

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

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**On January 14, 2014, we received the following comment and inquiry:**

“I e-mailed you a question some time ago that if you think that JW's as an organization is to be considered Babylon the great which you should flee and escape from (Rev. 18:4) Your answer then was that we can't say which identity she has. You also mentioned that it would be difficult to help and support JW's if you disassociated from them. My questions are: Have change your position in the matter? (Having your last article in mind [[Discerning the Time of Inspection](#)].) Do you think is high time to formally leave Jehovah's Witnesses?”

To the author, it is good to hear from you again and thank you for your email. We are responding publicly because we believe other may have the same questions.

No, we have not changed our position on the identity of Babylon the Great. We still cannot say with any certainty who she represents. The article, [Discerning the Time of Inspection](#), was not based on the prophecies in Revelation about Babylon the Great, but on the parallels between the Governing Body and the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Sanhedrin. Our comments about fleeing from the organization are based on Jesus' words to his apostles ([Matthew 24:15-16](#)), and Paul's words to the Corinthians ([2 Corinthians 5:15-18](#)). We emphasized that since the Governing Body has chosen to pattern itself after a disapproved nation, they will reap what they have sown. ([Galatians 6:7](#)) This is not prophecy, it is patterns and parallels.

We want to further emphasize that we did not base anything in the article on the prophecies in the Old Testament either. We strongly believe that any message that the Father or the Christ would have for anyone today, including the Governing Body, will be found in the New Testament and will be based on Jesus' words as the last and greatest prophet. ([Matthew 21:37](#)) For further discussion of this, see [Lastly He Sent His Son](#).

You asked whether it is time to formally leave the organization. We believe that is a personal decision that each individual will have to make for him or herself and their families. We do not want to become a new governing body, making personal decisions for our brothers. Our message is one of liberty and freedom. We reiterate the plain and open teachings of Jesus and the need to openly confess union with him. And we have provided spiritual provisions to sustain those who elect to leave. But how and when our brothers choose to respond is up to them. As the scripture says: “let the reader use discernment.” ([Matthew 24:15](#)) The Father will hold us individually accountable for our actions, so we should be sure that our actions are OUR actions, and not the result of blindly following others.

Finally, yes, we continue to believe that if you formally disassociate yourself from the congregation, it will be difficult to help those who remain behind. For that reason, we suggest that those who chose to leave do so in a way that allows for continued freeness of speech.

*“Elaia Luchnia”*

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