

Concern

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Topics and News from First & Last Ministries

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT OF THE WATCHTOWER

EVERY so often the Watch Tower Society prints a major article which attempts to explain away its past mistakes.

In the Awake magazine of March 22, 1993, the Society tried to reassure its members that while it had predicted incorrect dates for the Battle of Armageddon this did not mean that it was a false prophet.

So it comes as no surprise to find the latest issue of the Watchtower magazine also includes two articles which show how God used "flashes of light" to gradually reveal His spiritual truths.

And as if to answer CONCERN'S article on JW's celebrating Christmas (see last issue), the Society admits, on page 19 of the Watchtower, May 15,

By
Paul Bacon

1995, that while it did celebrate Christmas up until 1926 as soon as Jehovah revealed to them that Jesus could not have been born on December 25th they immediately stopped.

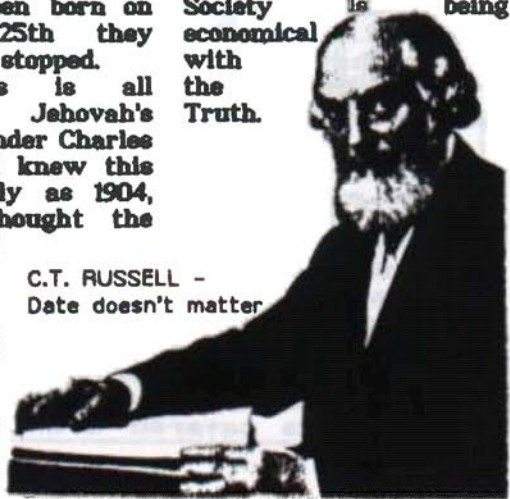
But this is all nonsense. Jehovah's Witness founder Charles Taze Russell knew this fact as early as 1904, but still thought the event should be celebrated.

He said, in the Watchtower magazine of December 1, 1904, "...it is

not necessary to quibble about the date. We may as well join with the civilized world in celebrating the grand event on the day which the majority celebrate—Christmas Day."

So it seems, that once again the Watch Tower Society is being economical with the Truth.

C.T. RUSSELL -
Date doesn't matter



WELCOME

Dear Reader,

THE closer we examine Watchtower theology and compare its teachings with scripture, the greater the difference we see between them.

The next time the Witnesses call on you (if they are not avoiding your home) why not ask them just what they are Witnesses to?

Are they witnesses to the great omnipresence of Jehovah? Well, not the Jehovah of the Watchtower. While the God of the Bible is present throughout the universe, the Watchtower has a "God" who is restricted to being in one place at one time.

Are they Witnesses of the resurrection of Christ? No! For Jehovah's Witnesses have been told that Jesus didn't really rise at all - only a "spirit creature" came out of the tomb. Ask any JW what happened to the body of Jesus and they won't have a

clue.

Can the Witness testify to a salvation received solely by grace, and know for certain he is saved because of Christ's substitutionary death? Does he know anything of God's Spirit bearing witness with his own spirit that he is a child of God? (Rom 8:16)

How does all this make us feel? We who have truly tasted that the Lord is gracious ought to be moved to pray that we might be able to do something about confronting the JW with the Truth the next time God gives us the opportunity.

Too many evangelicals adopt a negative attitude towards those who have been deceived by the cults.

Let us resolve to be different.

Lee Kerr & Bill Bacon,
First & Last Ministries.

FIRST & LAST
MINISTRIES INC.

CONCERN readers Colin Cunningham and Martin Barrow have produced a number of new tracts aimed at getting the Jehovah's Witnesses to examine the Watch Tower Society.

Subjects covered are the

READERS' NEEDS

Society's teaching on the 144,000, Christmas and the Theocratic War Strategy (lying to non-JWs).

If you would like to order some or find out more details then call them on 01782 208284 or 01203 341243.

MINISTRY REPORT

John M Scanlon, from Dublin, tells of one way he has found to rid households of Watch Tower publications.

I HAVE known Jesus as my Lord and Saviour now for over four years and I feel that God wants me to work at helping the lost in the Watchtower to see the truth in a kind, loving and friendly way.

Recently I had this idea of putting a notice in shops and from door to door asking people to send me all the Watch Tower books and magazines that they have laying around the house and, in return, I would send them a copy of the New Testament.

I don't know if anyone else is doing this, but if not maybe it is something they could consider doing.

It's just about coming together and I will let you know how it's going. As I am unemployed at the moment I will have the time to do it, and I will have to save the money to pay for the New Testaments and printing.

I pray that your readers will do the same, as there are tons of WT publications in peoples' houses where the JW's have called.

If people exchange them for a New Testament then at least they will have the Truth in their homes.

And any books that come in could be distributed to Christians who are studying the Watchtower's false doctrines and trying to help reach those people with the Gospel of Christ.

WANTED

WATCHTOWER
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES
IN EXCHANGE FOR
A NEW TESTAMENT
CONTACT:

YOUR NAME AND
ADDRESS
OR TELEPHONE
YOUR NUMBER

Example of John's advert



MINISTRY HELPLINES

FOR help and advice on starting
your own ministry then contact:

Christian Postcard Ministry Fellowship
(01473) 311647

Reachout Trust
0181-337 9716

Charis
PO Box 8, Inverness IV3 5LD

WHERE is the GREAT CROWD ?

By Robert Stewart



N the Foreword of "The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures", published by the Watch Tower Society in 1965, appears the following statement.

"To each major word we have assigned one meaning and have held to that meaning as far as the context permitted. This, indeed, has imposed a restriction upon our diction, yet it makes for good cross-reference work and for a more reliable comparison of related texts or verses. At the same time, in order to bring out the richness and variety of the language of the inspired writers, we have avoided the rendering of two or more Greek words by the same English word, for this hides the distinction in shade of meaning between the several words thus rendered." (p.10).

However, when it comes to the translation of the New Testament Greek words used in connection with the Temple ["naos" and "hieron"], the Watch Tower Society contradicts its own declared policy.

The Greek word "naos" is defined by W E Vine as "the sanctuary in the Temple, into which only the priests could lawfully enter", that is to say the inner sanctuary containing the Holy and Most Holy.

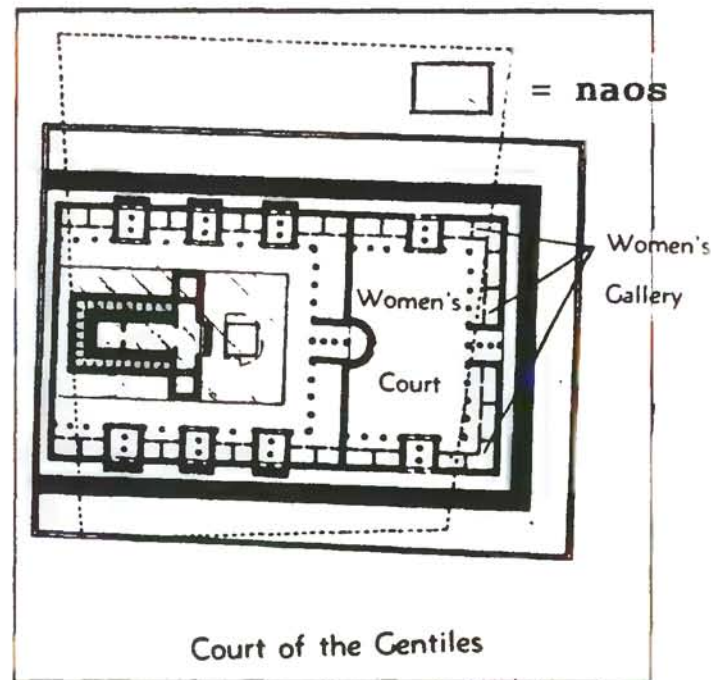
The Greek word "hieron" is defined by W E Vine as "the entire building with its precincts, or some part thereof, as distinct from the naos, the inner sanctuary", that is to say the entire Temple complex.

Throughout the New Testament, the New World Translation consistently translates the Greek word "hieron" as "temple" but, despite its declared policy, translates the Greek word "naos" variously as "temple", "sanctuary" or "temple [sanctuary]", thus concealing the distinction in shade of meaning.

This is particularly relevant in the Revelation where the great multitude (great crowd) are seen in the "naos" (sanctuary) of God which is clearly stated by John to be in heaven (Rev. 11:19; 14-17).

The list below highlights the sixteen occurrences of "naos" in the Revelation, together with the English translation found in (a) Young's Literal Translation of the Holy Bible, (b) the word-for-word rendering of The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures (KIT) and (c) the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (NWT).

Rev.	Young	KIT	NWT
3:12	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple
7:15	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple
11:1	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple [Sanctuary]
11:2	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple [Sanctuary]
11:19	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple [Sanctuary]
11:19	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple [Sanctuary]
14:15	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple [Sanctuary]
14:17	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple [Sanctuary]
15:5	sanctuary	divine habitation	sanctuary
15:6	sanctuary	divine habitation	sanctuary
15:8	sanctuary	divine habitation	sanctuary
15:8	sanctuary	divine habitation	sanctuary
16:1	sanctuary	divine habitation	sanctuary
16:17	sanctuary	divine habitation	sanctuary
21:22	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple
21:22	sanctuary	divine habitation	temple



Ground plan of Herod's temple



COMING SOON

Inspector Berean

Returns

In another case



THE TESTIMONY OF JEANETTE FYFE

PART ONE

BROUGHT up as a Jehovah's Witness Jeanette Fyfe only knew the Watch Tower Society's version of the Gospel.

After years of working for her salvation this is her testimony of how God revealed to her His free-gift of grace.

Ever since I was a child I have always thought the statement found at 1 Thessalonians 5:21 very important for anyone claiming to have any knowledge of God and who seeks to pass that knowledge on to other people.

So many people claim to know the truth and yet their basic beliefs are different.

I had my first introduction to the Jehovah's Witnesses when I was only a few months old, being taken along to the local Kingdom Hall, with my parents, three times a week.

One meeting was a book study which lasted an hour, another was a combined study/talk which lasted two hours, the last was another combined meeting where we had a talk and were trained in witnessing from door-to-door, being regularly marked on how well we performed!

Taking into account the amount of time spent studying for these meetings, plus the time spent on door-to-door work our religion was a full-time commitment.

DIFFERENT

By the time I was seven or eight, I knew the Witnesses' beliefs and could talk to people myself as we went

Make Sure Of All THINGS

from house to house.

I didn't realise quite how different we were until I went to the local Grammar school.

While my friends celebrated Christmas, Birthdays, Easter and had a wide range of other activities, we Witnesses had to keep away from these things - even taking part in school assembly was forbidden.

The only thing we did celebrate was wedding anniversaries and once a year we would have the "Memorial Service", which was the equivalent to communion.

We were not allowed to take the bread and wine since these were reserved for 144,000 faithful Witnesses who had been specially chosen to go to heaven with Jesus Christ.

We had no such hope but looked forward, instead, to everlasting life on a paradise earth, if we remained faithful to Jehovah.

Jehovah's Witness youths were not then encouraged to stay on at school.



Qualifications would not be necessary since the Watch Tower organisation had predicted the end of this world in 1975.

That was the year I left school and I spent my holidays doing "pioneer" work, knocking on doors for 25 hours a week attempting to warn people of God's impending judgement.

While still at school, I once got into conversation with a couple of girls who belonged to a "Christian Union".

I spent some time speaking with them, trying to convince them that the "Witness" doctrines were right, but I did not succeed.

Instead, I firmly believe that those girls, by their prayers, were responsible for causing me to question the teachings of the Watchtower organisation.

TRUST

When 1975 came and went, I attempted to discuss this "failure" of prophecy with my elders only to be told that the organisation had "miscalculated".

It was years later that I discovered this was only one of many such errors.

I found it hard to trust what anyone was saying. I knew the Watchtower Society had let me down, and I rebelled badly.

I left home at 16 travelling all over the country trying to find a place to "settle" and feel at peace.



More of
Jeanette's
testimony
in the next
issue of
CONCERN.

Could You Write For

Concern

DO you feel you could write an article for a future issue of CONCERN?

We are currently seeking articles on various Watchtower subjects, including news on the local congregations in your area.

Perhaps you run a particular ministry and have hints and advice for others who could possibly start a similar outreach service in their area.

Or maybe you could share your testimony of God's wonderful saving grace with our readers.

If so we would like to hear from you.

No writing experience is necessary as we can advise and help you put an article together.

There is no limit to the length of article, but longer ones may have to be used in two or more editions.

Any article should be written or typed out and be double spaced between lines.

If you would like to submit an article please phone or write to the address on the back page, just in case somebody else is preparing a similar article.

Plans for JW Holiday Camp Are Halted



RESIDENTS fighting plans to turn an Essex caravan site into a retreat for Jehovah's Witnesses have won the first round.

Councillors went against their officers' recommendation in January and refused planning permission for the development on the Grange Farm site in Chigwell.

Ruth Montefiore, secretary of the Chigwell Park Residents Association, said: "We are very pleased with the council's decision.

"We feel the site should be kept for the use of the local community. The Jehovah's Witnesses would have had people coming from all over south east England. It would change the whole of the village."

Planning officers for Epping Forest District Council had advised the Development Committee that the retreat would be an appropriate use for Green Belt land and would provide benefits such as stopping the summer intrusion of caravans and tents, and introducing nature trails.

The applicants, Essex and North Thames Jehovah's Witnesses, insisted their proposal would keep more than 14 hectares of meadowlands and nature conservation areas, all of which would be open to the public 365 days a year.

Special Report^o

Mrs Montefiore said the residents' association was now hoping to persuade the Grange Farm Trustees to buy back the site from present owners Boldshire Plc and was looking for alternative development suggestions.

She said: "We would like to reopen it for sports and communal use. We want to hear from people with ideas and businesses who could help with funding."

Watchtower
Watch

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