

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' 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.

Since I think this is self-explanatory, I think we can now ask about the teaching from the time of the firsts 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., 2914: 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.

Section 2. 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.¹ In 1881 Russel alluded to the fact that the faithful and discreet slave was a composite of faithful believers.² 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.³ When Russell died, Rutherford kept his memory alive even

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; lie 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.'

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

This is both 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.

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 1960¹⁰, 1973¹¹, 1975¹², 1983¹³, 2001¹⁴, 2005¹⁵, and 2012¹⁶. In 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-

¹⁰ “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.

¹¹ 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)

¹² 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>

¹³ “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.

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 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.¹⁷ This date does not seem to

¹⁴ 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>

¹⁵ "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"

¹⁶ 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/>

¹⁷ 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

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.”¹⁸ 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.”¹⁹ 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

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.

¹⁸ 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)

¹⁹ Carl Olof Johnson, *The Gentile Times Reconsidered*, 2004, accessed February 8, 2021, <https://www.watchtowerlies.com/linked/the-gentile-times-reconsidered.pdf>

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 footnotes²⁰. 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

²⁰ 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) 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.

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)"²¹, 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*.²²,

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.²³ This belief was held for

²¹ 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>

²² 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)

²³ 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

more than 30 years. In addition, after Russell died, Russell was said to be in heaven guiding the Watchtower.²⁴ 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 1873.²⁵ 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

carrying out their consecration vows-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? 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.

²⁴Rutherford, *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."

²⁵ 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"²⁶ 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."²⁷

²⁶ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "If God Is for Us, Who Will Be Against Us?", Watchtower, June 1, 2001,

²⁷ 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.

- 1960²⁸ 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.
- 1973²⁹ 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... 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

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.

²⁸ 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>

²⁹ 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%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) This book has the most extensive writing on the faithful and discrete slave. There is a lengthy discussion on pages 349 to 357.

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.

- 1975³⁰ 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

³⁰ 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>

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.

- 1983³¹ 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.
- 2001³² 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.
- 2005³³ “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.

³¹ 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>

³² 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>

³³ 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-wb/English/Internal%20Documents/Organization/2005%20Organized%20to%20do%20Jehovahs%20will%20TEX T.pdf>

- 2012³⁴ “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.”

³⁴ 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.