

ARTICLE 1

Give me that old time religion. Dates we never hear anymore. 1799

1799

Charles Taze Russell adopted the historicist teachings of the Second Adventist. The Second Adventist interpreted prophecy using the day-year theory. This system understood that a biblical day was in reality a prophetic year. Viewing Daniel and Revelation, the Adventist sought to apply biblical prophecies to their time, a trait that is still common among Advent Christians. It was agreed by many that the year AD 539 marked the beginning of Papal rule and therefore the beginning of the 1260 years spoken of in Daniel. Therefore, the date of the beginning of the end times was arrived at by adding 539 years and 1260 years. The chosen date was 1799. Nelson Barbour, who initially taught Russell about the prophetic dates, understood the date to be 1798, a date Russell corrected to 1914.¹

Russell taught that 1260 years of oppression at the hand of the papacy was drawing to an end. The judgment of God was coming. In this interim, God's Word would go forth declaring His Kingdom.² The power of sin was broken.³ Following Russell's death, 1799 would continue to be proclaimed as 'the beginning of the end' in publications through the 1920s. Rutherford wrote of the 1799 date in the *Harp of God and Creation*.⁴ Watchtower also mentions the date in 1922.⁵ The date is significant because it sets the foundation for 1914, a date, unique and central to

¹ Nelson Barbour, *Three Worlds and the Harvest of This World* (Rochester, NY: Nelson Barbour, 1877), 158, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1877%20The%20three%20worlds.pdf>. "The wonders there referred to, were the 'time of trouble, the resurrection,' etc., and with present light, we understand that the definite time in this case reached to the end of the 1260 years of papal dominion, and therefore ended in 1798; but the completion of the scattering of the power of the Holy people, will not be ended until the end of the times of the Gentiles, or in 1914."

² Russell, *The Time Is at Hand* (1889), 296. "Henceforth we deal with the Antichrist, whose gradual development and organization from secretly working ambition are a fitting prelude to the terrible character displayed after the coveted power had been grasped-from 539 A.D. to 1799 A.D., 1260 years. Of this period the first three hundred years mark the rise of this temporal power; the last three mark its waning under the influences of the Reformation and civilization; and the intermediate period of seven centuries embraces Papacy's glory-time and the 'dark ages' of the world, full of frauds and deceptions in the name of Christ and true religion."

³ Russell, *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891), 122. "Since the beginning (1799) of the Time of the End, God has been preparing his consecrated 'holy people', his 'Sanctuary', for the great blessings he intended to pour upon them during these forty years of harvest: which blessings are also intended as special preparation for their entering with Christ into full joy and joint-heirship with him, as his bride. At the exact 'time appointed,' 1799, the end of the 1260 days, the power of the Man of Sin, the great oppressor of the Church, was broken, and his dominion taken away."

⁴ J. F. Rutherford, *The Harp of God: Proof Conclusive that Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1921), 228-229, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1921%20The%20harp%20of%20God.pdf>. "While he was doing this, the British in the north, under the leadership of Lord Nelson, were making an effective attack upon Napoleon's form at sea. Napoleon began this Egyptian campaign in 1798, finished it and returned to France on October 1, 1799. The campaign is briefly, yet graphically, described in the prophecy, verses 40 to 44; and being completed in 1799, marks, according to the Prophet's own words, the beginning of the 'time of the end'" Also J. F. Rutherford, *Creation* (1927), 294-295, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1927%20Creation.pdf>. "In Biblical symbology a 'time' means a year of twelve months of thirty days each, or 360 days. Each day is considered for a the prophet says: 'I have appointed thee each day for a year'. (Ezek. 4:6) Here are mentioned, then, three and a half times of 360 prophetic days each, or a total of 1260 prophetic days, which would mark the beginning of the time of the end of this beastly order. Twelve hundred

Watchtower doctrine. Now, however, the events claimed for the date of 1799 have been moved forward to 1914 and 1799 has been discarded.⁶

and sixty years from 539 A. D. brings us to 1799, which is another proof that 1799 definitely marks the beginning of 'the time of the end'. This also shows that it is from the date 539 A. D. that the other prophetic days of Daniel must be counted."

⁵ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Who Is Wise," *Watchtower*, March 1, 1922, 71, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. "The Lord showed Daniel that from the time of this union or formation of the 'dreadful and terrible beast' to the 'time of the end' would be 1260 years; thereby marking 1799 again as the date of the 'time of the end.'"

⁶ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Who Can Accurately Predict Man's Future?", *Awake!* January 22, 1973, 8, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/Awake/1973%20Awake.pdf>. "Jehovah's witnesses pointed to the year 1914, decades in advance, as marking the start of "the conclusion of the system of things."

ARTICLE 2

Summary All dates

Give me that Old Time Religion

I have recently reviewed the dates that have been important to the Watchtower organization. (1799, 1874, 1878, 1881, 1914, 1919, 1925, 1975) I want to present a summary of those dates while noting that the Watchtower did not have to make predictions concerning the future. Not even Jesus was so bold. However, they made many bold proclamations, not one of which has come to pass. Even if they were to make a correct claim tomorrow it would not annul the fact that they have demonstrated that they clearly do not have the guidance of Jehovah. God's predictive word is not right one out of nine times. It is right every time. If someone guesses long enough, perchance they might be successful but that would hardly qualify as an indication of God's guidance. They are an organization of men who are leading saints away from the Kingdom of God. That people discount this and continue following the Watchtower is a tragedy of the highest order.

1799- According to the Adventist the year AD 539 marked the beginning of Papal rule and therefore the beginning of the 1260 years spoken of in Daniel. Therefore, the date of the beginning of the end times was arrived at by adding 539 years and 1260 years. The chosen date was 1799. Russell corrected to 1914. Russell taught that 1260 years of oppression at the hand of the papacy was drawing to an end. The judgment of God was coming. Following Russell's death, 1799 would continue to be proclaimed as 'the beginning of the end' in publications through the 1920s. The date is significant because it sets the foundation for 1914, a date, unique and central to Watchtower doctrine. Now, however, the events claimed for the date of 1799 have been moved forward to 1914 and 1799 has been discarded.

1874- Russell understood that when man had been on the earth for 6000 years, Jesus would come, the church would be raptured, and the thousand years of Sabbath rest would occur. Russell calculated that man's time on earth was coming to an end in 1874. He believed that this would bring about the second advent of Christ and a time of harvest. Jesus being a spirit creature would be invisible and following 1874 Russell taught Jesus was invisibly present from 1874. This was taught until 1932. In 1932, 1874 was ignored and the date of Jesus' return was changed to 1914. Then in 1943 a new chronology was proposed and the date 1874 was retired. 1914 became the new date of Jesus' invisible return, and 1874 was abandoned as a significant date.

1878- Russell reasoned that Jesus must return to rapture the church in 1878. When 1878 came and went, many were disheartened. Russell was not discouraged. He taught that although there was no change in the visible church, there was a change in spiritual realms. Russell determined that the anointed class (144,000) who had previously died were in fact resurrected to be with Jesus, and from that point on all those who were anointed would go directly to be with Jesus when they died. In addition, Jehovah installed Jesus as King in 1878. When Rutherford moved the date of the invisible return of Jesus forward to 1914, the year 1874 was vacated. Therefore, the dates of 1878 and the date of 1881 were also vacated, as they were dependent on 1874.

1881- Russell called his followers to serve God diligently, to give everything to the service of his Kingdom. They had only until 1881 to demonstrate their worth and be chosen as anointed. The time to join the anointed 'little flock' would soon come to a close. The opportunity to be among the anointed would end in 1881. After that time, it would be the job of the anointed to call people to become part of the Great Multitude. Because this date was based on the 1874 return of Jesus which was vacated, it also is no longer a pertinent date.

1914- The Gentile Times would end, Armageddon would occur, Jesus would reign and paradise would be restored. Unfortunately, the date was chosen using the wrong starting point and the method itself was merely conjecture. The prophesized events failed to occur and had to be changed to show a future orientation. Rather than acknowledge the failure, like the Millerites had in 1844, Russell chose to double down asserting that the events were Spiritual.

1919- In 1919, after examining all the other religions and denominations, Jehovah chose the Watchtower to be his sole organization on earth. However, this claim was first made in 1960, forty years after the date the event ostensibly occurred. To be clear, the Watchtower had made similar claims to speak for God going back into the late 1800s. However, the claim that God had appointed the organization in 1919 was new. It was based on the 1914 date that is demonstrably wrong. It is hard to see how a group could have God himself appoint them and not mention it for decades. Additionally, it is highly unlikely that God would have chosen the Watchtower based on their numerous theological errors and changes. Additionally, since 1919 most doctrines (which would have had to be right if God chose them) have been rejected or changed.

1925- Judge Rutherford taught an earthly paradise without death was just around the corner. The Old Testament saints would be raised and mingle with the current inhabitants of the earth. Rutherford claimed the chief thing to be restored is the human race to life; and since other Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favor. In 1925 the world was to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order of things on earth. He taught there was great evidence showing 1925 to be a sure thing. However, reviewing the scriptural proofs it does not seem like there was much of a foundation. ("Seventy times 50 are 3,500. The whole period would therefore have been 3,500 years from the time the Jews entered Canaan until all the types would have been fulfilled. As they entered Canaan 1,575 years before Christ there would be 1,925 years of types after Christ, or 1925 A. D." He wrote, "Millions Living Will Never Die", encouraging Jehovah's Witnesses to look forward to the end. 1925 came and went. Many left the Organization when nothing prophesized occurred.

1975- In 1966, it was determined that 1975 would mark the end of 6,000 years of man's existence. Armageddon would occur ushering in the Millennial reign. Having learned little from any of their previous predictions, the Watchtower hyped the coming of the end. The Watchtower Society made many comments about the coming end, but for the most part avoided making clear pronouncements. However, there was little ambiguity about what they meant, and the members believed wholeheartedly that the end was coming. Membership grew rapidly between 1966 and

1975 as people heard the message and joined the Jehovah's Witnesses to prepare for the end. However, when 1975 came and went without any sign of the end, there was considerable disappointment. Many left the Watchtower Society in the following year.

What is the point? Perhaps there are two points. The first is that the Watchtower has forever forfeited the right to consider itself "God's Mouthpiece". They have been wrong in ALL of their predictions and equally misled with their theology. Second, people are naturally gullible and, once misled, are reluctant to recognize their error and make corrections. If you are a follower of the Watchtower stop and look at the evidence. Think rightly. Find the real truth and follow it.

ARTICLE 3

Introduction:

A concise guide to the prophetic dates used by the Watchtower Organization (Jehovah's Witnesses) should be both interesting and helpful to those trying to understand the history of the Watchtower. Those studying with the Jehovah's Witnesses or reading their literature quickly discover the Watchtower claim to be God's only organization on earth. They are "God's Mouthpiece". Therefore, it is logical to understand that they speak for God. How have they done?

Those new to the organization, or those who are investigating it for the first time, may find the dates intimidating and confusing. This puts them at a disadvantage when speaking with Watchtower proponents. This guide seeks to provide basic historical information and explain how the dates were arrived at. We will see the dates were chosen using arbitrary and erroneous criteria. This is confirmed by the fact that not a single Watchtower prophetic date has been shown to be true.

Beginning in the early 1800s there was a renewed interest in determining the time of Jesus's return. This interest was augmented by the coincidence that many proponents of the day-year theory found potential fulfillment of prophecy that played out in their own generation. In 1844, William Miller made the first American prediction of Christ's second coming. He was not the last either, many have followed. Using the day-year theory and select OT prophecies the theory could be made to indicate Christ' return in the 1800s or early 1900s. What is remarkable about the Watchtower is the success that it is had attracting and retaining members though the use of prophetic date setting.

People feared Armageddon and worried that the Watchtower might be right. As a result, they began to study with the Jehovah's Witnesses and joined the Watchtower. Surprisingly, as the dates came and went, not all of those who had joined because of the prophecy, left at its failure. Those who had become enmeshed in the Watchtower found it difficult to extract themselves.

Give me that old time religion. Dates we never hear anymore.

1799XX

1799

Charles Taze Russell adopted the historicist teachings of the Second Adventist. The Second Adventist interpreted prophecy using the day-year theory. This system understood that a biblical day was in reality a prophetic year. Viewing Daniel and Revelation, the Adventist sought to apply biblical prophecies to their time, a trait that is still common among Advent Christians. It was agreed by many that the year AD 539 marked the beginning of Papal rule and therefore the beginning of the 1260 years spoken of in Daniel. Therefore, the date of the beginning of the end times was arrived at by adding 539 years and 1260 years. The chosen date was 1799. Nelson Barbour, who initially taught Russell about the prophetic dates, understood the date to be 1798, a date Russell corrected to 1914.⁷

Russell taught that 1260 years of oppression at the hand of the papacy was drawing to an end. The judgment of God was coming. In this interim, God's Word would go forth declaring His Kingdom.⁸ The power of sin was broken.⁹ Following Russell's death, 1799 would continue to be proclaimed as 'the beginning of the end' in publications through the 1920s. Rutherford wrote of the 1799 date in the *Harp of God and Creation*.¹⁰ Watchtower also mentions the date in 1922.¹¹ The date is significant because it sets the foundation for 1914, a date, unique and central

⁷ Nelson Barbour, *Three Worlds and the Harvest of This World* (Rochester, NY: Nelson Barbour, 1877), 158, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1877%20The%20three%20worlds.pdf>. "The wonders there referred to, were the 'time of trouble, the resurrection,' etc., and with present light, we understand that the definite time in this case reached to the end of the 1260 years of papal dominion, and therefore ended in 1798; but the completion of the scattering of the power of the Holy people, will not be ended until the end of the times of the Gentiles, or in 1914."

⁸ Russell, *The Time Is at Hand* (1889), 296. "Henceforth we deal with the Antichrist, whose gradual development and organization from secretly working ambition are a fitting prelude to the terrible character displayed after the coveted power had been grasped-from 539 A.D. to 1799 A.D., 1260 years. Of this period the first three hundred years mark the rise of this temporal power; the last three mark its waning under the influences of the Reformation and civilization; and the intermediate period of seven centuries embraces Papacy's glory-time and the 'dark ages' of the world, full of frauds and deceptions in the name of Christ and true religion."

⁹ Russell, *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891), 122. "Since the beginning (1799) of the Time of the End, God has been preparing his consecrated 'holy people', his 'Sanctuary', for the great blessings he intended to pour upon them during these forty years of harvest: which blessings are also intended as special preparation for their entering with Christ into full joy and joint-heirship with him, as his bride. At the exact 'time appointed,' 1799, the end of the 1260 days, the power of the Man of Sin, the great oppressor of the Church, was broken, and his dominion taken away."

¹⁰ J. F. Rutherford, *The Harp of God: Proof Conclusive that Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1921), 228-229, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1921%20The%20harp%20of%20God.pdf>. "While he was doing this, the British in the north, under the leadership of Lord Nelson, were making an effective attack upon Napoleon's form at sea. Napoleon began this Egyptian campaign in 1798, finished it and returned to France on October 1, 1799. The campaign is briefly, yet graphically, described in the prophecy, verses 40 to 44; and being completed in 1799, marks, according to the Prophet's own words, the beginning of the 'time of the end'" Also J. F. Rutherford, *Creation* (1927), 294-295, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1927%20Creation.pdf>. "In Biblical symbology a 'time' means a year of twelve months of thirty days each, or 360 days. Each day is considered for a the prophet says: 'I have appointed thee each day for a year'. (Ezek. 4:6) Here are mentioned, then, three and a half times of 360 prophetic days each, or a total of 1260 prophetic days, which would mark the beginning of the time of the end of this beastly order. Twelve hundred and sixty years from 539 A. D. brings us to 1799, which is another proof that 1799 definitely marks the beginning of

to Watchtower doctrine. Now, however, the events claimed for the date of 1799 have been moved forward to 1914 and 1799 has been discarded.¹²

Prophetic Dates of Jehovah's Witnesses-1799

Jehovah's Witnesses used to think that 1799 was a very important date. The Watchtower of March 1, 1922 said, "The indisputable facts, therefore, show that the "time of the end" began in 1799..."

The actions of Napoleon were seen as confirmation of this important prophetic date.

"Having thus furnished grounds for establishing the identity of this character (Napoleon), whose deeds mark the beginning of the 'Time of the End,' the prophecy proceeds to show which particular event of that time is to be understood as definitely marking the exact date of the beginning of the 'Time of the End.' This event is shown to be Napoleon's invasion of Egypt, which covered a period of a year and nearly five months. He sailed May, 1798 and, returning, landed in France Oct. 9, 1799." -Studies in the Scriptures-Thy Kingdom Come (1915) page 44

They also thought 1799 was significant because it was 1260 years after the fall of the Ostrogothic monarchy in 539 AD. Daniel 12:7 mentions three and a half times or 1,260 days. They just converted the days to years. Jehovah's Witnesses now believe that these 1,260 prophetic days refer to the 684 days (from June 21, 1918 to May 5, 1920) that the second president of the Watchtower Society, Joseph Rutherford, spent in prison on charges of espionage.

See also this [page of Watchtower quotes about 1799](#).

'the time of the end'. This also shows that it is from the date 539 A. D. that the other prophetic days of Daniel must be counted."

¹¹ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Who Is Wise," *Watchtower*, March 1, 1922, 71, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. "The Lord showed Daniel that from the time of this union or formation of the 'dreadful and terrible beast' to the 'time of the end' would be 1260 years; thereby marking 1799 again as the date of the 'time of the end.'"

¹² Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Who Can Accurately Predict Man's Future?," *Awake!* January 22, 1973, 8, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/Awake/1973%20Awake.pdf>. "Jehovah's witnesses pointed to the year 1914, decades in advance, as marking the start of "the conclusion of the system of things."

1874XX

1874

Russell, following Barbour and the Second Adventist, understood that when man had been on the earth for 6000 years, Jesus would come, the church would be raptured, and the thousand years of Sabbath rest would occur. Russell calculated that man's time on earth was coming to an end in 1874. He believed that this would bring about the second advent of Christ and a time of harvest.¹³ Russell believed that Jesus was now a spirit creature and would not be seen by human eyes.¹⁴ The Second Adventist did not believe this and thought that His return would be visible. Following 1874, Russell taught that Jesus was present, invisibly. Rutherford maintained this belief until the beginning of the 1930s. A Watchtower from 1924 confirmed 1874 as the year of Jesus' return.¹⁵ As late as 1929 a book written by Rutherford vouched for the 1874 date.¹⁶ However, in 1932, 1874 was ignored and the date of Jesus' return was changed to

¹³ Russell, *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891), 128. "The six thousand years in which God has permitted evil to dominate the world, prior to the beginning of the great seventh or sabbatic thousand, or "Times of Restitution, dates, from the entrance of sin into the world. And since the Times of Restitution began with October 1874, that must be the end of the six thousand years reign of Sin ; and the difference between that and the date shown in the chronology from Adam's creation represents the period of sinlessness in Eden, which really belongs to the reign of righteousness."

¹⁴ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "View from the Tower," *Zion's Watchtower and Herald of Christ's Presence*, August 1883, 1, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1883%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. "And concerning the Lord's second coming, while we realized that he is no longer a man but is now the new creature—the express image of the Father's person- a quickening spirit, yet we failed somehow to make a proper application of this to his second coming, and unthinkingly and ignorantly, rather expected his coming to be as a glorified man, than as a spiritual being. It was not until about 1874 that these things became clearer, so that we realized that when Jesus should come, it would be as unobserved by human eyes as though an angel had come; and that it could be known only by some miracle, by some manifestation or demonstration."

¹⁵ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "The Outlook for 1924," *Watchtower*, January 1, 1924, 5, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1924%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>. "Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874. . . ."

¹⁶ Joseph Franklin Rutherford, *Prophecy* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1929), 65, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1929%20Prophecy.pdf>. "The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D."

1914.¹⁷ Then in 1943 a new chronology was proposed and the date 1874 was retired. 1914 became the new date of Jesus' invisible return, and 1874 was abandoned as a significant date.¹⁸

1878xx

Give me that old time religion. Dates we never hear anymore. 1878

1878

In the years prior to 1878, Russell worked with Nelson Barbour, an Adventist publisher. Russell and Barbour had reasoned that Jesus must return to rapture the church in 1878.¹⁹ They reached that conclusion because they believed Jesus had returned invisibly to earth in 1874. They had made the calculations utilizing reasoning common to premillennialism in that era.²⁰ Mirroring was common in prophetic teaching. Some believed significant events were going to be mirrored in the coming prophetic events. As an example, after Jesus' first advent occurred, he began his

¹⁷ Joseph Franklin Rutherford, *What is Truth?* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1932), 48, accessed August 5, 2018, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Brochures/1932%20What%20is%20truth%20\(wtr-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Brochures/1932%20What%20is%20truth%20(wtr-E).pdf). "The Scriptures show that he must wait until the end of the Gentile times, which times began in 606 B.C., extended over a period of 2520 years, and came to an end in the autumn of 1914. That was the period of time in which Jehovah permitted Satan to carry on his wicked work without interference. At the end of that period of time. Jesus Christ, in obedience to his Father's will, began the great work of ousting Satan and establishing kingdom. The year 1914, therefore, marks the second coming of Christ."

¹⁸ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1943), 152, accessed August 5, 2018, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1943%20The%20truth%20shall%20make%20you%20free%20\(tf\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Teachings/1943%20The%20truth%20shall%20make%20you%20free%20(tf).pdf). "From Adam's creation to the end of 1943 A.D. is 5,971 years. We are therefore near the end of six thousand years of human history, with conditions upon us and tremendous events at hand foreshadowed by those of Noah's day." Therefore, since 1874 was in place because it was thought to be the end of 6000 years and the beginning of the Sabbath thousand years, the rearrangement of the prophetic timeline meant that 1874 was no longer a contender for the return of Jesus. That event would logically be located in the mid-1970s except that 1914 is central to Watchtower theology and Jesus was to have returned in 1914.

¹⁹ Jason Wright, "C. T. Russell and the date 1878," *Watchtower Investigated UK* (June 17, 2014), accessed May 5, 2018, <https://watchtowerinvestigated.wordpress.com/2014/06/17/c-t-russell-and-the-date-1878-by-jason-wright/>. "Hence Barbour proclaimed a three and a-half year period was already underway, starting in 1874 (Jesus invisible return/Parousia) and ending in the spring of 1878, it was what he called the anti-typical harvest period (parallel dispensation). This period ended with the translation of the Elijah class (little flock) and Jesus taking up his throne and became king in heaven. So there we have it! In 1877 Russell and Barbour were absolutely sure the translation of the little flock (true church) would occur at latest April 6th 1878."

would end in 1881.²⁵ After that time, it would be the job of the anointed to call people to become part of the Great Multitude. Because this date was based on the 1874 return of Jesus which was vacated, it also is no longer a pertinent date.

1914XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Give me that Old Time Religion: 1914

As discussed elsewhere, 1914 is based on incorrect evidence and assumptions. Even if the assumptions Russell made about the year/day hypothesis were correct the date could not be correct because its starting point was in error. However, this is not even the worst of it. Simply put, the Watchtower (Russell) made a number of very clear predictions about what was going to happen in 1914. The predictions were not vague and were central to the claims of the Watchtower. However, when 1914 had come and gone none of the predictions came to pass. Rather than admit error, the Watchtower immediately massaged the predictions and made them say something very different. Because the year 1914 is pivotal to who they are, Jehovah's Witnesses are unable to drop the date like a hot potato. Instead, they are forced to work with it or risk destroying the confidence of the members. Witnesses are sometime unaware of their history and even when informed they are oblivious to the real impact of the facts.

Using their own resources, and with minimal commentary we want to see what predictions had been made prior to 1914. There is one reference per item. Many are available.

- The Last Days began 1799 “The Lord showed Daniel that from the time of this union or formation of the ‘dreadful and terrible beast’ to the ‘time of the end’ would be 1260 years; thereby marking 1799 again as the date of the ‘time of the end.’” (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Who Is Wise,” Watchtower, March 1, 1922, 71, accessed August 5, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1922%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.)

- Jesus Parousia started 1874 “Wendell's presentation focused on the accuracy of Old Testament prophecy while pinpointing specific dates given in the Bible for events of historical importance to God's faithful followers all down through the Jewish and Christian ages. After establishing his premise, Wendell went on to show that the scriptures also clearly indicated that Christ would return to earth in 1873/1874.” (“Early Life,” Pastor Russell.com, accessed June 18, 2018, <http://pastor-russell.com/misc/bio.html>.)

²⁴ Russell, *The Time Is at Hand* (1889), 235. “As in the type that date—three and a half years after the death of Christ—marked the end of all special favor to the Jew and the beginning of favor to the Gentiles, so we recognize A.D. 1881 as marking the close of the high calling, or invitation to the blessing peculiar to this age - to become joint-heirs with Christ and partakers of the divine nature.”

²⁵ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Jehovah's *Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, 632. “It was also reasoned that the end of God's special favor to natural Israel down to 36 C.E. might point to 1881 as the time when the special opportunity to become part of spiritual Israel would close.”

- Jesus started ruling in heaven in 1878 “Based on the premise that events of the first century might find parallels in related events later, they also concluded that if Jesus' baptism and anointing in the autumn of 29 C.E. paralleled the beginning of an invisible presence in 1874, then his ride into Jerusalem as King in the spring of 33 C.E. would point to the spring of 1878 as the time when he would assume his power as heavenly King.” (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Jehovah’s Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom, 632.)
- The Gentile Times would end in 1914, resulting in the:
 - o end of Armageddon: "... the battle of the great day of God Almighty ... The date of the close of that "battle" is definitely marked in Scripture as October, 1914. It is already in progress, its beginning dating from October, 1874. ... The Scriptures show also that the battle of the great day will begin with the church of God, and that the overthrow of the great nominal church systems will precede the overthrow of the present civil powers; for the Lord is about to shake, not only the earth (the civil organization for society), but heaven (the ecclesiastical powers) also (Heb. 12:26), to the end that great "Babylon," falsely called Christendom -Christ's kingdom- may be completely destroyed." (Zion's Watch Tower 1892 Jan 15 pp.21-23)
 - o fall of false religion: "The seventh trumpet sounds from Aug. 1840, until ‘the time of trouble,’ or day of wrath is ended. Hence, it doubtless ends with the times of the Gentiles, and this forty years of conquest; and therefore, sounds until A. D. 1914; at the end of which, Babylon the great, will have fallen, and the ‘dragon’ be bound: that is, the nations will be subdued, and ‘the prince of this world cast out.’" (Three Worlds and The Harvest of This World (1877) p.143)
 - o end of all earthly governments: "True, it is expecting great things to claim, as we do, that within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved; but we are living in a special and peculiar time, the ‘Day of Jehovah,’...In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A. D. 1914.", (Studies In the Scriptures - The Time Is At Hand (1889) pp.98-99)
 - o heavenly and earthly resurrections: The 144,000, also known as the ‘body of Christ’ or ‘the saints’, were to all be in heaven by 1914, prior to the completion of Armageddon. "That the deliverance of the saints must take place sometime before 1914 is manifest, since the deliverance of fleshly Israel, as we shall see, is appointed to take place at that time... Just how long before 1914 the last living members of the body of Christ will be glorified, we are not directly informed..." (Studies In the Scriptures - Thy Kingdom Come (1908 ed.) p.228)
 - o paradise on earth: The end of the harvest was to be followed by both the heavenly and earthly paradise. "When this is fully accomplished, as it must be within this harvest period, then will follow the resurrection of the ancient worthies, then the kingdom of God, in both its heavenly and earthly phases, will be established and manifested to the world, - an event due at the close of this harvest period and time of trouble." (Watchtower 1895 May 15 p.123-124 reprints 1816)

To be clear, Watchtower literature prior to 1914 claimed clearly that the following things would occur before October of 1914. The end of the preaching work, the end of all religion, the wholesale destruction of all government, the end of the Great Tribulation, the end of Armageddon, Russell and his followers to be raised to heaven, Jesus' Kingdom established as paradise on earth and the commencement of the earthly resurrection. None of these things occurred and the Watchtower rebranded 1914 as the BEGINNING of prophetic claims not the date they were to have occurred by as seen in these quotes from after 1914. "The Watchtower has consistently presented evidence to honest hearted students of Bible prophecy that Jesus' presence in heavenly Kingdom power began in 1914." (Watchtower 1993 Jan 15 p.5) and "Jehovah's witnesses pointed to the year 1914, decades in advance, as marking the start of "the conclusion of the system of things." (Awake! 1973 Jan 22 p.8)

In summary, the most critical date in Watchtower theology was incorrectly calculated. In addition, all of the claims about the coming date proved to be wrong and the dates had to be massaged to reflect a future emphasis. The Watchtower has no real foundation at all.

APPENDIX

1914—A Significant Year in Bible Prophecy

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DECADES in advance, Bible students proclaimed that there would be significant developments in 1914. What were these, and what evidence points to 1914 as such an important year?

As recorded at [Luke 21:24](#), Jesus said: "Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations until the appointed times of the nations ["the times of the Gentiles," *King James Version*] are fulfilled." Jerusalem had been the capital city of the Jewish nation—the seat of rulership of the line of kings from the house of King David. ([Psalm 48:1, 2](#)) However, these kings were unique among national leaders. They sat on "Jehovah's throne" as representatives of God himself. ([1 Chronicles 29:23](#)) Jerusalem was thus a symbol of Jehovah's rulership.

How and when, though, did God's rulership begin to be "trampled on by the nations"? This happened in 607 B.C.E. when Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians. "Jehovah's throne" became vacant, and the line of kings who descended from David was interrupted. ([2 Kings 25:1-26](#)) Would this 'trampling' go on forever? No, for the prophecy of Ezekiel said regarding Jerusalem's last king, Zedekiah: "Remove the turban, and take off the crown. . . . It will not

belong to anyone until the one who has the legal right comes, and I will give it to him.” ([Ezekiel 21:26, 27](#)) “The one who has the legal right” to the Davidic crown is Christ Jesus. ([Luke 1:32, 33](#)) So the ‘trampling’ would end when Jesus became King.

When would that grand event occur? Jesus showed that the Gentiles would rule for a fixed period of time. The account in [Daniel chapter 4](#) holds the key to knowing how long that period would last. It relates a prophetic dream experienced by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He saw a tree of enormous height that was chopped down. Its stump could not grow because it was banded with iron and copper. An angel declared: “Let *seven times* pass over it.”—[Daniel 4:10-16](#).

In the Bible, trees are sometimes used to represent rulership. ([Ezekiel 17:22-24; 31:2-5](#)) So the chopping down of the symbolic tree represents how God’s rulership, as expressed through the kings at Jerusalem, would be interrupted. However, the vision served notice that this ‘trampling of Jerusalem’ would be temporary—a period of “seven times.” How long a period is that?

[Revelation 12:6, 14](#) indicates that three and a half times equal “1,260 days.” “Seven times” would therefore last twice as long, or 2,520 days. But the Gentile nations did not stop ‘trampling’ on God’s rulership a mere 2,520 days after Jerusalem’s fall. Evidently, then, this prophecy covers a much longer period of time. On the basis of [Numbers 14:34](#) and [Ezekiel 4:6](#), which speak of “a day for a year,” the “seven times” would cover 2,520 *years*.

The 2,520 years began in October 607 B.C.E., when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and the Davidic king was taken off his throne. The period ended in October 1914. At that time, “the appointed times of the nations” ended, and Jesus Christ was installed as God’s heavenly King. *—[Psalm 2:1-6; Daniel 7:13, 14](#).

Just as Jesus predicted, his “presence” as heavenly King has been marked by dramatic world developments—war, famine, earthquakes, pestilences. ([Matthew 24:3-8; Luke 21:11](#)) Such developments bear powerful testimony to the fact that 1914 indeed marked the birth of God’s heavenly Kingdom and the beginning of “the last days” of this present wicked system of things.—[2 Timothy 3:1-5](#).

years was 2520 years. When this was added to 606 BC, it gave the date 1914. Therefore, the end of the “Time of the Gentiles” was 1914. One should note immediately how speculative his assumptions were.

Why does this matter? If 607 is incorrect, the foundation of the Watchtower is shown to be false. If 607 BC is wrong, 1914 is wrong. If 1914 is wrong, 1919 is wrong and Jehovah did not make the Watchtower His sole organization on earth.

What does the evidence show? No evidence supports the Watchtower’s claim that 607 BC was the fall of Jerusalem. The Watchtower dating is unique. No other credible source accepts the date of 607 BC. Textbooks, journal articles, historians, archaeologists and Bible scholars are united in their acceptance of 587 BC as the date of Jerusalem’s fall.

Charles Taze Russell had accepted the work of John Aquila Brown. In his book *Even-Tide* (1823) page 132, Brown suggested 606 BC, unfortunately Brown did not provide a reason for his choice of 606 BC.²⁷

While Russell accepted 607 BC, the later Watchtower editors struggled with it. It has always been a position that has lacked support. Raymond Franz, at one time a member of the governing board, researched the topic extensively in the 1970s. He stated, “Months of research were spent on this one subject of ‘Chronology’ and it resulted in the longest article in the *Aid* publication. Much of the time was spent endeavoring to find some proof, some backing in history, for the 607 BCE date so crucial to our calculations for 1914. Charles Ploeger, a member of the headquarters staff, was at that time serving as a secretary for me and he searched through the libraries of the New York city area for anything that might substantiate that date historically. We found absolutely nothing in support of 607 BCE. All historians pointed to a date twenty years later.”²⁸

Concern about the date was not limited to the continental United States. A Swedish Jehovah’s Witness had recognized the discrepancy and had begun studying to see if there was a way to justify 607 BC. He was unable to do so and compiled a paper detailing his research for those at Watchtower headquarters. His diligence was rewarded with his being disfellowshipped.

²⁷ Penton, *Apocalypse Delayed*, 30. “In fact, it was John Aquila Brown who first explained what he considered to be the key to the length of those times in a book called *Even-Tide*, published in London in 1823. What he posited was that the typical theocratic kingdom of Judah had fallen under Gentile rule in 604 B.C. Thereafter, there would be no godly government on earth until four great empires –the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Macedonian, and Roman–had had their sway. Then Christ, as David’s heir, would rule in Jerusalem. But how long would it be before those empires expired? Brown found his answer in the fourth chapter of the book of Daniel.” Brown believed 1917 was the year of the end. Barbour found fault with his calculations and decided upon 1914, a date Russell followed.

²⁸ Franz, *Crisis of Conscience*, 29-30. “Months of research were spent on this one subject of ‘Chronology’ and it resulted in the longest article in the *Aid* publication. Much of the time was spent endeavoring to find some proof, some backing in history, for the 607 BCE date so crucial to our calculations for 1914. Charles Ploeger, a member of the headquarters staff, was at that time serving as a secretary for me and he searched through the libraries of the New York city area for anything that might substantiate that date historically. We found absolutely nothing in support of 607 BCE. All historians pointed to a date twenty years later.”

Fortunately for us, this inspired him to write a book titled: The Gentile Times Reconsidered by Carl Olof Jonsson. This book does extensive research into the reigns of rulers in cultures around the Jews. It analyzes not only dating through historical records but dating based in astronomy. He makes an incredibly solid case that the year 607 BC being wrong.

Rob Stone also did research on the topic in JW literature. He was able to demonstrate from three separate sources that the year 587 BC was the correct dating. From the Insight Volumes we find:

Insight Book Accepted Date by WTS

It volume 2 Pg 457 par. 7 539BCE Nabonidus last king rules 17 years

It volume 1 page 453 par.1 Nerigilissar 4 years

It volume 1 page 453 par. 1 Evil Merodach 2 years

It volume 2 page 480 par. 4 Nebuchadnezzar 43 years

(Labashi Marduk only ruled months, didn't count.) Total 66 year

Subtract 18 years; because the siege didn't begin until the 18th year of Nebuchadnezzar. (18) = 48 years total

Jeremiah 32:1, 2 the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. And at that time the military forces of the king of Babylon were laying siege to Jerusalem; . .

Go backwards in time from accepted WTS date of Babylon's destruction 539+48 = 587 BCE

These same results can be arrived at through the following WT resources:

w65 1/1 pg29 "The rejoicing of the Wicked is short-lived"

W60 6/15 part 40 Page 377 "Your Will be Done on Earth"

There are a number of significant flaws with the calculation of 1914. While the other flaws in reasoning are worth consideration, the most important flaw, indeed the critical flaw is the date of the fall of Jerusalem. The Watchtower has attempted to defend its dating but never have they been viewed as successful, except among their own adherents.

1919xx

Give me that Old Time Religion: 1919

References available on request.

There is no doubt that the average Jehovah's Witness believes that they possess the truth. They believe that God has and still does speak to them through the "faithful and discreet slave of Matthew." This leads them to make two assumptions. The first is that they alone understand the Bible correctly. The second is that the message that they receive from the Watchtower is a message from God. In fact, salvation itself is contingent on a good relationship with the Watchtower.

This understanding is re-enforced by the Watchtowers claim, "Thus organizationally the "discreet slave" class since 1919 has been channeling an ever-increasing flow of Biblical publications by the millions that contain the "waters of life" featuring Jehovah's will as emanating from God's throne in heaven. ..." This is a reference to the Watchtower's teaching that in 1919 God chose the Watchtower as his sole representative on earth.

FIRST ARGUMENT, if we grant the premise that Matthew 24:45-51 does imply God is choosing his visible organization on earth in 1919, is there adequate evidence to see if Jesus would have chosen the Watchtower?

The following criterion would be accepted by most or all Jehovah's Witnesses. They are derived from Watchtower articles that mention Jesus appointment of the Watchtower in 1919. Those articles are listed in the body of the paper below. In general, it is clear that the faithful and discreet slave would provide good food, (spiritual leadership and Biblical teaching) that would help the domestics be healthy. That food was to be provided in due season (in a timely and appropriate fashion). The food would not contain error but instead would present truth. Because truth is always true it is possible that teachings could be expanded but they would never contradict old truths.

Since this is self-explanatory, I think we can now ask about the teaching from the time of the first Bible studies up until 1919. Would Jesus see the teachings and acknowledge them as true?

It seems that there were many significant theological errors that Jesus would have found during the inspection. It was taught that Jesus returned in 1874, Charles Taze Russell was said to be the faithful and discrete slave from the late 1800s until 1927, the Millennium began in 1873, Christmas was celebrated, Birthdays were celebrated, the Cross was featured on the front page of the Watchtower, the banner on the top of the Watchtower proclaimed "Herald of Christ's Presence, the Pyramid of Gizah was believed to be a prophetic stone, all pre-1914 prophecies failed and were "re-interpreted" after the fact. Russell taught that: 1799: The beginning of "the last days" or "time of the end", 1829: The beginning of an understanding of the mysteries of prophecy, 1844: Wise virgins went forth to meet the Bridegroom, 1846: God's sanctuary was cleansed, 1873: End of 6000 years of human existence, 1874: The return of Christ to begin his Second Coming, 1874: The beginning of the 40-year Harvest or preaching work, 1874: Second cry, "Behold the Bridegroom.", 1874: The beginning of the Battle of Armageddon, 1878: God's Kingdom was "set up" in heaven, 1878: Beginning of Christ's Kingdom Rule, 1878: The fall of "Babylon the Great" (false religion), 1878: Beginning of "Times of Restitution.", 1881: Close of "the heavenly calling" (spiritual Israel), 1881: Resurrection of all the "dead in Christ", 1914: The anointed Christians would be taken to heaven before 1914, 1914: The end of the "Harvest" or

preaching work, 1914: God's Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth, 1914: Jesus would be present as earth's new Ruler, 1914: All Gentile nations would be destroyed by God by the end of 1914, 1914: Jerusalem would begin to rise from the dust of divine disfavor to honor, 1914: Israel's blindness would begin to be turned away, 1914: This year would be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect man, 1914: Battle of Armageddon would end, 1914: Peaceful blessings would begin to be recognized on earth, 1914: Complete destruction of "Babylon the Great" (all other religions), 1914: The "last days" would end in 1914, 1914-1919 The Watchtower was in captivity to Babylon during those years. , 1915: God's Kingdom will be fully established near the end of 1915, 1915: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven soon after 1914, Rutherford claimed: 1917: The 1,200 Furlongs of Rev. 14:20 refer to distance between Scranton Pa. where the Finished Mystery was written and Brooklyn, NY where it was published., 1918 Millions Living Will Never Die, 1918: God's 'fire' from heaven would fall on Christendom, 1918: Millions of church members of Christendom would be destroyed by God, 1918: Christendom would go down to oblivion as a system., 1918: God will destroy the churches wholesale, 1920: There would be worldwide all-embracing anarchy., 1920: All earthly governments will pass away., 1920: All republics will disappear in the fall of 1920, 1925: Anointed Christians would be taken to heaven., 1914: End of the thousand-year Reign of Christ. All of these previous teaching have been changed or significantly altered since 1919.

With the exception of 1914 the beliefs that have been carried forward unchanged are held in part by other groups and denominations. Since the Jehovah's Witnesses are not the only group to hold those particular beliefs, they could not have been the basis for selection. For instance, other groups were non-trinitarian and other groups denied Hell. Based on the existing evidence it would appear extremely unlikely that Jesus would have chosen the Watchtower based on the earlier criteria. In addition, the organization admits that in 1919 it was coming out of bondage to Babylon at that point. Logically it does not appear that Jesus would have been able to appoint the Watchtower but in reality, this is the weakest of three arguments against that appointment.

SECOND ARGUMENT: When did the Watchtower state that Jehovah chose the faithful and discrete slave and who was he/it.

This would seem to be a very straightforward question except that it isn't. It turns out that the topic is quite complicated. It seems that the claim that God has been speaking through his faithful and discreet slave goes back well before 1919. As early as 1879 it was believed that the Watchtower was the channel God has chosen to bring forth His truth. In 1881 Russel alluded to the fact that the faithful and discreet slave was a composite of faithful believers. However in just a few short years he would be identified by his wife as the faithful slave himself. He apparently entertained the idea and it was mentioned in 1916, after his death, that only his modesty kept him from openly claiming the title. When Russell died, Rutherford kept his memory alive even insisting that Russell continued to direct the Watchtower from heaven. Until 1927 people continued to venerate Russell as God's faithful and discreet slave. After 1927 Rutherford, who had consolidated his political position began to move Russell's memory aside, teaching that the faithful and discreet slave was a composite rather than an individual. However, until 1927 Russell was viewed as God's channel. An article in 1922 demonstrates how serious this

sentiment was. Russell's influence on his followers was immense. His popularity and the adulation given him as God's mouthpiece established the power that is still wielded by the Governing Body, whose members are believed to speak for God. , However, as time passed 1914 and 1919 gained new significance. When the prophecies of 1914 failed and were re-interpreted, 1919 was the time inspected the temple and began a time of judgment. Curiously, the Watchtower literature is remarkably silent about God having appointed the governing body as the faithful and discreet slave in 1919. It isn't until 1927 that we see any pushback on the idea that Russell was the faithful and discrete slave. Since Russell was still directing the efforts of the Watchtower in 1919 it appears that they went 8 years without the possibility of a corporate faithful and discrete slave. Much more damaging if the fact that there are no early accounts of this appointment. That is inexplicable. If God were to appear in church service and appoint the pastor as his sole representative on earth it would at least make the church newsletter. In this case it does not appear that there was any awareness of the event until forty years later. The earliest references seem to be 1960 , 1973 , 1975 , 1983 , 2001 , 2005 , and 2012 . In those years the pivotal year of 1919 is mentioned and the appointment of the faithful and discreet slave is discussed. This would be exactly how a myth would develop. In reality this becomes a non-falsifiable event. There seems to be no historical basis at all. If the event had occurred it would have had great prominence immediately. If Jehovah had actually appointed the Watchtower as his sole channel of truth in this age, and had made the Organization His organization, it would have been a major event. It should have filled every issue and publication. Instead, as noted before, we have a non-falsifiable event, seen by no one and with no objective proof of ever having occurred. It does not get mentioned for four decades and only in the last 50 years has the narrative advanced. This is inexplicable. If this event had occurred and there was any sort of proof the Watchtower would have tremendous influence. Instead, the account is to be accepted because, those who claim the event gave them sole ownership of the truth, say it is true.

THIRD ARGUMENT: Is there any evidence that Jesus appointed the Watchtower as his visible organization on earth in the year 1919?

There are other reasons to question the 1919 appointment. Both 1918 and 1919 are derived from 1914. 1914 was a date that Charles Taze Russell adopted from Nelson Barbour, an Adventist. They had studied together for some time and they worked together producing a newspaper. The 1914 date was derived using the year/day theory and was based on 606 BC as the date of the fall of Jerusalem. This date had been inherited from John Aquila Brown. This date does not seem to have been widely known and flies in the face of all current scholarship. Raymond Franz, an ex-governing board member, in *Crisis of Conscience* discusses the fact that there was a struggle within the Watchtower trying to support the 607 BCE date. He states, "Months of research were spent on this one subject of 'Chronology' and it resulted in the longest article in the Aid publication. Much of the time was spent endeavoring to find some proof, some backing in history, for the 607 BCE date so crucial to our calculations for 1914. Charles Ploeger, a member of the headquarters staff, was at that time serving as a secretary for me and he searched through the libraries of the New York city area for anything that might substantiate that date historically. We found absolutely nothing in support of 607 BCE All historians pointed to a date twenty years later." In this same time period, a Jehovah's Witness in Sweden was working on undergirding

the 607 date. However, as he studied, he found that the evidence against the date was overwhelming. He presented his information to Watchtower Headquarters and was eventually disfellowshipped for his efforts. In 1983 he printed the first version of "The Gentile Times Reconsidered." This book refutes the 607 date from several different approaches. It is a powerful and logical look at the date the Watchtower has used to undergird its theology. As is obvious, if the 607 date is wrong the 1914 date and all that rests on it, including any 1919 appointment, is also wrong. The book should be a must read for any person interested in 1914. It also addresses works by Jehovah's Witness apologists seeking to refute criticism of 607. However, because it is not approved, it will not be read because many are captives of the idea that the governing body is God's visible organization. This is believed even though there is no foundation for the belief. In fact, there is good evidence that it is not so. There is a link to the book in the footnotes below, 19.

Conclusion:

Argument 1: Having evaluated the history it is difficult to make a logical argument for the selection of the Watchtower. The "food" is bad. It is untimely. There are more than forty significant theological or prophetic errors. God does not make theological errors, men do.

Argument 2: There is difficulty discerning who was supposed to be the faithful and discreet slave because there are two different narratives, both endorsed and both mutually incompatible. Russell was acknowledged as the faithful and discreet slave from the late 1890s until 1927. In 1927 it was taught that this had been an error and that it was a corporate faithful and discreet slave that was to have existed. This was 8 years after the supposed appointment of 1919. It was also 40 years before we see an account of what should have been the most important event in JW history. This is inexplicable. Finally, there is no historical basis to the appointment. No one saw it or participated in the event. It appears much more like the development of a myth.

Argument 3: Does the 1919 date have any logical prophetic basis.

No, it is dependent on 1914. There is no support for the selection of 1914. No non-JW historian or archeologist supports a 606 or 607 date. The evidence against it is overwhelming. In addition, the significance of 1914 itself has been altered several times.

Overall, it appears then that the basis for Watchtower's claim to be God's sole organization on earth is rooted in self-promotion and not fact.

1925xx

Give me that Old Time Religion- 1925

"Millions Now Living Will Never Die!"

Soon after he assumed the presidency, Judge Rutherford began preaching that the year 1925 would bring the end of the world as it was then known. An earthly paradise without death was

just around the corner. The Old Testament saints would be raised and mingle with the current inhabitants of the earth. Rutherford claimed the chief thing to be restored is the human race to life; and since other Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favor. In 1925 the world was to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order of things on earth. To prepare for these faithful ones Beth Sarim, a 5000 square foot mansion was built. In reality this dwelling became a mansion at which Rutherford would spend much of the year. ("The year 1926 would therefore begin about October first, 1925. . . . We should, therefore, expect shortly after 1925 to see the awakening of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Melchizedek, Job, Moses, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, John the Baptist, and others mentioned in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews." W. E. Van Amburgh, *The Way to Paradise* (London: International Bible Students Association, 1925), 224.) The earth would bear luscious fruits, and there would be no more war. Christendom would disappear, and the earth would be populated with true followers of Jehovah. ("Expectations for 1925 included: the end of Christendom, the return of earth to a paradise, the resurrection of the dead onto earth, the Zionist teaching of the reestablishment of Palestine" "1925-'Millions Now Living Will Never Die!'" *JWFacts.com*.) The reasoning for the choice of 1925 was said to be firm. (" . . . this chronology is not of man, but of God. . . . the addition of more proofs removes it entirely from the realm of chance into that of proven certainty. . . . the chronology of present truth [is] . . . not of human origin." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "The Strong Cable of Chronology," *Watchtower*, July 15, 1922, 217). He taught there was great evidence showing 1925 to be a sure thing. However, reviewing the scriptural proofs it does not seem like there was much of a foundation. ("Seventy times 50 are 3,500. The whole period would therefore have been 3,500 years from the time the Jews entered Canaan until all the types would have been fulfilled. As they entered Canaan 1,575 years before Christ there would be 1,925 years of types after Christ, or 1925 A. D." Van Amburgh, *The Way to Paradise*, 223.) The expected events of 1925 did not come to pass, and many left the movement at that time.

1975XX

Give me that Old Time religion: 1975

References available on request.

It has been said that even a broken clock is right twice a day. If only the Watchtower could be as accurate. Currently they are batting 0%. In 1966, it was determined that 1975 would mark the end of 6,000 years of man's existence. Armageddon would occur ushering in the Millennial reign. Having learned little from any of their previous predictions, the Watchtower hyped the coming of the end. From 1966 until 1975, there was excitement in the Watchtower Society. It was believed that the chronology of the end had finally been done correctly. In 1974, the Witnesses were encouraged to sell their homes and spend the remaining months in full time service to Jehovah. Couples were encouraged to remain childless. As the time grew short, people were encouraged to give themselves to full time ministry. Many listened to the Watchtower, and marriage and child bearing were put off by some if not many. Education

seemed pointless. The end was just around the corner. The Watchtower Society made many comments about the coming end, but for the most part avoided making clear pronouncements. However, there was little ambiguity about what they meant, and the members believed wholeheartedly that the end was coming. Membership grew rapidly between 1966 and 1975 as people heard the message and joined the Jehovah's Witnesses to prepare for the end. However, when 1975 came and went without any sign of the end, there was considerable disappointment. Many left the Watchtower Society in the following year. The Society did not formally comment on the missed prophecy for four years. They initially blamed the individual Witnesses for being overly excited by the comments from headquarters. It was not until 1980 that the Society finally admitted responsibility for the erroneous prophecy.