

## ARTICLE 1

What is the significance of 607 BC? My claim is that this date supporting 1914 is wrong, therefore the WT is discredited. Am I wrong? If it cannot be demonstrated that I am in error you need to rethink your relationship to the WT. They are not who they told you they were.

As Russell searched for the meaning of the “Time of the Gentiles.” he determined the beginning number that he needed in order to calculate the “Time of the Gentiles” was the year Jerusalem fell. Russell uncritically accepted a date of 606 BC and later modified the date to 607 BC. He determined the length of the period by examining Daniel, chapter 4. In Daniel, Russell focused on a period of seven years.<sup>1</sup> Since each year is 360 days long (lunar years), the total number of 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, archaeologist and Bible scholars are united in their acceptance of 587 BC as the date of Jerusalem’s fall.

Charles Taze Russell’s 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> “607: 1914: Seven Times,” *JWfacts.com*, accessed August 6, 2018, <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/607-seven-times-prophecy.php>. “There are numerous issues and inconsistencies with how Watchtower interprets the Seven Times. The major issue with how Watchtower arrives at 1914 is that Jerusalem did not fall in 607 B.C. . . . However, even if the assumption is made that 607 B.C. is correct, Watchtower's interpretation fails at a number of other levels. There is no reason to believe Daniel 4 has two fulfillments, 606 B.C. or 607 B.C.? 539 B.C. or 537 B.C.? July or October? 70 Weeks and the 7 Times? 360 Day ‘Prophetic Year’ for a Solar Year?”

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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.”<sup>3</sup>

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. 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

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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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.”

## ARTICLE 2

The 2004 book by Carl Olof Jonsson, *THE GENTILE TIMES RECONSIDERED*, examines the dating in half a dozen different ways. He had done extensive research while a JW and contacted headquarters to discuss his concerns. His concern got him disfellowshipped. He published his finding and has produced several ironclad arguments against the 607 date. This book may be available on Scribd. If you are concerned and serious about it, I am sure it is also available on Amazon. I read the entire 500+ pages and there is no way the JW date is correct. It is a must read. I think that in the newer edition he provides a rebuttal of the initial JW apologetic argument against his position.

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## ARTICLE 4

Re-posted with permission from Rob Stone.

I copied from Rob Stone:

Hi you all, I'm sure most of you know all this but this is for those who still have loved ones in. Perhaps this might help. I've been successful in helping two elders, a few publishers and now a current CO, still working on him. All the WT Scandals and hypocrisy usually won't wake up elders because they teach us in Elder's school that it's just imperfection. They give examples of King Saul and all the other bad Kings. Then they say, "Jehovah uses these Bad People in the organization today just like back then, to accomplish his will. Child Abusers, wife beaters, etc. So don't ever believe it's not the truth because of the scandals you hear. Jehovah will take care of it, in time. In the meantime teach your families and the congregation this important truth." This is a strong tactic the WTS uses to get its members to overlook hypocrisy. And it works. That's why they won't listen when you point out child abuse, the UN scandal, shunning, etc.

587 is the accepted date for Jerusalem's destruction by scholars, historians, archeologist, Bible translators and also accepted by (The Watchtower own Publications). Only 7 old uneducated men in the Whole World say 607 BCE. They don't even believe their own printed material.

But 607 is key because it proves God never appointed them in the first place! Then it all makes sense.

The Insight volumes are all I use. The key is good preparation. You must know this inside and out. I act like my faith is teetering because I heard that 587 BCE is the accepted date of Jerusalem destruction. I ask them if they can help me with the information in the Insight Book. Of course, they will say yes, because the publication is current. So I start with their accepted date in the insight book. 539 BCE Babylon's destruction. Write out everything out and do the math in front of them.

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

I hope this might help you wake up someone you love. Never give up hope on your loved ones. No matter how mean and cruel they are to you. Remember, a lot of us were just as mean and cruel because we were totally blinded.

You may also use w65 1/1 pg29 "The rejoicing of the Wicked is short-lived" W60 6/15 part 40 "Your Will be Done on Earth"