

### ***What did the early Bible Students believe would happen in 1914?***

For decades Watchtower literature has claimed that Russell and his followers were expecting Christ to begin ruling in heaven in 1914, and believed this year would mark the start of the “time of the end.” (w66 2/15 p. 103; g73 22/1 p. 8; w98 9/15 p. 15; w13 2/15 p. 18) If you want to know what Russell truly believed, these are his own words from his book *Studies In the Scriptures*, volume 2, page 101 (published in 1906):

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A. D. 1878, and that the “battle of the great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:14.), which will end in A. D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership, is already commenced.

### ***Who was Ray Franz, and why was he disfellowshipped?***

Ray Franz (nephew of Fred Franz) was a member of the Governing Body between 1971 and 1980, and was a key contributor to books like *Aid to Bible Understanding*. He resigned from the Governing Body in 1980 and was disfellowshipped a year later—not for apostasy, but for sharing a meal with a disassociated person. His book *Crisis of Conscience* is a must-read for any Witness interested in Watchtower history. Written in a calm and reasoned tone, it contains documented evidence of a number of scandalous and far-reaching decisions taken by Watchtower leaders during the sixties and seventies.

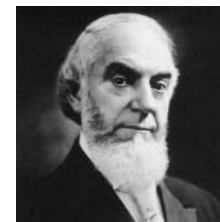
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*All information is based on thorough research in the Society’s own publications.  
Corrections are welcome if you are able to find any errors.*

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# **10 Questions for JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES to Consider**



**1 Thessalonians 5:21 ♦ Acts 17:11**

### ***Why do Jehovah's Witnesses have such a poor record on child abuse?***

In June 2012 a California court awarded multi-million dollar damages against Watchtower for its role in the abuse of Candace Conti by a congregation member when she was nine years old. More lawsuits have followed since then, as publicized in the media. Watchtower has a serious problem with child abuse because it insists that (1) child abuse accusations shouldn't *always* be reported to police, and (2) if there are not two witnesses to the abuse, or two successive victims, then elders should leave the matter "in Jehovah's hands."

### ***Why was the Watch Tower Society affiliated with the United Nations for nine years?***

Documented evidence proves that Watchtower became affiliated with the UN as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in 1992, and didn't withdraw its association until 2001—the same year the *Guardian* newspaper exposed its membership. For all this period, Watchtower continued to teach that the UN is part of the wild beast spoken of in Revelation with which false religion forms an idolatrous relationship.

### ***What is the biblical justification for having a secret elder's manual?***

In both the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures there is no record of there being any secret documents available only to priests or Jesus' apostles. All laws and procedures were made known to all of God's people. So why do Jehovah's Witnesses have secret books and secret letters for elders that ordinary Witnesses aren't allowed to read?

### ***On what basis were the Bible Students selected as God's organization in 1919?***

According to current Watchtower teachings, Jesus inspected the Bible Students between 1914 and 1919, at which time he selected them to become his chosen earthly organization. Few Witnesses realize that during the same period Watchtower publications (or "spiritual food") contained information that was (1) racist, (2) fiercely political, and (3) wildly fanciful regarding bible prophecy. For example, *The Finished Mystery* taught that the traveling distance between where it was written and where it would be printed held prophetic significance, and that Charles Taze Russell was the "seventh angel" mentioned in Revelation.

### ***What is the Scriptural justification for believing in "new light?"***

Watchtower argues that it can freely revise past teachings and admit these as wrong because "the light is getting brighter." This idea is based on Proverbs 4:18, which has nothing to do with interpreting the Bible, but merely describes the "path of the righteous ones" as being more advantageous than the "path of the wicked ones." In fact, we challenge you to find ***a single scripture*** in the Bible that supports the idea that God "who cannot lie" would knowingly divulge false information to his servants as a "make-weight" until truth is provided years later. —Titus 1:2.

### ***Is the good news being preached in "all the inhabited earth?" (Matthew 24:14)***

Jehovah's Witnesses are present in hundreds of countries. However, it cannot be said that they are preaching in "all the inhabited earth." This is because a number of Muslim and Communist countries (the so-called "30 other lands") have very few Witnesses, if any. At least three countries have no Witnesses at all. Do you think Jehovah would kill 2 billion people (a third of Earth's population in these lands) simply because they were born in the wrong part of the world?

### ***Is there a scriptural reason for family members to be shunned?***

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 forms the basis of Watchtower's procedure for disfellowshipping wrongdoers from the congregation. But Watchtower goes further in extending this discipline even within the family. Jesus, on the other hand, gave the parable of the prodigal son (who was welcomed by his father despite not showing true repentance), and told the Pharisees he wanted "mercy, and not sacrifice." (Matthew 9:13) Close examination of various scriptures shows that Watchtower is enforcing a needlessly harsh and unloving interpretation of Paul's teachings.

### ***How is the Governing Body any different from the Pope?***

The July 15, 2013 Watchtower magazine taught a new understanding as to the identity of the "faithful and discreet slave." The Governing Body now claims that *they* are this "slave," and they alone are responsible for "taking the lead" over Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. Jehovah's Witnesses must obey these men as though their instructions come from Jesus himself. Ask yourself, how does this arrangement differ from the Pope's claim to authority as God's earthly representative?