant" refers to any individual person, but does have reference to the feet members of Christ on earth --those who are blind to everything except to the will of the Lord, and who are harmoniously lifting up their voices together in declaring his message of the kingdom ... To say that "that faithful and wise servant" specifically applies to one individual and to none other would imply that a large proportion of the body members of Christ could not be classed either as faithful or wise. That would be doing violence to the scripture. It is only the wise and faithful that God has promised shall be preserved in this time of stress. "O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful." Psalm 31:23. In addition to this, the Lord has never promised to make one man the custodian of all of his interests on earth. All the kingdom interests are the Lord's; and when the division came at the temple judgment he said to the faithful members on earth: 'To you I will commit the duty to guard the interests of ray kingdom, and to look after my household under my supervision.' This is both

Russell was viewed as God's channel. An article in 1922 demonstrates how serious this sentiment was.⁷ Russell's influence⁸ on his followers was immense. His popularity and the adulation given him as God's mouthpiece established the power that is still wielded by the Governing Body, whose members are believed to speak for God.⁹ However, as time passed 1914 and 1919 gained new significance. When the prophecies of 1914 failed and were re-interpreted, 1919 was the time inspected the temple and began a time of judgment. Curiously, the Watchtower literature is remarkably silent about God having appointed the governing body as the faithful and discreet slave in 1919. It isn't until 1927 that we see any pushback on the idea that Russell was the faithful and discrete slave. Since Russell was still directing the efforts of the Watchtower in 1919 it appears that they went 8 years without the possibility of a corporate faithful and discrete slave. Much more damaging if the fact that there are no early accounts of this appointment. That is inexplicable. If God were to appear in church service and appoint the pastor as his sole representative on earth it would at least make the church newsletter. In this case

consistent and reasonable. This should be a great encouragement to everyone who can now examine himself and see that he is faithful to the Lord and is diligently trying to serve him.

⁷ "FAITHFULNESS IS LOYALTY: To be faithful means to be loyal. To be loyal to the Lord means to be obedient to the Lord. To abandon or repudiate the Lord's chosen instrument means to abandon or repudiate the Lord himself, upon the principle that he who rejects the servant sent by the Master thereby rejects the Master.

There is no one in present truth today who can honestly say that he received a knowledge of the divine plan from any source other than through the ministry of Brother Russell, either directly or indirectly. Through his prophet Ezekiel Jehovah foreshadowed the office of a servant, designating him as one clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side, who was delegated to go throughout the city (Christendom) and comfort those that sighed by enlightening their minds relative to God's great plan. Be it noted that was a favor not bestowed by man but by the Lord himself. But in keeping with the Lord's arrangement, he used a man. The man who filled that office, by the Lord's grace, was Brother Russell.

Jesus clearly indicated that during his second presence he would have amongst the church a faithful and wise servant, through whom he would give to the household of faith, meat in due season. The evidence is overwhelming concerning the Lord's second presence, the time of the harvest, and that the office of that "servant" has been filled by Brother Russell. This is not man worship by any means. It matters not who Charles T. Russell was--whether he was a doctor, a hod-carrier or a seller of shirts. St. Peter was a fisherman: St. Paul a lawyer. But these matters are immaterial, above all, these men were the chosen vessels of the Lord. Regardless of his earthly avocation, above all, Brother Russell was, the Lord's servant. Then to repudiate him and his work is equivalent to a repudiation of the Lord, upon the principle heretofore announced." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1922) May 1, 132.

⁸ "Thus to the Bible Students, Pastor Charles Taze Russell became God's spokesman, his channel, dispensing spiritual food in a way that no other could." Penton, M. James. *Apocalypse Delayed: The Story of Jehovah's Witnesses*, Third Edition (p. 48). University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division. Kindle Edition.

⁹ The basis of this Catholic element is their concept of the "faithful and discreet slave" or, as it was long known, the "faithful and wise servant" doctrine. That teaching, as originally developed by Maria Russell, later modified by J.F. Rutherford, and, very recently, modified again, is undoubtedly the central doctrine of Witness theology today. For as was shown in Chapter 2, once Pastor Russell conceived of himself as "that servant" and the Watch Tower Society as the "channel of truth," his Bible Student followers were well on the way towards adopting a doctrinal stance which was close to, if not identical with, the Catholic doctrine of the magisterium of the popes of Rome. Of equal significance, Russell's teachings quickly attained the status of tradition and became the medium by which the Scriptures were to be understood. And while such teachings were always said to be of secondary importance to the Bible, in fact the reverse soon became true. It was Russell's ideas which came to be regarded as "new light," "meat in due season," Penton, M. James. *Apocalypse Delayed: The Story of Jehovah's Witnesses*, Third Edition (p. 234). University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division. Kindle Edition.

it does not appear that there was any awareness of the event until thirty years later. The earliest References seem to be 1950¹⁰ 1960¹¹, 1973¹², 1975¹³, 1983¹⁴, 2001¹⁵, 2005¹⁶, and 2012¹⁷. In

¹⁰ “With this accurate rendering we can appreciate how our Lord promotes this consecrated service organization which he pictures as the “faithful and discreet slave” at this end of the world. Before being promoted the slave is put over only the Lord’s “domestics”, or “body of attendants”, to give them their spiritual food at the proper time; and so we can see how one in his position could turn evil and start beating his fellow slaves. But what promotion does the discreet slave organization get for faithfully feeding all the Lord’s domestics? Jesus’ prophecy on the world’s end answers: “Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you that he will appoint him over [what?] ALL his belongings.” (Matt. 24:46, 47, NW; Luke 12:43, 44) And now the facts show that Jesus promoted his anointed slave class in this way since 1919.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1950) October 15, p. 387

¹¹ “Thus organizationally the “discreet slave” class since 1919 has been channeling an ever increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the “waters of life” featuring Jehovah’s will as emanating from God’s throne in heaven. ... There are several things one can do to stay awake and abreast. First, one should keep up with the “food at the proper time” supplied through God’s proved channel and published by the Watch Tower Society. One cannot afford to miss one spiritual meal. In addition to one’s private study it is vital to attend the congregation studies each week. By missing study meetings, one is spiritually emaciating himself, remaining spiritually thin and weak.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439, 442.

¹² The most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave is found in the publication God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached written in 1973. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approach ed%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approach ed%20(ka-E).pdf)

¹³ Well, shortly after his resurrection, Jesus had gone to a “distant country,” into heaven itself and into the presence of his Father, Jehovah God. After a time of sitting at His right-hand awaiting God’s appointed time, Jesus received kingly power over the world in 1914. (Heb. 10:12,13) Then, in 1919, after a period of inspection, came the time for the Master to reward his faithful “slave.” Finding this servant class indeed thoroughly faithful in feeding the household of faith, Jesus gave the “slave” a new status. The “slave” had been feeding the “domestics,” but now had a greatly enlarged position over “all [Christ’s] belongings.” This included much more than previously. The Master had obtained royal power, and the “slave” would now share in the increased interests of the Master. The faithful “slave” would now be representing and advertising, not a kingdom afar off, but the Kingdom now having all the earth under its dominion. The “slave” now represented the enthroned Messianic king, whose complete rule over the earth for a thousand years would soon begin! Furthermore, the “slave” class would now be highly favored in being assigned to carry out a role in connection with work to be done on earth before the end of this system of things. This expanded their responsibilities and blessings. They could lend themselves as instruments for carrying out the Kingdom prophecies that have their finalizing fulfillment since the King’s enthronement in 1914. This included fulfillment of the many fine symbolisms in the book of Revelation. What a responsibility, and what dignity! Additionally, while the “slave” class had been faithful in feeding the few remaining thousands of Christ’s body of 144,000 spiritual brothers, now they would also feed a “great crowd” of worshipers outnumbering the “domestics” by scores of times. These worshipers have come in “like a cloud” to join the “slave” and to play a large part in seeing that the good news is preached to the ends of the earth. They have been a very precious belonging of Christ’s and are greatly loved by the “slave” class for their loyal, zealous assistance.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “A Fine Reward for Faithfulness”, Watchtower, February 1, 1975, 78. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1975%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

¹⁴ “To that end, their “master” appointed a collective “faithful steward” class, the body of anointed Christians on the earth since Pentecost 33 C.E. Since the “master” found the remaining ones of this body faithfully and discreetly giving out “food supplies” when he arrived for inspection in 1919, he appointed them “over all his belongings.” (Luke 12:42-44) The facts show that since 1919 this “steward” has faithfully cared for these “belongings.” 20 The

those years the the pivotal year of 1919 is mentioned and the appointment of the faithful and discreet slave is discussed. This would be exactly how a myth would develop. In reality this becomes a non-falsifiable event. There seems to be no historical basis at all. If the event had occurred it would have had great prominence immediately. If Jehovah had actually appointed the Watchtower as his sole channel of truth in this age, and had made the Organization His organization, it would have been a major event. It should have filled every issue and publication. Instead, as noted before, we have a non-falsifiable event, seen by no one and with no objective proof of ever having occurred. It does not get mentioned for four decades and only in the last 50 years has the narrative advanced. This is inexplicable. If this event had occurred and there was any sort of proof the Watchtower would have tremendous influence. Instead, the account is to be accepted because, those who claim the event gave them sole ownership of the truth, say it is true.

Section 3: Is there any evidence that Jesus appointed the Watchtower as his visible organization on earth in the year 1919?

There are other reasons to question the 1919 appointment. Both 1918 and 1919 are derived from 1914. 1914 was a date that Charles Taze Russell adopted from Nelson Barbour, an Adventist. They had studied together for some time and they worked together producing a newspaper. The

clergy of the numerous churches and sects of Christendom were not found to be distributing proper spiritual “food supplies” to Christ’s “body of attendants.” Therefore, these clerics and their flocks are spiritually “hungry.” (Isaiah 65:11, 13) On the other hand, the “faithful steward” has kept up an abundance of “food supplies at the proper time” for individual anointed Christians, and, since 1935, for a growing “great crowd” of other sheep.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism”, *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1983, page 19.

¹⁵ Let us review some of the "fruits," or identifying marks, of true religion so that we in all honesty can determine who today has divine backing. They base their teachings on the Bible. Jesus said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality." And also: "He that is from God listens to the sayings of God." (John 7:16,17; 8:47) Logically, to enjoy God's backing, one must teach only what God reveals in his Word and reject teachings based on human wisdom or tradition.—Isaiah 29: 13; Matthew 15:3-9; Colossians 2:8. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", *Watchtower*, June 1, 2001, 13, 14, accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2001%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

¹⁶ “In the illustration, Jesus stated that the "slave" would provide the needed spiritual food. Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his followers in the first century? And whom did he find still faithfully doing so when he returned in Kingdom power in 1914? Obviously, no human has lived through all those centuries. So "the faithful steward, the discreet one," must symbolize the composite body of Christ's spirit-anointed footstep followers who live on earth at any given time. (Luke 12:42) Yes, Christ uses this body to publish information on the fulfillment of Bible prophecies and to give timely direction on the application of Bible principles in daily life. In turn, this spiritual food is distributed through the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.—Isa. 43:10; Gal. 6:16.” Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, “*Organized To Do Jehovah's Will*”, (New York: Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 2005), 16. IDENTIFYING "THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE"

¹⁷ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Report of Annual Meeting” Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2012, accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/events/annual-meeting-report-2012/>

1914 date was derived using the year/day theory and was based on 606 BC as the date of the fall of Jerusalem. This date had been inherited from John Aquila Brown.¹⁸ This date does not seem to have been widely known and flies in the face of all current scholarship. Raymond Franz, an ex-governing board member, in *Crisis of Conscience* discusses the fact that there was a struggle within the Watchtower trying to support the 607 BCE date. He states, “Months of research were spent on this one subject of ‘Chronology’ and it resulted in the longest article in the Aid publication. Much of the time was spent endeavoring to find some proof, some backing in history, for the 607 BCE date so crucial to our calculations for 1914. Charles Ploeger, a member of the headquarters staff, was at that time serving as a secretary for me and he searched through the libraries of the New York city area for anything that might substantiate that date historically. We found absolutely nothing in support of 607 BCE All historians pointed to a date twenty years later.”¹⁹ In this same time period, a Jehovah’s Witness in Sweden was working on undergirding the 607 date. However, as he studied, he found that the evidence against the date was overwhelming. He presented his information to Watchtower Headquarters and was eventually disfellowshipped for his efforts. In 1983 he printed the first version of “The Gentile Times Reconsidered.”²⁰ This book refutes the 607 date from several different approaches. It is a powerful and logical look at the date the Watchtower has used to undergird its theology. As is obvious, if the 607 date is wrong the 1914 date and all that rests on it, including any 1919 appointment, is also wrong. The book should be a must read for any person interested in 1914. It also addresses works by Jehovah’s Witness apologists seeking to refute criticism of 607. However, because it is not approved, it will not be read because many are captives of the idea that the governing body is God’s visible organization. This is believed even though there is no foundation for the belief. In fact, there is good evidence that it is not so. There is a link to the book in the footnotes below, 19.

¹⁸ John Aquila Brown, *The Even-Tide or Last Triumph of the Blessed and Only Potentate, The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords; Being a Development of the Mysteries of Daniel and St. John and the Prophecies Respecting the Renovated Kingdom of Israel*, London 1823,132. accessed February 7, 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20\(Fra-Eng\)/Origins/1823%20The%20even%20tide%20or%20last%20triumph%20\(John%20Aquila%20Brown\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20(Fra-Eng)/Origins/1823%20The%20even%20tide%20or%20last%20triumph%20(John%20Aquila%20Brown).pdf) It is plain therefore that the tyrannical empire must have then commenced, since Nebuchadnezzar, but doubtless including his successors in the Babylonian dynasty, was styled, the golden head of the image; and, I take it for granted that no reader requires it to be proved that the image itself symbolizes the whole of the tyrannical monarchies. It was in the 606 that the destruction or first captivity of the Jewish nation took place, and in 604 A.C. that Nebuchadnezzar ascended the throne of Babylon on the demise of his father or Grandfather.

¹⁹ Raymond Franz, *Crisis of Conscience*, 29-30. accessed February 7, 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20\(Fra-Eng\)/Raymond%20Franz/01%20Crisis%20Of%20Conscience/ENGLISH%20Crisis%20Of%20Conscience%20\(Raymond%20Franz\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20(Fra-Eng)/Raymond%20Franz/01%20Crisis%20Of%20Conscience/ENGLISH%20Crisis%20Of%20Conscience%20(Raymond%20Franz).pdf)

²⁰ Carl Olof Johnson, *The Gentile Times Reconsidered*, 2004, accessed February 8, 2021, <https://www.watchtowerlies.com/linked/the-gentile-times-reconsidered.pdf>

Conclusion:

Argument 1: Having evaluated the history it is difficult to make a logical argument for the selection of the Watchtower. The “food” is bad. It is untimely. There are more than forty significant theological or prophetic errors. God does not make theological errors, men do.

Argument 2: There is difficulty discerning who was supposed to be the faithful and discreet slave because there are two different narratives, both endorsed and both mutually incompatible. Russell was acknowledged as the faithful and discreet slave from the late 1890s until 1927. In 1927 it was taught that this had been an error and that it was a corporate faithful and discreet slave that was to have existed. This was 8 years after the supposed appointment of 1919. It was also 40 years before we see an account of what should have been the most important event in JW history. This is inexplicable. Finally, there is no historical basis to the appointment. No one saw it or participated in the event. It appears much more like the development of a myth.

Argument 3: Does the 1919 date have any logical prophetic basis.

No, it is dependent on 1914. I looked extensively to find support for the basis of 1914. I was unable to find any historian or archeologist who supports a 606 or 607 date. The evidence against it is overwhelming. In addition, the significance of 1914 itself has been altered several times.

Overall it appears then that the basis for Watchtower’s claim to be God’s sole organization on earth is rooted in self-promotion and not fact.

Appendix 1: Would Jesus have appointed the Watchtower?

If we grant the benefit of the doubt and accept the claim that God and Jesus did inspect his Temple in 1919, would Jesus have found the Watchtower to be his faithful and discrete slave? If Jesus inspected all the churches of the world between 1914 and 1919 who would he have found being faithful?

We are told by the Watchtower that he found that only the Bible Students to be teaching the truth. The Bible Students were the adherents to the early Watchtower Organization. In 1931 they would have a name change and become the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Summarizing Don Cameron's "Captives of a Concept" we find that there are problems with the idea that Jesus found the Bible Students to be serving proper food at the right time. , The most extensive treatise of the 1919 inspection was written by Frederick Franz in his 1973 book "*God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*". In it he stresses the importance of the right timing and especially the right quality of the food. Because of the importance of the material three pertinent paragraphs are reproduced in the footnotes²¹. The appointment is clearly made on the basis of the correct teachings up to 1919. It is not concerned with anything which happens after 1919. If this is the case what does the evidence show us? Remember, according to the Watchtower, "When Christ inspected the 'faithful and discreet slave' in 1918, he found those anointed ones on earth to be faithful in providing spiritual 'food' at the proper time. Hence, Jesus

²¹ Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approach%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approach%20(ka-E).pdf) According to Jesus' illustration, how did the master who appointed the slave return to his house? Was it in a great rage in order to destroy the house? Or was it to enjoy his homecoming and to see how things had been going on during his absence? His return to his house was a peaceful one. He did not come to engage in the "war of the great day of God the Almighty: at Har-Magedon. (Revelation 16:13-16) Rather, he wanted to make sure that his domestic affairs were in the right condition. Had his appointed slave done as he was assigned to do, namely, give to the domestics their food at the proper time? The master needed to make an inspection. Page 350

The serving of food, the right sort of food, at the proper time was the issue. It had to be according to this that a decision must be rendered by the returned master. Well, then, what about that body of Christians internationally hated and persecuted? (Matthew 24:9) Down to 1919 C.E. they had endeavored to give food at the proper time to the household of faith or the domestics of the heavenly Master. They did this despite interference by persecutors and the warring nations. Not only was the regularity in serving the spiritual food a problem, but the quality of the food itself was to be considered. In this respect the body of hated, persecuted Christians, who always sought to be faithful slaves of Jesus Christ, met the test. During the years of the world conflict they had not joined Christendom or pagandom in preaching the war propaganda submitted by the political governments. They persisted in preaching the Bible message for the time and in advocating a Christian adherence to Bible principles for everybody. Page 350

Similarly, in the year 1919, Jehovah did turn his hand back upon those who are insignificant. (Zechariah 13:7) Jehovah's Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ, did begin regathering the scattered sheep. Like the slave's master in the illustration, the Lord Jesus did return to his house and inspect the situation within it. He did find there a faithful and discreet slave class that was striving, in spite of world conditions, to do as commanded, give the Lord's domestics at the proper time their spiritual food, food taken from the inspired Word of God. So the Lord showed his favor by regathering them into a well-organized body of domestics in his house. The eight-day general convention held at Cedar Point, Ohio, on September 1-8, 1919, was a notification to all the world that the invisibly present Lord Jesus Christ was regathering his faithful sheep. It indicated to the world who it was that the returned Lord Jesus had found to be his faithful and discreet slave class. This made the slave class happy. It meant their being retained in the service of their heavenly master. The Lord Jesus explained why the state of the faithful and discreet slave was a happy one, for Jesus said: Happy is that slave if his master on arriving [Greek: elthon] finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belonging. (Matthew 24:46, 47; Luke 12: 42-44). Page 352-3.

was pleased thereafter to appoint them “over all his belongings.” (Read Matthew 24:45-47)”²², So the question is, did the Watchtower pass the test? Was their teaching true.

The concept of “New Light” is not going to be useful to solve the dilemmas that arise as the question pertains to 1919. Was what was taught true? Truth by its nature does not change. In 1919 when the test was given did their teaching reflect the truth? In the following paragraphs we will see 48 different theological teachings that were accepted by the Bible Students in 1919 but that have since been rejected by the Watchtower. These were compiled by Don Cameron in his 2010 book, *Captives of a Concept*.²³,

1. Was it true that Jesus returned in 1874? This date was a date that Russell was committed to. He taught this up until his death in 1916. His successor, Judge Rutherford also taught this date and said the evidence for it was certain. He also taught this date up until his death. However, in 1947 President Knorr changed the date from 1874 to 1914. This meant that neither of the first two Watchtower presidents ever knew that Jesus had not been present during much of their lifetimes and that he had not returned until 1914. It also means that the 1874 date is in error according to the Watchtower. It was never true. But both of the first two presidents taught the wrong date. How is it possible that Jehovah would have misled them about a matter of such great importance? From the first issue of the Watchtower until 1919 the masthead proclaimed it was the herald of Christ’ presence. Then in reality the magazine itself was a testimony to a lie if Christ did not come in 1874. How could the vessel chosen by Jehovah not know the date of Jesus return? It wasn’t just that they didn’t know it but they were insistent that they knew, for a certainty, that it had occurred in 1874. In addition, the change of dates creates an interesting issue. It meant that of all the Churches in the world only the Jehovah’s Witnesses were not looking toward Jesus return. They thought it had happened forty years ago, in 1874. This would seem to cause a problem with the consistency of the parable in Matthew 24 since no JW would have been expecting Jesus to return in 1914. In addition, rather than responding to Jesus “knocking” it took 27 years for the Watchtower to figure out that Jesus had arrived in 1914 rather than 1874. This means the Watchtower was wrong about an absolutely pivotal issue for seventy years. This does not seem like good food served in a timely manner.
2. In 1919 Jesus was said to have appointed the faithful and discreet slave, the corporate body of believers that would eventually be synonymous with the governing body. This becomes an issue for a couple of reasons. First, though it is now denied, it was taught that Charles Taze Russell was the faithful and discreet servant.²⁴ This belief was held for

²² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Counted Worthy to Be Guided to Fountains of Waters of Life”, Watchtower, January 15, 2008, 24. Accessed January 31, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2008%20The%20Watchtower%20STUDY.pdf>

²³ Don Cameron, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined”, *Captives of A Concept*, 22-40. accessed February 7, 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20\(Fra-Eng\)/Don%20Cameron/ENG%20\(2010\)%20DON%20CAMERON-Captives%20of%20a%20concept.pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20(Fra-Eng)/Don%20Cameron/ENG%20(2010)%20DON%20CAMERON-Captives%20of%20a%20concept.pdf)

²⁴ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, *Jehovah's Witnesses-Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, 143, accessed June 9, 2018, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1993%20Jehovahs%20Witnesses-Proclaimers%20of%20Gods%20Kingdom%20\(jv-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1993%20Jehovahs%20Witnesses-Proclaimers%20of%20Gods%20Kingdom%20(jv-E).pdf). Thus, in the October-November 1881 issue of the magazine, C. T. Russell stated: 'We believe that every member of this body of Christ is engaged in the blessed work, either directly or indirectly, of giving meat in due season to the household of faith. Who then is that faithful and wise servant whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household,' to give them meat in due season? Is it not that 'little flock' of consecrated servants who are faithfully carrying out their consecration vows-the body of Christ and is not the whole body individually and collectively,

more than 30 years. In addition, after Russell died, Russell was said to be in heaven guiding the Watchtower.²⁵ It was not until 1927 that this belief changed. This means that using this history, there was already a faithful and discreet slave in place and that slave maintained his position until 1927. Therefore, Jesus could not have appointed a faithful and discrete slave in 1919. Second, because the organization did not recognize the appointment of the faithful and discreet slave until 1927 it had ignored Jesus calling for eight years. Neither of these historical facts fits the narrative we are supposed to believe. The fact that Charles Taze Russell would have erroneously been identified as the faithful and discreet slave by the Watchtower organization in 1919 is yet another indication that the food being served was neither nutritious nor timely.

3. Today the Watchtower is looking forward to the millennium beginning. It is a key doctrinal point. Armageddon occurs and then there is the resurrection and the start of the millennium. That was not Russell's position. It was taught that the millennium had begun in 1873.²⁶ In previous discussions I have been told that the governing body is not infallible nor inerrant. Russell, Rutherford et. al. were simply wrong about all sorts of things. The Watchtower has identified those things and made the appropriate corrections as they received "new light". Therefore, it is not an issue. I do not accept that conclusion though, as it is not relevant for this discussion. It is not a question of whether errors were corrected, the issue is, "What did Jesus find the Watchtower teaching in 1919. Was it good food in due season?" Obviously, this could not have been good food. If Russell was hearing from God, as he should have been as God's channel, major issues like this should have reflected God's truth.
4. In 1918, one year prior to the end of Jesus' inspection, Judge Rutherford began a preaching tour announcing that "Millions Now Living Will Never Die". This tour resulted in a book by the same title. It claimed that in 1925 the OT saints would return and that those who had been alive in 1914 would not die before they saw the beginning of

giving the meat in due season to the household of faith—the great company of believers? Blessed is that servant (the whole body of Christ) whom his Lord when he has come (Gr. *elthon*) shall find so doing. 'Verily, I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods.' " Over a decade later, however, Brother Russell's wife publicly expressed the idea that Russell himself was the faithful and wise servant. * The view that she voiced concerning the identity of the 'faithful servant' came to be generally held by the Bible Students for some 30 years. Brother Russell did not reject their view, but he personally avoided making such an application of the text, emphasizing his opposition to the idea of a clergy class commissioned to teach God's Word in contrast to a lay class that was not thus commissioned. The understanding expressed by Brother Russell in 1881 that the discreet slave "faithful and wise servant" was in a collective servant, made up of all the members of the spirit-anointed body of Christ on earth, was reaffirmed in *The Watch Tower* of February 15, 1927. Compare Isaiah 43: 10.

²⁵Rutherford, *The Finished Mystery*, 1917, 144, accessed March 20, 2018. "And another angel.— Not the "voice of the Lord," mentioned in the preceding chapter, but the corporate body—the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, which Pastor Russell formed to finish his work. This verse shows that, though Pastor Russell has passed beyond the veil, he is still managing every feature of the Harvest work. "The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the Glad Tidings."

²⁶ Charles Taze Russell, *Millennial Dawn*, vol. 2, *The Time Is at Hand* (Allegheny, PA: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1889), 99-101, accessed August 5, 2018, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1889%20Studies%20in%20the%20Scriptures%20Vol2-The%20Time%20Is%20At%20Hand%20\(1st%20edition\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1889%20Studies%20in%20the%20Scriptures%20Vol2-The%20Time%20Is%20At%20Hand%20(1st%20edition).pdf). If, then, the seventh thousand-year period of earth's history be an epoch specially noted as the period of Christ's reign, we shall, by showing that it began in A. D. 1873, be proving that we are *already in it*.

the millennial reign of Jesus in 1925. Millions looked forward this event but none of those claims would come to pass.

5. In 1919 Christmas was still celebrated, Jesus apparently approved of it. Later it was changed. That seems unusual.
6. In 1919 birthdays were acknowledged and celebrated. Later they were no longer approved of and considered pagan. How could Jesus has missed that?
7. In 1919 the Watchtower taught Jesus was crucified on a Cross, not a stake. This was common knowledge and a cross was prominently in place on the front page of the Watchtower.
8. In 1919 the prophetic significance of the Pyramid of Gizah was acknowledged. Russell used it to determine prophetic dates. Jesus did not correct this behavior though Rutherford began to teach that it was of the devil in 1927.
9. The one doctrine that sets Bible Students and later Jehovah's Witnesses apart from all other religious groups is the centrality of 1914. It is now claimed that 1914 was the beginning of the invisible reign of Jesus. In reality it had been predicted to be the end of all things. Not a single pre-1914 prophecy about 1914 was true. How would Jehovah sign off on all these errors? They were not good food in due season. It might be noted that these errors were not a list of "men's" predictions but statements that came from God's guidance according to the Watchtower. See the following 3 sites for specific prophecies and references.
 - a. Watchtower False Prophecies, <http://www.apologiaonlineacademy.com/files/128915684.pdf>,
 - b. The Blind Watchtower and the False Prophecy of 1914, <https://www.manyprophetsonemessage.com/2017/09/17/the-blind-watchtower-and-the-false-prophecy-of-1914/>
 - c. 1914 : Failed Watchtower Prophecy, <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/failed-1914-predictions.php>
10. The next claims are recognized as having been taught but now being viewed as wrong by the Watchtower. Russell was responsible for the claims up to 1914 and Rutherford for those after 1916. 1799: The beginning of "the last days" or "time of the end"
11. 1829: The beginning of an understanding of the mysteries of prophecy
12. 1844: Wise virgins went forth to meet the Bridegroom
13. 1846: God's sanctuary was cleansed
14. 1873: End of 6000 years of human existence
15. 1874: The return of Christ to begin his Second Coming
16. 1874: The beginning of the 40-year Harvest or preaching work
17. 1874: Second cry, "Behold the Bridegroom."
18. 1874: The beginning of the Battle of Armageddon
19. 1878: God's Kingdom was "set up" in heaven
20. 1878: Beginning of Christ's Kingdom Rule
21. 1878: The fall of "Babylon the Great" (false religion)
22. 1878: Beginning of "Times of Restitution."
23. 1881: Close of "the heavenly calling" (spiritual Israel)
24. 1881: Resurrection of all the "dead in Christ"
25. 1914: The anointed Christians would be taken to heaven before 1914
26. 1914: The end of the "Harvest" or preaching work

27. 1914: God's Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth
28. 1914: Jesus would be present as earth's new Ruler
29. 1914: All Gentile nations would be destroyed by God by the end of 1914
30. 1914: Jerusalem would begin to rise from the dust of divine disfavor to honor
31. 1914: Israel's blindness would begin to be turned away
32. 1914: This year would be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect man
33. 1914: Battle of Armageddon would end
34. 1914: Peaceful blessings would begin to be recognized on earth
35. 1914: Complete destruction of "Babylon the Great" (all other religions)
36. 1914: The "last days" would end in 1914
37. 1915: God's Kingdom will be fully established near the end of 1915
38. 1915: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven soon after 1914
39. Claims made by Rutherford: 1917: The 1,200 Furlongs of Rev. 14:20 refer to distance between Scranton Pa. where the Finished Mystery was written and Brooklyn, NY where it was published.
40. 1918: God's 'fire' from heaven would fall on Christendom
41. 1918: Millions of church members of Christendom would be destroyed by God
42. 1918: Christendom would go down to oblivion as a system.
43. 1918: God will destroy the churches wholesale
44. 1920: There would be worldwide all-embracing anarchy.
45. 1920: All earthly governments will pass away.
46. 1920: All republics will disappear in the fall of 1920
47. 1925: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven.
48. 2914: End of the thousand-year Reign of Christ,

Remember that Fredrick Franz had written that the faithful and discreet slave must produce good food (proper Bible teaching) in a timely manner. It was never taught that only some of the teachings needed to be correct. In June of 2001 on page 14 the Watchtower doubled down on that noting that, "Logically, to enjoy God's backing, one must teach only what God reveals in his Word and reject teachings based on human wisdom or tradition. —Isaiah 29: 13; Matthew 15:3-9; Colossians 2:8"²⁷ This indicates that all the Watchtower's teaching should have been correct. That is a position we all should be able to support. However, according to their own history, the organization has not produced truth but instead it has produced error. Fredrick Franz had a nephew who served on the governing board. When Raymond Franz began to question what was being taught, he was disfellowshipped. Raymond, commenting on the faithful and discreet slave, quotes from one of Rutherford's publications and then comments on their fitness as good food in due season. He states, "It would be an insult to Christ Jesus to say that he selected this organization on the basis of what it was teaching, *uniquely* and *distinctively*, as of 1919."²⁸

²⁷ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", Watchtower, June 1, 2001,

²⁸ Raymond Franz, In Search of Christian Freedom, 144. accessed February 7, 2021,

[http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20\(Fra-Eng\)/Raymond%20Franz/02%20In%20Search%20Of%20Christian%20Freedom/ENGLISH%20In%20Search%20Of%20Christian%20Freedom%20\(Raymond%20FRANZ\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/EX-JW%20(Fra-Eng)/Raymond%20Franz/02%20In%20Search%20Of%20Christian%20Freedom/ENGLISH%20In%20Search%20Of%20Christian%20Freedom%20(Raymond%20FRANZ).pdf) The publication *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (page 47) stated that "the great jubilee cycle is due to begin in 1925," that "we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old," and summed up the claim in these words: Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the

Appendix 2: Mentions of 1919 in connection with the appointment of the faithful and true slave.

- 1950²⁹ “With this accurate rendering we can appreciate how our Lord promotes this consecrated service organization which he pictures as the “faithful and discreet slave” at this end of the world. Before being promoted the slave is put over only the Lord’s “domestics”, or “body of attendants”, to give them their spiritual food at the proper time; and so we can see how one in his position could turn evil and start beating his fellow slaves. But what promotion does the discreet slave organization get for faithfully feeding all the Lord’s domestics? Jesus’ prophecy on the world’s end answers: “Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you that he will appoint him over [what?] ALL his belongings.” (Matt. 24:46, 47, NW; Luke 12:43, 44) And now the facts show that Jesus promoted his anointed slave class in this way since 1919.”
- 1960³⁰ Thus organizationally the “discreet slave” class since 1919 has been channeling an ever-increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the “waters of life” featuring Jehovah’s will as emanating from God’s throne in heaven. ... There are several things one can do to stay awake and abreast. First, one should keep up with the “food at the proper time” supplied through God’s proved channel and published by the Watch Tower Society. One cannot afford to miss one spiritual meal. In addition to one’s private study it is vital to attend the congregation studies each week. By missing study meetings, one is spiritually emaciating himself, remaining spiritually thin and weak.
- 1973³¹ According to Jesus’ illustration, how did the master who appointed the slave return to his house? Was it in a great rage in order to destroy the house? Or was it to

earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then, based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.

Remember that, along with the book *The Finished Mystery*, this booklet was, up until 1923, a principal publication used in the worldwide proclamation being made. Honestly considered, these could hardly have been “true spiritual food at the right time” such as the “faithful and discreet slave” was supposed to provide. Yet the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* (page 164) says of the “two witnesses” of Revelation 11:3-7 (applied as referring to the “anointed” Witnesses in the 1914-1918 period) that, “The fact that they were symbolized by two witnesses confirms to us that their message was accurate and well founded.” I think it is reasonable to say that the writer feels safe in making such a statement only because the organization no longer publishes or stocks *The Finished Mystery*, *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* or any other of the publications of that supposedly “historic” period. A direct investigation of the publications of the Watch Tower organization in the years from 1914 to 1919 reveals none of the prudent discretion that causes a man to ‘keep his lips in check.’ It would be an insult to Christ Jesus to say that he selected this organization on the basis of what it was teaching, *uniquely* and *distinctively*, as of 1919. An abundance of words flowed out that later proved embarrassing to remember, along with a rash of new time prophecies that proved as erroneous as the past ones. Even the hard school of experience seemed to have taught them no lesson.

²⁹ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1950) October 15, p. 387

³⁰ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439, 442. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1960%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

³¹ Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973), 349-355. Accessed January 31, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approach>

enjoy his homecoming and to see how things had been going on during his absence? His return to his house was a peaceful one. He did not come to engage in the “war of the great day of God the Almighty: at Har-Magedon. (Revelation 16:13-16) Rather, he wanted to make sure that his domestic affairs were in the right condition. Had his appointed slave done as he was assigned to do, namely, give to the domestics their food at the proper time? The master needed to make an inspection... The serving of food, the right sort of food, at the proper time was the issue. It had to be according to this that a decision must be rendered by the returned master. Well, then, what about that body of Christians internationally hated and persecuted? (Matthew 24:9) Down to 1919 C.E. they had endeavored to give food at the proper time to the household of faith or the domestics of the heavenly Master. They did this despite interference by persecutors and the warring nations. Not only was the regularity in serving the spiritual food a problem, but the quality of the food itself was to be considered. In this respect the body of hated, persecuted Christians, who always sought to be faithful slaves of Jesus Christ, met the test. During the years of the world conflict they had not joined Christendom or pagandom in preaching the war propaganda submitted by the political governments. They persisted in preaching the Bible message for the time and in advocating a Christian adherence to Bible principles for everybody... Similarly, in the year 1919, Jehovah did “turn [his] hand back upon those who are insignificant.” (Zechariah 13:7) Jehovah’s Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ, did begin regathering the scattered “sheep.” Like the slave’s master in the illustration, the Lord Jesus did return to his house and inspect the situation within it. He did find there a “faithful and discreet slave” class that was striving, in spite of world conditions, to do as commanded, give the Lord’s “domestics” at the proper time their spiritual food, food taken from the inspired Word of God. So the Lord showed his favor by regathering them into a well organized body of “domestics” in his house. The eight-day general convention held at Cedar Point, Ohio, on September 1-8, 1919 was a notification to all the world that the invisibly present Lord Jesus Christ was regathering his faithful “sheep”. It indicated to the world who it was that the returned Lord Jesus had found to be his “faithful and discreet slave” class. This made the “slave” class happy. It meant their being retained in the service of their heavenly Master.

- 1975³² Well, shortly after his resurrection, Jesus had gone to a “distant country,” into heaven itself and into the presence of his Father, Jehovah God. After a time of sitting at His right-hand awaiting God's appointed time, Jesus received kingly power over the world in 1914. (Heb. 10:12,13) Then, in 1919, after a period of inspection, came the time for the Master to reward his faithful “slave.” Finding this servant class indeed thoroughly faithful in feeding the household of faith, Jesus gave the “slave” a new status. The “slave” had been feeding the “domestics,” but now had a greatly enlarged position over “all [Christ’s] belongings.” This included much more than previously. The Master had obtained royal power, and the “slave” would now share in the increased interests of the Master. The faithful “slave” would now be representing and advertising, not a kingdom

ed%20(ka-E).pdf This book has the most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357.

³² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “A Fine Reward for Faithfulness”, Watchtower, February 1, 1975, 78. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1975%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

afar off, but the Kingdom now having all the earth under its dominion. The “slave” now represented the enthroned Messianic king, whose complete rule over the earth for a thousand years would soon begin! Furthermore, the “slave” class would now be highly favored in being assigned to carry out a role in connection with work to be done on earth before the end of this system of things. This expanded their responsibilities and blessings. They could lend themselves as instruments for carrying out the Kingdom prophecies that have their finalizing fulfillment since the King’s enthronement in 1914. This included fulfillment of the many fine symbolisms in the book of Revelation. What a responsibility, and what dignity! Additionally, while the “slave” class had been faithful in feeding the few remaining thousands of Christ’s body of 144,000 spiritual brothers, now they would also feed a “great crowd” of worshipers outnumbering the “domestics” by scores of times. These worshipers have come in “like a cloud” to join the “slave” and to play a large part in seeing that the good news is preached to the ends of the earth. They have been a very precious belonging of Christ’s and are greatly loved by the “slave” class for their loyal, zealous assistance.

- 1983³³ To that end, their “master” appointed a collective “faithful steward” class, the body of anointed Christians on the earth since Pentecost 33 C.E. Since the “master” found the remaining ones of this body faithfully and discreetly giving out “food supplies” when he arrived for inspection in 1919, he appointed them “over all his belongings.” (Luke 12:42-44) The facts show that since 1919 this “steward” has faithfully cared for these “belongings.” 20 The clergy of the numerous churches and sects of Christendom were not found to be distributing proper spiritual “food supplies” to Christ’s “body of attendants.” Therefore, these clerics and their flocks are spiritually “hungry.” (Isaiah 65:11, 13) On the other hand, the “faithful steward” has kept up an abundance of “food supplies at the proper time” for individual anointed Christians, and, since 1935, for a growing “great crowd” of other sheep.
- 2001³⁴ Let us review some of the "fruits," or identifying marks, of true religion so that we in all honesty can determine who today has divine backing. They base their teachings on the Bible. Jesus said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality." And also: "He that is from God listens to the sayings of God." (John 7:16,17; 8:47) Logically, to enjoy God's backing, one must teach only what God reveals in his Word and reject teachings based on human wisdom or tradition.—Isaiah 29: 13; Matthew 15:3-9; Colossians 2:8.
- 2005³⁵ “Identifying The Faithful And Discreet Slave” In the illustration, Jesus stated that the "slave" would provide the needed spiritual food. Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his

³³ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism”, *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1983, page 19. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1983%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

³⁴ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", *Watchtower*, June 1, 2001, 13, 14, accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2001%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

³⁵ Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, “*Organized To Do Jehovah's Will*”, (New York: Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 2005), 16. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw->

followers in the first century? And whom did he find still faithfully doing so when he returned in Kingdom power in 1914? Obviously, no human has lived through all those centuries. So "the faithful steward, the discreet one," must symbolize the composite body of Christ's spirit-anointed footstep followers who live on earth at any given time. (Luke 12:42) Yes, Christ uses this body to publish information on the fulfillment of Bible prophecies and to give timely direction on the application of Bible principles in daily life. In turn, this spiritual food is distributed through the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses. —Isa. 43:10; Gal. 6:16.

- 2012³⁶ “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?” Jesus was referring, not to an individual, but to a composite “slave”—a group working together as one body. Jesus said that the slave (1) is appointed to a supervisory role “over [the master’s] domestics” and (2) gives the domestics spiritual “food at the proper time.” From 1919 on, there has always been a small group of anointed Christians at the world headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses. They have supervised our worldwide preaching work and have been directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food. In recent years, that group has been closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. The evidence points to the following conclusion: “The faithful and discreet slave” was appointed over Jesus’ domestics in 1919. That slave is the small, composite group of anointed brothers serving at world headquarters during Christ’s presence who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food. When this group work together as the Governing Body, they act as “the faithful and discreet slave.”

wb/English/Internal%20Documents/Organization/2005%20Organized%20to%20do%20Jehovahs%20will%20TEXT.pdf

³⁶ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Report of Annual Meeting” Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2012, accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/events/annual-meeting-report-2012/>

Appendix 3

Dating the fall of Jerusalem with JW resources. (From JWfacts.com)

Following is a simple calculation of when Jerusalem fell, taken solely from Watchtower literature. In viewing the calculation, remember that everything goes backwards when calculating years B.C.

Babylon fell "Babylon fell in 539 B.C." *Babylon the Great Has Fallen - God's Kingdom Rules p.184* 539 B.C.

Plus Nabonidus "On the basis of cuneiform texts he is believed to have ruled some seventeen years(556-539 B.C.E)." *Aid to Bible Understanding - Nabonidus p.1195* 17 years

Plus Labashi-Marduk "Labashi-Marduk ... was a vicious boy, and within nine months he had his throat cut by an assassin." *Babylon the Great Has Fallen - God's Kingdom Rules p.184* 1 year

Plus Neriglissar Neriglissar ... reigned four years *Babylon the Great Has Fallen - God's Kingdom Rules p.184* 4 years

Plus Evil-Merodach "After reigning but two years King Evil-Merodach was murdered" *Babylon the Great Has Fallen - God's Kingdom Rules p.184* 2 years

Plus Nebuchadnezzar "Nebuchadnezzar ruled as king for 43 years" *Insight on the Scriptures, Volume 2 p.480* 43 years

This equals 606 BC and is the start of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. (calculated by adding the above years to the 539 BC date for Babylon's fall.)

From the start of Nebuchadnezzar's reign in 606 BC we subtract 19 to get the year he destroyed Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:8-9 "And in the ... nineteenth year of King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar ... the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he proceeded to burn the house of Jehovah")

Therefore the date for the destruction of Jerusalem is calculated from JW sources as: 587 B.C.

ARTICLE 3

Much more damaging is that there are no early accounts of this appointment. This is inexplicable. If God appeared in church service and appointed the pastor as his sole representative on earth, it would at least make the church newsletter. In this case, it appears that there was no awareness of the event until thirty years later. The earliest references are 1950, 1960, 1973, 1975, 1983, 2001, 2005, and 2012. In those years, the pivotal year of 1919 is mentioned, and the appointment of the faithful and discreet slave is discussed. This would be exactly how a myth would develop. This becomes a non-falsifiable event. There is no historical basis at all. If the event had occurred it would have had great prominence immediately. If Jehovah had appointed Watchtower as his sole channel of truth in this age, and had made the Organization His organization, it would have been a major event. It should have filled every issue and publication. Instead, as noted before, we have a non-falsifiable event, seen by no one and with no objective proof of ever having occurred. It only gets mentioned in the last three decades. Only since 1960 has the narrative advanced. This is inexplicable. If this event had occurred and there was any sort of proof the Watchtower would have had tremendous influence. Instead, we are to accept the account because those who benefit from the claim say it is true.

Quotes from WT:

1950 - "With this accurate rendering we can appreciate how our Lord promotes this consecrated service organization which he pictures as the "faithful and discreet slave" at this end of the world. Before being promoted the slave is put over only the Lord's "domestics", or "body of attendants", to give them their spiritual food at the proper time; and so we can see how one in his position could turn evil and start beating his fellow slaves. But what promotion does the discreet slave organization get for faithfully feeding all the Lord's domestics? Jesus' prophecy on the world's end answers: "Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you that he will appoint him over [what?] ALL his belongings." (Matt. 24:46, 47, NW; Luke 12:43, 44) And now the facts show that Jesus promoted his anointed slave class in this way since 1919." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1950) October 15, p. 387

1960 - "Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channeling an ever increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the "waters of life" featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. ... There are several things one can do to stay awake and abreast. First, one should keep up with the "food at the proper time" supplied through God's proved channel and published by the Watch Tower Society. One cannot afford to miss one spiritual meal. In addition to one's private study it is vital to attend the congregation studies each week. By missing study meetings, one is spiritually emaciating himself, remaining spiritually thin and weak." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439, 442.

1973 - The most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave is found in the publication God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached written in 1973. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. God's Kingdom of a

Thousand Years Has Approached, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20(ka-E).pdf)

1975 - Well, shortly after his resurrection, Jesus had gone to a “distant country,” into heaven itself and into the presence of his Father, Jehovah God. After a time of sitting at His right-hand awaiting God's appointed time, Jesus received kingly power over the world in 1914. (Heb. 10:12,13) Then, in 1919, after a period of inspection, came the time for the Master to reward his faithful “slave.” Finding this servant class indeed thoroughly faithful in feeding the household of faith, Jesus gave the “slave” a new status. The “slave” had been feeding the “domestics,” but now had a greatly enlarged position over “all [Christ’s] belongings.” This included much more than previously. The Master had obtained royal power, and the “slave” would now share in the increased interests of the Master. The faithful “slave” would now be representing and advertising, not a kingdom afar off, but the Kingdom now having all the earth under its dominion. The “slave” now represented the enthroned Messianic king, whose complete rule over the earth for a thousand years would soon begin! Furthermore, the “slave” class would now be highly favored in being assigned to carry out a role in connection with work to be done on earth before the end of this system of things. This expanded their responsibilities and blessings. They could lend themselves as instruments for carrying out the Kingdom prophecies that have their finalizing fulfillment since the King’s enthronement in 1914. This included fulfillment of the many fine symbolisms in the book of Revelation. What a responsibility, and what dignity! Additionally, while the “slave” class had been faithful in feeding the few remaining thousands of Christ’s body of 144,000 spiritual brothers, now they would also feed a “great crowd” of worshipers outnumbering the “domestics” by scores of times. These worshipers have come in “like a cloud” to join the “slave” and to play a large part in seeing that the good news is preached to the ends of the earth. They have been a very precious belonging of Christ’s and are greatly loved by the “slave” class for their loyal, zealous assistance.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “A Fine Reward for Faithfulness”, Watchtower, February 1, 1975, 78. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1975%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

1983 - “To that end, their “master” appointed a collective “faithful steward” class, the body of anointed Christians on the earth since Pentecost 33 C.E. Since the “master” found the remaining ones of this body faithfully and discreetly giving out “food supplies” when he arrived for inspection in 1919, he appointed them “over all his belongings.” (Luke 12:42-44) The facts show that since 1919 this “steward” has faithfully cared for these “belongings.” 20 The clergy of the numerous churches and sects of Christendom were not found to be distributing proper spiritual “food supplies” to Christ’s “body of attendants.” Therefore, these clerics and their flocks are spiritually “hungry.” (Isaiah 65:11, 13) On the other hand, the “faithful steward” has kept up an abundance of “food supplies at the proper time” for individual anointed Christians, and, since 1935, for a growing “great crowd” of other sheep.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism”, The Watchtower, September 15, 1983, page 19.

2001- Let us review some of the "fruits," or identifying marks, of true religion so that we in all honesty can determine who today has divine backing. They base their teachings on the Bible. Jesus said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality." And also: "He that is from God listens to the sayings of God." (John 7:16,17; 8:47) Logically, to enjoy God's backing, one must teach only what God reveals in his Word and reject teachings based on human wisdom or tradition.—Isaiah 29: 13; Matthew 15:3-9; Colossians 2:8. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", Watchtower, June 1, 2001, 13, 14, accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2001%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

2005 - "In the illustration, Jesus stated that the "slave" would provide the needed spiritual food. Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his followers in the first century? And whom did he find still faithfully doing so when he returned in Kingdom power in 1914? Obviously, no human has lived through all those centuries. So "the faithful steward, the discreet one," must symbolize the composite body of Christ's spirit-anointed footstep followers who live on earth at any given time. (Luke 12:42) Yes, Christ uses this body to publish information on the fulfillment of Bible prophecies and to give timely direction on the application of Bible principles in daily life. In turn, this spiritual food is distributed through the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.—Isa. 43:10; Gal. 6:16." Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, "Organized To Do Jehovah's Will", (New York: Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 2005), 16. IDENTIFYING "THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE"

2012 - Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Report of Annual Meeting" Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2012, accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/events/annual-meeting-report-2012/>

ARTICLE 4

Earlier (1950) mention of 1919 appointment.

i just stumbled on this, isn't this making that claim earlier? Or is the one in 1960 more specific?
<https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1950765?q=slave+appointed&p=par>

w50 10/15 pp. 384-389 Riches of the Full Assurance of Our Understanding

w50 10/15 p. 387

10 With this accurate rendering we can appreciate how our Lord promotes this consecrated service organization which he pictures as the “faithful and discreet slave” at this end of the world. Before being promoted the slave is put over only the Lord’s “domestics”, or “body of attendants”, to give them their spiritual food at the proper time; and so we can see how one in his position could turn evil and start beating his fellow slaves. But what promotion does the discreet slave organization get for faithfully feeding all the Lord’s domestics? Jesus’ prophecy on the world’s end answers: “Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you that he will appoint him over [what?] ALL his belongings.” (Matt. 24:46, 47, NW; Luke 12:43, 44) And now the facts show that Jesus promoted his anointed slave class in this way since 1919.

ARTICLE 5

1919 Quote list

“For many years the Lord’s people have wondered whether or not each convention might be the last. Each one has always proved to be the last for some of the dear friends; but abundant evidence, not only from the Lord’s word, but also from, corroborative occurrences pressing in upon us from all sides, seems to lend more basis for the hope that this might be the last in this vicinity, before the great convention beyond the veil” (Watchtower April 1, 1919 6233)

“Thus organizationally the “discreet slave” class since 1919 has been channeling an ever increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the “waters of life” featuring Jehovah’s will as emanating from God’s throne in heaven. ... There are several things one can do to stay awake and abreast. First, one should keep up with the “food at the proper time” supplied through God’s proved channel and published by the Watch Tower Society. One cannot afford to miss one spiritual meal. In addition to one’s private study it is vital to attend the congregation studies each week. By missing study meetings, one is spiritually emaciating himself, remaining spiritually thin and weak.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439, 442.

The most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave is found in the publication God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached written in 1973. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20(ka-E).pdf)

Well, shortly after his resurrection, Jesus had gone to a “distant country,” into heaven itself and into the presence of his Father, Jehovah God. After a time of sitting at His right-hand awaiting God's appointed time, Jesus received kingly power over the world in 1914. (Heb. 10:12,13) Then, in 1919, after a period of inspection, came the time for the Master to reward his faithful “slave.” Finding this servant class indeed thoroughly faithful in feeding the household of faith, Jesus gave the “slave” a new status. The “slave” had been feeding the “domestics,” but now had a greatly enlarged position over “all [Christ’s] belongings.” This included much more than previously. The Master had obtained royal power, and the “slave” would now share in the increased interests of the Master. The faithful “slave” would now be representing and advertising, not a kingdom afar off, but the Kingdom now having all the earth under its dominion. The “slave” now represented the enthroned Messianic king, whose complete rule over the earth for a thousand years would soon begin! Furthermore, the “slave” class would now be highly favored in being assigned to carry out a role in connection with work to be done on earth before the end of this system of things. This expanded their responsibilities and blessings. They could lend themselves as instruments for carrying out the Kingdom prophecies that have their finalizing fulfillment since the King’s enthronement in 1914. This included fulfillment of the

many fine symbolisms in the book of Revelation. What a responsibility, and what dignity! Additionally, while the “slave” class had been faithful in feeding the few remaining thousands of Christ’s body of 144,000 spiritual brothers, now they would also feed a “great crowd” of worshipers outnumbering the “domestics” by scores of times. These worshipers have come in “like a cloud” to join the “slave” and to play a large part in seeing that the good news is preached to the ends of the earth. They have been a very precious belonging of Christ’s and are greatly loved by the “slave” class for their loyal, zealous assistance.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “A Fine Reward for Faithfulness”, Watchtower, February 1, 1975, 78. accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1975%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

“To that end, their “master” appointed a collective “faithful steward” class, the body of anointed Christians on the earth since Pentecost 33 C.E. Since the “master” found the remaining ones of this body faithfully and discreetly giving out “food supplies” when he arrived for inspection in 1919, he appointed them “over all his belongings.” (Luke 12:42-44) The facts show that since 1919 this “steward” has faithfully cared for these “belongings.” 20 The clergy of the numerous churches and sects of Christendom were not found to be distributing proper spiritual “food supplies” to Christ’s “body of attendants.” Therefore, these clerics and their flocks are spiritually “hungry.” (Isaiah 65:11, 13) On the other hand, the “faithful steward” has kept up an abundance of “food supplies at the proper time” for individual anointed Christians, and, since 1935, for a growing “great crowd” of other sheep.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism”, The Watchtower, September 15, 1983, page 19.

Let us review some of the "fruits," or identifying marks, of true religion so that we in all honesty can determine who today has divine backing. They base their teachings on the Bible. Jesus said: "What I teach is not mine, but belongs to him that sent me. If anyone desires to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching whether it is from God or I speak of my own originality." And also: "He that is from God listens to the sayings of God." (John 7:16,17; 8:47) Logically, to enjoy God's backing, one must teach only what God reveals in his Word and reject teachings based on human wisdom or tradition.—Isaiah 29: 13; Matthew 15:3-9; Colossians 2:8. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", Watchtower, June 1, 2001, 13, 14, accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2001%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

“In the illustration, Jesus stated that the "slave" would provide the needed spiritual food. Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his followers in the first century? And whom did he find still faithfully doing so when he returned in Kingdom power in 1914? Obviously, no human has lived through all those centuries. So "the faithful steward, the discreet one," must symbolize the composite body of Christ's spirit-anointed footstep followers who live on earth at any given time. (Luke 12:42) Yes, Christ uses this body to publish information on the fulfillment of Bible prophecies

and to give timely direction on the application of Bible principles in daily life. In turn, this spiritual food is distributed through the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.—Isa. 43:10; Gal. 6:16.” Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, “Organized To Do Jehovah's Will”, (New York: Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 2005), 16. IDENTIFYING "THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE"

“Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

Jesus was referring, not to an individual, but to a composite “slave”—a group working together as one body. Jesus said that the slave (1) is appointed to a supervisory role “over [the master’s] domestics” and (2) gives the domestics spiritual “food at the proper time.” From 1919 on, there has always been a small group of anointed Christians at the world headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses. They have supervised our worldwide preaching work and have been directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food. In recent years, that group has been closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. The evidence points to the following conclusion: “The faithful and discreet slave” was appointed over Jesus’ domestics in 1919. That slave is the small, composite group of anointed brothers serving at world headquarters during Christ’s presence who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food. When this group work together as the Governing Body, they act as “the faithful and discreet slave.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Report of Annual Meeting” Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2012, accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/events/annual-meeting-report-2012/>

“... We are standing upon the very threshold of the messianic kingdom, and that soon the Lord shall be pleased to take us home, if we have developed his spirit and proven faithful to him and to his cause through all circumstances and conditions... We shall shortly have the blessed privilege of being ushered into the eternal glories of immortality” watchtower January 15, 1919 6380

in a letter by J. F. Rutherford: “brother Russell’s last expression concerning the harvest was that it would end in the spring of 1918. We believe this; and believing it, we felt the seventh volume must go out before the harvest closed... The spring of 1918 came; and the evidences began to increase at the harvest was closing... Rejoice now, beloved; the work of harvesting the church is done. The dark night is coming rapidly on, and soon we will be home. There may be a little more work for the faithful to do in calling the world’s attention to the message and in aiding the Elisha class” watchtower February 15, 1919 6392

“the importance of assembling ourselves together, as the Lord’s people and in the spirit of the master, cannot be overstated, especially as we see the end of the earthly journey of the church draw near” watchtower August 1, 1919 page 235 it was reported that J. F. Rutherford, speaking at the Cedar Point convention, “said that Bible prophecy is fulfilled and the reconstruction. For the blessing humankind is at hand” watchtower October 1, 1919 to 94

“... We confidently believe that the end of the journey of the church is at hand and within a short time all its members will be removed from the earth; that the time of trouble now on the world

will then cease and the sun of righteousness, rising with healing in its beams, will bring comfort and peace and blessing to the people” watchtower October 1, 1919 page 294 – 95

“we submit that the evidence is conclusive to the reasonable mind who believes in the Scriptures, that the world has ended; that the old order is passing away and the new is coming in; and if that be true, then this must mark the dawning of a new and better day; it must mark the beginning days of the Golden age...” Golden age November 12 9019 page 127

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “The True Lord Comes for Judgement,” Watchtower, July 1, 1989, 31, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1989%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. “During his earthly ministry, Jesus cleansed the temple. In 1918 he accompanied Jehovah to the spiritual temple to cleanse God’s people”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Loyal to Christ and His Faithful Slave,” Watchtower, April 1, 2007, 22, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2007%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. “‘On arriving’ to inspect the ‘slave’ in 1918, Christ found a spirit-anointed remnant of faithful disciples who since 1879 had been using this journal [the Watchtower] and other Bible-based publications to provide spiritual ‘food at the proper time’. He acknowledged them as his collective instrument, or ‘slave,’ and in 1919 entrusted them with the management of all his earthly belongings.”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Look I Am with You All the Days,” Watchtower, July 15, 2013, 11, 14, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2013%20The%20Watchtower%20STUDY.Pdf>. “In 2013, this teaching was simplified by removing 1918 from the equation. . . . To settle that question, Jesus began to inspect the spiritual temple in 1914. That inspection and cleansing work involved a period of time—from 1914 to the early part of 1919.” Endnotes: “This is an adjustment in understanding. Previously, we thought that Jesus’ inspection took place in 1918.”

The remnant of spiritual Israelites who are in line for the heavenly kingdom have been openly praising Jah or Jehovah since A.D. 1919, when they were released from Babylon’s power.

w50 12/15 pp. 516-521 - The Watchtower—1950

They reorganized in 1919 and became alive and increasingly active in preaching “this good news of the Kingdom” to all nations for a witness before the end of this world arrives at Armageddon.

w51 3/1 pp. 141-147 - The Watchtower—1951

In March, 1919, God set organizers of his people free from prison and immediately they got busy and arranged a convention which was held at Cedar Point, Ohio, in September of 1919.

w51 7/15 pp. 432-438 - The Watchtower—1951

But in 1919 the Greater Cyrus, Christ Jesus, released them from their captivity and restored them to their heritage of pure worship and service.

w51 9/15 pp. 565-567 - The Watchtower—1951

In 1919, as the facts of history show, he broke the grip of mighty Babylon and released his prisoner people. ... 10. What responsibility was given the delivered remnant? yet what must they undergo? To this remnant delivered in 1919 there was committed the great privilege and heavy responsibility of carrying forward the clean, undefiled worship of the true God, Jehovah, in the earth and extending it to the ends of the earth.

w51 11/1 pp. 665-670 - The Watchtower—1951

This followed on the restoration of Jehovah’s faithful remnant in 1919, when they came back to Zion, God’s capital in which his beloved Son Jesus Christ was reigning since 1914. ... Following the remnant’s restoration in 1919, how were judges restored as at the first and counselors as at the beginning?

w51 12/1 pp. 724-729 - The Watchtower—1951

He broke the enemy’s power over them in 1919 and began releasing the imprisoned remnant, that they might resume their worship of him freely and fearlessly. ... So from and after 1919 he used his great Servant to restore the remnant of spiritual Israel and he reorganized them to act as his witnesses in the momentous postwar period.

w51 12/15 pp. 748-755 - The Watchtower—1951

The fact is, he is doing his great work of releasing now, in this modern period from A.D. 1919. ... He had given him as a covenant or pledge of the deliverance of His people, and now he used his Servant in this behalf, from 1919 onward.

w51 12/15 pp. 741-748 - The Watchtower—1951

But the identical prophecy has as its third or complete (full-scale) fulfillment in the deliverance of the Christian remnant from antitypical Babylon in 1919 and their restoration to true worship.... In the complete fulfillment the first installment occurred in the spring of 1919, when the spirit was poured out to set to work the anointed Christian remnant who survived the temple judgment of 1918.

w52 4/15 pp. 249-254 - The Watchtower—1952

And while the King began reigning in 1914, it was not until 1919, when his people were released and restored, that we began to have these princes in our midst. (Isa. 32:3, 4)

w52 10/1 p. 588 - The Watchtower—1952

Since the deliverance of Jehovah's people in 1919 Satan has tried to corrupt and destroy them by bringing against them the violent forces of fascism and nazism, the military pressures of World War II, and now the forces of international communism.

w52 12/1 p. 720 - The Watchtower—1952

In the space of a comparatively few years since their release from Babylonish captivity in 1919, the remnant of the "faithful and discreet slave", together with their good-will companions, have phenomenally increased from a mere handful to a new peak reached in 1952 of 456,265 ministerial publishers in the field! ... Since 1919 what increase has taken place, and to whose praise?

w53 4/1 pp. 215-222 - The Watchtower—1953

How are we having Jehovah's theocratic law and requirements restated to us now, and why is it now under the present conditions that we must choose the course of life? Today, since our deliverance from modern Babylon in 1919 and before our entering the new world after Armageddon, we are having Jehovah's theocratic law and requirements restated to us as never before in Christian history.

w53 8/15 pp. 492-504 - The Watchtower—1953

Therefore in 1919 their release from the enemy's power began, and it can be attributed only to Jehovah's power by means of Christ his King. ... The Creator's laying of the foundations of the new earth began in 1919 with the ransoming of the remnant from Babylonish restraints in that year and the reinstatement of them in the divine favor, service and worship.

w53 9/15 pp. 565-571 - The Watchtower—1953

But in 1919, less than six months after the end of World War I, Jehovah God did something that corresponded with his restoring of the Jewish remnant from Babylon back in 537 B.C. ... 12. In 1919 who were of the spirit just described, and how did Jehovah fulfill that prophecy for them? Because the remnant of his anointed witnesses were of such a contrite, humble spirit after their captivity in mystic Babylon during World War I, Jehovah God condescended to notice their affliction and he delivered them in 1919.

w53 10/15 pp. 625-638 - The Watchtower—1953

But with the preaching of the good news of Jehovah's kingdom a change has taken place in these two classes, and since 1919 this once-despised, outcast spiritual remnant of anointed Christians have been lifted high in the favor of the Greater Abraham, Jehovah God, and have been given Kingdom interests, especially to preach the good news of God's now-established Government for mankind's blessing.

w54 2/15 pp. 109-112 - The Watchtower—1954

Satan has tried to make a breach with even the “remaining ones,” by means of fear, persecution and working through insincere ones, but he has utterly failed; for though a small breach did come in 1917 to 1919 this was healed and by 1922 the break was completely repaired.

w54 3/1 pp. 149-156 - The Watchtower—1954

Since then, especially from 1919 on, they have joyfully gone forth heralding the presence of the King and proclaiming throughout all the inhabited earth the good news of his established kingdom, pointing to the sign of Christ’s second presence, the sign of the Son of man. ... 8. Through what activity has Christ continued to manifest himself? Christ not only in 1919 manifested favor to those who were earnestly seeking him but also since then has continued to make himself known to those who recognize his presence through the preaching of these.

w54 6/15 pp. 375-381 - The Watchtower—1954

While their complete release from Babylonish captivity did not come until A.D. 1919, prior thereto for a period of nearly fifty years the witnesses experienced a gradual awakening to prepare them for their hour of liberation as a New World people.

w55 1/1 pp. 4-8 - The Watchtower—1955

Only the remnant of Jehovah’s anointed witnesses who have been regathered since 1919 from all nations, languages and former religious associations realize this.—Matt. 24:31, NW; Rev. 18:4.... Only the remnant of Jehovah’s anointed witnesses have realized this office since 1919, since when they have made a supreme effort to channel forth clean spiritual food to all those in association with them as Christ’s “domestics.”—Matt. 24:45-47, NW.

w55 5/15 pp. 308-316 - The Watchtower—1955

But after he released them from their captivity to Babylon in 1919 they repented of any measure of sin in any respect, confessed their guilt and endeavored to clean up their worship of him under his guidance by Christ.

w55 12/1 pp. 716-722 - The Watchtower—1955

In these days since A.D. 1919 when Jehovah has restored the remnant of spiritual Israel and their dedicated companions to his pure worship, his prophetic instructions are: “These are the things that ye shall do: Speak ye every man the truth with his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates; and let none of you devise evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith Jehovah.” (Zech. 8:3, 16, 17, AS)

w56 2/1 pp. 76-90 - The Watchtower—1956

This occurred in 1919. ... Such a structure corresponds to the theocratic organization in heaven; and today, since 1919 and the bringing forth of the remnant of Zion’s children, it realizes a fulfillment of Isaiah’s words: “Behold, a king [Jesus Christ] shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in justice.”—Isa. 32:1, AS.

w57 5/1 pp. 273-279 - The Watchtower—1957

As shown in “New Heavens and a New Earth”, pages 232-234, the children of Zion were brought back from bondage to antitypical Babylon and joyfully united with their “mother” in 1919. ... Thus we see that these texts in Isaiah do not specifically refer to the name “Jehovah’s witnesses,” but rather to the blessed condition and honor enjoyed by God’s woman or heavenly organization and by her spiritual children since 1919.

w57 10/1 p. 607 - The Watchtower—1957

Since 1919 God’s organization has risen up to let the light of his glory shine amid the gross darkness of this world, and the time has come for the fulfillment of his promise: “I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.” ... Since 1919 this “faithful and discreet slave,” who is a composite person made up of all anointed Christian joint heirs of Jesus Christ, has been taking care of “all his belongings” on earth.

w58 1/15 pp. 41-50 - The Watchtower—1958

1925

WT 1918 concerning 1919:

“for these two years (possibly from the spring of 1918 to the winter of 1919 with the spring of 2020) half the famine (for the truth) been in the land (among professing Christians); and yet there are five years (to the spring of 1925, to the resurrection of the ancient worthies) in which there shall neither be hearing nor harvest” – no general religious work for the world can be done. – Genesis 45:6.

WT August 1, 1918, page 231

and there will I (Christ, head and body) nourish thee (mere believers and great company, with present truth) for yet there are five years (1919 or 1920 to 1924 or 1925) of famine (of the truth to the people generally); Lest thou and thy household (of faith) and all that thou hast, come to poverty” – spiritually. – Genesis 45:9 – 11.

WT August 1, 1918, page 231

the ancient worthies will receive the revitalization of their tentative justification at the beginning of the earthly phase of the kingdom of heaven, in 1925 we believe; for during their first earthly lives they met all the conditions required of them. It is well to keep in mind that a porch represents revitalization, resurrection, raising to the condition of the plane indicated by the court to which the porch belongs.

W. E. Van Amburgh, *The Way to Paradise* (London: International Bible Students Association, 1925), 224, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1924%20The%20way%20to%20paradise.pdf>. “The year 1926 would therefore begin about October first, 1925. . . . We should, therefore, expect shortly after 1925 to see the awakening of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Melchisedec, Job,

Moses, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, John the Baptist, and others mentioned in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.”

“1925—‘Millions Now Living Will Never Die!’” JWfacts.com, accessed August 6, 2018, <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/1925.php>. “Expectations for 1925 included: the end of Christendom, the return of earth to a paradise, the resurrection of the dead onto earth, the Zionist teaching of the reestablishment of Palestine”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “The Strong Cable of Chronology,” Watchtower, July 15, 1922, 217, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. “. . . this chronology is not of man, but of God. . . . the addition of more proofs removes it entirely from the realm of chance into that of proven certainty. . . . the chronology of present truth [is] . . . not of human origin.”

Van Amburgh, *The Way to Paradise*, 223. “Seventy times 50 are 3,500. The whole period would therefore have been 3,500 years from the time the Jews entered Canaan until all the types would have been fulfilled. As they entered Canaan 1,575 years before Christ there would be 1,925 years of types after Christ, or 1925 A. D.”

“there will be no slip-up. Abraham inherits the land by faith (as its reward); God’s oath makes it certain. “The gifts and callings of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29) the promise respecting the land is as absolute and unconditional as a promise respecting the spiritual seed. “to the end that the promise might be sure to all the seed.” – Romans 14:16... As he began his sojourn in the land in the year 2045 B. C., It follows that the 3960 years began to count from 2035 B. C. $2035+1925 = 3960$ accordingly Abraham should enter upon the actual possession of his promised inheritance in the year 1925A. D. Watchtower October 15, 1917 page 6157

The ancient worthies will receive the vitalizing, or making alive of their tentative justification, at the beginning of the earthly phase of the kingdom of heaven, we believe in 1925, having met all the conditions during their first earthly lives.--Hebrews 11. (Watchtower, August 1, 1918, page 188 6279

ARTICLE 6

*I try in my own mind and heart to understand the feelings of all [Jehovah's Witnesses], including those of the Governing Body. Based on my own [60 years] experience among them I believe that they are, in effect, the **captives of a concept**. The concept or mental image they have of "**the organization**" seems almost to take on a personality of its own, so that the concept itself controls them, moves them, or restrains them, by molding their thinking, their attitudes, their judgments... **The ...concept of "the organization" ... becomes, in fact, the dominant, controlling force.***
Crisis of Conscience, p. 296

The Society promotes the belief that whatever *they* say, it is as if *God* is the One who is speaking. For example, the February 1, 1967 *Watchtower* says, "What (the Witnesses) are telling people is what God in his Word says; he is the one talking.... So too, God uses men to speak to those within the congregation of believers... When they give counsel...it is God who is speaking by means of them.' The article also asks, "How can one identify the organization through which God is speaking to mankind today?" p. 72. On page 15 of the May 1, 2000 *Watchtower* the Governing Body reminds Witnesses that, "Jehovah speaks to us through the Bible and by means of 'the faithful and discreet slave' [organization]." – See Chapter 6, "Who Is God's Organization?"

Total belief in this concept explains why Jehovah's Witnesses are so willing to accept whatever comes to them from the Watchtower Society no matter how complicated it is or how impossible it may be to understand, and even if it doesn't make any sense to them. They view what comes from "God's organization" as coming from God himself.

One of the things that makes the Watchtower's organizational concept so powerful is that nobody notices that it is "in fact, the dominant, controlling force" in their decision-making process. But it controls them by molding the thinking of those who write the literature (under the direction of the Governing Body) as well as the Witnesses who read it. *Everything is explained and understood from the standpoint that the Watchtower Society is God's organization.*

*If [you]¹⁷ have become thoroughly convinced that this is Jehovah's organization that he is guiding and directing his people [i.e. Once you are a captive of this concept], [you] shall not be **unsettled by anything that happens** ... If [you] really have faith [you] will know that if something is wrong God will straighten it out eventually.* May 1, 1957 *Watchtower*, p.284.

*[Our] witness yet includes the invitation to **come to Jehovah's organization for salvation.***
November 15, 1981 *Watchtower*, p.21. – Also see Chapter 6, "Who Is God's Organization?"

What Can Be Known What Needs To Be Known

- 1. Paradise earth**
- 2. Everlasting life (You will never die)**
- 3. God's name "Jehovah"**

- 4. God's name is not "God" or "Lord"**
- 5. God is not a Trinity**
- 6. Jesus is not God**
- 7. Jesus didn't die on a cross**
- 8. The soul is not immortal**
- 9. Hell is not hot**
- 10. The dead are not conscious**
- 11. The earth will not be destroyed**
- 12. The sign of the last days**
- 13. The new heavens**
- 14. The new earth**
- 15. God's Kingdom (Government)**
- 16. Christian neutrality**
- 17. Blood Transfusions**
- 18. The "sign" of Christ's presence**
- 19. Christmas, birthdays, holidays**
- 20. How to identify the true religion**
- 21. World Empire of false religion**
- 22. Armageddon**
- 23. The resurrection of the dead**
- 24. When "death will be no more"**
- 25. Born Again**
- 26. The "superior authorities"**
- 27. The "end of the Gentile times"**
- 28. Baptism**
- 29. Etc.**

Versus

Is the Watchtower Society God's organization?

It is evident that the only way any organization could be God's organization would be if God appointed it as such. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Watchtower Society received that appointment in the spring of 1919 in fulfillment of the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology— Matthew 24:45-47. Jehovah's Witnesses don't think of Matthew 24:45-47 as the most important Scripture in their organization's theology because their Governing Body doesn't present it to them that way. This may be because their Governing Body may not think of it this way either. But that doesn't mean it isn't the most important Scripture in their theology. This religion could not exist without the way they interpret this Scripture. Just as the Christian religion would not exist **if Jesus is not God's Son**, the Watchtower religion would not exist **if the Watchtower Society is not God's organization.**-

For the purpose of this study it is only necessary to *understand* their interpretation of this passage of Scripture—not to agree or disagree with it. Whether it is *Biblically* correct doesn't matter. The only concern here is if it is *historically* correct. That is, does what went on in their history agree with the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47 in their January 15, 2008 *Watchtower*:

When Christ inspected the faithful and discreet slave' in 1918, he found those anointed ones on earth to be faithful in providing spiritual 'food at the proper time.' Hence, Jesus was pleased thereafter to appoint them "over all his belongings." (Read Matthew 24:45-47) - p. 24

Their teaching is that Jesus returned in 1914 to begin his Second Coming or "invisible presence"³⁰ in fulfillment of Matthew 24:3. Then in 1918 he began to make an examination of all the religions claiming to represent him to see if any of them had been faithfully and discreetly providing true teachings of the Bible (spiritual food) at the proper time during his absence. They say that the only religion he found doing so was the Watchtower Society and therefore **Jesus appointed them over all his earthly interests or "belongings" in the spring of 1919.**

Notice that the *only* reason Jesus would have made the above appointment is *if he had found them providing 'spiritual food at the proper time.'* Their *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* book explains this very critical point under the heading "Time of Inspection by the Slave's Master." On pages 350-355 Frederick Franz explains...*The serving of food, the right sort of food at the proper time was the issue. It had to be according to this that a decision must be rendered by the returned master [Jesus] ... On inspecting [the Society] in the year 1919 C.E... Jesus Christ did find the appointed "slave" faithful and discreet in the feeding of his [disciples].*

Jehovah's Witnesses know that this "food" and "feeding" refers to the teachings that come from the Watchtower Society. It is evident that Jesus would not base his decision *in 1919* on what the Society would be teaching *today*.³¹ Rather, as Franz explained on pages 349 and 350... *Could they, by even their latest record [of teachings] down till 1919 prove that they themselves were the composite "faithful and discreet slave" class of Jesus Christ? ... The quality of the food itself was to be considered.*

– para. 40 And so Jesus would make his decision in 1919 based upon what they had been teaching "down till 1919." He would check the "quality" of those teachings to make sure they were *the right things to be teaching and the right time to be teaching them* ("the right sort of

food at the proper time”). What was Jesus’ decision? The book simply asserts that they “met the test.” – p. 350, para. 40

According to Jesus’ illustration, how did the master who appointed the slave return to his house? Was it in a great rage in order to destroy the house? Or was it to enjoy his homecoming and to see how things had been going on during his absence? His return to his house was a peaceful one. He did not come to engage in the “war of the great day of God the Almighty: at Har-Magedon. (Revelation 16:13-16) Rather, he wanted to make sure that his domestic affairs were in the right condition. Had his appointed slave done as he was assigned to do, namely, give to the domestics their food at the proper time? The master needed to make an inspection. Page 350

The serving of food, the right sort of food, at the proper time was the issue. It had to be according to this that a decision must be rendered by the returned master. Well, then, what about that body of Christians internationally hated and persecuted? (Matthew 24:9) Down to 1919 C.E. they had endeavored to give food at the proper time to the household of faith or the domestics of the heavenly Master. They did this despite interference by persecutors and the warring nations. Not only was the regularity in serving the spiritual food a problem, but the quality of the food itself was to be considered. In this respect the body of hated, persecuted Christians, who always sought to be faithful slaves of Jesus Christ, met the test. During the years of the world conflict they had not joined Christendom or pagandom in preaching the war propaganda submitted by the political governments. They persisted in preaching the Bible message for the time and in advocating a Christian adherence to Bible principles for everybody. Page 350

Similarly, in the year 1919, Jehovah did turn his hand back upon those who are insignificant. (Zechariah 13:7) Jehovah’s Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ, did begin regathering the scattered sheep. Like the slave’s master in the illustration, the Lord Jesus did return to his house and inspect the situation within it. He did find there a faithful and discreet slave class that was striving, in spite of world conditions, to do as commanded, give the Lord’s domestics at the proper time their spiritual food, food taken from the inspired Word of God. So the Lord showed his favor by regathering them into a well organized body of domestics in his house. The eight-day general convention held at Cedar Point, Ohio, on September 1-8, 1919, was a notification to all the world that the invisibly present Lord Jesus Christ was regathering his faithful sheep. It indicated to the world who it was that the returned Lord Jesus had found to be his faithful and discreet slave class. This made the slave class happy. It meant their being retained in the service of their heavenly master. The Lord Jesus explained why the state of the faithful and discreet slave was a happy one, for Jesus said: Happy is that slave if his master on arriving [Greek: elthon] finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belonging. (Matthew 24:46, 47; Luke 12: 42-44). Page 352-3.

Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20(ka-E).pdf)

HEIR most detailed explanation of Matthew 24:45-47 is presented in the book *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*.²⁸ It was written by the Society's most respected "eminent Bible scholar" Frederick Franz.²⁹ He was the president of the Watchtower Society from 1977 until his death in 1992. Published in 1973. See Chapter 17, "THE SLAVE WHO LIVED TO SEE THE 'SIGN,'" pages 349-357.

This then is the very precise way they interpret and apply Matthew 24:45-47. This is the only official basis for their claim to being God's "faithful and discreet slave organization" and "the only true religion" today. And so when Jehovah's Witnesses are asked, "Why do you believe the Society is God's organization," they all *should* answer... *Because of Jesus' appointment in 1919 in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47.*

If Jesus acknowledged the Society as his "faithful and discreet slave organization" and therefore appointed them "over all his earthly interests" in 1919 then there is at least a chance that they are still God's organization today. But if he didn't make that appointment in 1919 then there is no chance no matter what they are teaching today.³²

There is only one way to know what decision Jesus would have made in 1919. Therefore according to their interpretation, there is only one way to know if the Society could be God's organization today: ***By examining the same teachings they say Jesus examined in 1918- 1919 to see if they could have passed such an exam.*** Jehovah's Witnesses have never done this.

1876 Through 1919

The Teachings Jesus Examined The Society's teachings since 1919 were not part of the record that Jesus would have examined in 1918-1919.

NOT T O D A Y'S

Although the Society no longer publishes any of the literature that they say Jesus examined in 1918-1919, they have made such an examination possible today with the publication of the organization's history in their book *JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*. It contains enough direct statements and references to other books that Jesus would have examined (which are available on the Internet) ³⁴ so that it is possible today to know what decision he would have made in 1919.

#1 The Second Coming of Christ 40 Years Too Early Then 29 Years Too Late Surely Jesus would have noticed what they were teaching about his Second Coming, or "invisible presence" as they prefer to call it. – Matthew 24:3 37 Today they teach that he returned to begin his Second Coming in 1914. But the *Proclaimers* book explains that this was *not* what they were teaching before, during and for many years after Jesus' "inspection" in 1918-1919. On pages 46 and 47 it explains that in 1876... [*Second Adventist Nelson Barbour*] succeeded in convincing Charles Taze Russell that Christ's invisible presence [*Second Coming*] had begun in **1874**. Page 133

mentions this again along with a footnote explaining that “a clearer understanding of Biblical chronology” [pointing to 1914] was published in **1943**.³⁸ Even if Witnesses are able to notice what is being said about this matter, they are unable to notice what it means. The first thing it means is that the Society didn’t meet any of their own standards relative to their teaching about the Second Coming of Christ. Their 1874 date was never (1) the right teaching, or (2) the right time to be teaching it. (3) It had not been what God reveals in his Word, and (4) had been based on human wisdom. Therefore it should have been rejected when Russell first heard about it from Nelson Barbour in 1876. **2.** It also means that if Jesus did return in 1914, neither President Russell nor President Rutherford ever knew it.³⁹ It is possible that there is not a single Jehovah’s Witness who realizes this. What are the chances that God would select such prominent men for his sole “channel of communication” but then never communicate to them when His Son had returned? **3.** It isn’t just that they didn’t know that Jesus’ Second Coming began in 1914. They both insisted that they *did* know that it happened in 1874. What are the chances that “the God of *truth*” would deliberately allow his earthly channel to misinform the whole world about his Son’s return for almost seven decades (1876-1943)? **4.** The title of *The Watchtower* magazine included the words “Herald of Christ’s Presence”... According to what they teach today, from 1879 to 1914 it was announcing that he was present *when he wasn’t!* Russell died in 1916. Rutherford died in 1942. According to the *Proclaimers* book, the date for Christ’s Second Coming (“invisible presence”) was not changed to 1914 until the year following Rutherford’s death. Therefore, if Jesus returned in 1914 neither man ever knew it. This should come as quite a surprise to most

Witnesses if they were able to realize it. **5.** Since they believed that Jesus had returned in 1874 it means that they were not watching for his return in 1914. And yet in Luke’s parallel account (12:37) Jesus said that they would be “happy” only if ‘on arriving (he) found them watching for his return.’ But he would not have found them watching in 1914 because they believed he had already arrived forty years earlier. **6.** Luke 12:36 says, “At (Jesus) arriving and knocking they may *at once* open to him.” But if he arrived and began knocking in 1914 but they didn’t acknowledge his arrival until 1943, it means that he would have had to knock for *twenty-nine years* before they opened to him. **7.** Since in 1914 they were the only religion that believed that Jesus had already returned, it means that they were the only Christian religion that was *not* watching or waiting for his return in 1914. And yet Jehovah’s Witnesses have been led to believe that they were the only religion that *was* watching for his return in that year. Again, the purpose of this examination is to make sure that what was going on in the Society’s history agrees with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. In this case it is evident that they don’t agree. There is nothing in Jesus’ illustration or the Society’s interpretation of it that allows for his “faithful” slave to not realize that he had returned until almost 30 years after the fact (1914 to 1943). And it certainly doesn’t allow his “discreet” slave to so indiscreetly misinform the whole world about when he had returned for almost seven decades (1876-1943).

Surely the Society had not been either faithful or discreet relative to the time of the Second Coming of Christ. And yet the only way they even have a chance of being God’s organization today is if they had been both faithful and discreet from 1876 to 1919. But no matter how “positive” Russell’s “conviction” was; no matter how “convinced” he was; no matter how

“determined” he was doesn’t change the fact that what he “proclaimed” for the rest of his life wasn’t true. But again, the *Proclaimers* book simply ignores any significance to this fact while pointing the finger at everyone else when it mentions a pamphlet that Russell wrote in order “to counteract wrong views regarding the Lord’s return.”⁴² But Russell was never able to counteract *his own* wrong view. It wasn’t counteracted (according to what they teach today) until 27 years after his death.

In a personal letter to me dated 2/20/85 they said... *Those in Christendom professing to be Jesus’ disciples did not discern his invisible presence, from and after 1914, therefore proved to be asleep and unworthy of receiving any privileges in connection with dispensing spiritual food. But the Society didn’t discern his invisible presence from and after 1914 either.*⁴³ *If the lack of discernment on the part of Christendom proved that they were asleep and unworthy of receiving Jesus’ appointment, then wouldn’t the Society’s identical lack of discernment mean that they too were asleep and therefore just as unworthy of receiving any privileges in the dispensing of spiritual food? Their letter may not be so much a deliberate attempt to mislead as it is an indication of the lack of clear thinking on the part of the Society’s religious leaders and their writers. And yet these are the men Jehovah’s Witnesses depend on for their entire spiritual “food at the proper time.”*

#2 “We Are Not Your

Faithful & Discreet Slave.”

Today the Governing Body teaches that Charles Taze Russell (by himself alone) never was “the faithful and discreet slave” of Matthew 24:45. But the *Proclaimers* book points out that there was a critical period of time in the Society’s history when *they taught that he was*.⁴⁴ On page 142 it explains that in 1881 Russell originally taught the he was *not* that “slave” – just as they teach today. But on page 143 it acknowledges the extremely important point that a few years later he changed his mind... *Over a decade [after 1881] Brother Russell’s wife publicly expressed the idea that Russell himself was the faithful and [discreet slave]. The view that she voiced concerning the identity of the “faithful [and discreet slave]” came to be generally held by (Jehovah’s Witnesses) for some 30 years.*⁴⁵ *Brother Russell did not reject their view... [After those 30 years] the understanding expressed by Brother Russell in 1881 [that he was not that “slave”] was reaffirmed in The Watch Tower of February 15, 1927. What this is saying is very important. It is saying that from about 1897 to February 1927 (30 years) the Society was teaching that Russell was “the faithful and discreet slave” and therefore that the Society was not that slave. What this means is even more important... The first thing this means is that if they are correct today when they teach that Charles Russell was not Jesus’ “faithful and discreet slave,” then what they were teaching from 1897 down till 1919 was not true. It had been based on Russell’s wife’s “human wisdom.” It also means that according to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, in the spring of 1919 Jesus was saying to those associated with the Society... You are my faithful and discreet slave. But according to their history, they were saying... **We are not your faithful and discreet slave!** They believed Charles Russell was Jesus’ “slave.” And since he died in 1916 they taught that he was in heaven with Jesus. Therefore they were teaching that the Society was not the “faithful and discreet slave.” If Jesus did in fact try to appoint them*

in 1919 they rejected it.⁴⁷ And they continued to reject his offer every day for the next eight years until February of 1927.

If in 1919 Jesus (or anyone else) had asked the question in Matthew 24:45, “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave?” they would have answered according to what they believed – “Charles Taze Russell.” There wasn’t anyone on earth or in heaven who could change Rutherford’s mind until he himself changed it in 1927. But that was too late.

Why It Matters

This is another case where the Society’s history does not fit their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. There is no suggestion in Jesus’ illustration or the Society’s interpretation of it that this slave didn’t know who he was and therefore would mistakenly refuse to accept Jesus’ appointment for even one day let alone almost three thousand days (eight years). Surely this was not “proper and timely spiritual food” relative to the identity of the most important slave on earth. **How The Governing Body Explains It** They don’t even try to explain it in the *Proclaimers* book. They simply treat this matter as if it doesn’t matter. But when they *do* try to explain it they often misrepresent what the Society was teaching at that time, as they do on page 16 of the January 15, 1994 *Watchtower* where they say, “In **1919** that slave was identified as the remnant of anointed Christians.” But that’s not true. They didn’t identify that slave this way until **1927**. In 1919 that slave was still identified as Charles Russell.

3 The Sewing Machine & Christ’s

Thousand-year Reign—1873

Today Jehovah’s Witnesses are looking forward to the beginning of the one thousand-year Reign of Jesus Christ. But the ‘food’ that Russell had provided right up to his death was that his Reign had *already* begun. In his *Foreword* to the 1916 Edition of *The Time Is At Hand* he said... *The Bible chronology 49 herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year Days, beginning with Adam are ended,⁵⁰ and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ’s Reign, began in 1873.* Russell placed great emphasis on the modern inventions that had come into existence since 1873 as proof that Christ’s thousand-year Reign had begun in that year. The very first invention he offered as proof was... *The sewing machine, one of the first, began to reach its perfection 43 years ago* *The Governing Body again treats this incorrect teaching as having no significance other than the fact that Russell was mistaken. They are unable to allow themselves (or the rest of Jehovah’s Witnesses) to think in terms of what Jesus would have thought about it when deciding if the Society had been truly faithful and discreet about what they had been teaching about his thousand-year Reign.*

4 “Millions Now Living Will Never Die!” 52

In February of 1918 (just when they say Jesus began his examination) President Rutherford began a worldwide public lecture campaign with the above dramatic title. In 1920 he published a booklet with the same name. The reason why millions of people then living would never die was because Jesus was going to begin his one thousand year Reign in 1925. He also assured everyone... We may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

and the prophets of old.. They and many other “faithful men of old” would then become “Princes” in all the earth to help in the administration of Christ’s Kingdom on earth. Then just as confidently he concluded... Based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that million now living will never die.⁵⁴ But as it turned out, millions then living did die. Jesus didn’t begin his thousand-year Reign and he didn’t resurrect anyone in 1925. **Why It Matters** Jesus’ illustration doesn’t allow for his “faithful and discreet slave” to be proclaiming a false teaching or prophecy at any time, especially not all during the time he was examining them.

How the Governing Body Explains It

In this case the Proclaimers book does refer to Rutherford’s “Millions Campaign” at least eight times and even points some of the above things out. On page 632 it says... In the lecture “Millions Now Living Will Never Die,” delivered by J.F. Rutherford ... attention was directed to the year 1925... On the basis of what was said... this year was associated with expectations of resurrections of faithful pre-Christian servants of God with a view to their serving on earth as princely representatives of the heavenly Kingdom. The book doesn’t tell us “what was said” but does admit that Rutherford was “mistaken.” As with all their other teachings that were not true, this one is also treated as if it didn’t matter that Rutherford’s message was false. Note their following comments on page 425... What an exciting message they proclaimed! ... Newspaper notices and billboards were used to advertise the lectures. The subject was intriguing.⁵⁶ What they are saying here is all true. The only problem with Rutherford’s “exciting message” was that it wasn’t true. The Governing Body presents this matter as if it didn’t matter that Rutherford’s message was false. On page 632 they go on to mention some of the wonderful blessings it would have meant for mankind if that message had been true. They then conclude with a very positive... What a happy prospect! Though mistaken, they eagerly shared [Rutherford’s false message] with others.

For seven years Rutherford had said that millions then living were never going to die, and that Jesus’ thousand-year Reign would begin in 1925, and that he was going to resurrect Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in that same year. Although none of these things happened the Governing Body appears to be proud of the fact that they eagerly shared that false message with others. It is difficult to picture Jesus finding anything worth sharing in Rutherford’s message.⁵⁷

Even worse, if that’s possible, on page 698 of the November 15, 1955 Watchtower President Knorr went so far as to say that God was the One who was responsible for the preaching of Rutherford’s message! Under the heading, “Jehovah Is In His Holy Temple” it says... Stirring up increasing interest in them, **Jehovah caused to be preached** from 1918 the startling public message, “Millions Now Living Will Never Die.” This is amazing. How can anyone say such a thing? And how can Jehovah’s Witnesses read what they are saying and not notice anything wrong with it? The answer to both questions must be that it is one of the consequences of believing what they want or need to believe so deeply that such things can be said and read without bothering those who write and read them.

*There was still much more that Jesus would have noticed during a 1918-1919 examination. Both Russell and Rutherford had set numerous dates for specific events that they said were arrived at by understanding “Bible chronology” and “Bible prophecy.” Most of them are contained in a series of seven books called *Studies in the Scriptures*. Russell wrote the first six and Rutherford was responsible for the seventh.⁵⁸ Those books were the primary source of “food at the proper time” until several years after Jesus’ inspection was over. The following is a partial list of other dates and events associated with them that the Society eventually acknowledged were not true. Of course, Jesus would have known they were not true the moment they started teaching them...*

38 Other Dates/Events That Didn’t Happen

In the July 1894 *Watch Tower* Russell stated, “We see no reason for changing the figures—nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, *God’s dates*, not ours.” Rutherford said that his date of 1925 was “indisputable.” All of the above dates/events were said to be in fulfillment of *Bible* prophecies. But they all turned out to be unfulfilled *Watchtower* prophecies.⁵⁹ Keep in mind that all of the teachings considered in this study are ones that *the Society* now acknowledges were not true. ⁵⁹ The references to all the above can be found at <http://www.freeminds.org/history/part1.htm> under the heading, “Spiritual Food at the Proper Time.” Russell’s *Studies In The Scriptures* and Rutherford’s *The Finished Mystery* are available at <http://www.freeminds.org/sales/tempsale.htm>

#5: 1799: The beginning of “the last days” or “time of the end” RUSSELL

#6: 1829: The beginning of an understanding of the mysteries of prophecy

#7: 1844: Wise virgins went forth to meet the Bridegroom

#8: 1846: God’s sanctuary was cleansed

#9: 1873: End of 6000 years of human existence

#10: 1874: The return of Christ to begin his Second Coming

#11: 1874: The beginning of the 40-year Harvest or preaching work

#12: 1874: Second cry, “Behold the Bridegroom.”

#13: 1874: The beginning of the Battle of Armageddon

#14: 1878: God’s Kingdom was “set up” in heaven

#15: 1878: Beginning of Christ’s Kingdom Rule

#16: 1878: The fall of “Babylon the Great” (false religion)

#17: 1878: Beginning of “Times of Restitution.”

#18: 1881: Close of “the heavenly calling” (spiritual Israel)

#19: 1881: Resurrection of all the “dead in Christ”

- #20: 1914: The anointed Christians would be taken to heaven before 1914**
- #21: 1914: The end of the “Harvest” or preaching work**
- #22: 1914: God’s Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth**
- #23: 1914: Jesus would be present as earth’s new Ruler**
- #24: 1914: All Gentile nations would be destroyed by God by the end of 1914**
- #25: 1914: Jerusalem would begin to rise from the dust of divine disfavor to honor**
- #26: 1914: Israel’s blindness would begin to be turned away**
- #27: 1914: This year would be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect man**
- #28: 1914: Battle of Armageddon would end**
- #29: 1914: Peaceful blessings would begin to be recognized on earth**
- #30: 1914: Complete destruction of “Babylon the Great” (all other religions)**
- #31: 1914: The “last days” would end in 1914**
- #32: 1915: God’s Kingdom will be fully established near the end of 1915**
- #33: 1915: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven soon after 1914**
- #34: 1918: God’s ‘fire’ from heaven would fall on Christendom RUTHERFORD**
- #35: 1918: Millions of church members of Christendom would be destroyed by God**
- #36: 1918: Christendom would go down to oblivion as a system.**
- #37: 1918: God will destroy the churches wholesale**
- #38: 1920: There would be worldwide all-embracing anarchy.**
- #39: 1920: All earthly governments will pass away.**
- #40: 1920: All republics will disappear in the fall of 1920**
- #41: 1925: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven.**
- #42: 2914: End of the thousand-year Reign of Christ**

In the July 1894 *Watch Tower* Russell stated, “We see no reason for changing the figures—nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, *God’s dates*, not ours.” Rutherford said that his date of 1925 was “indisputable.” All of the above dates/events were said to be in fulfillment of *Bible* prophecies. But they all turned out to be unfulfilled *Watchtower* prophecies. 59Keep in mind that all of the teachings considered in this study are ones that *the Society* now acknowledges were not true.

Why It Matters

Although the Governing Body (and therefore the rest of the Witnesses) treats all this *wrong* food at the *wrong* time as having no importance today, these teachings would have been very important to Jesus in 1919 if he was examining them to make sure they were serving the *right* food at the *right* time.

On pages 200 and 201 the *Proclaimers* book specifically mentions four other “Practices That Have Been Abandoned” sometime *after* 1919... On pages 200 and 201 the *Proclaimers* book specifically mentions four other “Practices That Have Been Abandoned” sometime *after* 1919...

43 Christmas

They didn’t stop celebrating Christmas until more than seven years after Jesus’ inspection was completed.

44 Birthdays

They didn’t stop celebrating birthdays until several years after 1919.

45 The Cross

Today the cross is said to be of pagan origin. But it was predominantly displayed on the front cover of every issue of the *Watch Tower* magazine up to October 15, 1931.

46 The Great Pyramid of Gizeh

On page 201 the *Proclaimers* book explains... *For some 35 years Pastor Russell taught that the Great Pyramid of Gizeh was God’s stone witness, corroborating Biblical Time Periods. one inch equals one year (“inch years”)—to arrive at dates such as 1874 for the return of Christ, which he said corroborated the Bible’s date of 1874. In an edited version of a paper published in the JW Research Journal, Vol. 6, #2, July-December, 1999, Jerry Bergman, Ph.D. explained... The pyramid was of such major importance to early Watchtower theology that a huge ten-foot concrete pyramid was selected as a fitting memorial to C.T. Russell when he died. It still stands close to Russell’s grave near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Russell specifically condemned mysticism as demonism and taught that the pyramid had nothing to do with mysticism but was a second revelation, a “Bible in stone” which both added to and confirmed the Holy Scripture record. (1904:313-376).*

The Proclaimers book says that nine years after Jesus’ inspection was over Rutherford “abandoned the idea that an Egyptian pyramid has anything to do with true worship.”⁶¹ And 24 years after 1919 they also abandoned the year 1874----

What It Means

Today these four teachings are considered so offensive to God that any Witness who believes or practices even one of them would be disfellowshipped—deserving of God’s “everlasting punishment.” If they are so wrong today when the Society *doesn’t* teach them, they must have been just as wrong during all the years they *did* teach them. If these teachings would fail an examination by Jesus today, they would have failed his examination in 1918-1919.

47 “End of the Gentile Times”-1914 Of all the dates that Russell had set for so many specific events, there is only one that the Society retains today. They still teach that 1914 marked “the end of the Gentile times” (or “the appointed time of the nations”) in fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy at Luke 21:24.⁶² But what Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice is that their religious leaders have changed the *meaning* of this expression.⁶³ They had to change it because none of the things that Russell said would happen - which would prove that the Gentile Times had ended - happened.⁶⁴ For example, on page 99 of his *The Time Is At Hand* (published in 1889) he said... *Within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved... In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world ... will be accomplished by the end of AD 1914.*⁶⁵

In other words, “the end of the Gentile times” meant the literal end of the Gentile nations. But as it turned out not a single Gentile nation was “overthrown and dissolved” by God in 1914 let alone all of them. How The Governing Body Explains It Once 1914 came and went without Russell’s prophecy(s) being fulfilled, the leadership has had two choices: (1) Admit that their Gentile Times chronology, which they got from Nelson Barbour, was just as incorrect as the Second Coming chronology which they also got from Barbour, or (2) Change the meaning of “the end of the Gentile times”⁶⁶ so that they can continue to believe (and proclaim) that Russell’s prophecy *was* fulfilled in 1914.⁶⁷ Unfortunately for the Witnesses they have chosen the latter. It’s also unfortunate for those responsible for this switch because even though Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice what they have done, God surely does.

#48 The 1,200 Furlongs of Rev. 14:20 (Scranton Pa. to Brooklyn, NY)

Jesus would not have completed an examination without taking a close look at their most up-to-date book of “food at the proper time”—*The Finished Mystery* published in 1917. Although the *Proclaimers* book has several references to this book it hardly, if ever, quotes from it. This is because there is little if anything in it that the Society still teaches today. For example, on page 230 it uses a full page of calculations to prove that the “1,200 furlongs” mentioned in Rotherham’s translation of Revelation 14:20 referred to the distance between the place where *The Finished Mystery* was written (Scranton, Pa) and the place where it was printed (Watchtower headquarters in Brooklyn, NY). They no longer teach such a thing. Russell and Rutherford provided *so much* wrong spiritual food *so often* for *so long* (both in print and public lectures) that it’s not possible to put a number on all of it. But to get an idea of just how high that number was, consider that one teaching about the 1,200 furlongs of Revelation 14:20 referring to the distance between Scranton, Pa. and Brooklyn, NY. Rutherford didn’t ‘serve’ that portion of spiritual food just one time in one public lecture. He served **850,000 times** in 850,000 copies of *The Finished Mystery*.⁷⁴ And all the wrong food in Russell’s *The Time Is At Hand* was served **4,000,000 times** in 4,000,000 copies of that book. How high would the number be when *all* of the Society’s wrong spiritual food from 1876 to 1919 was added up?

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are some teachings that have not changed since 1919. They include: God’s name is not “God,” God is not a Trinity, Jesus is not God, the soul is not

immortal, hell is not hot, the dead are not conscious, and the earth will not be destroyed. But there were others who taught these same things before and after 1919.⁷⁵ If these teachings passed an examination by Jesus, they would have passed no matter who was teaching them.

*** End of Jesus' Examination ***

NEXT: What would Jesus have thought about all this? What decision would he have made? According to the Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, his decision in the spring of 1919 would be the most important event in Watchtower history because the Watchtower religion *now* stands or falls on Jesus' decision *then*. Before considering what Jesus would have decided after reviewing *everything* Russell and Rutherford had provided in the way of "food at the proper time" from 1876 to 1919, it is interesting to read what the Governing Body has admitted about *some* of their wrong practices and teachings just between 1914 and 1918...

*[Jehovah's Witnesses] sold themselves because of wrong practices and came into bondage to the world empire of false religion [Satan's organization...] An outstanding instance of this occurred during World War I of 1914-1918.*⁷⁶ 76 November 15, 1980 *Watchtower*, pages 26, 27. Note: It was Russell and Rutherford who were the cause all their wrong practices. The rest of the Witnesses just believed what they were told to believe. Then on page 17 of the August 15, 1991 *Watchtower* they say... These are amazing admissions. For, according to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, in 1918 Jesus was checking to make sure that the Society qualified as *God's organization*, and yet he found them involved in *Satan's organization* ever since he arrived in 1914! On page 621 of the *Proclaimers* book they ask, "Was God particularly using Charles Taze Russell?" They then explain under what circumstances he would *not* have done so... *It certainly could not be expected that God would use C.T. Russell if he did not loyally adhere to God's Word.* After reviewing just some of the things he taught when "he did *not* loyally adhere to God's Word," it would seem that they are leading their readers to conclude that God did *not* use Russell. But not so. In fact, they want them to conclude just the opposite... *As Jehovah's Witnesses today review the work that he did, the things he taught, they have no doubt that Charles Taze Russell was, indeed, used by God in a special way.*⁷⁷ Apparently the things he taught they are referring to are not the same things reviewed in Chapter 3.

"The Very Stones Would Cry Out" Finally, on page 622 the Governing Body says... *Brother Russell ... did not claim credit for what he taught. He was an outstanding student of the Bible. But he explained that this remarkable understanding of the Scriptures was due to "the simple fact that God's due time had come." He said, "If I did not speak... the very stones would cry out."* – Luke 19:40

⁷⁷ ButBut what is so "outstanding" is how much Russell taught that *wasn't* true. One of the things that is so "remarkable" is that, according to what the Society teaches today, he never knew when Jesus returned to begin his Second Coming. It doesn't help his case to point out that "Russell did not claim credit for what he taught." Surely God didn't claim credit for it either. And so it looks like it would have been far better if Russell "did *not* speak and *let* the very stones cry out." Those stones would not have proclaimed a single incorrect teaching, date, event, chronology or prophecy.

* The Appointment of Matthew 24:47 * The Most Important Event

In Watchtower History

And so, what would have happened at this most important event in Watchtower history? What decision would Jesus have made in the spring of 1919? Would he have agreed with former President Fredrick Franz who said... *Jesus did find the appointed “slave” faithful and discreet in the feeding of his disciples.*⁷⁹ Or would Jesus have agreed with former Governing Body Member Raymond Franz who said... *It would be **an insult to Christ Jesus** to say that he selected this organization on the basis of what it was teaching as of 1919.*⁸ *Jehovah’s Witnesses will pick the wrong answer because they have not ‘reviewed the work that Russell and Rutherford did and the things they taught’—especially in connection with Matthew 24:45-47. They have all made this same mistake.*⁷⁸⁰

⁷⁸ On page 11 of the August 15, 2002 *Watchtower* they say, “[Jesus] loved divine truths far too much to replace them with his own thinking.” According to this reasoning, Russell and Rutherford must *not* have had this same ‘love of divine truths’ because they both made a practice of replacing divine truths with *their* own thinking. ⁷⁹ *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has approached*, pp. 349-355. As essential as this foundation teaching is to the very existence of the Watchtower religion, the *KNOWLEDGE That Leads to Everlasting Life* (1995) book explains it with the simple assertion that, “Proper and timely spiritual food was being dispensed by” the Society. - See page 161, paragraph 4 in the Appendix, p. 145. ⁸⁰ *In Search of Christian Freedom*, page 145.

In order to look into the question, we need to look at what the parameters are. There are no early mentions of Jesus appointing the faithful and discreet slave in 1919. The references I was able to locate are quoted below:

Again, if we grant that the 1919 selection did take place, the criterion for selection, according to the Watchtower, had to do with publishing (by mouth or written publication) Biblical guidance and truth in a manner and at a time that would benefit the followers of Jehovah. This material was to be without error, teaching only what Jehovah wanted and was to be free of both human teaching and tradition. Nowhere in the literature surveyed was it suggested that the religion to be selected needed to be right only part of the time. In the same way, “new light” cannot be an excuse for errors, as the time period being judged was from the late 1800s up to 1919. The teachings of 1919 and before were being evaluated as to their accuracy at the time of inspection in 1919.

So what does the evidence look like? For the sake of clarity and brevity I will summarize my research and include the bulk of the research in the appendix.

Conclusion The Watchtower considered Charles Taze Russell to be the faithful and discreet slave for 30 years. It is likely that he himself believed this to be true. While he had suggested a

corporate nature to the faithful and discreet slave at the beginning of his ministry in 1881, that was soon dropped. It was not until 1927 that he was stripped of his title. So out of the gate we have two different stories claiming divine authority for the ministry of the Watchtower. One from 1896 (or earlier) and the other from 1919. Neither has any corroborating history by which we could verify the truth of the claims. Each of the claims seems to be impossible based on the alternative claim. If the Watchtower were appointed in 1919, the fact that Russell held the title until 1927 creates significant difficulties. It is also hard to see how the Watchtower could have been appointed and not known it for eight years.

I began looking at this topic because if it is true that Jehovah/Jesus appointed the Watchtower as his visible organization, everyone should want to become a Jehovah's Witness. All argument about individual theological issues would pale to insignificance. Because it is such an important issue, I found it curious that there is so little attention paid to the topic. If the event had occurred it should have become the foundation of the organization. But it is not. When searching I found instead four decades of relative silence. It was taught that Jesus was cleansing the Temple in 1919 and it was a time of judgment. It was not until much later the idea that the Watchtower had

been appointed as God's visible organization in 1919 took hold. The following are the earliest references I was able to locate, 1960³⁷, 1973³⁸, 1975³⁹, 1983⁴⁰, 2001⁴¹

2005⁴², and 2012⁴³. Given that Jehovah's Witnesses are supposed to follow the governing body without question, why isn't this event given more precedence? Since the Watchtower is said to be God's visible organization, people have literally surrendered their lives to obey the governing

³⁷ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439, 442. Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channeling an ever increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the "waters of life" featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. ... There are several things one can do to stay awake and abreast. First, one should keep up with the "food at the proper time" supplied through God's proved channel and published by the Watch Tower Society. One cannot afford to miss one spiritual meal. In addition to one's private study it is vital to attend the congregation studies each week. By missing study meetings, one is spiritually emaciating himself, remaining spiritually thin and weak.

³⁸ Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20(ka-E).pdf)

³⁹ The most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave is found in the publication *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* written in 1973. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357.

⁴⁰ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism", *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1983, page 19. To that end, their "master" appointed a collective "faithful steward" class, the body of anointed Christians on the earth since Pentecost 33 C.E. Since the "master" found the remaining ones of this body faithfully and discreetly giving out "food supplies" when he arrived for inspection in 1919, he appointed them "over all his belongings." (Luke 12:42-44) The facts show that since 1919 this "steward" has faithfully cared for these "belongings." 20 The clergy of the numerous churches and sects of Christendom were not found to be distributing proper spiritual "food supplies" to Christ's "body of attendants." Therefore, these clerics and their flocks are spiritually "hungry." (Isaiah 65:11, 13) On the other hand, the "faithful steward" has kept up an abundance of "food supplies at the proper time" for individual anointed Christians, and, since 1935, for a growing "great crowd" of other sheep.

⁴¹ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", *Watchtower*, June 1, 2001, 13, 14, accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2001%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

⁴² Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, "*Organized To Do Jehovah's Will*", (New York: Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 2005), 16. IDENTIFYING "THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE"
In the illustration, Jesus stated that the "slave" would provide the needed spiritual food. Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his followers in the first century? And whom did he find still faithfully doing so when he returned in Kingdom power in 1914? Obviously, no human has lived through all those centuries. So "the faithful steward, the discreet one," must symbolize the composite body of Christ's spirit-anointed footstep followers who live on earth at any given time. (Luke 12:42) Yes, Christ uses this body to publish information on the fulfillment of Bible prophecies and to give timely direction on the application of Bible principles in daily life. In turn, this spiritual food is distributed through the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.—Isa. 43:10; Gal. 6:16.

⁴³ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Report of Annual Meeting" Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2012, accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/events/annual-meeting-report-2012/>

body. Where is the evidence for 1919? Sadly, there is none. The events of 1919 and 1914 did not take place in space-time history. In fact, there is no evidence that they took place at all. Just like the invisible return of Jesus, the 1919 appointment is not falsifiable. It is circular reasoning. I must listen to the governing body because God has appointed them. I know God appointed them because they have said God appointed them. In spite of the lack of logic, people follow unquestioningly. Put as simply as possible, the Watchtower claims to be God's organization on earth but it has no basis on which to make this claim. The claim comes much later than it would have been expected to, and it comes without any evidence it is true. In addition, the criteria that Jesus was supposed to have used to choose a church would have disqualified the Watchtower rather than endorsed it. The foundation appears to be a myth.

Additionally, if Jesus was inspecting the churches of the world why would he have chosen the Watchtower when the Watchtower itself acknowledges that it was in bondage to Babylon from 1914 to 1919?⁴⁴

Conclusion, Granting (for the sake of discussion) that Jesus had returned in 1914 to inspect all the churches and in 1919 selected an organization to be His visible organization on earth it would not seem likely it would be the Watchtower. It seems irrefutable that the Watchtower was not producing good food in due season prior to 1919. The Watchtower itself acknowledges that many of the teachings of that time period were in error. If we were to examine the teachings that have not changed, other than 1914, there are other groups that share the same teachings. Other than 1914 the Watchtower was not unique from other religious groups from that time period. Therefore, it seems that there is no evidence supporting the claim that Jesus selected the Watchtower based on its teachings.

Quotes showing JW certainty they were right.

WE HAVE no doubt whatever in regard to the chronology relating to the dates of 1874, 1914, 1918, and 1925. Some claim to have found new light in connection with the period of "seventy years of desolation" and Israel's captivity in Babylon, and are zealously seeking to make others believe that Brother Russell was in error. May 15, 1922, 147

<http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

⁴⁴ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower, November 15, 1980, 26. accessed February 7, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1980%20The%20Watchtower.pdf> Like the Israelites of Isaiah's day, the spiritual Israelites sold themselves because of wrong practices and came into bondage to the world empire of false religion, that is to say, to Babylon the Great, and to her worldly paramours. (2 Ki. 17: 17; 1 Ki. 21:20, 25) An outstanding instance of this occurred during World War I of 1914-1918. For the captive spiritual Israelites to regain their freedom to serve the true God without restraint and fear, a Repurchaser had to arise in their behalf. He did, in the person of Jehovah himself. By his timely action as such he delivered them for his service. As Zion in Isaiah's day was the most prominent one of the mountains on which Jerusalem stood as the kingdom's capital, it is the antitypical Zion to which Jehovah had to come for delivering the Kingdom class. (Rev. 14:1; Isa. 24:23; 52:7) Then the delivered remnant of spiritual Israelites turned from their transgressions against Jehovah, keeping free from all connections with Babylon the Great.—Rev. 18:4.

If there were only one or two corresponding dates in these cycles, they might possibly be mere coincidences, but where the agreements of dates and events come by the dozens, they cannot possibly be by chance, but must be by the design or plan of the only personal Being capable of such a plan--Jehovah himself; and the chronology itself must be right. In the passages of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh the agreement of one or two measurements with the present truth chronology might be accidental, but the correspondency of dozens of measurements proves that the same God designed both pyramid and plan--and at the same time proves the correctness of the chronology. The agreement of the chronology with certain measurements of the Tabernacle and the Temple of Ezekiel further stamps the chronology as true. It is on the basis of such and so many correspondencies--in accordance with the soundest laws known to science---that we affirm that, Scripturally, scientifically, and historically, present-truth chronology is correct beyond a doubt. Its reliability has been abundantly confirmed by the dates and events of 1874, 1914, and 1918. June 15, 1922, 187

We believe, therefore, that tile day of preparation ended in 1914; and that in 1918, or thereabouts, the Lord came to his temple. 'This coming to the temple was for" judgment, because judgment must first begin at the house of God. (1 Peter 4: 17) The judgment would be Upon the true church and also the nominal system. Then says the Prophet: "Who may abide the day of his coming' The Scriptures indicate a time of great testing when the Lord comes to his temple. About October, 1917, began the Jewish year, 1918. It was at that time that there was a great shaking up of the people of God, who had been gathered to the temple condition. November 1, 1922, 334

And so it was with the temple class In 1919. Realizing that they had been silent for a time, a cry went up to the Lord: 'What shall we do?' "While Isaiah thus stood In awe, wonder, amazement and fear, one of the seraphim flew unto him and cleansed his lips. So likewise was the temple class, in the year above mentioned, purged of any uncleanness of lips. In 1919 the Lord doubtless permitted his people to see the necessity of taking some positive action in a more earnest witness of the truth, even though they saw it not foreshadowed so clearly In his Word. Today, if we have an understanding of this vision, if we appreciate the fact that the Lord is present and In his temple for judgment, seeing this, what shall we do? 336

Finished Mystery

PASTOR RUSSELL A SIGN 24:15^ 16. Also the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.—God took away from Pastor Russell the desire of his eyes, her whom he loved, with a stroke, or "plague" of spiritual error. which completely separated them. By the Mosaic ordinance a priest on the death of father, mother, or wife, was to show no special sign of grief, but was to remain in the Tabernacle, or Temple, and attend as usual to the service of God. Pastor Russell, as a member of the great High Priest and.as Christ's representative in the world, the sole steward of the "meat in due season," suffered deeply, but shed no tears. Page 483..

[http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1917-1918%20Studies%20in%20the%20Scriptures%20Vol7-The%20Finished%20Mystery-Posthumous%20work%20of%20Pastor%20Russel%20\(1918%20edition\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1917-1918%20Studies%20in%20the%20Scriptures%20Vol7-The%20Finished%20Mystery-Posthumous%20work%20of%20Pastor%20Russel%20(1918%20edition).pdf)

Brother Russell was not that kind of man. His heart was completely devoted to the Lord. He realized his dependence upon the Lord and joyfully laid all of his burdens at the feet of Jesus. He numbered his days and applied his heart unto wisdom; and the Lord made him wise. Christ Jesus was made unto him wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1: 30) To him was the promise fulfilled: "When the spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth".--John 16:13. The indisputable facts, therefore, show that the "time of the end" began in 1799; that the Lord's second presence began in 1874; that the harvest followed thereafter and greater light has come upon the Word of God. In this connection, then, let us note the words of Jesus: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." (Matthew 24:45, 46) It must be conceded, then, that at the end of the world, at the "time of the end", during the presence of the Lord, during the harvest, he would have in the earth a servant who would be faithful and wise. The physical facts show that Brother Russell met every one of these requirements. This prophetic utterance, then, has been fulfilled. Therefore, fulfilled prophecy, or physical facts, and the circumstantial evidence are conclusive proofs that Brother Russell filled the office of that faithful and wise servant. He applied his heart unto wisdom. March 1, 1922 Page 73-74

<http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1922) May 1, 132.

FAITHFULNESS IS LOYALTY: To be faithful means to be loyal. To be loyal to the Lord means to be obedient to the Lord. To abandon or repudiate the Lord's chosen instrument means to abandon or repudiate the Lord himself, upon the principle that he who rejects the servant sent by the Master thereby rejects the Master.

There is no one in present truth today who can honestly say that he received a knowledge of the divine plan from any source other than through the ministry of Brother Russell, either directly or indirectly. Through his prophet Ezekiel Jehovah foreshadowed the office of a servant, designating him as one clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side, who was delegated to go throughout the city (Christendom) and comfort those that sighed by enlightening their minds relative to God's great plan. Be it noted that was a favor not bestowed by man but by the Lord himself. But in keeping with the Lord's arrangement, he used a man. The man who filled that office, by the Lord's grace, was Brother Russell.

Jesus clearly indicated that during his second presence he would have amongst the church a faithful and wise servant, through whom he would give to the household of faith, meat in due

season. The evidence is overwhelming concerning the Lord's second presence, the time of the harvest, and that the office of that "servant" has been filled by Brother Russell. This is not man worship by any means. It matters not who Charles T. Russell was--whether he was a doctor, a hod-carrier or a seller of shirts. St. Peter was a fisherman: St. Paul a lawyer. But these matters are immaterial, above all, these men were the chosen vessels of the Lord. Regardless of his earthly avocation, above all, Brother Russell was, the Lord's servant. Then to repudiate him and his work is equivalent to a repudiation of the Lord, upon the principle heretofore announced.

In order to look into the question, we need to look at what the parameters are. There are no early mentions of Jesus appointing the faithful and discreet slave in 1919. The references I was able to locate are quoted below:

Again, if we grant that the 1919 selection did take place, the criterion for selection, according to the Watchtower, had to do with publishing (by mouth or written publication) Biblical guidance and truth in a manner and at a time that would benefit the followers of Jehovah. This material was to be without error, teaching only what Jehovah wanted and was to be free of both human teaching and tradition. Nowhere in the literature surveyed was it suggested that the religion to be selected needed to be right only part of the time. In the same way, "new light" cannot be an excuse for errors, as the time period being judged was from the late 1800s up to 1919. The teachings of 1919 and before were being evaluated as to their accuracy at the time of inspection in 1919.

So what does the evidence look like? For the sake of clarity and brevity I will summarize my research and include the bulk of the research in the appendix.

Conclusion The Watchtower considered Charles Taze Russell to be the faithful and discreet slave for 30 years. It is likely that he himself believed this to be true. While he had suggested a corporate nature to the faithful and discreet slave at the beginning of his ministry in 1881, that was soon dropped. It was not until 1927 that he was stripped of his title. So out of the gate we have two different stories claiming divine authority for the ministry of the Watchtower. One from 1896 (or earlier) and the other from 1919. Neither has any corroborating history by which we could verify the truth of the claims. Each of the claims seems to be impossible based on the alternative claim. If the Watchtower were appointed in 1919, the fact that Russell held the title until 1927 creates significant difficulties. It is also hard to see how the Watchtower could have been appointed and not known it for eight years.

I began looking at this topic because if it is true that Jehovah/Jesus appointed the Watchtower as his visible organization, everyone should want to become a Jehovah's Witness. All argument about individual theological issues would pale to insignificance. Because it is such an important issue, I found it curious that there is so little attention paid to the topic. If the event had occurred it should have become the foundation of the organization. But it is not. When searching I found instead four decades of relative silence. It was taught that Jesus was cleansing the Temple in 1919 and it was a time of judgment. It was not until much later the idea that the Watchtower had

been appointed as God's visible organization in 1919 took hold. The following are the earliest references I was able to locate, 1960⁴⁵, 1973⁴⁶, 1975⁴⁷, 1983⁴⁸, 2001⁴⁹

2005⁵⁰, and 2012⁵¹. Given that Jehovah's Witnesses are supposed to follow the governing body without question, why isn't this event given more precedence? Since the Watchtower is said to be God's visible organization, people have literally surrendered their lives to obey the governing

⁴⁵ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1960) July 15, 439, 442. Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channeling an ever increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the "waters of life" featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. ... There are several things one can do to stay awake and abreast. First, one should keep up with the "food at the proper time" supplied through God's proved channel and published by the Watch Tower Society. One cannot afford to miss one spiritual meal. In addition to one's private study it is vital to attend the congregation studies each week. By missing study meetings, one is spiritually emaciating himself, remaining spiritually thin and weak.

⁴⁶ Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1973). Accessed January 31 2021, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20\(ka-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1973%20Gods%20Kingdom%20of%20a%20thousand%20years%20has%20approached%20(ka-E).pdf)

⁴⁷ The most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave is found in the publication God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached written in 1973. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357.

⁴⁸ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism", *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1983, page 19. To that end, their "master" appointed a collective "faithful steward" class, the body of anointed Christians on the earth since Pentecost 33 C.E. Since the "master" found the remaining ones of this body faithfully and discreetly giving out "food supplies" when he arrived for inspection in 1919, he appointed them "over all his belongings." (Luke 12:42-44) The facts show that since 1919 this "steward" has faithfully cared for these "belongings." 20 The clergy of the numerous churches and sects of Christendom were not found to be distributing proper spiritual "food supplies" to Christ's "body of attendants." Therefore, these clerics and their flocks are spiritually "hungry." (Isaiah 65:11, 13) On the other hand, the "faithful steward" has kept up an abundance of "food supplies at the proper time" for individual anointed Christians, and, since 1935, for a growing "great crowd" of other sheep.

⁴⁹ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", Watchtower, June 1, 2001, 13, 14, accessed February 8, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2001%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

⁵⁰ Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, "*Organized To Do Jehovah's Will*", (New York: Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 2005), 16. IDENTIFYING "THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE"
In the illustration, Jesus stated that the "slave" would provide the needed spiritual food. Whom did Jesus appoint to feed his followers in the first century? And whom did he find still faithfully doing so when he returned in Kingdom power in 1914? Obviously, no human has lived through all those centuries. So "the faithful steward, the discreet one," must symbolize the composite body of Christ's spirit-anointed footstep followers who live on earth at any given time. (Luke 12:42) Yes, Christ uses this body to publish information on the fulfillment of Bible prophecies and to give timely direction on the application of Bible principles in daily life. In turn, this spiritual food is distributed through the local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.—Isa. 43:10; Gal. 6:16.

⁵¹ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Report of Annual Meeting" Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2012, accessed January 31, 2021, <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/events/annual-meeting-report-2012/>

body. Where is the evidence for 1919? Sadly, there is none. The events of 1919 and 1914 did not take place in space-time history. In fact, there is no evidence that they took place at all. Just like the invisible return of Jesus, the 1919 appointment is not falsifiable. It is circular reasoning. I must listen to the governing body because God has appointed them. I know God appointed them because they have said God appointed them. In spite of the lack of logic, people follow unquestioningly. Put as simply as possible, the Watchtower claims to be God's organization on earth but it has no basis on which to make this claim. The claim comes much later than it would have been expected to, and it comes without any evidence it is true. In addition, the criteria that Jesus was supposed to have used to choose a church would have disqualified the Watchtower rather than endorsed it. The foundation appears to be a myth.

Additionally, if Jesus was inspecting the churches of the world why would he have chosen the Watchtower when the Watchtower itself acknowledges that it was in bondage to Babylon from 1914 to 1919?⁵²

Conclusion, Granting (for the sake of discussion) that Jesus had returned in 1914 to inspect all the churches and in 1919 selected an organization to be His visible organization on earth it would not seem likely it would be the Watchtower. It seems irrefutable that the Watchtower was not producing good food in due season prior to 1919. The Watchtower itself acknowledges that many of the teachings of that time period were in error. If we were to examine the teachings that have not changed, other than 1914, there are other groups that share the same teachings. Other than 1914 the Watchtower was not unique from other religious groups from that time period. Therefore, it seems that there is no evidence supporting the claim that Jesus selected the Watchtower based on its teachings.

Quotes showing JW certainty they were right.

WE HAVE no doubt whatever in regard to the chronology relating to the dates of 1874, 1914, 1918, and 1925. Some claim to have found new light in connection with the period of "seventy years of desolation" and Israel's captivity in Babylon, and are zealously seeking to make others believe that Brother Russell was in error. May 15, 1922, 147

<http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

⁵² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower, November 15, 1980, 26. accessed February 7, 2021, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1980%20The%20Watchtower.pdf> Like the Israelites of Isaiah's day, the spiritual Israelites sold themselves because of wrong practices and came into bondage to the world empire of false religion, that is to say, to Babylon the Great, and to her worldly paramours. (2 Ki. 17: 17; 1 Ki. 21:20, 25) An outstanding instance of this occurred during World War I of 1914-1918. For the captive spiritual Israelites to regain their freedom to serve the true God without restraint and fear, a Repurchaser had to arise in their behalf. He did, in the person of Jehovah himself. By his timely action as such he delivered them for his service. As Zion in Isaiah's day was the most prominent one of the mountains on which Jerusalem stood as the kingdom's capital, it is the antitypical Zion to which Jehovah had to come for delivering the Kingdom class. (Rev. 14:1; Isa. 24:23; 52:7) Then the delivered remnant of spiritual Israelites turned from their transgressions against Jehovah, keeping free from all connections with Babylon the Great.—Rev. 18:4.

If there were only one or two corresponding dates in these cycles, they might possibly be mere coincidences, but where the agreements of dates and events come by the dozens, they cannot possibly be by chance, but must be by the design or plan of the only personal Being capable of such a plan--Jehovah himself; and the chronology itself must be right. In the passages of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh the agreement of one or two measurements with the present truth chronology might be accidental, but the correspondency of dozens of measurements proves that the same God designed both pyramid and plan--and at the same time proves the correctness of the chronology. The agreement of the chronology with certain measurements of the Tabernacle and the Temple of Ezekiel further stamps the chronology as true. It is on the basis of such and so many correspondenties--in accordance with the soundest laws known to science---that we affirm that, Scripturally, scientifically, and historically, present-truth chronology is correct beyond a doubt. Its reliability has been abundantly confirmed by the dates and events of 1874, 1914, and 1918. June 15, 1922, 187

We believe, therefore, that tile day of preparation ended in 1914; and that in 1918, or thereabouts, the Lord came to his temple. 'This coming to the temple was for" judgment, because judgment must first begin at the house of God. (1 Peter 4: 17) The judgment would be Upon the true church and also the nominal system. Then says the Prophet: "Who may abide the day of his coming' The Scriptures indicate a time of great testing when the Lord comes to his temple. About October, 1917, began the Jewish year, 1918. It was at that time that there was a great shaking up of the people of God, who had been gathered to the temple condition. November 1, 1922, 334

And so it was with the temple class In 1919. Realizing that they had been silent for a time, a cry went up to the Lord: 'What shall we do?' "While Isaiah thus stood In awe, wonder, amazement and fear, one of the seraphim flew unto him and cleansed his lips. So likewise was the temple class, in the year above mentioned, purged of any uncleanness of lips. In 1919 the Lord doubtless permitted his people to see the necessity of taking some positive action in a more earnest witness of the truth, even though they saw it not foreshadowed so clearly In his Word. Today, if we have an understanding of this vision, if we appreciate the fact that the Lord is present and In his temple for judgment, seeing this, what shall we do? 336

Finished Mystery

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Brother Russell was not that kind of man. His heart was completely devoted to the Lord. He realized his dependence upon the Lord and joyfully laid all of his burdens at the feet of Jesus. He numbered his days and applied his heart unto wisdom; and the Lord made him wise. Christ Jesus was made unto him wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1: 30) To him was the promise fulfilled: "When the spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth".--John 16:13. The indisputable facts, therefore, show that the "time of the end" began in 1799; that the Lord's second presence began in 1874; that the harvest followed thereafter and greater light has come upon the Word of God. In this connection, then, let us note the words of Jesus: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." (Matthew 24:45, 46) It must be conceded, then, that at the end of the world, at the "time of the end", during the presence of the Lord, during the harvest, he would have in the earth a servant who would be faithful and wise. The physical facts show that Brother Russell met every one of these requirements. This prophetic utterance, then, has been fulfilled. Therefore, fulfilled prophecy, or physical facts, and the circumstantial evidence are conclusive proofs that Brother Russell filled the office of that faithful and wise servant. He applied his heart unto wisdom. March 1, 1922 Page 73-74

<http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Watchtower (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1922) May 1, 132.

FAITHFULNESS IS LOYALTY: To be faithful means to be loyal. To be loyal to the Lord means to be obedient to the Lord. To abandon or repudiate the Lord's chosen instrument means to abandon or repudiate the Lord himself, upon the principle that he who rejects the servant sent by the Master thereby rejects the Master.

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Jesus clearly indicated that during his second presence he would have amongst the church a faithful and wise servant, through whom he would give to the household of faith, meat in due

season. The evidence is overwhelming concerning the Lord's second presence, the time of the harvest, and that the office of that "servant" has been filled by Brother Russell. This is not man worship by any means. It matters not who Charles T. Russell was--whether he was a doctor, a hod-carrier or a seller of shirts. St. Peter was a fisherman: St. Paul a lawyer. But these matters are immaterial, above all, these men were the chosen vessels of the Lord. Regardless of his earthly avocation, above all, Brother Russell was, the Lord's servant. Then to repudiate him and his work is equivalent to a repudiation of the Lord, upon the principle heretofore announced.

ARTICLE 7

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “The True Lord Comes for Judgement,” Watchtower, July 1, 1989, 31, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1989%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. “During his earthly ministry, Jesus cleansed the temple. In 1918 he accompanied Jehovah to the spiritual temple to cleanse God’s people”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Loyal to Christ and His Faithful Slave,” Watchtower, April 1, 2007, 22, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2007%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. “‘On arriving’ to inspect the ‘slave’ in 1918, Christ found a spirit-anointed remnant of faithful disciples who since 1879 had been using this journal [the Watchtower] and other Bible-based publications to provide spiritual ‘food at the proper time’. He acknowledged them as his collective instrument, or ‘slave,’ and in 1919 entrusted them with the management of all his earthly belongings.”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Look I Am with You All the Days,” Watchtower, July 15, 2013, 11, 14, accessed August 6, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/2013%20The%20Watchtower%20STUDY.Pdf>. “In 2013, this teaching was simplified by removing 1918 from the equation. . . . To settle that question, Jesus began to inspect the spiritual temple in 1914. That inspection and cleansing work involved a period of time—from 1914 to the early part of 1919.” Endnotes: “This is an adjustment in understanding. Previously, we thought that Jesus’ inspection took place in 1918.”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “God’s Kingdom Rules!,” 101 accessed May 10, 2020, <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/11020142497> “Shortly after he was installed as King, Jesus put in place a clearly recognizable channel through which he has helped his followers to be spiritually clean. That channel is the faithful and discreet slave, which Christ appointed in 1919. (Matt. 24:45) By that year, the Bible Students had already cleansed themselves of many false religious teachings. Still, they needed some further cleansing spiritually. Through his faithful slave, Christ has gradually enlightened his followers about various observances and practices that they needed to abandon. (Prov. 4:18) Let us consider some examples of this.”

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Finding Freedom with Jehovah’s Visible Organization” Watchtower, October 1, 1967, 590-591, accessed May 10, 2020, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1967%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>

IDENTIFYING THE THEOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

18 Those in the apostolic organization did not fulfill these requirements for the Christian congregation in just a token way. They viewed their position in Jehovah's chosen visible channel as sacred and would allow nothing to jeopardize their standing with God. They had no fear of this world. (Matt. 10:26-28) Their only concern was to provide for the safety and well-being of the flock of God. Jesus pointed to this mark of the true visible organization in connection with a detailed prophecy relating to this time of the end. He said: "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings."—Matt.24:45-47. 19 Evidences are now conclusive that Jesus Christ was enthroned in heaven in 1914 C.E. and that he accompanied Jehovah to his temple in 1918 C.E., when judgment began with the house of God.*(1 Pet. 4:17) After cleansing those belonging to this house who were alive on earth, Jehovah poured out his spirit upon them and assigned them the responsibility of serving as his sole visible channel, through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come. Those who recognize Jehovah's visible theocratic organization, therefore, must recognize and accept this appointment of the "faithful and discreet slave" and be submissive to it. "Today those thus charged with this grand privilege and responsibility are called Jehovah's witnesses, and have been since 1931. As a group they have been separated more and more from the sectarianism of Christendom from the 1870's onward. Since 1879 the Watch Tower magazine has been used by this collective group to dispense spiritual food regularly to those of this "little flock" of true Christians. (Luke 12:32) In 1884 they formed a legal servant, a corporation, called Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, now known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. By 1919, having survived the fiery trials of World War I, this "faithful and discreet slave" class was no novice organization. True, the apostles were no longer in its midst, but they had left behind written instructions as part of Jehovah's great Record Book. Additionally, the modern-day members of this 1900-year-old Christian congregation had received from the days of the apostles onward a rich heritage of Christian loyalty and integrity, long and patient suffering of persecution, abiding faith in Jehovah's precious promises, confidence in the leadership of its invisible Lord and King, Jesus Christ, and obedience to its centuries-old commission to be witnesses in all the earth.—Acts 1:6-8. 21 In this spiritually mature condition they well qualify as those "who will actually shepherd them; and they will be afraid no more, neither will they be struck with any terror, and none will be missing," because "a king will certainly reign and act with discretion and execute justice and righteousness in the land." Find freedom and security in their midst. Read the article that follows to learn how.

18. What mark of the true visible organization did Jesus identify, and what reward did he say he would give?

19. What must those who recognize Jehovah's visible organization accept?

-* See the book *You May Survive Armageddon into God's New World*, Chapter 6, entitled "A-do-nay' Comes to His Temple ." Published by the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society in 1955.

20, 21. Who today are charged with the responsibility of representing Jehovah's King , and what record provides their recommendation?

354 and 355 of God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached (1973) has similar wording.