

BIBLE STUDENT MOVEMENT TIMELINE

Other Groups

Associated Bible Students

Associated Bible Students are comprised of various independent classes throughout the world, including Europe, North America, Canada, as well as Asia, and other places.

Most *ecclesias* are independent of others.

Various groups and *ecclesias* hold yearly conventions, and there are international conventions. Speakers are selected from various of the independent classes by the convention organisers/committee. A General Convention is also held yearly, which runs for a 5 day period. Many conventions are conducted online.

Many of the independent Bible Student groups print and distribute literature in the form of tracts and books – some also produce monthly journals.

Only the L. H. M. M. has congregations directly affiliated with it. The Dawn Bible Students Association and Pastoral Bible Institute are simply Bible Student publishing houses.

Christian Millennial Fellowship
(Christian Discippling Ministries International)
Was an Italian Bible Students Association in Hartford, Connecticut. It was an outgrowth of the 1908-1909 New Covenant schism. Eventually discarded all of C. T. Russell's teachings.
(1928)

Epiphany Bible Students Association
John J. Hoefle, was a Bible Student who left the Society in 1928. He was disfellowshipped in 1956 from the L. H. M. M., and formed his own group. This group is now governed by a board of directors.
(1955)

Laodicean Home Missionary Movement
John Krewson was disfellowshipped in 1955 from the L. H. M. M., (disagreements with new management over eligibility to a teaching position) and formed his own group. This movement died out.
(1957)

International Bible Students Association
incorporated in Britain.
(1914)



DEATH OF CHARLES T. RUSSELL
(OCTOBER 31, 1916)

Jehovah's Witnesses
J. F. Rutherford adopts a sectarian name for his Bible Students in an effort to distance his group from those who remained faithful to Pastor Russell's teachings.
(July 26, 1931)

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society.
[WTBTS]
Corporate name changed.
(December, 1896)

People's Pulpit Association
Incorporated for business in New York state.
(February, 1909)

International Bible Students Association
created.
(April, 1910; See ZWT, April 1, 1910)

Charles T. Russell Elected Pastor
of Allegheny Bible Class
(1876) **Zion's Watch Tower Society**
formed (unincorporated).
(February, 1881)

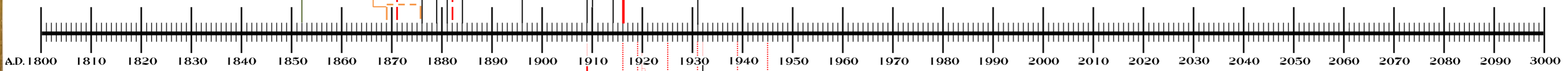
Zion's Watch Tower & Herald of Christ's Presence
first published.
(July, 1879)

Zion's Watch Tower Society
incorporated.
(December, 1884)

Charles T. Russell
Meets George Stetson and George Storrs and studies the Bible with them from 1869 – 1872.
He met Nelson H. Barbour in 1876 and funded the journal *Herald of the Morning*. He split from Barbour in 1878 when Barbour wrote an article denying the ransom.
(1869-1876)

Charles T. Russell Born
(February 16, 1852)

Bible Student Movement Begins



New Covenant Believers
(Now: Berean Bible Students Church in Lombard, Illinois)
Formed by M. L. McPhail in the U. S. A.
Published *The Kingdom Scribe* until 1975.
(c. 1909)

1st SCHISM
New Covenant Fellowship
Led by Ernest C. Hennings in Australia. The split was due to disagreement over C. T. Russell's interpretation of the New Covenant.
(c. October, 1909)

Laymen's Home Missionary Movement
(L. H. M. M. now Bible Standard, 1952)
Organised by P. S. L. Johnson. Introduced new and strange teachings (including 'door closed' doctrine). Published various journals and books.
(April, 1920)

Philanthropic Assembly
Founded by Alexander Freytag, mainly in Switzerland and France (later to split). This was, by far, one of the largest groups (with earthly hopes) to split from the WTBTS/IBSA, once reaching a peak membership of around fifty thousand.
(c. 1920)

Frank & Ernest Radio Show
Norman Woodworth [& John E. Dawson] who'd left the WTBTS in 1928.
(1928)

Dawn Bible Students Association.
(formerly Dawn Publishers Inc., 1932)
Followed from 'Frank & Ernest' Radio by Norman Woodworth and others. Played key role in reenergising many Bible Students.
(Inc., May 22, 1944)

Bible Students Tract Society
(Berean Bible Institute)
Australian group – rejected *Seventh Volume*.
Publishes *People's Paper* (monthly).
(March, 1918)

2nd SCHISM
J. E. RUTHERFORD'S PRESIDENCY
Four Directors illegally removed. Controversy also over the *Seventh Volume* (The Finished Mystery).
(1917-1919)

Pastoral Bible Institute [PBI]
Some of the ousted Directors (Hoskins & Rockwell on the Editorial Committee), and others formed the PBI. Commenced the printing of journal: *The Herald of Christ's Kingdom*.
(November 23, 1918)

3rd SCHISM
WTBTS doctrinal changes & disappointments.
Memorial figures show that many left the WTBTS between the years 1925–1931 for various reasons. Ever changing doctrines, repudiation of C. T. Russell's teachings, failed prophecies (1925), consolidation of autocratic authority over once independent classes, etc., contributed to some *ecclesias* and many individuals leaving the Society. The definitive split from Russell's Bible Students came in 1931 with the adoption of the sectarian name 'Jehovah's Witnesses'.
(c. 1925 - 1931)

The Bible Students Committee
Formed in Britain by some who split with the Society.
Dissolved in 1945.
(April, 1919)

Bible Fellowship Union
Formed by British directors.
Published journal: *Bible Students Monthly* (1924)
name of journal changed to *Bible Study Monthly* after objections from WTBTS.
(1917)

Stand Fast Bible Student Association
Led by Charles E. Heard, et al. Organised in Portland, Oregon, to stand fast for the *Seventh Volume*. Did not want WTBTS to alter the book. Also against purchase of war bonds (liberty bonds) and taught 'door closed' doctrine. Was against public witnessing and held it to be 'morally wrong' due to belief door was closed in 1918.
Published: *Old Corn Gems*.
(December 1, 1918)

Elijah Voice Society
Off-shoot of the Stand Fast group organised by John A. Herdersen and C. D. McCray. Also supported the *Seventh Volume*. Split due to believing need to preach the Millennial Kingdom until no longer possible.
Published *Elijah Voice Monthly*. Against flag salute. Smiting the Jordan was a principle objective.
(December, 1922)

Watchers of the Morning
Formed by I. F. Hoskins as some in the Pastoral Bible Institute began denying doctrines such as Christ's Second Presence, the New Covenant, etc. Hoskins and others withdrew in 1937. It continued until his death in 1957.
(April, 1937 – September, 1957)

4th SCHISM
Division between the Dawn & PBI.
(A Temporary Schism)
PBI and Dawn advocates held joint conventions and members shared the same *ecclesia*. However PBI convention speakers were more 'liberal' in doctrinal matters – permitting speakers who had differing doctrinal viewpoints on doctrines such as the Second Presence [since ca. 1874], Three Great Covenants, and the church's part in the *sin-offering*. For many conventions a decision was taken to allow only speakers who held to Pastor Russell's teachings. Divisions in many *ecclesias* ensued. Harmony progressively began to be restored in 1992.
(c. 1939-1945, until 1992)