



WHAT IS THE

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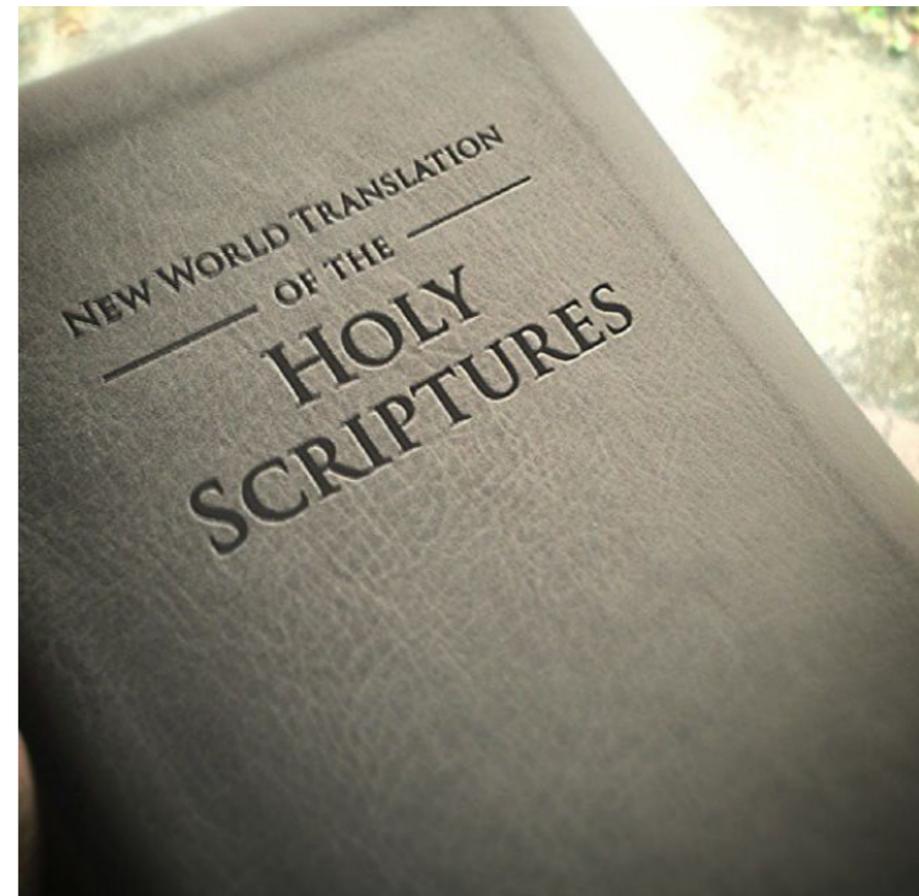
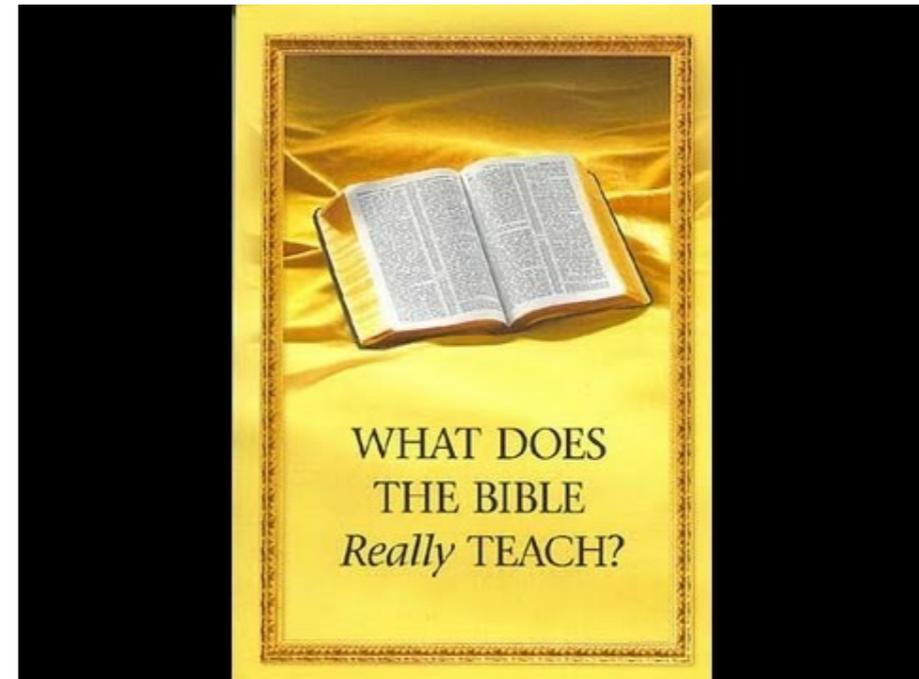
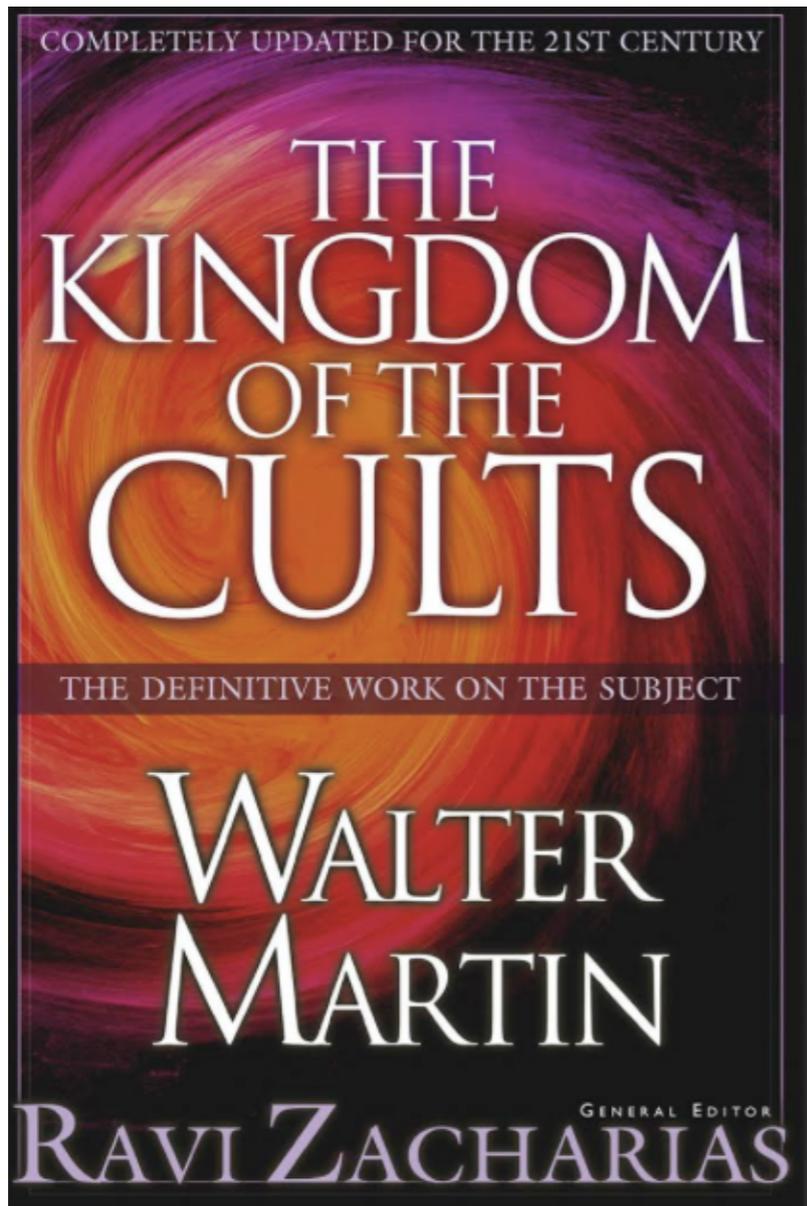
**JEHOVAHS WITNESSES?**

## SOURCES:

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# WHERE TO GO?

Jehovahs Witness material and doctrine can be found at [JW.org](http://JW.org).



### THE BASICS

- ▶ (The words "Jehovah's Witnesses" will now be referred to as "JW's" for the remainder of the lesson.)
- ▶ JW's are a Unitarian Monotheistic religion. They are properly looked at as an occult as they deviate on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, yet claim to be authentic.
- ▶ JW's founder was a man named Charles Taze Russell.
- ▶ JW's sparked in the year 1870, yet received its formal name in 1931.

# SIZE OF IMPACT

- ▶ **240**—Lands where Jehovah's Witnesses worship
- ▶ **8,220,103**—Jehovah's Witnesses
- ▶ **9,708,968**—Free home Bible courses conducted
- ▶ **19,862,783**—Attendance at the annual Memorial of Christ's death
- ▶ **118,016**—Congregations
- ▶ All points on this slide were taken from: <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/>

TEXTS OF

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**JEHOVAHS WITNESSES**

## NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY BIBLE

- ▶ “The first part of the *New World Translation* was released in 1950.”-  
<https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/new-world-translation-accurate/>
- ▶ “For decades, Jehovah’s Witnesses used, printed, and distributed various versions of the Bible. But then we saw the need to produce a new translation that would better help people to learn the “accurate knowledge of truth,” which is God’s will for everyone. (1 Timothy 2:3, 4) Thus, in 1950 we began to release portions of our modern-language Bible, the *New World Translation*. This Bible has been faithfully and accurately translated into over 130 languages.”-  
<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/jehovahs-will/new-world-translation/>
- ▶ The latest revision of the NWT was in 2013.

# WHAT DO JW'S SAY IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE NTW?

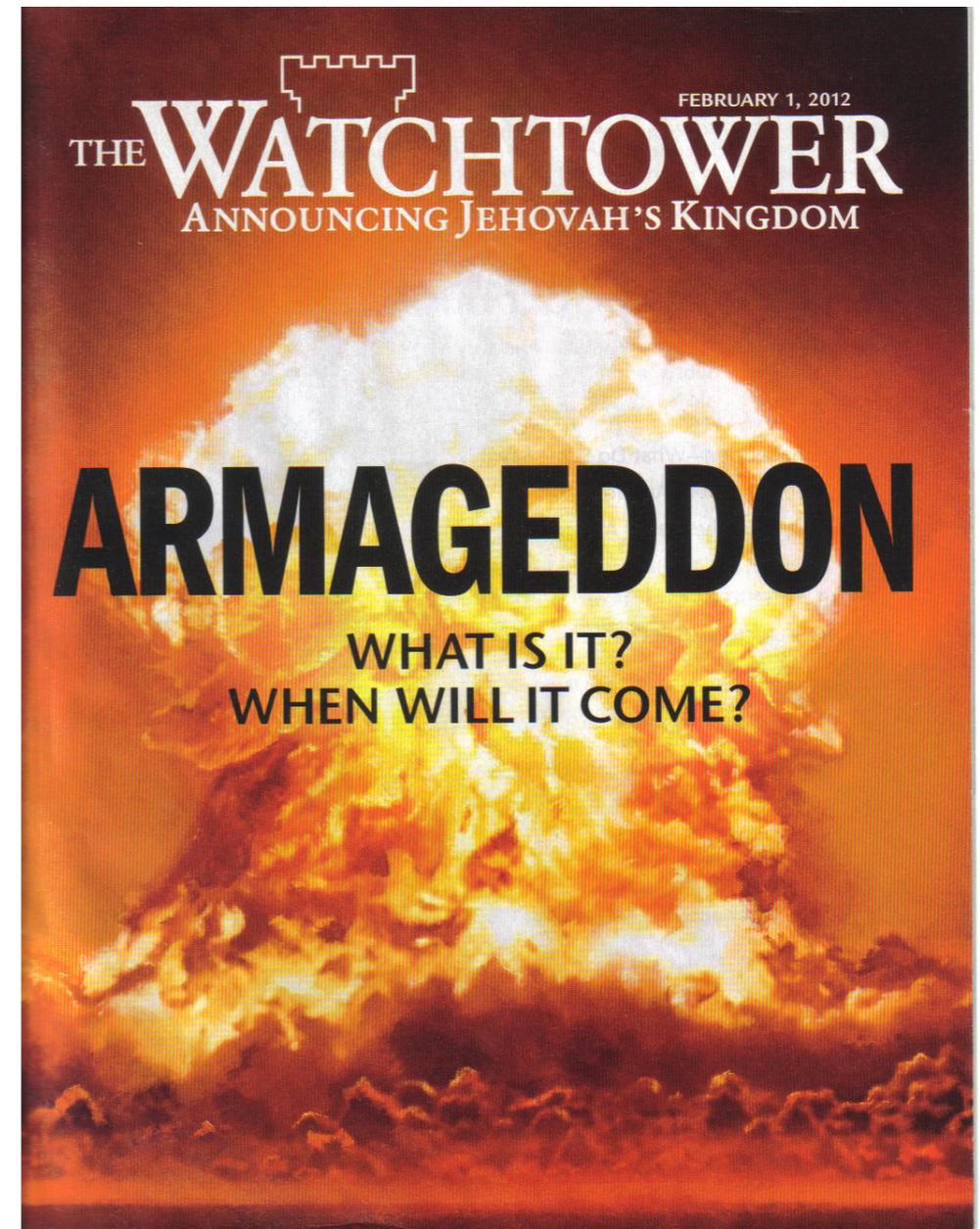
- ▶ “In the *New World Translation*, Jehovah’s name has been restored where it appears some 7,000 times in the oldest Bible manuscripts as illustrated in the example below. (Psalm 83:18) The result of years of diligent research, this Bible is a pleasure to read, as it clearly conveys God’s thinking.”
- ▶ “Occasionally, word-for-word translations are unclear or misleading. For example, Jesus’ statement at Matthew 5:3 is often translated: “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” (*English Standard Version; King James Version; New International Version*) Many find the literal rendering “poor in spirit” to be obscure, while some think that Jesus was highlighting the value of humility or poverty. However, Jesus’ point was that true happiness comes from recognizing the need for God’s guidance. The *New World Translation* accurately conveys his meaning with the words “those conscious of their spiritual need.”—Matthew 5:3.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/jehovahs-will/new-world-translation/>

# WHAT DO JW'S SAY IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE NTW?

- ▶ “At the same time, extremes in rewording the text must be avoided. A translator who liberally paraphrases the Bible according to how he interprets the overall idea could distort the meaning of the text. How so? The translator may erroneously insert his opinion of what the original text means or may omit important details contained in the original text. So while paraphrases of the Bible may be easy to read, their very freeness at times may prevent the reader from getting the true message of the text.”
- ▶ ““Doctrinal bias can easily color a translator’s work. For example, Matthew 7:13 says: “Spacious is the road leading off into destruction.” Some translators, perhaps affected by doctrinal bias, have used the term “hell” rather than what the Greek term really means, namely, “destruction.””
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: -<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/jehovahs-will/new-world-translation/>

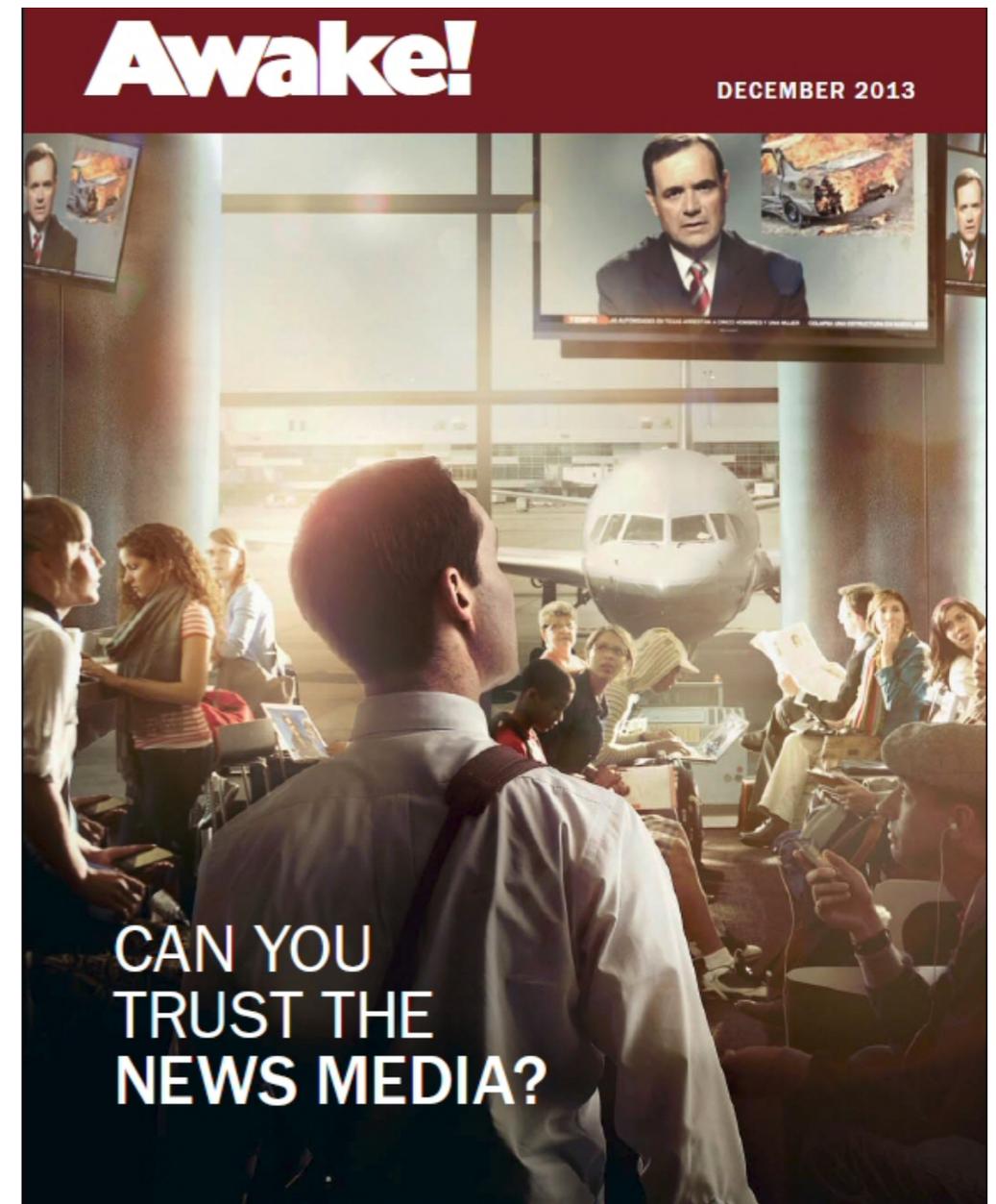
## THE WATCHTOWER

- ▶ *"The Watchtower* shows us the significance of world events in the light of Bible prophecies. It comforts people with the good news of God's Kingdom and promotes faith in Jesus Christ."
- ▶ Quote taken from <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/>



## AWAKE!

- ▶ *"Awake!* shows us how to cope with today's problems and builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world."
- ▶ Quote taken from <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/>



HISTORY OF

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**JEHOVAHS WITNESSES**

# ACCORDING TO THE JW'S

- ▶ “The modern-day organization of Jehovah’s Witnesses began at the end of the 19th century. At that time, a small group of Bible students who lived near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the United States, began a systematic analysis of the Bible. They compared the doctrines taught by the churches with what the Bible really teaches. They began publishing what they learned in books, newspapers, and the journal that is now called *The Watchtower—Announcing Jehovah’s Kingdom*.”
- ▶ Point above taken from: [https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/founder/#?insight\[search\\_id\]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight\[search\\_result\\_index\]=0](https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/founder/#?insight[search_id]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight[search_result_index]=0)

# ACCORDING TO THE JW'S

- ▶ “Among that group of sincere Bible students was a man named Charles Taze Russell. While Russell took the lead in the Bible education work at that time and was the first editor of *The Watchtower*, he was not the founder of a new religion. The goal of Russell and the other Bible Students, as the group was then known, was to promote the teachings of Jesus Christ and to follow the practices of the first-century Christian congregation. Since Jesus is the Founder of Christianity, we view him as the founder of our organization.—Colossians 1:18-20.”
- ▶ Point above taken from: [https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/founder/#?insight\[search\\_id\]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight\[search\\_result\\_index\]=0](https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/founder/#?insight[search_id]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight[search_result_index]=0)

# ACCORDING TO THE JW'S

- ▶ “A MAN found a pamphlet on the floor of a railway car bound for New York City. ‘The human soul is mortal,’ said the pamphlet. Intrigued, the man, a minister, started to read. He was amazed because he had never before doubted the teaching of the immortality of the soul. At the time, he could not tell who had written the pamphlet. Still, he found the argument plausible and Scriptural and the material worthy of serious study.”
- ▶ “The minister was George Storrs. The incident took place in 1837, the year that Charles Darwin first recorded in his notebook thoughts that would later develop into his theory of evolution. The world was still religious, and most people believed in God. Many read the Bible and looked up to it as having authority.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/w20060815/compare-scripture-with-scripture/>

# ACCORDING TO JW'S

- ▶ “Storrs later found out that the pamphlet was written by Henry Grew of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Grew held fast to the principle that “the scripture . . . is its own best interpreter.” Grew and his associates had been studying the Bible with the aim of conforming their lives and activities to its counsel. Their studies revealed some beautiful Scriptural truths.”
- ▶ “Stimulated by Grew’s writing, Storrs carefully looked into what the Scriptures had to say about the soul and discussed the matter with some of his fellow ministers. After five years of serious study, Storrs finally decided to publicize his newly found gem of Scriptural truth. At first, he prepared one sermon to give on a Sunday in 1842. However, he felt the need to give a few more sermons to do justice to the subject. Eventually, his sermons on the mortality of the human soul numbered six, which he published in *Six Sermons*. Storrs compared scripture with scripture in order to uncover the beautiful truth buried beneath the God-dishonoring doctrines of Christendom.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/w20060815/compare-scripture-with-scripture/>

# ACCORDING TO JW'S

- ▶ “Among those who became associated with George Storrs was a young man who was organizing a Bible study group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His name was Charles Taze Russell. One of his first articles on Scriptural themes was published in 1876 in the magazine *Bible Examiner*, edited by Storrs. Russell acknowledged that earlier Bible students had an influence on him. Later, as the editor of *Zion's Watch Tower*, he appreciated Storrs' giving him much assistance, by both word and pen.”
- ▶ “At the age of 18, C. T. Russell organized a Bible study class and established a pattern for studying the Bible. A. H. Macmillan, a Bible student associated with Russell, described this method: “Someone would raise a question. They would discuss it. They would look up all related scriptures on the point and then, when they were satisfied on the harmony of these texts, they would finally state their conclusion and make a record of it.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/w20060815/compare-scripture-with-scripture/>

# FOUNDERS



# ACCORDING TO JW'S

- ▶ “The history of Jehovah’s Witnesses began in the United States in the 1870’s, when Charles Taze Russell and his associates formed a class for Bible study. Over the next few years, they began publishing literature, formed a corporation later known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, and established their first headquarters, in Allegheny, Pennsylvania.”
- ▶ “Jehovah’s Witnesses in the United States are free to practice their religious beliefs. However, in the early 20th century, they faced stiff opposition from some misinformed government officials and influential members of the clergy. Particularly during the 1930’s and 1940’s, the Witnesses were embroiled in numerous legal battles. Police arrested Witnesses for engaging in their public ministry, schools across the country expelled Witness children for refusing to salute the flag, and federal courts sentenced thousands of young Witness men to prison for refusing to perform military service. Ultimately, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jehovah’s Witnesses on these issues.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: [https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/united-states/jehovah-witness-facts/#?insight\[search\\_id\]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight\[search\\_result\\_index\]=4](https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/united-states/jehovah-witness-facts/#?insight[search_id]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight[search_result_index]=4)

# ACCORDING TO JW'S

- ▶ “To date, the Witnesses have won 50 cases before the Supreme Court. They have also won numerous cases in state and federal courts throughout the country in matters regarding patient rights, child custody, zoning, employment discrimination, and immigration. These victories have not only shaped constitutional law and secured freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion in the United States but also have had a positive influence on high courts around the world.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from: [https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/united-states/jehovah-witness-facts/#?insight\[search\\_id\]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight\[search\\_result\\_index\]=4](https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/united-states/jehovah-witness-facts/#?insight[search_id]=1df092b2-ef6f-4d7e-b08d-494c398b20c8&insight[search_result_index]=4)

# LET'S LOOK AT SOME OTHER SOURCES...

- ▶ “Charles Taze Russell was the founder of what is now known as the Jehovah’s Witnesses cult and the energetic administrator that brought about it's far-flung organization. The name “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” incidentally, was taken at Columbus, Ohio, in 1931, to differentiate between the Watchtower organization run by Judge Rutherford, Russell’s successor, and those who remained as true followers of Russell as represented by The Dawn Bible Students and the Laymen’s Home Missionary Movement.”
- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 49

# DARWIN'S NOT THE ONLY "CHARLES" YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.

- ▶ "C. T. Russell was born on February 16, 1852, the son of Joseph L. and Anna Eliza Russell, and spent most of his early years in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where at the age of twenty-five he was known to be manager of several men's furnishings stores. At an early age he rejected the doctrine of eternal torment, probably because of the severe indoctrination he had received as a Congregationalist, and as a result of this act entered upon a long and varied career of denunciation aimed at "organized religions." In 1870, at the age of eighteen, Russell organized a Bible class in Pittsburgh, which in 1876 elected him "Pastor" of the group. From 1876 to 1878 the "Pastor" was assistant editor of a small Rochester, New York, monthly magazine, but he resigned when a controversy arose over Russell's counterarguments on "the atonement" of Christ."

- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 49

# DARWIN'S NOT THE ONLY "CHARLES" YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.

- ▶ “Shortly after leaving his position, Russell founded *The Herald of the Morning* (1879), which developed into today's *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*. From 6,000 initial issues, the publication has grown to 17.8 million copies per month in 106 languages.”
- ▶ “The other Watchtower periodical, *Awake*, has a circulation of 15.6 million per month in thirty-four languages.”
- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 49-50

### THE NAME

- ▶ “In the year 1884, “Pastor” Russell incorporated “Zion’s Watch Tower Tract Society” at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which in 1886 published the first in a series of seven books (Russell wrote six by himself), now entitled *Studies in the Scriptures* and originally published as *The Millennial Dawn*. The seventh volume was edited from his writings after his death and published in 1917. This seventh volume, *The Finished Mystery* cause a split in the organization, which culminated in a clean division, the larger group following J. F. Rutherford, the smaller remaining by itself. This smaller group subsequently became the Dawn Bible Students Association. Meanwhile, under Rutherford’s leadership, the “Society” became known by its present common name – Jehovah’s Witnesses—and its corporate name, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, with its international office in Brooklyn, New York.”

- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 50

# A PROGRESSION OF POWER

- ▶ “In the year 1908 the headquarters of the movement was transferred to Brooklyn, New York, where the property was purchased at 17 Hicks Street and became known as “The Brooklyn Tabernacle.” Large tracts of property were purchased by the Society on Columbia Heights Street as it grew and prospered, until today whole blocks are in their possession.”
- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 50

# WHO WAS RUSSELL?

- ▶ “Russell continued his teachings until his death on October 31, 1916, aboard a transcontinental train in Texas. The former pastor had a remarkable life, highly colored with legal entanglements, but not without success in his chosen field. In fairness to the reader and in interest of truth, full account is quoted from *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, November 1, 1916 (Obituaries), and has been inserted at this point to authenticate beyond doubt the true history of Russell so that even his most devoted follower might realize the character of the man to whose teachings they have entrusted their eternal destiny.”

- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 50-51

# THE ACCOUNT FROM THE EAGLE

- ▶ “A year after this publication, *The Watch Tower*, had been established, Russell married Maria Ackley in Pittsburgh. She had become interested in him through his teachings, and she helped him in running the Watchtower.”
- ▶ “Two years later in 1881, came “The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society,” the agency through which in later years “Pastor” Russell’s sermons were published (as advertisements) in newspapers throughout the world. The Society progressed amazingly under the joint administration of husband and wife, but in 1897 Mrs. Russell left her husband. Six years later, in 1903, she sued for separation. the decree was secured in 1906 following sensational testimony and “Pastor” Russell was scored by the courts.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 51

# THE ACCOUNT FROM THE EAGLE

- ▶ “There was much litigation then that was quite undesirable from the “Pastors’s” point of view regarding alimony for his wife, but it was settled in 1909 by the payment of \$6,036 to Mrs. Russell. The litigation revealed that “Pastor” Russell’s activities in the religious field were carried on through several subsidiary societies and that all of the wealth that flowed into him through these societies was under the control of a holding company which the “Pastor” held \$990 of the \$1,000 capital and two of his followers the other \$10.”

- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 51

# THE ACCOUNT FROM THE EAGLE

- ▶ Russell apparently controlled the entire financial power of the Society and was not accountable to anyone. The Eagle goes on to say:
- ▶ "After the "work" had been well started here, "Pastor" Russell's Watch Tower publication advertised wheat seed for sale at \$1.00 a pound. It was styled "Miracle Wheat," and it was asserted that it would grow five times as much as any other brand of wheat. there were other claims made for the wheat seed, and the followers were advised to purchase it, the proceeds to go to the Watch Tower and be used in publishing the "Pastor's" sermons."
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 51

# RUSSELL'S WHEAT SEED

- ▶ “The *Eagle* first made public the facts about this new venture of the Russellites and it published a cartoon picturing the “Pastor” and his “Miracle Wheat” in such a way that “Pastor” Russell brought suit for libel, asking \$100,000 damages. Government departments investigated the wheat for which \$1.00 a pound was asked, and agents of the Government were important witnesses at the trial of the libel suit in January 1913. The “Miracle Wheat” was low in the Government tests, they said. The *Eagle* won the suit.”
- ▶ Taken from KoC pg. 51

# MORE FROM THE EAGLE

- ▶ Prior to entering court the *Eagle* had said: "The *Eagle* goes even further and declares that at the trial it will show that "Pastor" Russell's religious cult is nothing more than a money-making scheme."
- ▶ The courts decision vindicated the *Eagle's* statement and proved its reliability: "All during this time the "Pastor's" sermons were being printed in newspapers throughout the world, notably when he made a tour of the world in 1912 and caused accounts to be published in his advertised sermons telling of enthusiastic greetings at the various places he visited. It was shown in many cases that the sermons were never delivered in the places that were claimed."
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 51

# WHERE THIS SCANDAL CAN BE FOUND

- ▶ For the benefit of any Jehovahs Witnesses who ma think that the “Miracle Wheat” fraud is an invention of the “jealous religionists” who are trying to defame the “Pastor’s” memory, we document the scandal , trial, and verdict as follows:
- ▶ From originals (now microfilmed in New York) of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, the following articles with dates and pages can be found: “Miracle Wheat Scandal,” January 1, 1913 1-2; “Russellite Beliefs,” January 22, 1913, 2; “Testimony on Wheat,” January 23, 1913, 3; “Financial Statements Proving Russell’s Absolute Control,” by Secretary Treasurer Van Amberg, January 25, 1913, 16; “Government Experts Testify on ‘Miracle Wheat’ and Ascertain Its Ordinariness,” January 27, 1913, 3; “Prosecution and Defense Closing Arguments,” January 28, 1913, 2; “Russell Loses Libel Suit,” January 29, 1913, 16.
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 52

# REVEREND J. J. ROSS

- ▶ “To mention one instance in addition to the *Eagle* suit, Russell brought suit for “defamatory libel” against the Reverend J. J. Ross, pastor of the James Street Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ontario, when the fearless minister wrote a blistering pamphlet denouncing Russell’s theology and personal life. Russell lost this attempt (see *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, January 11, 1913), with J. F. Rutherford as his attorney. For the benefit of the interested reader, at this time we recount the facts concerning the libel suit as it actually occurred.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 53

# REVEREND J. J. ROSS

- ▶ “In June 1912, the Reverend J. J. Ross, pastor of the James Street Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ontario, published a pamphlet entitled “Some Facts About the Self-Styled ‘Pastor’ Charles T. Russell,” which minced no words in its denunciation of Russell, his qualifications as a minister, or his moral example as a “pastor.” Russell promptly sued Ross for “defamatory libel” in an effort to silence the courageous minister before the pamphlet could gain wide circulation and expose his true character and the error of his theology. Rev. Ross, however, was unimpressed by Russell’s action and eagerly seized upon the opportunity as a means of exposing Russell for the fraud that he was.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 53-54

# REVEREND J. J. ROSS

- ▶ “In his pamphlet, Ross assailed Russell’s teachings as revealed in *Studies in the Scriptures* as ‘the destructive doctrines of one man who is neither a scholar nor a theologian’ (p. 7). Rev. Ross scathingly denounced Russell’s whole system as ‘anti-rational, anti-scientific, anti-biblical, anti-Christian, and a deplorable perversion of the gospel of God’s dear Son’ (p. 7).”
- ▶ “Continuing his charges in the pamphlet, Ross exposed Russell as a pseudo scholar and philosopher who “never attended the higher schools of learning, knows comparatively nothing of philosophy, systematic or historical theology, and is totally ignorant of the dead languages” (pp. 3-4).”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 54

### TO BE CLEAR...

- ▶ “It must be clearly understood at this point by the reader that in a libel suit of the type pursued by Russell, the plaintiff (Russell) had to *prove* that the charges lodged against him by the defendant (Ross) were not true. It is significant to note that Russell lost his suit against Ross when the High Court of Ontario, in session March 1913, ruled that there were no grounds for libel; and “the case was thrown out of Court by the evidence furnished by ‘Pastor’ Russell himself” (p. 15).
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 54

# PERJURY?

- ▶ “By denying Ross’s charges, Russell automatically claimed high scholastic ascendancy, recognized theological training (systematic and historical), working knowledge of the dead languages (Greek, Hebrew, etc.), and valid ordination by a recognized body.”
- ▶ “He was soon to regret his testimony and stand in jeopardy as a perjurer, an unpleasant experience for the “pastor,” which more than explains his aversion to the witness chair.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 54

# QUOTATIONS FROM THE CASE

- ▶ “The following reference quotations are taken in part from Mr. Ross’s second pamphlet, entitled *Some Facts and More Facts about the Self-Styled Pastor—Charles T. Russell*:”
  - ▶ “But now what are the facts as they were brought out by the examination on March 17, 1913? As to his scholastic standing he (Russell) had sworn that what was said about it was not true. Under the examination, he admitted that at most he had attended school only seven years of his life at the public school, and that he had left school when he was about fourteen years of age....”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 54-55

# QUOTATIONS FROM THE CASE

- ▶ “The cross-examination of Russell continued for five hours. Here is a sample of how the “pastor” answered. (The following reproduction of the *Russell c. Ross* transcript relative to the perjury charge made against Russell is taken from a copy on file in the headquarters of the cult in Brooklyn and is presented in the interests of thorough investigation.)”
- ▶ *Question (Attorney Staunton): “Do you know the Greek alphabet?”*
- ▶ *Answer (Russell): “Oh yes.”*
- ▶ *Question (Staunton): “Can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?”*
- ▶ *Answer (Russell): Some of them; I might make a mistake on some of them.”*
- ▶ *Question (Staunton): “Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447, I have got here?”*

# QUOTATIONS FROM THE CASE (CONT.)

- ▶ Answer (Russell): "Well, I don't know that I would be able to."
- ▶ Question (Staunton): "You can't tell me what those letters are? Look at them and see if you know."
- ▶ Answer (Russell): "My way" [he was interrupted at this point and not allowed to explain].
- ▶ Question (Staunton): "Are you familiar with the Greek language?"
- ▶ Answer (Russell): "No."
- ▶ "'Pastor' Russell, in failing to name the letters of the Greek alphabet, therefore, proved himself a perjurer, for he had previously stated that he "knew" them, thereby implying the ability to recite them, which he could *not* do."
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 55

# OTHER DETAILS OF THE CASE

- ▶ “This, however, was not all of Russell’s testimony, and as Counselor Staunton pressed him further, the ‘pastor’ admitted that he knew *nothing* about Latin and Hebrew, and that he had never taken a course in philosophy or systematic theology, much less attended schools of higher learning.”
- ▶ “Bear in mind now that Russell a short time before had sworn he *did* have such knowledge by denying Mr. Ross’s allegations.”
- ▶ “Russell further swore that his wife had not divorced him and that the court had not granted alimony from him, a statement he soon regretted when Counselor Staunton forced him to admit that the court did divorce him from his wife, and did award his wife alimony.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 55-56

# STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES

- ▶ Russell had high regards from his books called “Studies in the Scriptures.
- ▶ From *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1910, page 298
  - ▶ “If the six volumes of the SCRIPTURE STUDIES are practically the Bible, topically arranged with Bible proof texts given, we might no improperly name the volumes THE BIBLE IN ARRANGED FORM. That is to say, they are not mere comments on the Bible, *but they are practically the Bible itself....*”
- ▶ Quote taken from KoC pg. 57

# STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES (ANOTHER QUOTE)

- ▶ Continuing from *The Watchtower*:

- ▶ “Furthermore, not only do we find that *people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible itself*, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the SCRIPTURE STUDIES aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years—if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years *he goes into darkness*. On the other hand, if he had *not read a page of the Bible, as such*, he would be in the light at the end of two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures.”

- ▶ Quote taken from KoC pg. 57

# RUSSELLITE THEOLOGY

- ▶ “Nowhere is Russell’s egotism or boldness better revealed than in that statement. Think of it: According to the “pastor,” it is impossible to understand God’s plan of salvation independent of Russellite theology.”
- ▶ To quote J. J. Ross: “This inspiration has its origin in the pit.” But there is a ray of hope for all those foolish enough to study God’s Word alone.
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 58

# JUDGE JOSEPH FRANKLIN RUTHERFORD

- ▶ “Upon Russell’s death the helm of leadership was manned by Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford, who acquitted himself nobly in the eyes of the Society by attacking the doctrines of “organized religion” with unparalleled vigor, and whose radio talks, phonograph recordings, numerous books, and resounding blasts against Christendom reverberated down the annals of the organization until his death on January 8, 1942, from cancer, at his palatial mansion, “Beth Sarim” or “House of Princes,” in San Diego, California. He was seventy-two.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 58

# JUDGE JOSEPH FRANKLIN RUTHERFORD



# RISE IN POWER AND POPULARITY

- ▶ “Throughout the years following Russell’s death, Rutherford rose in power and popularity among the “Russellites,” and to oppose him was tantamount to questioning the authority of Jehovah himself.”
- ▶ “Rutherford also approached at times the inflated egotism of his predecessor Russell, especially when in his pamphlet *Why Serve Jehovah?* he declared in effect that he was the mouthpiece of Jehovah for this age and that God had designated his words as the expression of divine mandate.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 58

# THE POWER OF A WRITTEN WORK

- ▶ “In comparing Russell and Rutherford it must be noted that the former was a literary pigmy compared to his successor. Russell’s writings were distributed, some fifteen or twenty million copies of them, over a period of sixty years, but Rutherford’s in half that time were many times that amount. The prolific judge wrote over one hundred books and pamphlets, and his works as of 1941 had been translated into eighty languages. Thus, he was the Society’s second great champion who, regardless of his many failings, was truly an unusual man by any standard.”
- ▶ “Russell and Rutherford are the two key figures in the Society’s history, and without them it is doubtful that the organization would ever have come into existence.
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 59

## RECENT HISTORY

- ▶ Don Adams is the current Jehovah Witness president:



# THE GOVERNING BODY

- ▶ “Under current corporate leadership of the Governing Body, the Watchtower publications and meetings have exhibited fewer antagonistic denouncements of the less popular Jehovah’s Witnesses distinctive, such as the rejection of birthday celebrations and higher education.”
- ▶ “The governing Body has also encouraged a strong evangelistic outreach overseas, the source of the vast majority of converts. The governing Body continues the unbroken autocracy of the Society, consistently condemning any dissension, any criticism, and any doubt on the part of rank-and-file members.”
- ▶ All points on this slide are taken from KoC pg. 63