

“It is with sincere joy that we are privileged to report that amongst the activities of the Watch Tower Bible And Tract Society for 1917 the Seventh Volume of Studies In The Scriptures has been published and is now going forth. We count this as another one of the strong proofs that the harvest is nearing the end, and that in all probability the Spring of 1918 will mark the beginning of the closing up of all activities of the kingdom class on this side the veil.” (Watchtower, December 15, 1917, 373-374)

“The parallel, therefore, would establish definitely that the harvest would close forty years thereafter; to wit, in the spring of A.D. 1918. If this be true, and the evidence is very conclusive that it is true, then we have only a few months in which to labor before the great night settles down when no man can work.” (Watchtower, October 1, 1917, 292-293)

“what will the year 1918 bring forth?... The Christian looks for the year to bring the full consummation of the church’s hopes” (Watchtower January 1, 1918 6191)

“the tangible evidence that the present water is passing away, and that soon the kingdom of God will be fully established, is overwhelming. Such proof causes the true saints to look up and lift their heads with rejoicing” (Watchtower January 1, 1918 6193)

“How appropriate, therefore, the text for the year – “the end of all things is at hand; we therefore should sober and watch unto prayer.”... That we are at the end of the Gospel age, we all agree. We’re at the end of the harvest. Of that age. The end of Satan’s dominion is also here, in the beginning of the millennial age” (Watchtower January 15, 1918 6201)

“Several times during the harvest, during the progress of what seemed plagues to Christendom, the Lord has permitted his people to think that they were about to go. Brother Russell expected the church to go beyond the veil in 1878, 1881, 1910 and 1914 – just as with Elijah who went with Elisha to four different places before he was actually taken” (Watchtower April 15, 1918 6237)

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“Zion’s triumph near: with baited breath and joyful heart the waters in Zion behold the closing of the harvest. Next the dark Knight, followed shortly by the glorious Sunburst of everlasting happiness. Wonderful is a present privilege of the faithful watchers. The graduating test is now upon the church... During the past 40 years the harvest of the age has been in progress. That the harvest began in 1878, there is ample and convincing proof. The end of the harvest is due in the spring of 1918” (Watchtower May 1, 1918 6243)

“In the clear light of unfolding time – prophecy, we see that we are now living at the very end of the reign of sin and death; that the night of sorrow, pain and tears is almost over; that the glorification of the last members of Christ’s body is very soon to be completed” (Watchtower August 1, 1918 6300)

“By his spirit, the holy spirit, Jehovah God guides or leads his people up to a certain point of time, and thus he did until the time when ‘the comforter’ was taken away, which would necessarily occur when Jesus, the Head of his organization, came to the temple and gathered unto himself those whom he found faithful when he, as the great Judge, began his judgment, in 1918.” (J. F. Rutherford, Preservation, (Brooklyn, New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1932) 193-194.)

“The class of spirit-begotten ones on earth whom Naomi pictured at this point (1919) came to a realization that Christ Jesus the great Judge had come to the temple. of Jehovah and that the famine had ended, and that God had lifted the ‘rod of the wicked from the lot of the righteous’, and now they must busy themselves with the kingdom work and henceforth hold themselves entirely aloof and separate from the wicked.” J.F. Rutherford, Preservation (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1932), 211

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For some time prior to A.D. 1918 the preparing of the Lord’s way was going on and then suddenly the Lord came to his temple, there to take account with his servants rewarding those that had been faithful and punishing the unfaithful. ... With Christ Jesus the Shepherd-King in charge since the regathering of the remnant after 1918, things moved along rapidly toward the setting up among them of a Theocratic organization similar in design to that in existence 1,900 years ago. (Watchtower, April 15, 1950, 115-120)

1, 2. What significant developments are to be noted in the history of the Lord’s people from 1918 to 1921? In 1918 (A.D.) no song of liberty and praise was heard, daily service of praise was not performed. ... 4, 5. What events since 1918 therefore clearly indicate fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the 1,290 days? This means that since 1918, which had ended the 1,260-day period, two great wonders had happened. (Watchtower, July 15, 1951, 432-438)

The 1,260 days would commence when the Gentile times ended, about October 1, 1914, and would therefore terminate about April 1, 1918, after which the enemy’s power would be broken. ... This was not altered by the fierce persecution which broke out at that time, for early in February, 1918, many of Jehovah’s people in Canada were seized and thrown into prison. (Watchtower July 1, 1951, 408-413)

Later, in 1918, Jehovah appeared at the temple by sending his King, the promised “messenger of the covenant”, there to judge all those who profess to be of the house of God. (Mal. 3:1; 1 Pet. 4:17) ... In 1918 the clergy of Christendom succeeded in killing Jehovah’s “two witnesses” at the climax of World War I. (Watchtower, April 1, 1951, 205-213)

This adds to the proof that Jehovah has been in his spiritual temple since 1918. ... His coming to the great spiritual temple of God for judgment work is understood to have taken place invisibly in the spring of 1918. (Watchtower, October 15, 1953, 625-638)

The book *You May Survive Armageddon into God’s New World*, released last June, and the article “Jehovah Is in His Holy Temple,” published in the November 15 English issue of *The Watchtower*, prove that Jehovah came accompanied by his Angel of the covenant, Jesus Christ, to the spiritual temple in the spring of 1918. ... So the judgment began first with Jehovah’s witnesses after he came to his spiritual temple in 1918. (Watchtower, December 15, 1955, 745-753)

This gathering continued until in 1918 thousands were assembled to be judged when Jehovah suddenly came to his temple. (See *The Watchtower* of November 15, 1955, page 695.) ... Since 1918 the judging has gone on, cleansing this temple class, refining and purifying them so they will form a building for Jehovah to inhabit by spirit. (Eph. 2:22, NW) (Watchtower, November 15, 1956, 689-695)

Not many months later, on June 21, 1918, Rutherford and seven of his Christian associates in the Bible Society were sentenced in Federal Court, under the law against espionage and sedition, to twenty years of imprisonment on each of four counts, these four terms to run concurrently. ... On Independence Day, July 4, 1918, these eight sentenced representatives of the Bible Society were transferred from Long Island City prison, New York, to the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. (Watchtower, November 1, 1964, 648-662)

When was the Lord’s coming to the temple impressively called to attention at a convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and how?19 Jehovah God has been present at his spiritual temple for a judgment work since the year 1918. ... It has since been confirmed from the Bible’s timetable and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy that Jehovah came to his spiritual temple in the spring of 1918, in a modern-day fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi 3:1-5 (Watchtower December 15, 1966, 752-759)

This resulted in Satan’s complete defeat by 1918, when he and his wicked forces were ejected from the heavenly realm to be cast downward into the vicinity of the earth. (Rev. 12:7-10) ... Finally, their organized public witness work was crippled by the summer of 1918. (Watchtower, September 15, 1966, 553-561)

1918. (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 6:9-11) ... This reached a climax in 1918 when the directors of the Watch Tower Society were imprisoned, and the organized preaching work almost ceased. (Watchtower, October 15, 1988, 10-15)

“During his earthly ministry, Jesus cleansed the temple. In 1918 he accompanied Jehovah to the spiritual temple to cleanse God’s people” (Watchtower, July 1, 1989, 31)

Then, in fulfillment of Malachi 3:1, he ‘came’ again in 1918, when he came to Jehovah’s temple to judge first the household of God. (1 Peter 4:17) ... 8. What situation did Jesus find when he came to inspect professed Christians in 1918?8 When Jesus came to inspect professed Christians in 1918, he found anointed Christians on earth trying hard to observe the words of the prophecy. (Watchtower, April 1, 1989, 10-15)

Whom did Christ find doing so when he returned with kingly power in 1914 and proceeded to inspect the house of God in 1918?—Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 19:12; 1 Peter 4:17.... 18. Whom did the Master find supplying his body of attendants with spiritual food at the proper time, and what proves this?18 On arriving to inspect his slaves in 1918, therefore, whom did the Master, Jesus Christ, find giving to his body of attendants their measure of food supplies at the proper time? (Watchtower, March 15, 1990, 10-14)

According to substantial evidence available, in 1918.a ... Starting in 1918, Jehovah, through this messenger of the covenant, has fulfilled his promise and cleansed his people. (Watchtower, December 1, 1992, 12-17)

As Malachi 3:1-5 had foretold, Jehovah God and his “messenger of the covenant,” Jesus Christ, came to inspect the spiritual temple in the spring of 1918. ... 3. Why was it essential that spiritual cleansing take place?3 Passing through this judgment, which climaxed in 1918, the remnant of the slave class was cleansed from worldly and religious defilement. (Watchtower, May 1, 1993 15-21)

About this, Jehovah’s Witnesses—Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom (1993) states: “The years from 1914 to 1918 did, indeed, prove to be ‘a testing season’ for the Bible Students.” ... 19 An additional test came upon true Christians in 1918 when worldly authorities, goaded on by the clergy of Christendom, ‘framed mischief by law’ against Jehovah’s organization. (Psalm 94:20, KJ) (Watchtower, May 15, 1998, 10-15)

But in 1918, the final year of the war, the organized preaching work virtually stopped. ... Yes, back in 1918/19, Jehovah did discipline his people. (Watchtower, July 1, 2002, 9-14)

In 1918, Jesus, “the messenger of the covenant,” had come to Jehovah’s spiritual temple to inspect and cleanse God’s congregation. (Malachi 3:1) ... Three and a half years later, in 1918, he came to God’s spiritual temple and fulfilled Peter’s words: “It is the appointed time for the judgment to start with the house of God.” (1 Peter 4:17; Malachi 3:1) (Watchtower, March 1, 2004, 13-18)

“‘On arriving’ to inspect the ‘slave’ in 1918, Christ found a spirit-anointed remnant of faithful disciples who since 1879 had been using this journal [the Watchtower] and other Bible-based publications to provide spiritual ‘food at the proper time’. He acknowledged them as his collective instrument, or ‘slave,’ and in 1919 entrusted them with the management of all his earthly belongings.” (Watchtower, April 1, 2007, 22)

“He evidently meant that the lives of the anointed who were on hand when the sign began to become evident in 1914 would overlap with the lives of other anointed ones who would see the start of the great tribulation. That generation had a beginning, and it surely will have an end.” (Watchtower, April 15, 2010, 10)

“In 2013, this teaching was simplified by removing 1918 from the equation. . . . To settle that question, Jesus began to inspect the spiritual temple in 1914. That inspection and cleansing work involved a period of time—from 1914 to the early part of 1919.” Endnotes: “This is an adjustment in understanding. Previously, we thought that Jesus’ inspection took place in 1918.” (Watchtower, July 15, 2013, 11, 14)

In the past, what was our understanding of the timing of the great tribulation?3 For a number of years, we thought that the great tribulation began in 1914 with World War I and that “those days were cut short” by Jehovah in 1918 when the war ended so that the remnant would have the opportunity to preach the good news to all nations. (Matt. 24:21, 22) ... Thus, the great tribulation was thought to have three phases: There would be a beginning (1914-1918), the tribulation would be interrupted (from 1918 onward), and it would conclude at Armageddon. (Watchtower, July 15, 2013, 3-8)

In the past, we explained that God's people became captives of Babylon the Great for a short time beginning in 1918. ... The Watchtower of March 15, 1992, said that just as the Israelites were taken captive to Babylon, in 1918 Jehovah's servants became captives of Babylon the Great. (Watchtower, (simplified) March 2016 29-32)

For many years, The Watchtower said that faithful Christians went into Babylonian captivity in 1918 and were freed from Babylon in 1919. ... And God's people did not become slaves to false religion in 1918. (Watchtower, (simplified) November 2016, 21-26)

For many years, this journal suggested that God's modern-day servants entered into Babylonian captivity in 1918 and that they were released from Babylon in 1919. ... Thus, in order to be subject to Babylonian captivity in 1918, God's people would have had to become enslaved to false religion in some way at that time. (Watchtower, (Study) November 2016, 21-25)

Upon further examination of Jesus' prophecy, however, we perceived that apart of Jesus' prophecy about the last days has two fulfillments. (Matt. 24:4-22) There was an initial fulfillment in Judea in the first century C.E., and there would be a worldwide fulfillment in our day. That insight led to several clarifications. We also discerned that the first part of the great tribulation did not begin in 1914. Why not? Because Bible prophecy reveals that the great tribulation will start, not with a war among nations, but with an attack on false religion. **Thus, the events that began in 1914 were, not the beginning of the great tribulation**, but the "beginning of pangs of distress." (Matt. 24:8) These "pangs of distress" correspond to what took place in Jerusalem and Judea from 33 C.E. to 66 C.E. (Watchtower, July 15, 2013, 3-8)