

Reference Document

"The Watchtower's Latest Magazine Tells You to Imitate a Lie"

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 court rulings, legislation, official Watchtower publications, or peer-reviewed research
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from academic researchers, established advocacy/legal resource sites, or reputable journalism

Watchtower publications referenced in this document can be located on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org) by searching the publication date and article title.

SECTION 1: The July 2026 Article — What It Says

Claim: The July 2026 Watchtower Study Edition article 'Learn From the Gibeonites' tells Jehovah's Witnesses to imitate the Gibeonites' 'faith and humility.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower* Study Edition, July 2026, 'Learn From the Gibeonites,' paragraph 7
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-july-2026/Learn-From-the-Gibeonites/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own official publication on jw.org.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "How can we imitate the Gibeonites? By cultivating strong faith in Jehovah."

Claim: The article states that after King Saul violated the Gibeonite treaty and David later resolved the famine, 'the injustice had been avenged to Jehovah's satisfaction.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower* Study Edition, July 2026, 'Learn From the Gibeonites,' paragraph 9
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-july-2026/Learn-From-the-Gibeonites/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own official publication on jw.org.

Claim: Joshua 9:22 records Joshua confronting the Gibeonites after discovering their deception, saying: 'Why did you deceive us by saying, "We live a long way from you," while actually you live near us?'

- **Source:** Joshua 9:22, New International Version
- **URL:** <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%209%3A22&version;=NIV>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Biblical text.

SECTION 2: Mainstream Christian Commentary on Joshua 9

Claim: The Enduring Word commentary plainly states that 'the Gibeonites lied to Israel.'

- **Source:** Enduring Word Bible Commentary, Joshua 9 by David Guzik
- **URL:** <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/joshua-9/>

- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established Christian commentary resource.

Claim: Bible.org characterizes the Gibeonite story as a 'simple, naïve, poorly executed deception.'

- **Source:** Bible.org, 'The Deception of the Gibeonites (Josh. 9:1-27)' by Robert Deffinbaugh
- **URL:** <https://bible.org/seriespage/7-deception-gibeonites-josh-91-27>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Bible.org is an established evangelical teaching resource.

Claim: Matthew Henry's commentary, one of the most widely used Christian commentaries in the English-speaking world, says the Gibeonites' falsehood 'cannot be justified' and that 'we must not do evil that good may come.'

- **Source:** Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary on the Bible, Joshua 9
- **URL:** <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/9.html>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Historical Christian commentary, published 1706–1714.

Claim: The Precept Austin commentary on Joshua 9 characterizes the Gibeonites' tactic as Satanic strategy, quoting Stephen Grant that Satan 'is the master of deception and subterfuge and defeats many saints by subtlety.'

- **Source:** Precept Austin commentary on Joshua 9, quoting Stephen Grant, *What the Bible Teaches — Joshua Judges Ruth*
- **URL:** <https://www.preceptaustin.org/joshua-9-commentary>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established Bible study resource aggregating classical and contemporary commentary.

SECTION 3: The Watchtower's Gibeonite-to-Great Crowd Typology

Claim: The December 15, 1986 Watchtower article 'Jehovah Our God We Shall Serve' states that the Gibeonites 'may well foreshadow the "great crowd" that are now rendering God sacred service day and night in his temple.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, December 15, 1986, 'Jehovah Our God We Shall Serve'
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1986925>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication on the Watchtower Online Library.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "Many of the Nethinim, who in later years served at Jehovah's temple, were likely of Gibeonite extraction. Thus the Gibeonites may well foreshadow the 'great crowd' that are now rendering God sacred service day and night in his temple."

Claim: The April 15, 1992 Watchtower study article 'Jehovah's Provision, the "Given Ones"' extends the typology, stating that the non-Israelites who returned from Babylonian exile 'parallel the other sheep who now serve with the remnant of spiritual Israel.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1992, 'Jehovah's Provision, the "Given Ones,"' page 16
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

Claim: A 1991 Watchtower article identifies the modern-day Nethinim as 'close helpers of the anointed remnant, who constitute part of the royal priesthood.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, 1991 issue referencing the modern-day Nethinim
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

Claim: In 2007, the Watchtower reversed its long-standing teaching that the calling of the 144,000 anointed ended in 1935, acknowledging in a Questions from Readers column that 'we cannot set a specific date for when the calling of Christians to the heavenly hope ends.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, May 1, 2007, 'Questions From Readers,' page 31
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

SECTION 4: The 1957 Theocratic War Strategy Article

Claim: The May 1, 1957 Watchtower published an article titled 'Use Theocratic War Strategy,' which formally articulated a doctrine permitting deception toward those deemed not entitled to the truth.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1957, 'Use Theocratic War Strategy'
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org) and in archived indexes.
- **Note:** The article describes a Witness in East Germany changing clothing to mislead a Communist officer, and defends the act using biblical figures as precedent.

Claim: The 1957 article grounds its theocratic war strategy doctrine in Old Testament stories of deception, specifically citing Rahab, Abraham, Isaac, and David as precedents who 'hide the truth at times when faced with a hostile enemy.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1957, 'Use Theocratic War Strategy'
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "In this she had good Scriptural precedent. Did not Rahab hide the Israelite spies by both action and word? Did not Abraham, Isaac, David and others likewise hide the truth at times when faced with a hostile enemy? They certainly did, and never do we read a word of censure for their doing so."

Claim: The November 15, 2004 Watchtower article 'The Tent of the Upright Ones Will Flourish' states, in its discussion of being a 'faithful witness,' that a Christian is not obligated to give full information to those who may harm Jehovah's people, citing Abraham and Isaac as patriarchs who 'withheld facts from some who did not worship Jehovah.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, November 15, 2004, 'The Tent of the Upright Ones Will Flourish,' pages 26–29, section 'When a Witness Is Wise'
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/2004846>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication on the Watchtower Online Library.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "The faithful witness does not commit perjury when testifying. His testimony is not tainted with lies. However, this does not mean that he is under obligation to give full information to those who may want to bring harm to Jehovah's people in some way. The patriarchs Abraham and Isaac withheld facts from some who did not worship Jehovah."

SECTION 5: How the Watchtower Reframes Jacob's Deception

Claim: Mainstream Christian commentary treats Genesis 27 as a cautionary tale. Ligonier Ministries writes that 'Jacob's life evidences the Lord's disapproval of his methods.'

- **Source:** Ligonier Ministries, 'Jacob Deceives Isaac' devotional
- **URL:** <https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/jacob-deceives-isaac>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Ligonier Ministries is a major Reformed Christian teaching institution.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "Jacob's life evidences the Lord's disapproval of his methods. His protest in 27:11–12 reflects worry that he might get caught, not that he might dishonor Isaac, and he blasphemes in his lie that the Lord gave him success in his hunt."

Claim: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks concludes his essay on Jacob taking Esau's blessing with the warning: 'The moral could not be more powerful. Never seek your brother's blessing. Be content with your own.'

- **Source:** Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, 'Was Jacob Right To Take Esau's Blessing?' — Covenant & Conversation, Toldot
- **URL:** <https://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation/toldot/jacob-right-take-esaus-blessing/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Rabbi Sacks was the former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth and a globally recognized Jewish thinker.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “For each of us there is a blessing that is ours. That was true not just of Isaac but also Ishmael, not just Jacob but also Esau. The moral could not be more powerful. Never seek your brother's blessing. Be content with your own.”

Claim: The Watchtower's *Insight on the Scriptures* reference book describes Rebekah as 'advising Jacob to present himself before his father as Esau and thus procure the blessing that was rightfully his.'

- **Source:** *Insight on the Scriptures*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, entry on Rebekah
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower reference work. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

Claim: A 2007 Watchtower Questions from Readers column argues that Jacob's deception must have been God-approved, reasoning: 'If God had not wanted the blessing to go to Jacob, he could have intervened in some way.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, 2007 Questions from Readers column regarding Jacob's acquisition of the blessing
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

SECTION 6: Rahab — The Limits of the Exception

Claim: The New Testament book of Hebrews lists Rahab among its heroes of faith (Hebrews 11:31), and James 2:25 states she was justified by her works.

- **Source:** Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25, New International Version
- **URL:** <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A31%3BJames%202%3A25&version;=NIV>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Biblical text.

Claim: Charles Spurgeon called Rahab's lie 'altogether inexcusable' while commending her faith.

- **Source:** Charles Haddon Spurgeon, sermons and commentary on Rahab
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Spurgeon's commentary on Rahab's lie is widely documented in his published sermons.
- **Note:** Spurgeon's position reflects the broader Christian ethical tradition that commends Rahab's faith while not endorsing her deception as a general model.

SECTION 7: Geoffrey Jackson — Australian Royal Commission Testimony

Claim: In 2015, Governing Body member Geoffrey Jackson testified before the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. He was in Australia visiting family when served with a subpoena, after the Watchtower had previously insisted he was not relevant to the inquiry.

- **Source:** Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29 — Jehovah's Witnesses. Relevant background available in documentation of the case.
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses%27_handling_of_child_sexual_abuse
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Wikipedia article on the Royal Commission's handling of Jehovah's Witnesses serves as a stable overview; the Royal Commission's own government website has been unreliable for direct

linking.

Claim: Senior Counsel Angus Stewart asked Jackson under oath: 'Do you see yourselves as Jehovah God's spokespeople on earth?' Jackson replied: 'That I think would seem to be quite presumptuous to say that we are the only spokesperson that God is using.'

- **Source:** Transcript of Day 155, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29, August 14, 2015, page 15937
- **URL:** <https://jwsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Geoffrey-Jackson-Transcript.pdf>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Royal Commission transcript. Hosted as a stable mirror on JW Survey.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "That I think would seem to be quite presumptuous to say that we are the only spokesperson that God is using."

Claim: The October 1, 1994 Watchtower states, in direct contradiction of Jackson's framing, that 'the "greatly diversified wisdom of God" can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, October 1, 1994, page 8
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "All who want to understand the Bible should appreciate that the 'greatly diversified wisdom of God' can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave."

Claim: The October 15, 2013 Watchtower, page 20, reinforces the same exclusivist claim: 'Know that there is no other organization that has Jehovah's blessing and favour.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, October 15, 2013, page 20
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

Claim: In the official Submissions of Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission, paragraph 336 describes Jackson's handling of questions about shunning as: 'Mr Jackson was evasive and unhelpful.'

- **Source:** Submissions of Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission, Case Study 29 — Jehovah's Witnesses and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd, paragraph 336
- **URL:** <https://jw-verite.org/images/Documents/Submissions-of-Senior-Counsel-Assisting-the-Royal-Commission.pdf>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Royal Commission submission document (identifier SUBM.0029.001.0001), hosted as a stable mirror on jw-verite.org.

Claim: During the same hearing, Jackson acknowledged that for someone who leaves the organization, the choice of losing all family contact was 'a difficult choice.'

- **Source:** Transcript of Day 155, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29, August 14, 2015
- **URL:** <https://jwsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Geoffrey-Jackson-Transcript.pdf>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Royal Commission transcript.

SECTION 8: Public Statements vs. Internal Teachings on Shunning

Claim: The October 2017 Watchtower Study Edition directs Witnesses to avoid all normal contact with disfellowshipped family members by 'telephone, text messages, letters, e-mails, or social media.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower* Study Edition, October 2017
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

- **Key quote / Direct text:** “Despite our pain of heart, we must avoid normal contact with a disfellowshipped family member by telephone, text messages, letters, e-mails, or social media.”

Claim: The January 15, 2013 Watchtower instructs members: 'Do not look for excuses to associate with a disfellowshipped family member, for example, through e-mail.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, January 15, 2013
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

Claim: The April 2012 Watchtower warns Witnesses that loyalty to a disfellowshipped relative is being watched by Jehovah: 'What if we have a relative or a close friend who is disfellowshipped? Now our loyalty is on the line, not to that person, but to God. Jehovah is watching us.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, April 2012
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication. Searchable on the Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org).

Claim: At the Supreme Court of Canada in November 2017, in *Wall v. Highwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses*, Watchtower lawyer David Gnam told the justices that when someone is disfellowshipped, 'normal family relations continue with the exception of spiritual fellowship' — a statement that appears directly at odds with the internal publications quoted above.

- **Source:** *Wall v. Highwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses*, 2018 SCC 26, Supreme Court of Canada
- **URL:** <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/17101/index.do>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Supreme Court of Canada decision on the Court's website (lexum.com).

SECTION 9: The 1939 Olin Moyle Case — An Historical Pattern

Claim: Olin R. Moyle, the Watchtower's chief legal counsel from 1935 to 1939, sent Watchtower president J. F. Rutherford a private letter of resignation documenting conditions at Bethel, including what Moyle described as mistreatment of workers, the use of vulgar language, and the glorification of alcohol.

- **Source:** Wikipedia, 'Olin R. Moyle,' drawing on primary sources including the original resignation letter and subsequent Watchtower articles
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olin_R._Moyle
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Wikipedia article with citations to primary source documents, including the resignation letter and the October 15, 1939 Watchtower.

Claim: After Moyle's resignation, the October 15, 1939 Watchtower published an article publicly denouncing him, stating that 'every paragraph of that letter is false, filled with lies, and is a wicked slander and a libel,' and comparing Moyle's actions to those of Judas Iscariot.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, October 15, 1939, directors' response to Moyle's resignation letter; as documented in the Wikipedia entry on Olin R. Moyle with citation to the original
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olin_R._Moyle
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — The quoted passage is from the Watchtower's own publication of October 15, 1939, documented with a direct citation in the Wikipedia entry.
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “Every paragraph of that letter is false, filled with lies, and is a wicked slander and a libel.”

Claim: Moyle sued the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society for libel. A New York jury awarded him \$30,000, which was reduced to \$15,000 on appeal in 1944. The verdict was affirmed twice on appeal, including unanimously by the New York Court of Appeals — the state's highest court.

- **Source:** Wikipedia, 'Olin R. Moyle,' drawing on court records from the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division and the New York Court of Appeals

- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olin_R._Moyle
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Wikipedia article with citations to the official court record (*Moyle v. Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society*).

SECTION 10: The Ken Kiuchi Life Story in the Same Issue

Claim: The same July 2026 Watchtower Study Edition that contains the 'Learn From the Gibeonites' article also contains the life story of Ken Kiuchi, who recounts leaving pre-medical studies at age seventeen after his father said he would be thrown out of the house if he did not quit school. Kiuchi writes that after leaving, he felt 'like a bird released from a cage.'

- **Source:** *The Watchtower* Study Edition, July 2026, 'Ken Kiuchi — Allowing Jehovah to Refine Me'
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-july-2026/Ken-Kiuchi-Allowing-Jehovah-to-Refine-Me/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own official publication on jw.org.

SECTION 11: Additional Supporting Sources

Claim: Watchtower Online Library (wol.jw.org) — the official research archive of Jehovah's Witnesses, containing Watchtower publications referenced throughout this document.

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own official online research library.
- **Note:** Any publication referenced in this document without a direct URL can be located on wol.jw.org by searching the publication date and title.

Claim: The official JW.org statement on shunning, which describes the practice in public-facing terms that the video argues differs from the internal publications above.

- **Source:** Jehovah's Witnesses Frequently Asked Questions — 'Do Jehovah's Witnesses Shun Former Members of Their Religion?'
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/shunning/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's official public-facing statement on shunning.

Claim: Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse — overview of Case Study 29.

- **Source:** Wikipedia article on Jehovah's Witnesses' handling of child sexual abuse
- **URL:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses%27_handling_of_child_sexual_abuse
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Provides an overview of the Royal Commission's findings on Case Study 29. Linked here because the Royal Commission's own gov.au website has had reliability issues.