

Understanding & Answering

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

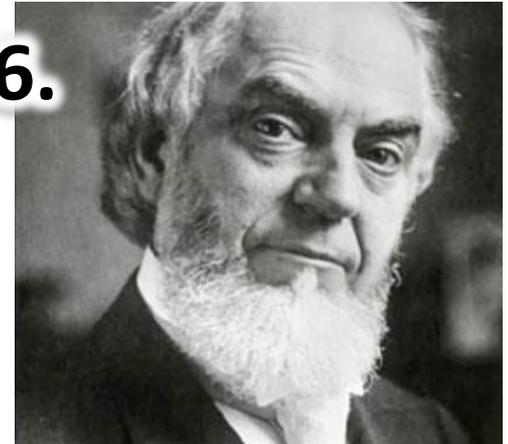


***International Bible
Students predecessor to***



Founder: Charles T. Russell 1852-1916.

He left the Presbyterians at 16 and the Congregationalists by age 20 because he couldn't harmonize the idea of an *Eternal Hell*.



Russel went to hear some Millerite Adventist speakers in a dingy Pittsburg basement and they introduced him to the idea that the *Bible* could be used to predict Christ's 2nd Coming.

2 Peter 2:1 “There will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce *destructive heresies.*”



Isa 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have *no light of dawn.*”

NIV

1 Thess 5:21 *Test everything.*
Hold on to the good. NIV

Russel's: International Bible Students

(forerunner of Jehovah's Witnesses)

1872 Russel taught His first ***Bible Classes*** (Age 20)

1877 Taught (At age 25) that ***Christ's Return*** occurred invisibly in 1874 !

1879 Russell started ***journal*** (now age 27) called "Zion's Watch Tower".

1880 There were 30 congregations in 7 states !

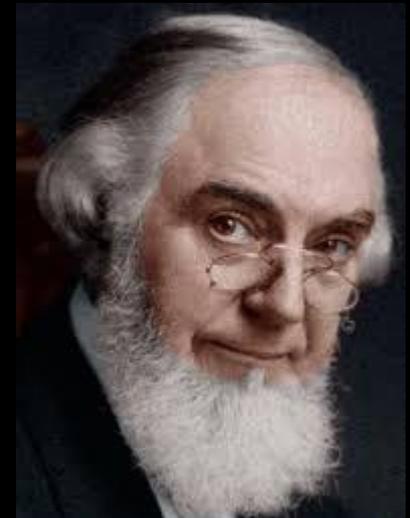
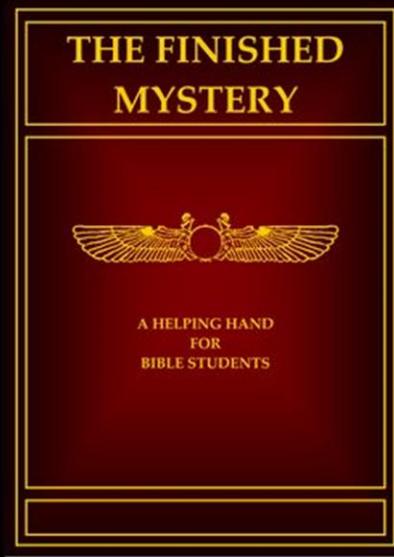
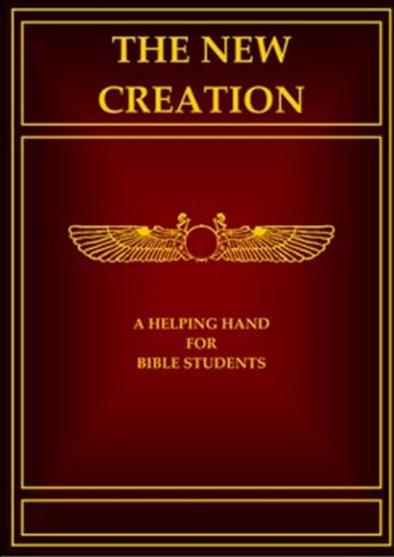
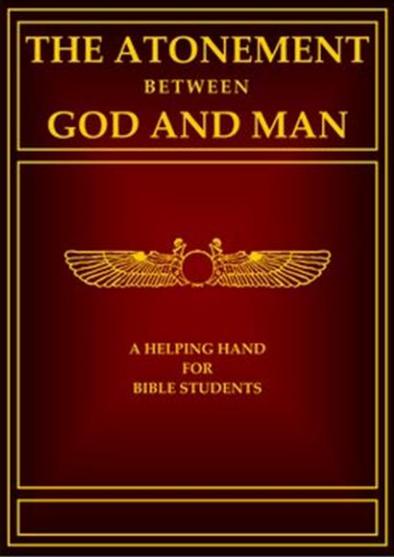
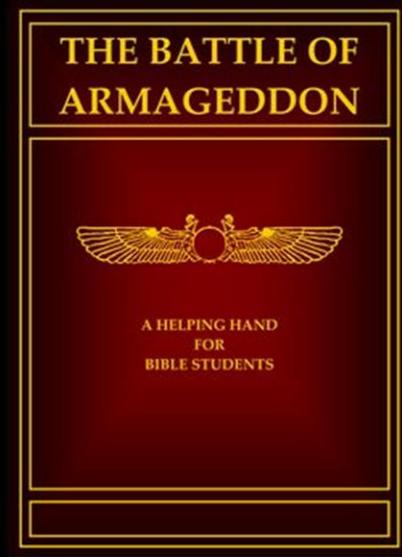
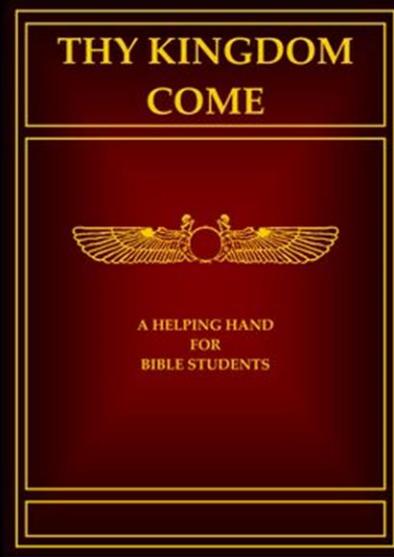
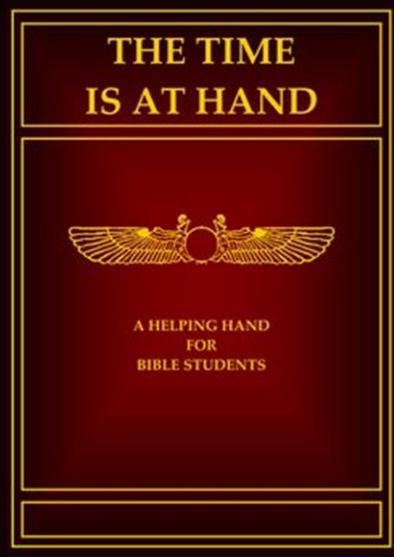
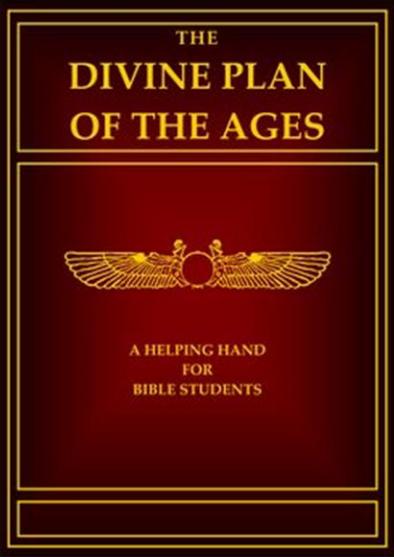
1884 He began "***Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society***, (Age 32) a publishing company for this books, 7 vol ***Scripture Studies*** –sold 16 Million copies.

1889 Congregations organized ***all over the world*** !

WHY EXPLOSIVE GROWTH?

- 1. Many disillusioned Adventists were attracted to this new form of Adventism.**
- 2. Russel was independently wealthy and threw his money into this endeavor.**
- 3. He spoke easily to large crowds.. Witnesses claim he spoke 30,000 sermons.**
- 4. He was a prolific writer of books & pamphlets witnesses claim he wrote 50,000 pages.**
- 5. He had a tight, active organization.**

RUSSEL'S BOOKS *BETTER THAN THE BIBLE?*



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Russel “ We find that *people cannot see* the divine plan in studying the Bible alone... “If any one lays the Scripture Studies aside even after he has used them... for 10 years, and goes *to the Bible alone...*

“Our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness ...

“ If however, he merely read the ‘*Studies in the Scriptures*’ with their references *and had not read a page of the Bible*, as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years.”

Watch Tower; Sept 15, 1910

RUSSEL'S SCRIPTURE STUDIES PREDICTIONS !

“ Within the coming 26 years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved.”

Studies in the Scripture; vol 2, p 98-99.

ERROR

*“ Complete destruction of ‘the powers that be’ of this present evil world—political, financial, ecclesiastical—about the close of ‘Time of the Gentiles,’ **October, A.D. 1914.**”*

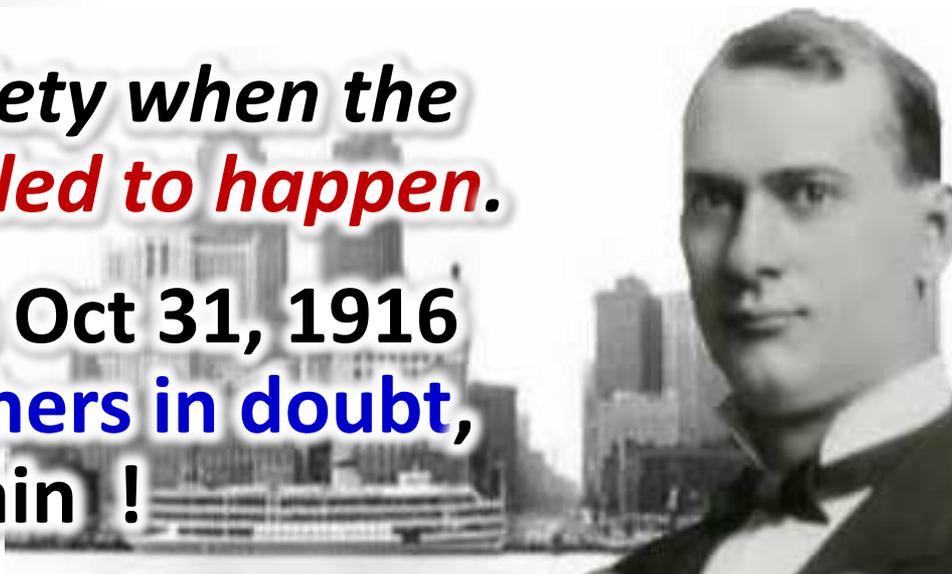
Studies in the Scripture; vol 4, p 622.



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

*Thousands left the society when the predictions of 1914 **failed to happen.***

Then Russel's death on Oct 31, 1916 **clinched it for many others in doubt,** it was 1844 all over again !



Amidst strife legal counsel **Joseph F. Rutherford** was appointed 2nd pres of the society, Jan 6, 1917

But there was opposition from the start from the Board of Directors that tried to depose him. A large portion broke away and formed the **"Faithful Remnant."** (Ezek 14:22)

JUDGE RUTHERFORD'S ERRORS !

In a 1920 book, Rutherford named:

“Millions now living will Never die.”

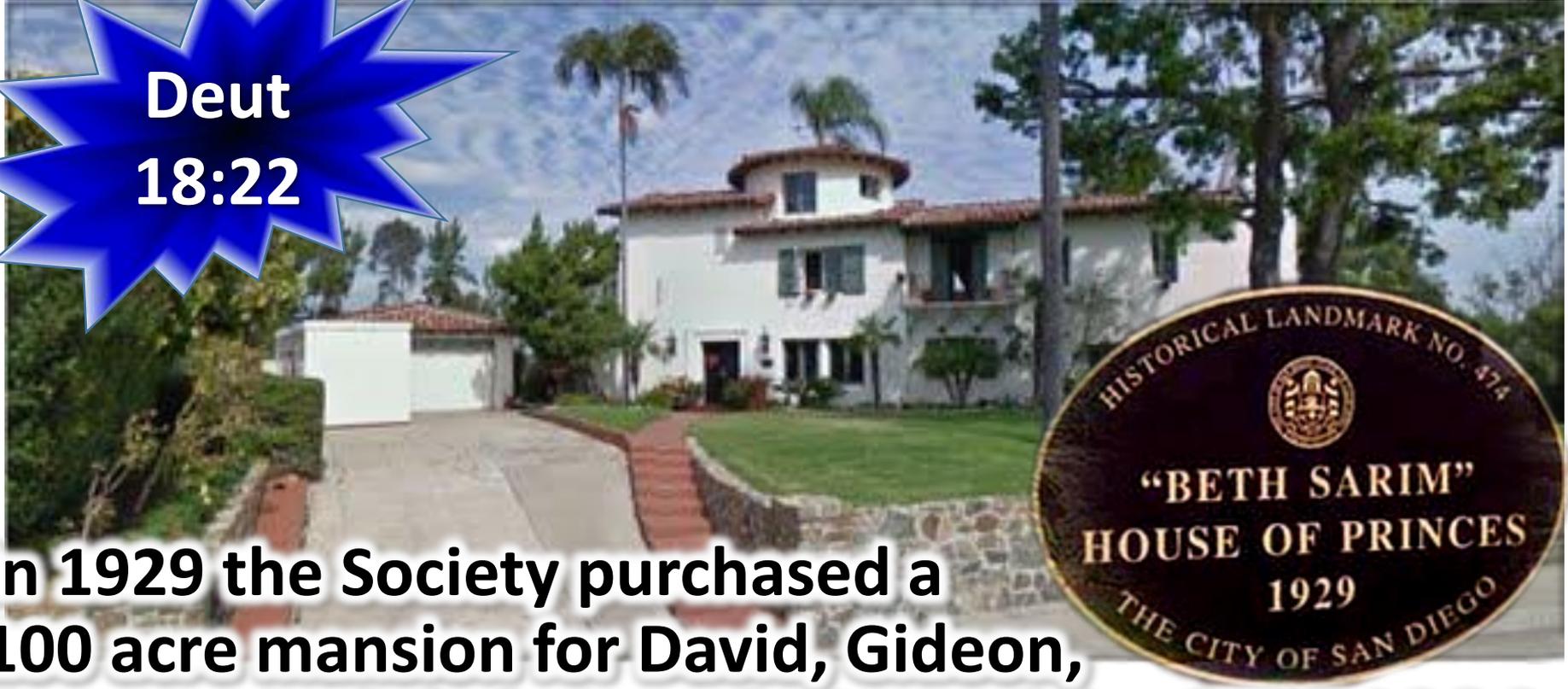


Rutherford: “1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old .. it is reasonable to conclude that ... based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.” p. 97

“ Those who accept the Ransomer shall return to the days of their youth; they shall be restored to perfection of body and mind and shall live on earth forever.” p. 98

JUDGE RUTHERFORD'S ERRORS !

Deut
18:22



In 1929 the Society purchased a 100 acre mansion for David, Gideon, Samson, Jephthah, Joseph, Samuel & other faithful men. Society was hold it in "*perpetuity*" for the resurrected "princes." Rutherford died here in Jan 8, 1942. *The Society sold it in 1948 !*

REASONING WITH JW'S!

(Isa 1:18) "Come Let us **REASON** together."

2 Tim 2:25

**"With gentleness
correcting** those
who are in
opposition,
if perhaps..

God may
grant them
repentance
leading to the
knowledge of
the truth."

NO MS EVIDENCE FOR NAME JHVH IN NT.

NAME of God

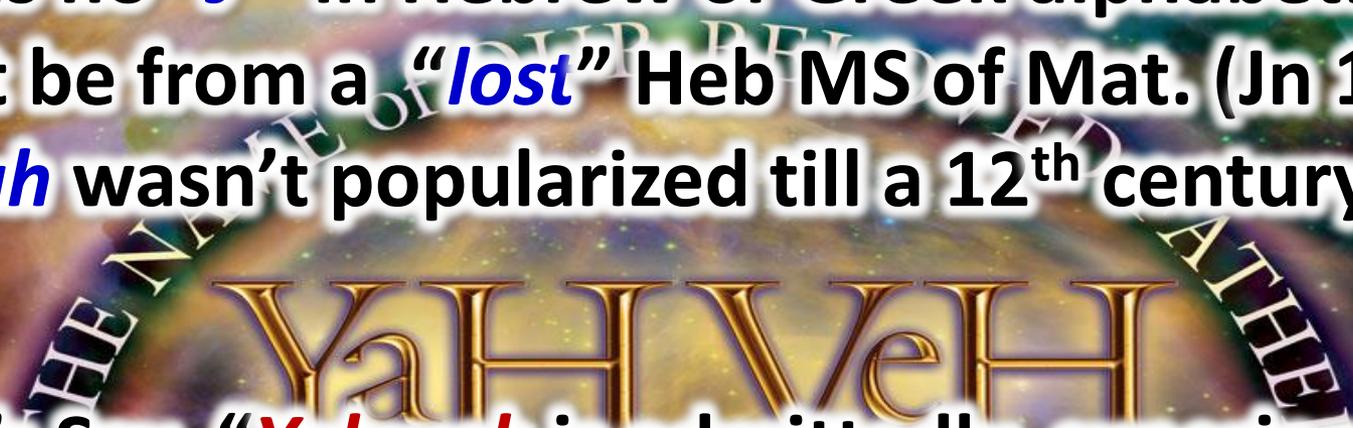


JHVH NEVER occurs in the Greek NT.

There is no “**J**” in Hebrew or Greek alphabet.

It can't be from a “**lost**” Heb MS of Mat. (Jn 10:35)

Jehovah wasn't popularized till a 12th century monk



JW's Say “**Yahweh** is admittedly superior to **Jehovah.**” *Let your Name be sanctified: Jehovah's Witnesses. P16-20*

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM IN NT.

Question: *What is the purpose of Baptism.*

At what point are you cleansed of your sins?

JW Answer: *"You need to show before others that you have made a dedication to serve God. How do you do this? By getting baptized in water."* –

You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, pp. 250-252

JW Answer: *It is not a washing away of one's sins,*

Truth that Leads to Eternal Life p. 183-184

(Acts 2:38) Repent and be baptized *for the forgiveness of your sins.*

(Acts 22:16) Be baptized & *wash away your sins.*

(1 Pet 3:21) Baptism now *SAVES you.*

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

JW View: “The Bible is an organizational book & belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, *not to individuals, regardless or how sincerely* they may believe that they can interpret the Bible... *the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind*” (Watchtower, October 1, 1997, p. 587).

(Eph 3:4) When you READ you can understand !

(Rev 2:7, 11) If you have AN EAR you can hear it !

(Mat 7:8) He that SEEKS finds—Knocks.. Opened !

THE PRE-EXISTANT CHRIST

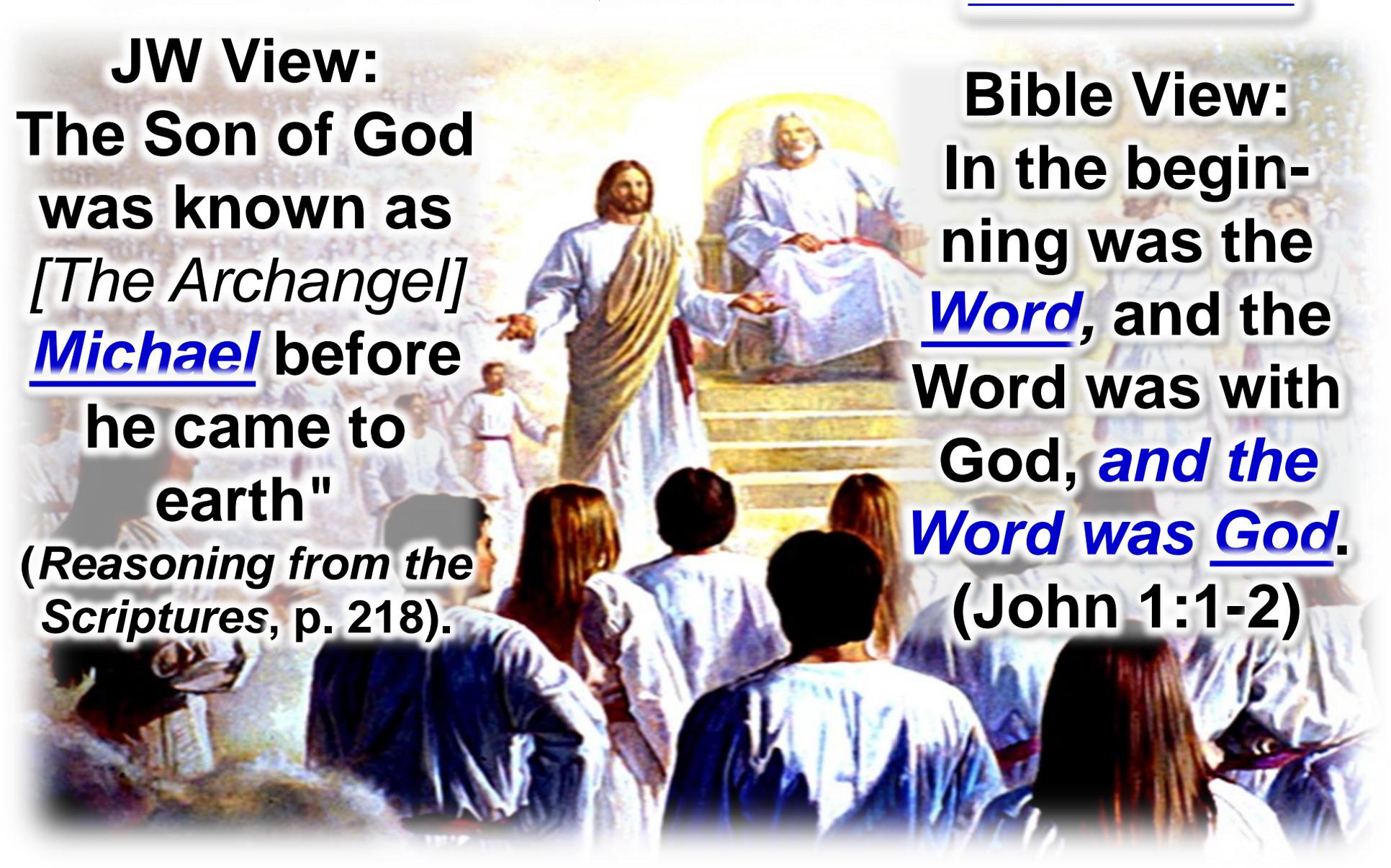
JW View:

The Son of God
was known as
[The Archangel]
Michael before
he came to
earth"

*(Reasoning from the
Scriptures, p. 218).*

Bible View:

In the begin-
ning was the
Word, and the
Word was with
God, *and the*
Word was God.
(John 1:1-2)



JW's Saved by
Their **Work** and
there's a Quota!

**We're
Saved**

by
God's
grace

**Eph
2:8**

JW View: "To get one's name written in that book of life **will depend on one's works, whether they are in fulfillment of God's will and approved by his Judge and King." (*Watchtower*, August 15, 1972).**

WHAT ABOUT HELL?

Rev 20:10 They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

(Matt 25:46)
Eternal
punishment

Rev 14:11 The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day & night, those who worship the beast.”

JW View: "The fiendish concepts associated with a **hell of torment** slander God and originate with the chief slanderer of God (the Devil)" (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985).

WHAT ABOUT HEAVEN?

JW View:
Only the
144,000
get in
heaven.

How
About
YOU?

Russell
said that
number was
about filled
in 1881

Only they
are the
Body and
Bride of
Christ

Regular JW's
don't get there
at all !

Rutherford
said that
number was
about filled
in 1932

