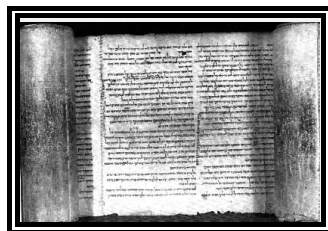


The Counterfeit Kingdom of the Watchtower

The word of our God stands for ever Isaiah 40:8

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness ... Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the LORD of hosts is His Name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me for ever." Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done," declares the LORD. Jer 31:3,35-37



Ch. 40 Isaiah Dead Sea Scroll

1a: CONSIDERATION #1: The NATURE of the KING

1. What has always been the Watchtower's 'good news'? Its 2 foundation doctrines? (Luke 21:24; Matt.24:45)

In this chapter we present the Bible evidence proving that the full end of the times of the Gentiles, i.e., the full end of their lease of dominion, will be reached in A.D. 1914; and that that date will be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect men ... at that date the Kingdom of God, for which our Lord taught us to pray, saying, "Thy Kingdom come," will have obtained full, universal control, and that it will then be "set up," or firmly established, in the earth ... from that time forward Jerusalem shall no longer be trodden down of the Gentiles, but shall arise from the dust of divine disfavor, to honor; because the "Times of the Gentiles" will be fulfilled or completed ... by that date, or sooner, Israel's blindness will begin to be turned away; because their "blindness in part" was to continue only "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom. 11:25), or, in other words, until the full number from among the Gentiles, who are to be

members of the body or bride of Christ, would be fully selected ... the great "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation," will reach its culmination and will end at that date; and then men will have learned to be still, and to know that Jehovah is God and that he will be exalted in the earth. (Psa. 46:10.) ... before that date God's Kingdom, organized in power, will be in the earth and will have smitten and crushed the Gentile image (Dan. 2:34) *The Time Is At Hand* (1889, WTBTS: 1902 ed.) pp.76-78

Yes, we should be deeply appreciative of all the fine spiritual food that "the faithful and discreet slave" class has been providing through *The Watchtower*, now for ninety-four years. (Matt. 24:45-47) *Watchtower* Aug. 1, 1973 p.460

2. How has the Watchtower obscured the significance of Luke 21:24 for JW's?

What means this expression peculiar to Luke? According to Meyer and Bleek, nothing more than the time of Gentile dominion over Jerusalem. But would it not be a tautology to say: Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the time of Gentile dominion come to an end? ... In the passage 19:44, *the time of Israel*, [kairos] denotes the season when God visits this people with the offer of salvation. According to this analogy, *the times of the Gentiles* should designate the whole period during which God shall approach with His grace the Gentiles who have been hitherto strangers to His kingdom. Frederic Godet *Luke* p.450 This is not an easy expression and a variety of explanations has been suggested: the time for the Gentiles to execute God's judgments, or to be supreme over Israel, or to exercise the privileges hitherto belonging to Israel, or to have the gospel preached to them. The reference to these times as being *fulfilled* points to a divine purpose in them. Leon Morris *Luke* (Tyndale) p.299

3. On what basis do JW's conclude that God is through with Israel? (Matt.27:25; John 19:15)

The "times of the Gentiles" I regard as the period between the first and second advents of Christ, during which the Gentile nations have a day of visitation and enjoy the privileges of the Gospel. -- These times will come to end at last, as the old Jewish dispensation did, because of the hardness and unbelief of the Gentile churches. They too, because they continue not in God's goodness, will be cut off. -- And when their time of visitation comes to an end, and they have been found as faithless and hardened as the Jews, then at last will the Jews be converted, and Jerusalem restored to its rightful possessors. Our own times, be it remembered, are the "times of the Gentiles." They are times which seem rapidly drawing to an end. When they do end, the conversion of the Jews and the restoration of Jerusalem will take place. J.C. Ryle *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* Vol.2 p.374

4. How does JW's view of Israel's status reflect their view of salvation? (Matt.24:13; Eph.2:4-9)

Definition: Preservation or deliverance from danger or destruction ... For all true Christians, Jehovah provides through his Son deliverance from the present wicked system of things as well as salvation from bondage to sin and death. *Reasoning*

from the Scriptures (WTBTS, 1985; p.356; emphasis added)

You must be part of Jehovah's organization, doing God's will, in order to receive his blessing of everlasting life. *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* p.255

5. But God doesn't think as men think (Isaiah 55:8). What are the last titles Christ applies to Himself in Scripture (Rev.22:16)? He is, at the last, what He was at the first (Gen.49:10; Num.24:17; 23:17-24).

I think we do not attach sufficient importance to the restoration of the Jews. We do not think enough of it. But certainly, if there is anything promised in the Bible it is this. C.H. Spurgeon *Sermons* Vol.1 (1855) p.214

1b: CONSIDERATION #2 -- WHY has not KINGDOM COME?

6. If God 'hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob; neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel' (Num.23:21); if even demonic power cannot prevail against them -- how can we explain that the sceptre HAS departed Israel, and that they have suffered more than any other nation? (Deut.32:3-6,15,20-27)

Accordingly it appears to me that the misfortunes of all men from the beginning of the world, if they be compared with those of the Jews, are not so considerable as they were ... this makes it impossible for me to contain my lamentations.

Flavius Josephus *Preface to Wars of the Jews*

This is what Josephus wrote at the very beginning of our "Christian Era." What would he have said if he could have foreseen the untold wars and miseries which have been heaped upon this people in the nineteen centuries which have intervened since? The history of the Jews since the destruction of the second Temple is one long martyrology, the record of an almost unbroken chain of unparalleled sufferings -- a chronicle of massacres, oppressions, banishments, fiendish tortures, spoiliations, and degradations which have been inflicted upon them for the most part by so-called Christian nations. David Baron *Israel in the Plan of God* p.86

7. If God knew from the beginning Israel's future rebellion, why did He elect them? (Psalm 106:39-48)

The assumption of modern premillennialism that God still has a special purpose to be served by the Jewish people as a nation proceeds on the false notion that *they are in themselves a people divinely favored above all others* in the world, that they are to be blessed *for their own sake* because they are Jews -- and all this is spite of being the most bitter enemies of the church for the last 2000 years.

Loraine Boettner *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views* (p.52, ed. R.G.Clouse; emphasis added)

The divine judgment is to rest upon Jerusalem and upon the Jewish nation until

the "times of the Gentiles," i.e., the divine visitation of the Gentiles is accomplished. When God's purpose for the Gentiles is fulfilled, so this verse implies, Jerusalem will no longer be trodden down. There will be a restoration of Israel; "all Israel will be saved." George Eldon Ladd *The Gospel of the Kingdom* p.120

8. Most Christians find little to edify in the historical books of the O.T. -- 'unspiritual reading'. Yet what did Israel herself find therein, beyond a catalog of her sins? (Josh.23:14; 2 Sam.7:8-26; Ps.89:1-4, 34-37)

[on Matthew 24:21,22] But though all who in like manner despise the Gospel will receive the same punishment, God determined to make a very extraordinary demonstration in the case of the Jews, that the coming of Christ might be regarded by posterity with greater admiration and reverence ... And therefore Christ says that, unless God put a period to those calamities, the Jews will utterly perish, so that not a single individual will be left, but that God will remember his gracious covenant, and will spare *his elect*, according to that other prediction of Isaiah, *Though thy people were like the sand of the sea, a remnant only shall be saved*, (Isa. x. 22.) John Calvin *Harmony of the Evangelists* pp.136,137

9. What would result for Gentiles when Jehovah established the Davidic kingdom? (Ps.37:9,10,27; 67:1-7; 72:1-20)

The day shall yet come when the Jews, who were the first apostles to the Gentiles, the first missionaries to us who were afar off, shall be gathered in again. Until that shall be, the fulness of the church's glory can never come. Matchless benefits to the world are bound up with the restoration of Israel; their gathering in shall be as life from the dead. C.H. Spurgeon *Sermons* Vol.17 pp.703,704

10. Though David connected the ultimate fulfilment of this kingdom covenant with the NAME of the God of Israel, was God bound to fulfill its terms to ALL the sons of David? (2 Samuel 7:14-16; Ps.106,107,136)

[on Psalm 106] The poet's range of vision here widens from the time of the judges to the history of the whole of the succeeding age down to the present; for the whole history of Israel had essentially the same fundamental character, viz. that Israel's unfaithfulness does not annul God's faithfulness. That verifies itself even now. That which Solomon in 1 Kings viii. 50 prays for on behalf of his people when they may be betrayed into the hands of the enemy, has been fulfilled in the case of the dispersion of Israel in all countries (cvii. 3), Babylonia, Egypt, etc.: God has turned the hearts of their oppressors towards them. Franz Delitzsch *Psalms* Vol. 3 p.158

IMPLICATIONS?

For Muslims? For Roman Catholics? For Pentecostals?