

ARTICLE 1

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.

KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER, 1956

"Press me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing."—Malachi 3:10, AS.

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

KINGDOM MINISTRY GOALS FOR 1957

Seven Goals to Push Toward During New Service Year

¹No standing still for us! The New World Society is marching to the 1957 Kingdom Ministry. We have seven goals to maintain. They should be reachable! And we can reach them with Jehovah in mind. A man may plan his course; but the Lord directs his steps.¹ May Jehovah direct our steps as we strive to push toward one seven Kingdom Ministry goal.

²We start with our first goal: Better meetings. Good, lively meetings make us spiritually strong. This spiritual vitality we need to forge forward during the new service year. What will help us reach the goal of better meetings?

"Kingdom Ministry" Provisions to Help Us

³Jehovah's hand is not shortened. He has given us aid—the Kingdom Ministry! The name "Kingdom Ministry" replaces the name "Informant." The name "Informant" has given us good service throughout the years, but we believe "Kingdom Ministry" is more expressive in relation to our service today. "Kingdom Ministry" has the thought of action, energetic action, on the part of all of Jehovah's witnesses world-wide.

⁴The provisions of Kingdom Ministry will aid us in livelier, more interesting meetings. There is a new provision to make service meetings well-balanced spiritual meals. This is the service meeting outline.

⁵How can we benefit the utmost from the new provision? Two ways: (1) By adequate preparation. (2) By using capable brothers who can enthusiastically exhort the congregation. Inspiring service meetings require preparation, both by those assigned parts on the program and by the congregation. The service meeting outline makes it possible for the congregation to be prepared.

⁶Is the service meeting to train new brothers in speaking? No, nor is it for just giving brothers a

chance to be on the platform. The congregation's spiritual growth comes through the service year. Let us have a better meeting, a better service year, and a better Kingdom Ministry.

⁷By reaching our goal of better meetings, we will push toward our second goal: Better meetings. We will have better meetings if we have all Kingdom Ministry, and all Kingdom Ministry, and all Kingdom Ministry.

⁸Our third goal? Be a regular Kingdom minister. Is this too much? Of course not. Why, the anointed remnant are pictured symbolically in Revelation as trees, "producing twelve crops of fruit, yielding their fruits each month." The other sheep should also bear fruit each month.

Pressing on to Maturity

⁹We want not only to be regular Kingdom ministers but also to be

mature ministers. No goal number four is: "Let us press on to maturity." Can we do it? "This we will do, if God indeed permits." Yes, our advancing to maturity depends ultimately on God. But first we must vigorously push ourselves forward.

¹⁰Be training yourself with truly devotion as your aim. We do this by

personal study and by regular attendance at congregational meetings.

—1 Tim. 4:7.

¹¹Train ourselves by all means! But also train the new Kingdom ministers. Let us be a better trainer. "Support the trainer." And those who are to be trained should be trained to bear the burden of the ministry. "Be strong." So goal number five is: carry out our Kingdom Ministry training. We will have better meetings if we have all Kingdom Ministry, and all Kingdom Ministry, and all Kingdom Ministry.

¹²Those being instructed should do their part in the program too. Be willing to learn. We learn best by doing. So after having been shown, try. Be willing yourself to "preach the word." Jehovah's training program will enable you to say with Isaiah: "The Lord, the Eternal, has given me a well-trained tongue."¹³

¹⁴Now we are ready for goal number six: give more time to back-calls and Bible study work. "Become full-grown in powers of understanding." The best way to help sheeplike ones to become full-grown is through home Bible studies. Our increases come from that work. Moreover, by holding Bible studies we bring our Kingdom ministry to maturity. This we must do. Declared Paul: "Thoroughly accomplish your ministry."¹⁵

¹⁶Goal number seven now should be easy: a congregational increase! How much? A 10-percent increase in Kingdom ministers by December 31. By April's end can we reach a 20-percent increase? Let "each one help one" and we can!

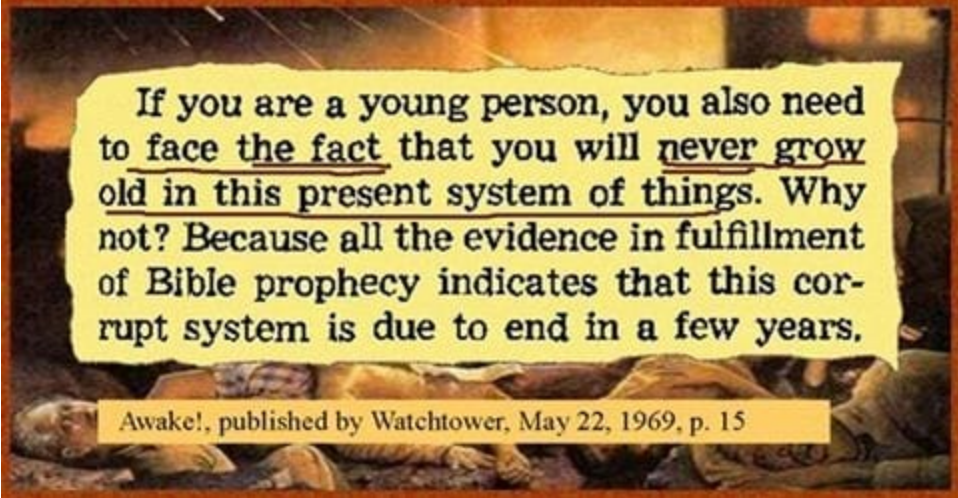
¹⁷Push forward, then, to make 1957 the outstanding year thus far in our Kingdom ministry. Be able to say: "I am pursuing down toward the goal."¹⁸—Col. 4:17; Phil. 3:14.

STAY ALIVE UNTIL 1975

OFFER FOR SEPTEMBER
In unassigned territory and congregation territory not worked in six months, "Let God Be True," two books from "The Harp of God" in "The Kingdom Is at Hand," and three booklets, for \$1. In congregation territory worked within the last six months, three recent books and three booklets for \$1.50.

THEME FOR SEPTEMBER
Triumphing over Enemies by Kingdom Preaching—Ps. 110:2; Matt. 24:14.

* "You ought to be teachers in view of the time." Are you? *



If you are a young person, you also need to face the fact that you will never grow old in this present system of things. Why not? Because all the evidence in fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates that this corrupt system is due to end in a few years.

Awake!, published by Watchtower, May 22, 1969, p. 15

THE
WATCHTOWER

1968

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.

² 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

³ 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?

AUGUST 15, 1968

35

rious scholars. In such chronolog
calculations as to when Adam was
vary all the way from 3616 B.
6174 B.C.E., with one wild guess
20,000 B.C.E. Such conflicting
contained in the voluminous
around the world certainly tend
pound the confusion when seeking
swer to the above questions.

In the previous article we
from the Inspired Writings the
independent of the uninspired
notes of some Bibles, that the