

# TYPICAL APPEARANCES OF “144,000” AND “ANOINTED CHRISTIANS” IN *THE WATCHTOWER* FROM 2000 TO-2015

Doug Mason

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(Note that the majority of subheadings are created to help highlight the major points.)

## 2000 September 1

### Likely, the full number of “little flock” has been selected

Likely, the full number of spiritual Israel, that “little flock” of Kingdom heirs, has been selected. For decades now, Jehovah has directed attention to the gathering of a great crowd of others out of all nations. Thus, Jehovah’s promise to Abraham that through his “seed” all the nations would bless themselves is being fulfilled in a large way.<sup>1</sup>

## 2000 October 15

### 144,000 kings and priests

Since the Kingdom was a subsidiary government that Jehovah used to bring the earth and its human inhabitants into perfection and reconciliation to him, what role is there for the King Jesus Christ and the 144,000 kings and priests after the Millennium? “Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet.”—1 Corinthians 15:24, 25.<sup>2</sup>

## 2001 January 15

### God’s visible channel, the FDS and its Governing Body

Theocratic appointments come from Jehovah through his Son and God’s visible earthly channel, “the faithful and discreet slave” and its Governing Body. The whole process of such recommendation and appointment is directed, or guided, by holy spirit.<sup>3</sup>

## 2002 February 1:

### Early Christians acted as a collective faithful and discreet slave

The holy spirit thus empowered those early Christians to act as a collective “faithful and discreet slave” to supply individual anointed Christians with spiritual “food at the proper time.”<sup>4</sup>

### 144,000 spiritual Israelites baptized into Christ’s death

This “heavenly calling” began at Pentecost 33 C.E. and, in the main, appears to have ended in the mid-1930’s. (Hebrews 3:1) The number of those sealed by the holy spirit to be part of spiritual Israel is 144,000, “bought from among mankind”, were baptized into the spiritual body of Christ, into his congregation, and into his death.<sup>5</sup>

### The witness of the spirit

How do the anointed know that they have received the heavenly calling? They receive unmistakably the witness of the holy spirit. The apostle Paul wrote to such ones: “All

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<sup>1</sup> *The Watchtower* 2000 September 1, page 22, “Our Precious Heritage What Does It Mean To You?”

<sup>2</sup> *The Watchtower* 2000 October 15, page 20, “What God’s Government Will Do”

<sup>3</sup> *The Watchtower* 2001 January 15, page 16, “Overseers and Ministerial Servants Theocratically Appointed”

<sup>4</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 20, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>5</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 20, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

who are led by God’s spirit, these are God’s sons. . . . The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. If, then, we are children, we are also heirs: heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ, provided we suffer together that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:14-17) This witness of the spirit is so powerful that those who have the slightest doubt about having received the heavenly calling can reasonably conclude that they have not.<sup>6</sup>

### **A few Christians make up spiritual Israel**

Having in mind the limited number of Christians called to make up spiritual Israel, Jesus referred to them as the “little flock.” They are admitted into the “fold” of the new covenant, in contrast with the numberless “other sheep,” whom Jesus said he must also gather.<sup>7</sup>

### **Prospect of living forever on earth**

Those of the other sheep gathered in the time of the end will make up the “great crowd” destined to survive “the great tribulation,” with the prospect of living forever on a paradise earth.<sup>8</sup>

### **John’s vision at the end of the first century**

The vision John received at the end of the first century C.E. distinguishes between this great crowd and the 144,000 members of spiritual Israel.<sup>9</sup>

### **Anointed are Christ’s righteous, holy bride**

The anointed are already sanctified in a very special way, being declared righteous and holy as Christ’s bride.<sup>10</sup>

### **‘Other Sheep’ have holy spirit**

The holy spirit does indeed play an important part in the lives of the other sheep.<sup>11</sup>

As early as 1938, *The Watchtower* stated that the Jonadabs, or other sheep, “must learn that consecration [dedication] and sanctification are required of each one who shall become a part of the great multitude and live on earth.”<sup>12</sup>

### **144,000 anointed brothers will act as kings and priests**

During the Millennium, Christ and his 144,000 anointed *brothers* in heaven will act as *kings* and priests and dispense the benefits of Christ’s ransom sacrifice on earth.<sup>13</sup>

### **The NT focuses on Christ’s anointed *brothers***

The Christian Greek Scriptures focus so much attention on Christ and his anointed *brothers*.<sup>14</sup>

## **2002 September 15:**

### **Jesus’ blood enabled 144,000 to receive heavenly glory**

The blood of Jesus opened the way for 144,000 holy ones to be resurrected to heavenly glory. The apostle John declared: “Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be

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<sup>6</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 20, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>7</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 21, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>8</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 21, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>9</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 21, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>10</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 21, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>11</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 21, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>12</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 21, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>13</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 23, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

<sup>14</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 February 1, page 23, “Have You Received ‘the Spirit of the Truth’?”

priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years.”<sup>15</sup>

### **Perfect rulership of the 144,000**

What a time that will be! The results of the perfect rulership of Christ Jesus and the 144,000 holy ones are further described in these words recorded at Micah 4:3, 4.<sup>16</sup>

## **2003 September 15**

### **Genuine anointed ones over the centuries**

Over the centuries, genuine anointed ones grew as “wheat” in a field of “weeds,” or false Christians.<sup>17</sup>

Since the 1870’s, the “wheat” became increasingly evident.<sup>18</sup>

### **In general, the heavenly class chosen by the 1930s**

By the 1930’s, then, it was becoming clear that, in general, the heavenly class had been chosen.<sup>19</sup>

### **Filling the vacancy of an unfaithful anointed**

If an anointed one proves unfaithful, it is most likely that a person who has long served God faithfully as one of the other sheep would be called to fill the vacancy thus caused in the 144,000.<sup>20</sup>

## **2003 June 1**

### **A small remnant of anointed still on earth**

Most of the 144,000 co-rulers with Christ have already completed their earthly course in faithfulness. ... A small remnant of the 144,000, however, are still on earth. Of the more than 15,000,000 who attended the celebration of the Lord’s Evening Meal in 2002, only 8,760 expressed their hope of having been chosen for this heavenly assignment.<sup>21</sup>

### **Do not dare to attack an anointed**

Anyone who dares to attack the remaining prospective members of the Kingdom is in reality striking against God’s Kingdom.<sup>22</sup>

## **2004 September 1: Why is 144,000 taken literally?<sup>23</sup>**

### **Why do Jehovah’s Witnesses take the number 144,000 mentioned in the book of Revelation literally and not symbolically?**

Their number, 144,000, is understood literally for several reasons.

[Immediate context of Rev 7:4]

One is found in the immediate context of Revelation 7:4.

[two groups]

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<sup>15</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 September 15, page 6, “How Can True Saints Help You?”

<sup>16</sup> *The Watchtower* 2002 September 15, page 7, “How Can True Saints Help You?”

<sup>17</sup> *The Watchtower* 2003 February 15, page 19, “What Does the Lord’s Evening Meal Mean to You?”

<sup>18</sup> *The Watchtower* 2003 February 15, page 19, “What Does the Lord’s Evening Meal Mean to You?”

<sup>19</sup> *The Watchtower* 2003 February 15, page 20, “What Does the Lord’s Evening Meal Mean to You?”

<sup>20</sup> *The Watchtower* 2003 February 15, page 20, “What Does the Lord’s Evening Meal Mean to You?”

<sup>21</sup> *The Watchtower* 2003 June 1, page 18, “Stand Still and See the Salvation of Jehovah”

<sup>22</sup> *The Watchtower* 2003 June 1, page 18, “Stand Still and See the Salvation of Jehovah”

<sup>23</sup> *The Watchtower* 2004 September 1, pages 31-32, “Questions from Readers”

After the apostle John was told in vision about this group of 144,000 individuals, he was shown another group. John describes this second group as “a great crowd, *which no man was able to number*, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues.” This great crowd refers to those who will survive the coming “great tribulation,” which will destroy the present wicked world.—Revelation 7:9, 14.

[one group a defined number; the other group is unnumbered]

Note, however, the contrast that John draws between verses 4 and 9 of Revelation chapter 7. He states that the first group, “those who were sealed”, has a definite number. However, the second group, “a great crowd,” is without a definite number. With that in mind, it is logical to take the number 144,000 to be literal. If the number 144,000 were symbolic and referred to a group that is actually numberless, the force of the contrast between those two verses would be lost. Thus, the context strongly indicates that the number 144,000 must be taken literally.

[some Bible scholars]

Various Bible scholars, past and present, reached the same conclusion—that is, the number is literal. For instance, in commenting on Revelation 7:4, 9, British lexicographer Dr. Ethelbert W. Bullinger observed some 100 years ago: “It is the simple statement of fact: a *definite* number in contrast with the *indefinite* number in this very chapter.” (*The Apocalypse or “The Day of the Lord,”* page 282)

More recently, Robert L. Thomas, Jr., professor of New Testament at The Master’s Seminary in the United States, wrote: “The case for symbolism is exegetically weak.” He added: “It is a definite number [at 7:4] in contrast with the indefinite number of 7:9. If it is taken symbolically, no number in the book can be taken literally.”—*Revelation: An Exegetical Commentary*, Volume 1, page 474.

[some numbers are symbolic, some are literal]

Some argue that since Revelation contains highly symbolic language, all numbers found in this book, including the number 144,000, must be symbolic. That conclusion, though, is clearly not correct. Granted, Revelation contains numerous symbolic numbers, but it also includes literal numbers. For instance, John speaks of “the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” (Revelation 21:14) Clearly, the number 12 mentioned in this verse is literal, not symbolic. Further, the apostle John writes about “the thousand years” of Christ’s reign. That number is also to be taken literally, as a careful consideration of the Bible shows. (Revelation 20:3, 5-7) Hence, whether a number in Revelation is to be taken literally or symbolically depends on its background and setting.

[other Bible passages]

The conclusion that the number 144,000 is literal and refers to a limited number of individuals, a relatively small group when compared with the “great crowd”, also harmonizes with other Bible passages. For instance, later in the vision that the apostle John receives, the 144,000 are described as those who “were bought from among mankind as *firstfruits*”. (Revelation 14:1, 4) The expression “firstfruits” refers to a small representative selection. Also, while Jesus was on earth, he spoke about those who will rule with him in his heavenly Kingdom and called them a “*little flock*”. (Luke 12:32; 22:29) Indeed, those from among mankind who will rule in heaven are few in comparison with those of mankind who will inhabit the coming Paradise earth.

[conclusion]

Hence, **the context of Revelation 7:4 and related statements found elsewhere in the Bible** bear out that the number 144,000 is to be taken literally. It refers to those who will rule in heaven with Christ over a paradise earth, which will be filled with a large and undetermined number of happy people who worship Jehovah God.

## 2005 January 15

### 144,000 resurrected ‘conquerors’ will rule

Numbering 144,000, these resurrected ‘conquerors’, along with Jesus, will rule over the entire earth.<sup>24</sup>

## 2005 February 1

### The Kingdom covenant as co-rulers

It was Jehovah’s will that a total of 144,000 be taken into the Kingdom covenant as corulers with Jesus Christ in the glorious heavenly Kingdom.<sup>25</sup>

### Great Crowd stand before the throne

The apostle John saw in vision “a great crowd, which no man was able to number, . . . standing before the throne and before the Lamb, . . . saying: ‘Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.’” These are the earthly subjects of the Kingdom.<sup>26</sup>

## 2005 May 1

### Abraham looked for the holy city of 144,000, the New Jerusalem

Paul described Abraham as an alien resident and a tent dweller who was “awaiting the city having real foundations, the builder and maker of which city is God.” (Hebrews 11:9, 10) This was not a literal city like Jerusalem, which was the location of God’s temple. No, this was a symbolic city. It was God’s heavenly Kingdom made up of Christ Jesus and his 144,000 corulers. The 144,000 in their heavenly glory are also spoken of as “the holy city, New Jerusalem,” the “bride” of Christ.<sup>27</sup>

### To receive Kingdom rule blessings, Abraham will have to live again

In 1914, Jehovah enthroned Jesus as Messianic King of the heavenly Kingdom and commanded him to rule in the midst of his enemies. To receive the blessings of Kingdom rule, Abraham, “Jehovah’s friend,” will have to live again.<sup>28</sup>

## 2005 August 1

### Spiritual nation of 144,000

Malachi’s prophecy has a **modern-day fulfillment** in connection with spirit-anointed Christians, who make up a **spiritual nation of 144,000**.<sup>29</sup>

### Great Crowd stand before the throne

Malachi’s prophecy can also be encouraging to the “great crowd,” who are “standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes.”<sup>30</sup>

### One flock with the anointed

These become one flock with the anointed, under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 January 15, page 16, “Foregleams of God’s Kingdom Become a Reality”

<sup>25</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 February 1, pages 12-13, “Finding One Pearl of High Value”

<sup>26</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 February 1, pages 12-13, “Finding One Pearl of High Value”

<sup>27</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 May 1, page 11, “The Resurrection—A Teaching That Affects You”

<sup>28</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 May 1, page 11, “The Resurrection—A Teaching That Affects You”

<sup>29</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 August 1, page 28, “‘Jehovah Is ‘the Rewarder of Those Earnestly Seeking Him’”

<sup>30</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 August 1, page 28, “‘Jehovah Is ‘the Rewarder of Those Earnestly Seeking Him’”

<sup>31</sup> *The Watchtower* 2005 August 1, page 28, “‘Jehovah Is ‘the Rewarder of Those Earnestly Seeking Him’”

## 2006 February 15

### The “Kingdom of priests” fulfils the promise made in Eden

By means of a series of covenants, Jehovah gradually revealed how his purpose concerning the Seed promised in Eden would be fulfilled. ... Once the Law covenant led the Jews to the Messiah, Jehovah revealed further aspects of the fulfillment of his purpose. Those humans who were to be associated with the primary part of the seed would form the foretold “kingdom of priests” and would be brought into “a new covenant” as the new “Israel”, a spiritual one.<sup>32</sup>

## 2006 March 15

### The unseen resurrection has taken place

When does the heavenly resurrection take place? “During [Christ’s] presence,” answers 1 Corinthians 15:23. World events since 1914 clearly show that both Christ’s presence and “the conclusion of the system of things” began in that year. So there is reason to conclude that the resurrection of faithful Christians to heaven has already begun, though, of course, unseen by humans. That would mean that the apostles and the early Christians have been raised to heavenly life. What about Christians living now who have the sure, God-given hope of ruling with Christ in heaven? They are raised “in the twinkling of an eye,” or immediately after they die.<sup>33</sup>

## 2007 January 1

### The First Resurrection is taking place

God’s Word does not disclose a precise date for the first resurrection, but it does reveal that it occurs over a period of time, during Christ’s presence. The first to be resurrected are anointed Christians who died before Christ’s presence began. As Christ’s presence progresses, anointed Christians who faithfully finish their earthly course are changed “in the twinkling of an eye” into **powerful spirit creatures**.

Will all the anointed receive their heavenly reward before the war of Armageddon? We do not know. We do know, however, that in God’s due time, all the 144,000 will be found standing on the heavenly Mount Zion.

We also know that the **majority of the 144,000 are already united with Christ**. Only a relatively few remain on earth. ...

### The general resurrection is future

Satan himself will be abysed. Then, the general resurrection can begin, and faithful humans can, on the basis of Jesus’ ransom sacrifice, be raised to perfection similar to that lost by Adam.<sup>34</sup>

### Fulfils the prophecy at Genesis 3:15

Jehovah’s prophecy recorded at Genesis 3:15 is being wonderfully fulfilled.<sup>35</sup>

## 2007 April 15

### “Congregation” primarily means the spirit-anointed

Yes, the primary sense of “congregation” in the Christian Greek Scriptures is *the composite group of spirit-anointed followers of Christ*. These 144,000 anointed ones

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<sup>32</sup> *The Watchtower* 2006 February 15, page 18, “An Administration for Fulfilling God’s Purpose”

<sup>33</sup> *The Watchtower* 2006 March 15, page 6, “The Only Remedy!”

<sup>34</sup> *The Watchtower* 2007 January 1, page 30, “The First Resurrection—Now Under Way”

<sup>35</sup> *The Watchtower* 2007 January 1, page 30, “The First Resurrection—Now Under Way”

constitute “the congregation of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens”.<sup>36</sup>

## **2007 May 1**

### **When does the calling of Christians to a heavenly hope cease?**

The Bible does not reveal a precise answer to that question. We do know that the anointing of Jesus’ disciples with a view to their heavenly inheritance began in 33 C.E. We also know that after the death of the apostles, genuine anointed Christian “wheat” came to “grow together” with counterfeit Christians, “weeds.” Then, starting in the late 1800’s, anointed Christians were again prominently active. In 1919 “the harvest of the earth”, including the gathering of the final ones of the anointed, began to be reaped.<sup>37</sup>

## **2008 January 1**

### **God’s kingdom: co-rulers; little flock; kings; priests**

God’s Kingdom has 144,000 co-rulers with the Christ. Jesus said that others, including his apostles, would rule in heaven with him. He called this group the “little flock.” Later, the apostle John was told that this little flock would total 144,000 in number. ... ruling as kings and serving as priests along with Christ.<sup>38</sup>

## **2008 January 15**

### **Selection of the anointed through the centuries**

Not all 144,000 anointed Christians were selected in the first century. Their calling continued throughout the apostolic period and then apparently slowed down. However, it did continue throughout the succeeding centuries into modern times. Eventually, after Jesus began to reign in 1914, things moved ahead rapidly.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> *The Watchtower* 2007 April 15, page 21, “Let the Congregation Praise Jehovah”

<sup>37</sup> *The Watchtower* 2007 May 1, page 30, “When does the calling of Christians to a heavenly hope cease?”

<sup>38</sup> *The Watchtower* 2008 January 1, pages 6-7, “What is God’s Kingdom?”

<sup>39</sup> *The Watchtower* 2008 January 15, page 22, “Counted Worthy to Receive a Kingdom”

## **Heaven cleared of all opposition; action taken to complete the 144,000**

First, Jesus cleansed the heavens of all vestiges of opposition to godly rule. Then he turned his attention to the gathering of the remaining prospective members of his Kingdom government so as to complete the number of 144,000. By the mid-1930's, that task was evidently well along and many of those responding to the preaching work did not have the desire to go to heaven. ... After 1935 the thrust of the preaching work turned to the gathering of “a great crowd”, ... who would survive “the great tribulation”.<sup>40</sup>

## **Few anointed called since the 1930s**

Over the years since the 1930's, a few individuals have been called to a heavenly hope. Why? In some cases, it could be that they replaced individuals previously called who had become unfaithful.<sup>41</sup>

## **Not all since 1930s are replacements**

It seems, however, that not all who have been called to a heavenly hope since the 1930's are replacements for ones who have fallen away. ... We can be confident that the full number of 144,000 members will be completed in Jehovah's due time.<sup>42</sup>

## **Great crowd will come out of the great tribulation**

Soon [the great crowd] will “come out of the great tribulation” brought upon Satan's world and will joyfully move on into God's new world.<sup>43</sup>

## **2009 January 15**

### **Four winds held back until 144,000 sealing is complete**

With the opening of the sixth seal, a great earthquake occurs and the great day of wrath arrives. But the next vision shows ‘four angels holding tight the four winds of the earth’ until the sealing of the 144,000 is completed. “A great crowd” of those not sealed is seen “standing before the throne and before the Lamb”.<sup>44</sup>

## **2009 February 15**

### **FDS bringing many to righteousness**

#### **Those Who Listen to the Slave Are Blessed**

Since its appointment, the faithful and discreet slave has been “bringing the many to righteousness”.<sup>45</sup>

### **144,000: holy city, New Jerusalem, bride**

In the future, when ‘the holy city, New Jerusalem [consisting of 144,000] comes down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.’<sup>46</sup>

### **Listen to the spirit-anointed brothers**

Listen to the Christ and his trustworthy spirit-anointed brothers.<sup>47</sup>

## **2009 June 15**

### **“The Faithful Steward and Its Governing Body”**

Are all these anointed ones throughout the earth part of a global network that is somehow involved in revealing new spiritual truths? No. Although as a composite

<sup>40</sup> *The Watchtower* 2008 January 15, pages 22-23, “Counted Worthy to Receive a Kingdom”

<sup>41</sup> *The Watchtower* 2008 January 15, page 23, “Counted Worthy to Receive a Kingdom”

<sup>42</sup> *The Watchtower* 2008 January 15, page 23, “Counted Worthy to Receive a Kingdom”

<sup>43</sup> *The Watchtower* 2008 January 15, page 23, “Counted Worthy to Receive a Kingdom”

<sup>44</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 January 15, page 30, “Highlights From the Book of Revelation—I”

<sup>45</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 February 15, page 18, “They Keep Following the Lamb”

<sup>46</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 February 15, page 18, “They Keep Following the Lamb”

<sup>47</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 February 15, page 18, “They Keep Following the Lamb”



body the slave class is responsible for feeding the spiritual household, not all individuals of the **slave class** have the same responsibilities or work assignments. ... In the first century, all were involved in the vital preaching work. But only a very limited number were used to write the books of the Bible and oversee the Christian congregation.<sup>48</sup>

### **Appointed over all of Christ’s belongings on earth**

As a group, this remnant has been appointed over all of Christ’s belongings here on earth. The “belongings” ... include the Kingdom’s earthly subjects and the material facilities used in preaching the good news.<sup>49</sup>

### **A limited number represent the slave class**

Similarly, today a limited number of anointed men have the responsibility of representing the slave class. They make up the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. These spirit-anointed men oversee the Kingdom work and the spiritual feeding program. ... The Governing Body does not consult with each individual member of the slave class before making decisions. However, all anointed Witnesses are deeply involved in the vital harvest work ... As a class, “the faithful and discreet slave” is one body, but as individuals, they have various work assignments.<sup>50</sup>

### **Only an invitation**

How should these anointed ones view themselves as they await their heavenly reward? They realize that although they have received a wonderful invitation, it is only that—an invitation. They must remain faithful until death in order to obtain this prize.<sup>51</sup>

## **2010 February 15**

### **Spirit anointed bride class**

The members of the bride class—the spirit-anointed Christians.<sup>52</sup>

### **From 1918, the remnant class invited**

The anointed followers of Christ have been extending the invitation since as far back as 1918. In that year, the public talk entitled “Millions Now Living May Never Die” offered hope that many will gain life in a paradise earth after the battle of Armageddon. A talk given at the convention of Bible Students at Cedar Point, Ohio, U.S.A., in 1922 urged listeners to ‘advertise the King and his kingdom’. This appeal helped the remnant of the bride class to reach more people with the invitation. In 1929, the March 15 issue of *The Watchtower* contained an article entitled “Gracious Invitation,” with Revelation 22:17 as its theme text. In part, the article stated: “The faithful remnant class join [the Most High] in the gracious invitation and say, ‘Come’”. ... To this day, the bride class continues to extend that invitation.<sup>53</sup>

## **2010 September 15**

### **First century governing body, and today**

First-century Christians ... recognized that Jesus was teaching and directing the congregation through a governing body, composed of the apostles and older men in

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<sup>48</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 June 15, page 24, “**The Faithful Steward and Its Governing Body**”

<sup>49</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 June 15, page 22, “The Faithful Steward and Its Governing Body”

<sup>50</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 June 15, page 24, “The Faithful Steward and Its Governing Body”

<sup>51</sup> *The Watchtower* 2009 June 15, page 23, “The Faithful Steward and Its Governing Body”

<sup>52</sup> *The Watchtower* 2010 February 15, page 15, “The Spirit and the Bride Keep On Saying ‘Come’”

<sup>53</sup> *The Watchtower* 2010 February 15, pages 15-16, “The Spirit and the Bride Keep On Saying ‘Come’”

Jerusalem. ... Similarly today, a Governing Body composed of spirit-anointed Christians contributes to the unity of the worldwide congregation.<sup>54</sup>

## **2010 September 15**

### **“Our Active Leader Today”**

From 1879 onward ... [faithful anointed Christians] had been publishing Biblical truths about God’s Kingdom in the pages of this magazine. Jesus had prophesied that “on arriving” to inspect his domestics during “the conclusion of the system of things”, he would find a slave providing them “food at the proper time.” He would pronounce that slave happy and would “appoint him over all his belongings” on earth. As Head of the Christian congregation, Christ has used this “faithful and discreet slave” to administer His Kingdom interests on earth. He has provided direction for the anointed “domestics” and their “other sheep” companions by means of a Governing Body.<sup>55</sup>

## **2011 April 15**

### **A faithful slave class of anointed Christians**

In modern times, Jehovah has never left his people without clear guidance. ... [Jesus Christ] has delegated some authority to a faithful slave class, made up of faithful spirit-anointed Christians.<sup>56</sup>

### **Jehovah uses his organisation to guide us**

Of course, those taking the lead in the earthly part of God’s organization are not perfect—but neither was Moses. Even so, the pillar provided constant evidence of his divine appointment and of God’s approval. ... The people acted “at the order of Jehovah by means of Moses.” Thus Moses, God’s channel of direction, likely gave the signal to move. Today, Jehovah’s steward class gives a clear signal whenever it is time to make a move. ... Do you clearly discern the evidence of divine guidance? Jehovah uses his organization to guide us.<sup>57</sup>

## **2011 September 15**

### **The anointed kings and priests in heaven**

The anointed ... look forward to being kings and priests in heaven with Jesus Christ. ... The anointed in their heavenly position.<sup>58</sup>

### **The anointed set an example**

While on earth, anointed ones ... exercise faith in Christ’s ransom sacrifice and follow him continually, thus ‘making their calling and choosing sure.’ ... And they set a good example for those who hope to live on a paradise earth.<sup>59</sup>

## **2011 December 15**

### **Having God’s spirit is not necessarily an anointing**

Let us, therefore, not confuse having God’s spirit with being anointed with God’s spirit. ... Spirit anointing depends on God’s choice.<sup>60</sup>

### **Other Sheep also have God’s spirit**

Like the anointed, the other sheep allow God’s spirit to help them.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> *The Watchtower* 2010 September 15, page 13, “Unity Identifies True Worship”

<sup>55</sup> *The Watchtower* 2010 September 15, page 26, “Our Active Leader Today”

<sup>56</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 April 15, page 4, “Do You Discern the Evidence of God’s Guidance?”

<sup>57</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 April 15, page 5, “Do You Discern the Evidence of God’s Guidance?”

<sup>58</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 September 15, page 12, “Are You Letting Jehovah be Your Share?”

<sup>59</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 September 15, page 12, “Are You Letting Jehovah be Your Share?”

<sup>60</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 December 15, page 25, “Guided by God’s Spirit in the First Century and Today”

## 2011 May 15

### “All Israel” means spiritual Israelites

In Jehovah’s due time, “all Israel”—that is, the complete number of spiritual Israelites—will serve as kings and priests in heaven.<sup>62</sup>

### “Abraham’s seed”, the 144,001

Abraham’s seed—Jesus Christ along with the 144,000.<sup>63</sup>

## 2011 May 15

### “Cooperate with Christ’s Representatives”

Jesus spoke of his anointed representatives as his “brothers.” (Matt. 25:40) After Jesus had been resurrected to the heavens, his “brothers” were appointed to act in his place, “substituting for Christ” as ambassadors inviting others to become reconciled to Jehovah God. (2 Cor. 5:18-20) Our recognizing Christ’s leadership involves submission to his “brothers.”<sup>64</sup>

## 2011 June 15

### Those declared righteous will be spirit sons who rule as kings

Those receiving that gift, being declared righteous, become God’s spiritual sons. As joint heirs with Christ, they have the prospect of being resurrected to heaven as actual spirit sons to “rule as kings” with Jesus Christ.—*Read Romans 8:15-17, 23.*<sup>65</sup>

## 2012 January 15

### 144,000, the heavenly city, the Lamb’s wife

Revelation chapter 21 portrays [the 144,000] as a heavenly city, New Jerusalem, called “the Lamb’s wife”.<sup>66</sup>

### “The royal priesthood completes its work”

By the end of 1,000 years of beneficial service, the royal priesthood will have elevated its earthly subjects to human perfection. As High Priest and King, Christ will then present the completely restored human family to Jehovah. The royal priesthood will have fully accomplished its purpose.<sup>67</sup>

### 144,000 will continue to rule forever

According to Revelation 22:5, “these [highly privileged associates of Christ] will rule as kings forever and ever”. Over whom? The Bible does not say. But the quality of life that they possess and their experience in helping a world of imperfect people will equip them to hold a regal position in Jehovah’s purposes forever.<sup>68</sup>

## 2013, July 15

### Our relationship with God depends on the faithful slave channel

Jesus, the Head of the congregation, is keeping his promise to feed us. Through whom is he doing so? ... That faithful slave is the channel through which Jesus is feeding his

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<sup>61</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 December 15, page 25, “Guided by God’s Spirit in the First Century and Today”

<sup>62</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 May 15, page 25, “O the Depth of God’s Wisdom!”

<sup>63</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 May 15, page 25, “Following Christ the Perfect Leader”

<sup>64</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 May 15, page 26, “Following Christ the Perfect Leader”

<sup>65</sup> *The Watchtower* 2011 June 15, page 14, “God Recommends His Love to Us”

<sup>66</sup> *The Watchtower* 2012 January 15, page 30, “A Royal Priesthood to Benefit All Mankind”

<sup>67</sup> *The Watchtower* 2012 January 15, page 30, “A Royal Priesthood to Benefit All Mankind”

<sup>68</sup> *The Watchtower* 2012 January 15, page 30, “A Royal Priesthood to Benefit All Mankind”

true followers in this time of the end. It is vital that we recognize the faithful slave. Our spiritual health and our relationship with God depend on this channel.<sup>69</sup>

### **FDS began to be fulfilled only in this time**

The context of the illustration of the faithful and discreet slave shows that it began to be fulfilled, not at Pentecost 33 C.E., but in this time of the end.<sup>70</sup>

[Jesus’] words about that faithful slave began to be fulfilled only *after* the last days began in 1914.<sup>71</sup>

### **“Who is the faithful and discreet slave?”**

The faithful slave must be made up of *anointed* Christians on earth. Such ones are called “a royal priesthood”. ... It is only fitting that members of that “royal priesthood” have a direct share in teaching fellow believers the truth.<sup>72</sup>

### **All anointed are not the faithful slave**

Do *all* anointed ones on earth make up the faithful slave? No. The reality is that not all anointed ones have a role in dispensing spiritual food to fellow believers worldwide. Among the wheat are anointed brothers who ... loyally support the direction from headquarters. But they do not have a part in dispensing spiritual food to the worldwide brotherhood. Also among the anointed are humble sisters, who would never try to assume the role of teachers in the congregation.<sup>73</sup>

### **Definition of the “faithful and discreet slave”**

**“The faithful and discreet slave”**: A small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food during Christ’s presence. **Today, these anointed brothers make up the Governing Body.**<sup>74</sup>

Who, then, is the faithful and discreet slave? In keeping with Jesus’ pattern of feeding many through the hands of a few, that slave is made up of *a small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food during Christ’s presence*. Throughout the last days, the anointed brothers who make up the faithful slave have served together at headquarters. In recent decades, that slave has been closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Note, however, that the word “slave” in Jesus’ illustration is singular, indicating that this is a *composite* slave. The decisions of the Governing Body are thus made collectively.<sup>75</sup>

### **FDS received two appointments**

In Jesus’ illustration, the faithful and discreet slave receives *two* distinct appointments. The first is over the domestics; the second is over all the master’s belongings. Since the illustration is fulfilled only in this time of the end, both appointments would have to come after Jesus’ presence in kingly power began in 1914.<sup>76</sup>

### **First appointment in 1919**

When did Jesus appoint the faithful slave over his domestics? ... After [Jesus] and his Father came and inspected the temple, or spiritual arrangement for worship, from 1914 to the early part of 1919. They were pleased with a small band of loyal Bible Students who showed that their heart was with Jehovah and his Word. ... In 1919, a

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<sup>69</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 20, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>70</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 21, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>71</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 21, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>72</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 21, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>73</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, pages 21-22, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>74</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 22, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>75</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 22, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>76</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 22, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

time of spiritual revival, Jesus selected capable anointed brothers from among them to be the faithful and discreet slave and appointed them over his domestics.<sup>77</sup>

### **Who are the domestics?**

Who, then, are the domestics? Put simply, they are those who are fed. Early in the last days, the domestics were all anointed ones. Later, *the domestics came to include the great crowd of other sheep*. The other sheep now make up the vast majority of the “one flock” under Christ’s leadership. Both groups benefit from the same timely spiritual food that is dispensed by the faithful slave.<sup>78</sup>

### **Domestics depend on all spiritual provisions**

Jesus placed a weighty responsibility on the faithful and discreet slave. ... The domestics depend on all the spiritual provisions dispensed by the composite slave.<sup>79</sup>

### **Jesus make the second appointment over all his belongings” after he arrives**

When does Jesus make the second appointment—“over all his belongings”? Jesus said: “Happy is that slave if his master on arriving [literally, “having come,” fn.] finds him doing so. Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings.” (Matt. 24:46, 47) Note that Jesus makes the second appointment after he arrives ... So there would be an interval between the two appointments. To understand how and when Jesus appoints the slave over all his belongings, we need to know two things: when he arrives and what his belongings include.<sup>80</sup>

### **Jesus’ coming takes place during the great tribulation**

Jesus’ “arriving” or “coming” mentioned in the illustration of the faithful slave takes place during the great tribulation.<sup>81</sup>

### **Summary of the foregoing**

When Jesus comes for judgment during the great tribulation, he will find that the faithful slave has been loyally dispensing timely spiritual food to the domestics. Jesus will then delight in making the second appointment—over all his belongings. Those who make up the faithful slave will get this appointment when they receive their heavenly reward, becoming corulers with Christ.<sup>82</sup>

### **All 144,000 will share in the heavenly authority**

[Jesus] promised that a small group of men—the anointed brothers who make up the faithful slave—will be appointed over all his belongings. In reality, all of the 144,000 will share his vast heavenly authority.<sup>83</sup>

### **Jesus feeds many through a few**

By means of the faithful and discreet slave, Jesus is ... feeding many through the hands of a few. Jesus appointed that faithful slave to ensure that his genuine followers—whether of the anointed or of the other sheep—would have a steady supply of timely spiritual food throughout the last days.

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<sup>77</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, pages 22-23, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>78</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 23, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>79</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 23, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>80</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 24, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>81</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 24, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>82</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 25, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>83</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 25, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

## **Give your loyal support to the anointed faithful and discreet governing body**

Let us be determined to show our appreciation by **giving our loyal support to the anointed brothers who make up that faithful and discreet slave.**—Heb. 13:7, 17.<sup>84</sup>

**2013 July 15**

### **Sincere Bible Students in the 1870s**

In the 1870’s, a small group of sincere truth-seekers got together and formed Bible classes. ... Those sincere Bible Students, as they called themselves, made a careful and prayerful search of the Scriptures.<sup>85</sup>

### **Bible Students were not the appointed channel**

The Bible Students’ diligent study of the Scriptures yielded rich results. Those loyal men and women exposed false doctrines and spread spiritual truths, publishing and distributing Bible literature far and wide. Their work won the hearts and convinced the minds of many who were hungering and thirsting for spiritual truth. An intriguing question therefore arises: Were the Bible Students in the years that led up to 1914 the appointed channel through which Christ would feed his sheep? No. They were still in the growing season, and the arrangement for a channel to provide spiritual food was still taking shape. The time had not yet come for the weedlike imitation Christians to be separated from the true Christian wheat.<sup>86</sup>

### **Harvest began in 1914**

The harvest season began in 1914. In that year ... Jesus was enthroned as King, and the last days began. From 1914 to the early part of 1919, Jesus accompanied his Father to the spiritual temple to do a much-needed inspection and cleansing work. (Mal. 3:1-4) Then, starting in 1919, it was time to begin gathering the wheat. Was it finally the time for Christ to appoint one organized channel to dispense spiritual food? Yes, indeed!<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 25, “Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?”

<sup>85</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 18, “Feeding Many Through the Hands of a Few”

<sup>86</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, pages 18-19, “Feeding Many Through the Hands of a Few”

<sup>87</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 19, “Feeding Many Through the Hands of a Few”

### **Appointed channel of a few**

In his prophecy about the time of the end, Jesus foretold that he would appoint a channel to give out spiritual “food at the proper time.” Which channel would he use? True to the pattern he set in the first century, Jesus would once again feed many through the hands of a few. But as the last days were just getting under way, the critical question was, Who will be the few? That and other questions about Jesus’ prophecy will be discussed in the next article.<sup>88</sup>

### **2013 July 15: “Look! I Am With You *All* the Days”**

#### **Weeds at the start of the second century**

At the dawn of the second century C.E., “the weeds appeared” when imitation Christians became visible in the world field. (Matt. 13:26) By the fourth century, weedlike Christians had greatly outnumbered anointed Christians.<sup>89</sup>

#### **Anointed have always been on the earth**

From the first century until today, there have always been some anointed wheatlike Christians on earth. ... Anointed Christians would be protected by Jesus all the days leading up to the time of the end. However, ... we do not know for certain who belonged to the wheat class during that long period of time. However, some decades before the start of the harvest season, the wheat class became discernible.<sup>90</sup>

#### **Malachi was inspired**

Centuries before Jesus gave the illustration of the wheat and the weeds, Jehovah inspired his prophet Malachi to foretell events that are reflected in Jesus’ illustration. (*Read Malachi 3:1-4.*)<sup>91</sup>

#### **Larger fulfilments of Malachi’s prophecy: 1914 to 1919**

What is the larger fulfillment of Malachi’s prophecy? During the decades leading up to 1914, C. T. Russell and his close associates did a work like that of John the Baptizer. That vital work involved restoring Bible truths. The Bible Students taught the true meaning of Christ’s ransom sacrifice, exposed the hellfire lie, and proclaimed the coming end of the Gentile Times. Still, there were numerous religious groups who claimed to be Christ’s followers. So a crucial question needed to be answered: Who among those groups were the wheat? To settle that question, Jesus began to inspect the spiritual temple in 1914. That inspection and cleansing work involved a period of time—from 1914 to the early part of 1919.<sup>92</sup>

### **2014 February 15**

#### **The anointed are immediately resurrected to heaven**

As anointed Christians finish their earthly course during Christ’s presence, they are resurrected to heavenly life.<sup>93</sup>

#### **Spiritual “virgin companions” of the bride since 1935**

Since 1935, millions of people have allowed the remnant to ‘bring them to righteousness’. These loyal companions of the anointed Christians have purified their lives, becoming spiritual virgins. These “virgin companions” of the bride have

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<sup>88</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 19, “Feeding Many Through the Hands of a Few”

<sup>89</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, pages 9-10, “Look! I Am With You *All* the Days”

<sup>90</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 10, “Look! I Am With You *All* the Days”

<sup>91</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, pages 10-11, “Look! I Am With You *All* the Days”

<sup>92</sup> *The Watchtower* 2013 July 15, page 11, “Look! I Am With You *All* the Days”

<sup>93</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 February 15, page 10, “Rejoice Over the Marriage of the Lamb!”

dedicated themselves to Jehovah and have proved themselves to be faithful subjects of the Bridegroom-King.<sup>94</sup>

### **Great Crowd stand before the throne and the Lamb**

The book of Revelation represents the members of the “great crowd” as “standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” They render Jehovah sacred service in the earthly courtyard of his spiritual temple.<sup>95</sup>

## **2014 October 15**

### **The 144,000 are the new nation—”the Israel of God”—spiritual Israel**

The new covenant went into effect at Pentecost 33 C.E. when Jesus’ loyal disciples were anointed with holy spirit. ... The total number of those in the new covenant would be 144,000, making up a new nation—”the Israel of God”—spiritual Israel. ... The new covenant relates to the Kingdom in that it produces a holy nation that has the privilege of becoming kings and priests in that heavenly Kingdom. That nation constitutes the secondary part of Abraham’s offspring. .... The new covenant produces spiritual Israel and provides the basis for its members to become “joint heirs with Christ.”<sup>96</sup>

### **Covenant to rule made with the 144,000**

After instituting the Lord’s Evening Meal, Jesus made a covenant with his faithful disciples, often referred to as the *Kingdom covenant*. ... The Kingdom covenant is made with the 144,000 anointed Christians. This is the covenant that forms a legal basis for them to rule with Jesus in heaven. This is similar to a bride from a noble family who might marry a ruling king and come into position to share in his ruling power. In fact, the Scriptures refer to anointed Christians as “the bride” of Christ, “a chaste virgin” promised in marriage to the Christ.<sup>97</sup>

## **2014 November 15**

### **A new nation created at Pentecost**

PENTECOST 33 C.E. was a milestone. ... On that day, by means of his spirit, Jehovah brought forth a new nation—spiritual Israel, “the Israel of God.” ... These received the outpouring of the holy spirit, which made them spirit-begotten sons of God.<sup>98</sup>

### **Jehovah delivered anointed in 1919**

“The conclusion of the system of things” began in 1914. During the war that broke out that year, the few thousand anointed Christians, “the sons of the Kingdom,” were in spiritual captivity to Babylon the Great. In 1919, Jehovah delivered them. ... He gathered “the sons of the Kingdom” into an organized people. ... Zion, Jehovah’s organization of spirit beings, brought forth her spirit-anointed sons and organized them into a nation. ... Just like the early Christians, the anointed “sons of the Kingdom” were to be witnesses of Jehovah.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 February 15, page 11, “Rejoice Over the Marriage of the Lamb!”

<sup>95</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 February 15, page 12, “Rejoice Over the Marriage of the Lamb!”

<sup>96</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 October 15, pages 15, 16, “You Will Become ‘a Kingdom of Priests’”

<sup>97</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 October 15, pages 16-17, “You Will Become ‘a Kingdom of Priests’”

<sup>98</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 November 15, page 23, “Facing the End of This Old World Together”

<sup>99</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 November 15, page 26, “Facing the End of This Old World Together”



### **Associate with the anointed**

Those who are not spiritual Israelites must associate with Jehovah’s people, “the sons of the Kingdom”—Jehovah’s anointed Witnesses.<sup>100</sup>

#### **2015 March 15**

### **The FDS on earth represent Jesus**

[Jesus] told [his disciples] that during that climactic time, his “faithful and discreet slave” would represent him on earth.<sup>101</sup>

### **The Ten Virgins parable warns the anointed**

Jesus intended the parable recorded at Matthew 25:1-13 (Wise and Foolish Virgins) as counsel and a warning to his anointed followers.<sup>102</sup>

### **The FDS is a small group of anointed men**

That [“faithful and discreet”] slave would prove to be a small group of anointed men who would take the lead among Christ’s followers during the last days. Jesus warned those men that they must remain faithful. Next, he broadened his focus and gave this parable to admonish all his anointed followers in the last days to “keep on the watch”.<sup>103</sup>

#### **2015 March 15**

### **“Loyally Supporting Christ’s Brothers”**

[Jesus] describes the sheep as “righteous” because they recognize that Christ has a group of anointed brothers still on earth, and the sheep loyally support the anointed.<sup>104</sup>

### **The 144,000 are the bride**

Jesus gave the apostle John a vision of “the bride,” the 144,000 anointed humans.<sup>105</sup>

### **Majority do not have the talents**

Today, the vast majority of the eight million disciples of Jesus are not spirit-anointed. They have not received the talents that Jesus gave to his anointed slaves.<sup>106</sup>

### **Covenant applies to the 144,000**

*Jesus’ words to a small group can apply to a larger group.* For example, Jesus made a covenant for a Kingdom with just 11 disciples, but that covenant really applies to all of the 144,000.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> *The Watchtower* 2014 November 15, page 27, “Facing the End of This Old World Together”

<sup>101</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 12, “Will You ‘Keep on the Watch?’”

<sup>102</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 13, “Will You ‘Keep on the Watch?’”

<sup>103</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 13, “Will You ‘Keep on the Watch?’”

<sup>104</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 27, “Loyally Supporting Christ’s Brothers”

<sup>105</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 28, “Loyally Supporting Christ’s Brothers”

<sup>106</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 28, “Loyally Supporting Christ’s Brothers”

<sup>107</sup> *The Watchtower* 2015 March 15, page 29, “Loyally Supporting Christ’s Brothers”