

The Watchtower

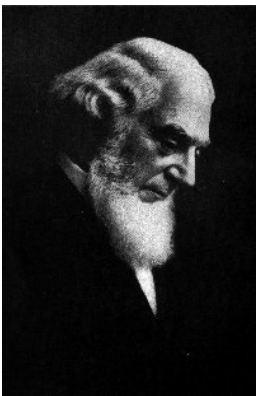
Can you trust them?



My name is Colin Webster, I'm a local Christian church minister. I have been concerned that international students in Beeston are being approached by Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's) in the streets and being asked to join Bible study groups run by them. I have studied a lot of the teaching of the Watchtower organisation to which JW's belong and I have serious concerns about the organisation they place their trust in. I will share with you some of the things I have uncovered from the JW's **Watchtower**

literature which will help you judge for yourself whether the Watchtower organisation can be trusted or not. I write this out of concern for you and for Jehovah's Witnesses' who follow the Watchtowers teaching.

Charles Taze Russell the founder of the Watchtower



Charles Taze Russell founded the Watchtower in 1879. He claimed that churches were wrong in their teaching of the Bible and that God had abandoned the church and was looking for a 'faithful servant' who would act as his messenger to tell people the truth – the Watchtower claim to be that faithful servant, but are they trustworthy? I don't think so, for the following reasons:

Russell claimed to be a scholar of Greek (a language in which the New Testament was written), but I discovered that he wasn't! There is a well documented court case in Hamilton Ontario in March 1913 when, under oath, Russell was asked "Do you know the Greek alphabet?" Russell replied "Oh, yes". When asked to read some Greek letters and names, he was unable to and then admitted that he was **not** familiar with the Greek language and had never taken a course in theology - in fact he was unable to read even the letters of the Greek alphabet himself! So Charles Russell the Watchtower founder **lied** in a court of law whilst under oath and was not qualified in the Greek language of the Bible!

Russell, the Watchtower founder predicts the invisible presence of Jesus in 1874 In his magazine called *Zion's Watchtower* Taze Russell said that *Jesus Christ's invisible presence on the earth began on October **1874** and would continue until **1914** when the Gentile nations would be destroyed!*



This monument to Russell, in the shape of a pyramid, was erected by the Watchtower

But from where did Russell get this date of 1874? Well, I discovered that Russell believed that **Egypt's Great Pyramid** was designed and placed there by God as his second great witness next to the Bible. It would be an instrument to reveal God's great plan of the ages to mankind. But this claim of Russell's is totally un-Biblical and JW's do not want you to know that their founder once believed this.

What the Bible does clearly teach is that there is only **one return** which Christ will make and his return will be **visible to all people**, the last book of the Bible tells us that "every eye will see him" (Rev 1:7) So the Watchtower is wrong on this invisible presence of Christ.

As I have said above, the Watchtower's memorial to their founder is a pyramid which has the symbol of a cross! Yet the cross is actually a forbidden symbol to JW's who think it is a form of idolatry! You would have thought they would have removed it from their founder's memorial, but they haven't! The picture to the right clearly shows a cross in a crown! So why do JW's condemn the symbol of the cross when their own founder's memorial still has it? This seems hypocritical to me!



Russell the Watchtower founder predicted the end of the world in 1914

In January 15th 1892 Taze Russell predicted the end of the world and the overthrow of the Church one hour after October 1914? (*Studies in the Scriptures Vol II, Watchtower WTBTS pg 101*). This is what the Watchtower wrote:

'The date for the closing "battle" on October 1914 was clearly marked in scripture.'
(*The Watchtower WTBTS reprints pg 1355*).

Russell was completely wrong in his prediction. Indeed when Russell was challenged about his predictions for the end of the world by his own JW people, he simply said these words: "We see no reason for changing the figures - nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that **the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble.**" (*Zion's Watchtower of July 15th 1894*).

When the First World War broke out in 1914 this completely demolished Russell's argument that 1914 was the **end** of the 'times of trouble!' Indeed, more people

have died in wars in the 20th Century than in all the centuries that have ever gone before (so how could this be the '*end of the time of trouble!*')! I can only conclude that this was another **false prophecy!** Yet Russell said the date of 1914 was clearly marked in the Bible...but it isn't; if it was so clear then why hasn't anyone seen it before?

When 1914 came and went without the destruction of the world wide church , Russell simply changed his views and produced a revised date of early 1915 for the end of the world, and then later he had to change *that* to 1918. This is what Taze Russell wrote in the Watchtower's 1917 edition:

"...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."
(*The Finished Mystery* page 485 published by the Watchtower).

It is obvious that 1918 has come and gone and the church has **not** been '*destroyed wholesale*' as Russell predicted, nor its members by the millions – how therefore can Russell, the founder of the Watchtower, claim to be hearing from God if he has got it wrong time and time again?

Sadly, JW's are not allowed to question the final authority of the Watchtower they just had to accept that the Watchtower was right even though we know they were very wrong. It is concerning that Russell claimed that God had given him the light to see this prophecy!

When Russell died a new leader of the Watchtower was appointed, his name was Joseph Rutherford. Surely Rutherford would not make false claims...or would he?

Joseph Rutherford claims that 1925 is the year the dead are raised to life! Joseph Rutherford took over the leadership of the Watchtower after Russell's death. But he too came out with false prophecies which did not come true. Here is what Rutherford claimed:

"...since other Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favour, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order of things on earth". (*"Millions Now Living Will Never Die"* page 88 Watchtower publication).

I discovered that Rutherford was so convinced that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be raised to life in 1925 that he bought a very expensive house called *Beth-Sarime* in

San Diego for these resurrected people to live in! The deeds to the house had a clause which permitted Rutherford to live in the house until Abraham came to claim it. *(Rutherford was interviewed about this by the "San Diego newspaper", Sunday, March 15, 1930 and you can read online parts of the interview which support this fact).*

Were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and others raised to life in 1925 as the Watchtower said ? – No! But the Watchtower claimed they would be. I was very disturbed to find out that when this false prophecy did not come true, the Watchtower organisation simply changed its views yet again saying that '*they don't believe that now*'. That's a very easy way of avoiding the issue don't you think?

I have consistently found that if the Watchtower organisation changes its mind on something then all JW's *must* change their minds too, because it is the Watchtower who tells Jehovah's Witnesses *how* and *what* they ought to think - and not to question their authority. I also happen to know that if people do question them enough, they can be challenged by the elders of the **Kingdom Hall** and be dis-fellowshipped - this is an extremely harsh action where JW's cut off all communication and friendship with a former JW, a cruel and unloving practice. I wonder how many JW's were dis-fellowshipped in the past for daring to question the false claims I have outlined in this leaflet? Yet the Bible clearly says we **are** to 'test all things'! (1Thes 5:21)

Millions of JW's are entrusting their eternal destination to an organisation which has been proven time and again from their own Watchtower literature to have got things seriously wrong. If they are so wrong, so often, then do you really want to trust them now with **your** eternal destiny? Don't take the risk!

Thankfully some former JW's have found the freedom, joy, and deep love of knowing Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and found his true followers in Bible believing Churches here and worldwide. If you would like to investigate the Bible and the claims of Jesus Christ, then I am more than happy to recommend churches of different denominations (no simply our own) which believe and explain the Bible clearly. This leaflet comes with concern and love

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You can contact me on colin@cornerstoneuk.org.uk
Or visit our church website: www.cornerstoneuk.org.uk which provides you with some helpful information on the Christian faith.

Please use www.youtube.co.uk to see talks from former JW's who have found the Watchtower and Kingdom Hall to be full of false teaching and deception.