



10 LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

# *Jehovah's Witness Doctrinal Scandals*





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## **Who are Jehovah's Witnesses?**

The Jehovah's Witnesses religion, founded by Charles Taze Russell in 1879, is led by a society of men called the Governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses. This organization, known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society headquartered in New York, produces Watchtower and Awake! magazines that claim to dictate Jehovah God's views on Christian beliefs found in the Bible. Contrary to the historical Christian viewpoint, Jehovah's Witnesses deny many of the fundamental tenants of Christianity and institute their own unique views on the Bible that cause many mainline denominations of Christianity to denounce them as a heretical group. Among these views that are disputed by Jehovah's Witnesses are:

- **The Trinity:** Jehovah's Witnesses deny the personhood of the Holy Spirit and deny the full deity of Jesus Christ, insisting that he is a created angel they call Michael.
- **Salvation by Grace:** Jehovah's Witnesses adhere to a faith + works formula for salvation. While they admit that salvation is by faith, they assert that one must "prove" worthy to receive the "gift" of eternal life by strict obedience to the Watchtower organization.
- **The New Covenant:** Jehovah's Witnesses adhere to a 2-class system of salvation where only a "little flock" of 144,000 people are deemed worthy enough to enter into the New Covenant to live in Heaven while the rest of Jehovah's Witnesses hold to an "earthly hope" of resurrection to life on a paradise earth.
- **Blood Transfusions:** Jehovah's Witnesses clean that God's prohibition to "eating blood" applies to the transfusions of blood into the veins of a person. So they strictly prohibit the use of blood transfusions to sustain life.

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Along with the prior list of well-known beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses that place them at odds with historic Christianity, over the years, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Jehovah's Witnesses has put forth a number of other doctrines deemed as "spiritual food" from Jehovah's God that few Jehovah's Witnesses today would recognize as beneficial. On the contrary, most of the following ideas once taught by the Watchtower are so preposterous that if the average Jehovah's Witness were to read these statements in current Watchtower literature, it would cause them to seriously question the legitimacy of the organization's claims to represent Jehovah God. In light of this organization's claims to be the "faithful and discreet slave" of Matthew 24:45 "through which Jesus is feeding his true followers in this time of the end,"<sup>1</sup> we do well to examine their history of doctrinal scandals and beliefs found in the following list of little-known facts on Jehovah's Witnesses:

### **FACT # 1 The Watchtower taught that God would destroy the churches of Christianity by 1918.**

*"...when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of 'Christianity.' "*

In the late 1890's and early 1900's, the Watchtower published a series of seven books written by Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses. These books were entitled, *Studies in the Scriptures*. The seventh volume in this series called, *The Finished Mystery* prophesied on pages 484-485, "THE CHURCHES TO CEASE TO BE...in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of 'Christianity.'"

### **FACT # 2 The most educated translator of the Watchtower Bible could not pass a simple Biblical Hebrew test he was given in court.**

*Fred Franz, a key translator of the New World Translation claimed he could "read and follow the Bible in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, German, and French." But later in the same court case, he was not able to translate a simple verse from the Bible.*

Most Jehovah's Witnesses today do not know that their New World Translation Bible contains many translation errors. In fact, the Watchtower refuses to reveal who their translators are. Yet, in the *Douglas Walsh Trail* in Scotland, one of their translators admitted his involvement in its translation and when given a simple Biblical Hebrew test in court, he was not able to translate the text that the average first or second-year Hebrew student would be able to translate.

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<sup>1</sup> "Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?", *The Watchtower*, July 2013 Study Edition

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### **FACT # 3 Jehovah's Witnesses used to believe that the white race is superior to other races.**

*The Watchtower once claimed "Though once as black as charcoal, the Rev. Mr. Draper is now white. His people say that his color was changed in answer to prayer."*

Today you can find Jehovah's Witnesses of all races being accepted equally but such has not always been the case. Zion's Watch Tower of October 1st, 1900, page 296, told the story of a black man whose skin color was changed to white in answer to prayer. Also, the July 15th, 1912 issue of Zion's Watch Tower stated: "...it is true the white race exhibits some qualities of superiority over any other.", page 216.

### **FACT # 4 In their early years, some Jehovah's Witnesses worshipped their founder Charles Taze Russell.**

*The Watchtower now admits: "the idea adopted by many was that C.T. Russell himself was the 'faithful and wise servant.' This led some into the snare of creature worship."*

Jesus said: "...it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" Yet, the early literature of the Watchtower Society claimed that Charles Taze Russell was himself "the faithful and wise servant" of Matthew 24:45-51 and this led some Jehovah's Witnesses into the snare of "creature worship" of a human. (See Zion's Watch Tower, April 15, 1904; the Biography of Pastor Russell published in the 1925 edition of The Divine Plan of the Ages, Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 1, page 7, and 1975 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses, page 88).

### **FACT # 5 Charles Russell and early Jehovah's Witnesses based their end-time predictions upon calculations of passages in the Egyptian Great Pyramid of Giza.**

*"For some 35 years, Pastor Russell thought that the Great Pyramid of Gizeh was God's stone witness, corroborating Biblical time periods."*

Jehovah's Witnesses constantly emphasize that we are living in the "last days" of this "system of things", meaning that they believe that the end of the world is coming soon when Jehovah God will destroy earthly governments and setup a "new earth" under a Heavenly Government. Yet, few Jehovah's Witnesses today realize that **1914, a key Watchtower end-time date** that they still believe and promote today **was originally derived from Russell's calculations of passages within the Great Pyramid of Giza.**

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### **FACT # 6 The Watchtower used to teach that the reason why some people have a strong desire to worship God is “due to the shape of the brain.”**

*“Some have a strong desire to worship God... This difference is due to the shape of the brain.”*

One of the strange teachings in early Watchtower literature was the belief that “The drawing power of the Almighty exercises over humanity is in different degrees. Some have a strong desire to worship God, others have a weak desire, and others have no desire at all. This difference is due to the shape of the brain. ...All have unbalanced brains, some in one direction, others in another.” (The Watch Tower, March 15, 1913, page 84.)

### **FACT # 7 The Watchtower used to teach “there is no command in the Scriptures against military service.”**

*While Jehovah's Witnesses today avoid military service, even under the threat of imprisonment for refusing to comply with a draft, the Watchtower taught early Jehovah's Witnesses, “it would be quite right to shoot, not to kill.”*

For years, Jehovah's Witnesses have boasted about their stand against military involvement, claiming that the Bible teaches that Christians should be neutral when it comes to participation in war. Yet, when asked about Jehovah's Witnesses being drafted into the military, Zion's Watch Tower of August 1, 1898, page 231 claimed: “It is proper to compromise when no principle is involved... Notice that there is **no command in the Scriptures against military service**. ...You need not be a good marksman... it would be **quite right to shoot, not to kill.**”

### **FACT # 8 Jehovah's Witnesses used to believe that God governs the universe from the star “Alcyone, the central one of the renowned Pleiadic stars.”**

*Jehovah's Witnesses once taught “Alcyone... seems to be ‘the midnight throne’ in which the whole system of gravitation has its central seat, and from which the Almighty governs his universe.”*

While Jehovah's Witnesses today would reject the notion that God rules the world from a star in our universe, many would be surprised to read this statement made in their third volume of *Studies in the Scriptures*, entitled, *Thy Kingdom Come*, page 327, published in 1891. Yet, when presented with such evidence of these strange beliefs taught in their early years, most Jehovah's

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Witnesses today are taught to disregard these troubling statements with the belief that Jehovah God provides “new light” or new understanding of truth. Yet, early Watchtower literature correctly revealed the flaws of this type of thinking by stating: **“A new view of truth never can contract a former through. ‘New Light’ never extinguishes older ‘Light’ but adds to it. ... So it is with the light of truth; the true increase is by adding to, not substituting one for another.”** (Zion’s Watch Tower, February 1881, page 3).

### **FACT # 9 Jehovah's Witnesses are false prophets according to the Biblical standard.**

*The Warning of Jesus at Matthew 24:23-24 that False Prophets would claim that His presence began when He had not yet come invalidates the Jehovah's Witness claim to be the only true religion because for 50 years they falsely proclaimed Christ's presence began in 1874. They also falsely proclaimed 1914, 1915, 1918, 1925 and 1975 as dates for the end of the world.*

The Biblical standard for prophets is 100% accuracy. The Bible states: “However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. And in case you should say in your heart: **‘How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?’ when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak.** With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him.” — Deuteronomy 18:20-22, *New World Translation*.

### **FACT # 10 The Watchtower claims to receive information directly from God through His angels.**

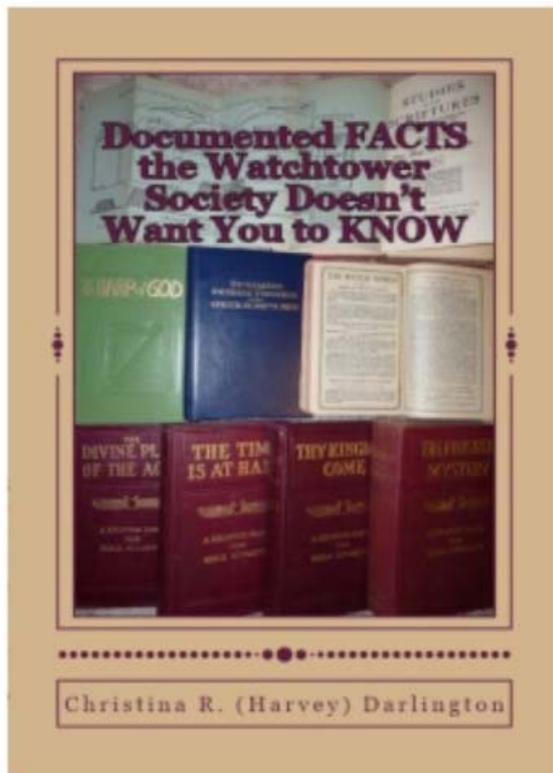
*The Watchtower claims, “That same holy spirit and angelic direction still affect the preaching activities of Christian ministers... No doubt they first hear the instruction which the Lord issues to his remnant and then these invisible messengers pass such instruction on to the remnant”.*

Today when Jehovah's Witnesses are confronted with their false prophecies and strange teachings in their history, they excuse these away with the argument that “Jehovah's Witnesses do not claim to be inspired prophets. ...Matters on which corrections of viewpoint have been needed have been relatively minor when compared with the vital Bible truths that they have discerned and publicized.” (Reasoning from the Scriptures, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1985, page 136-137). Yet this excuse doesn't hold up to examination as **the Watchtower has claimed to receive its information directly from God, the same way inspired prophets do and**

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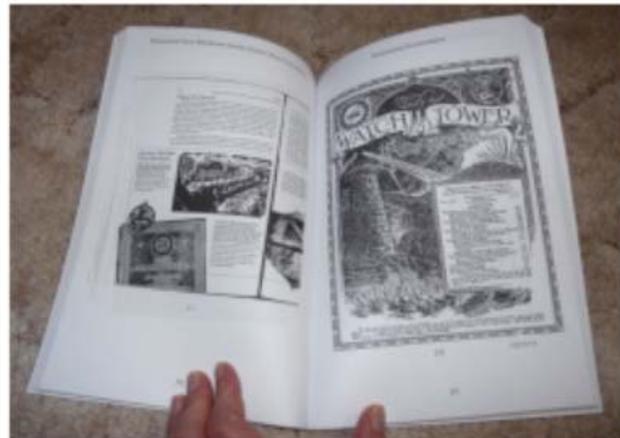
they have said that they are the “modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel” whose words were “inspired” by God (See “*The Nations Shall Know that I am Jehovah,*” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1985, page 56-59).

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