

1914
A Very
Special
Year!!!

Proclaims
The Jehovah's
Witnesses!

Taking up the Challenge:

The Watchtower (WT) magazine of January 18, 1933, p.252 challenge us as follows: "If the message Jehovah's Witnesses are bringing to the people is true, then it is of the greatest importance to mankind. If it is false, then it is the duty of clergymen and others who support them to come boldly forward and plainly tell the people where the message is false."

A true or false message?

For many years the Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs), under the guiding lamp of *New Light* from the Anointed Brothers, a number of men at the Brooklyn, New York head office of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society (WTB) have been proclaiming God's judgement and the establishment of His Kingdom:

1. "Thus before the generation of 1914 completely dies out, God's judgement must be executed." (WT, May 1, 1985, p.4)

2. "As early as 1880, *The Watch Tower* magazine said that the Gentile Times would extend to the year 1914...How, then, can we say that the Gentile Times ended in 1914? Because in that year the government of the great King Jehovah was born in the heaven." (WT, February 1, 1985, p.11)

What evidence exist for the year 1914?

1. "Bible evidence shows that in the year 1914 C.E. God's time arrived for Christ to return and begin ruling." (WTB: You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth <Paradise>, 1982, p.147)

2. "The Scriptures show that his (Jesus) second presence was due in 1874...THIS PROOF SHOWS THAT THE LORD HAS BEEN PRESENT SINCE 1874..." (WT, March 1, 1923, p.67)

3. 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;..." (WT, January 1, 1924, p.5)

Question: When did Jesus come? 1914 or 1874?

Problem: Those who believe in 1914 cannot be "truly consecrated children of God"!

Since when has the WTB known of 1914?

1. "...in 1925 for THE FIRST TIME, it was seen and understood that the Kingdom was actually born in 1914, THAT IT IS A FACT." (WT, July 15, 1951, p.435).

2. "FIRST in 1920 did we discern that ...God's Kingdom was established." (WTB: Babylon The Great Has Fallen, 1963, p.463)

Question: Which is right 1. or 2.?

Is this a Biblical date?

1. Yes it is evidence from the Bible (Paradise, p.147 above).

2. No, no wait a minute! Charles Taze Russell (1st President of the WTB) said it was arrived at from certain measurements in the Great Pyramid in Egypt. *The Finished Mystery*, 1923, p.342: "...we find it to be 3457 inches, symbolizing 3457 years from B.C. 1542...Thus the Pyramid witnesses that the CLOSE OF 1914 WILL BE THE BEGINNING of the time of trouble..." But wait a minute,

3. The original 1889 edition says: "...we find it to be 3416 inches, symbolizing 3416 years from B.C 1542...Thus the Pyramid witnesses that THE CLOSE OF 1874 WAS THE CHRONOLOGICAL BEGINNING of the time of trouble..."

Question: Which is right, 1, 2 or 3? And, Is this honesty to change the books?

Would someone have witnessed the events of 1914?

"Yes there was a generation of people that was living in 1914, and that saw the major historical changes from an era of comparative tranquillity to the present era of war, lawlessness and ruination...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." (WT, October 15, 1980, p.31).

This is a prophesy in the Name of Jehovah:

1. "Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: 'This generation [of 1914] will BY NO MEANS pass away until all things occur'." (WT, May 15, 1984, pp.6-7 [of 1914] in original). **Note:** Jehovah and Jesus promise this.

It is confirmed by Awake! magazine:

2. "Most important, this magazine (*Awake!*) builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world BEFORE the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away." (*Awake!* magazines since 1984 to October 1995, p.4) **Note:** Another promise and prophecy in the Creator's Name (Jehovah!) But wait a minute!

Jehovah can change His mind!

3. Since November 8, 1995 *Awake!* has been saying: "Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world THAT IS ABOUT TO REPLACE THE PRESENT WICKED LAWLESS SYSTEM OF THINGS."

Does this change make liars of Jehovah and Jesus Christ, and if not, why not? Especially when the Word of God says, 1.. "God is not a man that he should tell lies...has he spoken and will he not carry it out?" (Num 23:19). 2. "...it is impossible for God to lie....(Heb 6:18, WTB: New World Translation of the Scriptures <NWT>, 1984).

What we have seen are two prophecies in the Name of Jehovah. Yet the WTB tells us: "Never...did they (JWs) presume to originate predictions 'in the name of Jehovah'. Never did they say, 'These are the words of Jehovah'." (*Awake!*, March 22, 1993) If this is true, what about statements like, "Jehovah's prophetic word..." and "The Creator's promise..."? (See above)

Who was telling these lies or making false promises or prophecies? Be honest - was it not the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses?

If you agree can you still trust them as Jehovah's true prophet and only mouthpiece who publishes Jehovah's word in *The Watchtower*, even since 1879? "Since 1879 the *Watch Tower* magazine has been used to dispense spiritual food regularly to those of the 'little flock' of true Christians." (WT October 1, 1967, p.590) Just a thought - if *The Watchtower* is published for the "little flock of true Christians" (literally 144 000-and a special class of JWs) why do you read it?

Should you not seriously consider God's word? ²⁰However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. ²¹And in case you shall say in your heart: 'How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?' ²²when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him." (Deut 18:20-22, NWT) Or as Lamentations 2:14 puts it: "Your own prophets have visioned for you worthless and unsatisfying things; And they have not uncovered your error in order to turn back your captivity, But they kept visioning for you worthless and misleading pronouncements." (NWT) Or as Jehovah commands in Jeremiah 23:16, "This is what Jehovah of armies has said: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you people. They are making you become vain. The vision of their own heart is what they speak-not from the mouth of Jehovah'." (NWT)

How can the Governing Body still pass off what we have seen as mistakes or say they are not false prophets, especially when they say of others, "If he is a false prophet his prophecy will not come to pass...The differ-

ence between a true 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...In 1914 these same three classes ("the financial, political and clerical prognosticators") told the world that the great World War (WWI) would end all wars...Their prophecies did not come true. Therefore they are FALSE PROPHETS; and people should no longer trust them as safe guides." (WT May 15, 1930, pp.154-156)

Will we be unfair if we apply God's word to the Governing Body? "for by your own words you will be declared righteous, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt 12:37, NWT). Or Jesus' words in Matthew 7:2, "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you." (NASB).

The significance of World War I:

We have seen that the Governing Body condemned the "financial, political and clerical prognosticators" as false prophets for *stating* that WWI would end all wars. The question now facing us is, did the WTb say something about WWI? Let us review the record:

1. Russell in Vol II of Studies in the Scriptures, The Time Is At Hand, 1907, p.101: "...the battle of the great day of God Almighty (Rev 16:14 <Armageddon>) which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership is already commenced." And, "The date of the close of that battle (Armageddon) is definitely marked in Scripture as October, 1914. It is already in progress, its beginning dating from October, 1874." (WT January 15, 1892, p.22).

2. Russell had so much confidence in these dates that he stated: 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." Yet, they continue in the same sentence: "BUT bear in mind that the END of 1914 is NOT the date FOR THE BEGINNING, BUT FOR THE END of the time of trouble." (WT July 18, 1894, p.226).

3. The Finished Mystery (Vol 7 of Studies In The Scriptures), 1917 edition states: "Also in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale.."

4. Whereas the 1926 edition was changed to read: "Also in the year 1918 when God BEGINS to destroy the churches..."

Question: Is this honesty to change the books to fit the circumstances, especially after they said they were God's dates?

Let it at least be said of the "financial, political and clerical prognosticators" that they did not prophesy in the Name of Jehovah, neither did they change the books to suit their circumstances! Something which cannot be said of the Governing Body. The Great Crowd (the multitude of JW's) look up to and trust these Anointed Brothers, who are so honest and are supposed to be the Faithful and Discreet Slave for meat in due season through *The Watchtower* magazine. It certainly looks like the meat that has been coming from them is rotten. Therefore, should the Jehovah's Witnesses not consider what was said in one of their old books, Creation, 1927, pp.188-189: "Will the people continue to be hoodwinked by these false prophets, who are wise in their own conceits and who pose as preachers of the gospel, or will they be guided by the plain Word of God?...LET EACH READER ANSWER FOR HIMSELF."

We have seen that it was prophesied by the Governing Body, or was it Jehovah that the "generation of 1914 will not pass away before the end comes." The question now is, what constitutes "a generation"?

What makes up a "generation"?

"Jesus used the word 'generation' many times in different settings and with various meanings. But what did he mean when he spoke of a 'generation that would not pass away'? Some have interpreted 'generation' to mean a period of 30, 40, 70 or even 120 years. However, a generation is really related to

people and events rather than to a fixed number of years."

"The Greek word rendered 'generation' in the Bible is defined as, 'Those born at the same time...Associated with this is the meaning: the body of one's contemporaries, an age.' (*The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*) 'The sum total of those born at the same time, expanded to include those living at a given time *generation, contemporaries*.' (Walter Bauer's Fifth Edition, 1958) These definitions embrace those born around the time of a historic event and all those alive at that time." (ellipses (...) and italics in original).

"If Jesus used 'generation' in that sense and we apply it to 1914, then the babies of that generation are now 70 years old or older. And others alive in 1914 are in their 80's or 90's, a few even having reached a hundred. There are still many millions of that generation alive. Some of them 'will by no means pass away until all things occur.' -Luke 21:32...Just as Jesus' prophecies regarding Jerusalem were fulfilled within the life span of the generation of the year 33. C.E., so his prophecies regarding 'the time of the end' will be fulfilled within the lifespan of the generation of 1914." (WT, May 15, 1984, pp.5,7)

"In promising that 'this generation will by no means pass away,' Jesus used the Greek negatives *ou* and *me*. *The Companion Bible* explains this usage as follows: 'The two negatives when combined lose their distinctive meanings, and form the strongest and most emphatic assertion (affirmation).'" (WT, May 1, 1985, p.4-italics in original)

Note: The Governing Body checked out the Greek in 1984 and 1985 and confirmed that the term "generation" refers to people "born at the same time and living at a given time" and that the way Jesus used it was in its strongest sense.

Even before 1984 their answer to a reader's question indicated this meaning: "Yes, there was a generation of people that was living in 1914, and that saw the major historical changes from an era of comparative tranquillity to the present era of war, lawlessness and ruination." (WT, October 15, 1980, p.30)

The disciples wanted to know more about the time of the end: "How would they understand the expression 'this generation'? In the Gospels the word 'generation' is translated from the Greek word '*gene-a*', which current lexicons define in these terms: 'Lit[erally] those descended fr[om] a common ancestor.' (Walter Bauer's *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*) 'That which has been begotten, a family;...successive members of a genealogy...or of a race of people...or of a whole multitude of men living at the same time.' (italics and ... in original) "...The use of 'generation' by Jesus expresses his comprehensive purpose: he aims at the whole people and is conscious of their solidarity in sin.'" (WT, November 1, 1995, p.12)

Note: They again looked at the Greek (10, 11 years later), even used the same reference-Walter Bauer, but now the meaning of generation is taking on a subtle new shape: No longer does it mean those born at the same time. It now becomes an open-ended family and includes those who share a "solidarity in sin". If this is not the subtle conditioning of the minds of the Great Crowd of what was to follow later in the same WT, then what is?

Now follows a weak excuse and change of definition from the very certain position the Governing Body held for many years: The "generation of 1914 that will not pass away before the end comes" to the "evil generation" with no time period attached to it: "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 life-time of a generation since 1914. However, we 'bring a heart of wisdom in,' not by speculating about how many years make up a generation, but by thinking about how we 'count our days' in bringing joyful praise to Jehovah. (Psalm 90:12) Rather than provide a rule for measuring time, the term 'generation' as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical

period, with their identifying characteristics...Therefore, in the final fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy today, 'this generation' apparently refers to the peoples of the earth who see the sign of Christ's presence but fail to mend their ways." (WT, November 1, 1995, pp.17, 19)

No wonder then that since the issue of November 8, 1995 Awake! shares this new view of a generation that used to consist of those born in 1914 to the revised view of a sinful people who fail to recognise Christ's presence: "Most important, this magazine (Awake!) builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things." (Awake!, November 8, 1995, p.4)

Face the facts:

Maybe the time has come for Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses alike to face the facts about 1914 and the Governing Body of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society:

1. As early as 1880 the WTb has known that the Gentile Times would end in 1914. (WT, February 1, 1985, p.11)
2. "Before the generation of 1914 completely dies out God's judgement must be executed." (WT, May 1, 1985, p.4)
3. "Bible evidence shows that in the year 1914 C.E. God's time arrived for Christ to return and begin ruling." (Paradise, 1982, p.147)
4. "...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." (WT, January 1, 1924, p.5)

5. The date 1874 was obtained from God's stone witness, the Great Pyramid in Egypt. (The Finished Mystery, 1923, p.342)

6. The later (1923) edition of the same book was changed to give the date as 1914!

7. The Governing Body labelled certain "worldly" powers as false prophets when they "predicted" that WWI would end all wars, a view that was not expressed in the Name of Jehovah. Yet the WTb wrote article upon article to explain why their own predictions were only mistakes and they were not false prophets, even if they prophesied in the Name of Jehovah:

8. "Jehovah's prophetic word through Christ Jesus is: 'This generation [of 1914] will by no means pass away until all things occur.'" (WT, May 15, 1984, pp. 6-7) Based on these words, are they are or are they not false prophets?

God's facts:

The Bible declares:-

1. The Father is God - 2 Pet 1:17 and He has a Son.
2. Jesus Christ is God - Joh 1:1; 20:28; Heb 1:8; 1 Joh 5:20.
3. The Holy Spirit is a "Person" and God - Acts 5:3-5; 13:2-4.
4. There is only one true God - Deut 6:4; Isaiah 45:22; 1 Cor 8:5-6.
5. Sin separates men from God: Isaiah 59:2.
6. Man is sinful: Rom 3:12, 23.
7. Man cannot save himself - Eph 2:8-9.
8. Man needs a saviour: 1Joh 4:9; 1 Tim 2:5; Isaiah 53:5.
9. God will condemn the sinful - 2 Thess 1:9.
10. Christ, the only way to the Father - Joh 14:6. His blood wipes away ALL sin, if you confess it - 1 Joh 1:7-9.
11. God will reward the saved in Christ with eternal life - 1 Joh 4:12-13.

If you need copies of all the documents mentioned or the tract, write to:

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