

FALSE PROPHECIES OF THE WATCHTOWER



***QUICK QUESTIONS
FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES***

1. How can we know the difference between a true prophet and a false prophet?

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ANSWER ACCORDING TO THE WATCHTOWER:

“True, there have been those in times past who predicted an ‘end of the world,’ even announcing a specific date. ... Yet, nothing happened. **The ‘end’ did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying.** Why? What was missing? ... Missing from such people were God’s truths and the evidence that he was guiding and using them.”

—*Awake!*, October 8, 1968, p. 23

A TIME TO

'Lift Up Your Head' in CONFIDENT HOPE



THE evidence that we are far along in the "last days" can be either good news or bad news to you, depending on the position you take. If you long to be free from a rule that has proved both unsatisfactory and unrighteous and that is torn more and more by discord and confusion; if you really love what is right and have a sincere desire to do the will of your Creator, then this evidence should make you rejoice. Why? Because, as Jesus Christ said: "As these things start to occur, raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because *your deliverance is getting near.*"—Luke 21:28.

A perfect government, heaven-based and with heaven's blessing and heaven's power backing it up, will soon take complete control of this earth. In this way God will answer the prayer: "Let your kingdom come." What better news could there be?

Still some persons may say: "How can you be sure? Maybe it is later than many people think. But maybe it is not as late as some persons claim. People have been mistaken about these prophecies before."

The Difference

True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world,"

even announcing a specific date. Some have gathered groups of people with them and fled to the hills or withdrawn into their houses waiting for the end. Yet, nothing happened. The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?

Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that he was guiding and using them.

But what about today? Today we have the evidence required, *all of it*. And it is overwhelming! All the many, many parts of the great sign of the "last days" are here, together with verifying Bible chronology.

Take a simple illustration: Suppose on a hot day at the beginning of summer, someone told you that winter was coming within a week because he had seen some trees without leaves. But those trees could have died from disease or age. So, by itself that would not be enough evidence that winter was approaching. Especially so when none of the other trees had shed their leaves, when the heat continued day after day, and when the calendar told you it was just the beginning of summer. You

OCTOBER 8, 1968

2. Has the Watchtower Society claimed to be God's "prophet"? How can we know the difference between a true prophet and a false prophet?

ANSWER ACCORDING TO THE WATCHTOWER:

"So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? ...He had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. ...Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?" —*The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p. 197

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They shall know that **A PROPHET WAS AMONG THEM'**

JEHOVAH GOD is interested in having people know him. Though he is invisible to human eyes, he provides various ways by which they can know his personality. They can know what to expect from him and what he expects of them.

One can come to understand that Jehovah is a God of surpassing wisdom by observing creation. This also reveals the loving care with which he designed things for man's welfare and enjoyment. A second way to know God is through his Word of truth, the Bible. Herein one finds the full expression of Jehovah's purpose toward mankind—why man is on the earth and the blessings that God has in store.

A third way of coming to know Jehovah God is through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers. While these men foretold things to come, they also served the people by telling them of God's will for them at that time, often also warning them of dangers and calamities. People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?

→ IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET"

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? The cler-

gy of the so-called "Christian" nations hold themselves before the people as being the ones commissioned to speak for God. But, as pointed out in the previous issue of this magazine, they have failed God and failed as proclaimers of his kingdom by approving a man-made political organization, the League of Nations (now the

United Nations), as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth."

However, Jehovah did not let the people of Christendom, as led by the clergy, go without being warned that the League was a counterfeit substitute for the real kingdom of God. He had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined and assisted in their commissioned work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief.

Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?

During the World War I period this group, the International Bible Students, was very active in preaching the good news of God's kingdom, as their Leader Jesus Christ had set this work before them in his prophecy at Matthew 24:14. They took literally Jesus' words to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate: "My kingdom is no part of this world." (John 18:36) They also took to heart Jesus' words to his fol-

1914

**3. What does the
Watchtower Society's
record show? Did the
Society proclaim that
1914 would “end” world
governments?**

**STATEMENT FROM AN
EARLY WATCHTOWER
PUBLICATION:**

**“...the ‘battle of the great day of God Almighty’
(Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the
complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership,
is already commenced.”—*The Time is At Hand*,
Studies in the Scriptures, vol. 2, 1886,
1911 edition, p. 101**

obtained the dominion (Dan. 2: 37, 38); Medo-Persia existed before it conquered Babylon; and so with all kingdoms: they must first have existed and have received superior power before they could conquer others. So, too, with God's Kingdom: it has existed in an embryo form for eighteen centuries; but it, with the world at large, was made subject to "the powers that be," "ordained of God." Until their "seven times" shall end, the Kingdom of God cannot come into universal dominion. However, like the others, it must obtain power adequate to the overthrow of these kingdoms before it shall break them in pieces.

So, in this "Day of Jehovah," the "Day of Trouble," our Lord takes his great power (hitherto dormant) and reigns, and this it is that will cause the trouble, though the world will not so recognize it for some time. That the saints shall share in this work of breaking to pieces present kingdoms, there can be no doubt. It is written, "This honor have all his saints—to execute the judgments written, to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron"—of strength. (Psa. 149: 8, 9.) "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they [the empires] be broken to shivers."—Rev. 2: 26, 27; Psa. 2: 8, 9.

But our examination, in the preceding volume, of the great difference in character between the Kingdom of God and the beastly kingdoms of earth, prepares us to see also a difference in modes of warfare. The methods of conquest and breaking will be widely different from any which have ever before overthrown nations. He who now takes his great power to reign is shown in symbol (Rev. 19: 15) as the one whose sword went forth *out of his mouth*, "that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." That sword is the TRUTH (Eph. 6: 17);

and the living saints, as well as many of the world, are now being used as the Lord's soldiers in overthrowing errors and evils. But let no one hastily infer a *peaceable conversion* of the nations to be here symbolized; for many scriptures, Such as Rev. 11: 17, 18; Dan. 12: 1; 2 Thes. 2: 8; Psalms 149 and 47, teach the very opposite.

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A. D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16: 14.), which will end in A. D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. The gathering of the armies is plainly visible from the standpoint of God's Word.

If our vision be unobstructed by prejudice, when we get the telescope of God's Word rightly adjusted we may see with clearness the character of many of the events due to take place in the "Day of the Lord"—that we are in the very midst of those events, and that "the Great Day of His Wrath is come."

The sword of truth, already sharpened, is to smite every evil system and custom—civil, social and ecclesiastical. Nay, more, we can see that the smiting is commenced: freedom of thought, and human rights, civil and religious, long lost sight of under kings and emperors, popes, synods, councils, traditions and creeds, are being appreciated and asserted as never before. The internal conflict is already fomenting: it will ere long break forth as a consuming fire, and human systems, and errors, which for centuries have fettered truth and oppressed the groaning creation, must melt before it. Yes, truth—and widespread and increasing knowledge of it—is the sword which is perplexing and wounding the heads over many countries. (Psa. 110: 6.)

STUDIES — IN THE — SCRIPTURES

"THE PATH OF THE JUST IS AS THE SHINING LIGHT, WHICH SHINETH MORE
AND MORE UNTO THE PERFECT DAY."

SERIES II.

The Time is at Hand.

1,045,000 EDITION.

"TIMES OF REFRESHING SHALL COME FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD: AND
HE SHALL SEND JESUS CHRIST, * * * WHOM THE
HEAVENS MUST RETAIN UNTIL

THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS,

WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE
WORLD BEGAN." "YE, BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, THAT THAT

DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF."

ACTS 3: 19-21; 1 THESS. 5: 4.

INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
BROOKLYN, N. Y., U. S. A.

1911

4. How sure was the Watchtower Society that the date 1914 would not be “changed” and that it was “not the date for the beginning, but for the end” of this world?

**STATEMENT FROM AN
EARLY WATCHTOWER
PUBLICATION:**

“We see no reason for **changing the figures—**nor could we change them** if we would. They are, we believe, **God’s dates, not ours**. But bear in mind that **the end of 1914 is not the date for the *beginning*, but for the *end* of the time of trouble.**”—*Zion’s Watch Tower*, July 15, 1894, p. 226-231 [Watchtower Reprints, p. 1677]**

Trust in the Lord, wait patiently for him, and he will bring to pass in his due time and way (the best time and way) all the gracious promises of his Word—including the blessing of all the families of earth.

We see the various inequalities and wrongs of the present system of society more clearly than others, because we see them from the standpoint of the Lord's Word; but we can see also that, if it were within our power to suddenly revolutionize matters, that would be undesirable: it would produce a condition far worse than the present. Far better the present social system than none; and far better, while the present system continues, that the power remain in the hands of men of judgment and moderation than that the lever of power be suddenly transferred into the hands of the rash and inexperienced masses, unused to weighty responsibilities, and mere novices and experimenters upon all questions, social and financial. A thousand times better is a social system in the hands of education and experience, even though selfish, than no social system, or an experimental one in the hands of novices equally selfish, but not equally moderate. We much prefer them to stay as long as we can where we are than to change to any other arrangement that *men* can originate, or assist in any way to precipitate the trouble, which sooner or later must inevitably involve all nations and all individuals.

Better, far better, *wait on the Lord*,—wait until his time for establishing his kingdom and have it come about in his way. He will eventually restrain the forces of evil and selfishness in both rich and poor and bring in equity and everlasting righteousness.

So, then, although we know that the revolution and anarchy and trouble are surely coming, let us, "brethren" of Christ, do nothing to promote or hasten it. Let our advice

be to the contrary, to any of our friends who seek our counsel. Especially let us improve the opportunity for pointing out to them the true and only remedy for present distress—Christ's kingdom and its new social order under the law of Love. And, to all who have ears to hear, preach Christ the Redeemer, soon, as the Great Physician, to be the Restorer of all who cheerfully obey him. Point him out as *now* our Saviour, *your* Saviour. Tell them of the joy and peace and blessing which he gives and which he promises shall abide with us in every condition. Tell them that it is for this reason that "We will not fear though the earth [society] be removed; though the mountains [governments] be removed and carried into the midst of the sea [the ungovernable masses]; though the waters [the people] thereof roar and be troubled; though the mountains [governments] shake with the swellings [riots, tumults, etc.] thereof."

And if they become interested and willing, lead them to the Lamb of God and the streams of truth that make glad the true people of God,—and if they be converted to God, *seal* them in the forehead (mind, intellect) with the wonderful present truth with which God has caused us to be sealed.—Rev. 7:3.

Remember that now is the time to be active co-workers with God in doing this sealing work, and that the disturbing winds are being held back until the sealing work is done. Therefore, when the present disturbances pass away and another season of comparative calm follows, continue earnest and zealous in the sealing work, knowing that the time is short and that the night [the darker period—cometh when no man can work.] We must labor while it is called day, and cannot hope for a more favorable opportunity than the present. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," is the promise.

CAN IT BE DELAYED UNTIL 1914?

Seventeen years ago people said, concerning the time features presented in *MILLENNIAL DAWN*, They seem reasonable in many respects, but surely no such radical changes could occur between now and the close of 1914: if you had proved that they would come about in a century or two, it would seem much more probable.

What changes have since occurred, and what velocity is gained daily?

"The old is quickly passing and the new is coming in."

Now, in view of recent labor troubles and threatened an-

archy, our readers are writing to know if there may not be a mistake in the 1914 date. They say that they do not see how present conditions can hold out so long under the strain.

We see no reason for changing the figures—nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble. We see no reason for changing from our opinion expressed in the view presented in the *WATCH TOWER* of January 15, '92. We advise that it be read again.

TRACT No. 21—DO YOU KNOW?

We published one hundred and fifteen thousand copies of this tract, and have sent samples to all our *TOWER* readers. It seems to give general satisfaction, and orders from all quarters are large. We advise the circulation of this tract by all of you—on street cars, steam cars, at hotels and depots, and Sundays on the street corners—until every one within your reach has been supplied. Order all that you will agree to use. Never mind the money. Many have opportunity for distributing sample copies of Old Theology Tracts who have no money

to spare to pay for their printing, etc., but others, again, who have less opportunity for distributing tracts, take delight in meeting the publishing expenses, and thus help to preach the "good tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people."

The first edition, although large, is already exhausted, but we have another addition of over two hundred thousand under way, which will be ready in about ten days. Send in your order and have a share in this feature of the harvest work. There should be a million of these tracts distributed this year.

"ANGELS WHICH KEPT NOT THEIR FIRST ESTATE"

"The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all, which they chose. . . . And they bear children to them, the same became mighty men, which were of old, men of renown."—Gen. 6:2, 4.

The Scriptures not only point us to the future age and call the spiritual government of Christ which shall then exist a "new heavens," and earthly society and institutions under it a "new earth;" but the present spiritual rulership [under Satan, "the prince of this world"] and earthly institutions under it are termed "The present evil world," dispensation or epoch. Moreover, we are informed that the present dominion of evil has not lasted forever, but that it was preceded by a still different dispensation or epoch spoken of as "the world that was before the flood," which also had a heavens or spiritual ruling power, and an earth, or condition of men subject to that spiritual dominion.

The three worlds mentioned by Peter (2 Pet. 3:6, 7, 13) designate these three great epochs of time, in each of which, God's plan with reference to men has a distinct and separate outline, yet each is but a part of the one great plan which, when complete, will exhibit the divine wisdom, though considered separately these parts would fail to show their deep design.

Since that first "world" ("heavens and earth," or that order of things,) passed away at the time of the flood, it follows that it must have been a *different* order from the present, and hence the prince of this present evil world was

not the prince of that which preceded this—of the world or dispensation before the flood.

Several scriptures seem to throw light on God's dealings during that first dispensation, and we think give a further and clearer insight into his plan and purpose as a whole. The thought suggested by these is, that the first world (the dispensation before the flood) was under the supervision and special ministration of the angels; that these were man's governors and overseers commissioned to communicate God's will and to rule over the fallen and degenerating race, which, because of sin, needed this government.

That angels were the rulers of that epoch is not only indicated by all references to that period, but may be reasonably inferred from the Apostle's remark when contrasting the present dispensation with the past and the future. He endeavors to show both the righteousness and the enduring character of the future rulership of the world, saying, "The world to come hath he not put in subjection to the angels." No, it is put under the control of Jesus and his joint-heirs, and hence it shall not only be more righteous than the present rule of Satan, but it shall be more successful than was the previous rule by the angels.—See Heb. 2:2, 5.

In their original estate all the angels seemed to possess

1915

**5. When 1914 failed,
what “date” did the
Society “change” in their
updated edition of *The
Time is At Hand* book?**

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and the living saints, as well as many of the world, are now being used as the Lord's soldiers in overthrowing errors and evils. But let no one hastily infer a *peaceable conversion* of the nations to be here symbolized; for many scriptures, Such as Rev. 11: 17, 18; Dan. 12: 1; 2 Thes. 2: 8; Psalms 149 and 47, teach the very opposite.

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STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES

"The Path of the Just is as the Shining Light,
Which Shineth More and More
Unto the Perfect Day."

SERIES II

The Time is at Hand

1,602,000 Edition.

"Times of Refreshing Shall Come From the Pres-
ence of the Lord; and He Shall Send Jesus Christ,
• • • Whom the Heavens Must Retain until
THE TIMES OF RESTITU-
TION OF ALL THINGS
Which God Hath Spoken by the Mouth of All His
Holy Prophets Since the World Began." "Ye
Brethren, Are Not in Darkness, That That Day
Should Overtake You as a Thief."—Acts 3:19-21;
1 Thes. 5:4.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

BROOKLYN, LONDON, MELBOURNE, BARMEN,
COPENHAGEN, OREBRO, CHRISTIANIA, GENEVA.

1915

1918

6. When 1915 failed, what did the Society say God would do in 1918?

STATEMENT FROM AN EARLY WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:

“Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russel to learn the meaning of the downfall of ‘Christianity.’ ” —*The Finished Mystery*, Studies in the Scriptures, vol. 7, 1917, p. 485

24:18. So I spake unto the people in the morning; and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.—He continued his addresses and writings to the Lord's people; his wife became to him as one dead; and he continued uninterruptedly in the work of the ministry.

24:19. And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?—Why was Pastor Russell caused by his Father to endure the fiery trials and ecclesiastical falsehoods in connection with this incident of his life?

THE CHURCHES TO CEASE TO BE

24:20, 21. Then I answered them, The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Speak unto the house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will profane My Sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.—God gives the reason. It was as a picture or parable of what is to happen to Christendom. Until 1878 the nominal church had been in a sense God's sanctuary or Temple; but He was from then on, culminating in 1918, to remove it with a stroke or plague of erroneous doctrines and deeds Divinely permitted. The Church was the strength of Christendom, that about which its life centered, and around which its institutions were built. It was the desire of the eyes of the people, that which all Christians loved. Nevertheless, God was to make manifest the profanation which ecclesiasticism had made of the Christian Church, and to cause the church organizations to become to Him as one dead, an unclean thing, not to be touched, or mourned. And the "children of the church" shall perish by the sword of war, revolution and anarchy, and by the Sword of the Spirit be made to see that they have lost their hope of life on the spirit plane—that "the door is shut."

24:22. And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.—So universal and dreadful will be the troubles that the dead will literally lie unburied and unwept. There can be no mourning for the dead in a period when the living are overwhelmed by troubles worse than death.

24:23. And your tires shall be upon your heads; and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.—The mourning will be an inner sorrow of a people stupefied by terrible experiences, who pine

away and without outward expression sink together into the fellowship of helpless grief.

24:24. Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord God.—Thus the silent sorrow at Pastor Russell's heart was to be a sign to Christendom. The sorrowful experiences of Pastor Russell in this connection shall later on be those of all Christendom; "and when this cometh" they shall know that Jehovah God is supreme, and back of all the judgments of the trouble time.

PASTOR RUSSELL DEAD, BUT SPEAKING AGAIN

24:25, 26. Also, thou son of man, shall it not be in the day when I take from them their strength, the joy of their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that whereupon they set their minds, their sons and their daughters. That he that escapeth in that day shall come unto thee, to cause thee to hear it with thine ears?—Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of "Christianity."

24:27. In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and be no more dumb: and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I am the Lord.—Pastor Russell's voice has been stilled in death; and his voice is, comparatively speaking, dumb to what it will be. In the time of revolution and anarchy he shall speak, and be no more dumb to those that escape the destruction of that day. Pastor Russell shall "be a sign unto them," shall tell them the truth about the Divine appointment of the trouble, as they consult his books, scattered to the number of ten million throughout Christendom. His words shall be a sign of hope unto them, enabling them to see the bright side of the cloud and to look forward with anticipation to the glorious Kingdom of God to be established. Then "they shall know the Lord."

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea."

1925

**7. When 1918 failed,
what date did the Society
give for the “old world”
to end and the “new
order” to begin with the
“resurrection” of the
Old Testament saints?**

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**STATEMENT FROM AN EARLY
WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:**

**“...the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is
therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in,
and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful
worthies of old... it is reasonable to conclude that millions of
people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then,
based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must
reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions
now living will never die.”—*Millions Now Living Will Never
Die*, 1920, p. 97**

that a plan of redemption exists and that the way is open for him to accept the terms of it and live. Knowledge being essential, it precedes the reception of blessings from the Lord; and knowing this fact, it is easy to be seen why the adversary, the devil, and his agencies so diligently strive to prevent the people from knowing the truth. But when Messiah's kingdom is established we are definitely informed (Revelation 20:1-4) that Satan will be restrained of his power that he might deceive the nations no more; and then the people shall know the truth and nothing shall hinder them from knowing it.

POSITIVE PROMISE

The words of Jesus must be given full force and effect because he spake as never man spake. His speech was with absolute authority. And in God's due time his words must have a fulfillment; and they cannot have a fulfillment until that due time. Jesus plainly said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death". (John 8:51) As above stated, no one could keep the saying of Jesus until he hears it, until he has a knowledge of God's arrangement. Throughout the Gospel age none but Christians have had this knowledge and all who have kept this saying and keep it faithfully until the end will receive life everlasting on the divine plane. (Revelation 2:10) The remainder of mankind have not heard it; therefore could not keep it. They will hear, however,

in due time after the establishment of the kingdom. Then it shall come to pass that every one who will keep the saying of the Lord shall never see death. This promise would not have been made by Jesus if he did not intend to carry it into full force and effect in due time.

Again he said: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die". (John 11:26) Do we believe the Master's statement? If so, when the time comes for the world to know, then they who believe and, of course, render themselves in obedience to the terms have the absolute and positive statement of Jesus that they shall never die.

Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then, based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.

Of course, it does not mean that every one will live; for some will refuse to obey the divine law; but those who have been evil and turn again to righteousness and obey righteousness shall live and not die. Of this we have the positive statement of the Lord's prophet, as follows:

1940's

8. Why did the Society discourage Jehovah's Witnesses from bearing children in 1938?

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STATEMENTS FROM AN EARLY WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:

“...it would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or Scriptural injunction to bring children into the world **immediately before Armageddon**, where we now are.”—*The Watchtower*, November 1, 1938, p. 324

the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and unto them were sons born after the flood." (Gen. 10: 1) "These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood; and Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters."—Genesis 11: 10, 11.

^a There is no evidence that any children were taken into the ark, but, on the contrary, the Scriptural record is that Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives, that is, eight persons in all, were taken into the ark: "And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives, with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood." (Gen. 7: 1, 7) "And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him." (Gen. 8: 18) "The ark . . . wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water." (1 Pet. 3: 20) These scriptures support the conclusion that the beginning of the 'filling of the earth' is not due before Armageddon; and in further support thereof mark the words of Jesus, which definitely seem to discourage the bearing of children immediately before or during Armageddon: "And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"—Matt. 24: 19.

^a There are Jonadabs now who are fully devoted to God and his kingdom and many of which now have children; what must be expected for them? The obligation is upon the parents to teach their children the truth of and concerning Jehovah and his kingdom under Christ and thus to lead them that they may 'seek righteousness and meekness', and, so doing, the divine promise will apply to such children, to wit: "Seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." (Zeph. 2: 3) Children born before Armageddon are brought into the world while Satan's wicked, oppressive organization affects the lives of all on the earth, and there is but one way of finding protection and safety for such children, as well as others, and that is to devote themselves to God and his kingdom and find refuge in the organization of Jehovah under Christ. They must seek to learn the truth and conform themselves to God's expressed will. Therefore the Jonadabs should see to it that their children are properly taught and afforded an opportunity to place themselves fully under the protection of the kingdom of God. It would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or Scriptural injunction to bring children into the world immediately before Armageddon, where we now are. If children are born, then the parents should see to it that such children are properly instructed concerning the Lord and his kingdom until the child reaches the age when it must freely exercise intelligently its own will and bear its own responsibility. While it is not

the obligation of the remnant to seek out children not their own and to give them instruction, yet all children who accompany their parents or foster parents or those friendly to them, and who desire to attend and do attend study meetings with the grownups and there seek righteousness and meekness, should be given aid and encouragement. Such aid and encouragement can be given by having the children sit quietly at such study meetings and listen to the instructions that are given. At the "feast of weeks" those other than Israelites were permitted to attend, concerning which God there gave the commandment, to wit: "And thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maid-servant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the Lord thy God hath chosen to place his name there." (Deut. 16: 11) At the "feast of tabernacles", when his people assembled at the temple, God commanded thus: "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law."—Deut. 31: 12.

^a Separate meetings called "Sunday schools", which are used for the juveniles, are not Scriptural, but the children should accompany their parents to the place of study of God's Word, the place of worship; and when other children come with them that they too might learn, such should be required to sit quietly in the meeting and learn. (For a more complete consideration of instruction of children see *The Watchtower* of April 15 and May 1, 1938.)

AFTER ARMAGEDDON

^a Adam and his wife Eve were commanded to "multiply and fill the earth". They were then righteous. Adam and Eve failed to raise up a righteous generation because they both sinned before beginning to exercise the function of bringing children into the world. After Armageddon the willful violators of God's law will all be gone from the earth, and the survivors, being righteous, by God's grace, and being thus counted by him, may then fulfill the divine mandate. The Devil will then be bound, so that he cannot interfere with or influence the upbringing of the children of the Jonadabs. (Rev. 20: 1-3) The degenerate or wicked offspring of Adam will then be dead, so that they cannot exercise any influence over children of the great multitude, such as Nimrod exercised over the generation of Noah's sons. (Gen. 10: 8-10) The kingdom of God then in full operation being unto life for the obedient, the children of the great multitude conceived under the kingdom would be conceived unto life by the grace of God through Christ Jesus. Lucifer, as man's overlord, failed in the performance of the commission given to him because he rebelled and then

November 1, 1938

9. How soon was Armageddon to break out in 1941?

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STATEMENT FROM AN EARLY WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:

“Never was there a more moving sight in **these ‘last days’**. ...Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them ...the Lord’s provided instrument for most effective work **in the remaining months before Armageddon**. What a gift! and to so many! The manner of releasing the new book *Children* was an outright surprise to all....”—*The Watchtower*, September 15, 1941, p. 288

be able to give you girls proper advice, you girls who are looking for a husband. When you see Daniel, David, Moses and all the prophets, listen to what they have to say, and they will properly advise you boys and girls. I am going to have handed to every one of you 15,000 children one of these books as a gracious gift. I ask that you first study it faithfully. Ask someone else to sit with you under the shade of a tree and study that which leads to life and endless blessings. . . . It is your privilege between now and before the day school opens to spend six hours a day in taking the book *Children* to others." The parents should encourage their children to do this very thing, if they would have them live.

Cartons of *Children* that had been deposited in The Arena were now opened, and Judge Rutherford instructed the children how to come and each get a copy thereof, those in the rear half of The Arena marching in two columns out through a side exit, and those in the front half of The Arena marching up over the platform and out through a rear exit. As the march began, the orchestra (minus all its children instrumentalists) struck up and rendered songs, "Children of the Heavenly King," "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon," and "Who Is on the Lord's Side?" while the vast audience sang. Never was there a more moving sight in these "last days". Many, including strong men, wept at the demonstration. Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon. What a gift! and to so many! The manner of releasing the new book *Children* was an outright surprise to all, but the almighty hand of the All-wise One, Jehovah, was in it, and the maneuver was most blessed indeed. Thereafter *Children*, the author's edition, was disposed of to adult conventioners, on a contribution.

The blessings of the Assembly were further enhanced by the afternoon session, which provided a delightful anticlimax to "Children's Day". The Arena was again packed out to hear about "Your New Work" and the president's parting words. For weeks the question had been upon many consecrated minds, and at 3 p.m. the first speaker, the factory and office servant at Brooklyn, disclosed the "new work", to wit, the placing of *Children*, and thereafter, over a period of three weeks, sending each obtainer, at no extra cost to him, the "*Children* Study Course", to wit, three attractive, illuminated question-and-answer folders, these to be followed the fourth week by a back-call service by the one placing *Children*. Another speaker, on "Solving the Problem", showed how the new book, together with the "*Children* Study Course", provided the solution for the problem of company publishers to reach their individual quota of twelve back-calls monthly and one model study weekly, as suggested in the recent communication of the president of the Society. Three speakers then spoke, each briefly on "When to Begin", and were in concert as to the answer, that now is the time.

When, next, Judge Rutherford came on the platform, he talked extemporaneously, but the unspeakable blessing the Lord bestowed in the morning appeared to have put him in the best of condition and filled his heart and mouth full of words "in season" and "fitly spoken". For forty-five minutes the audience spent a most delightful time listening. Said Judge Rutherford: "It is not exactly a new work, but it is putting on a little more steam for the final roundup." Then concerning the book just released, he added: "We had on the grounds this morning only 40,000 of the autographed edition. . . . But I am glad to tell you that, while that 40,000 are gone, there is another 150,000 copies on the grounds ready for use. [Applause] So you will have 150,000 on the grounds here to start with now, and I think it might be well for two or three thousand first-class workers to go into the St. Louis field and get those in the hands of the people here who want to know something about it before you go away." (It developed that more than 3,000 persons of good-will turned in

their names at the public meetings, requesting calls by Jehovah's witnesses and further information.)

Then in most interesting fashion he told of his visit to the trailer camp Saturday, and also of the opposition and the difficulties caused by the public service bodies, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention Bureau, all due to their subservience to the religious organization, whom he symbolized under the figure of one distressed "Fayther O'Hooligan". The description of the actions and the bossy orders of this "Fayther O'Hooligan" in his own brogue to local businessmen and Catholic population caused great amusement, and the assembly laughed again and again. (Pss. 2: 4; 37: 12, 13; 52: 6) Then he told of the good people of St. Louis and showed how the parable of the "sheep" and "goats" had thus had local fulfillment.—Matthew 25.

The city editor of the *Globe Democrat* sent him a question. "Do you not think it discourteous to criticize another person's religion in his own community?" but, due to "Father O'Hooligan", they refused to publish the answer submitted, though it was of great public interest. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy in America have treated in like manner all proposals, challenges and petitions to public discussion in debate over radio. They have all been warned, and now "we are going to spend our energy and time and strength in going to the people of good-will toward God and his Theocratic kingdom, carrying to them the message". Hope-rousing and stirring was his statement: "I feel absolutely certain that from henceforth . . . those who will form the great multitude will grow by leaps and bounds." The arising of 15,000 children this morning was a decisive answer and reproof to the "evil servant" class who say, "Humph! where's the great multitude?"

For ever to disprove all published false charges and slurs that he is the leader of Jehovah's witnesses, he said: "I want to let any strangers here know what you think about a man being your LEADER, so they won't be forgetting. Every time something rises up and starts to grow, they say there is some man a leader who has a great following. If there is any person in this audience who thinks that I, this man standing here, is the leader of Jehovah's witnesses, say Yes." But there was a unanimous "No"! emphatically. "If you who are here believe that I am just one of the servants of the Lord, and we are working shoulder to shoulder in unity, serving God and serving Christ, say Yes." The unanimous "Yes!" was strong and unequivocal. "Well, you don't have to need me as an earthly leader to get a crowd like that to work." He now asked them to return to their respective parts and "put on more steam . . . put in all the time you can" Then he offered words of benediction.

Briefly referring to the coming convention in Britain in September he asked them to join with him in a cablegram, as follows: "To the Leicester Assembly: Your fellow servants, assembled 115,000 strong at St. Louis, bid our British brethren be very courageous and hold fast your integrity. Theocratic victory is certain. [Signed] Jehovah's witnesses in America." This was adopted with a unanimous "Aye".

His final words were, "Well, my dear brethren, the Lord bless you. Now I won't say Good-bye, because I expect to see you at some time again." By this the brethren were greatly encouraged, and their hearts and minds were turned to the still greater and grander event, "the general assembly" spoken of at Hebrews 12: 23. Till then they would keep covenant and maintain integrity toward Jehovah God, and endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and continue on in God's "strange work" as his faithful and true witnesses, till done.

[A more detailed report of the convention will appear in *Consolation*.]

(Continued from page 274)

in support of Jehovah's witnesses and in defense of their rights and liberties in His service. The 32 pages of this important documentary matter are enclosed in a neat and strong cover. It is 5c a copy, mailed postage prepaid.

September 15, 1941

1975

10. Why were Jehovah's Witnesses looking forward to 1975?

STATEMENTS FROM THE WATCHTOWER PUBLICATIONS OF THE 1960'S:

“WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975? WHAT about all this talk concerning the year 1975? ...Their interest has been kindled by the belief that 1975 will mark the end of 6,000 years of human history since Adam's creation.”

—The Watchtower, August 15, 1968, p. 494

“According to trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E.”

—Life Everlasting – In Freedom of the Sons of God, 1966, p. 29

ed to be October 5 (Julian) or September 29 (Gregorian) 537 B.C.E.—Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-6.

²⁴ Here, then, very definitely established, is another milestone—the time when the seventy years of desolation of the land of Judah came to an end—about October 1, 537. (Jer. 25:11, 12; 29:10) It is now a simple formula to determine when the seventy years began. One has only to add

24. So when did the seventy years of desolation begin, and when did they end?

70 to 537 to get 607. So about October 1, 607 B.C.E., the desolating of the land of Judah and the complete emptying out of its inhabitants was fully accomplished.

²⁵ The importance of the year 607 B.C.E. in this Biblical chronology will become more apparent in the following article, as we seek an answer to the provocative question, When was Adam created?

25. The answer to what question is related to the year 607 B.C.E.?

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?

WHAT about all this talk concerning the year 1975? Lively discussions, some based on speculation, have burst into flame during recent months among serious students of the Bible. Their interest has been kindled by the belief that 1975 will mark the end of 6,000 years of human history since Adam's creation. The nearness of such an important date indeed fires the imagination and presents unlimited possibilities for discussion.

¹ But wait! How do we know their calculations are correct? What basis is there for saying Adam was created nearly 5,993 years ago? Does the one Book that can be implicitly trusted for its truthful historical accuracy, namely, the Inspired Word of Jehovah, the Holy Bible, give support and credence to such a conclusion?

1, 2. (a) What has sparked special interest in the year 1975, and with what results? (b) But what questions are raised?

² In the marginal references of the Protestant *Authorized* or *King James Version*, and in the footnotes of certain editions of the Catholic *Douay* version, the date of man's creation is said to be 4004 B.C.E. This marginal date, however, is no part of the inspired text of the Holy Scriptures, since it was first suggested more than fifteen centuries after the last Bible writer died, and was not added to any edition of the Bible until 1701 C.E. It is an insertion based upon the conclusions of an Irish prelate, the Anglican Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656). Ussher's chronology was only one of the many sincere efforts made during the past centuries to determine the time of Adam's creation. A hundred years ago when a count was taken, no less than 140 different timetables had been published by se-

3. Is the date for Adam's creation as found in many copies of the Bible part of the inspired Scriptures, and do all agree on the date?

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of a thousand years of life for man would begin in the year 1997 C.E.*

* Since the time of Ussher intensive study of Bible chronology has been carried on. In this

* *The New Jewish Encyclopedia*, of 1962, by D. Bridger and S. Wolk, under the heading of "Chronology, Jewish," says, on page 91: "It is not definitely known when the counting of time from Creation began. Some believe that it started in the second century C.E. The accepted differential between Jewish and general chronology is 3,760 years. By adding this figure to the current secular year one arrives at the year of the Jewish calendar. Thus the year 1960 C.E. is equivalent to the Jewish year 5,720. In Jewish chronology it is customary to mark the year before One as 'b.c.e.' (before common era), and the year after the year One, as 'c.e.' (common era)."

According to this Jewish calculation the year of man's creation would be 3760 B.C.E. However, it must be said that the Jewish chronologers reject the chronological help that is given in the last twenty-seven books of the Holy Bible known as "The New Testament" or "The Christian Greek Scriptures," as, for instance, in Acts 13:20, 21.—See the article "Why the Jewish Count of Time Differs," as published in *The Watchtower* under date of May 15, 1958, pages 297-300.

In the edition of the Holy Bible with "A Commentary and Critical Notes," by Adam Clarke, LL.D., F.S.A., of the year 1836, Volume 1, page 41, gives the date of man's creation as "A.M. 1, B.C. 4004."

In the Murphy edition of The Holy Bible, *Douay Version*, containing the Approbation of James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., the footnote on Genesis 1:1 reads: "A.M. 1; Ante C. 4004". That is to say, Anno Mundi 1; Ante Christum 4004 (Year of World 1; Before Christ 4004).

In the new French edition of 1940 of La Sainte Bible, by J. N. Darby, the chronological data give the time as 4,000 years from Adam's creation to the birth of the Messiah (Christ). In agreement with this is the German Lutheran clergyman, Abraham Calovius (Calov), born 1612 in Prussia, died 1686. See Chronological data in the Swedish *Biblia Thet är All then Heliga Skrift På*

41. (a) A careful study of Bible chronology made in this twentieth century points to what year for man's creation? (b) So, according to that chronology, when will six thousand years of human history end?

twentieth century an independent study has been carried on that does not blindly follow some traditional chronological calculations of Christendom, and the published timetable resulting from this independent study gives the date of man's creation as 4026 B.C.E.† According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E.

‡ So six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation. Jehovah God is timeless, as it is written in Psalm 90:1, 2: "O Jehovah, you yourself have proved to be a real dwelling for us during generation after generation. Before the mountains themselves were born, or you proceeded to bring forth as with labor pains the earth and the productive land, even from time indefinite to time indefinite you are God." So from the standpoint of Jehovah God these passing six thousand years of man's existence are but as six days of twenty-four hours, for this same psalm (verses 3, 4) goes on to say: "You make mortal man go back to crushed matter, and you say: 'Go back, you sons of men.' For a thousand years are in your eyes but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch during the night." So in not many years within our own generation we are reaching what Jehovah God could view as the seventh day of man's existence.

Swensko, published in Lund, Sweden, in 1862 (pages CXXI-CXXVIII). This differs from Ussher's Chronology by four years.

† See "Chart of Outstanding Historical Dates" on page 292, in the chapter entitled "Measuring Events in the Stream of Time," of the book *All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial*, published in 1963 by the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Pennsylvania.

‡ From the standpoint of Jehovah God, how long has man's existence been?

11. What did the Society say “would have to be” occurring in the “seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millenniums”?

STATEMENT FROM A 1969 WATCHTOWER:

“...six millennia of mankind’s life on earth would end in the mid-seventies. Thus the seventh millennium from man’s creation by Jehovah God would begin within less than ten years.... In order for the Lord Jesus Christ to be ‘Lord even of the sabbath day,’ his thousand-year reign would have to be the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millennia.... Would not, then, the end of six millennia of mankind’s laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath.” —*The Watchtower*, October 15, 1969, pp. 622-623

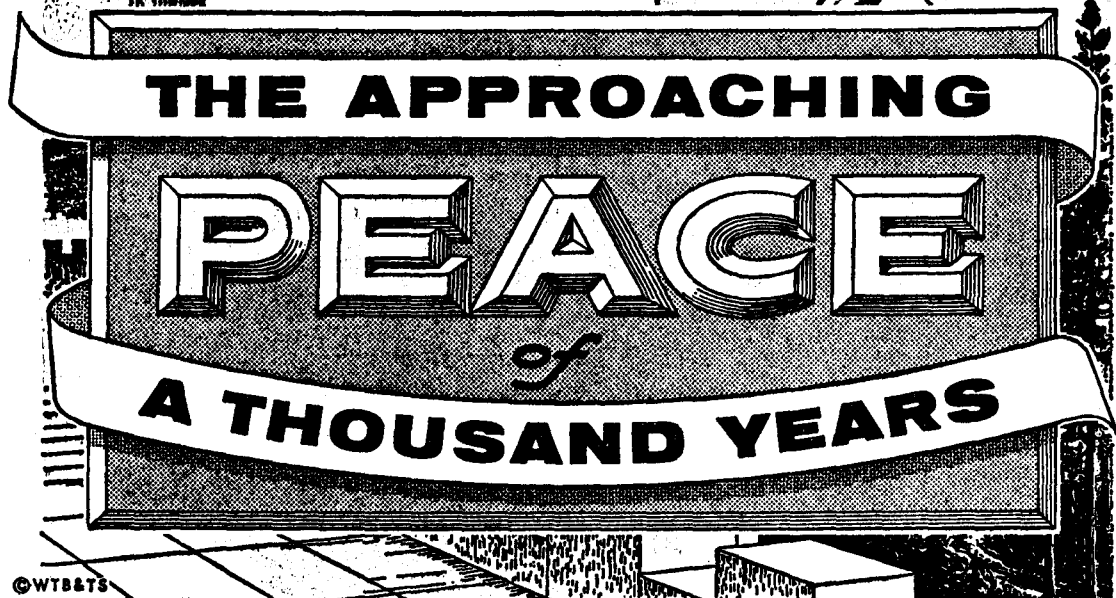


The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
**JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM**

OCTOBER 15, 1969

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"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

world have refused to yield over peaceably their earthly kingship to him, even Christendom refusing to do so. (Luke 21:24; Ps. 2:1-6) Till this year, after more than half a century, the nations have refused to do so. What will this mean shortly for all mankind? This: the outbreak of the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" at the world situation called Har-Magedon or Armageddon. (Rev. 16:14, 16) That war will remove all human obstructors to peace.

³⁶ After this taking away of all human and demon obstructors of world peace there will come the reign of the Prince of Peace over all the earth. God's fixed time for this is approaching, and along with it the peace of a thousand years. A thousand years equals a millennium. This reminds us of something said in the aforementioned inaugural speech of the American president on January 20, 1969. He remarked upon the approach of things of interest to Americans and to all Christendom. In the eighth paragraph of his speech the newly sworn-in president said: "Eight years from now America will celebrate its 200th anniversary as a nation. And within the lifetime of most people now living, mankind will celebrate that great new year which comes only once in a thousand years—the beginning of the third millennium." The president was referring to A.D. 2001.*

³⁷ The next remarks of the president showed that he expected there to be an America in the first year of that third millennium. But for God-fearing students of the Holy Bible containing both the ancient Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian

* Christendom measures time by the Anno Domini calendar, the Year of the Lord era, this starting with the year designated A.D. 1.

36. After removal of these peace obstructors, what time period begins, and how did the American president in his inaugural speech remind us of it?

37. In what millennium are God-fearing Bible students more interested, and from when does that millennium count?

Greek Scriptures, there is a more important millennium that compels their attention. That is the seventh millennium! No, not the seventh millennium measured from A.D. 1, but the seventh millennium of man's existence here on earth, the seventh millennium measured from God's creation of perfect man and woman in the garden of Eden. This is usually measured according to the Anno Mundi rule or "In the Year of the World" calendar, the world of mankind being here meant.

³⁸ Does this fact have any bearing on the approach of the peace of a thousand years or of a millennium? Very apparently Yes! According to the calendar of the Orthodox Jews, the new American president delivered his inaugural speech at the beginning of the fifth lunar month of the year 5729 A.M., this date being based on the ancient Hebrew Scriptures alone. But according to chronologers or time checkers who take into account also the inspired Christian Greek Scriptures, the Jewish calendar is more than two hundred years behind time. In certain editions of the Holy Bible, Catholic and Protestant, there have appeared dates according to the chronology of the noted Irish Anglican prelate, Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656 C.E.). Ussher's date for man's creation is 4004 B.C.E. By this reckoning six thousand years or six millenniums of man's existence would end in the autumn of the coming year of 1996 C.E. after which the seventh millennium of man's existence would start.

³⁹ More recently earnest researchers of the Holy Bible have made a recheck of its chronology. According to their calculations the six millenniums of mankind's life on earth would end in the mid-

38. (a) What does the Orthodox Jewish calendar reckon the time of the inauguration of the American president to be? (b) When, according to Ussher's chronology, do six millenniums of man's existence end?

39. According to more recent research into Bible chronology, when would the six millenniums end?

seventies. from man would begin

⁴⁰ Apart present-day fast getting enth millennium earth suggest stricken human two chapters woman were the sixth century in the seventh day from earth this resting day, he gave his prophesies which God people should the week. therefore the of desistance

⁴¹ The Lative Prince a greater Son to this, he bath day with "Lord of the man is." (1 to his peace Jehovah God cording to He inspired in Psalm 90 your eyes past." He a tle Peter t

* See the book under "Chronology" in *Freedom* the subheading Existence Closed

40. In common creative day, give to his choice 41. (a) On a Sabbath did Jesus God's way of millennium of

a more important bearing on the calendar of the American president than the seventh day of the week. In the garden of Eden, the world was created in six days, and on the seventh day Jehovah God has been resting from earthly creation. To run parallel with this resting of God on his seventh creative day, he gave the Ten Commandments to his prophet Moses, in the fourth one of which God commanded that his chosen people should rest on the seventh day of the week. (Ex. 20:8-11) That day was therefore the weekly sabbath day, the day of desistance from human toil.

By bearing on the calendar of the American president, the seventh day of the week is a day of rest alone. But for time checking, also the in-
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seventies. Thus the seventh millennium from man's creation by Jehovah God would begin within less than ten years.*

"Apart from the global change that present-day world conditions indicate is fast getting near, the arrival of the seventh millennium of man's existence on earth suggests a glad change for war-stricken humankind. According to the first two chapters of the Holy Bible man and woman were created toward the close of the sixth creative day. We are now living in the seventh creative day, and on this seventh day Jehovah God has been resting from earthly creation. To run parallel with this resting of God on his seventh creative day, he gave the Ten Commandments to his prophet Moses, in the fourth one of which God commanded that his chosen people should rest on the seventh day of the week. (Ex. 20:8-11) That day was therefore the weekly sabbath day, the day of desistance from human toil.

"The Lord Jesus Christ, the prospective Prince of Peace, pointed forward to a greater Sabbath Day. Pointing forward to this, he said on a certain weekly sabbath day when he came under criticism: 'Lord of the sabbath is what the Son of man is.' (Matt. 12:1-8) He was referring to his peaceful reign of a thousand years. Jehovah God measures human affairs according to a thousand-year-length rule. He inspired the prophet Moses to write, in Psalm 90:4: 'A thousand years are in your eyes but as yesterday when it is past.' He also inspired the Christian apostle Peter to write: 'One day is with the

* See the book *Aid to Bible Understanding*, page 333, under "Chronology." Also, the book *Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God*, pages 28-35, under the subheading "Six Thousand Years of Human Existence Closing," published in 1966.

40. In commemoration of his resting on the seventh creative day, what law concerning sabbath did God give to his chosen people?

41. (a) On a certain sabbath day, to what greater Sabbath did Jesus point forward? (b) According to God's way of measuring time, to what does Christ's millennium of rule correspond?

Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Pet. 3:8, AV) In prophetic vision the apostle John saw Satan the Devil and his demons bound and abysed for a thousand years, during which thousand years Jesus Christ reigned with his victorious disciples over all mankind. (Rev. 5:9, 10; 20:1-7) So, according to God's viewpoint of time, that thousand years of his Son Jesus Christ would correspond with merely "one day."

"In order for the Lord Jesus Christ to be 'Lord even of the sabbath day,' his thousand-year reign would have to be the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millennia. (Matt. 12:8, AV) Thus it would be a sabbatic reign. Since early in the existence of mankind Satan the Devil has been on the loose, making the human family to toil in hard bondage, causing the earth to be filled with violence before the global flood of Noah's day and inducing the same old earth to be filled with even greater violence today. Soon now six millennia of his wicked exploiting of mankind as his slaves will end, within the lifetime of the generation that has witnessed world events since the close of the Gentile Times in 1914 till now, according to the prophetic words of Jesus in Matthew 24:34. Would not, then, the end of six millennia of mankind's laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath.

"In ancient times, when God's chosen people were under the Ten Commandments given through his prophet Moses,

42. (a) In order for Jesus to be 'Lord of the sabbath,' his millennial reign would have to be in what time period? (b) Why would the end of six thousand years of man's enslavement by Satan be the fitting time for a sabbath rest?

43. (a) What kind of day was the ancient weekly sabbath day as to activity? (b) During his sabbatic reign, will Christ or his subjects on earth be idle?

12. Did the Society encourage Jehovah's Witnesses to sell their homes in preparation for the “wicked world's end” to come in 1975?

STATEMENT FROM A WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION JUST BEFORE 1975:

**“Yes, the end of this system is so very near! Is that
no reason to increase our activity?... Reports are
heard of brothers selling their homes and
property and planning to finish out the rest of their
days in this old system in the pioneer service.
Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time
remaining before the wicked world's end.”**

—*Kingdom Ministry*, May 1974, p. 3

HOW ARE YOU USING YOUR LIFE?

IS IT not apparent that most of mankind are living their lives for themselves? They are using their lives as *they* see fit, without concern for others. But what about us? The apostle Paul wrote to fellow servants of Jehovah, saying: "None of us, in fact, lives with regard to himself only, and no one dies with regard to himself only; for both if we live, we live to Jehovah, and if we die, we die to Jehovah. Therefore both if we live and if we die, we belong to Jehovah."—Rom. 14:7, 8.

This is something for all of us to give serious thought to: It would be entirely inappropriate for us, while professing to be Jehovah's people, to try to live our lives with regard to ourselves only. As the apostle Paul wrote: "You do not belong to yourselves, for you were bought with a price. By all means, glorify God."—1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

Are we not thankful that Jehovah God has purchased us and that we now belong to Him? He has bought us with the life of his own dear Son so that eternal death does not have to be our lot, but we have before us the opportunity to enjoy everlasting life. (John 3:16, 36) How are you affected by this loving provision of God? Does it not cause you to want to show Jehovah your deep appreciation? The apostle Peter noted that if we have the proper mental disposition we will be moved to "live the remainder of [our] time in the flesh, no more for the desires of men, but for God's will."—1 Pet. 4:2.

Is that what you are doing? Are you living no longer simply to satisfy personal ambitions or desires, but to do God's will? Are there ways in which you could share more fully in doing the will of God?

God's Will for Us

Jehovah makes clear in his Word that his will for us today includes accomplishing a great work of Kingdom-preaching before the end of this system comes. (Matt. 24:14) Jesus Christ did a similar work. He said: "Also to other cities I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, *because for this I was sent forth.*"—Luke 4:43.

Jesus did not hold back, but was whole-souled in his service to God. When we read the historical accounts of his ministry in the Gospels, how impressed we are with his energy and zeal in doing the Kingdom-preaching! Jesus knew that he had only a short time, and he did not spare himself in finishing his assignment. Should we not today be imitating his example, especially since we have such a short time left now in which to complete the Kingdom-preaching?

Yes, the end of this system is so very near! Is that not reason to increase our activity?

In this regard we can learn something from a runner who puts on a final burst of speed near the finish of a race. Look at Jesus, who apparently stepped up his activity during his final days on earth. In fact, over 27 percent of the material in the Gospels is devoted to just the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry!—Matt. 21:1-27:50; Mark 11:1-15:37; Luke 19:29-23:46; John 11:55-19:30.

By carefully and prayerfully examining our own circumstances, we also may find that we can spend more time and energy in preaching during this final period before the present system ends. Many of our brothers and sisters are doing just that. This is evident from the rapidly increasing number of pioneers.

Yes, since the summer of 1973 there have been new peaks in pioneers every month. Now there are 20,394 regular and special pioneers in the United States, an all-time peak. That is 5,190 more than there were in February 1973! A 34-percent increase! Does that not warm our hearts? Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end.—1 John 2:17.

Circumstances such as poor health or responsibilities in connection with your family may limit what you can do in the field ministry. And yet, the pioneer ranks include many who have health limitations, as well as some persons with families. But these broth-

THE GENERATION OF 1914

13. What time period did the Watchtower Society say would bring “the end”?

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“THE Bible speaks of the time in which we are living as the ‘last days’ or the ‘time of the end.’ ...The facts show that this is a **limited period that has a definite beginning and a definite end. It began in 1914**. ...there are people still living who were alive in 1914 ... ‘**This generation** will *by no means* pass away until all these things occur.’ **Some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. This means that only a short time is left before the end comes!**”—*The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life*, 1968, pp. 94-95

“We can be happy, therefore, for Jesus’ assurance that there will be survivors of ‘**the generation of 1914**’—that **this generation will not have completely passed away—when the ‘great tribulation’ rings down the curtain on this wicked world system.**”—*The Watchtower*, October 15, 1980, p. 31

The Last Days of This Wicked System of Things

THE Bible speaks of the time in which we are living as the "last days" or the "time of the end." (2 Timothy 3:1; Daniel 11:40) The facts show that this is a limited period that has a definite beginning and a definite end. It began in 1914 when Jesus Christ was enthroned as king in the heavens. It will end when God destroys this present wicked system of things. What a relief it will be when the organizations and persons that cheat and oppress, and all who endanger the security of their fellowmen, are gone!

How soon will that be? God's own Son, Jesus Christ, gives the answer. After drawing attention to the many things that mark the period from 1914 onward as the "time of the end," Jesus said: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matthew 24:34) Which generation did he mean?

Jesus had just referred to persons who would "see all these things." "These things" are the events that have taken place since 1914 and those

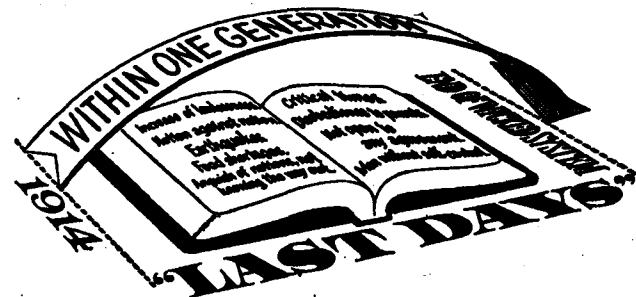
1. When did the "last days" begin, and with what event will they end?
2. What did Jesus say at Matthew 24:34 as to when the "time of the end" would run out?
3. (a) Which generation did Jesus say would not pass away before the end comes? (b) So how can we tell we are very near the end of this wicked system?

yet to occur down to the end of this wicked system. (Matthew 24:33) Persons born even as much as fifty years ago could not see "all these things." They came on the scene after the foretold events were already under way. But there are people still living who were alive in 1914 and saw what was happening then and who were old enough that they still remember those events. This generation is getting up in years now. A great number of them have already passed away in death. Yet Jesus very pointedly said: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." Some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. This means that only a short time is left before the end comes! (Psalm 90:10 [89:10, Dy]) So now is the time to take urgent action if you do not want to be swept away with this wicked system.

WHY A "TIME OF THE END"

Although the Kingdom came to power in 1914, Jehovah did not immediately destroy those who were not serving him. How glad we can be of that! For God's long-suffering has afforded us the

4. (a) Why can we be glad that God did not immediately destroy those who were not serving him when his kingdom came to power in 1914? (b) How does the Bible, at 2 Peter 3:9, help us to view this matter properly?



LY ENDURE

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officials noted the contrast ses and other Cuban refu- s at the Miami camp that Orange Bowl were asked if at there were Witness refu- ey replied: "Of course we est behaved people here." of Cuban Christians is an brothers everywhere. We o reading more about their

CHTOWER — OCTOBER 15, 1980

QUESTIONS from READERS

● In speaking of "the sign of [his] presence and of the conclusion of the system of things," Jesus said to his disciples: "Truly I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matt. 24:3, 34) How are we to understand this?

This prophecy, uttered in the year 33 C.E., had a notable typical fulfillment up until the year 70 C.E., when the Jewish system of things was destroyed, and Jerusalem's temple was thrown down, 'not a stone being left upon a stone.' In Jerusalem alone 1,100,000 Jews perished, according to the historian Josephus. Although many of Jesus' early disciples had died in the persecutions up until that time, some of the generation that had been with Jesus and had witnessed his mighty works remained also to see the end of that "conclusion of the system of things." (Matt. 24:2, 3) They were persons of Jesus' generation, his contemporaries.

However, from Jesus' prophecy we understand that his words are to have a later, major fulfillment, culminating in "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." This "great tribulation" is to embrace not just a Jewish "system of things" but the entire world of mankind, yes, "all the nations" to whom Jehovah's Witnesses must 'preach this good news of the kingdom before the end comes.' The "pangs of distress" that began to afflict this earth, starting with World War I, show that Jesus' "sign" is having its great antitypical fulfillment from 1914 onward. —Matt. 24:3-8, 14, 21.

What, then, is the "generation" that "will by no means pass away until all these things occur"? It does not refer to a period of time, which some have tried to interpret as 30, 40, 70 or even 120 years, but, rather, it refers to people, the people living at the "beginning of pangs of distress" for this condemned world system. It is the generation of people who saw the catastrophic events that broke forth in connection with World War I from 1914 onward.

THE WATCHTOWER — OCTOBER 15, 1980

As indicated by an article on page 56 of *U.S. News & World Report* of January 14, 1980, "If you assume that 10 is the age at which an event creates a lasting impression on a person's memory," then there are today more than 13 million Americans who have a "recollection of World War I." And if the wicked system of this world survived until the turn of the century, which is highly improbable in view of world trends and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, there would still be survivors of the World War I generation. However, the fact that their number is dwindling is one more indication that "the conclusion of the system of things" is moving fast toward its end.

In this connection, the magazine *The Economist* of March 15, 1980, gave an interesting review of a book entitled "The Generation of 1914," by Robert Wohl. It made this significant remark: "Eventually Mr. Wohl voices his own opinions about the generation of 1914. In a terse and condensed last chapter he suggests that generations are not mathematically definable in terms of numbers of years, but cluster around major historical crises, of which the first world war is the supreme example." This lines up very well with the Scriptural viewpoint that Jehovah's Witnesses take on "the generation of 1914."

Yes, there was a generation of people that was living in 1914, and that saw the major historical changes from an era of comparative tranquillity to the present era of war, lawlessness and ruination. Many who are now Jehovah's Witnesses were among them. Truly, 1914 marked "the supreme example" of change, for that year set in motion the foretold "beginning of pangs of distress" among the nations. Many persons are still alive who can tell us how catastrophically conditions on earth changed in the year 1914. And the world continues to plunge into worse and worse trouble. We can be happy, therefore, for Jesus' assurance that there will be survivors of "the generation of 1914"—that this generation will not have completely passed away—when the "great tribulation" rings down the curtain on this wicked world system.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS
November 16: Are We Nearing Armageddon? Page 11. Songs to Be Used: 59, 44.
November 23: Execution of the "Great Harlot" Nears. Page 17. Songs to Be Used: 90, 96.

14. How long did the Society say a “generation” would last?

STATEMENT FROM A 1988 WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:

“When the term ‘generation’ is used with reference to the people living at a particular time, the **exact length of that time cannot be stated, except that the time would fall within reasonable limits.** These limits would be determined by the life span of the people of that time or of that population. ...**Today**, much as it was in the time of Moses, **people living under favorable conditions may reach 70 or 80 years of age.**”—*Insight on the Scriptures*, vol. 1, 1988, pp. 917-918

er is not called (her) descendant"]' ('Baba bathra,' 110, a).—*Commentary on Luke*, 1981, p. 129.

Actually each genealogy (Matthew's table and Luke's) shows descent from David, through Solomon and through Nathan. (Mt 1:6; Lu 3:31) In examining the lists of Matthew and Luke, we find that after diverging at Solomon and Nathan, they come together again in two persons, Shealtiel and Zerubbabel. This can be explained in the following way: Shealtiel was the son of Jeconiah; perhaps by marriage to the daughter of Neri he became Neri's son-in-law, thus being called the "son of Neri." It is possible as well that Neri had no sons, so that Shealtiel was counted as his "son" for that reason also. Zerubbabel, who was likely the actual son of Pedaiah, was legally *reckoned* as the son of Shealtiel, as stated earlier.—Compare Mt 1:12; Lu 3:27; 1Ch 3:17-19.

Then the accounts indicate that Zerubbabel had two sons, Rhesa and Abiud, the lines diverging again at this point. (These could have been, not actual sons, but descendants, or one, at least, could have been a son-in-law. Compare 1Ch 3:19.) (Lu 3:27; Mt 1:13) Both Matthew's and Luke's genealogies of Jesus vary here from that found in 1 Chronicles chapter 3. This may be because a number of names were purposely left out by Matthew and possibly also by Luke. But the fact should be kept in mind that such differences in the genealogical lists of Matthew and Luke are very likely those already present in the genealogical registers then in use and fully accepted by the Jews and were not changes made by Matthew and Luke.

We may conclude, therefore, that the two lists of Matthew and Luke fuse together the two truths, namely, (1) that Jesus was actually the Son of God and the *natural* heir to the Kingdom by miraculous birth through the virgin girl Mary, of David's line, and (2) that Jesus was also the *legal* heir in the male line of descent from David and Solomon through his adoptive father Joseph. (Lu 1:32, 35; Ro 1:1-4) If there was any accusation made by hostile Jews that Jesus' birth was illegitimate, the fact that Joseph, aware of the circumstances, married Mary and gave her the protection of his good name and royal lineage refutes such slander.

GENERATION. A generation commonly refers to all persons who were born about the same time. (Ex 1:6; Mt 11:16) Associated with this is the meaning "contemporaries." At Genesis 6:9 it is stated concerning Noah: "He proved himself faultless among his contemporaries [literally,

generations]." When used with reference to family relationships, a generation can refer to a group of descendants, as sons and daughters or grandsons and granddaughters.—Job 42:16.

The term can be used as a measure of time with reference to past or future ages. The generations of mankind descended from the sinner Adam have been transitory, as contrasted with the earth, which abides forever. (Ec 1:4; Ps 104:5) But the expressions "unnumbered generations" and "a thousand generations" refer to that which is to time indefinite. (1Ch 16:15; Isa 51:8) The command to the Jews that the celebration of the Passover was to be observed "throughout your generations" denoted continual performance to a time then indefinite. (Ex 12:14) God stated to Moses that Jehovah was his name as a memorial "to time indefinite," "to generation after generation," which implies forever. (Ex 3:15) The apostle Paul tells us that God is to be given glory "to all generations forever and ever."—Eph 3:21.

A generation may mean a *class* of persons, that is, those characterized by certain qualities or conditions. The Bible speaks of "the generation of the righteous one" (Ps 14:5; 24:6; 112:2) and "a generation crooked and twisted," "a generation of perverseness." (De 32:5, 20; Pr 30:11-14) Jesus Christ, when on earth, spoke similarly of the people of the Jewish nation of that day, and the apostle Paul applied such terms to the world of his day in general, which was alienated from God.—Mt 12:39; 16:4; 17:17; Mr 8:38; Php 2:14, 15.

One Hebrew word for "generation" is *dohr*, corresponding to the Aramaic *dar*. (Da 4:3, 34) *Dohr* comes from a root verb meaning "stack in a circle" or "move around" (Eze 24:5; Ps 84:10) and thus has a basic underlying meaning of "circle." The related word *dur* means "ball." (Isa 22:18) The Greek equivalent is *ge-ne-a'*, from a root meaning "be born."

Another Hebrew word, *toh-le-dhohth'*, is occasionally rendered "generations" or "genealogy" (Nu 3:1; Ru 4:18), also "descendants" or "families" (1Ch 5:7; 7:2, 4, 9) and "history" or "origins."—Ge 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; compare AS, AT, KJ, Dy, NW, RS, and other translations.

Length. When the term "generation" is used with reference to the people living at a particular time, the exact length of that time cannot be stated, except that the time would fall within reasonable limits. These limits would be determined by the life span of the people of that time

GENEROSITY

or of that population. The life span of the ten generations from Adam to Noah averaged more than 850 years each. (Ge 5:5-31; 9:29) But after Noah, man's life span dropped off sharply. Abraham, for example, lived only 175 years. (Ge 25:7) Today, much as it was in the time of Moses, people living under favorable conditions may reach 70 or 80 years of age. Moses wrote: "In themselves the days of our years are seventy years; and if because of special mightiness they are eighty years, yet their insistence is on trouble and hurtful things; for it must quickly pass by, and away we fly." (Ps 90:10) Some few may live longer, but Moses stated the general rule. Moses himself, who lived 120 years, was an exception, as were his brother Aaron (123 years), Joshua (110 years), and some others whose strength and vitality were unusual.—De 34:7; Nu 33:39; Jos 24:29.

"This Generation" of Christ's Prophecies.

When Bible prophecy speaks of "this generation," it is necessary to consider the context to determine what generation is meant. Jesus Christ, when denouncing the Jewish religious leaders, concluded by saying: "Truly I say to you, All these things will come upon this generation." History recounts that about 37 years later (in 70 C.E.) that contemporary generation personally experienced the destruction of Jerusalem, as foretold.—Mt 23:36.

Later that same day, Jesus again used practically the same words, saying: "Truly I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Mt 24:34) In this instance, Jesus was answering a question regarding the desolation of Jerusalem and its temple as well as regarding the sign of his presence and of the conclusion of the system of things. Before his reference to "this generation," however, he had focused his remarks specifically on his "coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" and the nearness of the Kingdom of God. Immediately afterward, he continued with references to his "presence." (Mt 24:30, 37, 39; Lu 21:27, 31) Jesus was using the word "generation" with reference to humans whose lives would in some way be associated with the foretold events.—Mt 24.

The people of this 20th-century generation living since 1914 have experienced these many terrifying events concurrently and in concentrated measure—international wars, great earthquakes, terrible pestilences, widespread famine, persecution of Christians, and other conditions

that Jesus outlined in Matthew chapter 24, Mark chapter 13, and Luke chapter 21.

GENEROSITY. That noble and warmhearted readiness to bless others by freely giving out of an open hand, unstintingly. The Hebrew word *na-dhiv'*, rendered "generous" in Isaiah 32:8, is also rendered "willing" and 'noble.' (Ps 51:12; Nu 21:18, ftn) The Greek noun *ha-plō'tes* ("generosity" [2Co 8:2; 9:11]; "liberality" [Ro 12:8]; "sincerity" [Eph 6:5]) has the basic meaning "simplicity." (2Co 11:3, *Int*) Jehovah himself is the personification of generosity, the One who fully supplies all the needs of his obedient creatures "according to his will." (1Jo 5:14; Php 4:19) Every good gift and perfect present is from him, including such an intangible gift as wisdom.—Jas 1:5, 17.

Moses urged his fellow Israelites to cultivate this divine quality of generosity, even when making a loan on pledge. "You must not harden your heart or be closefisted toward your poor brother. For you should generously open your hand to him . . . You should by all means give to him, and your heart should not be stingy in your giving to him . . . That is why I am commanding you, saying, 'You should generously open up your hand to your afflicted and poor brother in your land.'"—De 15:7-11.

Says the proverb: "The generous soul [literally, the soul with a blessing gift] will itself be made fat [prosperous], and the one freely watering others will himself also be freely watered." (Pr 11:25) Jesus Christ expressed it this way: "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving." (Ac 20:35) Again he said: "Practice giving, and people will give to you. They will pour into your laps a fine measure, pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. For with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you in return."—Lu 6:38.

In the Christian Congregation. The apostle Paul also stated this proverbial truth in yet another way: "He that sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he that sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." Since this is so, the apostle reasons, "let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2Co 9:6, 7) Paul continues by pointing to Jehovah's great example of generosity not only in abundantly supplying seed for the sower and bread for food but also in enriching the Corinthian brothers "for every sort of generosity," that they might be generous toward others. Such gestures of generosity, Paul declared, resulted in "an expression of thanks to God."—2Co 9:8-13.

Paul, encouraging him do it with liberty he wrote: "More good and the share with such sacrifices congregations in examples of generosity had even joyfully contributing riches of their goods."

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15. If the “generation” of the “time of the end” would last up to 80 years, what date failed to bring the end as prophesied by the Society? 1914 generation + 80 years = 1994. How did the Society excuse away this false prophecy?

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WATCHTOWER OF 1995:

“Jehovah’s people have at times speculated about the time when the ‘great tribulation’ would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914. However, we ‘bring a heart of wisdom in,’ not by speculating about how many years or days make up a generation, but by thinking about how we ‘count our days’ in bringing joyful praise to Jehovah. ...Is anything to be gained, then, by looking for dates or by speculating about the literal lifetime of a ‘generation’? Far from it!”—*The Watchtower*, November 1, 1995, pp. 17, 19

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a time of "great tribulation," Jesus added: "Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:3-36; Mark 13:3-32) We do not need to know the exact timing of events. Rather, our focus must be on being watchful, cultivating strong faith, and keeping busy in Jehovah's service—not on calculating a date. Jesus concluded his great prophecy by saying: "Keep looking, keep awake, for you do not know when the appointed time is. . . . Keep on the watch. . . . What I say to you I say to all, Keep on the watch." (Mark 13:33-37) Danger lurks in the shadows of today's world. We must keep awake! —Romans 13:11-13.

⁶ Not only must we pay attention to the inspired prophecies concerning these final days of a wicked system but we must anchor our faith primarily on the precious sacrifice of Christ Jesus and God's marvelous promises based thereon. (Hebrews 6:17-19; 9:14; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 2 Peter 1:16-19) Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah's people have at times speculated about the time when the "great tribulation" would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914. However, we "bring a heart of wisdom in," not by speculating about how many years or days make

6. (a) On what should our faith be anchored? (b) How may we "count our days"? (c) What does Jesus basically mean by "generation"?

up a generation, but by thinking about how we "count our days" in bringing joyful praise to Jehovah. (Psalm 90:12) Rather than provide a rule for measuring time, the term "generation" as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical period, with their identifying characteristics.*

* See Volume 1, page 918, of *Insight on the Scriptures*, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

Alexandra Boulat/Sipa Press



**Suffering humanity
will find relief when
this violent, wicked
generation passes away**

Left and below: Luc Delahaye/Sipa Press



WATCHTOWER 11/1/95 p.17

⁸ Yes, the complete triumph of the Messianic Kingdom is at hand! Is anything to be gained, then, by looking for dates or by speculating about the literal lifetime of a "generation"? Far from it! Habakkuk 2:3 clearly states: "The vision is yet for the appointed time, and it keeps panting on to the end, and it will not tell a lie. Even if it should delay, keep in expectation of it; for it will without fail come true. It will not be late." Jehovah's day of accounting hastens ever closer.—Jeremiah 25:31-33; Malachi 4:1.

⁹ When Christ's Kingdom rule began in 1914, Satan was hurled down to earth. This has meant "woe for the earth . . . because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a *short* period of time." (Revelation 12:12) That time is short, indeed, compared with the thousands of years of Satan's rulership. The Kingdom is at hand, and so is Jehovah's day and hour for executing judgment on this wicked generation!—Proverbs 3:25; 10:24, 25.

The "Generation" That Passes Away

¹⁰ Let us examine more closely Jesus' statement at Matthew 24:34, 35: "Truly I say to you that *this generation* will by no means pass away until all these things occur. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away." Jesus' words that follow show that 'nobody knows that day and hour.' Far more important, he shows that we must avoid the snares surrounding us in *this generation*. Thus Jesus adds: "For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of

man will be. For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be." (Matthew 24:36-39) Jesus here compared the generation of his day to that of Noah's day.—Genesis 6:5, 9; footnote.

¹¹ This was not the first time that the apostles heard Jesus make this comparison of 'generations,' for some days earlier he had stated concerning himself: "The Son of man . . . must undergo many sufferings and be *rejected by this generation*. Moreover, *just as it occurred in the days of Noah*, so it will be also in the days of the Son of man." (Luke 17:24-26) Thus, Matthew chapter 24 and Luke chapter 17 make the same comparison. In Noah's day "all flesh [that] had ruined its way on the earth" and that was destroyed at the Flood was "*this generation*." In Jesus' day the apostate Jewish people that were rejecting Jesus was "*this generation*."—Genesis 6:11, 12; 7:1.

¹² Therefore, in the final fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy today, "this generation" apparently refers to the peoples of earth who see the sign of Christ's presence but fail to mend their ways. In contrast, we as Jesus' disciples refuse to be molded by the life-style of "this generation." Though in the world, we must be no part of it, "for the appointed time is near." (Revelation 1:3; John 17:16) The apostle Paul admonishes

8. How do Jehovah's prophets stress the need to keep awake?
9. What developments since 1914 show that the time is short?
10. How is "this generation" like that of Noah's day?

11. What comparison of 'generations' did Jesus make, as reported by Matthew and Luke?
- 12, 13. (a) What today is "this generation" that must pass away? (b) How are Jehovah's people now coping with this "crooked and twisted generation"?

A NEW “GENERATION” TO BRING THE END!

16. Since the “generation” of 1914 failed to bring the end, what new “generation” does the Society now point to in order to bring in the end?

RECENT WATCHTOWERS:

*“...the number of genuine **anointed** disciples of Christ is dwindling, though some will evidently still be on earth when the **great tribulation begins**. Most of the remnant are quite elderly, and over the years the number of those who are truly anointed has been getting smaller. ...Evidently, then, **some of Christ’s ‘chosen ones’ will still be on earth when the great tribulation begins**. ...It seems that **by the year 1935, the general ingathering of the anointed was complete**.” —*The Watchtower*, January 15, 2000, pp. 13, 16*

*“As a class, these anointed ones make up the modern-day ‘generation’ of contemporaries that will not pass away ‘until all these things occur.’ This suggests that some who are Christ’s anointed brothers will **still be alive on earth when the foretold great tribulation begins**. ...**Can We Calculate the Length of ‘This Generation’?** ...So when the term ‘generation’ is used with reference to people living at a particular time, **the exact length of that time cannot be stated except that it does have an end and would not be excessively long**.” —*The Watchtower*, February 15, 2008, pp. 24-25*

see this prophecy only those who ig-

ects of the ouster from heaven, in fulfillment. There, we read: "The Devil and Satan, the inhabited earth, the earth, and his an- him." This has re- earth. Truly, there inkind, particular- ncy in Revelation is cast down to the as a short period y) During this pe- the anointed fol- on 12:17) We cer- of his attack in our i will be confined nt not mislead the ion 20:1-3.

the time of the mentioned in the tion 17:9-11. Here seven kings, rep- s—Egypt, Assyria, ce, Rome, and the l power. He also 'springs from the the last one that

this prophecy, see ie That Leads to Ever- atchtower Bible and

es 180-6 of the book land!, published by Society of New York,

tion 12:9 regarding and what will soon

11 supply evidence the end?

John envisions—now represents the United Nations. John says that this eighth king "goes off into destruction," after which no further earthly kings are mentioned.*

¹⁶ Fourth, we are living in the period symbolized by the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image. The prophet Daniel interpreted this mysterious dream of an enormous image in human form. (Daniel 2:36-43) The four metallic parts of the image represent various world powers, beginning with the head (the Babylonian Empire) and extending down to the feet and toes (the governments that are ruling today). All the world powers represented in that image have made their appearance. We are living in the period symbolized by the feet of the image. No mention is made of other powers to come.*

¹⁷ Fifth, we see a global preaching work being accomplished, which Jesus said would take place just before the end of this system. Jesus stated: "This good news of the kingdom

* See *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, pages 251-4.

* See chapter 4 of the book *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!*, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

16. How do the facts in fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image indicate that we are living in the last days?

17. How does our Kingdom-preaching activity provide further evidence that we are living in the time of the end?

Do You Recall?

- What Scriptural examples can help us to keep on the watch?
- How did Jesus illustrate the need for watchfulness?
- What six lines of evidence prove that we are living in the last days?

will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14) Today, that prophecy is in the course of fulfillment on an unprecedented scale. True, untouched territories still exist, and it may be that in Jehovah's due time, a large door leading to greater activity will open. (1 Corinthians 16:9) Nevertheless, the Bible does not state that Jehovah will wait until every individual on earth has received a personal witness. Rather, the good news must be preached to Jehovah's satisfaction. Then the end will come.—Compare Matthew 10:23.

¹⁸ Sixth, the number of genuine anointed disciples of Christ is dwindling, though some will evidently still be on earth when the great tribulation begins. Most of the remnant are quite elderly, and over the years the number of those who are truly anointed has been getting smaller. Yet, referring to the great tribulation, Jesus stated: "Unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved; but on account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short." (Matthew 24:21, 22) Evidently, then, some of Christ's "chosen ones" will still be on earth when the great tribulation begins.*

What Lies Ahead?

¹⁹ What does the future hold for us? Exciting times are yet to come. Paul warned that

* In the parable of the sheep and the goats, the Son of man arrives in his glory in the period of the great tribulation and sits in judgment. He judges people on the basis of whether they gave support to Christ's anointed brothers. This standard for judgment would be meaningless if at the time of judgment, all of Christ's brothers had long since left the earthly scene.—Matthew 25:31-46.

18. Evidently, what will be true of some of the anointed when the great tribulation begins, and how may this be determined?

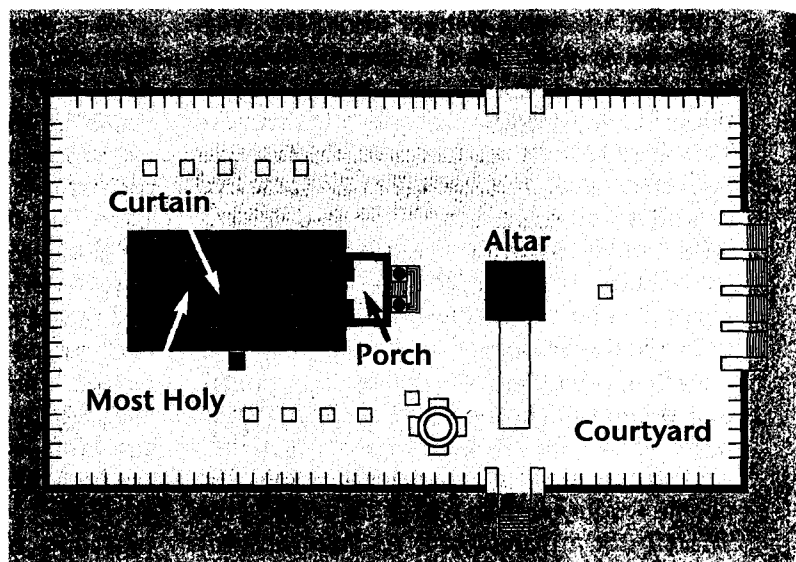
19, 20. Why is it more urgent for us now than ever before to stay awake and keep on the watch?

*Do you know
the symbolic significance of
Jehovah's ancient temple?*

(1 Corinthians 15:44, 50) Since Jesus' human flesh was a barrier, it was well symbolized by the curtain that separated the Holy from the Most Holy in God's ancient temple. (Hebrews 10:20) But three days after his death, Jesus was resurrected by God as a spirit. (1 Peter 3:18) Then he could enter the Most Holy compartment of God's spiritual temple—heaven itself. And this is precisely what happened. Paul writes: "Christ entered, not into a holy place [evidently referring to the Most Holy] made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us."—Hebrews 9:24.

¹⁰ In heaven, Jesus 'spattered the blood' of his sacrifice by presenting the ransoming value of his lifeblood to Jehovah. Yet, Jesus did more. Shortly before his death, he had told his followers: "I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be." (John 14:2, 3) So by gaining entrance into the Most Holy, or heaven, Jesus opened the way for others to follow. (Hebrews 6:19, 20) These individuals, who would number 144,000, would serve as underpriests in God's spiritual temple arrangement. (Revelation 7:4; 14:1; 20:6) Just as the high priest of Israel first took the blood of the bull into the Most Holy to atone for the sins of the priests, the value of Jesus' shed

10. What did Jesus do upon returning to heaven?



blood was first applied to these 144,000 underpriests.*

Modern-Day "Desirable Things"

¹¹ It seems that by the year 1935, the general ingathering of the anointed was complete. But Jehovah was not finished glorifying his house. No, "desirable things" would yet come into it. Remember that the high priest in Israel offered two animals—a bull for the sins of the priests and a goat for the sins of the non-priestly tribes. Since the priests pictured the anointed ones who would be with Jesus in the heavenly Kingdom, whom did the nonpriestly tribes represent? The answer is found in Jesus' words recorded at John 10:16: "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one

* Unlike the high priest of Israel, Jesus had no sins for which atonement was needed. However, his associate priests did have sins because they were bought from among sinful mankind.—Revelation 5:9, 10.

* See *The Watchtower*, February 15, 1998, pages 17-22.

11. In whose behalf did Israel's high priest offer up a goat, and what did this foreshadow?

shepherd." Hence two groups of people whose hope is to live forever and second, those who will have a lasting life on a planet. This second group will have "desirable things" of which the apostle Paul wrote in 1 John 2:1, 2.

¹² These "desirable things" will be lifted into the heavenly Kingdom, and other laws of God's establishment will be put into effect. Untouchables will come into the Kingdom, and they in turn will be able to live in obedience to the laws of God. (Matthew 28:19, 20) A

12. How are many people going to God's house today?

recorded at Matthew 24:32, 33, Jesus said: "Now learn from the fig tree as an illustration this point: Just as soon as its young branch grows tender and it puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. Likewise also *you*, when you see *all these things*, know that he is near at the doors." (Compare Mark 13:28-30; Luke 21:30-32.) Then, at Matthew 24:34, we read: "Truly I say to you that *this generation* will by no means pass away until *all these things* occur."

¹³ Jesus said that it was his disciples, soon to be anointed with holy spirit, who should be able to draw certain conclusions when they saw "all these things" occur. So Jesus must have been referring to his disciples when he made the statement: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur."

¹⁴ Unlike unbelievers, Jesus' disciples would not only see the sign but also understand its significance. They would "learn" from the features of that sign and "know" their true meaning. They would fully appreciate that "he is near at the doors." While it is true that both unbelieving Jews and faithful anointed Christians saw a limited fulfillment

13, 14. Why can we say that the "generation" that Jesus referred to must have been his disciples?

of Jesus' words in the first century, only his anointed followers back then could learn from these events—could understand the true meaning of what they saw.

¹⁵ Those without spiritual understanding today have felt that there has been no "striking observableness" with regard to the sign of Jesus' presence. They reason that everything is continuing on as it did in the past. (2 Pet. 3:4) On the other hand, Christ's faithful anointed brothers, the modern-day John class, have recognized this sign as if it were a flash of lightning and have understood its true meaning. As a class, these anointed ones make up the modern-day "generation" of contemporaries that will not pass away "until all these things occur."* This suggests that some who are Christ's anointed brothers will still be alive on earth when the foretold great tribulation begins.

* The time period during which "this generation" lives seems to correspond to the period covered by the first vision in the book of Revelation. (Rev. 1:10-3:22) This feature of the Lord's day extends from 1914 until the last of the faithful anointed ones dies and is resurrected.—See *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* page 24, paragraph 4.

15. (a) Who make up the modern-day "generation" that Jesus referred to? (b) Why are we not able to calculate the exact length of "this generation"? (See the box on page 25.)

"This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur"



THE WATCHTOWER, Feb. 15, 2008, p. 24

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Can We Calculate the Length of "This Generation"?

The word "generation" usually refers to people of various ages whose lives overlap during a particular time period or event. For example, Exodus 1:6 tells us: "Eventually Joseph died, and also all his brothers and *all that generation*." Joseph and his brothers varied in age, but they shared a common experience during the same time period. Included in "that generation" were

some of Joseph's brothers who were born *before* him. Some of these outlived Joseph. (Gen. 50:24) Others of "that generation," such as Benjamin, were born after Joseph was born and may have lived on *after* he died.

So when the term "generation" is used with reference to people living at a particular time, the exact length of that time cannot be stated ex-

cept that it does have an end and would not be excessively long. Therefore, by using the term "this generation," as recorded at Matthew 24:34, Jesus did not give his disciples a formula to enable them to determine when "the last days" would end. Rather, Jesus went on to emphasize that they would not know "that day and hour."—2 Tim. 3:1; Matt. 24:36.

"Keep on the Watch"

¹⁶ More is needed, though, than merely recognizing the sign. Jesus went on to say: "What I say to *you* I say to *all*, Keep on the watch." (Mark 13:37) This is of utmost importance to all of us today whether of the anointed or of the great crowd. Nine decades have passed since Jesus was installed as King in heaven in 1914. As challenging as it may be, we must prove ourselves ready and *keep* on the watch. Understanding that Christ is present invisibly in Kingdom power helps us to do that. It also alerts us to the fact that soon he will come to destroy his enemies "at an hour that [we] do not think likely."—Luke 12:40.

¹⁷ Our understanding of the meaning of Christ's presence helps to intensify our feelings of urgency. We know that Jesus is already present and has been reigning invisibly as King in heaven since 1914. Soon he

16. What must all of Christ's disciples do?

17. How should this understanding make us feel, and what should we be determined to do?

will come to destroy the wicked and bring about vast changes to this entire globe. We should therefore be more determined than ever to take an active part in the work that Jesus foretold when he said: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then *the end* [*te'los*] will come."—Matt. 24:14.

How Would You Answer?

- How do we know that Jesus' presence is an extended period of time?
- Who recognize the sign of Jesus' presence and understand what it means?
- The modern-day generation mentioned at Matthew 24:34 is made up of whom?
- Why are we unable to calculate the exact length of "this generation"?

TRUE OR FALSE?

**17. Do you agree that Jehovah
“will put all false prophets to
shame ...by not fulfilling the false
prediction”? Do you agree,
“false prophets will try to hide
their reason for feeling shame by
denying who they really are”?**

=====

STATEMENT FROM A WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:

**“Jehovah, the God of the true prophets, will put all
false prophets to shame either by not fulfilling the
false prediction of such self-assuming prophets or
by having His own prophecies fulfilled in a way
opposite to that predicted by the false prophets.
False prophets will try to hide their reason for
feeling shame by denying who they really are.”**
*—Paradise Restored to Mankind—By Theocracy!,
1972, pp. 353-354*

with God, because many false prophets have gone forth into the world." (1 John 4:1) Accordingly, there would be need among the restored remnant of spiritual Israelites to guard against false prophets invading or rising up in the midst of their spiritual estate on earth.

¹⁸ How, then, did Jehovah keep their "land" or spiritual estate pure in worship by fulfilling his promise: "Also the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness I shall cause to pass out of the land"? (Zechariah 13:2) It was by causing any wrong understandings of the Bible prophecies that had been entertained before the remnant's reinstatement in their "land" in 1919 C.E. to be corrected. The "time of the end," the "conclusion of the system of things," that began in 1914 at the end of the Gentile Times was God's appointed time for the fulfillment of many prophecies. These could not be understood until they were just about to be fulfilled or after they had been fulfilled. So in the light of all that was taking place since 1914 the reinstated remnant looked anew into the prophecies that God had reserved for the "time of the end" for their fulfillment. (Daniel 12:4; Revelation 10:6, 7) This included a restudy of the books of Ezekiel and Revelation, an explanation of which had been attempted and published in July of 1917 in the book entitled "The Finished Mystery." Thus the restored remnant heeded the words:

¹⁹ "We have the prophetic word made more sure; and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and a daystar rises, in your hearts. For you know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit."—2 Peter 1:19-21.

²⁰ Any attempted interpretation of prophecy, if it proved to be incorrect in the light of historic events and the clearer understanding of the Bible, was cor-

18, 19. (a) What did Jehovah's causing the false prophet to pass out of the land require the reinstated remnant of spiritual Israel to do? (b) What counsel of the apostle Peter concerning prophecy did they heed?

20. How, figuratively speaking, did fleshly parents pierce their son through for prophesying falsely?

rected, regardless of who had offered the interpretation. Loyalty to God and to his inspired Word was the issue here to be met. So, as an illustration of the loyalty required, even if a fleshly son should offer a wrong interpretation of divine prophecy and should persist in it, like a false prophet, then his own fleshly parents in their loyalty to God would have nothing further to do with him on a religious basis. Christian parents could not do as under the Mosaic Law covenant, namely, have him put to death; but they could pronounce him spiritually dead to themselves in spite of their parenthood of him physically. In this way, figuratively speaking, they "must pierce him through because of his prophesying." (Zechariah 13:3; compare Deuteronomy 13:1-5.) With their full consent, such a false prophet would be expelled; disfellowshipped, from the Christian congregation. By such loyalty on the part of all members of the restored remnant, the "prophet" of falsehood would be made to pass out of their "land."

²¹ Yes, too, the "spirit of uncleanness" would thus be made to pass out of their spiritual "land." If that spirit were an inspired expression of uncleanness by a would-be prophet or was any tendency, trend, or inclination to uncleanness, it would be disapproved and resisted by the loyal ones. As a consequence any uncleanness as to religious teaching or as to moral behavior would be forced to pass out, under the driving force of God's holy spirit. The God-given spiritual estate must be maintained as a "land" where clean, Scriptural living is carried on. Persons spiritually and morally unclean must be disfellowshipped therefrom.—2 Corinthians 6:14 to 7:1; compare Deuteronomy 13:6-18.

RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

²² Jehovah, the God of the true prophets, will put all false prophets to shame either by not fulfilling the false prediction of such self-assuming prophets or by having

21. How, too, was the "spirit of uncleanness" made to pass out of their spiritual "land"?

22, 23. (a) How does Jehovah put the false prophets to shame? (b) How does Jehovah describe the false prophets trying to hide their reason for feeling shame?

His own prophecies fulfilled in a way opposite to that predicted by the false prophets. False prophets will try to hide their reason for feeling shame by denying who they really are. They will try to avoid being killed or being pronounced spiritually dead by Jehovah's loyal worshipers. He foretold this by having his true prophet Zechariah continue on to say:

²³ "And it must occur in that day that the prophets will become ashamed, each one of his vision when he prophesies; and they will not wear an official garment of hair for the purpose of deceiving. And he will certainly say, 'I am no prophet. I am a man cultivating the soil, because an earthling man himself acquired me from my youth on.' And one must say to him, 'What are these wounds on your person between your hands?' And he will have to say, 'Those with which I was struck in the house of my intense lovers.'"—Zechariah 13:4-6, NW; JB; NE; NAB; contrast Amos 7:14-17.

²⁴ Thus Jehovah foretold that his people, in their "land" of restoration, would be so well instructed with his Word and would be so loyal to Him and His true prophecies that they would refuse to be friends and intense lovers of any false prophet. If they did not kill him, then they would discipline him and strike him so hard in their indignation that visible wounds and scars would result. Such marks on his person, yes, on his breast which would be partly exposed, would betray his identity in spite of the fact that he had discarded official garments that he had assumed to wear as a *bona fide* prophet of Jehovah God. From whom had he got such scar-producing wounds? From his intense lovers, whether these were his own fleshly parents or his intimate associates. However, their intense loyalty to Jehovah as the God of true prophecy would be stronger than their till-then intense love for a deceptive prophet. They would place love of God and his inspired Word above personal friendships with fleshly relatives or associates. Such a course would cause "the prophets

24. The scar-producing wounds on the deceptive prophet were admitted by him to be inflicted by whom, and what would this indicate as to loyalty to God in comparison with attachment to fleshly loved ones?

and the spirit of uncleanness" to pass out of the "land" of Jehovah's repatriated people.

²⁵ This course of supreme loyalty to the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has been the one adopted by the anointed remnant since 1919 C.E. This has resulted in the dis-fellowshipping or excommunicating of religious apostates or rebels from the theocratic organization that Jehovah the heavenly Theocrat has established among his obedient remnant. The loyal remnant have found out that it is not the mere "official garment of hair," not a professional uniform or type of dress, that makes a true prophet of the one living and true God. That is why they have left Babylon the Great, including Christendom, with its distinctively garbed religious priests, preachers, monks and nuns. What makes a true prophet of Jehovah today is his true Christian personality as his identification and his loyal adherence to Jehovah's Word and its prophecies. It is no wonder, then, that Jehovah's witnesses while acting as ministers of God's Word wear plain business suits or the regular attire of the common people. So the loyal remnant are willing to brush aside intense love for close associates and to inflict spiritual "wounds" upon these in disapproval and rejection of apostates. This has kept their theocratic "land" a spiritual realm of clean godly living.

STRIKING THE SHEPHERD CAUSES A SCATTERING

²⁶ Jehovah's greatest prophet on earth was struck and wounded to the death, but this was for his proving to be a true prophet of the Most High God down to the end. (Deuteronomy 18:15-22; Acts 3:13-23) His violent death caused a short-time scattering of his disciples who were loyal to him. The true prophet Zechariah was used to foretell this, for God went on to say to him: "O sword, awake against my shepherd, even against the able-bodied man who is my associate," is the utterance of Jehovah of armies. 'Strike the shepherd, and let

25. This course of supreme loyalty to Jehovah has been adopted by whom and since when, and how has this affected their spiritual "land"?
26. (a) As a prophet, Jesus Christ was struck and wounded for what reason? (b) How did Jehovah foretell this through the prophet Zechariah?

18. Does the Watchtower Society deny that they are a “false prophet” by claiming that they never presumed to “originate predictions ‘in the name of Jehovah’ ”?

STATEMENT FROM A WATCHTOWER PUBLICATION:

“Jehovah’s Witnesses, in their eagerness for Jesus’ second coming, having suggested dates that turned out to be incorrect. Because of this, some have called them false prophets. Never in these instances, however, did they presume to originate predictions ‘in the name of Jehovah.’”—*Awake!*

March 22, 1993, p. 4

words do not come true, they should not be viewed as false prophets such as those warned against at Deuteronomy 18:20-22. In their human fallibility, they misinterpreted matters.*

Undeterred by previous failures, some seem to have been spurred on by the approach of the year 2000 and have made further predictions of the end of the world. *The Wall Street Journal* of December 5, 1989, published an article entitled "Millennium Fever: Prophets Proliferate, the End Is Near." With the year 2000 approaching, various evangelicals are predicting that Jesus is coming and that the 1990's will be "a time of troubles that has not been seen before." At the time of this writing, the latest occurrence was in the Republic of Korea, where the Mission for the Coming Days predicted that on October 28, 1992, at midnight, Christ would come and take believers to heav-

en. Several other doomsday groups made similar predictions.

The flood of false alarms is unfortunate. They are like the wolf-cry of the shepherd boy—people soon dismiss them, and when the true warning comes, it too is ignored.

But why has there been such a tendency through the centuries and down to our day for false alarms to be sounded, as Jesus said they would be? (Matthew 24:23-26) Jesus, after telling his followers about different events that would mark his return, said to them, as we read at Matthew 24:36-42: "Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father. For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. . . . Keep on the watch, therefore, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

They were told not only to be on the watch and to be prepared but also to watch with eagerness. Romans 8:19 says: "For the eager expectation of the creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God." Human nature is such that when we fervently hope and yearn for something and wait in eager expectation of it, a powerful temptation arises within us to see it at the door even when the evidence is insufficient. In our eagerness false alarms may be sounded.

What, then, will distinguish the true warning from the false ones? For the answer, please see the following article.

Awake!

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Would you welcome more information? Write Watch Tower at the appropriate address on page 5. This is part of a worldwide Bible educational work that is supported by voluntary donations.

Unless otherwise indicated, New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References is used.

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19. Is it true that Jehovah's Witnesses "never" presumed to speak as a "prophet" in the "name" of Jehovah?

STATEMENT FROM WATCHTOWER PUBLICATIONS:

"More accurately, was there any group on whom Jehovah would be willing to bestow the **commission to speak as a 'prophet' in His name**, as was done toward Ezekiel back there in 613 B.C.E.?

What were the qualifications? ...It is of importance to every individual on earth to **identify the group that Jehovah has commissioned as his 'servant' or messenger**. ...For this reason forthcoming issues of *The Watchtower* will further discuss the **identity and work of Jehovah's commissioned messenger as revealed in His vision to Ezekiel.**—*The Watchtower*, March 15, 1972, pp. 189-190

" '*They shall know that A PROPHET WAS AMONG THEM*' ...So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? ...He had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. **Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses.**"—*The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p. 197

Covenant of the League of Nations was made a part of that peace treaty.

When the League of Nations was proposed as an international organization for world peace and security, the bloodstained religious organizations backed it, seizing upon this circumstance as an opportunity to "save face." The Church of England and the churches of Canada supported the League, since Great Britain was the League's proposer and chief backer. In the United States of America there was the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America (superseded in 1950 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., a federation of 33 Protestant and Orthodox churches). On December 18, 1918, this Council sent its adopted Declaration to the American president and urged him to work for the League. The Declaration said, in part:

"Such a League is not a mere political expedient; it is rather the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. . . . The Church can give a spirit of good-will, without which no League of Nations can endure. . . . The League of Nations is rooted in the Gospel. Like the Gospel, its objective is 'peace on earth, good-will toward men.'"

By accepting the League of Nations as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth," the members of the Federal Council of churches were really accepting a counterfeit "Kingdom of God on earth." Why? Because Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, when on trial for his life before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, in 33 C.E., said: "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it did, my followers would be fighting to save me from arrest by the Jews. My kingly authority comes from elsewhere." (John 18:36, *New English Bible*) The fact that they were not, as a body, a commissioned messenger of God was made clear and their hypocrisy exposed when, twenty years later, the League of Nations was knocked out of

business by the outbreak of World War II. The churches again entered into this war with all their might, encouraging their members to take part.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF GOD'S MESSENGER

Therefore, when it came time for the name of Jehovah and his purposes to be declared to the people, along with God's warning that Christendom is in her "time of the end," who qualified to be commissioned? Who was willing to undertake this monumental task as Jehovah's "servant"? Was there anyone to whom Jehovah's heavenly "chariot" could roll up and whom it could confront? More accurately, was there any group on whom Jehovah would be willing to bestow the commission to speak as a "prophet" in His name, as was done toward Ezekiel back there in 613 B.C.E.? What were the qualifications?

Certainly such a messenger or "servant" group would have to be made up of persons who had not been defiled with blood-guilt as had Christendom and the rest of Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, by sharing in carnal warfare. In fact, they would be a group that had come out from the religious organizations of Babylon the Great. More than that, they would be persons who not only saw the hypocrisy and God-defaming action of these religions, but in addition actually rejected them and turned to Jehovah God in true worship of him as set forth in the Bible. Who would they be?

In identifying the group that is truly commissioned as God's messenger, these are points for us to consider seriously. God does not deal with persons who ignore his Word and go according to their own independent ideas. Nor does he recognize those who make a profession of serving him and at the same time associate with religions that teach God-dishonoring doc-

trines. No one can serve two masters, claiming to be a worshiper of God and meddling with the politics, the radical movements and other schemes of this world. (Matt. 6:24) Jehovah's chief representative, Jesus Christ, said: "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will."—Matt. 7:21.

It is of importance to every individual on earth to identify the group that Jeho-

vah has commissioned as his "servant" or messenger. We must recognize and understand the warning that he brings. We need to take action on the warning to safeguard our lives, for they are in a danger as grave as that of the lives of Jerusalem's citizens as that city neared destruction. For this reason forthcoming issues of The Watchtower will further discuss the identity and work of Jehovah's commissioned messenger as revealed in His vision to Ezekiel.



● Why did the Mosaic law prohibit the eating of fat?—U.S.A.

Under the Law given to the Israelites, both the blood and the fat were considered as belonging exclusively to Jehovah God. The Law stated: "It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations, in all your dwelling places: You must not eat any fat or any blood at all."—Lev. 3:17.

The blood represents the life of a person or an animal. For this reason the Bible speaks of the "soul" as being "in the blood." (Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:11, 14) Since only Jehovah God can give life, life or that which represents life, the blood, rightly belongs to him.

The fat was regarded as the best or richest part. This is evident from such figurative expressions as the "fat part of the land," "the best [literally, the fat] of the oil," and "the best [literally, the fat] of the new wine and the grain." (Gen. 45:18; Num. 18:12) Thus the prohibition against eating fat evidently served to impress upon the Israelites that the "first" or best parts belong to Jehovah, to be offered up to him in sacrifice. The eating of fat would therefore have been an illegal appropriation of something that had been sanctified to Jehovah. It would have been an invasion of his rights. However, in the case of

an animal that died of itself or was killed by another beast, fat could be used for other purposes.—Lev. 7:23-25.

Many Bible commentators believe that the command about fat pertained only to animals acceptable for sacrifice. But there are indications that this prohibition against eating fat applied to the fat of all animals. The injunction respecting fat is linked with the one regarding blood. And the blood of *all* animals was prohibited for food. (Lev. 17:13, 14; Deut. 12:15, 16) Reasonably, therefore, the regulation regarding fat likewise embraced the fat of all animals.

It may also be noted that proper bleeding did not remove every molecule of blood from the meat, and yet the residue of blood remaining did not make the meat unfit for consumption. Similarly, the prohibition on the eating of fat did not render meat with traces of fat unsuitable for food.

Of course, the prohibition on fat did not rule out the feeding or fattening of sheep or cattle for the table. The Scriptures even mention "fattened cuckoos." (1 Ki. 4:23) In view of the restriction on the use of fat for food, evidently the "fattening" was not for the purpose of producing layers of fat, but that the animals might become full-fleshed, not skinny.

At Deuteronomy 32:14 the reference to the "fat of rams" as being given to the Israelites is figurative. It designates the best of the flock (similar to the English expression "the cream of the crop"). Hence *The Jerusalem Bible* reads, "rich food of the pastures." The words of Nehemiah 8:10, "Go, eat the fatty things," are to be understood similarly. The "fatty things" figuratively denote rich, luscious

portions, doubtless included compared with vegetable ones. James Moffatt says, "eaten." Some things, such as cakes, were cooked in "deep fat," but was vegetable oil.—Lev. 2:7.

Unlike the prohibitions that have been in force toward the end of the flood of Noah's time, these are not under the rest of the law concerning foods. In the inspiration the apostle Paul says, "I judge you in eating and drinking, of a festival or of an anniversary, of a moon or of a sabbath; a shadow of the things to come, but belongs to the Christ." Nevertheless, the law concerning food is still in force for Christians of the continuing age. The very best to Jehovah is the Christian's life. This should be reflected in the Christian's life. "Whatever you are doing, do it as to Jehovah, as if you were receiving the due reward."—Col. 3:23, 24.

● Second Timothy 3:6, "I will arise those men who will go into households and lead weak women loaded down with various desires, always able to come to an end of the truth." Who are the men to in this passage?—U.S.A.

The preceding verse says that these corrupt men are persons "having a form of godliness, but proving false to its power." Described by the apostle Paul as "deceitful workers, transgressing to apostles of Christ" and "who keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness." In the first century C.E. this threatened the Christian congregation in Corinth. Paul wrote: "I am afraid that the serpent seduced Eve, and your minds might be corrupted by the sincerity and the chastity of Christ. For, as it is, if I preach a Jesus other than he preached, or you receive

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A PROPHET WAS AMONG THEM'

JEHOVAH GOD is interested in having people know him. Though he is invisible to human eyes, he provides various ways by which they can know his personality. They can know what to expect from him and what he expects of them.

One can come to understand that Jehovah is a God of surpassing wisdom by observing creation. This also reveals the loving care with which he designed things for man's welfare and enjoyment. A second way to know God is through his Word of truth, the Bible. Herein one finds the full expression of Jehovah's purpose toward mankind—why man is on the earth and the blessings that God has in store.

A third way of coming to know Jehovah God is through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers. While these men foretold things to come, they also served the people by telling them of God's will for them at that time, often also warning them of dangers and calamities. People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?

→ IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET"

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? The cler-

gy of the so-called "Christian" nations hold themselves before the people as being the ones commissioned to speak for God. But, as pointed out in the previous issue of this magazine, they have failed God and failed as proclaimers of his kingdom by approving a man-made political organization, the League of Nations (now the

United Nations), as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth."

However, Jehovah did not let the people of Christendom, as led by the clergy, go without being warned that the League was a counterfeit substitute for the real kingdom of God. He had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined and assisted in their commissioned work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief.

Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?

During the World War I period this group, the International Bible Students, was very active in preaching the good news of God's kingdom, as their Leader Jesus Christ had set this work before them in his prophecy at Matthew 24:14. They took literally Jesus' words to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate: "My kingdom is no part of this world." (John 18:36) They also took to heart Jesus' words to his fol-

20. Do you agree that people should no longer trust false prophets “as safe guides”?

STATEMENT FROM WATCHTOWER PUBLICATIONS:

“Their prophecies did not come true. Therefore they are false prophets; and the people should no longer trust them as safe guides...”—*The Watch Tower*, May 15, 1930, p. 156

“However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. And in case you should say in your heart: ‘How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?’ when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him.’ ”
—Deuteronomy 18:20-22, *New World Translation*

world that the great World War would end all wars and make the world safe for democracy; and that the young men who died on the field of battle would die sacrificial deaths as did Jesus and would go to heaven. Their prophecies did not come true. Therefore they are false prophets; and the people should no longer trust them as safe guides, but should look to the Lord through his revealed Word for their instructions as to what is to occur on the earth in the future.

The Apostle Peter warns us of these false prophets in the last days, saying: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them." (2 Pet. 2:1) There are many thousands of prominent religious leaders in our day who deny that the blood of Jesus bought the race; they claim that it was not necessary for Jesus to die; they go even further and claim that he did not die, but was really more alive than ever, when he was buried in Joseph's tomb. These are false prophets, because they contradict the Bible and the words of the holy prophets, and thus cast reproach on the Bible and lead people to doubt its truthfulness, and thus turn people away from God.

The words of God's true prophets on this subject are as follows: "Without shedding of blood is no remission." (Heb. 9:22) "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3) "Ye are bought with a price." (1 Cor. 6:20) "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."—1 Pet. 1:18, 19.

Several texts tell us that Jesus was dead, and was raised on the third day. (1 Cor. 15:4) The false teachers claim that Jesus was not dead, and hence did not need a resurrection. These false prophets claim that it is the body that will be resurrected. But Paul, one of God's holy prophets, speaking of the resurrection of the dead, says: "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool! . . . that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be . . . ; but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him."—1 Cor. 15:35-38.

The false prophets claim that the earth is to be burned up at some future time; but God's holy prophets emphatically state to the contrary. In Ecclesiastes 1:4 we read: "The earth abideth for ever." Again, in Isaiah 45:18 we read: "God himself . . . formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited."

These false prophets tell the people that God has provided a lake of fire and brimstone in which to torture for ever those who do not accept their teach-

ings; others tell the people that many are in purgatory, and that it is possible to pray them out. They teach the people the doctrine of the trinity; namely, that 'God the Father, God the Son, and God the holy ghost are three persons in one, and all three equal in substance, in power and in eternity'. They tell the people that they need not study the Bible, 'because they cannot understand it'; and that if the people will follow the instructions of these false prophets they will not need to study the Bible. Without exception, these things are unscriptural and untrue, and tend to turn the people away from God and from Bible study.

These false prophets claim that the governments of earth, even though very wicked and corrupt, constitute God's kingdom on earth. They claim that all the saved will be in heaven, in face of hundreds of texts which say that the righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein for ever. (Isa. 60:21) They discourage Bible study by telling the people that the "Bible is an old fiddle on which one can play any tune", that it is a book of mystery, and that God did not intend it to be understood. Such remarks turn people away from God and from the Bible, and brand the authors of such statements as being false prophets.

Why is it that the words of God's holy prophets are discredited, denied and sneered at, while the words of these false prophets are given the widest possible publicity, and approved by all great men of earth? The records of God's holy prophets, found in the Bible, show that Adam was the first man, and that he lived about 6,056 years ago. Quite recently a man found some bones in Nebraska, and broadcast to the world that they were the bones of a man who had lived in Nebraska over 5,000,000 years ago. His statement was wild, unreasonable and foolish; yet it could be published in the best magazines and newspapers, and retailed from the best pulpits and platforms in the world.

On the contrary, if any one should try to defend the accuracy of the Bible and prove that its authors were holy men sent of God, his copy would be refused by the best newspapers and magazines, and he would be denied the use of halls or pulpits to put forth his message. Should some paper be liberal enough to publish his defense, it would be so garbled as to discredit the author and hold him up to ridicule. Why is this true? The answer is that the false prophets, financial, political and religious, control the pulpit and the press; and that they desire to hold on to their positions of trust, influence and power. They do not want the truth, namely, that they are false prophets, to get out to the people; and so they use their power over the pulpit and press to keep the message from the people.

Anyone who will stand up to defend Jehovah God

May 15, 1930