

## How the Name “Jehovah’s Witnesses” was Chosen

In 1884, Russell incorporated “*Zion’s Watch Tower Tract Society*” at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which in 1886 published the first in a series of seven books entitled *Studies in the Scriptures*.

- The original title was “The Millennial Dawn.”
- As a matter of fact, the original name of the movement was “Millennial Dawn”. But the millenium, supposed to dawn in 1874, came so slow that the name had to be dropped (“*100 Years of Divine Direction*” page 229)
- The group was then known as “Russellites”
- In 1912 they changed their name to International Bible Student Association.
- In 1917 the seventh volume of the aforementioned *Studies in the Scriptures* was published.
- This volume, entitled *The Finished Mystery*, caused a split in the organization.
- This split culminated in a clean division, the larger group following J.F. Rutherford.
- The smaller group became known as “The Dawn Bible Students Association.”
  - It’s headquarters and publishing plant is now in East Rutherford, New Jersey.
- The name “Jehovah’s Witnesses” was taken at Columbus, Ohio, in 1931 to differentiate between the Watch Tower and the true followers of Russell as represented by the Dawn Bible Students.
- The author of *Thirty Years a Watch Tower Slave*, William J. Schnell says that between 1922 and 1931 thousands of Russellites were purged from the organization and formed 10 different sects throughout the world.
- Notice! Both the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society organization and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints claim to be God’s only official voice yet both of them have split many times!