



## WHO IS "THE CHRIST" ACCORDING TO THE WATCHTOWER SOCIETY?

Jesus warned that false Christs would appear and deceive even the elect (Matt.24:24) Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Watchtower Society, viewed Christ in heaven **not** as an individual, but as a **group** making up the "Christ". Russell believed Christ was the Head while Russell and his followers were the literal body of Jesus - **thus all together forming** "The Christ". He believed that while Jesus poured out His blood, the "body" sacrificed **by works** which included distributing literature. Russell stated that they **did not** need Jesus as a mediator because they were the mediator class of the new covenant. (What Pastor Russell Said, page 98).

Russell said, "He imputed His own merit to us and made us part of His own sacrifice. He was at the same time making us part of that which He is to give to God for the sins of the whole world, at the close of this Age when the Church, His Body, is complete and glorified together with Him" (ibid., page 534. Russell was the first of **four** Watchtower presidents who viewed themselves as "The Christ".

Russell believed the ransom would be fully paid after they had passed beyond the veil, and then the Head and Body would seal the New Covenant and put into effect the operation on behalf of Adam and all his race. Only then would the ransoming be finished (ibid.535). Something else Russell believed was that he and his followers were "God manifested in the flesh." (The Divine Plan of the Ages, Vol I, Millennial Dawn, 1905, 1896, page 87).

Russell was convinced that he was the only one who understood God's "Divine Plan" which included the belief that paradise on earth would begin in 1914. However, he died in 1916 and his prophecy did not come true.

The second president of the Watchtower Society, Joseph Franklin Rutherford, embraced the belief that Russell's followers were the "Christ". He said, "The Christ is composed of Jesus, the Head, and the church, which is 'his body' and being composed finally of 144,000 members. It is not unusual for the Scriptures to refer to The Christ collectively, or as one...That this thought was in the mind of the apostle Paul is clearly proved by his words when he refers to all anointed Christians as 'one body,' meaning the Christ." (Watchtower, 1941, page 155)

This strange teaching was continued by the next Watchtower president, Nathan Homer Knorr, in the Watchtower March 15, 1954, page 174: "Clearly, the loaf pictures not Jesus' fleshly body but his body members, the Christian

congregation."

Since the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses average age is eighty years old, no doubt they still hold to this teaching, but it has become more discreet. Notice how they describe the "seed" in *REVELATION, 1988*, page 11 & 12, making reference to the 144,000: "They become a secondary part of the seed, Christ Jesus being the primary part." We need to ask ourselves, "**Where** in the Bible does it say that "the seed" is divided into parts?"

Galatians 3:16 tells us that there is only one Seed of Abraham, and that is Christ Jesus. It does not say Jesus is the primary part, and the 144,000 a secondary part. Jesus is the **whole** part! Galatians 3:29 tells us if we belong to Christ, then we become Abraham's seed, but this is only through adoption. If Galatians 3:29 applies only to 144,000, and only THEY belong to Christ, then *to whom* do the "great crowd" belong? In reality, they belong to the W.T. authors, and we wonder how many authors are of "other crowd."

Watchtower authors tell Jehovah's Witnesses that they must associate with the "remnant" to receive benefits "under" the new covenant. They expound on the fact that only the "remnant" are in the new covenant and Jesus is mediator **only for them**. (Watchtower -Feb. 15, 1966, page 109-123). The Governing Body repeated this teaching in the (Watchtower April 1, 1979, page 31 under heading Questions From Readers:

"Is Jesus the "mediator" only for anointed Christians?... (after a lengthy explanation, the Watchtower stated: "So in this strict biblical sense, Jesus is only called the "mediator" for anointed Christians... The "great crowd" of "other sheep" that is forming today is not in that new covenant. However, by their associating with the "little flock" of those yet in that covenant they come under the benefits that flow from that new covenant..."

We need to ask all sincere Jehovah's Witnesses, part of the "great crowd," "How can you get forgiveness for your sins, if you embrace this Watchtower teaching? Jesus instituted the new covenant in Matthew 26:27,28 as follows: "And He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them saying, 'Drink from it **all of you**, for this is My blood of the covenant which is to be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." Where in the Bible does it **ever** say that one group is "in" the new covenant and another group is "under" it?

Notice how the Watchtower explains the "other sheep's" benefits: "Hence this 'great crowd' are not in the new covenant, yet they receive early benefits from it because of their associating at present with the remnant of spiritual Israel who are "ministers of a new covenant." (Watchtower February 15, 1966, page 116).

As you can see, the Watchtower authors teach that the "great crowd" must associate with the "remnant" for the hope of salvation. In other words, they must

work for them!

If Jehovah's Witnesses could see the well hidden teaching that the "remnant" believe they are "The Christ", they would leave the organization today, and follow only the **true Christ!**

The December 15, 1971 Watchtower, page 746-747 says: "Through a Mediator greater than Moses, namely through Jesus Christ, Jehovah has established the new covenant with the Christian congregation of spiritual Israelites...Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body."

If Christ Jesus is Savior of only the "spiritual Israelites" (144,000), then who is the Savior of the "great crowd"? Surely, it must be "The Christ" (Jesus **plus** the W.T. authors).

98% of Jehovah's Witnesses are not only denied the rebirth but cannot partake of the emblems (communion, also called The Lord's Evening Meal). (Watchtower March 15, 1972, page 166, 167). How sad!

The Watchtower likes to threaten the "great crowd" with remarks like this: "Those who do not act like the 'sheep' toward spiritual brothers of the now reigning King Jesus Christ will be cut off in the oncoming 'great tribulation' for they are not in favor of the 'seed' of God's heavenly 'woman', but are in favor of the 'seed' of the original serpent', Satan the Devil." (God's Eternal Purpose, page 184). Such words are very binding to the "great crowd" - no wonder they obey so readily -otherwise, they believe they are following Satan!

Watchtower November 15, 1979, page 27 says: "To keep in relationship with 'our Savior, God,' the 'great crowd' needs to remain united with the remnant of spiritual Israelites. Why? Because these spiritual Israelites are the 'holy nation' of which we read in Jer.31:35,36, right after God's promise of the new covenant..." Again, the "great crowd" is told to remain with the "remnant" (W.T. authors) - leaving can cost them eternal life!

God made a promise to Abraham that he would establish a covenant with him and his seed (Genesis 17:7). He said that this seed would be like the stars of heaven (Genesis 22:27). Does this sound like only 144,000 would be the seed of Abraham?

I John 5:1 tells us that **ALL** who believe that Jesus is the Christ are born of God. **ALL**, not just 144,000.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." (I Peter 1:23). Is this portion of God's Word for all of us - or just for 8,000 of the "remnant" that are left on earth today?

Jesus warned of false Christs (false anointed ones) who would claim to be "The Christ" in Matthew 24:23,24.

We encourage the Jehovah's Witness to seriously Consider Hebrews 10:16-29 and ask: " If you are **not** in the new covenant, how can God's laws be written in your hearts and minds?"

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