

# Reference Document

*“How Watchtower Turned Psalm 27:10 Into Comfort for Shunning”*

Every Claim, Source, and Verification Status

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## 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 (magazines, study articles, books such as the God’s Love reference volume, and JW Broadcasting programs), the New World Translation itself, or similar original institutional records. Primary sources can stand on their own.
  - **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established advocacy or legal resource sites, academic researchers, or reputable investigative journalism. Secondary sources support claims and are most defensible when paired with a primary source.
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## SECTION 1: The Verse and the Broadcast

**Claim: Clive Martin serves as a Helper to Watchtower’s Writing Committee and delivered a 2026 JW Broadcasting segment that included a reading of Psalm 27:10.**

- **Source:** *JW Broadcasting*, 2026 Morning Worship program (Episode 17), featuring Clive Martin with on-screen lower-third caption “Clive Martin — Helper to the Writing Committee.”
- **URL:** [https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/LatestVideos/pub-jwbvod26\\_17\\_VIDEO](https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/LatestVideos/pub-jwbvod26_17_VIDEO)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower media. The broadcast itself is the source.

**Claim: Psalm 27:10 in the New World Translation reads: “Even if my own father and mother abandon me, Jehovah himself will take me in.”**

- **Source:** *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (Study Edition), Psalm 27:10, published by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/bible/study-bible/books/psalms/27/#v19027010>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower Bible translation. The text is the source.
- **Key quote:** “*Even if my own father and mother abandon me, Jehovah himself will take me in.*”

## SECTION 2: The Current Shunning Policy

**Claim: As of August 2024, Watchtower formally replaced the term “disfellowshipped” with “removed from the congregation” across its publications.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, August 2024, “Help for Those Who Are Removed From the Congregation.” Studied during the week of November 4-10, 2024.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-august-2024/Help-for-Those-Who-Are-Removed-From-the-Congregation/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication announcing the terminology change.
- **Note:** The article states: “We will no longer refer to such ones as being disfellowshipped.” The underlying shunning practice remains intact.

**Claim: Watchtower’s current published policy instructs loyal Jehovah’s Witnesses not to “look for excuses to have dealings with a disfellowshipped relative not living at home,” to keep any necessary contact to a minimum, and to limit it to necessary family matters.**

- **Source:** “*Keep Yourselves in God’s Love*” (published by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society), chapter on “How to Treat a Disfellowshipped Person.”
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/gods-love/disfellowshipped-person/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower doctrinal manual. The policy text is the source.
- **Key quote:** “*Loyal Christian family members do not look for excuses to have dealings with a disfellowshipped relative not living at home.*”

**Claim: Watchtower applies 2 John 9-11 to ordinary contact with disfellowshipped relatives, framing such contact as “sharing in his wicked works.”**

- **Source:** “*Keep Yourselves in God’s Love*”, chapter on “How to Treat a Disfellowshipped Person,” citing 2 John 9-11.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/gods-love/disfellowshipped-person/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication.
- **Key quote:** “*Do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. For the one who says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.*”

## **SECTION 3: The 1981 Article and the Korah Comparison**

**Claim: A 1981 *Watchtower* article titled “If a Relative Is Disfellowshipped” frames the question “Who is at fault over family problems that disfellowshipping may cause?” as a paragraph heading, and answers that the disfellowshipped person is the one who brought the problems on himself and his family.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1981, “If a Relative Is Disfellowshipped.”
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1981689>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication archived on the Watchtower Online Library.

**Claim: The same 1981 article compares a disfellowshipped relative to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram — three figures in the Hebrew Bible who were swallowed by the earth for rebelling against Moses’s God-appointed authority.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1981, “If a Relative Is Disfellowshipped,” paragraph 7.
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1981689>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication.
- **Key quote:** “Nor does the fault rest with the faithful Christian relatives. It is the disfellowshipped person who has made problems for himself and for his relatives, as did Korah, Dathan and Abiram.”

**Claim: The biblical account of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram’s rebellion against Moses — in which the ground opened and swallowed them — is recorded in the book of Numbers, chapter 16.**

- **Source:** *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, Numbers 16, published by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/bible/study-bible/books/numbers/16/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — The biblical text cited by the 1981 Watchtower article.

## **SECTION 4: The 2021 Study Article and Psalm 27:10 in Parentheses**

**Claim: A 2021 Study Edition article titled “When a Loved One Leaves Jehovah” instructs grieving parents to “fight the tendency to think that this tragedy must be your fault.”**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, September 2021, Study Article 39, “When a Loved One Leaves Jehovah.”
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-september-2021/When-a-Loved-One-Leaves-Jehovah/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower Study Edition article.
- **Key quote:** “Fight the tendency to think that this tragedy must be your fault.”

**Claim: Paragraph 6 of the same 2021 article places Psalm 27:10 as a parenthetical scripture citation directly after the sentence describing a parent who “abandons the truth and even the family.”**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, September 2021, Study Article 39, “When a Loved One Leaves Jehovah,” paragraph 6.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-september-2021/When-a-Loved-One-Leaves-Jehovah/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower Study Edition article.
- **Key quote:** “At times, a parent abandons the truth and even the family. (Ps. 27:10)”

**Claim: The September 2021 Study Edition was studied in congregations worldwide during the week of November 1-7, 2021.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, September 2021, Study Article 39 cover metadata.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-september-2021/When-a-Loved-One-Leaves-Jehovah/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication metadata.

**Claim: The same paragraph introduces the testimony of a young woman named Esther whose father was disfellowshipped, describing her frequent tears and panic attacks once she came to view his departure as a conscious choice.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, September 2021, Study Article 39, “When a Loved One Leaves Jehovah,” paragraph 6.
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-september-2021/When-a-Loved-One-Leave-s-Jehovah/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower Study Edition article.

## **SECTION 5: The 1964 Precedent**

**Claim: A 1964 *Watchtower* article titled “Loyalty to Jehovah’s Organization” includes a convert’s testimony citing Psalm 27:10 as comfort in the face of family rejection — specifically a Filipino pioneer driven from home by Catholic relatives after refusing to vote on the grounds of JW neutrality.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, June 1, 1964, “Loyalty to Jehovah’s Organization.”
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1964366>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication archived on the Watchtower Online Library.
- **Note:** This article establishes that Watchtower’s use of Psalm 27:10 as consolation for family rupture caused by conflict with the organization predates the 2021 citation by nearly six decades.

## **SECTION 6: Creator Analysis and Editorial Framing**

**Claim: The reading of Psalm 27:10 on JW Broadcasting in 2026 arrives in an audience environment shaped by more than six decades of Watchtower publications that deploy the same verse to cast a departed family member as the abandoning party.**

- **Source:** Creator analysis — editorial synthesis of the three primary sources cited in Sections 3, 4, and 5 (1964 *Watchtower*, 1981 *Watchtower*, and 2021 Study Edition).
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — The primary sources are cited individually above; the interpretation drawing them together is the creator’s.

**Claim: The structural inversion identified in the video — that Psalm 27:10 is read to the people required by Watchtower policy to cut off a family member, while training them to hear the verse as description of the abandonment they suffered — is the creator’s editorial framing of the evidence.**

- **Source:** Creator analysis / editorial opinion — not a factual claim requiring external verification.
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Editorial interpretation grounded in the primary sources cited above.

## **SECTION 7: Additional Supporting Sources**

**Claim: Watchtower Online Library — the official Watchtower digital archive**

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication archive.
- **Note:** Contains: searchable full text of *The Watchtower, Awake!*, convention programs, books, and other Watchtower publications dating back decades.

**Claim: JW.ORG — the official public-facing Jehovah’s Witness website**

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower public website.
- **Note:** Contains: current Study Editions, the New World Translation, JW Broadcasting, official doctrine books including *“Keep Yourselves in God’s Love,”* and the FAQ on shunning.

**Claim: JW FAQ on “removed from the congregation” — Watchtower’s own public explanation of the 2024 terminology update**

- **Source:** JW.ORG — “How Do Jehovah’s Witnesses Treat Those Who Used to Belong to Their Religion?”
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/removed-from-the-congregation/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower public position.
- **Note:** Contains: Watchtower’s public framing of the shunning practice under its current “removed from the congregation” terminology.