

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

DETERMINED DEDICATION

The heart of the Witness movement is at Bethel, a Hotel in Brooklyn, New York, the Watch Tower Society headquarters. Here are not only the Administration offices, but the training school for selected "ministers" is also on this site.

In a period of two hours, or during the time of this teaching the Jehovah's Witnesses have

- 1] distributed 56,250 magazines,
- 2] made 30,306 calls to interested prospects,
- 3] and converted 41 more people to their cult.

From the 1971 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses the following is written:

There is a great difference between those persons who belong to Christendom's religions and Jehovah's Witnesses. Christendom requires little or nothing of their members except to make contributions to the church. At Christmas and Easter time much larger numbers than usual attend the church services...

There is no dedication of people's lives to the doing of God's will, or walking in the foot steps of Jesus Christ. The church members of both Catholic and Protestant denominations, as well as their clergy, do not know anymore what Jesus meant when He said: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you" Matthew 28:19,20.

This was no meaningless statement on the part of Christ Jesus. He meant that every follower of His should be a witness of Him wherever He lives.. That is how Jehovah's Witnesses feel about it. They take their commission seriously...

The trouble with this statement is that it is true. A statement of this nature coming from a cult should spur us to greater involvement in Kingdom work. We have to ask ourselves what does my relationship to Christ really mean?

As we study the Witnesses REMEMBER AS Edmond Charles Gruss has so aptly put it, Jehovah's Witnesses are Apostles of Denial. They deny:

- 1] The Trinity
 - 2] The Deity of Christ
 - 3] The personality of the Holy Spirit
 - 4] The inherent immortality of the soul
 - 5] The total depravity of man
 - 6] The bodily resurrection of Christ
 - 7] The atonement
 - 8] The finished work of Christ and the need of the new birth
 - 9] The second Coming of Christ
 - 10] Eternal punishment
- plus a host of other denials of Bible truth.

How important it is for us as Christians to recognize the Jehovah's Witnesses as another false cult. And God's Word, the Bible, tells us, "...from such turn away." II Timothy 3:5-7.

THE BEGINNING

All cults are similar in many ways. One of which is the importance of a central figure or personality to give direction and motivation to the group of loyal followers. For the Jehovah Witness this figure was Charles Taze Russell.

Russell's theology is not Bible based... (and therefore, Christians should turn away from such teaching)... some of his other ideas could give us some true food for thought. Such as sound eating habits, good nutrition... all go to make for a more efficient Christian witness. And what's even more important, have you ever known Jehovah's Witness congregations to build a cathedral?

Each time a congregation reaches two hundred, the congregation divides and begins another church in a different area constructing a building of moderate cost. It is erected for only the fraction of the cost most congregations spend on their church building.

We as Christian churches could learn from this. We have been putting our money into buildings instead of the message. It is the message that is the POWER "...the gospel... is the power of God unto salvation..." Romans 1:16.

Since its founding in 1879, the Jehovah's have had only three Presidents.

Charles Taze Russell (lived 1852-1916) was the first President. He was born in a little nondescript town then called Allegheny... now a part of Pittsburgh. Joseph L. and Anna Eliza Russell, his parents, were Presbyterians of Scotch-Irish descent.

Joseph L. Russell was quite an industrious man... building up a chain of clothing stores that one day would net his son more than a quarter of a million dollars! In fact Charles Russell, at the age of fifteen, was already in partnership with his father!

While brought up in a Presbyterian background, by 15 he had joined the Congregational church. The more he attended church, however, the more he claimed that organized religion "...merely wrecked my confidence in human creeds and systems of Bible misinterpretations."¹

During the next few months Russell reflected over the subject of religion and was in a quandary as to which direction to turn.

Then he relates:

Seemingly, by accident, one evening I dropped into a dusty, dingy hall in Allegheny, Pa., where I had heard religious services were held, to see if the handful who met there had anything more sensible to offer than the creeds of the great churches. There, for the first time, I heard something of the views of Second Adventism, by Jonas Wendell.²

It was then that Charles Taze Russell, at 18, along with a few friends, formed a class for Bible study which continued from 1870 to 1875. Russell, however, was disappointed by the Adventist view that Christ was coming back again in the flesh. He was convinced that His Second Coming would be a spiritual or invisible one. Thus Russell soon had after thoughts

about meeting in the dingy hall in Allegheny. His newly organized Bible class of six members, which included his father, nevertheless, became the first nucleus group of Jehovah's Witnesses.

In light of this, Russell issued his first pamphlet. It was titled the "Object and Manner of the Lord's Return." He published 50,000 copies and this began what is now perhaps the largest publishing venture in the world!

By his own admission Russell borrowed from the Adventists such doctrines as the extinction of the soul at death, the annihilation of the wicked, the denial of hell and then over the years, he proceeded to add his own pet theologies...which orthodox Christians believe to be in direct contradiction to God's Word.

Russell's study group came to realize that when Christ returned it would not be in the flesh, as commonly believed. ... when Jesus should come he would be as invisible as though an angel had come."³

Russell was on a business trip to Philadelphia and came across a publication by N.H. Barbour of Rochester, NY entitled, "The Herald of the Morning." In reading this publication he was enthusiastically surprised to learn that Barbour held the same views as he on the invisible return of Christ. He was particularly interested in the chronology set forth in the magazine.

Chronology is the science of arranging time in periods and ascertaining the dates and historical order of events. Russell's entry into this field would later prove embarrassing to the Jehovah's Witness cult when he set dates for the Second Coming of Christ. Russell urged Barbour to meet with him... and paid his expenses for the trip. Barbour was a printer and Russell had money. Between the two of them (the Pittsburgh group and the Rochester group), they now together published the magazine "Herald of the Morning."

In 1914 Russell climaxed the fulfillment of a dream...that of producing a film presentation with the synchronization of sound on records. It was called "The Photo-Drama of Creation." It was a clever presentation of Russell's theology and misrepresented orthodox churches, comparing their theology as worse than that of heathen idols.

By 1916 Charles Russell's health was failing fast. In the fall of that year, though extremely sick, he left New York for a lecture tour which would take him to California. On this trip, he delivered his last public address in San Antonio on October 24th.

Arriving in California in weakened condition he decided to return to his Brooklyn headquarters. He died enroute on October 31, 1916 on an eastbound train at Pampa, Texas.

Now Russell was gone. And a successor had to be chosen. In those days every \$10 contribution to the Society entitled its donor to one voting share. Russell, when alive, could cast 25,000 votes since he had contributed \$250,000. This gave him the power to squash any unrest. In fact this voting method was not amended by the Watchtower Society until 1944. Now each member only has one vote.

On January 6th, 1917 there were 600 in attendance at the annual meeting of the corporation

with 150,000 votes. Joseph Franklin Rutherford, known by his followers as "Judge" was unanimously elected.

Rutherford was born November 8, 1869 in Booneville, Missouri. His parents were Baptists. Rutherford's father was a farmer and his income was limited. When his son Joseph at 16 decided to go to college to study law, his father agreed providing that his son earn his own way and also pay for a hired hand to take his place on the farm.

The son agreed and paid his way through college by learning shorthand, a skill he continued to practice up to his dying day. He graduated from law school at the age of 22 and was shortly thereafter admitted to the Missouri Bar. Later he became a special judge in the 14th Judicial District of Missouri. This continued for 15 years until two Jehovah Witness girls came to his office selling books in 1894.

Both Rutherford and his wife began studying the books and before long Rutherford had controlling interest in the Society.

Russell and Rutherford were in no way alike, their personalities were completely opposite. Russell was kind, tactful and knew how to meet people graciously. Rutherford was more direct and sharp. He became known as cold and reserved.

To oppose Rutherford was, in his opinion, equivalent to questioning the authority of Jehovah Himself. Soon, some of his followers would find this out.

One of the first books released under Rutherford's administration was to cause a split. With his reorganization plan, the already frustrated followers were not ready for more change. Some were concerned over his power, others just didn't like him.

One example of Rutherford's action to cause such feelings was the increase of field representatives called Pilgrims from 69 to 93. Their responsibility was to see that Rutherford's edicts were carried out or as the Watchtower society puts it, "...to assist the brothers to maintain their optimistic view....."⁴

One man to question Rutherford's authority was P.S.L. Johnson. At one time a minister of a denominational church...Johnson later "came to the knowledge of the truth" and became a Witness. He served as a Speaker for the Society in Great Britain and was a brilliant man. The Watchtower Society claims "The brilliance finally led to his downfall."⁵

Johnson, being recalled to New York was unhappy and asked to be returned. To this request Rutherford said no. Johnson persuaded 7 of the board of directors to support him. The eighth and dissenting voice was that of Rutherford. The board voted to return Johnson! Now the board of directors were in direct opposition to President Rutherford.

In the mean time Rutherford had written a book that was to finish a work that Russell had begun. Noon, July 17, Rutherford presented the book to each member of the staff at the headquarters. The new book came as a bombshell! Completely surprised by its release, the opposing members of the Board of Directors who in fact were in the majority became engulfed in a major controversy.

Rutherford saw immediately the supporters of the dissident members of the board.

Rutherford, an astute lawyer, reminded the board members that although Russell had appointed them to fill vacancies, such appointments had not been reconfirmed at the annual meeting at Pittsburgh hence they were not legal members of the Board.

World War I saw Rutherford's book, "The Finished Mystery" as a success. Within 7 months the Society's outside printers had printed 850,000 copies. The success of the tract led the society to publish a tract entitled "The Fall of Babylon -- Why Christendom Must Now Suffer -- The Final Outcome."

December 30, 1917 was chosen as the distribution day, it was a Sunday. Jehovah's Witnesses on this day were to begin distributing 10 million copies. At the time the nation was in World War I. The tract said in the words of the society:

"...showed how Catholics and Protestant religious organizations together formed modern-day Babylon, which must soon fall to oblivion."

On the back page was a graphic cartoon picturing a rampart or wall crumbling, with stones being thrown down, one by one that were marked:

"Protestantism," "Creeds," "Eternal torment theory," "Doctrine of Trinity," "There is no evil," "No pain," "No death," "No devil," "Apostolic succession..."⁶

The furor which this tract aroused soon took the form of governmental action. Canada, tied to England in World War I, banned the Watchtower Society and imposed a fine of \$5000 and five years in prison for anyone in possession of the books which were deemed seditious and full of anti-war statements. Judge Rutherford had laid the keel for the Society. He began to build an organization far more absolute and far more rigidly organized than was the Catholic Church which he so bitterly opposed.

Now with opposition mounting, Rutherford was beginning to claim that the Watch Tower Society of Brooklyn would carry millions of people across the fields of Armageddon in to the Millennium, in which it would emerge as "THE NEW WORLD SOCIETY" to last a thousand years.

"Rutherford had convinced his followers that the Tribulation Period had begun in the first half of the month of November, 1914. This began the period of active "witnessing" which was to lead to persecution. And now, 3 1/2 years later, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York issued a warrant for the arrest of 8 of the Society's principal officers...which included Judge J. F. Rutherford!

This was May 7, 1918. *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, on page 79, states: "On that day the forty-two months or 1,260 days of Revelation 11:2,3 ended...and now three and half years later it was being killed by Satan's symbolic "wild beast," as Revelation 11:7 foretold."⁷

After a 15 day trial, on June 21st seven of the Witnesses were sentenced to 20 years in jail. Judge Rutherford was among them. When the War ended the Witnesses were released, after having served nine months of imprisonment. A decision of the court, made on May 14, 1919, established that Rutherford and his associates had been imprisoned on an illegal conviction.

After being released from prison they returned to the Watchtower Society as martyr-heroes, this imprisonment serving only to cause Rutherford to make even more bitter attacks on

government and organized religion. Because of the imprisonment, Rutherford and the Society received a great amount of publicity which in turn jettisoned the movement to new heights of grandeur.

With the prominence of the Jehovah Witness Movement the teachings and the writings of Russell were forgotten. Rutherford believed in progressive revelation hence new doctrine would always be coming to the forefront of the teachings of the church. For example a new emphasis on placing literature was replacing that of Bible Study. Also the making of calls and the reporting of those calls became a priority.

With the placing of literature Rutherford's attacks on government and the established church grew. Friday, September 8, 1922 was designated by the Witnesses as "The day." That day was the mid-point of an 8 day international convention at Cedar Point, Ohio. 18,000 were in attendance. It was here that Rutherford composed a stinging resolution which included:

...All efforts of the denominational church organizations, their clergy, their leaders and their allies, to save and reestablish the order of things in the earth and to bring peace and prosperity must of necessity fail, because they do not constitute any part of the kingdom of the Messiah..."

Rutherford's self-image was growing to tremendous portions. He was writing so many books because of his "New revelations" that the presses could not keep up with him. A 1936 issue of the Watch Tower reported:

Too many and too rapid now are those unfoldings of Bible prophecy and truths, so that books cannot be written and published fast enough by the Watch Tower Society to present them all. But YOU CAN GET THEM in the only magazine of its kind: The Watchtower."

Rutherford saw himself as Elisha, anointed in the place of Elijah (Russell) to carry on the work. And carry on he did! In 1920 with "the Old Battleship" printing press the Society averaged 1000 booklets a day. Today they have the capacity to produce 50,000 bound books a day!⁸

Rutherford became interested in establishing a new "mode of worship." Brothers were encouraged to get out their word...sell books for their Kingdom Service. Their spirituality was measured in terms of time quotas, book placement quotas and attendance quotas. it was important that they strive to meet their quotas. Major emphasis shifted even more from study to service and servicing the neighborhood within their allotted quota. In fact, on June 12, 1927 a young man wrote Rutherford about this very thing:

Instead of having a public meeting it was thought well to have one your canvassing drives. Right after the morning talk, 35 of the friends engaged in field work, with the result that 240 books were sold...

The letter was signed by N.H. Knorr..who was later to become the third President of the Society in 1942. This became the pattern... selling books became the emphasis. And the "Egyptians" [non-believers] were the very ones who would buy these books to support their rapidly growing cult.

Rutherford proceeded to set up a heavenly class of followers separated into two divisions:

Mordecai-Naomi Class [begun about 1918]. This was the remnant of the 144,000 on earth with which Christ made up the Watch Tower body of Christ. However, according to Witness

reports a large number of this class became unfaithful and became part of the "evil slave class."

Therefore the Ruth-Esther Class [from 1922 to 1929] came into existence to fill the vacancies left by the defectors.

Jonadeb Class [1931]. This class was know also as the "Great multitude." They did not seek after the spirit-begotten or "born again" experience.

Later on Rutherford had another "revelation" and the Jonadeb Class, then referred to as the "Great Company" or the "Great Multitude" was relegated to an earthly unregenerate class.

The Mordecai-Naomi Class had been told that they were the last members of the organized body of Christ on earth. Only this 144,000 were to rule with Christ in the heavenly sphere. For this they quote Rev. 7:4 and 14:1,3 but neglect to notice that the 144,000 are all of the 12 tribes of Israel, hence Jewish. Those who didn't make that class filtered down in the Ruth-Esther Class.

Finally, came the Jonadebs..."the hewers of wood and the carriers of water." They adapted this from the slave relationships of the Gibeonites to Joshua and the Israelites (Joshua 10:10-27). For them the door to heaven, according to Witness doctrine, is shut... they are not spirit-begotten.

With the chaos and confusion of so many classes..it was time for Rutherford to come up with a new revelation. This time he simplified it. There were two classes...

THE HEAVENLY CLASS - This was the 144,000. By 1931 this Class was all filled up...all 144,000...Rutherford announced. But the overflow crowd was not to despair. There was to be another class...

THE EARTHLY CLASS - today, the majority of Jehovah's Witnesses belong to this "Earthly Class."

Since the door to Heaven was shut in 1931 by Judge Rutherford all present Jehovah's Witnesses will never get to heaven! That is why Jehovah's Witnesses of today tell you they do not desire to go to heaven. Their hope is to live here for ever on earth. And since heaven is not their home...they do not need to be born again! (actually as of 1972 there were some 9000 living Jehovah's Witnesses who still claim to be part of the 144,000.)

THE PENNY REWARD

To set the pace for future programs of literature distribution the Watch Tower Society used the parable of the Penny in Matthew 20:1-16. They explained that this parable described the work done by the Watch Tower Society since 1919 and up to 1931. The Watch Tower Society was the "vineyard of God." The 12 years from 1919 to 1931 were the 12 hours of the parable. This work day had come to an end. Now the "Faithful and Wise Steward" to whom all these goods had been given was now about to pay out the Penny.

That reward was announced in July, 1931 at a convention in Columbus, Ohio attended by some 15,000 followers. The reward: Their new name was to be **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES!** This was their penny! Why the new name? One reason is given in Jehovah Witnesses in

the Divine Purpose, page 125:

"...outsiders generally called us "Millennial Dawn People" and reproachful names, such as "Russellites."

The New World Society had been formed; a Theocracy (a government headed by God) had been established.

The designation of "Jehovah's Witnesses"...has become the emblem of a New World society.⁹

Rutherford, by the name change, had finally virtually disassociated himself from the founder, Russell, and by so doing, undoubtedly misled many trusting souls into believing that his and Russells' were two different organizations.

In fact a personal letter from the society to Walter R. Martin, February 9, 1951 revealed:

We are not "Russellites" for we are not following Charles T. Russell or any other imperfect man. Honest examination of our literature today would quickly reveal that it differs widely from that of Russell's, even though he was the first President of our Society."

The class structure had been set, the "quota" book salesmen were off to a running start... and the bright shiny new penny in the form of a new name...**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** had successfully embarked.

THE THIRD LEADER ARISES

It was Nathan H. Knorr who wrote Judge Rutherford in 1927 of how successful he was in selling Watch Tower books on Sunday. Knorr had come a long way since then.

Nathan Homer Knorr was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1905. He graduated from Allentown, Pennsylvania High School in June, 1923. When 16, he resigned from membership in the reformed Church and associated himself with the Allentown congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

At 18 he became a full-time preacher and joined the headquarters staff at Bethel in Brooklyn. By 1923 he became general manager of the publishing office and plant. By 1934 he was elected as one of the directors of the society's New York corporation...and in 1940 he was made a director and chosen as Vice-president of the Pennsylvania corporation, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. On January 13, 1942 he was elected to become the third President.

More could be said about Nathan Knorr, but we will add only the following. With Knorr came a vigorous program of expansion with emphasis on education. In 1942, when Knorr took over there were about 115,000 Witnesses. Today there are over 1.5 million and growing every day.

Some word about blood transfusion is appropriate before we begin the comparison of Doctrine's; the Witnesses to that of Orthodox Christianity. A faithful member of the Jehovah's Witnesses will not accept a blood transfusion nor will he allow a blood transfusion to be given to any member of his family. They believe the giving or the taking of blood

transfusions is a violation of God's Covenant of the sanctity of life.

Jehovah's Witnesses do not reject blood for their children due to any lack of parental love. They know that if they violate God's Law on blood and the child dies in the process, they have endangered that child's opportunity for everlasting life in God's new world.¹⁰

They also believe:

It may result in the immediate and very temporary prolongation of life, but that at the cost of eternal life for a dedicated Christian. Then again, it may bring sudden death, and that forever.¹¹

So much for this short history of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The following are COMPARATIVE CHARTS on the JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES. These charts are taken from Salem Kirban's work entitled [Jehovah's Witnesses Doctrines of Devils No. 3.]

¹ E.T. Clark, *The Small Sects in America*, Rev. Ed. (1949), pp. 33-34.

² Watch Tower Reprints, p. 3821.

³ *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose*, Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, (1959), p. 18.

⁴ *Jehovah's Witness in the Divine Purpose*, p. 66.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 69.

⁶ *Jehovah's Witness in the Divine Purpose*, p. 74.

⁷ Salem Kirban, *Jehovah's Witnesses, Doctrines of Devils*, vol. 3, p. 21.

⁸ *Ibid*, Salem Kirban, Vol 3, p. 24.

⁹ *New Heavens and new Earth*, p. 235. To arrive at a new name, they based their selection on Isaiah 43:10-12; 62:2 and Rev. 2:17.

¹⁰ *Blood, Medicine and the Law of God*, p. 54.

¹¹ *Blood, Medicine and Law of God*, p. 55.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES on the DEITY OF CHRIST

(Jehovah's Witnesses classify Christ into 3 different states: Prehuman, Human and Posthuman.)

PREHUMAN STATE

Prior to coming to earth, this only-begotten Son of God did not think himself to be co-equal with Jehovah God; he did not view himself as "equal in power and glory" with Almighty God...
(Let God be True, p. 34).

Did this firstborn son possess immortality, that is, deathlessness? That he did not have this quality and as not immortal at that time is proved by later facts as well as plainly stated in the Bible... The time came, however that Jehovah God opened up to his Son the opportunity to gain immortality.
(The Truth Shall Make You Free, p. 44).

His prehuman state, according to Jehovah's Witnesses, lasted from the time of the Son's Creation to the time when he was born of Mary. Jehovah's Witnesses insist that at no time was the Son equal to Jehovah. They say that prior to the Son's Coming to earth as a man, he was not known in heaven as Jesus Christ, but as Michael, the archangel.)

HUMAN STATE

(Christ was not God in the Flesh, say Jehovah's Witnesses)

THE BIBLE on the DEITY OF CHRIST

PREHUMAN STATE

*"And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
(John 17:5)*

Christ existed before His incarnation in a state of glory shared with the Father.

"incarnation" is from the Latin, meaning "becoming flesh," that is, becoming Human." The doctrine of the incarnation teaches that the eternal Son of God became human, and that He did so without in any manner or degree diminishing His divine nature.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratha, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)

Micah, 700 years before Christ came, predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Note that the words, "whose goings have been from of old, from everlasting," prove that the Messiah, Christ, existed from eternity past—"from everlasting."

*...I am the first and the last.
(Revelation 1:17)
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
(Revelation 22:13)*

Christ's claims to be the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, in time and in every matter, can only be construed as a claim of deity and of His eternal past and future existence. The "first" does not mean the "second" - which would be the case if he were created as an angelic creature when the Father already existed as the "first." In acknowledging Christ's deity we only affirm of Him what He here claims.

HUMAN STATE

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

If a mere incarnation of the son of God had been intended, then it would not have been necessary for him to have his life transferred to an embryo in the virgin's womb and to be developed there and finally born as a helpless infant. He could still have remained a spirit person and materialized a fully developed fleshly body and clothed himself with it...
(Religion for Mankind, p. 231)

Actually, however, what is here described is not an incarnation but a temporary assumption of a body for the purpose of bringing a message.
(The Truth Shall Make You free. p. 245)

By pouring out his holy spirit upon the baptized Jesus, God anointed him with the spirit to be the long promised King ...Jesus became the Messiah,
(Let God Be True, p. 38)

It was at his baptism that Jesus was "born again."
(The Watchtower, 75-681, Nov. 15, 1954)

The very fact that he was sent proves he was not equal with God but less than God the Father.
(“The Word” Who is He?. p. 41)

(Isaiah 7:14)

Christ's name, Immanuel, in the Hebrew literally means, "God with us." Truly it is the Bible, not men, that has brought to us the doctrine of the deity of Christ.

The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. (I Corinthians 15:47)

Paul here compares Adam with Christ. In doing so he asserts Christ's deity.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Isaiah said that the Messiah was to be both human and divine—so that He could: [1] as one of our own Adamic human race suffer for our sins, and [2] as deity His death could provide the infinite sinless sacrifice necessary to pay for the sin committed by the sinners for whom His death would atone. Thus Isaiah sees Him both as "a child" and as "The mighty God, the Everlasting Father."

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. (John 5:17-18)

John here gives us the truth of the matter the Pharisees perceived in Christ's words a claim to equality with God. If Jesus were not equal with God right here He could have cleared this matter up. Not only could He have cleared it up, but it would have been sin on His part not to have denied at once that He was claiming equality with God - unless He actually did claim it. He did claim it and we believe it, although the Pharisees then and the Jehovah's Witnesses today are offended by this claim.

We reject the Jehovah's Witness claim that Jesus' having been "sent" by the Father proves His inequality with God. If in a spirit of perfect agreement and love the wife of the President of the United States sends the President to perform a mutually desired chore - such as to help their daughter - this in no way proves the President's essential inferiority to the First Lady. So

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ON THE DEITY OF CHRIST

POSTHUMAN STATE

(Jehovah's Witnesses reject the bodily resurrection of Christ)

Jehovah God raised Christ from the dead not as a human Son, but as a mighty immortal spirit Son.

(Let God be True p. 40)

Whether it (his body) was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere as the grand memorial of God's love, of Christ's obedience, and of our redemption, no one knows...

(Studies in the Scriptures, II, p. 129)

Usually they could not at first tell it was Jesus, for he appeared and disappeared just as angels had done, because he was resurrected as a spirit creature. Only because Thomas would not believe did Jesus appear in a body like that in which he died.

(from Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained, p. 144)

(Since Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Christ's resurrection was a spiritual one they explain away his bodily post-resurrection appearances.)

(Jehovah's Witnesses believe that none but God had immortality. Christ was given immortality at His resurrection) Christ Jesus was first to receive immortality as a reward for his faithful course on earth...

(Let God Be True, p. 74)

The Son now resumed the name Michael to tie him with his prehuman existence.
(Your Will Be Done, p. 316)

here too, Christ's deity is in no way lessened by his being sent by the Father.

The BIBLE on the DEITY OF CHRIST

POSTHUMAN STATE

And after eight days, again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them; then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, reach here thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach here thy hand, and thrust it into My side and be not faithless, but believing. (John 20:26-27)

But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see Me have. And when He had thus spoken, He showed them his hands and His feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have you here anything to eat? And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, and a honeycomb. And He took it, and did eat before them. (Luke 24:37-43)

Jesus declared, "a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see Me have." These words render futile all Jehovah's Witnesses claims and long explanations denying that Christ rose in a literal body, and in the same body in which he was crucified. Jesus eating before them can only be construed as His clear-cut attempt to convince them thoroughly that he had risen in a body and not as a mere spirit but only temporarily took on a body only to convince Thomas, must be rejected.

The whole tenor of Jesus' words constitutes His appeal to us to believe that He was not raised as a spirit, but rather in His crucified physical human body.

Shall we believe Christ or Russell and Rutherford?
But thou, Bethlehem ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)

The Prophet saw that the Christ was to be born a human - coming from Bethlehem but yet he was eternal-
" ...whose goings forth have been from of old,

God exalted his son Jesus to be higher than he was before he lived and died as a man... Jesus is made the head under Jehovah of God's capital organization over the entire Universe. (Let God Be True, p. 40)

everlasting.” One who is “from everlasting” does not “receive immortality” -as claimed by the Jehovah's Witnesses. He is immortal!

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, the Lord rebuke thee. Jude 9

Michael is here declared to be an archangel. The identification of Michael, an angelic being, hence a created being, with Jesus, the creator of all (John 1:1-3) is totally without Biblical support or evidence.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.

Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when he had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high.

Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. (Hebrews 1:1-4

Here we have the express declaration that Christ is superior to all angelic creatures, which includes archangels - for “head-angels are still angels.” Christ being “...so much better than the angels...” cannot then be Michael who is after all according to Jude 9, an angel.

In fact, the whole argument of Hebrews, chapter 1 is meant to prove Christ to be above all angels, and hence not Himself an angelic creature. Thus the Jehovah's Witness assertion that Christ is the angel Michael must be seen to be another man-made imagination which runs counter to the evidence of the Scriptures. See Philippians 2:5-7; Revelation 22:8-9 compared to Philippians 2:10 and Psalm 110:1 for further evidence on the deity of Christ.

In his excellent book The Four Major Cults (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1963), Anthony A. Hoekama provides a penetrating conclusion to the study of the Deity of Christ as viewed by the Jehovah's Witnesses. He says, ...what the three states of Christ's existence in Watchtower theology really amount to is this:

angel - man - angel

With no real continuity between the three. A little reflection will reveal how devastating this view is to the Christology of the Scriptures. The individual who laid down his life at Calvary was not the individual who existed previously in heaven and was God's agent in creation: the individual who is now ruling over his heavenly Kingdom is not the individual who died on the cross for us.

Really, Jehovah's Witnesses have three Christs, none whom is equal to Jehovah, and none of whom is the Christ of the Scriptures.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES on the TRINITY

The doctrine of the trinity had its origin in the demon-religions of ancient Babylon, India, and Egypt. The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the Trinity Doctrine.

(Let God Be True, p. 101)

Sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve Him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated freakish looking, three headed God.

(Let God Be True, p. 102)

The trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians. The plain truth is that this is

(omission of rest of sentence)

The BIBLE on the TRINITY

The word Trinity is a short form for Tri-unity. This is the Biblically based doctrine that the true God is One God (Deuteronomy 6:4), a unity, and yet at the same time this One God is manifest in three, Tri-divine persons. Thus there is only One God, not 3 gods, but the One Godhead consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three co-divine, co-eternal persons.

That this is a complex mystery should surprise no one - for God is unfathomable. The standard proof of the tri-unity runs as follows:

1. The Godhead is One (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- 2a. The Father as a {person (John 17:3)
- 2b. The Father is Divine; (John 17:3)
- 2c. Hence, the Father is a Divine Person.
- 3a. The Son is a Person; (Matthew 17:5)
- 3b. The Son is Divine (as well as human); (John 5:17-18; 17:5; Philippians 2:5-6)
- 3c. Hence, the Son is a Divine Person.
- 4a. The Holy Spirit is a Person; (John 14:16,17,26; 15:16; Ephesians 4:30) (He, as a person, can be grieved)
- 4b. The Holy Spirit is Divine; (Matthew 12:31-32) (He, as God, can be blasphemed against)
- 4c. Hence, the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person
5. Hence, the Godhead is a Tri-unity, one God-head composed of three Divine Persons.

That this is the teaching of the Bible has been affirmed by the Church universal from the first ecumenical councils onward. (The Council of Nicea, 325 A.D.; the First Council of Constantinople, 381 A.D.).

1. The Trinity is further affirmed by the Scripture's mentioning and elevating all Three of the Persons together within the functions and formulae pertaining properly only to God. Thus: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ("the Spirit of God," in Genesis) all

participated in the creation of the world.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:1-2)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. He was the word, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. (John 1:1-3, 10)

2. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all present at Christ’s Baptism.

And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, thou art my beloved Son. In thee I am well pleased. (Luke 3:22)

3. *Baptism into the Church is done in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit..*

Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

4. *Wherefore, I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven men.*

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age neither in the age to come. (Matthew 12:31-32)

Let the reader compare these two verses to the Jehovah’s Witness ridicule of the Deity of the Holy Spirit, and then let the seriousness of this ridicule be realized.

◆ Introducing the Trinity

—No where in the bible does the word Trinity show up.

—However, the teaching (doctrine) of Trinity is clearly in scripture.

- Tri = means 3

- Une = means one

—Three in one describes the nature of God

—Turn to Isaiah 9:6

- A child is born v.6

- A son (male) is given

- Called “Wonderful Counselor” John 14:15-17

- Mighty God

- Everlasting Father

◆ Isaiah speaks of the Son of promise. Jesus Christ. In Him we see the whole of the Trinity described. God, Father, Counselor (Spirit), and the Son.

◆ We are “Promise Theology People”

◆ Where is the Truth?

- Jesus said in John 17:17, **“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is the truth.”**

- Here is where you find the truth. Only in the bible will you find the truth that will lead to eternal truths and eternal life.

 - Your Fathers faith can not save you!

 - Your Mothers faith can not save you!

Father as God, God as Father

—God has said of himself in the bible:

- God is **Spirit** John 4:24

- God is **eternal**: Ps. 90:1-2 - I Timothy 1:7

- God is **unchangeable** (immutable); Ps. 102:27, Mal. 3:6, James 1:17

- God is **almighty, all-powerful** (omnipotent): Gen. 17:1, Matt. 19:26
- God is **all-knowing** (omniscient) Ps. 139:1-4, John 21:17
- God is **present everywhere** (omnipresent) Jeremiah 23:24, Acts 17:27
- God is **Holy** - sinless and hating sin - Lev. 19:2, Ps. 5:4-5, Is. 6:3
- God is **Just** (fair and impartial) Deut. 32:4

- God is **Good** Ps. 118:1, Ps. 145:9
- God is **Faithful** Deut. 32:4, 2 Tim. 2:13
- Is **Merciful** (full of pity) Jer. 3:12, Titus 3:5
- God is **Gracious** (showing undeserved kindness, forgiving) Ex. 34:6-7,
—Jn 1:16
- God is **Love** John 3:16,, I John 4:8

◆ These are some of God's attributes, characteristics, His nature:

◆ **The only truth God is the Triune God.**

- If anyone says he is a Christian then denies the Trinity, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, they are not a Christian and are not saved from hell. **Turn to Matthew 28:19**
- If anyone denies the Son he can not have the father and is Anti-Christ. **II John 7ff**
- If anyone commits Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit can not be saved.

—The **First Person** of the Trinity is called the **Father** because - He is our father. (Always capitalize God's name or title)

- 1. The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ - Jn. 20:17
- 2. The Father of all men, in the sense of our Creator -
- ◆ 3. God is our Father our creator, He made you and
- ◆ formed you -Deut. 32:6
- ◆ 4. All have one Father - Malachi 2:10
- ◆ 5. God is the Father of us all - Romans 4:16
- ◆ 6. God made the earth - Acts 17:24

◆ 7. Made all men from one man - Acts 17:26

◆ 8. God's offspring Acts 17: 29

◆ Jesus as God

◆ ^{Isaiah 7:14} Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**.

◆ The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

◆ ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**”—**which means, “God with us.”** Matthew 1:21-22

◆ Jesus as God

—Thomas said to him, “My Lord, and my God” John 20:28

—John 14:8-10

—Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead

—Romans 9:5

—Philippians 2:6

—Hebrews 1:3-8

—1 John 5:20

◆ God the Son as Creator

● John 1:3

● I Cor 8:6

● Eph 3:9

- Col. 1:16
- Heb. 1:1-2

◆ The Holy Spirit as God

- Genesis 1:2
- Acts 5:3-4 Lied to Holy Spirit lied to God
- 1 Cor. 3:16 Holy Spirit lives in believers, thus believers body is called the temple of God.

—Is the Spirit of both the Father Matt. 10:20 and Son Gal. 4:6

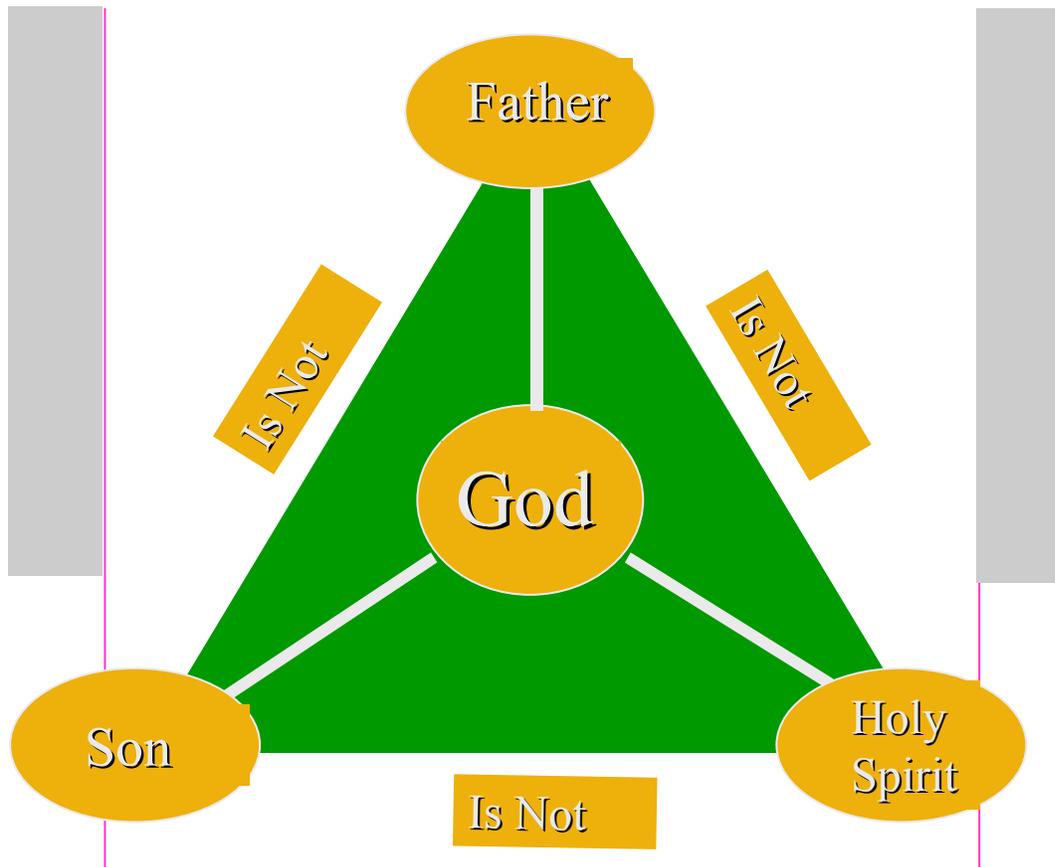
—Holy Spirit comes from the Father and is at the same time sent by the Son. John 15:26

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◆ The Trinity

◆ One God

◆ Three Persons



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES on SALVATION

Jehovah's Witnesses break up their Society unto two classes:

(1) The Congregation of God.. sometimes referred to as "the anointed class," "the Elect," "the Kingdom Class," "the little flock," "the Chosen Ones," and "Spiritual Israel"...and "the 144,000."

(2) The Other Sheep..sometimes referred to as "Great company." "Great Multitude," "Great Crowd," and "Jonadabs"

THE BIBLE on SALVATION

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

Verily verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:25-26)

Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out... (Acts 3:19)

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (Acts 16:31)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved, for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The reader should carefully compare the above quoted sample Scriptures with the complex jargon of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Repent and believe (trust Jesus as the one who died for your sins) is the universal Biblical appeal to all sinners in all ages.

Man-invented Jehovah Witness requirements and class divisions among the saved (Jonadabs; Anointed Class, etc.) are alike foreign to the simple straight forward Bible appeal for all sinners to come to Jesus by faith alone for forgiveness.

If the Jehovah's Witness doctrine of "maintaining their integrity" by works is the standard, John 18 and Galations 2, quoted below, show that not even Peter nor Barnabas could remain saved - which is an unfathomable absurdity.

Then saith the maid that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not.

And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said, therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of His disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.

One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with Him? Peter then denied again; and immediately the cock crowed. (John 18:17, 25-27)

But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For certain men came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles; but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them who were of the circumcision.

But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, lives after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

We who are Jews by nature and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galations 2:11-16)

Faith in Christ saves. Good works neither get anyone saved nor do they keep anyone saved. They, good works, are rather the product of salvation - not its cause nor condition.

Once a person decides that the Bible is his or her only inspired fountain of truth from God, that person sees all of the Jehovah's Witness divisions pivoting on such dates as 1914, 1918, and 1927 as so much man-made mumbo-jumbo. It is completely and totally unbiblical.

THE ANOINTED CLASS

(The Witnesses believe in the new Birth but it is an exclusive privilege made available only to Christ and the select 144,000, the Anointed class).

Long ago Jehovah determined that the Christians who will make up this spiritual nation would be very few in number. Of those who make up God's spiritual nation (spiritual Israel, the Bible says that they are "*the 144,000 who have been purchased from the earth*" (Revelation 14:3). So from among mankind only 144,000 persons will ever go to heaven. When the "time of the end" began in 1914 the full number that was needed to make up God's spiritual nation (144,000) was not yet complete. More had to be gathered. This meant preaching. Rightly, the ones to do this preaching must be Jehovah's Witnesses...By means of this preaching the last ones that were needed to fill the number of God's spiritual nation would be gathered from the nations.

(The Anointed Ones must preach the good news of Christ's Kingdom. If they maintain their integrity until death they will receive immortality. If they turn back from this dedication, such turning back "would mark them as agreement breakers, worthy of death, annihilation.")

(Let God Be True, p. 301)

(Thus, while Jehovah's Witnesses claim that salvation is of grace...it is not really God's sovereign grace that saves even the 144,000, but rather man who saves himself by grasping the ransom by dedicated works.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed; and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand. (Rev. 7:4-8)

The Mormons claim that the American Indians of the southwest are of Israelite lineage. Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong, British-Israelites, see England, the United States, and northwestern Europe as the nations of these tribes.

Now, the Jehovah's Witnesses claim them to be the converts to Jehovah's Witnesses in their early 1914 on to the 1920's era. Who next will claim the 144,000?

The Bible calls them Israelites and names their tribes. Thus these are exactly what the Bible says - Israelites, Jews, Hebrews from the tribes - in the end-time when God again calls Israel to Himself in conversion to Christ.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph[esians 2:8-9)

The man-made Jehovah's Witness formulas for finding salvation are foreign to the Bible's appeal to the sinner to come to Christ for forgiveness by faith alone.

THE BIBLE on the LAST THINGS on 1914 and 1918

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the householder had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matt. 24:36, 42-44)

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angles who are in heaven, neither the Son, but the father. Take heed, watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is like a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye, therefore; for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. (Mark 13:32-37)

The above Scriptures make it abundantly clear that no one living - Charles Taze Russel or anyone else - knows the time of Christ's Second Coming.

One of the many enlightening truths that God now gave his witnesses was about the members of God's spiritual nation who had died physically. This was in 1927. In that year the witnesses understood that the dead spiritual Israelites had been raised in 1918 to live in heaven with Christ Jesus. It was an invisible resurrection, or course.

From 1918 on, when one of the last ones of God's spiritual nation dies, he does not have to sleep in death. At death God raises him to life in heaven...less than 20,000 of the last ones of God's spiritual nation are now left on earth.
(from Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained, p. 192)

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (I Thess. 4:16-17)