

Reference Document

"Is Watchtower Part of Babylon the Great?"

Every Claim, Source, and Verification Status

How to Use This Document

Each entry identifies a specific factual claim made in the video, the source it is based on, where to verify it, and any notes on confidence level. Claims are organized in the order they appear in the video.

Verification levels:

- **PRIMARY** — Sourced from official Watchtower publications, court rulings, government records, or peer-reviewed research
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established advocacy/research sites, reputable journalism, or academic analysis

SECTION 1: The 1989 Resolution and Indictment

Claim: In April 1989, Watchtower published two companion articles: 'A Resolution' and 'Babylon the Great Indicted.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1989, pp. 18-23
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1989283>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower publication on their own digital library

Claim: The resolution was a formal seven-point declaration endorsed at the 1989 Divine Justice Conventions with over 6.4 million people in attendance.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1989, 'A Resolution,' pp. 18-19
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1989283>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower publication

Claim: Resolution number three listed blood transfusions alongside lying, greed, and dishonesty as 'anti-God philosophies and practices.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1989, 'A Resolution'
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1989283>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Direct quote from official publication

Claim: Resolution number six condemned 'the centuries-long spiritual prostitution of the clergy of Babylon the Great and conniving with worldly rulers to gain power, wealth, and oppressive dominance over the common people.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1989, 'A Resolution'
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1989283>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Direct quote from official publication

Claim: Resolution number seven condemned 'the massive blood guilt resulting from over 100 million lives sacrificed in war in this century alone.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1989, 'A Resolution'
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1989283>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Direct quote from official publication

SECTION 2: Charge 1 — Despising God's Name

Claim: Jesus said at Matthew 7:21-23 that people who prophesy in God's name but practice lawlessness will be rejected.

- **Source:** New World Translation, Matthew 7:21-23
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

Claim: Courts have documented Watchtower covering up abuse to protect the organization's reputation.

- **Source:** Multiple court proceedings; see CSA section below
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Court records; documented across multiple jurisdictions
- **Note:** Specific cases detailed in Section 6 of this document.

SECTION 3: Charge 2 — Exploitative Teachings

Claim: Watchtower banned vaccines until 1952 and organ transplants until 1980, calling them cannibalism.

- **Source:** 4Jehovah.org — historical blood/vaccine/transplant policy timeline
- **URL:** <https://www.4jehovah.org/jehovahs-witnesses-and-blood-transfusions/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with primary source citations
- **Note:** Also documented by AJWRB.

Claim: AJWRB additionally documents the vaccine ban and organ transplant ban history.

- **Source:** AJWRB — Blood, Vaccines, and Organ Transplants
- **URL:** <https://www.ajwrb.org/blood-vaccines-and-organ-transplants>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Established medical advocacy organization

Claim: The May 22, 1994 Awake! magazine featured 26 children on its cover with the caption 'Youths Who Put God First,' celebrating children who died refusing blood transfusions.

- **Source:** AJWRB — Watchtower's Sacrificial Lambs
- **URL:** <https://www.ajwrb.org/watchtower-sacrificial-lambs>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Advocacy site with scanned magazine cover
- **Note:** The original Awake! issue is May 22, 1994.

Claim: The Shepherd the Flock of God elders' manual runs approximately 45,000 words. The September 2025 edition rebranded judicial committees as 'committees of elders.'

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org — Shepherd the Flock of God analysis
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/shepherd-flock-of-god-elders-rulebook-manual-doctrine/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Established advocacy and document archive site

Claim: The Gospel of Matthew is approximately 18,345 words; Mark is approximately 11,304 words; Luke is approximately 19,482 words (Greek NT).

- **Source:** Catholic Resources — NT Statistics (Greek text word counts)
- **URL:** <https://catholic-resources.org/Bible/NT-Statistics-Greek.htm>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Academic biblical reference resource

Claim: The 2010 letter to elders stated the manual's information 'is designed for use by the elders only, and other individuals should not have an opportunity to read the information.'

- **Source:** JWfacts — Shepherd the Flock of God / Secret Elders' Manual
- **URL:** <https://jwfacts.com/watchtower/elders-manual-shepherd-secret.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with scanned document
- **Key quote:** "The information is designed for use by the elders only, and other individuals should not have an opportunity to read the information."

Claim: Matthew 23:4 (NWT): 'They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.'

- **Source:** New World Translation, Matthew 23:4
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

SECTION 4: Charge 3 — Breeding Atheism Through Hypocrisy

Claim: Approximately one-third of former Jehovah's Witnesses polled on the EXJW Analyzer channel had become atheists.

- **Source:** Creator's own audience poll
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Self-reported audience survey; not a scientific study
- **Note:** This is an informal poll of the creator's audience and is presented as such in the video.

Claim: Romans 2:24 (NWT): 'The name of God is being blasphemed among the nations because of you.'

- **Source:** New World Translation, Romans 2:24
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

SECTION 5: Charge 4 — Power, Property, and Wealth

Claim: Roughly 80,000 people are disfellowshipped every year; approximately two-thirds never return.

- **Source:** JWfacts — Disfellowshipping and Shunning
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/disfellowship-shunning.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with statistical analysis

Claim: Watchtower's 2016 Regional Convention video showed a mother refusing to answer her disfellowshipped daughter's phone call as an example of faithfulness.

- **Source:** JWfacts — Disfellowshipping and Shunning
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/disfellowship-shunning.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — JW research site; convention video widely documented

Claim: Over \$2.19 billion in Brooklyn property sales.

- **Source:** JW Leaks — Watchtower Properties
- **URL:** <https://jwleaks.org/watchtower-properties/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Research/archive site documenting property transactions

Claim: The Warwick headquarters is a 1.6 million square foot lakeside campus built by approximately 28,000 unpaid volunteers.

- **Source:** JW.org — World Headquarters Relocating
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/activities/construction/world-headqu...>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower website

Claim: Watchtower's total accumulated wealth is estimated at approximately \$55 billion, based on a model anchored to UK charity filings, Canadian tax returns, and French court-ordered financial disclosures.

- **Source:** Creator's financial model from 'Follow the Money' video; anchored to UK Charity Commission filing (charity no. 1077961)
- **URL:** <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid...>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Creator's original research model validated against three independent data sources
- **Note:** The model tracked within 12-15% of actual figures across three decades of validation. Full methodology documented in the 'Follow the Money' video.

Claim: Estimated \$3.8 billion per year in donations, retaining roughly half as surplus.

- **Source:** Creator's financial model from 'Follow the Money' video
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Creator's original financial model
- **Note:** See 'Follow the Money' video for full methodology and source data.

Claim: In August 2024, Watchtower established three new financial corporations in Ireland: Mina Asset Management, Mina Treasury Services, and Lepta Payment Solutions.

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org — Jehovah's Witnesses Ireland Financial Assets
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/jehovahs-witnesses-ireland-financial-assets/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Established advocacy site with corporate filing documentation

Claim: The directors of Mina Asset Management include a former chief risk officer of UBS. IRS 990-T filings show investments connected to JP Morgan and the Carlyle Group.

- **Source:** ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer — IRS 990-T filing (EIN 11-1857820)
- **URL:** <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/111857820>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — IRS tax filings via ProPublica's public database

Claim: In August 2025, Governing Body member David Splane announced that additional education is now a 'personal choice.'

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org — Higher Education Doctrinal Changes
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/doctrine/higher-education-doctrinal-changes-governing-bod...>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Advocacy site documenting the announcement

Claim: The May 2026 study edition Watchtower article 'Make Wise Decisions Regarding Additional Education' steers young people toward short courses that allow continued pioneering.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower* (Study Edition), May 2026
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-may-2026/Make-Wise-D...>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower publication

Claim: The previous edition of the Shepherd the Flock of God manual flagged elders who pursued higher education, asking whether they 'respect what has been published by the faithful slave on the dangers of higher education.'

- **Source:** JWfacts — Watchtower quotes on education
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/quotes/education.php>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with document scans

Claim: Pew Research Center found that Jehovah's Witnesses have the lowest household income of any religious group in the United States.

- **Source:** Pew Research Center — How Income Varies Among U.S. Religious Groups (2016)
- **URL:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2016/10/11/how-income-varies-among-u-...>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Peer-reviewed survey research from Pew Research Center

Claim: James 5:1, 4 (NWT): 'The wages of the workers who harvested your fields, which you have withheld, are crying out.'

- **Source:** New World Translation, James 5:1, 4
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

SECTION 6: Charge 5 — Child Sexual Abuse Cover-Ups

Claim: Australia's Royal Commission found 1,006 alleged perpetrators of child sexual abuse within Australian JW congregations, involving more than 1,800 victims since 1950. Not one was reported to police by the organization.

- **Source:** Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse — Case Study 29
- **URL:** <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-29-jehov...>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Government investigation and published findings

Claim: A Pennsylvania grand jury investigation has charged 17 members of Jehovah's Witness congregations with child sexual abuse. Multiple men have been convicted and sentenced to prison.

- **Source:** Multiple news sources covering the PA grand jury investigation
- **URL:** <https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/pa-grand-jury-investigation-systemic...>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Grand jury proceedings and court records reported by multiple outlets
- **Note:** Additional coverage: ABC27, CNN, WHYY, PA Attorney General's office.

Claim: One elder in Lancaster County was sentenced to 11.5 to 23 years for sexually abusing three children.

- **Source:** ABC27 News
- **URL:** <https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-man-sentenced-amid-jehovahs-w...>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Court sentencing record reported by local news

Claim: It is estimated that there may be 18,000 names in Watchtower's secret database of alleged abusers (scaled from Australia data).

- **Source:** Herman Law — Jehovah's Witnesses clergy sex abuse
- **URL:** <https://hermanlaw.com/clergy-sex-abuse-lawyer/jehovahs-witnesses/>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Legal resource site; estimate based on extrapolation from Australian Royal Commission data

Claim: The secret database of child molesters was documented by The Atlantic in March 2019.

- **Source:** *The Atlantic* — 'The Secret Jehovah's Witness Database of Child Molesters' (March 2019)
- **URL:** <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2019/03/the-secret-jehovahs-witnes...>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Major national journalism outlet

Claim: Known settlements and verdicts in the United States alone exceed \$100 million.

- **Source:** Sokolove Law — Jehovah's Witness clergy abuse
- **URL:** <https://www.sokolovelaw.com/personal-injury/sexual-abuse/clergy-abuse/jehovah...>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Legal resource site aggregating public case data

Claim: In 2023, a Hawaii court awarded \$40 million to a woman sexually abused at age 12 by a JW elder who court findings showed had been assaulting girls for 23 years.

- **Source:** Davis Levin Livingston (plaintiff's counsel) — case summary
- **URL:** <https://www.davislevin.com/blog/2023/july/circuit-court-awards-40-million-to-...>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Court ruling reported by counsel of record
- **Note:** Also reported by Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

Claim: Even in 2025, the Shepherd the Flock of God manual frames reporting abuse to secular authorities as something victims are 'free to do,' not something elders are morally obligated to initiate.

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org — Shepherd the Flock of God analysis (September 2025 edition)
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/shepherd-flock-of-god-elders-rulebook-manual-doctrine/>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Advocacy site with document analysis

Claim: Matthew 18:6 (NWT): 'Whoever stumbles one of these little ones who have faith in me, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be sunk in the depths of the sea.'

- **Source:** New World Translation, Matthew 18:6
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

SECTION 7: Charge 6 — Political Entanglement

Claim: From 1992 to 2001, Watchtower was a registered NGO with the United Nations. They applied, were accepted, and submitted annual renewal applications.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — Watchtower and the United Nations
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/united-nations-association.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with DPI/NGO documentation

Claim: Wikipedia documents the UN NGO affiliation with primary source citations.

- **Source:** Wikipedia — Jehovah's Witnesses and the United Nations
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_and_the_United_Nations
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Wikipedia article with extensive primary source citations

Claim: Watchtower published Awake! articles praising the UN's humanitarian work, which served as annual proof of NGO support.

- **Source:** *Awake!*, September 8, 1991 (the year of the NGO application)
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/101991641>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower publication

Claim: On June 1, 1991 — the same year they applied for UN NGO status — Watchtower published an article titled 'Their Refuge — a Lie!' condemning the Catholic Church for UN involvement.

- **Source:** Beroean Pickets — UN Scandal analysis
- **URL:** https://beroeans.net/2023/08/21/un_scandal
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Research site referencing the original Watchtower article

Claim: Watchtower withdrew its NGO status in October 2001, days after The Guardian newspaper exposed the affiliation.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — Watchtower and the United Nations
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/united-nations-association.php>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — JW research site; Guardian article referenced therein

Claim: Watchtower hires lobbyists, petitioned the OSCE, and appealed to the UN Human Rights Committee.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — Watchtower Political and Commercial Involvement
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/politics.php>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with documentation

Claim: JW.org states: 'We do not lobby, vote for political parties or candidates, run for government office, or participate in any action to change governments.'

- **Source:** JW.org — FAQ: Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Maintain Political Neutrality?
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/political-neutrality/>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower website

Claim: New York City public lobbying records show Watchtower hired lobbyists, paying nearly \$60,000 for a zone change on a Brooklyn property.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — Watchtower Political and Commercial Involvement (source: nyc.gov/lobbyistsearch)
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/politics.php>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — JW research site citing NYC public lobbying records

Claim: James 4:4 (NWT): 'Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?'

- **Source:** New World Translation, James 4:4
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

SECTION 8: Charge 7 — Blood Guilt

Claim: AJWRB estimates that over 33,000 Jehovah's Witnesses have died since 1961 as a result of refusing blood transfusions.

- **Source:** AJWRB — 'Jehovah's Witnesses and Blood: Tens of Thousands Dead in Hidden Tragedy'
- **URL:** <https://www.ajwrp.org/jehovahs-witnesses-and-blood-tens-of-thousands-dead-in-...>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Established medical advocacy organization using published medical studies

Claim: On March 20, 2026, Governing Body member Gerrit Losch announced that witnesses may now decide for themselves whether to have their own blood drawn, stored, and later re-infused during surgery.

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org — Blood Doctrine / Governing Body Update
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/news-blood-doctrine-governing-body-update-deaths/>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Advocacy site documenting the announcement
- **Note:** Also reported by AP / Boston Globe.

Claim: The AP / Boston Globe reported on the March 20, 2026 blood policy change.

- **Source:** Boston Globe / Associated Press
- **URL:** <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/03/20/nation/jehovah-jehovahs-witness-transf...>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Major wire service / national newspaper

Claim: The October 15, 2000 Watchtower 'Questions From Readers' stated: 'We do not donate blood, nor do we store for transfusion our blood that should be poured out. That practice conflicts with God's law.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, October 15, 2000, pp. 30-31
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/2000767>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Official Watchtower publication
- **Key quote:** "We do not donate blood, nor do we store for transfusion our blood that should be poured out. That practice conflicts with God's law."

Claim: Peer-reviewed research published by NIH documents elevated rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among former Jehovah's Witnesses.

- **Source:** PMC/NIH — peer-reviewed research on shunning and mental health
- **URL:** <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9803876/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Peer-reviewed research indexed by National Institutes of Health

Claim: In Malawi from the 1960s through the 1990s, Watchtower forbade members from purchasing a 25-cent political party card, resulting in thousands being tortured, raped, and murdered.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — Malawi vs. Mexico analysis
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/malawi-mexico-oath-allegiance.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Established JW research site with extensive documentation
- **Note:** Also documented in Watchtower's own 1999 Yearbook, pp. 149-223.

Claim: At the same time, in both 1960 and 1969, Watchtower's Brooklyn headquarters confirmed that it was acceptable for Mexican witnesses to bribe officials for a military service card that placed them in the military reserve.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — Malawi vs. Mexico analysis (includes 1960 and 1969 letters)

- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/malawi-mexico-oath-allegiance.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — JW research site; also documented in Raymond Franz, *Crisis of Conscience*, Chapter 6

Claim: The Malawi persecution is documented in Watchtower's own 1999 Yearbook, pp. 149-223.

- **Source:** JWFACTS — referencing *1999 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*
- **URL:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/malawi-mexico-oath-allegiance.php>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Watchtower's own yearbook account, cited via JWFACTS

Claim: Matthew 23:29-32 (NWT): 'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ... Therefore you are testifying against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.'

- **Source:** New World Translation, Matthew 23:29-32
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Scripture citation (NWT rendering)

SECTION 9: Additional Supporting Sources

Claim: Wikipedia overview of Jehovah's Witnesses' handling of child sexual abuse.

- **Source:** Wikipedia
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses%27_handling_of_child_sexu...
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Wikipedia article with extensive citations to primary sources
- **Note:** Contains: Comprehensive overview of global CSA cases, policies, and legal proceedings.

Claim: Wikipedia overview of Jehovah's Witnesses congregational discipline.

- **Source:** Wikipedia
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_congregational_discipline
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Wikipedia article with primary source citations
- **Note:** Contains: Overview of disfellowshipping, shunning policies, and judicial committee procedures.

Claim: Charity Intelligence Canada gave Watchtower Canada a zero-star rating.

- **Source:** Charity Intelligence Canada
- **URL:** <https://www.charityintelligence.ca/charity-details/40-watch-tower-bible-and-t...>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Independent charity evaluation organization
- **Note:** Contains: Financial transparency and accountability rating.

Claim: Creator's financial model sources: Canadian CRA filings for Watchtower entities.

- **Source:** Canada Revenue Agency — Charity Search
- **URL:** <https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/hacc/srch/pub/dsplyBscSrch>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Government tax filings
- **Note:** Contains: Annual financial returns for Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada.

Claim: Creator's 'Follow the Money' video contains full methodology for the \$55 billion wealth estimate.

- **Source:** EXJW Analyzer — 'Follow the Money: Inside Watchtower's Hidden Empire'
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — Creator's previous video with full source documentation
- **Note:** Contains: Complete financial model, methodology, and all supporting sources.