

# **INTRODUCTION**

This paper will show from the Watchtower's publications that the Watchtower organization claimed to be a prophet of God. The Watchtower's publications claimed that Jehovah's Witnesses were "The Modern-day Ezekiel" and a prophet among them. Jehovah's Witnesses were commissioned to speak as a prophet of Jehovah "under angelic direction and support." After simply listing the quotations in support of the previously made statements, this paper will review the quotations and will examine the record concerning the dates 1914, the parousia of 1874 and 1914, the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old in 1925, the return of Christ in 1975 and the survivors of "the generation of 1914" until the end of Armageddon.

## **THE WATCHTOWER: "A MAGAZINE WITHOUT EQUAL"**

Jehovah's Witnesses claimed that Jehovah gives the interpretation of prophecy and not man in the May 1, 1938 Watchtower on page 143: **"The interpretation of prophecy, therefore, is not from man, but is from Jehovah; and Jehovah causes events to come to pass in fulfillment of the prophecy in due time."** What means does Jehovah have to communicate the interpretation of prophecy to his people? We can find the answer in the following Watchtower publications.

"THE 1939 YEARBOOK OF THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" on page 85: **"It should be expected that the Lord would have a means of communication to his people on earth, and he has clearly shown that the magazine called The Watchtower is used for that purpose. During the year The Watchtower has published in each issue some further enlightenment of Jehovah's prophecies, which publication has been of great aid and comfort to those who have devoted themselves to the kingdom of God."**

The Watchtower-April 15, 1943, page 127: **"The Watchtower is a magazine without equal in the earth, and is conceded this rank by all that have been faithful readers thereof during its more sixty years of publication.... This is not giving any credit to the magazine's publishers, but is due to the great Author of the Bible with its truths and prophecies, and now interprets its prophecies."**(underline added)

The Watchtower-July 1, 1943, page 203: **"The Supreme Court still interprets, thank God; and Christ Jesus, the Court's official mouthpiece of interpretation, reserves to himself that office as Head of Jehovah's 'faithful and wise servant' class. He merely uses the 'servant' class to publish the interpretation after the Supreme Court by Christ Jesus reveals it. How does the Lord God make known the interpretation? By causing the facts to come to pass visibly which are in fulfillment of the prophecy or dark saying or misunderstood scripture."**(underline added)

## ***THE CLAIMS FOR BEING A PROPHET OF GOD***

"The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah," 1971 under the chapter heading "COMMISSIONED TO SPEAK IN THE DIVINE NAME," pages 56-71: **"Ezekiel was not raising himself up as a prophet and presuming to speak in the divine name. He was really a prophet sent by the Most High God...."**

**"Since Ezekiel himself was a 'portent,' or 'sign' (AV), of someone to come, and since he was not a type or prophetic figure of Jesus Christ, whom did the prophet Ezekiel typify in carrying out his divine commission?"** pages 56-57 (underlines added)

**"Who is Ezekiel's present-day counterpart, whose message and conduct correspond with that of that ancient prophet of Jehovah? Of whom today was he a 'sign' or 'portent?' Not of some individual man, but a group of people. Being made of a unified company of persons, the modern Ezekiel is a composite personage, made up of many members, just the same as the human body is...."**

**"So it is with the modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel: it is, not one person's body, but a composite body, made up of many members. All these members were together to do the will of Jehovah, who is the Creator of the modern 'Ezekiel.' Who, then, are the group of persons who, toward the beginning of this 'time of the end,' were commissioned to serve as the mouthpiece and active agent of Jehovah? In order to determine this, check the history of 1919, the postwar year after the first world war." pages 58-59**

### ***"THE MODERN-DAY EZEKIEL***

**"They were a small minority group of men and women who had dedicated themselves to Jehovah as God by following in the footsteps of his Son Jesus Christ. To give public evidence of this dedication to Jehovah, they had undergone water baptism just as their Leader Jesus Christ had done when he was immersed in the Jordan River by John the Baptist...."**

**"Did the ancient prophet Ezekiel mean anything to them? He did! One of the prophetic books that these students of the Bible had for years wanted to understand was that of Ezekiel. After years of waiting they felt that attention had been paid to their desire when the book entitled 'The Finished Mystery' was published in July of the year 1917." page 62 (underline added)**

**"But whether they heard him as such or refrained from hearing and paying attention to him, the occasion was to come when these rebellious people would 'know also that a prophet himself happened to be in the midst of them....'"**

**"Likewise it was a trying mission upon which the modern Ezekiel class was sent, to religious people of the same type as those in Ezekiel's day. But regardless of how Christendom views or regards this group of anointed witnesses of Jehovah, the time must come, and that shortly, when those making up Christendom will know that really a 'prophet' of Jehovah was among them...."**

**And you must speak my words to them, regardless of whether they hear or they refrain, for they are a case of rebellion. (Ezekiel 2:6, 7) Since the year 1919 C.E. the anointed remnant of Jehovah's witnesses have found it to be just like that as**

**they have spoken fearlessly the word Jehovah in the midst of Christendom.**” pages 70-71 (underlines added)

The Watchtower-March 1, 1972, page 155: “Jehovah’s heavenly organization is everlasting, and, of course, it is in existence now. The anointed ones of Jehovah’s Christian witnesses remaining on earth today, in discerning that organization, are pictured by the prophet Ezekiel.... Just as the chariot-like organization was on the move in Ezekiel’s day, it is on the move today. It has got in spiritual touch with these Christian witnesses and has backed them up in the worldwide work they are doing.

“Just as Ezekiel, envisioning the ‘likeness of the glory of Jehovah,’ fell prostrate upon his face, so Jehovah’s witnesses have been filled with awe and the deepest respect for Jehovah at the discernment of his heavenly organization. And just as Ezekiel listened carefully to what the Rider of the chariot had to say, so Jehovah’s witnesses have listened keenly to what Jehovah has had to say through his Word the Holy Bible. They have seen how it applies to their lives and activity, and realize that the holy angels are invisibly directing the work, causing the good news of God’s kingdom to be proclaimed despite international opposition.—Rev. 14:6,7.”(underline added)

The Watchtower-March 15, 1972, pages 189 and 190: “Therefore, when it came time for the name Jehovah and his purposes to be declared to the people, along with God’s warning that Christendom is in her ‘time of the end,’ who qualified to be commissioned? Who was willing to undertake this monumental task as Jehovah’s ‘servant’? Was there anyone to whom Jehovah’s heavenly ‘chariot’ could roll up and whom it could confront? More accurately, was there any group on whom Jehovah would be willing to bestow the commission to speak as a ‘prophet’ in His name, as was done toward Ezekiel back there in 613 B.C.E?

“It is of importance to every individual on earth to identify the group that Jehovah has commissioned as his ‘servant’ or messenger. We must recognize and understand the warning that he brings. We need to take action on the warning to safeguard our lives, for they are in a danger as grave as that of the lives of Jerusalem’s citizens as that city neared destruction. For this reason forthcoming issues of The Watchtower will further discuss the identity and work of Jehovah’s commissioned messenger as revealed in His vision to Ezekiel.”(underlines added)

The Watchtower-April 1, 1972, page 200: “The scroll was doubtless delivered to Ezekiel by the hand of one of the cherubs in the vision. This would indicate that Jehovah’s witnesses today make their declaration of the good news of the Kingdom under angelic direction and support. (Rev. 14:6, 7; Matt. 25:31, 32) And since no word or work of Jehovah can fail, for he is God almighty, the nations will see the fulfillment of what these witnesses say as directed from heaven.”(underlines added)

The Watchtower-July 1, 1973, page 402: **“Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah’s organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God’s holy spirit or active force.”** (Underline Added)

The Watchtower-April 1, 1972, page 197: **“So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?”**

### IDENTIFYING THE ‘PROPHET’

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. **Who is this prophet?... This ‘prophet’ was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It is the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at the time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah Christian Witnesses.... Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a ‘prophet’ of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it say?”** (Underlines Added)

Were Jehovah's Witnesses commissioned to speak in the divine name? Was the work of Jehovah's Witnesses under holy invisible “angelic direction and support”? Did the nations see the fulfillment of what these witnesses said "as directed from heaven"? What prophetic interpretations had Jehovah given his people through the Watchtower? The only way to answer these questions is “to review the record.”

### A REVIEW OF THE RECORD

It would be wise “to review the record” by looking at the following publications of the Watchtower organization.

### THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST IN 1914

The Watchtower-July 1, 1973, page 402: **“For example, Zion’s Watch Tower of March 1880 had declared: ‘The Times of the Gentiles’ extended to 1914, and the heavenly kingdom will not have full sway till then. Only God by his holy spirit could have revealed this to those early Bible students so far in advance.”**

"Studies in the Scriptures" volume 2, The Time is at Hand, 1910, page 15: **“In this volume we offer a chain of testimony on the subject of God’s appointed times and seasons, each link of which we consider Scripturally strong, while the whole of it when viewed together, in the relationship which one part bears to another, gives evidence of a plan so broad and comprehensive, a design so deep, and a harmony so perfect, as to clearly manifest to the studious and reverent inquirer that it is beyond the breadth and depth of human thought, and therefore cannot be of human origin.”** (underlines added)

Since God's holy spirit was revealed to the early Bible students in advance about 1914, therefore this volume "cannot be of human origin." Then, it would be expected that any prophetic statements given by Jehovah's Witnesses would be a true prophecy

and would come to pass. In the following publications from the Watchtower organization, the following statements were made about 1914.

"Zion's Watch Tower," January 15, 1892, page 22: **"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."**

"Zion's Watch Tower," July 15, 1894, page 226: **"We see no reason for changing the figures-nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the end date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble. We see no reason for changing from our opinion expressed in the View presented in the Watch Tower of Jan. 15, '92. We advise that it be read again."**(underline added)

"Studies in the Scriptures," volume 4, 1909, page 621: **"But now we are in the end of this Gospel age, and the Kingdom is being established or set up. Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874, A.D., according to the testimony of the prophets, to those who have ears to hear it: and the formal inauguration of his kingly office dates from April 1878 A.D.: and the first work of the Kingdom, as shown by our Lord, in his parables and prophecy (the gathering of 'his elect') is now in progress."** (underline added)

"Studies in the Scriptures," volume 2, The Time is at Hand, 1910 page 101: **"Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that the 'battle of the great day of God Almighty' (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. The gathering of the armies is plainly visible from the standpoint of God's Word."**(underlines added)

"Studies in the Scriptures," volume 2, The Time is at Hand, 1910 page ii: **"This volume sets forth what its author has been preaching for over forty years, that the 'Times of the Gentiles' chronologically ended in the fall of 1914. The expression, 'Time of the Gentiles,' in Bible usage signifies the years, or period of time, in which the Gentile nations of the world were to be permitted to have control, following the taking away of the typical kingdom from natural Israel, and filling the hiatus between that event and the establishment of God's Kingdom in the hands of Messiah- 'whose right it is.'-Ezekiel 21:27."**

In the last five quotations, earth's present rulership was to end in 1914 and it was "God's date" not theirs. This was taught for over forty years by Charles Taze Russell. In the author's forward written in 1916 for "Studies in the Scriptures," volume 2, Charles Taze Russell made this disclaimer about 1914 in the following quotation.

"Studies in the Scriptures," volume 2, The Time is at Hand, 1910 page iii: **"We could not, of course, know in 1889, whether the date 1914, so clearly marked in the**

**Bible as the end of the Gentile lease of power or permission to rule the world, would mean that they would be fully out of power at that time, or whether, their lease expiring, their eviction would begin. The latter we perceive to be the Lord's program: and promptly to be the Lord's program; and promptly in August, 1914, the Gentile kingdoms referred to in the prophecy began the present great struggle, which, according to the Bible, will culminate in the complete overthrow of all human government, opening the way for the full establishment of the Kingdom of God's dear Son."**(underlines added)

If God's holy spirit revealed to Zion's Watch Tower in March 1880 this information about 1914, why would they not know it in 1889? The previous quote brings me to the question asked in The Watchtower-July 1, 1973, page 402: **"5. Direction by God's spirit enabled Jehovah's servants long ago to understand what about 1914 C.E.?"** The answer to this Watchtower question is that "...the 'battle of the great day of God Almighty'...will end in 1914." It did not come true or to pass. Did Jehovah make a mistake?

Due to the failure of his prediction for 1914, Charles Taze Russell made the following disclaimer about the infallibility of this volume in his author's forward written in 1916 for "Studies in the Scriptures," volume 2, The Time is at Hand, 1910 page i: **"This volume makes no claim to infallibility, and no claim of any inspiration from God in the interpretation of any of His Word.....Dealing with subjects so difficult that they are rarely touched by others, it is not to be considered strange if some of the suggestions made in this Volume have not been fulfilled with absolute accuracy to the very letter."** This flatly contradicts page 15 of this same volume when it says that this volume "cannot be of human origins."

## ***THE PAROUSIA OF 1874 AND 1914***

The Watchtower organization taught that Jesus second presence began in October of 1874 and said that there was scriptural proof for this date. Later in 1943, it contradicted itself by saying that 1914 was the second presence or parousia of Jesus. This information can be seen in the following quotations.

The Watchtower-September 15, 1922, page 278: **"No one can understand the work of God at this present time who does not realize that since 1874, the time of the Lord's return in power, there has been a complete change in God's operations."**

The Watchtower-March 1, 1923, page 67: **"The scriptures show that his second presence was due in 1874.... By proof is meant the physical facts in fulfillment [sic] of prophetic utterances by the Lord or some of his inspired witnesses. This proof shows that the Lord has been present since 1874, and that he has been conducting and is still conducting a harvest work;"**

The Watchtower-January 1, 1924, page 5: **"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."**

"Creation," 1927, page 289: **"During that period of time Christ must be present. That presence does not mean that he must leave heaven to be on the earth; but what it manifestly means is that his special attention is given to the gathering together of his true followers and separating them from the nominal followers, and making ready conditions to take charge of the world's affairs. The Scriptural proof is that the period of his presence and the day of God's preparation is a period from 1874 A.D. forward. The second coming of the Lord, therefore, began in 1874; and that date and the years 1914 to 1918 are specially marked dates with reference to his coming."**

"Creation," 1927, page 291: **"To understand the events concerning the Lord's second presence from 1874 to 1914 requires one to be spiritually minded; and the clergy are not spiritually minded.- 1 Cor. 2:10-14."**

"God's kingdom of a Thousand Years has Approached," 1973, page 209-210: **"In the year 1943 the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society published the book 'The Truth Shall Make You Free.' In it chapter 11, entitled 'The Court of Time,' it did away with the insertion of 100 years into the period of the Judges and went according to the oldest and most authentic reading of Acts 13:20, and accepted the spelled out numbers of the Hebrew Scriptures. This moved forward the end of six thousand years of man's existence into the decade of the 1970's. Naturally this did away with the year 1874 C.E. as the date of return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the beginning of his invisible presence or parousia.... What then about the parousia (presence) of Christ? Page 324 of the above book positively says: 'The king's presence or parousia began in 1914.'"(underline added)**

"You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth," 1982, page 147: **"In the same way, Christ's return does not mean that he literally comes back to this earth. Rather, it means that he takes Kingdom power toward this earth and turns his attention to it. He does not need to leave his heavenly throne and actually come down to earth to do this. As we have seen in the previous chapter, Bible evidence shows that in the year 1914 C.E. God's time arrived for Christ to return and begin ruling."(underline added)**

Not only does the Watchtower organization contradict itself, it also contradicts the Bible as can be seen from the following three Biblical references.

Matthew 24:30: **"And the sign of the Son man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with great glory."(NWT)**

Acts 1:9-11: **"And after he said these things, while they were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud caught him up from their vision. And as they were gazing into the sky while he was on his way, also, look! two men in white garment stood alongside them, and they said: 'Men of gal'ilee, why do YOU stand looking into**

**the sky? This same Jesus who was received up from YOU into the sky will come thus in the same manner as YOU have beheld him going into the sky.”**<sup>(NWT)</sup>

Revelation 1:7: **“Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen.”**<sup>(NWT)</sup>

Should the Watchtower be believed about the "invisible presence or parousia" of Jesus that began in 1874 or 1914, or should the Bible be believed when it says that every eye will see the Son of man coming in the clouds? The warning by Jesus in Matthew 24:23-24 should be heeded: **“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ,’ or, ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones.”**<sup>(NWT)</sup> Where is the scriptural proof for his "invisible presence or parousia" that began in 1874 or 1914? Who should one choose to believe, the Watchtower or the Bible?

## ***THE RETURN OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB IN 1925***

After the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" failed to appear in 1914, the Watchtower organization made another prediction for 1925 in the following Watchtower's publications starting with "Millions now Living will never Die," 1920, pages 88,89-90: **“The chief thing to be restored is the human race to life; and some 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, 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....Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews chapter eleven, to the condition of human perfection.”**<sup>(underline added)</sup>

The Watchtower-July 15, 1922, page 217: **“Some of them are of so remarkable a character as clearly to indicate that this chronology is not of man, but of God. Being of the divine origin and divinely corroborated, present-truth chronology stands in a class by itself, absolutely and unqualifiedly correct.”**<sup>(underline added)</sup>

The Watchtower-September 1, 1922, page 262: **“The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures because it is fixed by the law God gave to Israel. Viewing the present situation in Europe, one wonders how it will be possible to hold back the explosion much longer; and that even before 1925 the great crisis will be reached and probably passed.”**

The Watchtower-April 1, 1923, page 106: **“Our thought is, that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures marking the end of the typical jubilee.”**



The Watchtower-January 1, 1925, page 3: **“The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during the year. This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his own people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire during this year that they would fail to joyfully do what the Lord would have them to do.”**(underlines added)

Is 1925 no longer "settled by the Scriptures" and the changing into heavenly glory during this year "may be accomplished"? The Watchtower organization tries to blame the consecrated for the failure of 1925 in The Watchtower-September 1, 1925 page 262: **“It is to be expected that Satan will try to inject into the minds of the consecrated the thought that 1925 should see the end of the work, and therefore it would be needless for them to do more.”** It was Jehovah's organization that had told the consecrated about 1925, not Satan; unless of course Satan had spoken through Jehovah's organization to the consecrated. The October 1st, 1984 Watchtower makes this even more clear with its admission concerning J. F. Rutherford on page 24: **“Regarding his misguided statements as to what we could expect in 1925, he once confessed to us at Bethel, ‘I made ass of myself.’”**

As a result of its prophetic failures, the Watchtower organization made this statement in "Vindication," Volume 1, 1931, page 338-339: **“There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah’s faithful ones on earth concerning the dates 1914, 1918, 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time. Later the faithful learned that these dates were definitely fixed in the Scriptures; and they also learned to quit fixing dates for the future and predicting what would come to pass on a certain date.”** Well, did Jehovah's faithful ones learn to quit fixing dates? The record continues show that the answer is no.

## ***THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST IN 1975***

Why were they looking forward to 1975? The Watchtower organization answers this question in its following publications starting with Awake-October 8, 1966 on page 19: **“It is the fact that shortly, according to reliable Bible chronology, 6,000 years of human history will come to an end.... we find that Adam was created in the autumn of the year 4026 B.C.E. Sometime in that year Eve could have been created, directly after which God’s rest day commenced. In what year, then, would the first 6,000 years of man’s existence and also the first 6,000 years of God’s rest day come to an end? The year 1975.\***

**\* See the book Life Everlasting-in Freedom of the Sons of God, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, pages 29-35.”**

"Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God," page 29: **“According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man’s history will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E.”** This is another contradiction as can be seen from the following

quotation taken from "Studies in the Scriptures," volume 2, The Time is at Hand, 1910, page ii: **"The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great Seventh-day, the thousand years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873."** Well, when was it, 1873 or 1975?

The Watchtower-May 1, 1968, page 271: **"Thus, Adam's naming of the animals and his realizing that he needed a counterpart would have occupied only a brief time after his creation. Since it was also Jehovah's purpose for man to multiply and fill the earth, it is logical that he would create Eve soon after Adam, perhaps just a few weeks or months later in the same year, 4026 B.C.E. After her creation, God's rest day, the seventh period, immediately followed."** (Underline Added)

The Watchtower-August 15, 1968, page 494: **"Why are you looking forward to 1975? ... 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 Watchtower-October 1, 1975, page 579: **"Well, the Bible records show that God's creations on the 'day' just preceding that 7,000-year 'rest day' did not end with Adam's creation, it shows a time lapse between the creation of Adam and that of his wife, Eve. During that time, God had Adam name the animals. Whether that period amounted to weeks or months or years, we do not know. So we do not know exactly when Jehovah's great 'rest day' began, nor do not know exactly when it will end. The same applies to the beginning of Christ's millennial reign. The Bible provides us no way to fix the date, and so it does us no good to speculate when that date may be."**

The Watchtower organization had been saying that the first 6,000 years period began with Adam's creation and would end in 1975 with the beginning of the seventh year period in the fall of 1975. Now we are being told the Watchtower organization did not know when Jehovah's great "rest day" began or when it will end because the Watchtower organization did not know when Eve was born. However, the Watchtower organization did know when Eve was born in the Awake-October 8, 1968 on page 14: **"According to reliable Bible chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E."** In "Aid to Bible Understanding" on page 333, it says that from the time of Adam's creation in 4026 to the birth of Seth was 130 years and on page 538 it says that **"At the age of 130 another son was born to her. Eve called his name Seth,..."** Since Eve was 130 years old when Seth was born, then, Eve was born in the same year as was Adam. Again the Watchtower organization lied because it knew when Eve was born.

As a result of the things said about 1975, many Jehovah's Witnesses gave up better educations, better jobs and children. They did this so that they could preach the good news during the "short time remaining before the wicked world's end." This can be seen in the following publications.

"Kingdom Ministry," June, 1969, page 3: **"In view of the short time left, a decision to pursue a career in this system of things is not only unwise but extremely dangerous.**

**Many young brothers and sisters were offered scholarships or employment that promised fine pay. However, they turned them down and put spiritual interest first."**

"Kingdom Ministry," May 1974, page 3: **"Yes, the end of this system is so very near! Is that not reason to increase our activity?... Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end.-1 John 2:17"**

Awake-November 8, 1974, page 11: **"Today there is a great crowd of people who are confident that a destruction of even greater magnitude is now imminent. The evidence is that Jesus' prophecy will shortly have a major fulfillment upon this entire system of things. This has been a major factor in influencing many couples to decide not to have children at this time. They have chosen to remain childless so that they would be less encumbered to carry out the instructions of Jesus Christ to preach the good news of God's kingdom earth wide before the end of this system comes.-Matt 24:14"**(underlines added)

The Watchtower organization said that its publications never said that the world would come to an end in the mid-70's. It said that this was a matter of "individual speculation" in The Watchtower of October 15th, 1974 on page 635. However, in The Watchtower of March 15th, 1980, page 17-18, the Watchtower organization did take responsibility for contributing "to the buildup of hopes centered on that date." Was it a matter of "individual speculation," or was the Watchtower organization responsible for the considerable expectations that was aroused regarding the year 1975?

The Watchtower-October 15, 1974, page 635: **"The publication of Jehovah's witnesses have shown that, according to Bible chronology, it appears that 6,000 years of man's existence will be completed in the mid-1970's. But these publications have never said that the world's end would come then. Nevertheless, there has been considerable individual speculation on the matter."**(underline added)

The Watchtower-March 15, 1980, page 17-18: **"With the appearance of the book of the book Life Everlasting-in Freedom of the Sons of God, and its comments as to how appropriate it would be for the millennial reign of Christ to parallel the seventh millennium of man's existence, considerable expectation was aroused regarding the year 1975. There were statements made then, and thereafter, stressing that this was only a possibility. Unfortunately, however, along with such cautionary information, there were other statements published that implied that such realization of hopes by that year was more of a probability than a mere possibility. It is to be regretted that these latter statements apparently**

overshadowed the cautionary ones and contributed to the buildup of the expectation already initiated.

“In its issue of July 15, 1976, The Watchtower, commenting on the inadvisability of setting our sights on a certain date, stated: ‘If anyone has been disappointed through not following this line of thought, he should now concentrate on his viewpoint, seeing that it was not the word of God that failed or deceived him and brought disappointment, but that his own understanding was based on wrong premises.’ In saying ‘anyone,’ The Watchtower included all disappointed ones of Jehovah’s Witnesses, hence including the persons having to do with the publication of the information that contributed to the buildup of hopes centered on that date.” (underlines added)

In Mr. Sonoko's public talk called "Serving with Everlasting Life in View" during the 1967 convention of Jehovah's Witnesses in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, it can be seen more clearly that the Watchtower organization was responsible for "the buildup of hopes centered on that date.

**“Well now, as Jehovah’s Witnesses, as runners, even though some of us have become a little weary, it almost seems as though Jehovah has provided ‘meat in due season.’ Because He has held up before all of us a new goal, a new year, something to reach out for. And it seems it has given all of us so much more energy and power in this final burst of speed for the finish line. And that’s the year 1975.”**

(Mr. Sonoko continued saying):

**“... It’s only eight years to 75. How little time there is left!”**

(Mr. Sonoko later said):

**“And we hope that all of us here tonight are going to listen to the Society’s imploring. They’re going to listen to their amazing entreaty. ‘Brothers get in.’ Because they know what’s coming. And it’s coming fast. AND DON’T WAIT TILL 75. THE DOOR’S GOING TO SHUT BEFORE THEN!”**

(Mr Sonoko concluded with these words):

**“As one brother put it, ‘STAY ALIVE TILL 75.’”**

(applause)

Is it any wonder why they were looking forward to 1975?

## ***SOME OF THE “GENERATION OF 1914” WILL SEE THE END OF THIS “WICKED SYSTEM OF THINGS”***

Did the Watchtower organization stop false prophesying? No. Despite the failure of 1914, 1925, 1975, the Watchtower has another failed prophecy, the "generation of 1914." In the following Watchtower publications, the Watchtower

organization said that some of "the 1914 generation" will not pass away until Armageddon comes. Will some survive?

The watchtower-October 8, 1968, pages 13-14: **“Even if we presume youngsters 15 years of age would be perceptive enough to realize the import of what happened in 1914, it would still make the youngest of ‘this generation’ nearly 70 years old today. So the great majority of the generation to which Jesus was referring has already passed away in death. The remaining ones are approaching old age. And remember, Jesus said that the end of this wicked world would come before that generation passed in death. This, of itself, tells us that the years left before the foretold end comes cannot be many.”**

The Watchtower-October 1, 1978, page 31: **“Thus, when it comes to the application in our time, the ‘generation’ logically would not apply to babies born during World War I. It applies to Christ’s followers and others who were able to observe that war and the other things that have occurred in fulfillment of Jesus’ composite ‘sign.’ Some of such persons ‘will by no means pass away until’ all of what Christ prophesied occurs, including the end of the present wicked system.”**

The Watchtower-October 15, 1980, page 31: **“We can be happy, therefore, for Jesus’ assurance that there will be survivors of ‘the generation of 1914’ -that this generation will not have completely passed away-when the ‘great tribulation’ rings down the curtain on this wicked world system.”**

"You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth," 1982, page 154: **“After drawing attention to the many things that have marked the period from 1914 onward, Jesus said: ‘This generation will by no means pass away until these things [including the end of this system] occur.’ (Matthew 24:14) Which generation did Jesus mean? He meant the generation of people who were living in 1914. Those persons yet remaining of that generation are now very old. However, some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. So of this we can be certain: Shortly now there will be a sudden end to all wickedness and wicked people at Armageddon.”** (underlines added)

The Watchtower-May 1, 1985, page 4: **“Thus before the 1914 generation completely dies out, God’s judgement must be executed.”**

The Watchtower-November 1, 1988, page 6: **“Jesus said: ‘This generation [the one seeing the events starting in 1914] will by no means pass away until all these things occur.’”(Matthew 24:34)**

In the Awake magazines dated from January 8, 1982 through December 22, 1986, this type of wording can be found, **“Most importantly, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator’s promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that saw events of 1914 C.E. passes away.”** In the January 8th, 1987 Awake magazine, the masthead was redesigned and moved to page 4, and the whole

prophecy of 1914 was dropped without any explanation. The 1914 prophecy was restored in the March 8th, 1988 issue saying: **“Most importantly, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator’s promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that saw events of 1914 passes away.”** With most of the 1914 generation dead, again the 1914 prophecy was dropped in the November 8th, 1995 issue and replaced with: **“Most importantly, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator’s promise of a peaceful and secure new order before the generation that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things.”**

Why did the Watchtower remove 1914 generation statement from its November 8th, 1995 Awake Magazine? It was because the Watchtower had a false prophecy on its hands. Therefore, the Watchtower changed its definition of "this generation" from **“the generation of people who were living in 1914”** in its book YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER IN PARADISE ON THE EARTH, on page 154<sup>(49)</sup> to **“this generation’ apparently refers to the peoples of earth who see the sign of Christ’s presence but fail to mend their ways”** in the Watchtower-November 1, 1995, page 19.<sup>(52)</sup>

To prepare Jehovah’s Witnesses for the change in its definition of "this generation," the Watchtower said this in The Watchtower-November 1, 1995 on page 17: **“Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah’s people have at times speculated about the time when the ‘great tribulation’ would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914.”** In the past, the Watchtower tried to avoid the "false prophet" label by saying Jehovah's Witnesses never made any prophecies using Jehovah's name as the source of the prophecy. But, the Watchtower did say that the 1914 generation would live to see "the end" as "Jehovah's prophetic word" in The Watchtower-may 15, 1984, page 6-7: **“Jehovah’s prophetic word through Jesus Christ is...Just as Jesus’ prophecies regarding Jerusalem were fulfilled within the life of the generation of the 33 C.E., so his prophecies regarding ‘the time of the end’ will be fulfilled within the life span of the generation of 1914.”** Jesus assured us that there will be survivors of the 1914 generation at the end of this “condemned world system” according to The Watchtower-October 15, 1980, on page 31.

It is not the first time the Watchtower has changed its definition of "this generation." The Watchtower defined **“a generation”** as **“equivalent to a century...or one hundred and twenty years”** in The Studies in the Scriptures, volume 4, The Day of Vengeance, 1911, page 604. Also, it is not the first time the Watchtower has contradicted itself. In

The Watchtower-October 15, 1980, page 31, we find one of these contradictions: **“What, then, is the ‘generation’ that ‘will by no means pass away until all these things occur’? It does not refer to a period of time, which some tried to interpret as 30, 40, 70 or even 120, but, rather, it refers to people, the people living at the ‘beginning of pangs of distress’ for this condemned world system. It is the generation of people who saw the catastrophic events that broke forth in connection with World War I from 1914 onward.”**

## ***What is a definition of a true prophet?***

How do we know if a real prophet is among us? Deuteronomy gives us the answer in chapter 18 verses 20-22: **“But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.**

**“You may say to yourselves, ‘How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?’ If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.”**<sup>(NIV)</sup> If a real prophet is to be among them today, what he says in the name of the Lord must come true or take place. The Watchtower organization definition of a false prophet in the following quotations is in agreement with Deuteronomy chapter 18.

The Watchtower-May 15, 1930, page 154: **“If he is a true prophet, his message will come to pass exactly as prophesied. If he is a false prophet, his prophecy will fail to come to pass.”**<sup>(underline added)</sup>

The Watchtower-May 15, 1930, page 155: **“The difference between a true prophet and a false prophet is that the one is speaking the word of the Lord and the other is speaking his own dreams and guesses....The true prophet of God today will be telling forth what the Bible teaches, and those things that the Bible tells us are soon to come to pass. He will be no sounding forth man-made theories or guesses, either his own or those of others.”**

The Watchtower-May 15, 1930, pages 155-156: **“In 1914-1918 these same three classes told the whole world that the great World War would end all wars and make the world safe for democracy; and that the young men who died on the field of battle would go to heaven. Their prophecies did not come true. Therefore they are false prophets; and the people should no longer trust them as safe guides, but should look to the Lord through his revealed Word for their instructions as to what is to occur on the earth in the future.”**<sup>(underlines added)</sup>

Awake-October 8, 1968, page 23: **“True, there have been those in times past who predicted an ‘end to the world,’ even announcing a specific date. Some have gathered groups with them and fled to the hills or withdrawn into their houses waiting for the end. Yet, nothing happened. The ‘end’ did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?**

**“Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that he was guiding them.”**

"Paradise Restored to Mankind-by Theocracy!," 1972, pages 353-354: **“Jehovah, the God of the true prophets, will put all false prophets to shame either by not fulfilling the false prediction of such self-assuming prophets or by having His own prophecies fulfilled in a way opposite to that predicted by the false prophets.**

**False prophets will try to hide their reason for feeling shame by denying who they really are. They will try to avoid being pronounced spiritually dead by Jehovah's loyal worshippers.** (underline added)

In conclusion, if the Watchtower organization was "directed by God's holy spirit" and God's "holy angels" and was "really a 'prophet' of Jehovah among them," what happened with the dates that this "anointed remnant of Jehovah's witnesses" talked about? It was said that "no word or work of Jehovah can fail." Did the nations see the fulfillment of what these witnesses said "as directed from heaven"? Since the things mentioned relating to the dates 1914, 1925, 1975 did not come to pass or take place, the Watchtower was guilty of false prophesying because the fulfillment was missing. Is this an organization someone can really put their faith in to point them towards eternal life?

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