

ARTICLE 1

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.

ARTICLE 2

“there will be no slip-up. Abraham inherits the land by faith (as its reward); God’s oath makes it certain. “The gifts and callings of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29) the promise respecting the land is as absolute and unconditional as a promise respecting the spiritual seed. “to the end that the promise might be sure to all the seed.” – Romans 14:16... As he began his sojourn in the land in the year 2045 B. C., It follows that the 3960 years began to count from 2035 B. C. $2035+1925 = 3960$ accordingly Abraham should enter upon the actual possession of his promised inheritance in the year 1925A. D. (Watchtower October 15, 1917, 6157)

The ancient worthies will receive the vitalizing, or making alive of their tentative justification, at the beginning of the earthly phase of the kingdom of heaven, we believe in 1925, having met all the conditions during their first earthly lives.--Hebrews 11. (Watchtower, August 1, 1918, 188/6279)

“for these two years (possibly from the spring of 1918 to the winter of 1919 with the spring of 2020) half the famine (for the truth) been in the land (among professing Christians); and yet there are five years (to the spring of 1925, to the resurrection of the ancient worthies) in which there shall neither be hearing nor harvest” – no general religious work for the world can be done. – Genesis 45:6. (Watchtower, August 1, 1918, 231)

and there will I (Christ, head and body) nourish thee (mere believers and great company, with present truth) for yet there are five years (1919 or 1920 to 1924 or 1925) of famine (of the truth to the people generally); Lest thou and thy household (of faith) and all that thou hast, come to poverty” – spiritually. – Genesis 45:9 – 11. (Watchtower, August 1, 1918, page 231)

"Hence these faithful men may be expected on earth within the next few years." (The Harp of God (Brooklyn, New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1921), 340)

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.”In the chronology of present truth there are so many inter-relationships among the dates that it is not a mere string of dates, not a chain, but a cable of strands firmly knit together-a divinely unified system, with most of the dates having such remarkable relations with others as to stamp the system as not of human origin. (Watchtower, July 15, 1922, 217)

"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, Melchisedec, 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” (Brooklyn, New York: International Bible Students Association, 1924), 224)

“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.” (W.E. Van Amburgh, “The Way to Paradise” (Brooklyn, New York: International Bible Students Association, 1924), 223)

No doubt many boys and girls who read this book will live to see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, and those other men of old, come forth in the glory of their "better resurrection," perfect in mind and body. It will not take long for Christ to appoint them to their posts of honor and authority as his earthly representatives. The world and all the present conveniences will seem strange to them at first, but they will soon become accustomed to the new methods. They may have some amusing experiences at first; for they never saw telephones, radios, automobiles, electric lights, aeroplanes, steam engines, and many other things so familiar to us." (W.E. Van Amburgh, "The Way to Paradise" (Brooklyn, New York: International Bible Students Association, 1924), 226-227)

the ancient worthies will receive the revitalization of their tentative justification at the beginning of the earthly phase of the kingdom of heaven, in 1925 we believe; for during their first earthly lives they met all the conditions required of them. It is well to keep in mind that a porch represents revitalization, resurrection, raising to the condition of the plane indicated by the court to which the porch belongs. (W. E. Van Amburgh, The Way to Paradise (London: International Bible Students Association, 1925), 224)

"What, then, should we expect to take place? 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 favour, we may expect 1925 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." (Millions Now Living Will Never Die! (Brooklyn, New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1925), 88)

"As we have heretofore stated, the great jubilee cycle is due to begin in 1925. At that time the earthly phase of the kingdom shall be recognized." (Millions Now Living Will Never Die! (Brooklyn, New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1925), 89)

QUESTION: Have the ancient worthies returned? ANSWER: Certainly, they have not returned. No one has seen them, and it would be foolish to make such an announcement. It was stated in the "Millions" book that we might reasonably expect them to return shortly after 1925, but this was merely an expressed opinion; besides it is still shortly after 1925. There is no good reason why we should expect the ancient worthies to return until the church is complete and the work of the church on earth is done. At this time the work is not complete, and it is quite evident that many of the members of the body of Christ are still here. (Watchtower, July 1, 1926, 196)