

# Aware!

CHALLENGING NEWS FOR EVERY JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

No. 4

## 144,000 reasons why you should think again. . .

One of the distinctive doctrines of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society is that there are two different classes of believers. Jehovah's Witnesses found this out in 1935 when the Society said "light flashed up" and the Organisation then began to teach that there was a difference between the "anointed class" [144,000] and the "great multitude" (great crowd, New World Translation).

### **CLASS DISTINCTION? A TWO-TIER RELIGION? GOD'S WORD SAYS NO!**

1. We establish the locality of the throne of God. The throne of God is in heaven (REV. 4:2).

2. We establish the locality of the great crowd. The great crowd is in heaven. We know this because the Bible says the great crowd is standing before the throne (REV. 7:9).

3. We find out the locality of the Lamb. Again the answer is the same. He is in heaven. The same verse (REV. 7:9) has supplied us with the answer.

**CONCLUSION:** The GREAT CROWD and THE LAMB are in the same place, HEAVEN.

1. We establish the locality of the 144,000. The Bible again gives us the answer. The 144,000 are before the throne of God (REV. 14:3).

2. We again turn our attention to the whereabouts of the Lamb. We read he is on Mount Zion with the 144,000 (REV. 14:1).

**CONCLUSION:** The 144,000 and THE LAMB are in the same place, MOUNT ZION.

### NOTE

The phrase "before the throne" (NWT) at REV. 7:9 & 14:3 describes the scene for both the great crowd AND the 144,000. Whether the Watch Tower Society chooses to interpret this literally or figuratively is beside the point.

The Organisation must be consistent and apply THE SAME INTERPRETATION to both verses.

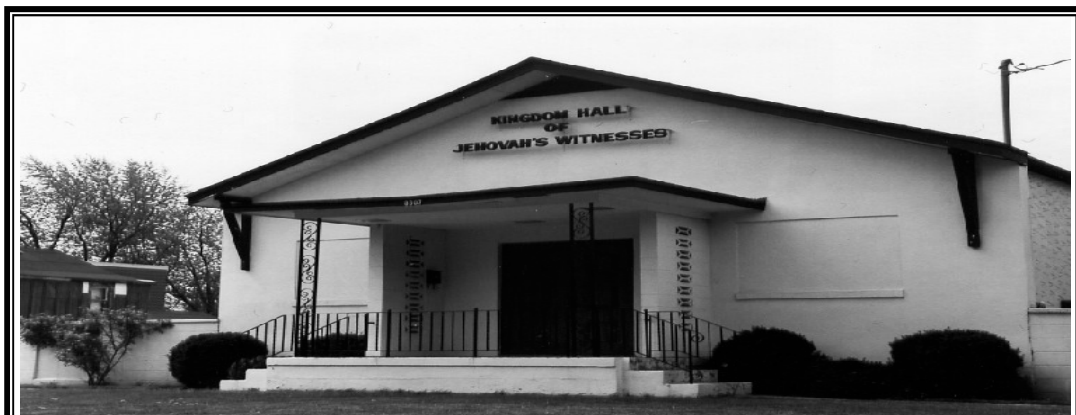
Historic biblical Christianity has ALWAYS maintained that man is saved on account of trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. This is known as justification by faith. Justification by faith is the outcome of the new birth (being born of God, as John puts it at JOHN 1: 12,13). And Jesus said the Spirit of God can bring about this new birth in ANYONE HE CHOOSES (JOHN 3: 8). But this is precisely what the Watch Tower Society forbids any of "the great crowd" from claiming their experience to be. The Society suggests that anyone who is not of the "anointed class" and who claims to be born of God may be doing so because of "great inward disturbances" [WATCH TOWER, 1st Feb. 1982, page 28].

Do you think the apostle John would agree? Let's look at 1 JOHN 5: 1 where he again uses the phrase: "born of God".

Our question is: Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? As one of Jehovah's Witnesses your answer will be Yes.

So what does John show your experience should be? ANSWER: That which the Organisation says cannot happen to you: being born of God! "Whoever" ("everyone", NWT) means you!

There is more ominous news from the Organisation which Jehovah's Witnesses must take note of. As a member of "the great crowd" the Organisation says that not only have you not been born again, but you can not partake of the emblems at the "Lord's evening meal". And you are not a member of the body of Christ. Neither can you be a child of God until you have passed a test. This "thorough test" is still over 1000 years from now. You can read about this test yourself in the Watch Tower book: LIFE EVERLASTING IN FREEDOM OF THE SONS OF GOD (1966) pages 398, 400.



**QUESTIONS TO PONDER IN THE KINGDOM HALL**

- I. Does the presence of angels standing around the throne with the great crowd picture a heavenly or earthly scene? (REV. 7: 11).
- II. When the last of the 144,000 dies what are you going to do?

Passing the test is essential if you are to have God as your Father.

The best that the Watch Tower Society can offer you is that you will be sufficiently righteous to overcome this last hurdle. Do you understand what is involved here? The Watch Tower Society insists that you can be saved by your own performance, i.e. what the Bible calls "works". As long as you hold out some hope, however remote, that your works will save you, you have not really seen why Christ shed his blood. You are embarking on attempting the impossible, that of justifying yourself. This is the inevitable outcome of thinking your works contribute something to your salvation.

How different is God's Word on this vital subject of salvation. The real gospel is truly good news. It tells us that salvation has been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus (ROM. 8: 32; TIT. 3: 5; 1 PET. 1: 18,19)

**THE WATCH TOWER SOCIETY CANNOT BEAR YOU TO THINK FOR YOURSELF**  
(Watch Tower, 15 Jan. 1983, page 22).

**BUT LISTEN TO PAUL INSTEAD: Test all things (1 THES. 5:21).**  
May God grant you understanding and peace as you believe on his Son.

**WHY AWARE! IS PUBLISHED**

AWARE! is for the enlightenment of the entire family of Jehovah's Witnesses, it shows how to cope with today's problems that man-made religion engenders. It reports the good news of the gospel, examines the Watch Tower religion and preaches Christ crucified. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real need of justification by faith. Most importantly for every Jehovah's Witness this publication shows that confidence in the Watch Tower's promise of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away is certain to end in disappointment.

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