



MARCH 1, 2011

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

THE
"GOOD NEWS
OF THE KINGDOM"

WHAT IS IT?

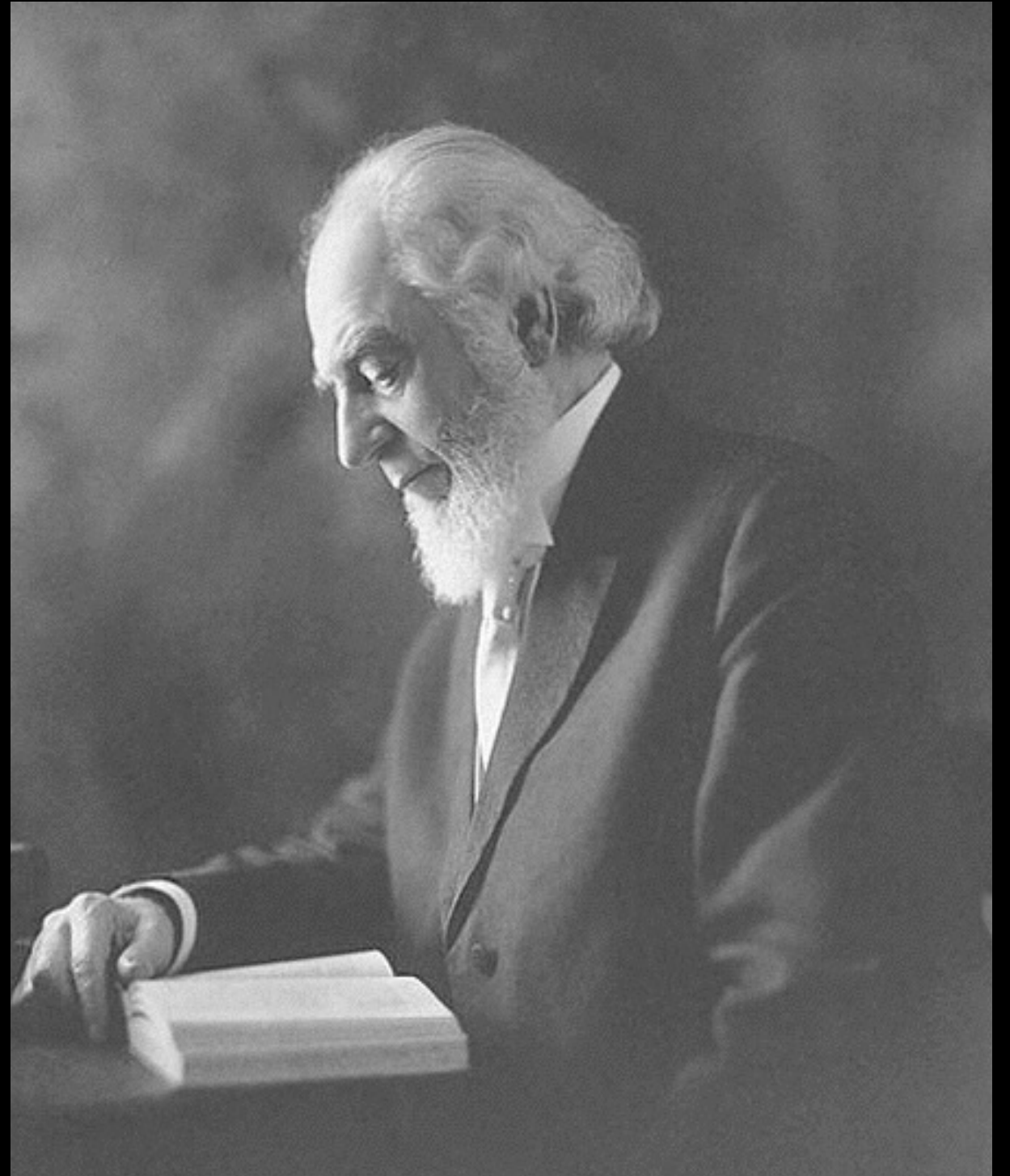
Jehovah's Witnesses: The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

I. Introduction

A. History

1879 *Zion's
Watchtower
magazine*

1886 *Studies in
the Scriptures*

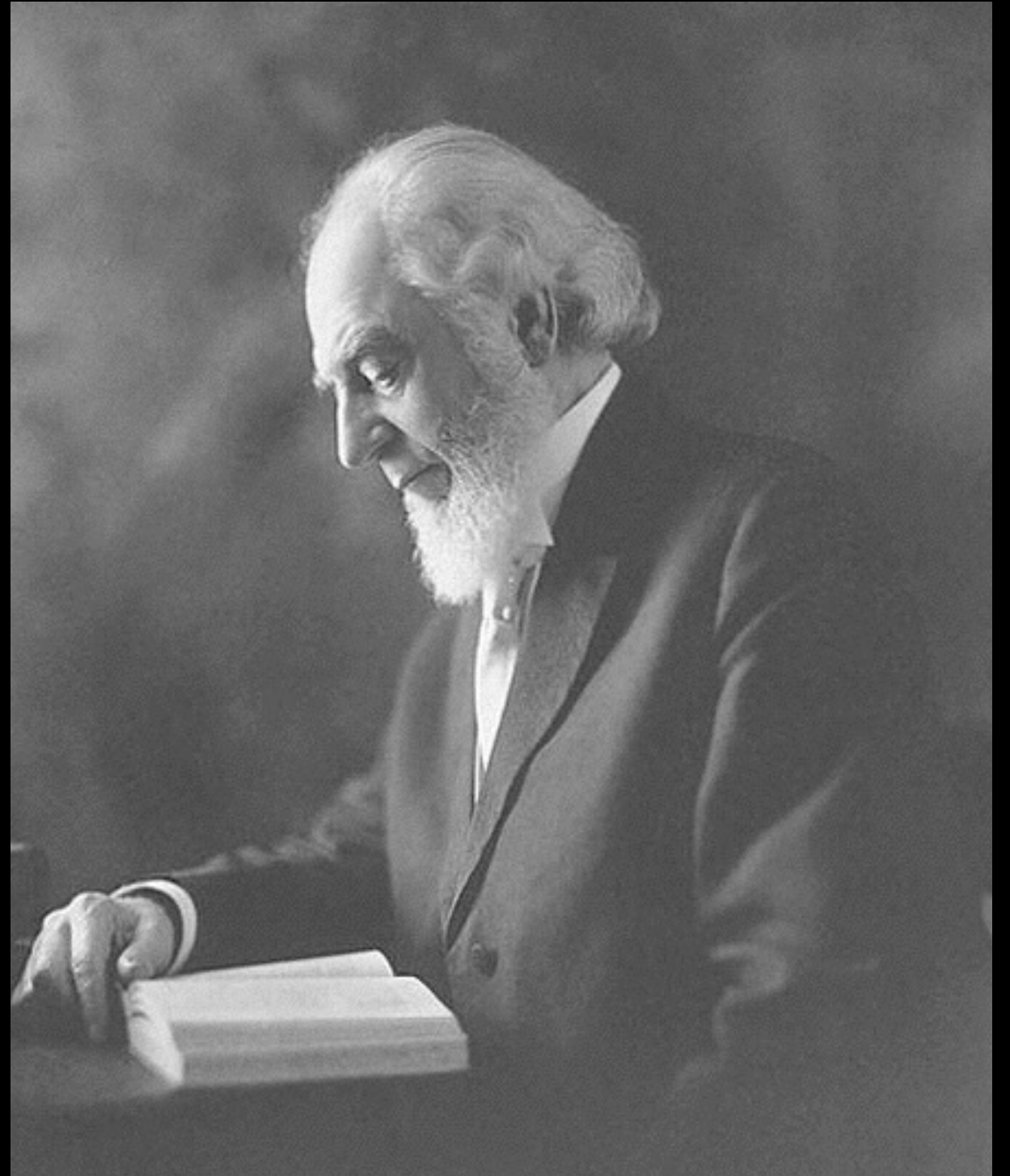


Charles Taze
Russell

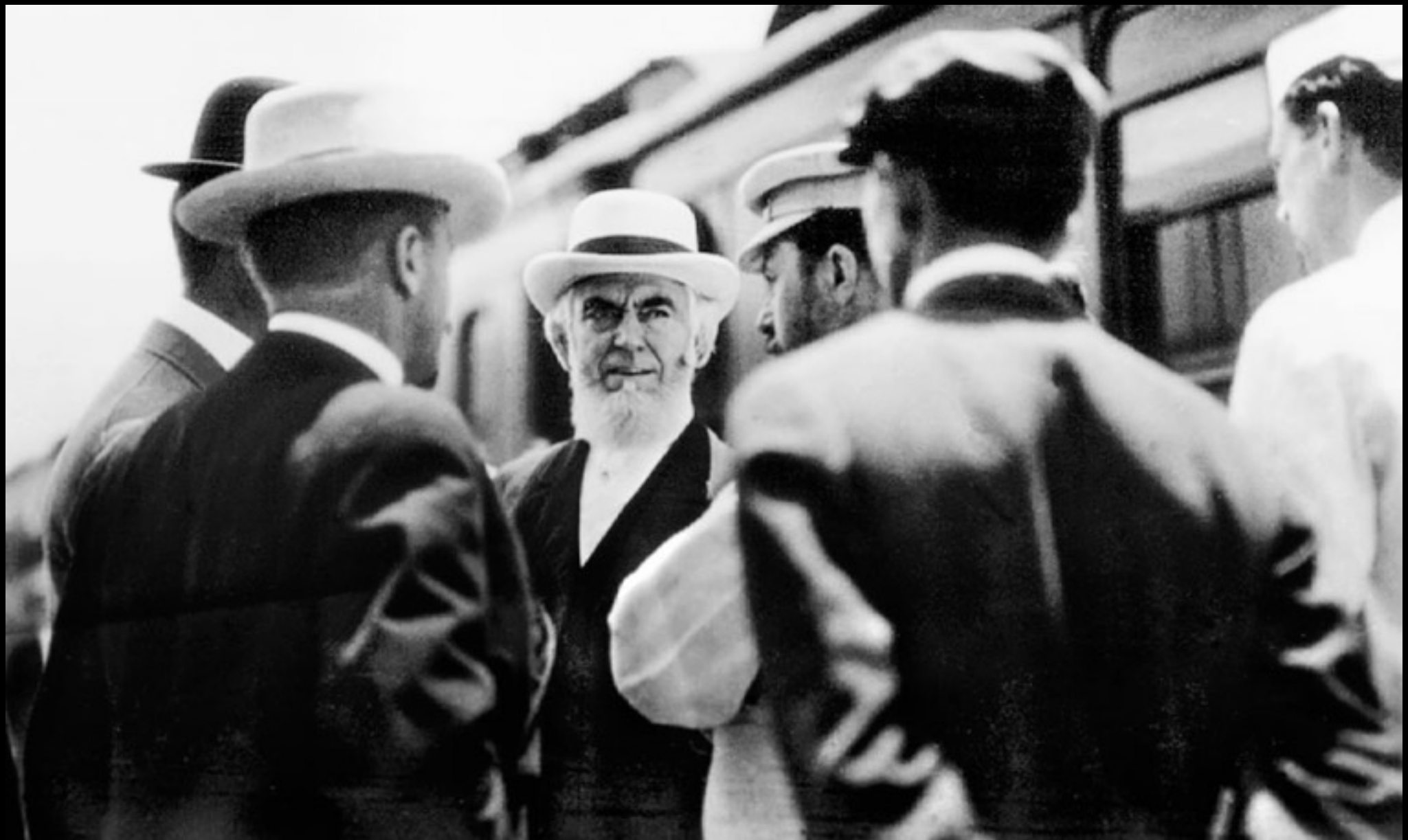
A. History

Established
Headquarters in
Brooklyn, NY

1908



**Charles Taze
Russell**



Prophesied that the Kingdom of God on earth would be fully established by 1914.

Adjusted the date to 1918, when the 1914 prophecy failed. He died in 1916

A. History

President of the
Watchtower from
1916-1942

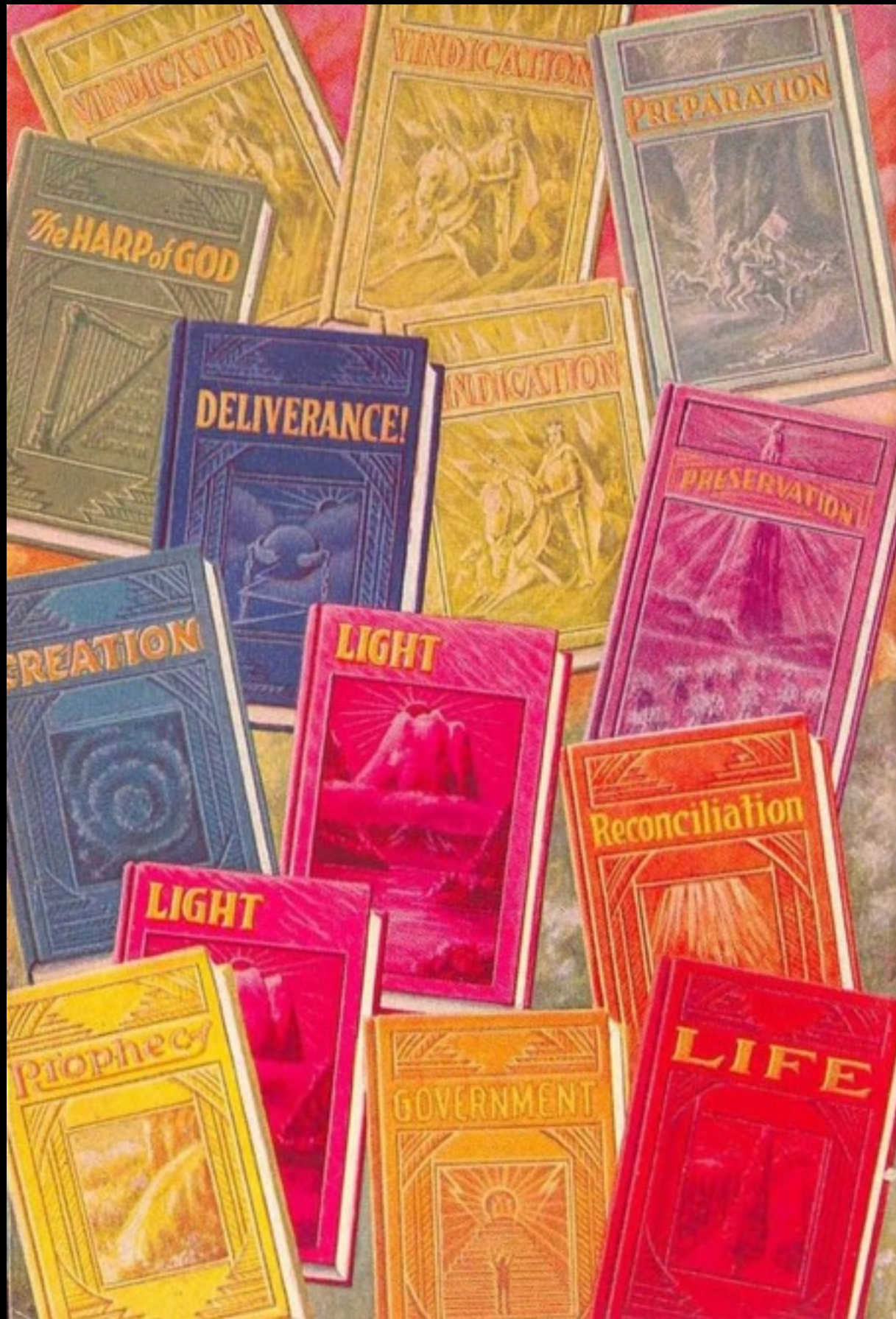
Changed the name
to “Jehovah’s Witnesses”
(Is. 43:10)



“Judge”
Rutherford

The Witnesses Go Door to Door





“Judge”
Rutherford

The Message of the Hour



Millions Now Living Will Never Die!

*You may
be one of
them!*

Do these things appeal to you? Unending human life, perpetual health; lasting and satisfying political adjustments; comprehensive economic arrangements; no more fear of the landlord, the doctor, the sheriff, the employer, of evil men and angels, of vicious animals, of dependent old age; no more blindness, lameness, deafness, dumbness; no more bald heads, glass eyes, false teeth, or wooden legs; no more sickness, disease, or pestilence; no more ignorance or superstition; no more sorrow; no more tears!

No, we are not trifling: these things and more are absolutely sure, because promised by the Word of God. The world has already ended, in the Bible and only proper

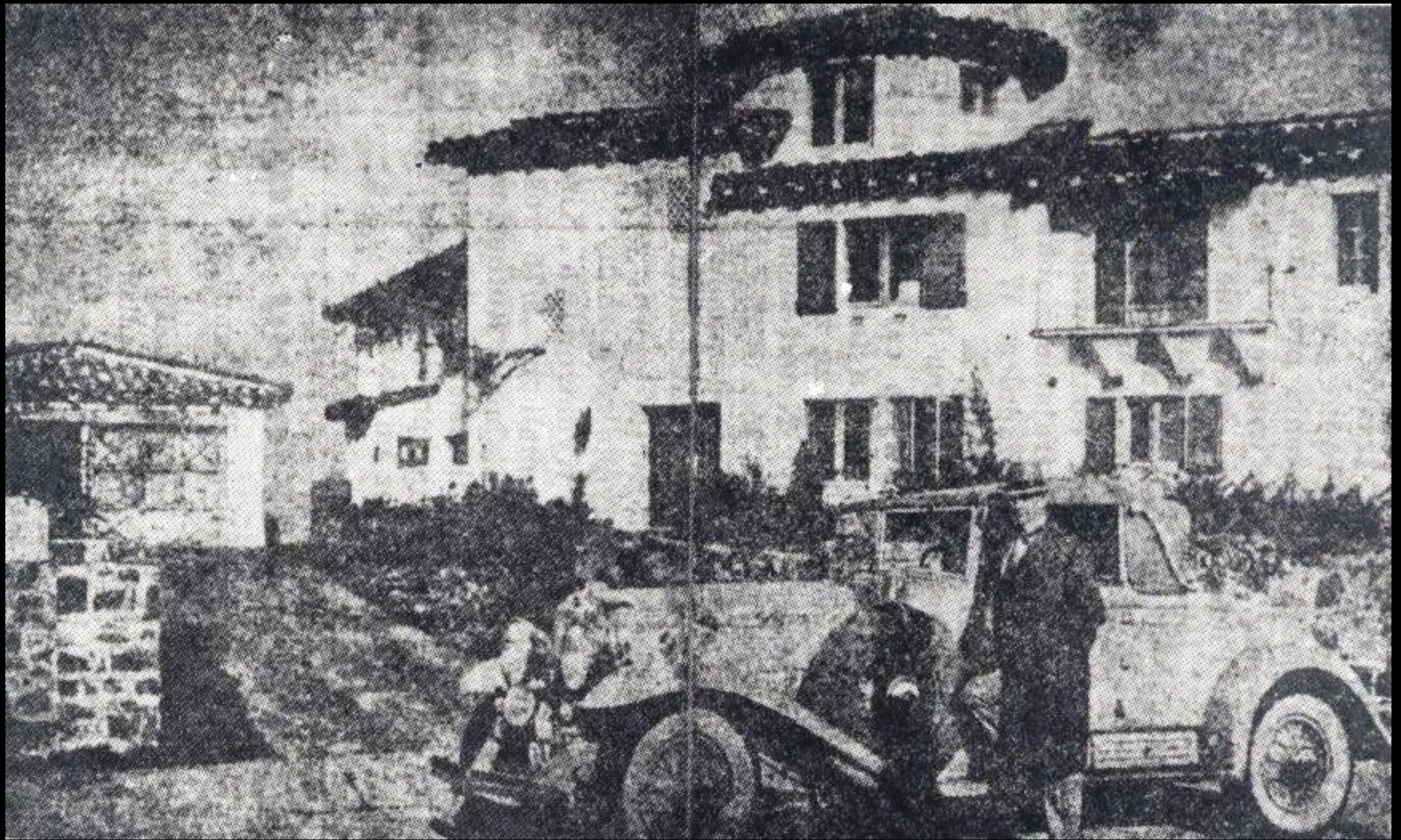
This topic, in lecture form, has been recently treated by Judge Rutherford before gatherings



A. History

“Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old . . . to the condition of human perfection.”

Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920



Beth Sarim

Home for the “Ancient Worthies”



Beth Sarim

Home for the “Ancient Worthies”

A. History

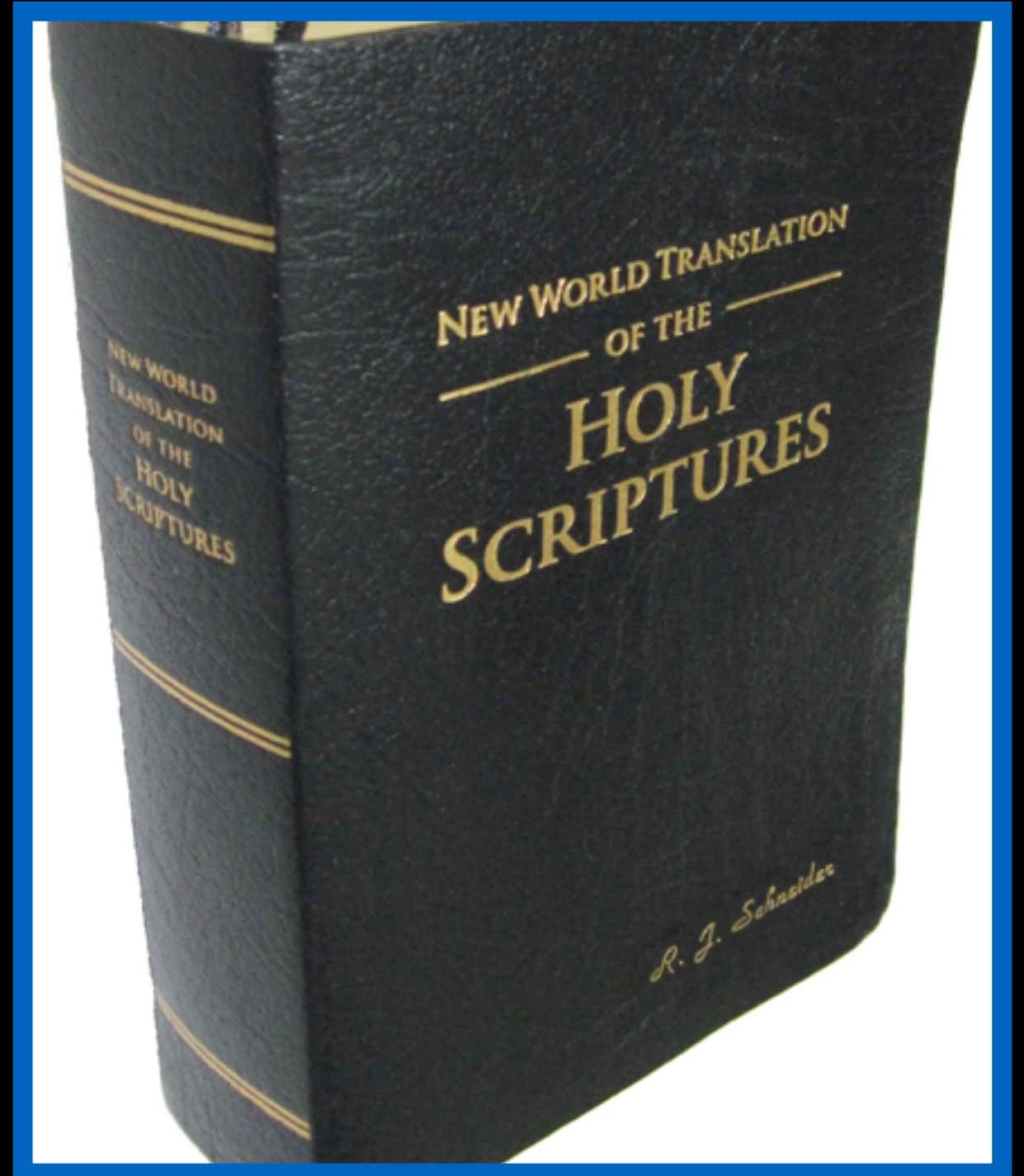
- President from 1942-1977
- Insisted members be trained in door-to-door witnessing



Nathan H.
Knorr

The “New World Translation” of the Bible

First published
in 1961



A. History

- The Watchtower Society prophesied that the end of the world would come in 1975.



Nathan H.
Knorr

B. Current Membership

Over 8.2
million
“Publishers”
worldwide



C. View of the Christian Church

- Very few true Christians on the earth following the apostles.
- Great apostasy and introduction of pagan beliefs.
- “Christendom”

C. View of the Christian Church

“When did false Christians begin to disown Christ? Very shortly after Jesus’ death. He himself warned that Satan would quickly oversow “weeds” or false Christians among the “fine seed” or genuine Christians...The apostles of Jesus Christ acted as a restraint against this apostasy for as long as they lived. After the death of the apostles, however, religious leaders ... turned more and more people away from the truths taught by Jesus and his apostles.”

(The Watchtower, March 1, 2006)

D. Peculiarities

“Healthful pattern of words” using NWT terminology. Avoid words commonly used by Christianity.

Tendency toward allegorical interpretation of Scripture, especially the Old Testament.

Teaching is usually topical; verses used as “proof texts”

II. Three Keys to Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses.

II. Three Keys

A. Luke 12:32 and John 10:16

The Two Class System

“Have no fear, **little flock**, because your Father has approved of giving you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32

“And I have **other sheep**, which are not of this fold...” John 10:16

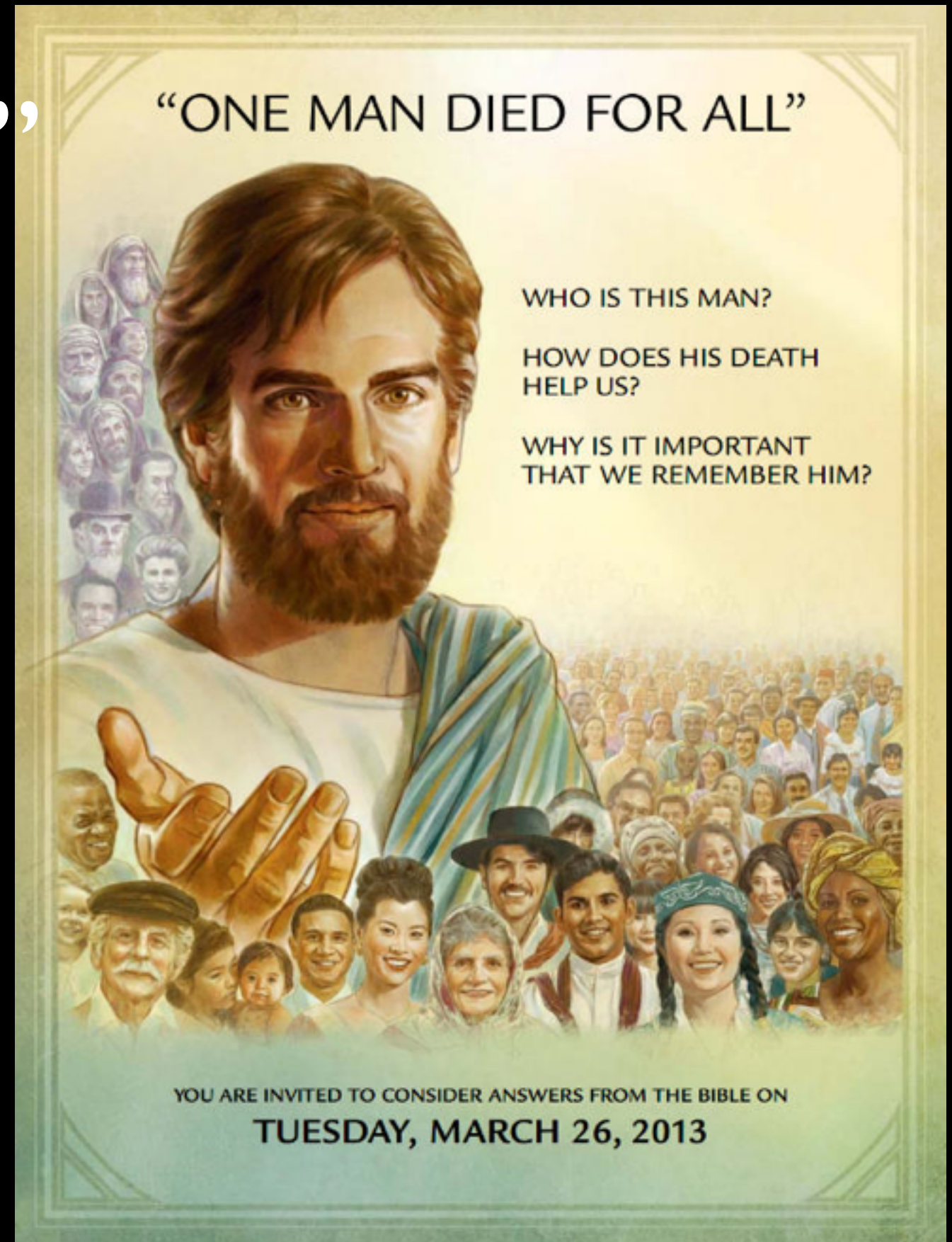
II. Three Keys

Class #1: “Little Flock”

- “The faithful and discreet slave.”
- 144,000 (Rev. 7:4)
- The anointed
- “Heavenly Hope”
- Included in the New Covenant—
partake of the elements at the
“Memorial”

“The Memorial”

Once a year on the
“14th of Nissan”



The “Lord’s Evening Meal”



During “The Memorial”

II. Three Keys

Class #2: “Other Sheep”

- The “Great Crowd” (Rev. 7:4)
- Under the direction of the “the anointed”
- No assurance of salvation
- Earthly hope; “Paradise on earth”
- Cannot partake at “The Memorial”

II. Three Keys

“...[T]he correct identity of the great crowd was revealed to God’s anointed servants on earth in 1935.”

Watchtower, 2007

II. Three Keys

B. Matthew 24:45-47

The “faithful and discreet slave”

“Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings.”

II. Three Keys

B. Matthew 24:45-47

The “faithful and discreet slave”

“Who really is the faithful and discreet slave who will be appointed over his household to give food to the household at the proper time? Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings.”

The “Anointed Class”
of the Watchtower

slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings.”

II. Three Keys

B. Matthew 24:45-47

The “faithful and discreet slave”

“Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food

at the proper time?
Is he the slave if his master
is not coming?
I tell you, he is not,
but will be beaten and
doing so.

**All other members of
the Jehovah's Witnesses**

appoint him over all his belongings.”

II. Three Keys

B. Matthew 24:45-47

The “faithful and discreet slave”

“Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to **give them their food at the proper time?** Happy is that

Provide *all* interpretation of the Bible, formulate doctrine, and define proper behavior.

II. Three Keys

B. Matthew 24:45-47

Jesus found the Watchtower to be the faithful “slave” in 1919, four years after he returned “invisibly” in 1914.

at the proper time? Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings.”

II. Three Keys

B. Matthew 24:45-47

The “faithful and discreet slave”

Jesus appointed the anointed to be in charge of Jehovah’s “spirit-led, visible organization”.

at the proper time? Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, **He will appoint him over all his belongings.”**

The Governing Body of the Watchtower



“The Faithful and Discreet Slave”

"[A mature christian] does not advocate or insist on personal opinions or harbor private ideas when it comes to Bible understanding. Rather, he has complete confidence in the truth as it is revealed by Jehovah God through his Son, Jesus Christ, and "the faithful and discreet slave."

Watchtower, August 1, 2001

“Apostates may claim to worship Jehovah and to believe the Bible, *but they reject the visible part of His organization...* We avoid them by steering clear of their reasonings---whether in person, in printed form, or on the Internet.”

The Watchtower, February 15, 2004

II. Three Keys

DISFELLOWSHIPPING AND SHUNNING

A powerful tool to keep the JW
membership in line!

What if we have a relative or close friend who is dis-fellowshipped? Now our loyalty is on the line, not to that person, but to God. Jehovah is watching us to see whether we will abide by his command not to have contact with anyone who is disfellowshipped.

II. Three Keys

C. John 17:16; 18:36

“No Part of this World”

“They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world.” John 17:16

“My kingdom is no part of this world.” John 18:36

II. Three Keys

“How can we identify the true religion? ... True worshipers are no part of the world. When on trial before the Roman rule Pilate, Jesus said: “My kingdom is no part of this world.” (Jn 18:36) No matter what country they live in, Jesus’ true followers are subjects of his heavenly Kingdom and thus maintain strict neutrality in the world’s political affairs. They take no part in its conflicts.”

What does the Bible Really Teach?” 2005

II. Three Keys

“*No part*” of this world
means JW’s ...

- No part of government
- No holidays except “The Memorial”
- No birthday celebrations
- No connection at all with any church
- No blood transfusions



III. Beliefs

III. Beliefs

A. God

- Doctrine of the Trinity rejected
- Emphasis on God's name, Jehovah
- “Jehovah” inserted into New Testament

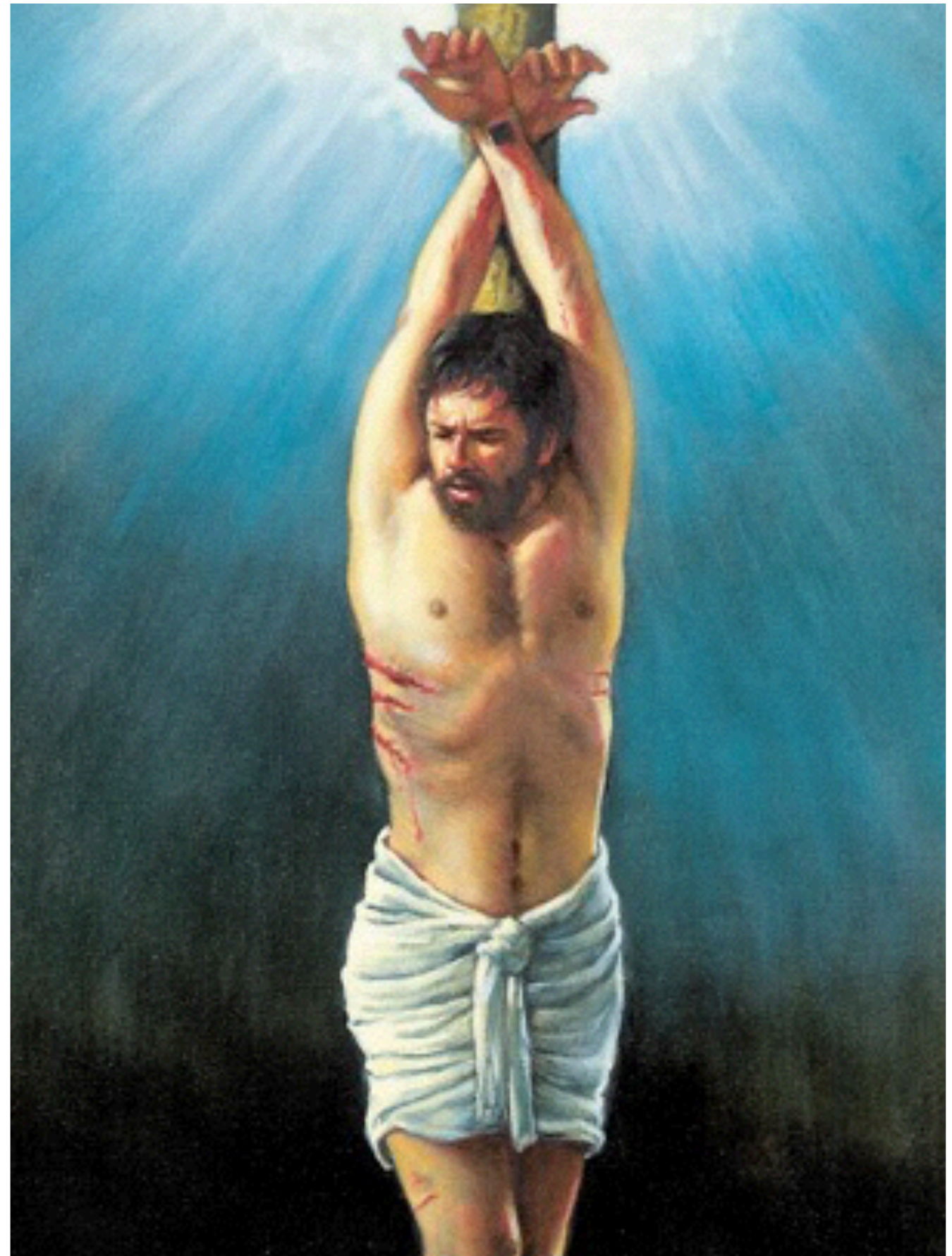
III. Beliefs

B. Jesus Christ

- “First Creation”; “a god”
- Michael the Archangel
- Used by Jehovah to create everything
- Sent by Jehovah to provide a ransom for sins

Rather than “cross”,
the NWT uses
“torture stake”

Rather than
“crucify”, the NWT
translates “impaled”



III. Beliefs

B. Jesus Christ

- After Jesus died, God resurrected him “as a mighty spirit person.”
- His “presence” (2nd coming) and kingdom rule began in 1914.

III. Beliefs

- His “presence” (2nd coming) and kingdom rule began in 1914.



III. Beliefs

C. The Holy Spirit

- The holy spirit is not a person.
- The holy spirit is God's "power in action, his active force. God sends out his spirit by projecting his energy to any place to accomplish his will."

III. Beliefs

D. Death and Hell

- Death: Human beings do not have “souls” that continue to exist after death, even those who have “exercised faith” in Jesus Christ.
- Hell: There is no eternal, conscious punishment; those who are condemned by God will be annihilated.

III. Beliefs

E. Salvation

- The anointed class are declared righteous
- The “other sheep” class are “provisionally saved”

“[Belief] involves taking in accurate knowledge of God’s purposes and his way of salvation...This places the Christian in a saved condition...

The Watchtower, December 15, 1989

“...but he must now persevere in doing God’s will and continue to adhere to all of God’s requirements for the rest of his life. Only then will he be saved to eternal life.”

The Watchtower, December 15, 1989

“Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it.”

The Watchtower, February 15, 1983

III. Beliefs

E. The End Times



May 15, 1984

The Watchtower

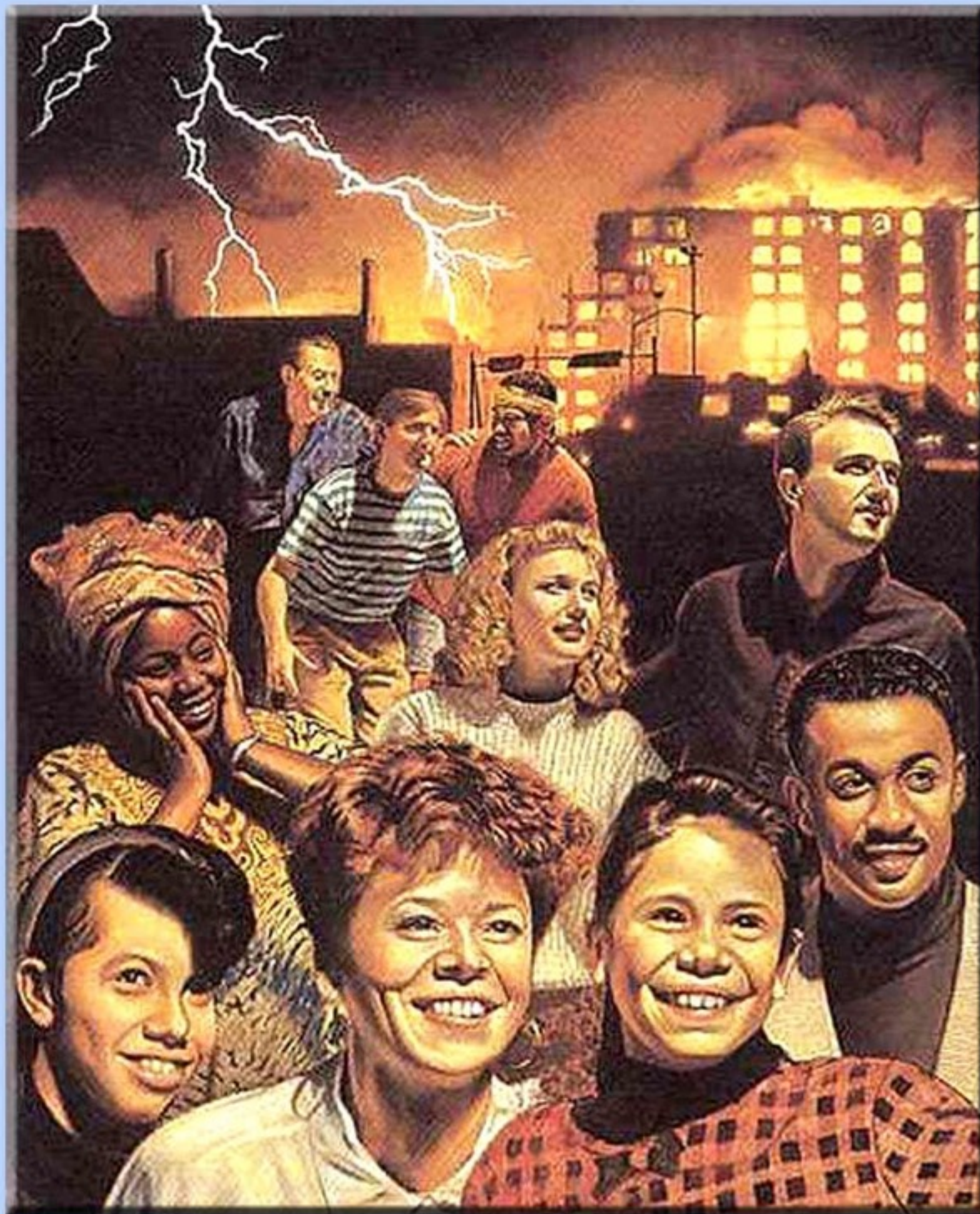
Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom



1914

**The Generation That
Will Not Pass Away**









7908

Kingdom Hall
of
Jehovah's Witnesses

The New World
Translation: “Restoring”
the Divine Name

“Jehovah”

237 times in
NWT New
Testament

22 τουτο δε ολον γεγονεν ινα
This but whole has happened in order that

πληρωθη το ρηθεν υπο Κυριου
might be fulfilled the (thing) spoken by Lord

δια του προφητου λεγοντος 23 Ιδου
through the prophet saying Look!

η παρθενος εν γαστρι εξει και
The virgin in belly will have and

τεξεται υιον και καλεσουσιν το
will give birth to son, and they will call the

ονομα αυτου Εμμανουηλ ο εστιν
name of him Immanuel; which is

μεθερμηνευομενον Μεθ ημων ο θεος.
being translated With us the God.

24 Εγερθεις δε ο Ιωσηφ απο
Having been awakened but the Joseph from

του υπνου ποιησεν ως προσεταξεν αυτω ο
the sleep did as directed to him the

αγγελος Κυριου και παρελαβεν την
angel of Lord and he took along the

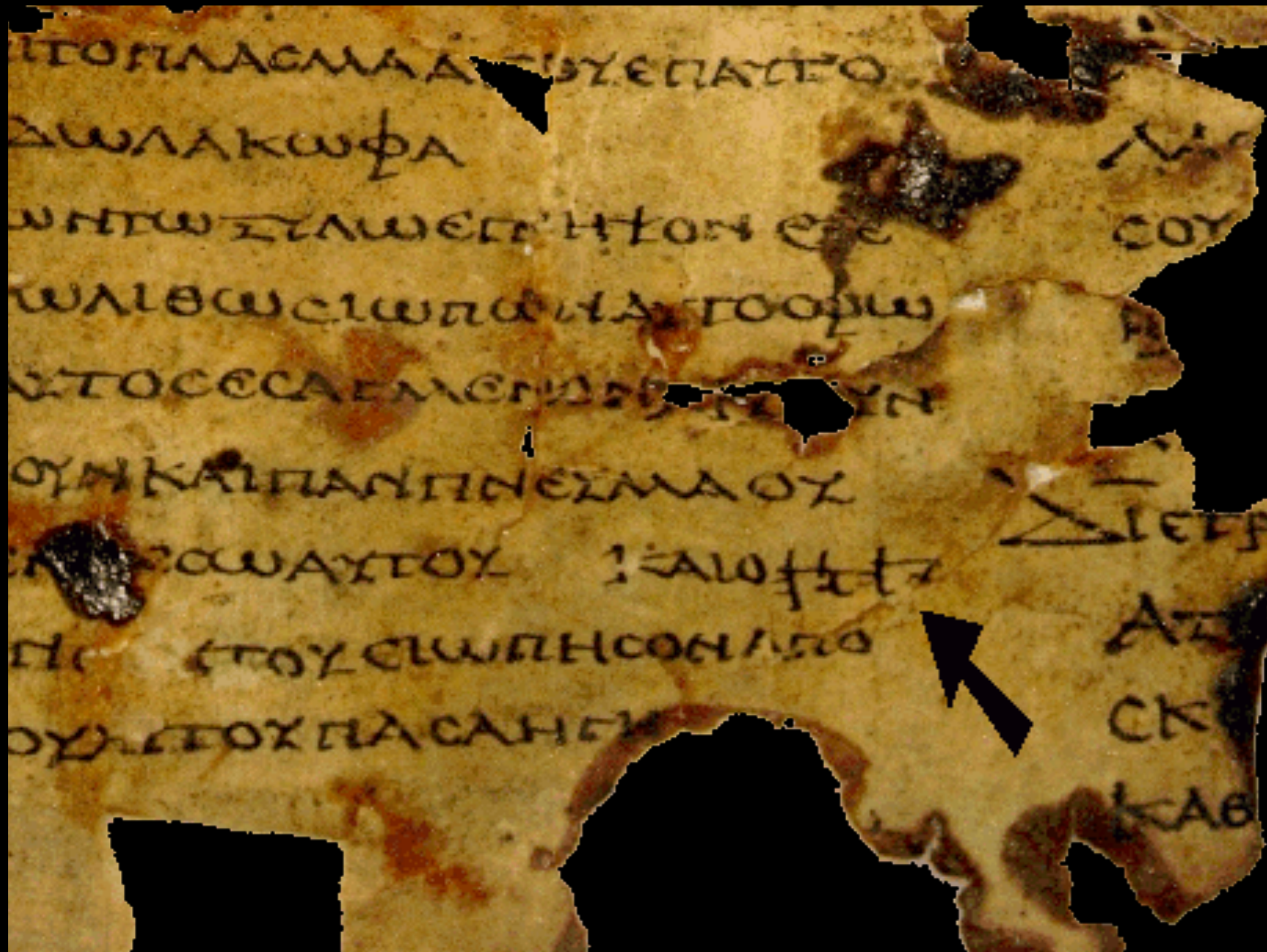
γυναικα αυτου
woman of him;

22 All this actually came about for that to be fulfilled which was spoken by Jehovah* 23 "Look! The virgin will become pregnant and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Immanuel," which means, when translated, "With Us Is God."

24 Then Joseph woke up from his sleep and did as the angel of Jehovah* had directed him, and he took his wife home.

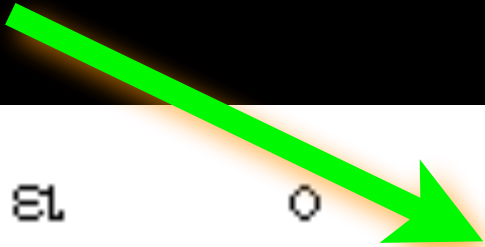
22* Jehovah, J1-4, 7-14, 16-18, 22-24, 26; Lord, ÅB.

24* Jehovah, J1-4, 7-14, 16-18, 22-24; Lord, ÅB.



The Tetragrammaton
some Septuagint MSS

11 Ἀξίος εἰ ὁ κυριος και ο θεος ημων
Worthy you are, the Lord and the God of us,



λαβειν την δοξαν και την τιμην και την δυναμιν,
to receive the glory and the honor and the power,

ὅτι συ εκτισας τα παντα και δια
because you created the all (things) and through

το θελημα σου ησαν και εκτισθησαν
the will of you they were and they were created

Revelation 4:11, KIT

11 "You are worthy, Jehovah,* even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created." (NWT)

**11* Jehovah, J^{7,8,13,14,16,18}; Lord,
Aleph A V_g Sy^h**

“J” SOURCES

- J⁷ *Christian Greek Scriptures in Hebrew*; Elias Hutter. 1599
- J⁸ *Christian Greek Scriptures in Hebrew*; William Robertson. 1661
- J¹³ *Christian Greek Scriptures in Hebrew*; A. McCaul and others. 1838
- J¹⁴ *Christian Greek Scriptures in Hebrew*; John Christian Reichardt. 1846
- J¹⁶ *Christian Greek Scriptures in Hebrew*; John Christian Reichardt and Joachim H. R. Blesenthal. 1866
- J¹⁸ *Christian Greek Scriptures in Hebrew*; Isaac Salkinson. 1885

Does it matter?