

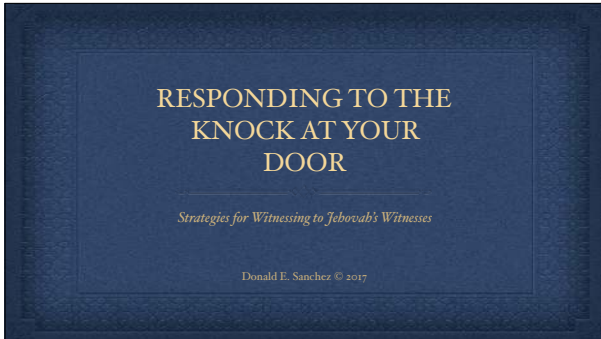


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**RESPONDING TO THE
KNOCK AT YOUR
DOOR**

Strategies for Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

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"The power of holding contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them... To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just as long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies—all this is indispensably necessary. Even in using the word doublethink it is necessary to exercise doublethink. For by using the word one admits that one is tampering with reality; and so on indefinitely, with the lie always one leap ahead of the truth."

George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty Four*, (London: Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd, 1949), part 1, chapter 3, p.

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OUTLINE

- I. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH WITNESSES
- II. THE PROBLEM OF INTERPRETATION & MEANING
- III. QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, & MORE QUESTIONS
- IV. USING ORIGINAL WATCHTOWER MATERIALS
- V. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *Limit your time to only one hour per session. Do not go over that hour.*
- *Before they leave, try to get their contact information in case you need to reschedule an appointment.*
- *Insist on seeing the same two Witnesses every week for consistency. If one could not make it, then simply reschedule the meeting.*

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Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *If there is something you don't understand during your meeting, agree to be able to take notes and research the subject during the week, and then you can pick up the topic the following week.*
- *The first several minutes of every session should be used to talk to them about something personal in their lives.*
- *Do not deal with more than one topic per week. Control the conversation by asking questions. Do not jump around from Scripture to Scripture or topic to topic.*

Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *If they use a Scripture passage to make a point, ask to read the whole passage in its context. JW's are notorious for taking the Scriptures out of context to fit their false doctrines. Ask them how they came to the conclusion that the passage can be interpreted in the way they say it should.*
- *The best way to challenge them is to use their own literature. JW's do not recognize any literature from any other religion, especially "apostate" religions.*

I. Guidelines for Interacting with Witnesses
II. The Problem of Interpretation & Meaning

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The *Literal-Historical-Grammatical* Method of Biblical Interpretation

- 1. **Literal:** *Always use the literal sense, unless there is some good reason for departure (figurative, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.).*
- 2. **Historical:** *There is an historical context in which the author wrote the manuscript. What was the author communicating to his original audience? How would they have understood the text?*
- 3. **Grammatical:** *The authors used a particular language to communicate meaning (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic).
"Grammatical interpretation involves lexicology, identifying the meanings of words, grammar, identifying what function words have in sentences, and syntax, identifying the relations between words in a sentence."⁷⁶*

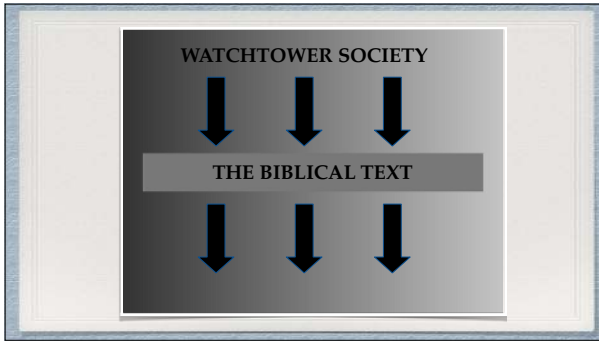
⁷⁶Thomas A. Hoare, *Hermeneutics—Class Notes* (Southern Evangelical Seminary, 2013), 47.

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The importance of the "literal-historical-grammatical" method of interpretation



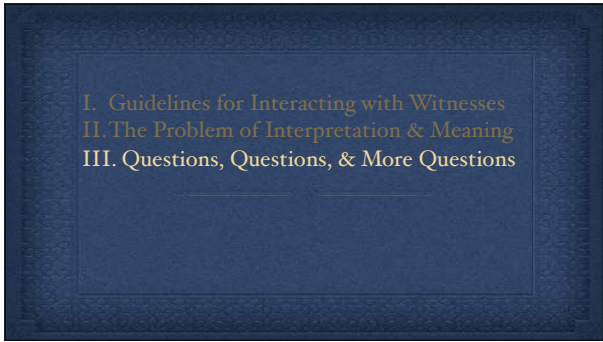
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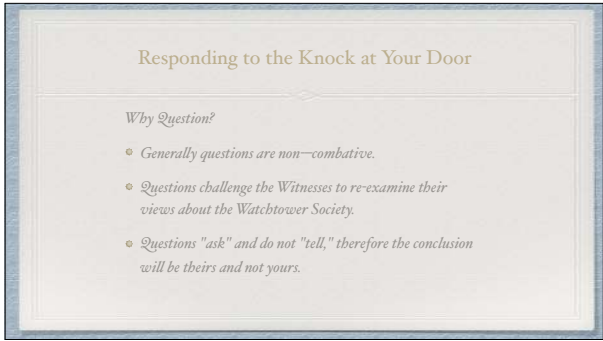
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Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *When you simply present Bible "proof-texts" to validate your interpretation, Witnesses will offer alternative texts to counter your interpretation, to which you will respond by offering more Bible texts, ad infinitum.*
- *An alternative approach to "playing Bible ping-pong" is to ask pointed, strategic questions, not about their interpretation of Scripture, but about the Watchtower Society itself.*



I. Guidelines for Interacting with Witnesses
II. The Problem of Interpretation & Meaning
III. Questions, Questions, & More Questions



Responding to the Knock at Your Door

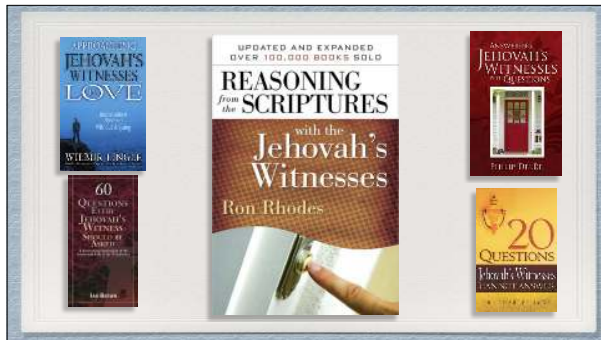
Why Question?

- Generally questions are non-combative.
- Questions challenge the Witnesses to re-examine their views about the Watchtower Society.
- Questions "ask" and do not "tell," therefore the conclusion will be theirs and not yours.

Responding to the Knock at Your Door

Why Question?

- Questions force the Jehovah's Witness to think beyond the cookie-cutter answers they are taught to respond with.
- When you ask questions about the organization, there are no publications to which they can go to for answers. They will have to wrestle with the problem themselves.



Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *Can Jehovah ever lie?*
- *Can Jehovah ever make mistakes?*
- *Can Jehovah ever give false information?*
- *If Jehovah has called something evil in the Bible, could He change His mind and call it good? Why? Why not?*
- *Can Jehovah ever contradict Himself? Why? Why not?*
- *Does Jehovah have any non-inspired messages?*

Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *So, are all of Jehovah's words true and inspired?*
- *If Jehovah puts His words in the mouth of someone else (for example, Isaiah), is that message still inspired?*
- *Can a prophet have a non-inspired message from God?*
- *What is the punishment for a false prophet? What is the test for a true prophet? (Deuteronomy 18:20)*
- *If a prophet fails that test, would he be considered a false prophet?*



“THE LAST DAYS”
A Case Study



Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- Your description of the new earth sounds fantastic, but I have a problem understanding how the earth and its inhabitants are transformed from this "present evil condition" into the beautiful Paradise-like conditions your Watchtower literature describes. Does something just go "poof" and this "New World Order" suddenly appears?
- What happens at Armageddon? How is this going to happen?

Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *How will it be possible that only Jehovah's Witnesses survive when everyone else will be killed?*
- *So, if we are standing next to each other at the supermarket, for example, how will I be destroyed and you will survive? If the building that we're both in is destroyed, how will you escape without getting hurt?*
- *How will you manage to get home if all of the infrastructure (roads, bridges, highways, and buildings) is destroyed?*

Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- *How do you think your children will handle watching this horrible disaster, witnessing people getting killed, and having to listen to the blood-curdling screams as people die in agonizing pain?*
- *How will Jehovah's Witnesses get rid of 6 billion dead bodies lying everywhere? How is this going to happen since the human body begins to decompose right after death? (Witnesses believe worms and birds will come eat the flesh)*

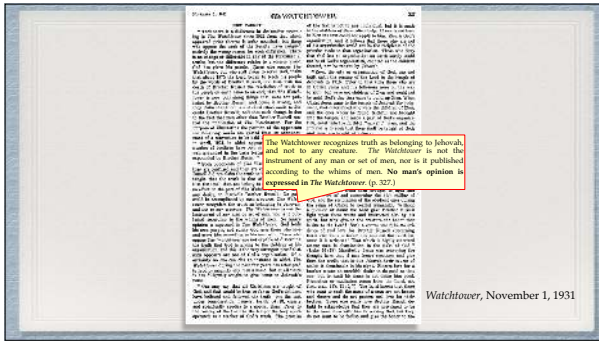
Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- Do you mean that Jehovah's Witnesses are supposed to stand around watching worms and birds eat the flesh off of dead human beings?
- This doesn't sound very "Paradise-like" to me.
- After the worms and birds had eaten the flesh off of the dead, you will still have to bury 6 billion skeletal remains, won't you? Specifically, how this be accomplished?

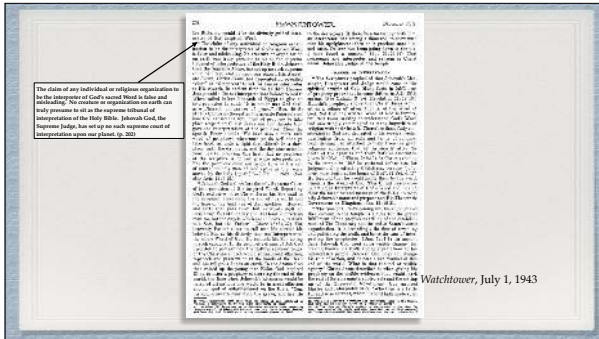
Responding to the Knock at Your Door

- How can so few survivors manage to rebuild when all of the heavy machinery and construction equipment needed to pave roads and build buildings are destroyed?
- How do you plan to build homes for the billions of people who will be resurrected? There will be no commercial establishments around to buy wood, sheet rock, cement, plumbing supplies, and other building materials you need.
- How can you even communicate with other Jehovah's Witnesses in other towns, let alone across the globe, when all communication systems will be destroyed?

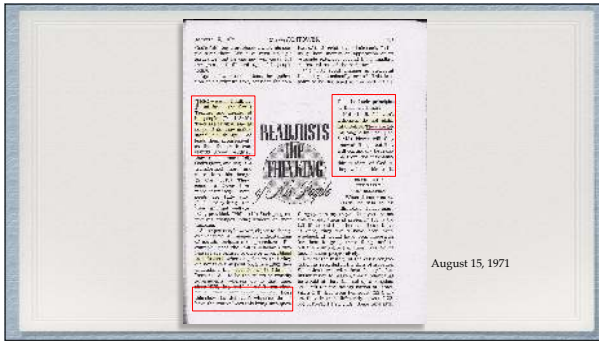
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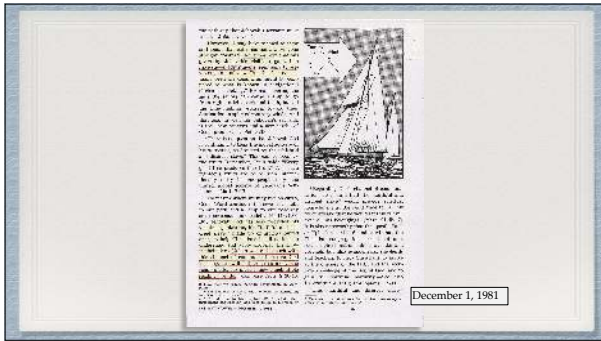
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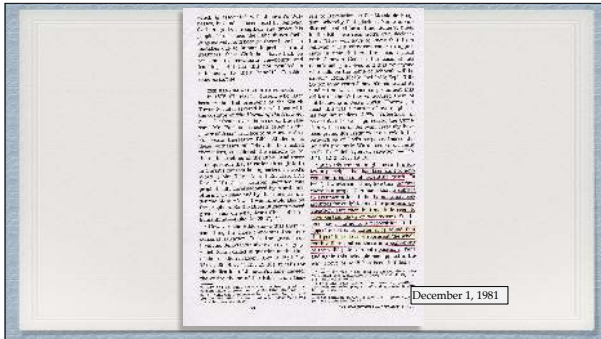
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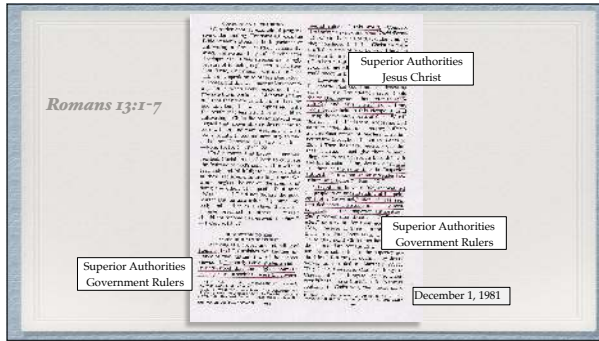


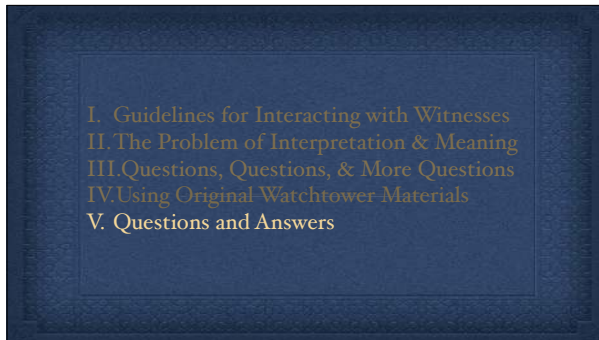
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