

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up, or Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Biblical Interpretations?

Program 1

John Ankerberg: Welcome! During this program we're going to examine portions of a new documentary film on the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, better known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. It's entitled "Witnesses of Jehovah" and it covers many interesting areas. Now, tonight I'm going to ask all of those of you who are Jehovah's Witnesses to watch these excerpts very carefully, and here's the reason why. If you think that this film needs to be corrected in any way, I'm going to ask that you write to me, tell me, and I promise you that I'll pass along your remarks to the film makers. I really would like to know if you think this film accurately depicts what you think and what you feel. I also want you to know that we did invite Mr. Fred Franz, the President of the Jehovah's Witnesses, to come and to be a part of this program tonight and to comment on the film. And he replied back that--through the Watchtower--that he was unable to attend, and I have his letter right here. I asked him to send another informed spokesman--anyone that he would choose to send, but they were not interested in sharing their views with you tonight for their own reasons. And that's why I'm going to ask every Jehovah's Witness--I want you to watch this material very carefully. Now, when I want to learn anything about a religious organization, there are three crucial areas that I always examine: Number one, who are their leaders? And then I ask the question, "Are they credible?" And then, second, what books, what documents do they consider authoritative? Is that information accurate and honestly written? And then, third, what are some of the basic beliefs of the group, and what evidence is given to support those beliefs? Now, I've chosen excerpts from this documentary film that will address all three of these areas. I want to begin tonight by playing for you a very fascinating, historical excerpt about the Jehovah's Witnesses' first president and founder, Charles Taze Russell. Please listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: It all began in Pennsylvania in the late 1800's when Charles Taze Russell came under the influence of a Second Adventist preacher. Russell initiated his own Bible study class--a small group that would ultimately grow to become the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Borrowing directly from the prophetic speculations of Nelson Barbour, a New York Second Adventist, Russell claimed that in 1799 the world had entered "the time of the end"; that in 1874 Jesus Christ had returned invisibly, and that the world would come to an end in the year 1914. In 1879, Russell, then 27 years of age, was so passionately convinced these prophetic dates were given by God, that he sold his prosperous clothing business and struck out in a new direction. With very little education or theological background, he began printing the magazine, Zion's Watchtower and Herald of Christ's Presence. Known today as The Watchtower, this publication, which has grown from an initial printing of 6,000 to well over 288,000,000 copies annually, dictates all major doctrines to Jehovah's Witnesses. During his lifetime, Russell authored a vast amount of literature, including a series of volumes entitled Studies in the Scriptures. According to Russell, no one could understand the Bible without these books. And reading the Bible alone would lead only to spiritual darkness. One of Russell's teachings was that Egypt's Great Pyramid was designed and placed there by God as his second witness, next to the Bible. It would be an

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

instrument to reveal his great plan of the ages for mankind.

C. T. Russell: "This measurement indicates the length of the year, the weight of the earth, the distance to the sun, etc. It..."

Narrator: Russell believed his dates and chronology were confirmed by the measurements of the interior passageways of the Great Pyramid. According to Russell, the passageways verified 1914 as the year the world would end. Finally, 1914 came. And went! Russell and his followers were not raptured from the earth and the end had not come. John Knight, who was 15 years old at the time, remembers what came next.

John Knight: Well, when 1914 came, of course, we had to change our views, just like we had to change some views later.

Narrator: The date was pushed forward to 1915, then, 1918. Certainly Armageddon was just around the corner. But in 1916, Charles Taze Russell died; sick, weary, and disappointed. A massive stone pyramid stands today at his gravesite as an embarrassing reminder of his false prophecies.

Ankerberg: Now, our guest tonight is Mrs. Lorri MacGregor who has studied the history and the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses for 27 years. And, Lorri, as we looked at that segment, it kind of blows everybody's mind to think that the first founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Charles Taze Russell, actually declared those things and put them into print. Is that true? And if it is true, why is it that when he died -- and these things had not come to pass -- why is it that people didn't leave the Watchtower Society and it just wasn't finished at that point?

Lorri MacGregor: When we look at any organization, John, including the Jehovah's Witnesses, we have to look at how they begin. On what foundation are they built? Charles Taze Russell was not a pastor, although they called him "Pastor." He had no theological training. He was a clothier, who declared himself the "Faithful and Discreet Slave." And he said, "Now, God is going to channel everything through me. I'm the one that you have to look at to get your 'meat in due season,' your spiritual food." And so he was a very interesting man, first of all, to command the attention of as many people as he did. He was quite an orator and spoke very well. He was embroiled in a lot of marital difficulties. These things are really hidden from Jehovah's Witnesses today, but in an open court trial which is still on record he had to explain why he was behind a locked door with a serving girl in the middle of the night while his wife pounded on the other side. That made rather good reading. He was fascinated by pyramidology. He was fascinated by phrenology, which is the science, so-called, of reading the bumps on your head. You feel somebody's head and they pronounce what kind of a person you are. He was so taken with phrenology that he came up with some really interesting quotes in The Watchtower. I have one here of March 15, 1913, I'd like to read to you, and I quote: "The drawing power which the Almighty exercises over humanity is in different degrees. Some have a strong desire to worship God, others have a weak desire, and others have no desire at all. The difference is due to the shape of the brain." He went on to say a little later in the same article, "Stand a man alongside of a dog. Look at their heads. The one slopes back." We hope he means the dog! "There is no

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

place for intellectual qualities at all....If we could make a dog with the same head as a man, he would think the same as a man." Now, Jehovah's Witnesses need to ask themselves, "Am I trusting in an organization that had a beginning like this? On a man that held these strange views?" We also saw from the film clip that he is a proven false prophet. He named 1874 as the time of Christ's invisible presence, and he also said that 1914 would mark the end of everything. The world was not going to go beyond that time.

Ankerberg: Why didn't Jehovah's Witnesses leave the organization after he put that in print and they found it was untrue?

MacGregor: All I can answer you in that way, John, is that when people become so convinced that they have got God's prophet, and they have given their loyalty, they have given their money, they have knocked on doors, they have studied, they just can't swallow their pride somehow. And I believe also the Bible speaks of a spirit of deception. And I think that they were determined that they were just going to remain loyal no matter what. That this really was God's Faithful and Discreet Slave and, sure, he made a few mistakes. You know, the Watchtower even today is always saying, "Okay, so we made a few mistakes." You know? "We've gotten new light."

Ankerberg: But he did that in the name of God.

MacGregor: Yes, he did.

Ankerberg: We're going to move on here, Lorri, to the second excerpt tonight for the people, because the Jehovah's Witnesses right in this area, they claim that they are the only true religion on earth today. And they base that claim in part on their authoritative document, their own translation of the Bible. They call this the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. Now, in the film clip that you're going to see in just a moment, many times the Jehovah's Witnesses will quote from Julius R. Mantey, one of the world's greatest Biblical grammarians concerning Greek. And the Society quotes him as being in favor of their view of John 1:1, "The Word was 'a' God." And in this excerpt, Dr. Mantey is interviewed as to what he thinks about the New World Translation -- "Is it a good translation? Is it an honest translation? Would he recommend it to somebody?" And I want you to listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Jehovah's Witnesses maintain that theirs is the only true religion. All others constitute the worldwide empire of false religion -- the "Whore of Babylon" spoken of in the book of Revelation. The Watchtower says these religions are guilty of spiritual fornication with the political and commercial rulers of the world, and will all be slaughtered by God at Armageddon. Only the true Christians -- Jehovah's Witnesses -- will survive. F. M. Gipe, a Watchtower spokesman and member of the headquarters staff explains:

F. M. Gipe: Well, we feel Jehovah's Witnesses are the only true religion, otherwise we would be teaching something else. But the reason is because we follow the Bible completely.

Leonard Chretien: To support its beliefs the Watchtower organization has published its own

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

version of the Bible called the New World Translation. To lend credence to this translation, the Watchtower society has deliberately misquoted a number of well-known Greek scholars. Dr. J. R. Mantey, an eminent Greek scholar, was one of the authorities quoted out of context. The Watchtower Society has implied that he supports the New World Translation. Dr. Mantey disagrees.

Dr. Julius R. Mantey: I have never found any so-called translation that goes so far away from what the Scripture actually teaches as these books published by Jehovah's Witnesses. They are so far away from what there is in the original Hebrew and the original Greek.

L. Chretien: Dr. Mantey called the Jehovah's Witness Bible a "shocking mistranslation, obsolete, and incorrect."

Mantey: You can't follow theirs because it's so biased and it's deceptive because they deliberately changed words in a passage of Scripture to make it fit into their doctrine. They distorted the Scripture in many passages...scores and scores of passages in the New Testament dealing with the deity of Christ especially.

L. Chretien: To find additional support for their altered Scriptures, the Watchtower has even turned to the occult. The New Testament, a Bible translation by Johannes Greber, has been used as an authority in many of their publications. Johannes Greber was a spiritualist, heavily involved with the occult. His translation was completed under the direction of "spirit messengers" with the aid of his wife who was a self-professed spirit medium.

Ankerberg: Let me ask you, Lorri. Is the Jehovah's Witnesses translation of the Bible an accurate and honest translation?

MacGregor: No, it certainly is not. It has removed or distorted all the references to the deity of Jesus Christ.

Ankerberg: Give me an example. Give me proof.

MacGregor: The most famous distortion is John 1:1 where they said, "The Word was `a' God." Now, of course they could not find any reputable Greek scholars to back them up on this distortion, so they had three choices. They went to the spiritistic occult world of Johannes Greber and got his support. The `holy spirits' during seance-type meetings told him that. They quoted him. Now, they claim that they didn't realize he was a spirit medium and that's why they quoted him. But since 1956 The Watchtower magazine put out an article on him saying he was a spiritist -- "don't listen to him." Then, they proceeded to use him while they did their Bible which came out in its full form in 1961. And so they're guilty there. They went to the Christadelphians. They also went to the Unitarians -- both of which had altered recognized texts to teach that Jesus was an extra God; "a" God. We don't have the time to go into it tonight. I have a long list of Greek scholars who say that the translation is absolutely incorrect. Jehovah's Witnesses attempt to lamely say that "theos" in the Greek -- the word for God -- does not have "ho" in front of it and so they can't say Jesus is "the" God but "a" God. So every Jehovah's

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Witness needs to find out whether or not Jesus Christ is "ho theos," "the" God, or isn't He?

Ankerberg: All right. In our booklet that we're offering, we're going to make available to you Dr. Mantey's letter that he wrote to the Watchtower Society, telling them that they had misquoted him and he took the exact opposite position concerning the deity of Christ that they said in their Bible that he was taking. Now, we're going to take a break and then we're going to come back. And I want to go to, "What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe concerning the Person of Jesus Christ?" And we're going to get to that when we come right back. Stick with us.

* * * *

Ankerberg: All right we're back and we're looking and examining the new documentary film concerning the Watchtower Society -- the Jehovah's Witnesses -- entitled "Witnesses of Jehovah." The third excerpt that I've chosen tonight that I'd like you to examine has to do with the basic beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning Jesus Christ. Please listen very carefully.

FILM EXCERPT

F. M. Gipe: Our teaching on Jesus Christ is that Jesus is the Son of God. He was the first thing that Jehovah created and through Him other creative works were done. Now, some religions teach that God and Jesus are one and the same, but the Bible does not teach that and therefore neither do Jehovah's Witnesses.

Watchtower Society Representative: We believe that the Bible teaches that Jesus carries out a number of functions for Jehovah God, the Most High. For example, in the Hebrew Scriptures He is referred to as Michael. Michael, literally translated into English means "Who is like God."

Narrator: Witnesses believe that Jesus Christ is a spirit-creature, a super-angel, the first creation of Jehovah God, who prior to coming to earth as a man, existed in heaven as Michael, the Archangel. Jesus started out originally as the Logos, or Michael, the Archangel, who then came to earth as the virgin-born Son of Mary. He was a perfect, sinless man; but He was only a man--devoid of all divinity. Jesus walked the earth as a man, becoming the Christ only when He was baptized. Jehovah's Witnesses hold the cross in contempt, feeling that it is nothing more than a pagan symbol used by apostate Christendom. Instead, they teach that at the completion of His ministry, Jesus died, not on the cross, but on an upright stake. Christ's body was then laid in a tomb where it was disintegrated by God--totally destroyed forever. Jesus was then re-created by the Father. Before going to heaven, He materialized in different bodies on different occasions to convince His disciples and others that He had really been resurrected. Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, where once again He became Michael, the Archangel. He will never again be seen on the earth in visible form, but instead rules invisibly from the heavens. When He executes judgment over the world at Armageddon, He will destroy all but the faithful Jehovah's Witnesses. Jesus, alias "Michael," will always remain invisible to those on earth and can be seen only by the 144,000 select Jehovah's Witnesses who rule with Him from heaven.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Ankerberg: Lorri, this is what the Jehovah's Witnesses teach, and all other Biblical Greek scholars disagree with their views concerning Jesus Christ. Is there anything that you can do to share with Jehovah's Witnesses from their own Biblical text that would point them in a different direction concerning their views on Jesus?

MacGregor: Yes. I would invite Jehovah's Witnesses to look in their own publication, The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures. This has the Westcott and Hort text on one side with the English words under, and on the righthand column is what the Watchtower has done with the English to Greek. And it will prove very revealing. In the foreword of this publication it says that "ho theos" is only Jehovah God. It is only Almighty God -- nobody else. So I would invite Jehovah's Witnesses to take the time to look up the witness of Scripture to see what it says. Because you see, prophecy called Jesus Christ "ho theos". In Matthew 1:23 where the prophecy came to Mary, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son and they shall call his name Immanuel, which translated means 'God,' -- "ho theos" -- 'with us.'" You will find Jesus called "ho theos" there. The Disciples said so. When the risen Christ came and Thomas realized who he was, he fell down in worship and said, "My Lord and my God" -- "ho theos" again. Did Jesus correct him and say, "No, no, no, Thomas. Get up. I'm not God. I'm only an archangel. I'm just a secondary God." No! He accepted the worship and He blessed Thomas. And I think the greatest witness is God the Father, because He called His Son, Jesus Christ, "ho theos." In Hebrews 1:8, "But of the Son He says, 'Thy throne, O God,'" -- "ho theos" -- "'is forever and ever.'" So if even the Father Jehovah calls the Son "the God," we have to believe it. You see, Jehovah's Witnesses have a two true-God doctrine. And the Bible says there's only one true God. They have a big God--Jehovah; and then beside Him they've got a secondary God--Jesus Christ. Okay? Which one is the true God? They have to say, "Well, Jehovah." Since the Bible says there is only one true God, what does that make Jesus? Either they have to say He's a false God, because there is only one true God, or they're stuck with a two true-God doctrine. But the Bible doesn't teach that. Jehovah Himself said in Isaiah 43, "There was no God formed before me and there will continue to be none after me. There's no God beside me." Who are we going to believe? Jehovah God, or the Watchtower Bible? In 1 Timothy 1:16,17 Jesus Christ is called "the only God." That should be clear enough. Jehovah's Witnesses hate to read this in context, but I want you to notice where the "Amen" is. 1 Timothy 1:16,17 Paul says, "And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ" -- subject -- "might demonstrate his perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal," -- notice, not "created," -- "to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." Only then does the thought end. The whole chapter is on the subject of Jesus Christ. Will you believe He is eternal -- not created? Will you believe He is the only God? He really is. And Jehovah's Witnesses need to check this out very, very carefully.

Ankerberg: Okay. We're going to do more of this in the weeks to come. Next week we're going to turn to Judge Rutherford. We're going to take a look at some of the things that he said. Some of the things that he did as the second president of the Jehovah's Witnesses after Charles Taze Russell. And then we're going to take a close look at the Governing Body -- the worldwide Governing Body of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Brooklyn, New York. I think you'll find it fascinating. I hope that you'll join us.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Program 2

Ankerberg: Welcome! During this program tonight we're going to show you portions of a new documentary film entitled, "Witnesses of Jehovah." It's about the Jehovah's Witnesses in this country and covers many interesting areas. I'm going to ask every Jehovah's Witness that is watching tonight to carefully examine these excerpts. I'd like to know if this film needs to be corrected in any way, and if it does, I want you to tell me and I'll pass that along to the film makers. Now, I have invited for this program tonight Mr. Fred Franz, the President of the Watchtower Society, to come and take part in this program but he declined. I asked if he would send an informed spokesman to take his place but they refused and said they were not interested in sharing their views with you tonight. So we're sorry about that. But that's why I want to ask every Jehovah's Witness to carefully examine the documentation in this film. Is this what you think? Is this the way you feel? Now, the first excerpt that we're going to go to tonight has to do with, who are the leaders of the Jehovah's Witnesses? Are they credible? As I said last week, in looking at any religious organization; number one, who are their leaders? Are they credible? Number two, what book, what documents, does a group of people consider authoritative? And is that information accurate and honestly written? We're going to look at that right now. We're going to examine a historical excerpt concerning the second president of the Jehovah's Witnesses. His name is Judge Rutherford. Please listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Through hard-fisted inside political manipulation, Joseph Franklin Rutherford, a Missouri lawyer, who had given himself the title of "Judge" became the second president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in 1917. In 1918, Judge Rutherford's lecture entitled "Millions Now Living Will Never Die" was the beginning of a worldwide recruiting effort called "The Millions Campaign." Not too surprisingly, it proclaimed the coming destruction of the existing world. It would happen soon -- in 1925.

Judge Rutherford: "Based on the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die!"

Narrator: In 1920, the Millions book was published. In it, Rutherford claimed the Bible proved that in 1925 Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful men of old were to be resurrected, to rule henceforth as princes on the new "Paradise Earth." Fully convinced that Rutherford's prophecy was true, many Witnesses sold their homes and businesses and took to the road. Living in cars and trucks like itinerant peddlers, they spread the warning. As 1925 drew closer, some farmers even refused to plant crops because they believed the end was at hand. Finally, 1925 came, and as in 1914, nothing happened. Once again, the Watchtower Society's prophecy had proven false. As Russell had done, Rutherford doggedly held to the story that the end was just around the corner. In 1929, the Judge had this palatial mansion constructed. It was deeded to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so they and other ancient worthies would have a place to live when they were resurrected. Located in an exclusive district of San Diego, it was given the name "Beth Sarim" -- Hebrew for "House of the Princes." The world entered the Great Depression, but Rutherford lived like a millionaire, spending the winter months at Beth Sarim, summering in Europe. As Americans suffered through poverty and deprivation, Rutherford enjoyed the use of two 16-

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

cylinder Cadillacs. Under Rutherford, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society became a well-oiled corporation. New books, literature and tracts poured forth in a flood to be sold door-to-door by faithful Witnesses. He drove his followers to labor hard for the Lord. He advised young couples not to marry but to put all their energies into proclaiming the kingdom. Even portable phonographs were utilized at the doorstep.

Rutherford: "Because the people have been induced to believe that Christianity and religion are the same thing..."

Narrator: Around the world, zealous Witnesses paraded in front of churches on Sunday mornings bearing placards with the slogan, "Religion is a snare and a racket." Keeping up with the times, the Society constructed its own radio station, and by 1933, there were 403 stations nationwide broadcasting Rutherford's abusive railings against the clergy, politicians, and what he referred to as "the greedy commercialists." On the radio and in print, he continually stressed that the end of the world was just months away. The end finally came, but only for Rutherford. In 1942, he died at Sarim, the house he had built as a luxurious testimony to God's name. In retrospect, perhaps the only "testimony" this lovely mansion ever gave was to the "cash value" of false prophecy. In 1948, the Society quietly sold the property, covering up an embarrassing chapter in its history. Today, most modern Jehovah's Witnesses are unaware that Beth Sarim ever existed. With Rutherford's passing, the flamboyant era of charismatic personalities passed as well.

Ankerberg: All right, Lorri, tell me about this Judge Rutherford. He took over Charles Taze Russell's place. Did he change any of the teachings of Russell? And what about some of these things that he actually declared and put into print?

MacGregor: Well, Judge Rutherford--and incidentally, he was not a judge. He was a lawyer who on one occasion dismissed a case because the judge didn't show up and thereafter took the title. He also gave himself the title "President of the New York Bar." Since the New York Bar Association has never heard of him, I wonder which establishment he was talking about! [It] certainly wasn't the legal profession. But he took over the Society in the midst of tremendous chaos--after all, the "Faithful and Discreet Slave," Charles Taze Russell, the man whom God had named, was dead. And so, as the Society always does when things don't work out--when prophecies fail; when doctrine is wrong--"new light" comes! And so he redefined for the people Matthew 24:45-47 which talks about this "Faithful and Discreet Slave." I'll just take a moment to read it so people understand. "Who then is the faithful and discreet slave whom the master put in charge of his household to give them the food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions." And so he said, "Hey, it's not a man! It's not even me. It's the organization. From now on, we're in charge of everything God does! Everybody else is of the devil. You want 'food in due season'? You want 'light from above'? You've got to come through us--the "faithful and discreet slave."

Ankerberg: How did that differ from Charles Taze Russell's interpretation of the "faithful and

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

discreet servant"?

MacGregor: Well, Charles Taze Russell applied it to himself...

Ankerberg: Personally?

MacGregor: He was the individual...personal "faithful and discreet slave." Rutherford was not too popular and he had to do a lot of infighting and manipulating and putting down of previously faithful brothers in order to grab control of the corporation. And so he named the organization rather than himself, but then he ran the organization.

Ankerberg: What does it mean to the Jehovah's Witnesses for somebody to be the "Faithful and Discreet Slave" or "Servant"?

MacGregor: Well, they believe that is the only channel through which Truth can come.

Ankerberg: In other words, God speaks through that man or that group of men only to all humanity.

MacGregor: Only. Yes. "To give food in due season" -- they believe God has appointed them over everything. So they think that when God looked at them in 1919 and said, "Hey, here's the faithful people. This is us!" and Rutherford took over the helm. And, of course, his most embarrassing false prophecy was written in 1918, which we saw on the clip, that 1925 would mark the return of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the faithful prophets of old. Of course, they had to have a suitable palatial residence. And when they didn't show up, I mean, he moved in.

Ankerberg: I want to get this straight. We're talking Abraham in the Old Testament, Isaac and Jacob were supposed to show up and go out there in California and live?

MacGregor: Yes. You see, they were going to direct the administration of the organization on the earth. They were the "princes of old." And, you know, you would think the man would get egg on his face from all these false things.

Ankerberg: Where did he say that? Document that for all the people that are watching.

MacGregor: Okay. He said it in his book, Millions Now Living Will Never Die, on page 89.

Ankerberg: So all the Jehovah's Witnesses that want to, they can look in there, Millions Now Living Will Never Die, and they'll find that right there.

MacGregor: Yes. It may be conveniently missing from the local Kingdom Hall libraries, but if they visit the headquarters in Canada, the United States, and other countries, they can generally go to the library and pull these various books.

Ankerberg: Do most Jehovah's Witnesses know about these predictions of Russell and of Rutherford--especially this one concerning Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

MacGregor: No. They've been conveniently covered over. All except 1914, which they have altered to mean something different--the end of the Gentile times instead of the end of the world. I got a real kick out of his later saying in 1931 from the Vindication book, page 338. You can look it up. He says, "There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918, and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time." They also learned to quit fixing dates. Did you notice how the blame shifted? It wasn't his fault. I mean, he set the date but it was blamed on the poor little publishers out there trying to do what was right. He said, "Well, you know, you ran ahead of Jehovah. Shame on you!" And he managed to transfer all the blame off himself to them. But this was an amusing time in Society history. During this same time a book was written. It's called The Way to Paradise. It was not written by Rutherford but he obviously okayed it and on pages 228 and 229 people were told that there would be no more death after 1925. So it was suggested that they add a room onto their house and get an undertaker to decorate it. Now, you may wonder why you would need an undertaker to decorate your house. Because there would be no more death and the undertakers would be out of work. So it would be the Christian thing to do to get them to do the decoration. When your room was finished, you were allowed to call up Jerusalem because Abraham would be headquartered in Jerusalem. Now, how he got from Beth Sarim in California to Jerusalem, only Jehovah's Witnesses of that day know. But they could request, "Abraham, we have our parents' room ready now." And he would say, "Okay, fine. I'm going to arrange for their resurrection." And the people were told that their parents would appear in the room in due course. And so, it's hard to believe that people would actually believe that.

Ankerberg: Why is that so devastating when you go back. "So, they said it!" What's the impact of that?

MacGregor: Well, here is the man heading up the so-called "Faithful and Discreet Slave," the only channel for Truth. And he has told a blatant lie! And I must say, he had a very high opinion of himself. He allowed this to be written while he was president, and this is in Vindication 3, page 383, and I got quite a kick out of this quote, it said, "For busy people." -- this is an advertisement -- "We have made a selection of more than 75 of Judge Rutherford's concise, straight to the point explanations of the most perplexing problems in the Bible and have arranged them in 13 attractively bound booklets. Each treatise can be read in just 15 minutes." -- and listen to the claim -- "And more genuine satisfaction and profitable pleasure derived therefrom in that length of time than can be gotten from studying the Bible by yourself in a whole year."

Ankerberg: All right. We're going to take a break right now. When we come back, we're going to take another excerpt from the film and we're going to look at the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning their worldwide Governing Body that is in Brooklyn, New York. What are the claims made for this group of men? Please stick with us. We'll be right back.

* * * *

Ankerberg: All right, we're back, and we're talking about the Jehovah's Witnesses. And we're looking at a new documentary film concerning the Watchtower Society. Right now, I'd like to show you an excerpt that has to do with the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning their

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

worldwide Governing Body, the group that meets in Brooklyn, New York. You'll hear the claims made about the 12 to 14 men -- the number keeps changing of the group that's there -- and the complete authority that they have over every Jehovah's Witness. I want you to listen very carefully.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Today, fueled by the anxieties of a nuclear age, the Watchtower Society is a multinational corporate giant, spreading its new message of doom to every corner of the globe. Standing between God and the millions of the Jehovah's Witnesses is an autocratic ruling council called "The Governing Body." Because Jehovah's Witnesses believe the Word of God is channeled to humanity through this elite committee alone, these men rule with unchallenged authority. Every Witness is subject to their dictatorship, from the cradle to the grave. Raymond Franz, author of the book, Crisis of Conscience, was a member of the Watchtower Society's Governing Body for 9 of his 60 years as a Jehovah's Witness. His account of their secret sessions is revealing.

Raymond Franz: I must say that it was one of the most disillusioning experiences in my life. It came as a rude awakening to me to see what actually went on. I envisioned the Governing Body as a body of men to whom the Bible, God's Word, was the controlling force in every one of their decisions; who really dug into the Scriptures to make sure that everything that they did was soundly based upon the Bible. And when I got into the Governing Body, I found that the Bible was rarely appealed to. It was rarely used. It mainly was a matter of discussing organizational policy and how to apply this organizational policy. And I found that again and again, when issues came up, even though Scriptures might be presented, if there was an organizational policy, that policy would take precedence over Scripture. And I couldn't help but think of Jesus' words in Matthew 23 that, "They have made the Word of God null and void because of their tradition."

Narrator: While the organization may not always consult Scripture in determining policy, they never hesitate to cite Scripture as proof of their authority. The Watchtower Society claims that it is the Faithful and Wise Servant. Or, as Jehovah's Witnesses have translated it, the "Faithful and Discreet Slave" spoken of in Matthew 24.

Ankerberg: All right, Lorri, when we look at that, it's hard for we who are not Jehovah's Witnesses to understand how that much authority could be given to a group of men to rule your life entirely in every way. Tell us some more about the claims they actually have made concerning their authority.

MacGregor: Yes. As we discussed before, they believe they are this "slave" class, this "Faithful and Discreet Slave" class. They teach that the full number of this class is 144,000 who have the heavenly hope, and then a remnant of them, somewhere around 9,000, remain on earth. And of course, the Governing Body is chosen from these and they dictate the doctrines of the Society from headquarters. But they also have another interesting claim for their organization besides being the "Faithful and Discreet Slave." They claim that the organization is a "wife" to Jehovah

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

God and a "mother" to the followers. And it's interesting that they always can find a Scripture to support their doctrine, even if it's out of context. In this case they've chosen Proverbs, Chapter 6 and verse 20, which reads, "My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother." This whole chapter of Proverbs 6 is on...it's parental advice. "Obey your father and listen to your mother." But they have turned it around to be God the Father and their organization [the mother]. So you've got to obey the teachings of "mother." And this is kind of an interesting thought. From their references--and we can read it out of The Watchtower magazine--and it says here, "The world is full of Bibles. Which book contains the commandments of God? Why then do people not know which way to go? Because they do not also have the teaching or law of the mother which is light. Jehovah God has provided his holy written Word for all mankind and it contains all the information that is needed for men in taking a course leading to life. But God has not arranged for that Word to speak independently or to shine forth life-giving truths by itself. His Word says, 'Light is sown for the righteous.'"

Ankerberg: Yeah, but Lorri, let me stop you right there. If Jehovah's Witnesses are listening, and they're saying, "But listen, if the Scripture does say that there is a "faithful and discreet slave" and the Jehovah's Witnesses are that and they've got the Scripture, what's wrong with that from a scriptural viewpoint?"

MacGregor: Well, first of all, they've taken that particular Scripture out of context. Secondly, they claim to be the only channel of God, and all we have to do is put them to the test. If they're really from God, what they say is correct; their doctrines will not change--because God is unchangeable--and we can, as we'll do in later programs, examine their prophecies. We've looked at some of the early prophecies already. There are more which have failed. They go on to say that the Bible is "an organization book," in this quote, and can only be understood through the "mother" organization, and the children -- that is all the followers -- had better obey and respect "mother." This stops a lot of the criticism. Jehovah's Witnesses might like to criticize, but they're not going to be given the chance.

Ankerberg: Okay. Give us the documentation where you're reading there. [The] Watchtower when?

MacGregor: Okay. The Watchtower of May 1, 1957 on page 274.

Ankerberg: Okay. We only have 30 seconds left. Tell me, what evidence would you give to Jehovah's Witnesses who are really interested in searching for the truth that might point them in a different direction.

MacGregor: Okay, I would say to them, "Look at the claim that the 'Remnant' is true; look at the claim the 'Remnant' is the 'Faithful and Discreet Slave.' If they are, they must submit themselves to the Biblical test for the Remnant." In Zephaniah, Chapter 3 verse 13 it says, "The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths." And I challenge the Jehovah's Witnesses to search out these things we're bringing forth, documented out of their own literature. They will find out that their organization is not the truth. Jesus says in John 14:6, He is "the truth and the way and the life." It is not some organization. Until they stop looking to an organization, they will never find Jesus Christ.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Ankerberg: One quick question, and I have to throw this in: Some people would say, "Why should they believe your documentation?" Because you said it was hard for them to find and it may not even show up at the headquarters in Brooklyn. What can they do if they have a hard time finding some of these older books like Russell's books and Rutherford's books?

MacGregor: Well, they can ask a lot of questions as to why they can't find them. We talked to one fellow who said quite a few of them ended up in the furnace. And we can see why.

Ankerberg: All right. But we are going to provide documentation, and there are booklets, and we can actually show you photocopies...

MacGregor: Yes.

Ankerberg: ...of the Awake magazines or any of these books that we're quoting. And a lot of this will be in our free booklet and our other literature that we're offering to you. Next week I hope that you'll join us. We're going to continue looking at excerpts concerning the Watchtower Society. And we're going to turn to their belief concerning a two-class religion: the 144,000 that are going to heaven, and all the rest that are only going to Paradise Earth. Why? What's the teaching, and what about that Biblically? I hope that you'll join us.

Program 3

Ankerberg: Welcome! During our program tonight, we're examining portions of a new documentary film on the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society -- better known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. Now, this film is entitled "Witnesses of Jehovah" and it covers many interesting areas. And I'm asking every Jehovah's Witness who is watching tonight to listen to these excerpts very carefully, because I'd really like for you to tell me if you think that this film is accurate. Is this the way you think? Is this the way you feel? Now, I want you to know that we invited Mr. Fred Franz, the President of the Watchtower Society, to come and take part in our program tonight to comment on the excerpts of the film. We told him that if he was unable to attend that he could choose a spokesman to come and take his place. But the Watchtower replied to us -- and I have their letter right here -- and said that they were not interested in sharing their views with you tonight. That's why I'm asking every Jehovah's Witness to listen carefully. If there's something that needs to be corrected, I'd like you to tell me and I'll pass that along to the film makers. Now, tonight, we want to show you excerpts to begin with of this film which deals with the Jehovah's Witnesses' belief that all true religion is made up of only two classes of people: first, there is what they call the "144,000" people -- these are the people that get to go to heaven; and, second, there is the "great crowd," as they call it, or the "other sheep." And the "other sheep" do not get to go to heaven, they get to go to Paradise Earth. But what do they have to do to get to Paradise Earth? And that's what I want you to see. I want you to look at what it is like to be a Jehovah's Witness and what you must do. Please listen to this excerpt very carefully.

FILM EXCERPT

L. Chretien: If you should choose to accept the Watchtower's current prophecy of Armageddon - - whatever that may be -- and decide to protect yourself by becoming a Jehovah's Witness, you will find yourself in a unique "two-class religion."

Marjorie Chretien: Only the upper class, the 144,000 spoken of in Revelation, are guaranteed a place in heaven, and they are known as "the anointed." The Watchtower Society teaches that the vast majority of Jehovah's Witnesses constitute a secondary group referred to as the "other sheep." They have no heavenly hope, but must remain on earth for all eternity.

Narrator: Once a year, on the anniversary of the Last Supper, Jehovah's Witnesses and invited persons gather for this communion-like ceremony. Only members of "the anointed" class who are alive today -- about 9,000 worldwide -- partake of the bread and wine. The millions of "other sheep" will not take communion. The "other sheep" are not in the New Covenant and therefore have no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. How then do they hope to attain salvation?

Chretien: The Jehovah's Witness is told he may not look to Jesus alone for everlasting life. As one of the "other sheep," he must also depend on the Watchtower organization for his passage to Paradise. In turn, the organization says he's required to earn his salvation, largely by calling door-to-door.

Raymond Franz: It's strange, but they seem able to teach two different things -- opposite things - - simultaneously. They agree that the Bible teaches that we are saved by grace, or as they put it,

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

"God's undeserved kindness" and not by works. And yet the average Witness believes -- he hasn't the slightest doubt -- that unless he performs the works that are laid out for him by the Watchtower Society, the witnessing activity, going door-to-door, regular meeting attendance and other things that are brought out, that he will never gain everlasting life.

Narrator: Once in the organization, Witnesses attend five hours of meetings a week. In addition, they are expected to devote many hours a month going door-to-door, selling literature, and gaining converts. Striving always to prove themselves worthy of escaping God's wrath at Armageddon.

Former Witness: Even though we believed that God was love, we were always afraid that He was going to "zap" us, that sometime Armageddon might hit and we might not make it. Even if we didn't go out for the door-to-door ministry on a weekend [but] took our family out...out to the lake or something and we didn't go out from door-to-door, we felt guilty all the time.

Narrator: In order to keep a close check on the activities of each member, the organization requires them to turn in a monthly time report if they want to be retained on the rolls as active Jehovah's Witnesses.

F. M. Gipe: We don't keep any membership records per se, but the only record we have is those who actually go door-to-door preaching.

Narrator: Today, when the new Jehovah's Witness is baptized, rather than using the Biblical format of baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Witness is baptized "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit-directed organization."

W.T.S. Rep.: This is a dedication to them that is without any reservation. They are now going to set their entire life aside to do their Creator's will.

Narrator: Thus baptized, the Jehovah's Witness is now committed to slave for the organization until the world comes to an end.

Ankerberg: Our guest tonight is Mrs. Lorri MacGregor, who has studied the materials of the Watchtower Society for more than 27 years. Lorri, let me ask you two questions concerning the excerpt we just saw. Is the Jehovah's Witnesses two-class system of the 144,000 and the "other sheep" really taught in the Bible? And number two, the Watchtower says salvation is by the free gift of God, or because of God's unmerited favor, but if so, why are works so necessary to receive eternal life?

MacGregor: Okay, I'll answer the first question about the 144,000. And what I'm going to share with you is a good presentation that you could use if you're talking to Jehovah's Witnesses or Jehovah's Witnesses could look up for themselves. The number 144,000 is contained in two chapters of Revelation: Revelation 7 and Revelation 14. And before I start reading, I say to the Jehovah's Witness, "Are we going to agree? Is this passage of Scripture literal? Does it mean

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

exactly what it says literally? Or is it figurative or spiritual? Does it say one thing but it typifies something else?" And you can never get a straight answer, and the reason is they've made one phrase literal and one phrase figurative. And it says in verse 4 of Revelation 7: "I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel." So they believe there is a literal number, but the sons of the tribe of Israel is "them." They are the Jews. They are the sons of Israel. We go on down the list of the tribes and here's the important part. Because the people, mostly, that you will meet will be of the "great multitude" or the "great crowd." Verse 9 says, "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, all tribes and peoples and tongues standing before the throne." Mark that in your Bible. Because the "great crowd's" location is before the throne. If you go into verse 11, you see that all the angels were standing around in the same location. Sounds like heaven to me, and not earth. Then, if you turn over to Revelation Chapter 14, we again in verse 1 find the reference to the 144,000 in verse 1. And notice their location in verse 3: "And they sang a new song" -- where? -- "before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth." The 144,000 are before the throne, and the great crowd, the earthly hope, are before the throne. Also, they are promised in Revelation 21 that "the tabernacle of God will be with men, and He'll be with them," and they're promised that this is the earth. But actually, if they will look in Revelation, they will find out in Chapter 13 and verse 6 -- that the tabernacle ["residence" - NWT] of God is in heaven. So Jehovah's Witnesses, you've been conned. If you don't have a heavenly hope, you better start thinking about one because you're not going to be on the earth.

Ankerberg: I noticed that you were reading almost exactly out of the New World Translation...or [it] agrees with what you are actually saying in reading right there. So the Jehovah's Witness can look it up in their own translation.

MacGregor: Absolutely.

Ankerberg: All right. What about this thing of all the things that they have to do, Lorri?

MacGregor: Well, I want Jehovah's Witnesses to take a few minutes and think about what salvation they have. Okay? You get articles in The Watchtower like this: "Working hard for the reward of eternal life." I mean, forget about grace and "get to work!" They talk about grace, but out of the other side of their mouth you've got to work for it. Now, supposing you're a good Jehovah's Witness and you're going out into service; you're doing everything you should do, and two weeks before Armageddon you say, "I'm tired. I don't feel like it. I'm going to put my feet up, I'm going to watch the television, I'm not going to the meetings." And Armageddon comes. Are you saved? No! You are totally lost, because you weren't found working when Armageddon comes, and "Zap! Into the lake of fire with you, burned to a crispy crunch!" But let's say you're a good Jehovah's Witness. You make it through Armageddon. You're off in the thousand-year reign of Christ. Are you saved? No! No! Because if you think you were busy before Armageddon, wait till after! I mean, everyone but Jehovah's Witnesses is going to be destroyed. There is going to be rubble. You have to clean up rubble. Secondly, you have to fulfill God's command to multiply, and fill the earth. You've got to have a baby every nine months or so. Thirdly, all the cults have a problem of what to do with the people that lived before the time of their prophet. So all these people have to come back in a re-

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

creation/resurrection type thing and you've got to preach to them and hold Bible studies and place Watchtowers and everything. Well, you know, folks, after 600 years you might say, "I'm tired. I don't feel like rubble, babies, and publishing any more!" What will happen to you at that point if you refuse to do it? Zap! Into the lake of fire. Burned. But let's say you're a good Jehovah's Witness and you carry right through almost to the end of the thousand years doing everything you're supposed to do. Are you saved? No. No. Because Satan's going to come back for a little while and they teach that many will fall away. And zap! Into the lake of fire. Burned up. Annihilated. But let's say you make it through the testing of Satan, and you're off into eternity, are you finally saved? No! No! If at any time you disobey the 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses on Mount Zion with Christ -- Zap! Into the lake of fire. Annihilated. What hope, Jehovah's Witnesses, do you have? There isn't any.

Ankerberg: Okay, let me document one spot they can look up as well, Lorri, and that's according to The Watchtower magazine, February 15, 1983, they said, "In order to receive everlasting life" -- here's what the "other sheep" have to do -- number one is they have to take in knowledge of God from The Watchtower magazine. Number two: they must obey God's laws; number three: they must become associated with God's channel, God's organization on earth -- that's the Watchtower -- and they say, "To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise, we must identify that organization and serve God as a part of it." And then, finally, fourth, they say, "God requires that the prospective subjects of His kingdom support His government by loyally advocating His kingdom rule to others" -- in other words, you've got to go door-to-door, and then you may receive everlasting life on Paradise Earth.

MacGregor: Yes, John. I'm looking at the November 15, 1981 Watchtower which sums up everything you've said. It says, "The Witness yet includes the invitation to come to Jehovah's organization for salvation." Do you notice how Jesus has been cut out? And yet Acts tells us there is salvation in no one else, and "there is no other name given under heaven by which you must be saved." It is not the Watchtower Society, it is Jesus.

Ankerberg: We've got to take a break here, but quickly, for the Jehovah's Witness who says, "I agree with everything you said. That's exactly what we believe and, you know, that's grace. That's God's gift. At least He made a way. So, we've got to work for it. Tough, you know. But we at least have a way. We can make it." What is the Bible actually saying concerning grace? What is the thing that God really offers that is such good news to everybody that understands it?

MacGregor: Well, the wonderful thing is that we can't do anything -- Jesus has done it all. Ephesians 2:8,9 says, "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no man should boast." And when they asked Jesus in John Chapter 6, "What must we do to work the works of God?" He said, "This is the work of God; that you believe in Him whom He has sent." That's the work of God.

Ankerberg: All right, we're going to take a break in a moment and we're going to come back and take a look at what the Jehovah's Witnesses believe concerning Jesus' resurrection. Was He re-created, or was He resurrected? We'll talk about it in just a moment.

* * * *

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Ankerberg: All right, we're back. Right now we're going to take a look at an excerpt from the film, "Witnesses of Jehovah," that talks about the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning Jesus Christ. What do they believe? Please listen very carefully.

FILM EXCERPT

Gipe: Our teaching on Jesus Christ is that Jesus is the Son of God. He was the first thing that Jehovah created, and through Him other creative works were done. Now, some religions teach that God and Jesus are one and the same, but the Bible does not teach that and therefore neither do Jehovah's Witnesses.

W.T.S. Rep.: We believe that the Bible teaches that Jesus carries out a number of functions for Jehovah God, the Most High. For example, in the Hebrew Scriptures He is referred to as Michael. "Michael" literally translated into English means "Who is like God."

Narrator: Witnesses believe that Jesus Christ is a spirit creature, a "super angel," the first creation of Jehovah God, who prior to coming to earth as a man, existed in heaven as Michael the Archangel. Jesus started out originally as the Logos, or Michael the Archangel, who then came to earth as the virgin-born Son of Mary. He was a perfect, sinless man, but He was only a man, devoid of all divinity. Jesus walked the earth as a man, becoming the Christ only when He was baptized. Jehovah's Witnesses hold the cross in contempt, feeling that it is nothing more than a pagan symbol used by apostate Christendom. Instead, they teach that at the completion of His ministry, Jesus died, not on the cross, but on an upright stake. Christ's body was then laid in a tomb, where it was disintegrated by God, totally destroyed forever. Jesus was then re-created by the Father. Before going to heaven, He materialized in different bodies on different occasions to convince His Disciples and others that He had really been resurrected. Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, where once again, He became Michael the Archangel. He will never again be seen on the earth in visible form, but instead, rules invisibly from the heavens. When He executes judgment over the world at Armageddon, He will destroy all but the faithful Jehovah's Witnesses. Jesus, alias Michael, will always remain invisible to those on earth, and can be seen only by the 144,000 select Jehovah's Witnesses who rule with Him from heaven.

Ankerberg: Lorri, the Watchtower Society and all Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Bible teaches that after His death, Jesus was re-created, not resurrected. What does the Bible really say? What's the evidence?

MacGregor: Okay. The Jehovah's Witnesses read 1 Peter 3:18 that says Jesus was "put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit" and they take this to mean that Jesus lost His body and became a Spirit-creature. But the term, "in the Spirit" in the Bible doesn't mean this. In fact, interestingly enough, the Disciples made the same mistake as the Jehovah's Witnesses originally here. In Luke 24, it says, when they saw the risen Christ here, "they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit." JW doctrine entirely. Verse 38 of Luke 24...or verse 39, Jesus says to them, "See My hands and My feet, that it is I myself; touch me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as ye see that I have." So Jesus said, "Look, I'm not a spirit.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Here I am in my resurrected body. I have flesh and bone." And JW's again misinterpret that to mean flesh and blood. And "flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom" and how could He go? So I suggest they read 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 that says if there's a physical body, there's a spiritual body also. There is a resurrection body and Jesus also referred to it in John Chapter 2 and verses 19 and 20 where He said, "Destroy this [body] and in three days I will raise it up." So He was speaking of the temple of His body. And this is so important that we understand the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:17 says, "If Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain; ye are yet in your sins." The resurrection is not a "re-creation." We live because Christ lives and it's even tied in with our salvation. Because in Romans 10, verse 9 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Ankerberg: Lorri, for those Jehovah's Witnesses who have heard enough tonight that they are serving an organization, they are working for the organization, and the Bible, from what you are reading, is giving them hope that that's not where salvation is at. It's a free gift from God. Would you say a prayer that any Jehovah's Witness could say with you tonight to start a relationship under grace.

MacGregor: All right. Let's just bow our heads together, Jehovah's Witnesses. "Jehovah God, I feel very confused by the things I have heard and seen on these programs. I'm not absolutely sure who Jesus Christ really is, but I ask that you would just give me the Holy Spirit that the Bible says in John 14 will guide me into all truth. I ask that you show me who the Savior really is, and where I can turn to for salvation. And if I am wrong, forgive me because I did not mean to be wrong. I wish to ask the true Jesus Christ into my life and my heart, and I ask Him to save me. Amen."

Ankerberg: Thank you, Lorri. If you folks at home, if you prayed that prayer and you meant it, would you write me a letter and we will send you some information of how you can get started right in your relationship with the Lord Jesus. You can find out other things. We want to help. Now, next week, we're going to look further at some excerpts concerning what Jehovah's Witnesses do every day underneath the Watchtower Society. So please join us.

Program 4

Ankerberg: Welcome! During this program we're going to be examining a new documentary film that has just come out entitled "Witnesses of Jehovah." And it's about the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, better known as the Jehovah's Witnesses here in America. This film covers many interesting areas. And I'm asking every Jehovah's Witness who is listening to listen to these excerpts from this film very carefully, and if anything is not correct to write me and we're going to pass that information along to the film makers. I really would like to know what you think, and I'd also like to know, "Does this accurately depict how you feel as a Jehovah's Witness." Now, I also want you to know that we did invite the president of the Watchtower Society, Mr. Fred Franz, to come and be a part of this program. He declined that invitation and declined to send any spokesman to represent the organization. But tonight we want to look at a portion from this film that deals with the Jehovah's Witness' claim that they are the only true religion on earth today. All others are false. And they base this in part on their authoritative document, their own translation of the Bible. Now, they call their translation the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. And what we want to find out is, is this a good, accurate, honest translation of the Greek and Hebrew words? Now, if you read the Jehovah's Witnesses Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures -- which I've got in my hand here -- if you read the appendices, if you read the footnotes, you will find they quote many Greek scholars. One of them is Julius R. Mantey. In this segment coming up, he will give his thoughts about what he thinks about the Watchtower Society quoting him as being in favor of their view of John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was 'a' God." You will hear his remarks. Please listen very carefully.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Jehovah's Witnesses maintain that theirs is the only true religion. All others constitute the worldwide empire of false religion -- the "Whore of Babylon" spoken of in the book of Revelation. The Watchtower says these religions are guilty of spiritual fornication with the political and commercial rulers of the world, and will all be slaughtered by God at Armageddon. Only the true Christians -- Jehovah's Witnesses -- will survive. F. M. Gipe, a Watchtower spokesman and member of the headquarters staff explains:

F. M. Gipe: Well, we feel Jehovah's Witnesses are the only true religion, otherwise we would be teaching something else. But the reason is because we follow the Bible completely.

L. Chretien: To support its beliefs the Watchtower organization has published its own version of the Bible called the New World Translation. To lend credence to this translation, the Watchtower society has deliberately misquoted a number of well-known Greek scholars. Dr. J. R. Mantey, an eminent Greek scholar, was one of the authorities quoted out of context. The Watchtower Society has implied that he supports the New World Translation. Dr. Mantey disagrees.

Dr. Julius R. Mantey: I have never found any so-called translation that goes so far away from what the Scripture actually teaches as these books published by Jehovah's Witnesses. They are so far away from what there is in the original Hebrew and the original Greek.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

L. Chretien: Dr. Mantey called the Jehovah's Witness Bible a "shocking mistranslation, obsolete, and incorrect."

Mantey: You can't follow theirs because it's biased and it's deceptive because they deliberately changed words in a passage of Scripture to make it fit into their doctrine. They distorted the Scripture in many passages...scores and scores of passages in the New Testament dealing with the deity of Christ especially.

L. Chretien: To find additional support for their altered Scriptures, the Watchtower has even turned to the occult. The New Testament, a Bible translation by Johannes Greber, has been used as an authority in many of their publications. Johannes Greber was a spiritualist, heavily involved with the occult. His translation was completed under the direction of "spirit messengers" with the aid of his wife who was a self-professed spirit medium.

Ankerberg: All right, here's the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, and if you want the Greek with it, the Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures looks like this. In the back, if you want to see their comments about Julius Mantey, you can find it under John 1:1. And I'd like to read just a portion of Dr. Mantey's letter to the Watchtower Society, and it's dated July 11, 1974. He said, "There is no statement in our grammar that was ever meant to imply that 'a God' was a permissible translation in John 1:1." He goes on to say, "You quoted me out of context. On pages 139 and 140 in our grammar, we stated, 'Without the article, theos' -- the word for God -- "'signifies divine essence.'" And concerning the words 'theos en ho logos,' John 1:1, "The Word was God" -- that's the way it's usually translated -- this is what Mantey says: "'theos en ho logos' emphasizes Christ's participation in the essence of the divine nature. Our interpretation is in agreement with that in the New English Bible and Today's English Version, namely, 'What God was, the Word was,' and with that of Barclay's translation, 'The nature of the Word was the same as the nature of God.'" Now let me ask you, Lorri, is the Jehovah's Witnesses' New World Translation an accurate, honest translation? If not, give us the evidence that Jehovah's Witnesses can investigate.

MacGregor: Right. Just before beginning, John, I want to mention that this purple Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures has set so many Jehovah's Witnesses free from the organization, that they have now put out a new one which is navy blue, and they have more cleverly covered up their distortions than ever before. Ones that are clearly visible here are not visible in the new navy blue one. So, get yourself a purple one. There are still lots of them around. Remember that. The Society has made many lofty statements about the accuracy of their translation: How careful they've been. In the foreword of the Interlinear they make the statement that, "We don't paraphrase Scriptures. We're going to assign one meaning to each word and we're going to stick with that throughout." They promise that they will give the most careful attention to the tenses of verbs, and they also say, "We are restoring the divine name of God which has been lost." And so these are quite "highfalutin'" sounding claims. But the fact is, they are paraphrasing on so many occasions -- and a paraphrase is not a word-for-word translation, it is what the writer thinks the Scripture should say. For instance, The Living Bible

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

is a paraphrase, it is not a word-for-word translation. And you simply do not teach out of a paraphrase, you teach out of a word-for-word translation. Colossians 1:16,17 is a case in point. This portion of Scripture teaches that Jesus Christ is the Creator. "By Him all things were created." So, Jehovah's Witnesses had to reduce Him to a chief agent, and so they inserted "by means of" and the word "other." This is not found in the Greek side and Jehovah's Witnesses can check this out. So Jehovah's Witnesses' Bible reads, "Because by means of Him" -- addition -- "all `other'" -- addition -- "things were created in the heavens, upon the earth, things visible, things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authority. All `other' things have been created through him and for him. Also he is before all `other' things and by means of Him all `other' things were made to exist." So you see, they have downgraded Jesus Christ from a Creator to a chief agent who simply is ordered around by Jehovah God.

Ankerberg: And it's obvious why. That verse, "If he made all things," He is God.

MacGregor: And if He is before all things, He's the Creator, He's God.

Ankerberg: But if He's before all other things, then there's something...He was created, too.

MacGregor: A good Scripture to write down next to that is Jehovah God speaking. Did He have a chief worker? Did He have a chief agent? In Isaiah 44 we find Jehovah God saying, "I, Jehovah, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens..." with a helper? No. "...by myself and spreading out the earth all alone." This is the one God speaking. He said, "I didn't have a helper. I was all alone. Jesus is Yahweh. Jesus is Jehovah. If you just turn over the page you see what I consider one of the worst distortions on the Deity of Christ, and this is found in Colossians Chapter 2 and verses 8 and 9. This is where Jehovah's Witnesses simply could not stand to have all the fullness of deity dwelling in Christ in the flesh. And isn't it interesting that the warning is given in Scripture -- and I'm going to read it correctly first. This is the truth. Colossians 2:8,9, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." And here's the truth. Put a mark around it and believe it. "Because it is in Him that all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form." All is all. Full is full. Christ has all the fullness of deity even in the flesh. This one Scripture destroys JW theology. They absolutely couldn't leave it there. So here's their paraphrase: "Because it is in him that all the fullness of divine quality dwells bodily." He has lots of divine qualities. You see how they've downgraded Him? Where is divine quality in the Greek? It's not there. It says, "All the fullness of the Godship is dwelling down in Him." Jehovah's Witnesses, who are you going to believe? Are you going to believe the Word of God, or are you going to believe an organization that has tampered with the Word of God?

Ankerberg: Lorri, I'd like to ask you a question and I'd like to ask every Jehovah's Witness that is watching, I'd like to ask you this question. And that is this: Can an organization that deliberately distorts the Word of God by adding words that aren't there to meet their bias, using a Greek scholar like Julius R. Mantey and twisting his words out of context to suit their own needs, can that organization be the organization that God is working through?

MacGregor: Of course not. The test is in Zephaniah 3. It says the remnant will not lie and no

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

deceit will be found in their mouth. Jehovah's Witnesses have to say, "Am I following the true remnant, or am I following man?" Another thing that I feel is really diabolical in their paraphrasing is that every single Scripture -- and there are so many of them they've done this to. I haven't got time to go through them all -- but every Scripture that speaks of the indwelling Christ, "Christ in you," that's all been paraphrased to "in union with you." Because they don't want anybody to have a relationship with Christ. And yet what is the test of whether or not you're in the true faith? And every person here tonight, and everyone watching can take this test with me. It's in 2 Corinthians 13:5 and here it is: "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you -- unless indeed you fail the test?" There's the test.

Ankerberg: All right we're going to take a break, we're going to come right back, and we're going to look at the family life of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Please stick with us.

* * * *

Ankerberg: All right, we're back, and the next thing we want to look at is, what is family life like if you're a Jehovah's Witness? And in particular, what is required of Jehovah's Witnesses to receive everlasting life on Paradise Earth? What are their teachings? And then what are the ramifications on the family, even the children? All right? Please watch this next excerpt.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Today, when the new Jehovah's Witness is baptized, rather than using the Biblical format of baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Witness is baptized "In the name of Father, the Son, and the Spirit-directed organization."

W.T.S. Rep.: This is a dedication to them that is without any reservation. They are now going to set their entire life aside to do their Creator's will.

Narrator: Thus baptized, the Jehovah's Witness is now committed to slave for the organization until the world comes to an end.

L. Chretien: Jehovah's Witnesses exist in a rigid, structured "thou shalt not" environment. They are forbidden to vote or hold elective office, celebrate holidays, belong to the YMCA or YWCA, salute the flag, sing the national anthem, or participate in other patriotic activities. They can't serve in the military or work for a military organization. They may not accept blood transfusions, read anything critical of the Watchtower Society, or associate with former Jehovah's Witnesses. They are forbidden to even attend church.

Narrator: If life is narrow for the adult Witness, the problem is greatly intensified for their school-age children. The Watchtower Society has published a book entitled School and Jehovah's Witnesses. It defines for schools what activities Witness children are forbidden to participate in. Things like birthday celebrations, Christmas and Easter, sports, Mother's or Father's Day, Valentine's Day or Thanksgiving, saluting the flag, or school dances, singing the national anthem or saying the pledge of allegiance.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Marjorie Chretien: Children are real victims in this. Jehovah's Witness children cannot participate in many of the normal school activities, and as a result are often mocked by their classmates. They are really torn, because on one hand they want to please their parents, and on the other hand they want to be accepted by their teachers and classmates. There is no way they can win. They are literally torn apart emotionally. I know this firsthand because my own daughter cried nearly every day in school from the first time she entered until an extremely loving teacher made her feel at ease in the 4th grade. The life of a Witness child is very isolated, because playing with non-Witness schoolmates and neighborhood children is considered "bad association."

Narrator: The Watchtower Society presents Jehovah's Witnesses as clean, happy, and unquestionably moral.

Gipe: The Bible has a lot to say about the family life and the reason Jehovah's Witnesses have such happy families is because we try to apply the principles that are found in the Bible.

W.T.S. Rep.: This protects them from many of the pressures and the problems that afflict family life today. For example, Jehovah's Witnesses, while not immune to the pressures and problems, are able to cope with the difficulties that husbands and wives face, that children are confronted with every day. And so we have a very low incident of families dissolving or juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and alcoholism. And that shows the benefit and the profit to following God's Word closely.

Narrator: Former Jehovah's Witnesses disagree.

Former Witness: Growing up as a child within Jehovah's Witnesses I always thought that this was God's clean organization. But when I got older, I found out that there were divorces, there was gross immorality within the congregations, and that we were actually no different than the ones we were condemning.

Former Elder: As an elder I saw the seedy side of the congregation. Members would come to me with their problems and I found out that even elders were involved sometimes in crooked business practices and in immorality. And I began to discover that we were really no better than the people on the outside of the organization.

Former Witness: When I left Bethel it was hard for me to even share with my mother and father what was going on up there. The drunken parties that went on, and the homosexuality and things like this.

Narrator: Finally, the Watchtower had to admit that immorality had spread to the highest levels of the organization, saying, "Shocking as it is, even some who have been prominent in Jehovah's organization have succumbed to immoral practices, including homosexuality, wife-swapping, and child molesting." Alcoholism, depression, and mental disorders among Jehovah's Witnesses have come to the attention of psychiatric professionals.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Ankerberg: Lorri, as we've watched that very emotional excerpt from the tape, how can an organization that harms children and destroys family life be an organization that is God's sole channel to speak to all of mankind?

MacGregor: Well obviously, John, it can't. It is not God's channel. It is not God's organization. Many times people do what they do within the ranks of Jehovah's Witnesses out of fear and compulsion. They believe they must go to all these meetings. They must be isolationists. They can't go to any family gatherings. The Society has cleverly, without Biblical backing, done away with families getting together with others who might not be Jehovah's Witnesses, by cutting out Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, funerals, weddings, you name it. The Witnesses are not allowed to attend. And the most traumatic thing I think that all Witnesses go through: a lot of people are willing to study, but that business of going out and knocking on doors, that's really hard. And they force the young children from, you know, four years of age to go and knock on doors and do a little magazine presentation to earn their salvation. And I would say to Jehovah's Witnesses, you have had read to you at the Kingdom Hall again and again Acts 20:20 to force you into going door-to-door. And it reads this way, "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house." And on the basis of that Scripture they are driven out into the magazine-salesman work which is exactly what they're doing, is selling magazines for an organization. If they will read this in its context, all they have to do is back up to verse 17, and you will notice who Paul was talking to. He called to him, who? The elders of the church. Verse 18 says, "He said to them." Verse 20 said, "I did not shrink from declaring to you" -- to "you" who? To you "elders." And so according to the Scriptures, the onus is only on elders to go from house to house. And let me tell you, if all you publishers shut down, the whole magazine and book salesmanship organization would also have to shut down. So, all these things of not saluting the flag, not singing an anthem, not eating certain foods like hot dogs, everything serves to isolate them, to make them turn inward, only to each other, so that if they ever do want to leave they have no friends, no associates, and usually no family left.

Ankerberg: But, Lorri, now, look. There's a lot of Jehovah's Witnesses that are listening tonight, if they wanted to leave, they've got to face the very hard thing...they may lose their family. We're going to talk about this more next week. But would you say a prayer that we could invite Jehovah's Witnesses that are listening to say that would start them on a relationship with the true Christ of the Bible, and would get them into grace instead of salvation by works? Would you say a prayer, that if they would like to follow along, they could say it right where they're at? And if they mean it with all their heart God will hear them and start something new in their life -- not a relationship with an organization, but a relationship with Jesus Christ.

MacGregor: Right. Let's pray together, then. "Jehovah God, you know how I love you and how I've desired to serve you with my life. And yet I am starting to believe, Jehovah, that I may have been misled. That perhaps Jesus Christ is not who the organization says He is. Perhaps I am doing works when I need to be saved by grace. I ask you, God of all mercy, who gave His Son, I ask that that precious Son, Jesus Christ, would come into my life and into my heart right now and reveal to me through the pages of the Bible who He is, and that He would save me by His gift of grace, and not by my works. Thank you, Jehovah, for hearing my prayer. In Jesus' name.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Amen."

Ankerberg: I'm well aware, that if you pray that prayer, what it will mean to you as a Jehovah's Witness. And we want to help. You're not alone. Thousands have made that decision and we can help you. Please write to me and I will send you some information of what the next steps are. Next week we're going to take a look at one of the most serious doctrines of the Jehovah's Witness -- their doctrine concerning the refusal of having blood transfusions. And we're also going to look at their doctrine concerning ex-communication or disfellowshipping. So please join us.

Program 5

Ankerberg: Welcome. We're dealing with a documentary film during this series concerning the Watchtower Society, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and we're showing excerpts from that film to you. And I'm asking every Jehovah's Witness who's watching to look carefully to see if we are accurately depicting how you think and how you feel. We invited the president of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Fred Franz, to come and be a part of this program but he declined our invitation for his own reasons. I find that interesting, since all Jehovah's Witnesses across the country must go door-to-door witnessing for their faith. He declined the opportunity to come himself or to send a spokesman to share his views with millions of you all at once. But he declined our offer. Tonight we're going to turn to a very serious area -- the doctrine that the Jehovah's Witnesses have concerning blood transfusion. This doctrine results in people losing their lives. Obviously, if you believe that the Watchtower Society is the channel for God to speak to all of humanity, if you really believe that, then it's logical that you would follow what they say. And if they say "no blood transfusions," then you obey them. But what does it cost the people that are Jehovah's Witnesses. I want you to watch this excerpt so you'll get a feeling of what they go through.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: The control tentacles of the Governing Body extend even into the life and death world of medical treatment.

Gipe: In the 17th Chapter of Leviticus in the 10th verse it states that one should not eat blood of any sort. This means that God does not want us to sustain our life off of the life of some other creature. And for that reason -- because God has forbidden it -- we abstain from taking blood.

Mr. Blizzard: The blood issue in the back of our minds was bothering us, because as Jehovah's Witnesses, if we freely gave a blood transfusion to our daughter, we'd be excommunicated, we'd be disfellowshipped. Well, the doctors finally came to our room and they just...it was just like an ultimatum. They said, "Listen, we know from our records that you're a Jehovah's Witness; we know that you don't take blood transfusions." And the doctor looked me straight in the eye and said, "Mr. and Mrs. Blizzard, you have to make a decision: 'Yes' or 'No' whether your child lives or dies." I remember going over to the bed and she had these cords and wires keeping her alive - - life support systems -- and holding this limp child that was our only daughter, and just going over to the window and looking out and watching the clouds in the sky and just started to weep. And I said, "Oh, God Jehovah..." and I prayed to Jehovah.

Mrs. Blizzard: We just had a real distinct impression that we were supposed to obey God's law and go by what we had always been taught, and that we were to let our daughter die. And so we just called the doctors back in and told them that we just had to let her die, that we had to obey God's law.

Mr. Blizzard: About a half an hour later, a sheriff deputy came to our room and gave my wife and I both citations and they told us that "a court order has already been issued. Your daughter is going to get the blood." And they also warned the staff of the hospital not to allow us to take Jenny out of the hospital.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Mrs. Blizzard: And we were charged with "child neglect and abuse."

Mr. Blizzard: The Witnesses...there were multitudes of them that came up to the room, just swarmed the room, trying to give...giving us Watchtower articles about artificial blood and "You just can't let your child take that blood!" And just putting this heavy guilt trip on us. The elders were relieved to find out that there was still time to get Jenny out of the hospital, and they would come up to me and say, "Hey, I've got a plan. We can hire a helicopter. We can sneak her out of this hospital. Just unhook the tubes and we're gone." And I said, "Wait a minute! You can't do that! It's against the law. I'll be charged with murder." They said, "That's a chance you're going to have to take." And I just told them, "Look, I just can't let my child die in that way." And the elders were just so upset. They left in a huff. They were mad. And one of the elders said on the way out -- he looked me in the eye and said, "You know what? I hope your daughter gets hepatitis from that blood." And that was just the straw that broke the camel's back. I was just broken. Here, my own people, God's organization, turning against me, cursing me, because I just wanted to see my child live. And so they left, and we were all alone. Even my own parents didn't come to see us.

P. Gregerson: I think many times Jehovah's Witnesses have really never thought the blood thing through. It's either right or it's wrong. If it's wrong, the Watchtower Society is guilty of causing the deaths of thousands of people. That's wrong. It's evil.

Raymond Franz: I think the evil needs to be seen for what it is. It's this concept, this organizational concept that the organization is everything. You see, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that this organization is God's one channel that all of God's direction for people on the earth comes through this channel. And the men on the Governing Body believe it. I believed it. And that's the reason I was party to some things in the past that today I feel shame to think that I even had part in them.

Ankerberg: You know, as I watched that, Lorri, I can't help but think that, you know, Jim Jones lead over 900 people into the jungle and they lost their life there, and the world was shocked. And yet, as I think about all the Jehovah's Witnesses through the last years of time that quietly one by one by one refused to have blood transfusions and died quietly in hospitals all over this country, I wonder why it is that our country is not as shocked about that. For those that might be facing that right now, what does the Bible actually say? What is the evidence concerning this doctrine that the Jehovah's Witnesses hold up?

MacGregor: Well, it's interesting that in prior years, Jehovah's Witnesses were forbidden to have vaccinations. And they used all the same Scriptures to forbid vaccinations that they now use to forbid blood. And as soon as you've committed yourself to the organization, you're given a booklet called "Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood," and you're expected to obey it completely, even should a family member die because of your decision. So I want to take a few minutes and look at the Scriptures that are brought up in that booklet and straighten matters out with the Word of God. Genesis 9:4 is quoted first and it reads this way: "Only you shall not eat

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

flesh with its life, that is, its blood." The Scripture is not saying, "Don't take blood." It's not even saying, "Don't eat blood." It's saying, "You shall not eat flesh with its life, its blood." So what the Scripture was saying to the Jews was, "Don't eat unbled meat. When you kill an animal, let the blood out onto the ground and then go ahead and eat the meat afterwards." But it doesn't imply anything more than that. Jehovah's Witnesses, you see, use the term "eating blood" and equate it with transfusing blood. So any Scriptures that talk about eating blood, they say, "Well, you're just by-passing your stomach and you're putting it directly in your veins and your body is using it to nourish you, therefore it's 'eating blood.'" And so you must realize that as you read on. They quote another Scripture, in Genesis 9:5-6, which reads, "And surely I will require your life blood; from every beast I will require...the life of man; whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." Now, Jehovah's Witnesses are told this Scripture says don't take blood transfusions. This Scripture doesn't say anything of the sort. If you read it, it's talking about murder or manslaughter. It involves the taking of life, and the person whose blood was shed in this Scripture died. Now, this is hardly the case with blood transfusions. The person donating the blood doesn't die, and the person receiving it often has their life saved. So, the Bible is not saying anything that even remotely concerns their practices and their beliefs. We should look at some examples, too, in the Old Testament where people did eat blood -- because that would be the equivalent of Jehovah's Witnesses taking blood today according to their doctrine. There's an account in 1 Samuel 14:31,32 where the Israelites were out in battle, and it brings out that they ate sheep, oxen and calves with their blood. Now, what happened to these ones that were so unfaithful as to eat blood when they were told to pour it out on the ground? Well, there wasn't even any punishment inflicted, and there isn't even any notice of them repenting of any kind. So, nothing dreadful happened to them. A bolt of lightning didn't come down and get them. And what about a Jew that was under the law of God and had to obey it? What if a Jew ate blood; that is, he took an animal that didn't have its blood poured out. It maybe died of natural causes or was torn or something and he ate it and it didn't have the blood poured out? Was he guilty? What happened to him? Sure, he was guilty under the law. Leviticus 17:15 gives the penalty. It says -- and I quote: "And when any person eats an animal which dies, or is torn by beasts, whether he's a native or an alien," -- and here's the penalty -- "he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and remain unclean until evening; then he will become clean." It was the mildest penalty under the law. "Go take a bath and wash your clothes and don't do it again." And we know there were many harsh penalties under the law but they weren't for blood. Also, the law and blood was never binding upon Gentiles. If someone chose to live in the camp of Israel and they were a Gentile, then they generally fell in and obeyed it if they converted to the Jewish faith. But if we read Deuteronomy 14:21 we find the law on unbled flesh says this -- and I'm quoting: "You" -- that is "you Jews" -- "shall not eat anything which dies of itself." But "you may give it to the alien who is in your town and he may eat it, or you can sell it to a foreigner." So, I say to Jehovah's Witnesses, you know, you know you're Gentiles. Only the 144,000 are allowed to be "spiritual Jews." So even in those days the Gentiles could eat blood with no penalty. So, surely Jehovah's Witnesses today can take blood transfusions, because they're Gentiles. They're not "spiritual Israelites." And in the New Testament, Jehovah's Witnesses like to lift one phrase out of Acts, Chapter 15, where it says, "Abstain from blood." They only quote one phrase -- "Abstain from blood." That means "no blood transfusion." But they never really read it in its context. Verse 20 says, "But that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols, from fornication, from what is strangled, and from blood." Verse 29 mentions again,

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

"Abstain from things strangled, from fornication, if you keep yourself free from such things, you will do well. Farewell." Now, as we consider these Scriptures, once again, what is the context? What is the setting? Well, it isn't even eating blood like it was in the Old Testament. All these things mentioned together here are concerned with the temple rituals that were going on in the heathen idolatrous temples of the time. These were the temples that offered prostitutes to the idols, they had fornication rites, they used animal blood in their rituals and they strangled the animals and flung them around and did all kinds of things. For a Christian to participate in this would, of course, be blasphemous, and no Christian would want to have any part of it. So they were told to abstain from these things in their entirety. It isn't even a teaching on blood, it's a teaching on the temple practices. So, Jehovah's Witnesses, it took them a long time to decide you would lose your eternal life for taking blood, but they have not got a Biblical leg to stand on with this terrible doctrine.

Ankerberg: And they also changed the one on vaccination and on the fact of body organs could not be transplanted either. Is that correct? They changed their doctrine on that.

MacGregor: Yes. They're always having "new light." It's interesting that blood transfusions didn't even become an issue until 1948, and then it took them 13 years to decide that people taking blood were worthy of death. Of course, people smoking are also worthy of death.

Ankerberg: The reason that we're pointing this out, obviously, [is] because it's very important. Some people say, "Are you attacking the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses?" No. Let me read to you a quote from the second president of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and this is what he said and we're just following what he said. "If the message Jehovah's Witnesses are bringing to the people is true, then it is of greatest importance to mankind. If it is false, then it is the duty of the clergymen and others who support them to come boldly forward and plainly tell the people wherein the message is false." Who said this? The second president of the Jehovah's Witnesses -- Judge Rutherford -- and he said it in the Golden Age magazine on page 252. Now what we want to go to next is, "What happens to all of the Jehovah's Witnesses who decide to take a blood transfusion? They will be excommunicated, disfellowshipped. There's been over a million Jehovah's Witnesses that have gone through that, and we want you to look at the next segment that will explain to you just what they've experienced. Please stick with us.

* * * *

Ankerberg: All right, we're back, and we're looking at a documentary concerning the Watchtower Society -- concerning the Jehovah's Witnesses. Right now we want to turn to a portion of their life -- it's called "disfellowshipping" or "excommunication." I want you to listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: One of the most intimidating devices used by the Watchtower Society is the threat of appearing before a judicial committee of elders. Public censure, even disfellowshipping, can be the sentence of this powerful court. The inflexibility of Watchtower policies has led to thousands of instances of mental distress, even suicide. Dottie Hite's family experienced the cold steel of Watchtower doctrine when her 16-year-old son Billy became romantically involved

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

with a married Jehovah's Witness woman. Conscience stricken, Billy turned to his parents.

Dottie Hite: He was very upset, extremely distraught, and he just didn't know what to do. And he was making statements like, "I just can't go on! I just can't face this!" And he was threatening to commit suicide. My husband and I talked with him for hours and did everything and said everything we knew to do to try to get him to realize that there's no situation too bad that you can't face. But things just were not getting any better. So, as Witnesses, you're taught not to seek the professional help of anyone, so we felt our hands were so tied we didn't know what to do.

Narrator: The family turned to an elder of the congregation for help. The elder called Billy outside and his parents felt a solution was near. But their hopes were short-lived.

Mrs. Hite: We felt the elder would really have some kind of words of consolation for him. Even though no one condoned what he had done, this boy was reaching out for help and he did need someone to console him. And he felt so guilty and so at a loss. And instead the elder just said, "The committee will deal with you tomorrow." He went out to my husband's truck where he kept a small amount of paraquat in a container, and Billy took the paraquat and he took one swallow of it. We had him in the hospital within 20 minutes. Exactly three weeks later he died.

L. Chretien: The Witness who breaks these executive commandments is subject to disfellowshipping -- the Watchtower's word for ex-communication.

W.T.S. Rep.: Jehovah's Witnesses practice removing those who refuse to conform to right principles from among themselves. The Bible refers to this and supports this practice as preventing leaven or false thinking or teaching from entering into the congregation, thereby maintaining its purity or its cleanliness.

Former Witness: I went to a Christian church with my husband and they disfellowshipped me for that.

Former Witness: They believe that when you become...when you leave the organization, you go to the devil anyway; but if you ever join a church, this is the ultimate sin. They believe that it's committing spiritual fornication with the devil.

Former Witness: In my job assignment at the Brooklyn Bethel headquarters I would often process disfellowshippings which came in from all the various congregations in the United States. And they literally amounted to hundreds that would come in every week. It just shows the magnitude of the number of people that are disfellowshipped by the organization and, of course, careful records are kept on all of this, including all of the intimate details of what the individual did, what kind of offense it was. Mainly they are sex offenses, but there are other offenses, too, like smoking, perhaps celebrating the holidays, things like that that people also got disfellowshipped for.

Gipe: If one actually becomes a dissenter to the point of becoming apostate, then we follow the Bible counsel and we never invite him into our house or would say a greeting to him.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

M. Chretien: If a person resigns, they are treated exactly the same as a person who is disfellowshipped. When my husband and I resigned by sending in a letter of disassociation, we were not merely dropped from membership, we were actually shunned as being evil.

L. Chretien: Even today, if a Jehovah's Witness is caught associating with us, they are subject to being disfellowshipped themselves. There is no honorable way out of this religion.

Former Witness: Because of the way that they had treated my family, I disassociated myself from the Watchtower Society, never dreaming that my children would refuse to have anything to do with me. In fact, I have a little two-year-old grandson that I've never even seen.

Former Witness: My two children and my five grandchildren are forbidden to see me, their grandmother, because of the Watchtower. What kind of an organization going under the heading of "Christian" would disallow the children and grandchildren to see their mother and grandmother?

M. Chretien: Every person will recognize the Watchtower's practice of shunning as a cold, unloving, evil thing.

Narrator: The lives of the disfellowshipped are filled with the chill of loneliness, the never-ending sadness of separation from family members. To find something to believe in, to trust in, is very hard.

Ankerberg: Lorri, if that doctrine of disfellowshipping is actually Biblical, then we can agree with the Jehovah's Witnesses. But if it's not Biblical, then you have an organization that is showing no mercy to its people. What does the Bible actually say?

MacGregor: Well, the Bible does talk about disfellowshipping and there are instances where it is proper for one to be disfellowshipped out of a Christian congregation. For instance, when Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he was shocked because there was a relationship going on between a stepmother and stepson. And he was shocked that they had not done anything about it. And down in [1 Cor. 5] verse 11 he said, "I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be" -- and here's the reasons -- "immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler, not even to eat with such a one." And he goes on to say, "Remove the wicked man from among yourselves." However, as we read the Scriptures on discipline in the Bible, it becomes very obvious that God disciplines those whom He loves, and there is forgiveness for people even for such things as sins of the flesh and so on. They can be dealt with, they can be corrected, and the person can receive mercy and forgiveness. We're told in 1 John that if we confess our sins that Jesus is merciful and He's righteous and He'll forgive us of our sins. The Bible does make a difference between unintentional sin and an ongoing practice of sin. And this person was practicing sin; was not showing repentance. Now, you'll notice that in this mention of the things that a person might go on doing without repentance, asking honest-hearted questions is not in this list. And most of the disfellowshipping today is done [to] people who are asking honest-hearted questions. Maybe about the blood issue. Maybe about who Jesus

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Christ is. Maybe they're asking about some of the false prophecies and why, if our organization is from God, did we have these false prophecies? Maybe they've decided they would rather read the Bible alone than with the aid of a Watchtower magazine. Maybe they smoke and haven't been able to give it up. Any number of these things. And for that, they can lose their eternal life. There is no mercy.

Ankerberg: Yeah. And actually in [1] Corinthians Paul was talking about excommunication as being the final means to bring a person to repentance.

MacGregor: Right!

Ankerberg: And when he comes to repentance, you bring him back and you take him back in.

MacGregor: That's right.

Ankerberg: Now, Lorri, for those who have been excommunicated -- over a million Jehovah's Witnesses -- many of them have turned away from the things of God and they've cast away all religion. And they're bitter inside, or they're angry with the organization. They feel like they've been taken. We can understand that. What would be your advice, and maybe I'd like to ask you tonight to say a prayer for every Jehovah's Witness -- both those that have been kicked out and those that are in that would say, "This can't be God's organization. That is not Biblical. That is not what God said. And I would like to know and serve the true God, and I'd like to receive His free gift of salvation where He doesn't require any works -- He just gives it because Christ died on the cross." Would you say a prayer for us that they could say right where they're at in their home right now? And if they mean it with all their heart, the Lord Jesus Christ would change their life and make them a Christian.

MacGregor: Right. Let's just pray then. "Heavenly Father, I come to you at this time, and I am the most miserable of persons at this moment. I recognize that I served an organization and I am now out of it -- whether I left by my own choice or they put me out for some real sin or some imagined sin. But, God, you're not finished with me yet. I feel the tuggings that you have at my heartstrings, and, Lord, I do turn my life over to you, and I do give myself into your care and keeping. And I do ask that Jesus Christ -- the real Jesus of the Bible would come into my heart now and save me and turn my feet to the paths of righteousness. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

Ankerberg: Amen. Everyone of you that said that prayer, would you write me a letter and tell me that you made that decision? We know a little of the circumstances that you're going [through]. We will send you information that will help you. We care for you. We'll try to help. All right? If you have a question, write to us as well. Next week, if you haven't been persuaded by this information that you're following a false organization, then tune in next week. We're going to go through the false prophecies and document them where through the years the Watchtower Society has set a date and been wrong. If you don't believe me, tune in next week.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Program 6

Ankerberg: Welcome. During this program tonight, we're going to examine portions of a new documentary film made on the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, better known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. It's entitled, "Witnesses of Jehovah," and it covers many interesting areas. Now, every one of you that are Jehovah's Witnesses, I'd like you to watch these segments tonight. If we're wrong, please tell us and I'll pass this along to the film maker. But what I want to look at are excerpts of the film that deal with the predictions, the false prophecies that have been made by the Watchtower Society through the years. Now, are they true or are they false? That's what we're going to see. Maybe as Jehovah's Witness you don't know your own history. We're going to take the time to document it, so I'd like you to listen. And here's what we're going to do. The Watchtower Society, as you know, claims to be the channel for God to speak to all humanity. Deuteronomy 18 says if the prophet of God speaks and he's wrong, you don't have to listen to him. All right. We're going to find out. As the prophet, the spokesman, the true mouthpiece, the channel for God on earth, has the Watchtower organization actually been wrong in what they have declared? We're going to start with the first president of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Charles Taze Russell. Please listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Russell claimed that in 1799 the world had entered the time of the end; that in 1874 Jesus Christ had returned invisibly, and that the world would come to an end in the year 1914. In 1879, Russell, then 27 years of age, was so passionately convinced these prophetic dates were given by God, that he sold his prosperous clothing business and struck out in a new direction. With very little education or theological background, he began printing the magazine, Zion's Watchtower and Herald of Christ's Presence. Known today as The Watchtower, this publication, which has grown from an initial printing of 6,000 to well over 288,000,000 copies annually, dictates all major doctrines to Jehovah's Witnesses. During his lifetime, Russell authored a vast amount of literature, including a series of volumes entitled Studies in the Scriptures. According to Russell, no one could understand the Bible without these books. And reading the Bible alone would lead only to spiritual darkness. One of Russell's teachings was that Egypt's Great Pyramid was designed and placed there by God as his second witness, next to the Bible. It would be an instrument to reveal his great plan of the ages for mankind.

C. T. Russell: "This measurement indicates the length of the year, the weight of the earth, the distance to the sun, etc. It..."

Narrator: Russell believed his dates and chronology were confirmed by the measurements of the interior passageways of the Great Pyramid. According to Russell, the passageways verified 1914 as the year the world would end. Finally, 1914 came. And went! Russell and his followers were not raptured from the earth and the end had not come. John Knight, who was 15 years old at the time, remembers what came next.

John Knight: Well, when 1914 came, of course, we had to change our views, just like we had to change some views later.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Narrator: The date was pushed forward to 1915. Then, 1918. Certainly Armageddon was just around the corner. But in 1916, Charles Taze Russell died; sick, weary, and disappointed. A massive stone pyramid stands today at his gravesite as an embarrassing reminder of his false prophecies.

Ankerberg: Before our guest comments on these predictions, I want you to compare those predictions with what the next president of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Judge Rutherford, what he said. Please listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Narrator: Through hard-fisted inside political manipulation, Joseph Franklin Rutherford, a Missouri lawyer, who had given himself the title of "judge" became the second president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in 1917. In 1918, Judge Rutherford's lecture entitled "Millions Now Living Will Never Die" was the beginning of a worldwide recruiting effort called "The Millions Campaign." Not too surprisingly, it proclaimed the coming destruction of the existing world. It would happen soon -- in 1925.

Judge Rutherford: "Based on the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die!"

Narrator: In 1920, the Millions book was published. In it, Rutherford claimed the Bible proved that in 1925 Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful men of old were to be resurrected, to rule henceforth as princes on the new "Paradise Earth." Fully convinced that Rutherford's prophecy was true, many Witnesses sold their homes and businesses and took to the road. Living in cars and trucks like itinerant peddlers, they spread the warning. As 1925 drew closer, some farmers even refused to plant crops because they believed the end was at hand. Finally, 1925 came; and as in 1914, nothing happened. Once again, the Watchtower Society's prophecy had proven false. As Russell had done, Rutherford doggedly held to the story that the end was just around the corner. In 1929, the Judge had this palatial mansion constructed. It was deeded to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so they and other ancient worthies would have a place to live when they were resurrected. Located in an exclusive district of San Diego, it was given the name "Beth Sarim" -- Hebrew for "House of the Princes." The world entered the Great Depression, but Rutherford lived like a millionaire, spending the winter months at Beth Sarim, summering in Europe. As Americans suffered through poverty and deprivation, Rutherford enjoyed the use of two 16-cylinder Cadillacs. Under Rutherford, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society became a well-oiled corporation. New books, literature and tracts poured forth in a flood to be sold door-to-door by faithful Witnesses. He drove his followers to labor hard for the Lord. He advised young couples not to marry but to put all their energies into proclaiming the kingdom. Even portable phonographs were utilized at the doorstep.

Rutherford: "...because the people have been induced to believe that Christianity and religion are the same thing..."

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Narrator: Around the world, zealous Witnesses paraded in front of churches on Sunday mornings bearing placards with the slogan, "Religion is a snare and a racket." On the radio and in print, he continually stressed that the end of the world was just months away. The end finally came, but only for Rutherford. In 1942, he died at Beth Sarim, the house he had built as a luxurious testimony to God's name. In retrospect, perhaps the only "testimony" this lovely mansion ever gave was to the "cash value" of false prophecy. In 1948, the Society quietly sold the property, covering up an embarrassing chapter in its history. Today, most modern Jehovah's Witnesses are unaware that Beth Sarim ever existed.

Ankerberg: Now, why are these false prophecies, these predictions, these dates, why are they important? Well, the Watchtower in their own magazine, The Watchtower magazine, they had an article in 1972 on page 197 that said, "They shall know that a prophet was among them." And it asks the question, "Does Jehovah have a prophet to help them" -- that is people -- "to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come." Then underneath the paragraph "Identifying the Prophet," it says, "These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet?" they ask. Then they answer it for you. "This prophet was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian Witnesses. Of course, it's easy to say that this group acts as a prophet of God; it is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?" Now, hold onto that, and see what God says in Deuteronomy 18. This is what He says...the Watchtower is claiming to be the prophet of God, the channel of God on earth to all humanity. Here's what God says in Deuteronomy 18:21: "You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?' If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place" -- does not come true -- "that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him." Now, we're going to bring you up to the present on some of the prophecies concerning 1975 right after we take a break. So please stick with us.

* * * *

Ankerberg: All right, we're back, and we're going to continue now to look at some of the prophecies that the Watchtower Society in the name of God has made to the people. One was very recent; it had to do with 1975. Please listen.

FILM EXCERPT

Raymond Franz: You see, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that this organization is God's one channel. That all of God's direction for people on the earth comes through this channel. And the men on the Governing Body believe it. I believed it. And that's the reason I was party to some things in the past that today I feel shame to think that I even had part in them.

L. Chretien: If the Governing Body of the Watchtower Society holds and enjoys the power, then they must also bear the responsibility. The truth is, they don't. Nothing better illustrates this

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

than their false prophecy concerning 1975.

Former Witness: Well, when the Society brought out the date 1975, I felt right away that this is going to be the date when the thing has to happen, because there is no other date beyond 1975 that anybody could point to. So, I grabbed right hold of it. It was the thing to do. And I put all my hopes in it.

L. Chretien: By the mid-60's, the Watchtower Society had all but guaranteed that the world would come to an end in 1975. It was a prophecy that would bring in a flood of new members, and the organization prospered. But, it would have other effects on the ordinary Jehovah's Witness.

Former Witness: We thought Armageddon was coming in 1975, so I did not have a career; I did not go to college because the end was so close. There was no need. The new world would be here.

Former Witness: I was a senior in high school and the circuit overseer, which is a traveling minister, advised me that, "It's best for you to quit school and go into full-time pioneer work because the world is going to end in 1975."

Former Witness: We felt so strongly about the imminent approach of 1975 and that this whole system was coming to an end, that we sold our home in lower Michigan and moved north, built a Kingdom Hall and there we intended to live out those few remaining years, having saved just enough money to go a few years beyond 1975. And so it was a great disappointment and distress when this event that the Watchtower had prophesied did not materialize.

Former Witness: I wanted to get married, I wanted to have children, but because the end was so close, when Fred and I got married, we decided that we would postpone having children. So I believe we sacrificed a lot within the organization.

Former Witness: Well, when the end of the world didn't come in 1975, and that prophecy of the Watchtower failed, I began to wonder, "If they were wrong on this, how many others are they wrong on?"

L. Chretien: And once again, Watchtower "fact" was revealed as nothing more than contrived fantasy.

Narrator: Jehovah's Witnesses tried to get an explanation but were unsuccessful. Apparently, for the Governing Body, nothing is so invisible as an unpleasant truth. Today, they are quick to deny their prophecies for the end of the world.

W.T.S. Rep.: We do not, nor have we attempted to predict a day or a time for it.

M. Chretien: The history and prophecies of the Watchtower Society are easily revealed as fabrications and distortions by simply reading the material they published from the beginning.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

L. Chretien: Their greatest enemy is their own literature, which clearly shows the man-made nature of their theology. Jehovah's Witness leaders have continually covered up and re-written their ever-changing doctrines, each time presenting them as "new light." The one thing the Watchtower Society cannot tolerate in the organization is critical thinking. That's why they forbid their followers to read any material which might expose their deceptions.

Former Witness: What really shocked me to my core was this -- and every other Jehovah's Witness listening to this -- is that we were so convinced that the leadership, the Governing Body, would never tell one lie; they would always speak the truth no matter what the truth was. That is a fabrication. It is a lie. They have lied to us; they have deceived us; and we have the documented evidence. And because we've spoken about it, we were silenced or threatened to be silenced. And that's what will happen to any Jehovah's Witness listening to this program, and he knows it in his heart. He knows it in his heart.

Ankerberg: Lorri, as we've watched these clips tonight, can an organization that has been wrong for over 100 years, and given false prophecies...more than we've presented tonight. How many false prophecies, approximately, has the Watchtower Society given over the 100 years?

MacGregor: Well, I have two pages of them written down here.

Ankerberg: All right. And we've got most of it documented in our literature that we're making available. But what would you say about an organization that has been wrong for 100 years being the ones that are leading the people and claim to be the channel for God on earth?

MacGregor: All right. According to Scripture, there are three sources for prophecy: It's from God spoken in the name of the Lord and it comes true. It's from Satan, in which case it is absolutely false and comes to a bad end. Or, thirdly, sometimes prophets speak out of their own spirit. Now, let's be kind to Jehovah's Witnesses a little bit tonight and we'll say, "Well, we'll discount it coming from Satan just for a moment. All right?" When you read Deuteronomy 18, you read the part about "don't fear that prophet," but there's an interesting part back in verse 20. It says, "But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in my name which I have not commanded him to speak,...that prophet shall die." Now, if the Jehovah's Witness organization with their prophets had lived in the days of Israel, they wouldn't be around today because they would have been taken outside the city gates and "rocked to sleep" for their failures. Now, the Witnesses say, "Well, we made a mistake. You know, we've corrected it, and we've gone on, and we admit our mistakes, therefore it's all right." Is it all right? Not according to Scripture. There's a good example in Ezekiel Chapter 13, and remember, the remnant giving these Scriptures -- the remnant of the 144,000, the Governing Body, they claim to be the Israelites, they are the spiritual Israelites, so this applies to them. Verse 1 says, "The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration, "listen to the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord"' -- that is Jehovah, Yahweh, God -- ""Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing!"" Verse 6 says, "They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, 'Jehovah declares,' when Jehovah has not sent them; yet they hope for

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

fulfillment of their word." Doesn't that sound like the Jehovah's Witnesses? Always hoping. "Did you not see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you said, 'Jehovah declares'; but it is not I who have spoken?" And Jehovah goes on to say, "Therefore, I am against you." Now, I think they should listen to the clear words of the Bible. It's spoken against them. The 6,000 years we saw on the clip that it was ended in 1975, viewers might be interested to know that it also ended in 1872 and 1873...

Ankerberg: According to the writings of the Watchtower Society.

MacGregor: Right. They missed it by a few years. In 1943 they said that man could never get up above the air envelope that's around the earth, but a man got on the moon! Wrong again! Now, all I can do is conclude -- and I believe God is speaking directly to people that are Jehovah's Witnesses, and I call them a "Non-prophet organization" and I spell prophet with a "ph" Verse 16 of Jeremiah 23, "Thus says Jehovah of Hosts, 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you, they are leading you into futility; they speak a vision of their own imagination, not from the mouth of the Lord.'"

Ankerberg: Okay, Lorri, there are many Jehovah's Witnesses that are sincere, they're good people, and when they hear this, they realize, Boy, if they go back and what we have put on the screen tonight is absolutely true, they've been deceived. If we were a secular organization, a secular show, we could just drop it right here and everybody would leave all religion. But we have come to know something else -- that the Bible is true. It's not the truth as presented through the Watchtower organization, it's the truth just presented in the Scripture itself. The Watchtower Society has made an interesting statement, that those who just read their Bible "relapse" into Christian doctrine. If you just leave them by themselves. And that's right. If you just read your Bible there will be certain things that are just crystal clear. Would you say a prayer tonight for those who might be disillusioned with the Watchtower Society, but they're just good, sincere people, and they're looking for the truth. Instead of an organization we're saying, "Come to know Jesus Christ personally." You don't have to work your way to heaven, He's offering you the gift of salvation that He provided Himself. For those people that would like to start that relationship with Jesus Christ tonight, would you say a prayer that they could say right now, and invite Christ to come into their life.

MacGregor: Right. Let's just pray. "Jehovah God, I come before you tonight in the name of Christ Jesus. I realize now that I may be in a false prophet organization. I know that they have set the date of 1914 and already a full 70-year generation has passed and nothing has happened. And, God, I'm just afraid that I've made a terrible mistake but I don't know how to get away. And I also know that your Word is Truth, and that Christ came to set the ones in bondage free. And I just ask that Jesus would come into my life and my heart tonight and just set me free and give me courage to take the steps I know I need to take and disassociate myself. The Bible says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Please strengthen me. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Ankerberg: If you made that decision, you prayed that prayer tonight, we understand the circumstances that you're facing. But remember, you've got the truth. Please write to me and tell me that you prayed that prayer and you meant it with all your heart, and I'd like to send you

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

information that will help you, show you what the next steps are. We care for you. Please join us next week. Good night. God bless you. We'll see you then.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

Program 7

Ankerberg: Welcome! Tonight, we're looking at excerpts from a documentary film on the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, commonly known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. I'd like for you to watch a portion that has to do with the Governing Body of the Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. These men claim to be the "channel of God" to all of humanity on earth. What kind of decisions do they make? There was one fantastic decision that they made that is absolutely astounding because it was contradictory and it had vast ramifications for Jehovah's Witnesses in two different countries of the world. I would like for you to watch this excerpt right now.

FILM EXCERPT

Billy Hite's sister: The Jehovah's Witnesses claim to bring the families together. Through them, my brother killed himself, my mother tried to kill herself, my two sisters and my brother will not speak to me, my grandmother will not speak to me. She wouldn't let me see my grandfather before he passed away. They didn't bring our family close together, they nearly totally destroyed it.

Narrator: While the members of the Governing Body may escape blame for the death of one desperate boy, they can hardly escape responsibility for their policies in the African country of Malawi. Policies that left thousands of Witnesses raped, homeless, or dead.

L. Chretien: In the mid-1960's in the African country of Malawi, all citizens were ordered by the government to purchase a 25-cent party identification card. Jehovah's Witnesses were forbidden by the Watchtower Society branch office from complying with that law. As a result, Jehovah's Witnesses suffered a terrible persecution. Homes and crops were burned, thousands of women were raped, and some 20,000 Witnesses were forced to flee Malawi into neighboring countries to live in refugee camps, their lives scarred forever.

R. Franz: Now, Jehovah's Witnesses are taught that it's a sin to be involved in any way with politics. They're also taught that it's just as great a sin to have anything to do with the military. But we have two situations: one in a country in Africa, Malawi, and another in Mexico, where two opposite rulings were allowed to stay in effect at the same time and it's almost unbelievable the results of this.

L. Chretien: When Jehovah's Witnesses living in Mexico heard that their brothers had suffered this terrible persecution over a 25-cent party card, they were conscience-stricken.

Franz: Because in Mexico, every young man is expected to fulfill one year of military service. He receives what's called a "Cartilla," a certificate. The Witnesses customarily and regularly would bribe a military official to fill out this card stating that they had completed their military instruction, and that they were now in the first reserves of the Army. Why were they doing this? They gave me copies of letters from the Watchtower Society's headquarters in New York stating that this was purely a matter for individual conscience. And that if the person felt that he could do this -- pay a bribe to a military official, get this card saying he had completed his military training and was now a member of the first reserves -- this was up to him.

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

L. Chretien: Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the men who make up the Governing Body are chosen and directed by God; yet out of apparent indifference or ignorance or worse, the Governing Body allowed Witnesses to illegally bribe officials, while at the same time holding others to a policy that resulted in their wholesale rape and slaughter. It's difficult for me to believe these actions were inspired by God.

Ankerberg: Lorri, as we've watched that clip, we can't help but ask the question, "How can an organization that claims to be the only channel for God to humanity on this earth, how in the world could they hold on to a contradictory ruling and let Jehovah's Witnesses die?"

MacGregor: Well, in that case of Malawi and Mexico, it was because one country did not know what the other country was doing. The Watchtower made a big deal about Malawi, but the military service in Mexico was never mentioned and in fact, had Ray Franz not written his book, [it] would not be known.

Ankerberg: Okay. We're going to take some questions from the audience. We have our first question. What is your question?

Audience: My question is, why won't the organization allow the people to get involved in the laws of the land and the political aspect of the country?

MacGregor: The scriptural reason they give is that their followers are no part of the world. The real reason is, they don't want energy going to anything else other than their organization and the selling of their magazines.

Ankerberg: Question?

Audience: If it's true that the Jehovah's Witnesses are not to associate with any kind of politics or governmental systems, why do they use funny little things like dollar bills which have symbols all over them?

MacGregor: Well, they like dollar bills well enough. It finances their buying up most of Brooklyn Heights in New York.

Ankerberg: Okay. Question?

Audience: Yes. In reply to the false prophecy, you would think the Jehovah's Witnesses would come back and cite 1 Chronicles Chapter 17 where Nathan told David to go ahead and build the temple and do all that is in his heart because God is with him, and then after that, God did go ahead and use Nathan again. So, in playing the "devil's advocate," how would you comment on that?

MacGregor: Well, Nathan obviously, if you read the Scriptures, had a real heart for God, and I

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

think that if you should make a public prophecy that is not right, you must repent publicly, and I have no doubt that Nathan probably did, although the Bible does not say. But we know his heart was right with God.

Audience: My question is, how did you come to know the knowledge that you have now? Were you a Jehovah's Witness? If so, how did you become a Christian?

MacGregor: All right. I went into the Watchtower Society when I was earnestly seeking for God at 18 years of age. I came out when I began reading the Bible alone and questioning their doctrine that Jesus Christ was Michael the Archangel. I was not allowed to ask questions. When it became obvious that my honest-hearted questions would not be answered, I resigned.

Ankerberg: Before you go too much further, let's talk about the question of Michael the Archangel, because we said we would come back to that in another program and we haven't done it yet. The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that actually Jesus started out as Michael the Archangel, and then was re-created, came to earth, was just a man, died. His body was evaporated in gases and God re-created Michael again. Now, you believed that as a Jehovah's Witness. What does the Scripture really say? How can you persuade a Jehovah's Witness that's not what the Bible says?

MacGregor: Well, Jehovah's Witnesses may be interested to know that back in 1879 there were statements made in The Watchtower that Jesus could not be Michael and Michael could not be Jesus. This was said again in The Watchtower in 1883. By the time they got to 1917, they were teaching in The Finished Mystery that Michael was the Pope of Rome. Sometime after that date, Jesus was taught to be Michael the Archangel. Now, a couple of Scriptures will clear it up. Daniel 10:13 says that Michael is "one of the chief princes." Even the Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ is unique; He's not "one of" anything. So, come on, fellows! In Jude 9 we have Michael the Archangel disputing with the devil and arguing about the body of Moses and it says there, "He did not dare rebuke Satan." So, if Michael is Jesus, Jesus had no trouble at all rebuking Satan. We can read several accounts in the New Testament. Besides which Michael said, "The Lord" -- Kurios, a title of Christ -- "rebuke you." And so Jesus is not Michael. Michael is not Jesus. And Jehovah's Witnesses were right in the beginning, and I suggest they return to their "old light." It was better than the "bright light" now.

Audience: If Jehovah's Witnesses started with Russell, then where did the Apostles that penned the Scriptures they used fit into the 144,000 elect?

MacGregor: Well, Jehovah's Witnesses are kind enough to include the Apostles in the number of the 144,000. They're also very happy to include Arius in that number, who brought in the heresy that they teach, and he was corrected at the Council of Nicea.

Audience: In the Jehovah's Witness mind, if they die before Armageddon, does their soul have a destination?

MacGregor: Well, Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the soul dies or is annihilated. They have a soul-sleep teaching. The best they can hope for is a re-creation from God's memory bank of their

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

personality in the thousand-year reign.

Ankerberg: Don't they use something about the spirit as just being "breath"?

MacGregor: Yes. They teach that your spirit...the spirit the Bible talks about is just your breath. Can you feature Stephen at the moment of his death saying, "Lord into thy hands I commit my spirit" -- my breath?

Ankerberg: Or Jesus Himself on the cross said the same thing.

MacGregor: Yes. Imagine committing your breath to anyone as you're dying. Not likely.

Audience: Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was tortured on a stake, what evidence in Scripture is there that Jesus died on a cross?

Ankerberg: Let's take time and do it!

MacGregor: Okay. If we look in the back of their Kingdom Interlinear Translation, we find an illustration of a man, and he appears to be on an upright stake. And they make the statement, "This is the manner in which Christ died." And they refer to a book called De Cruse Liber Primus by Justus Lipsius of the 16th century. We were able to locate this book in a library in Canada and we took some very interesting pictures. There are actually nine illustrations of different crosses. And even...the picture is a little bit unclear, but if you look at the one the Jehovah's Witnesses chose, I could swear the guy's sittin' on a cross-beam. Doesn't even look like it's really a stake. Now, Jehovah's Witnesses go to a lot of trouble to try and say that Jesus did not die on a cross; however, they use an interesting word throughout the appendix of The Kingdom Interlinear Translation, and that word is "beam." They keep saying Jesus died on a beam, like they're quoting Ezra 6:11 in the Greek Septuagint. That it was a "beam." Now, I may not be a carpenter, but I'm smart enough to know that if you have a house that is "post and beam construction," a post has to hold the cross-beam up, right? And so they say throughout here that Jesus hung on a beam. They quote another authority saying a simple beam was used. So, I think Jehovah's Witnesses ought to look in a dictionary and find out what a beam is. It can't be held up without a cross-post. They make the statement, "The evidence is completely lacking that Jesus Christ was crucified on two pieces of timber placed at a right angle." And yet De Cruse Liber Primus shows the cross, just as Christians have shown it for centuries, and it says, "This is the manner in which our Lord was crucified." But they ignored that, and picked out one that looked like a stake. Now, interestingly enough, in the last few months, The Watchtower, although they made this statement here about the stake, they say, "This is a revolutionary translation, we admit, but it is the purest one" -- that of saying "stake" instead of "cross." The passing of time and further archaeological discoveries will be certain to prove its correctness." Oh yeah? Another false prophecy. Because just recently in The Watchtower, because of all the information published, they now have to admit with egg on their face that they cannot really be certain of the manner in which Christ died. It could have even been a cross. But you see, the important thing is not how Christ died. That's just a red herring. The important thing is why Christ died. And by arguing over the cross and throwing up all this sand in people's eyes, they never have to deal with why Christ died. He died for you, He died for me. Acts 20:28 that they have altered says

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

that "God purchased the Church with His own blood." Jesus is Immanuel -- God with us. Let's not argue about how He died. It's not that important. I believe it was on a cross and I think the Watchtower's going to have to admit it. Because after all, when He was crucified, it said He had one thief on His left -- and "hand" is implied in the Greek -- and the other on His right -- and "hand" is implied. Now, if Jesus was on a stake like this, both thieves would be up in the air. Not too likely. Plus, the Bible says He showed to His believers the nailprints -- the prints of the nails -- plural -- in His hands. Watchtower theology has one nail, the Bible has plural nails. And I prefer to believe the Word of God and understand the reason for His death.

Ankerberg: Okay. We're going to have some more questions and answers as soon as we take our break. We'll be right back. Stick with us.

* * * *

Ankerberg: All right, we're back, and we're talking about the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the Jehovah's Witnesses. What do they believe? What do they think? And our guest is Mrs. Lorri MacGregor, who has been a Jehovah's Witness herself and left the organization after doing research that has actually gone on over 27 years of time. We're having questions. One of the questions that came up in a previous program, Lorri, is the one concerning John 8:58. And the Jehovah's Witnesses have got a completely different translation in their New World Translation than any other Bible. They actually change the tenses. What's going on in John 8:58? Read it for us, if you would, in the New World Translation and then tell us why they have changed it.

MacGregor: In the New World Translation, of course, they wish to rob Jesus Christ of His Deity as they have done on so many other Scriptures. "Therefore, when the Jews approached Jesus and said, 'How could you have seen Abraham? You're not even 50 years old,'" when Jesus said Abraham was His father. In verse 58 of John 8, Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I Am." Now, Jesus took the memorial name of God to all generations and applied it to Himself. Jehovah's Witnesses couldn't stand this, of course, so they changed it to, "...I have been," or "I existed before" -- as Michael the Archangel, no doubt. Now, were they correct in doing this, or what? Well, most scholars agree that Jesus was quoting Exodus 3:14 where Moses was about to go in before the nation of Israel...or before Pharaoh on behalf of the people, the Israelites. And he said, "Who shall I say has sent me? And Jehovah God answered him and said, 'Tell them I Am has sent me unto you.'" And so this was the spoken name of God. And so when Jesus said, "I Am." It just really shocked the Jews. Look at the reaction. They picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. So, if Jesus is just saying, "Look, I existed before," He wouldn't have been stoned. He was being stoned for blasphemy. But Jehovah's Witnesses said in their footnotes here, "Before Abraham was, I have been." In 1950 in the footnote they said, "Properly rendered in the perfect indefinite tense." It didn't take too long, someone wrote to them and said, "Hey, folks, there is no perfect indefinite tense in Greek, and it's been obsolete for years in English!" You know? So, hardly waiting to catch a breath or apologize or anything else, in 1961 they said it was properly rendered in the perfect tense indicative. Didn't take too long; somebody pointed out that there is no perfect tense indicative for the verb "to be" on which "I Am" is based. So, in 1969 they tried again, and I say, "Three strikes and you're out!" -- "properly rendered in the perfect tense." Any

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

first-year Greek student can tell you that it is not in the perfect tense at all, it is in the present tense. "Ego Eimi" -- "I Am." Now, how important is this? Someone says, "Oh, there you are, splitting hairs, you know. You shouldn't do this." How important is it? Well, I don't want you to take my word for how important it is -- and I'm speaking specifically to you, Jehovah's Witnesses. Jesus is going to show you how important it is, because He said in John 8:24, right in the Greek text, "I said therefore to you that you shall die in your sins, for unless you believe that I Am, you will die in your sins." How important is it that we have a Bible that tells the truth about Jesus Christ? -- that He is Deity? He is God. He is Almighty God. He is the Mighty God. He is the only God. He is the true God. And, yes, He is the I Am. And if you don't believe it, you're going to die in your sins. Jesus said so.

Ankerberg: Lorri, we've presented a lot of evidence over these programs, and there are many Jehovah's Witnesses who, may be just like you were one day: they were sitting, thinking about these very things, and they came to the point of realizing they had been fooled. And they realized that the Bible was saying something completely different than the Watchtower Society had taught them. And the blood transfusion, and the excommunication, and all of the other rules, and going door-to-door, this was not part of God's salvation. It was completely different. But, they were facing the fact that if they leave the Watchtower Society, they could lose their family; they could lose their friends, and that's very serious. What would you have those people do? What word of hope would you give to them tonight if they're facing that decision, even if they want to leave the Watchtower Society?

MacGregor: Well, in my own case, John, I had never even read a single word written against the Watchtower Society. I had been reading in the Kingdom Interlinear under the Greek/English side, and I had lots of questions about the misrepresentation of Jesus Christ. I did not have anyone influencing me. I was honestly seeking in my heart in the pages of the Bible. And I knew, when I went with my questions that I could very well lose my friends, my family, and in fact, I did lose it all. I didn't have a single person who would speak to me. Two elders I had known for years spit on the street behind me when I walked by. I went through this. I know what people are facing. I've been there. I've lived it. But all I can say is if you will turn your life and your heart over to the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will trust in Him, I'll tell you, you and Jesus Christ are a majority in any situation. The Lord says, "If you believe in Him and trust in Him, He will give you fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, homes, and all these things that you need." And God has been gracious to do it for me. And "the longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows." Trust Jesus no matter what the cost. I now have my parents who are Christians. Other people in our family have come to the Lord. God is faithful, as we are faithful to serve Him.

Ankerberg: All right, would you say a prayer for all those Jehovah's Witnesses who are right on the line and would like to cross over and they would like to accept God's free gift of salvation which was provided when Christ died on the cross. And it's available to them right now. They only need to ask the Lord to apply it to their life, and they can start a relationship with the Lord Jesus -- not with an organization but with God Himself. Would you say that prayer, and every one of you Jehovah's Witnesses that are in your home, you're listening somewhere else, right now if you want to say this, just bow your head, repeat the words that Lorri is saying and just say them to the Lord. He'll hear and He'll come into your life and He'll change your life. I would ask that you would pray this prayer with her. Lorri?

Has The Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up
and Changed Important Doctrines, Dates, and Bible Interpretations?
Copyright: 1989

MacGregor: Yes. "Jesus, we come to you this night, because you did say in your Word that we could ask you anything, and we can come directly to you. You are our Mediator. And, Jesus, we ask that you would just come into our lives and come into our hearts and just give us your peace that passes all understanding. Jesus, you promised that the weary and the brokenhearted could come to you, and that's what we feel like after we have been used by the Watchtower organization and have given our time and our effort and our money, our lives, even some of us have given families in death because of the blood transfusion issue. Jesus, help us. Come into our hearts and our lives and show us the truth of the matter and how rich life can be when we live it in your grace. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Ankerberg: If you prayed that prayer, I hope that you would just take a moment and write me a letter, say that you prayed that prayer, and you invited Christ into your life, you would like some help, and we will send you information that you need. We care for you; we know what you're going through and what you face, and we want to help. Please write to us. Good night, God bless you, we'll see you next week.