

Foreword

ACCORDING to the annual report for the year 2004 in the February 1, 2005 *Watchtower*, 6.5 million Jehovah's Witnesses spent almost 1.3 billion hours distributing hundreds of millions of pieces of literature while going door-to-door and conducting 6 million Bible studies in 235 lands. All that activity resulted in 16.7 million people attending their annual "Memorial of Christ's Death."

But, as will be shown, all this effort has been in support of an illusion—an illusionary concept that has become the 'foundation cornerstone' of the Watchtower religion upon which everything else rests; a concept that dominates and controls the thinking of those who write the literature as well as the Witnesses who read it.

In order to understand this illusionary concept and how it affects Jehovah's Witnesses it is *not* necessary to compare the teachings of the Bible (or other religions) with the teachings of the Watchtower Society because...

It isn't what Jehovah's Witnesses believe about the Bible that has made them captives of a concept. It is what they believe about the Watchtower Society that has done it.

But there are two things that *are* necessary to compare...

1. *The Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 (the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology)¹ with...*
2. *Watchtower history as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47.*

The reason why this comparison is necessary is because the concept holding Jehovah's Witnesses captive is based upon the outcome of it. If the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47 *and the specific event mentioned in verse 47* did in fact happen in Watchtower history, then everyone on earth may want to consider leaving their present religion and joining this one. But if it didn't happen, then Jehovah's Witnesses may want to consider leaving it. This single Scripture/Event is *that* important to the existence of their religion today.

Those who make this comparison *before* they get baptized by the Watchtower Society don't get baptized. Most who make it *after* they got baptized re-

¹ Although Witnesses don't think of it this way, Matthew 24:45-47 is the most important Scripture in Watchtower theology because their religion stands or falls on what did or did not happen in connection with it.

alize that they made a mistake.² For when this comparison is made, at least three things become evident...

1. God and Jesus Christ have never had anything to do with the Watchtower organization.
2. Its Governing Body has not told Jehovah's Witnesses the whole truth about the organization's history, especially as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47.
3. Their repeated warnings about former Witnesses, whom they like to call "apostates," turns out to be Watchtower propaganda that does not protect Jehovah's Witnesses from being misled. Rather, it prevents them from noticing that they are already being misled—not by those they *distrust* the most *outside* their organization but by those they *trust* the most *inside* their organization.³

An example of the above point #3 appears on page 11 of the March 1, 2002 *Watchtower*⁴ where what is said is obviously not designed to encourage Witnesses to examine anything for themselves. Rather, they demonize those who try to encourage Witnesses to check up on what their Governing body has told about the organization's history by labeling them 'apostate servants of Satan.' Their propaganda then goes like this...

If we entertain the false reasoning of such ones, our confidence in Jehovah's Word of truth, the Bible, can be weakened and our faith can die.

While it is true that some Witnesses who "entertain" what so-called "apostates" have to say *do* lose confidence in the Bible and their faith in God *does* die, it is not because of "the false reasoning of such ones." Rather, it is because of coming to realize that the false reasoning and the false history was coming from their religious leaders who claimed to represent "the only true God" in "the only true religion."

Others simply lose confidence in the Watchtower Society. And what dies in the process is their faith in its Governing Body. Then they begin looking for an alternative way to worship God.⁵

This brings up the question, How is it possible for such men to be anything but completely truthful with those who depend on them for all of their "direc-

² See Chapter 5, "The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made"

³ See Chapter 9, "Watchtower Propaganda Keeps Them Captive"

⁴ See also pages 17 and 18 of the September 15, 2002 *Watchtower*.

⁵ See page 136, "An Alternative to 'God's Organization.'"

tion and guidance in matters of worship”?⁶ The first answer that may come to mind is that the Society’s religious leaders are no different than the religious leaders of Jesus’ day whom he said were ‘hypocrites, serpents, and offspring of vipers.’⁷ But there is something that the apostle Paul said that might be an alternative explanation that doesn’t necessarily require these men to be hypocrites, serpents or offspring of vipers...

***Because they did not accept the love of the truth
...that is why God lets an operation of error go to them that
they may get to believing the lie.*** – 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

Only God knows if this is how He has been dealing with these men, but if this is what is going on it would explain a lot. Once they “get to believing the lie” then the lie becomes the truth in their minds. And once that happens it doesn’t matter what the Bible says or what went on in the Society’s history. *Nothing will be allowed to disprove the lie.* Anything that is contrary to it will either be ignored, as is done throughout their *Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom* book, or else it will be manipulated to force it to apparently fit the lie, as is also done throughout their *Proclaimers* book. And yet *they will do these things while thinking they are being candid in their efforts to uphold the truth.*⁸ Apparently this is one of the strange ways the human mind is capable of working when “God let’s an operation of error go to them that they may get to believing the lie.”⁹

And so, what is the particular lie that God has let the Governing Body get to believe? It is the concept or premise upon which their religion rests. A concept so powerful that upholding *it* rather than upholding *the truth* is what influences and ultimately controls the decision-making process of not only the men of the Governing Body but all the rest of Jehovah’s Witnesses as well.

See “The Concept”

⁶ March 15, 1998 *Watchtower*, p. 21

⁷ Matthew chapter 23

⁸ In the *Foreword* to their *Proclaimers* book they say they “have endeavored to be objective and present a candid history.” But they cannot be truly candid because their history does not agree with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. See Chapter 3.

⁹ *Captives of a Concept* leans toward this explanation as to why the men of the Governing Body think and act the way they do. This explanation doesn’t excuse them when they mislead Jehovah’s Witnesses about the organization’s history, but it does offer a possible explanation why they are able to do it without apparently bothering themselves. Several examples in this study will demonstrate their inability to always tell the truth which would seem to indicate that they have not yet accepted the *love* of the truth. - See Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do.”