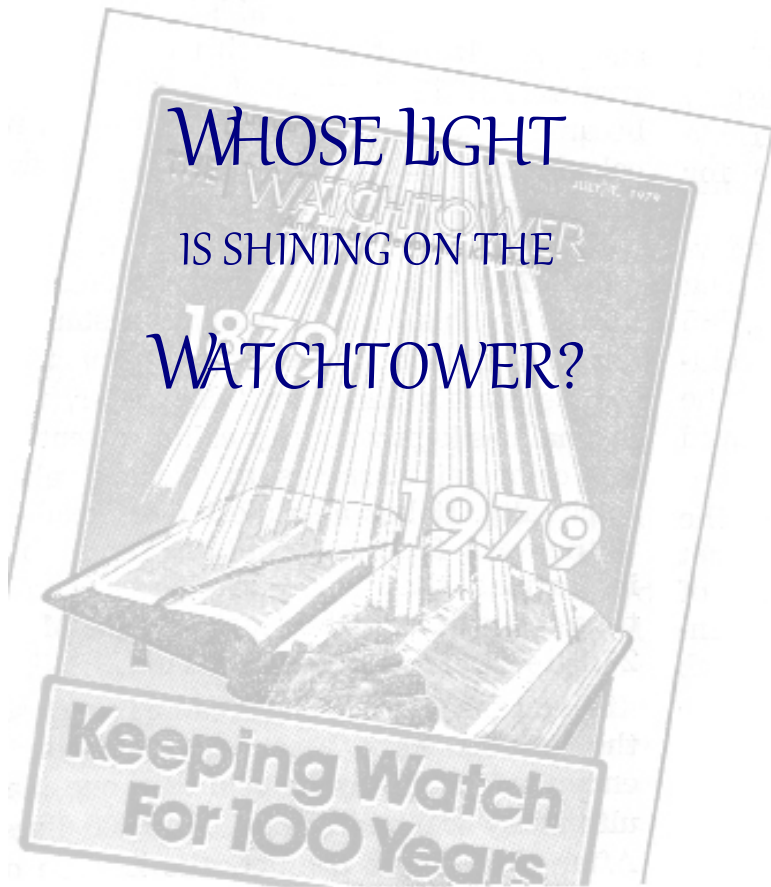




WHOSE LIGHT
IS SHINING ON THE
WATCHTOWER?

TESTING THE CREDIBILITY
OF the Watchtower 'slave':
is he faithful – or foolish?
are his words discreet – or deceit?

By DAVID ASPINALL

how to test a prophet

Jehovah's standard

... and Jehovah himself proved to be with him [Samuel] and did not cause ANY of all his words to fall to the earth. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba became aware that Samuel was one accredited for the position of prophet to Jehovah

1 Samuel 3:19,20 (NWT)

* * *

Jesus Christ's standard

So now I have told you before it occurs, in order that, when it does occur, you may believe

John 14:29 (NWT)

* * *

The Watchtower standard

Jehovah, the God of 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

Paradise Restored to Mankind -- by Theocracy, 1972. pp.353,354

False prophets do not correct themselves.
God's people do

Watchtower June 11, 1967, p.331

The Prophetic Powers of *The Watchtower* – the highlights of 4 generations

“GOD’S DATES, NOT OURS” [What they said about these years]

- 1799 “The ‘Time of the End,’ a period of one hundred and fifteen (115) years, from A.D. 1799 to A.D. 1914, is particularly marked in the Scriptures” [*Thy Kingdom Come*, 1891; p.23]
- “Twelve hundred and sixty years from 539 A.D. brings us to 1799, which is another proof that 1799 definitely marks the beginning of “the time of the end.” this also shows that it is from the date 539 A.D. that the other prophetic days of Daniel must be counted.” (*Creation*, 1927, p. 294)
- 1840 “We need not here repeat the evidences that the “seventh trump” began its sounding A.D., 1840, and will continue until the end of the time of trouble, and the end of “The times of the Gentiles,” A.D., 1914, ... [*Zion's Watchtower*, November, 1880]
- 1873 “.. since 1873 we have been living in the seventh millennium” [*Thy Kingdom Come* p.305]
- 1874 “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.” [*Watch Tower* Jan. 15, 1892]
- 1878 “ ... the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun ... it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878 ... “ [*The Time is at Hand*, 1889; p.101]
- 1881 “... we recognize A.D. 1881 as marking the close of the ‘high calling,’ or invitation to the blessing peculiar to this age - to become joint-heirs with Christ and partakers of the divine nature.” (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1915 ed., p. 235)
- 1910 “ ... the stress of the great time of trouble will be on us soon, somewhere between 1910 and 1912 -- culminating with the end of the ‘Times of the Gentiles’, October 1914 ... so great a trouble, so world-wide a catastrophe, could scarcely be accomplished in less than 3 years ... “ [*The New Creation*, 1904; p.579]
- 1914 “... 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 Time Is At Hand*, 1889 ed., p. 101]
- “ ... the anarchistic culmination of the great time of trouble which will precede the Millennial blessings will be after October, 1914, A.D. -- very speedily thereafter, in our opinion -- ‘in one hour’” [*Watch*

Tower, July 11, 1904]

- 1915 "We see, however, that there are parallels between the close of the Jewish age and this Gospel age. These parallels seem to point to the year just before us, particularly the early months." (*Watchtower* Reprints, VI, Sept 1, 1914, p. 5527)

"In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1915 edition, p. 99)

- 1918 "Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of 'Christianity'" [*The Finished Mystery*, 1917; p.404]

- 1920 "We anticipate that the 'earthquake' will occur early in 1918, and that the 'fire' will come in the fall of 1920." [*The Finished Mystery*, 1917, p. 178.

- 1925 " ... the great jubilee cycle is due to begin in 1925. At that time the earthly phase of the kingdom shall be recognized ... Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old ... we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die." [*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 1920; pp.89,90,97]

"The period **must end in 1925**. The type ending, the antitype must begin; and therefore **1925 is definitely fixed** in the scriptures. every thinking person can see that a great climax is at hand. The Scriptures clearly indicate that the climax is the fall of Satan's empire and the full establishment of the Messianic kingdom. This climax being reached by 1925, and that marking the beginning of the fulfillment of the long promised blessings of life to the people, millions now living on earth will be living then and those who obey the righteous laws of the new arrangement will live forever." (*Golden Age*, Jan. 4, 1922, p. 217)

"The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in Scriptures, even more clearly than that of 1914." (*Watchtower*, 1924, p. 211)

- 1931 "This vision of the prophet Ezekiel depicts the established theocratic Kingdom of God on earth ... the Time of the establishment of the Kingdom in power is indicated as 'in the 14th year after that the city (Christendom) was smitten' -- or 13 years after 1918, viz. in 1931" [*The Finished Mystery*, 1917; p. 569]

- 1940 "The year 1940 is certain to be the most important year yet because Armageddon is very near. It behooves all who love righteousness to put forth every effort to advertise The Theocracy while the privileges are still open." (*Informant*, April, 1940, p. 1)

- 1942 " ... those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any

day now. The Scriptures give good reason to believe that it shall be shortly before Armageddon breaks." [*The New World*, 1942; p.104]

- 1975 "WHAT WILL THE 1970's BRING? The fact that 54 years of the period called the 'last days' have already gone by is highly significant. It means that only a few years, at the most, remain before the corrupt system of things dominating the earth is destroyed by God ... only 7 more years from the autumn of 1968 to complete 6000 full years of human history ... Does this mean that the above evidence positively points to 1975 as the time for the complete end of this system of things? Since the Bible does not specifically state this, no man can say. However, of this we can be sure: The 1970's will certainly see the most critical times mankind has yet known." [*Awake!* Oct.8, 1968; pp.13,14]

Soon now six millenniums of his wicked exploiting of mankind as his slaves will end, **within the lifetime of the generation** that has witnessed world events since the close of the gentile times in 1914 till now, **according to the prophetic words of Jesus** in Matthew 24:34. Would not, then, the end of six millenniums of mankind's laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath." (*Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1969, p. 622, 623, emphasis added)

- 1999? "**Shortly, within our twentieth century**, the 'battle in the day of Jehovah' will begin against the modern antitype of Jerusalem, Christendom." (*The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah*; 1971, p. 216, emphasis added)

"The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for **a work that would be completed in our 20th century**." (*Watchtower*, Jan. 1, 1989, p. 12, emphasis added [the 1989 Watchtower bound volume changed "20th century" to "day"])

HOW MANY STRIKES TILL YOU'RE OUT?

"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 show?"

(*Watchtower* April 1, 1972, p. 197)

"They have a modern Governing Body ... History has proved that they can be trusted to follow the direction of the holy spirit and that they do not rely on human wisdom ...

4 generations of Watchtower 'light'

A detailed record of the 'prophet'

[1877] "The End Of This World; that is the end of the gospel and the beginning of the millennial age is nearer than most men suppose; indeed we have already entered the transition period, which is to be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation Dan. 12:3." (N.H. Barbour, C.T. Russell, 3 *Worlds, and the Harvest of This World*, p. 17).

[1879] "Christ came in the character of a Bridegroom in 1874.... at the beginning of the Gospel harvest." (*Watchtower*, Oct 1879, p. 4)

[1880] "We need not here repeat the evidences that the "seventh trump" began its sounding A.D., 1840, and will continue until the end of the time of trouble, and the end of "The times of the Gentiles," A.D., 1914, and that it is the trouble of this "Great day," which is here symbolically called the voice of the Archangel when he begins the deliverance of fleshly Israel. "At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince (Archangel) which standeth for the children of thy people and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Dan. xii. 1. Nor will we here, again present the conclusive Bible proof that our Lord came for his Bride in 1874, and has an unseen work as Reaper of the first-fruits of this Gospel Age. (*Zion's Watchtower November*, 1880 p. 1)

[1886] "The outlook at the opening of the New Year has some very encouraging features. The outward evidences are that the marshaling of the hosts for the battle of the great day of God Almighty, is in progress while the skirmishing is commencing. The time is come for Messiah to take the dominion of earth and to overthrow the oppressors and corrupters of the earth, (Rev. 19:15 and 11:17, 18) preparatory to the establishment of everlasting peace upon the only firm foundation of righteousness and truth." (*Zion's Watchtower*, January, 1886; *Watchtower* reprints I, p. 817)

[1888] "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 the date will be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect men. And be it observed, that if this is shown to be a fact firmly established by the Scriptures, it will prove; Firstly, that at that date the Kingdom of God, for which our Lord taught us to pray, saying, Thy Kingdom come, will obtain full, universal control, and that it will then be set up, or firmly established, in the earth, on the ruins of present institutions." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1888, p. 76, 77)

[1889] "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." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1889 ed., p. 101. The 1915 edition

changed [without acknowledgment] to read 'A.D. 1915')

[1889] "Here we furnish the evidence that from the creation of Adam to (but not including) A.D. 1873 was six thousand years. And though the Bible contains no direct statement that the seventh thousand will be the epoch of Christ's reign, the great Sabbath Day of restitution to the world, yet the venerable tradition is not without a **reasonable** foundation." (*The Time is at Hand*, 1889, p.39, emphasis ours)

[1889] "If, then, the seventh thousand-year period of earth's history be an epoch specially noted as the period of Christ's reign, we shall by showing that it began in 1873, be proving that we are already in it." (*The Time is at Hand*, 1889, p. 40)

[1889] "In the coming 26 years, all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved." (C.T. Russell, *The Time is at Hand*, 1889, p. 98-99)

[1889] "In this chapter we present the Bible evidence which indicates that six thousand years from the creation of Adam were complete with A.D. 1872; and hence that, since A.D. 1872 are chronologically entered upon the seventh thousand or the Millennium." (*The Time is at Hand*, 1889, p. 33)

[1889] "Remember that the forty years' Jewish Harvest ended October A.D. 69, and was followed by the complete overthrow of that nation; and that likewise the forty years of the Gospel age harvest will end October, 1914, and that likewise the overthrow of 'Christendom,' so-called, must be expected to immediately follow." (*The Time is at Hand*, p. 245)

[1894] "Seventeen years ago people said, concerning the time features presented in Millennial Dawn, They seem reasonable in many respects, but surely no such radical changes could occur between now and the close of 1914: if you had proved that they would come about in a century or two, it would seem much more probable. What changes have since occurred, and what velocity is gained daily? 'The old is quickly passing and the new is coming in.' Now, in view of recent labor troubles and threatened anarchy, our readers are writing to know if there may not be a mistake in the 1914 date. They say that they do not see how present conditions can hold out so long under the strain. 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 date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble." (*Zion's Watchtower, Can It Be Delayed until 1914?* C.T. Russell July 15, 1894, Also in *Watchtower* Reprints, 1894 p. 1677, emphasis added)

[1894] "A few more years will wind up the present order of things, and then the chastened world will stand face to face with the actual conditions of the established Kingdom of God. And yet the course of the Church is to be finished within the space of time that intervenes." (*Watchtower*, 1894, p. 56)

[1897] "...this measurement is 3416 inches, symbolizing 3416 years.... This calculation shows A.D. 1874 as marking the beginning of the period of trouble...." (*Thy Kingdom Come*, 1897 ed., p. 342, [the 1916 edition reads: "We find it to be 3457 inches, symbolizing 3457 years.... Thus the Pyramid witnesses that the close of 1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble...."]

[1897] "Complete destruction of the 'powers that be' of 'this present evil worlds' - political, financial, ecclesiastical - about the close of the Time of the Gentiles; October A.D. 1914." (C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 4, 1897, p.622)

[1902] "In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God, will be accomplished by the end of A.D. 1914." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1902 ed., p. 99)

[1903] "When Uranus and Jupiter meet in the humane sign of Aquarius in 1914, the long-promised era will have made a fair start in the work of setting man free to work out his own salvation, and will insure the ultimate realization of dreams and ideals of all poets and sages in history." (*Watchtower*, May 1, 1903, p. 130-131; Reprints p. 3184)

[1904] "According to our expectations the stress of the great time of trouble will be on us soon, somewhere between 1910 and 1912, culminating with the end of the 'Times of the Gentiles,' October, 1914." (*The New Creation, Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 6, 1904, p. 579)

[1908] "In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A. D. 1914." (*The Time Is At Hand*; 1908 ed., p. 99)

[1914] "Even if the time of our change should not come within ten years, what more should we ask? Are we not a blessed, happy people? Is not our God faithful? If anyone knows anything better, let him take it. If any of you ever find anything better, we hope you will tell us." (*Watchtower*, Dec 15, 1914, p. 376.)

[1914] "Studying God's Word, we have measured the 2520 years, the seven symbolic times, from that year 606 B.C. and have found that it reached down to October, 1914, as nearly as we were able to reckon. We did not say positively that this would be the year." (*Watchtower*, Nov.1, 1914, p. 325)

[1914] "We see, however, that there are parallels between the close of the Jewish age and this Gospel age. These parallels seem to point to the year just before us, particularly the early months." (*Watchtower*, Sept 1, 1914, Reprints, VI, p. 5527)

[1914] "There is absolutely no ground for Bible students to question that the consummation of this Gospel age is now even at the door, and that it will end as the Scriptures foretell in a great time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. We see the participants in this great crisis banding themselves together. The great crisis, the great clash, symbolically represented as a fire, that will consume the ecclesiastical heavens and the social earth, is very near." (*Watchtower*, May 1, 1914, Reprints, VI, p. 5450)

[1915] "The present great war in Europe is the beginning of the Armageddon of the Scriptures." (*Pastor Russell's Sermons*, p. 676)

[1915] "In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms

of this world, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915. (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1915 edition, p. 99)

[1915] "As in the type that date - three and a half years after the death of Christ - marked the end of all special favor to the Jew and the beginning of favor to the Gentiles, so we recognize A.D. 1881 as marking the close of the 'high calling,' or invitation to the blessing peculiar to this age - to become joint-heirs with Christ and partakers of the divine nature." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1915 ed., p. 235)

[1915] "So it was in this harvest also up to A.D. 1878 the time prophecies and the fact of the Lord's presence, substantially as here presented, though less clearly, was our message. Since then the work has widened, and the view of other truths has become brighter and clearer; but the same fact and scriptures, teaching the same time and presence, stand unchallenged and incontrovertible." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1915 ed., p. 236)

[1915] "The Gentile Times prove that the present governments must all be overturned about the close of A.D. 1915; and Parallelism above shows that this period corresponds exactly with the year A.D. 70, which witnessed the completion of the downfall of the Jewish polity." (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1915 edition, p. 242)

[1915] "The Battle of Armageddon, to which this war is leading, will be a great contest between right and wrong, and will signify the complete and everlasting overthrow of the wrong, and the permanent establishment of Messiah's righteous kingdom for the blessing of the world. Our sympathies are broad enough to cover all engaged in the dreadful strife, as our hope is broad enough and deep enough to include all in the great blessings which our Master and his Millennial kingdom are about to bring to the world. (*Watchtower*, April 1, 1915, Reprints, VI, p. 5659)

[1916] "We see no reason for doubting, therefore, that the Times of the Gentiles ended in October, 1914; and that **a few more years** will witness their utter collapse and the full establishment of God's kingdom in the hands of Messiah." (*Watchtower*, Sept 1, 1916, Reprints, VI, p. 5950, emphasis added)

[1917] "There will be no slip-up ... Abraham should enter upon the actual possession of his promised inheritance in the year 1925' (*Watchtower*, Oct. 15, 1917, Reprints p. 6157)

[1917] "The Spring of 1918 will bring upon Christendom a spasm of anguish greater even than that experienced in the Fall of 1914. ... The travail that is coming is to be upon nominal Zion -- "Christendom", "Babylon"; and it will be a great and sore affliction- "A Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation." (*The Finished Mystery*, p. 62)

[1917] "No doubt Satan believed the Millennial Kingdom was due to be set-up in 1915 ... Be that as it may, there is evidence that the establishment of the Kingdom in Palestine will probably be in 1925, ten years later than we once calculated." (*The Finished Mystery*, p. 128)

[1917] "Some interesting developments in connection with the setting up of the

Kingdom may occur in 1920, six years after the great Time of Trouble began. It would not be strange if this were so, when we recall that after forty years wandering in the wilderness the Israelites came into possession of the land of Canaan after a further six years. As these matters are still future we can but wait to see. We anticipate that the "earthquake" will occur early in 1918, and that the "fire" will come in the fall of 1920." [*The Finished Mystery*, 1917, p. 178. [Editions after 1920 read "and that the 'fire' will follow in due course."]

[1917] "And the mountains were not found. Even the republics will disappear in the fall of 1920. And the mountains were not found. Every kingdom of earth will pass away, be swallowed up in anarchy." (*The Finished Mystery*, 1917 edition, p. 258)

[1917] "Pastor Russell's mission, in large part, was to advise Christendom of its impending end, in the time of world-wide trouble. It is the Divine judgment upon the nations. There will be no chance of escaping from destruction, through the nations. The trouble is due to the dawning of the Day of Christ, the Millennium. It is the Day of Vengeance, which began in the world war of 1914 and which will break like a furious morning storm in 1918." (*The Finished Mystery*, 1917, p. 404)

[1917] "Until 1878 the nominal church had been in a sense God's sanctuary or temple; but He was from then on, culminating in 1918, to remove it with a stroke or plague of erroneous doctrines and deeds Divinely permitted." (*The Finished Mystery*, p. 484.)

[1917] "Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by million, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of Christianity." (*The Finished Mystery*, 1917 ed., p. 485)

[1917] "As the fleshly-minded apostates from Christianity, siding with the radicals and revolutionaries, will rejoice at the inheritance of desolation that will be Christendom's after 1918, so will God do to the successful revolutionary movement; it shall be utterly desolated, 'even all of it.' Not one vestige of it shall survive the ravages of world-wide all embracing anarchy, in the fall of 1920." (*The Finished Mystery*, 1917, p. 542)

[1917] "This vision of the prophet Ezekiel depicts the established theocratic Kingdom of God on earth, civil and religious, spiritual and earthly. . . . The Temple . . . is a type and symbol of "better things to come," after the wars, revolutions and anarchy of the period from 1914 to 1925 have passed." (*The Finished Mystery*, 1917, p. 569)

[1918] "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 11, to the condition of human perfection." (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, p. 89)

[1920] "... we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected" (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 1920, p. 88)

[1920] "A simple calculation of these jubilees brings us to this important fact:

Seventy jubilees of fifty years each would be a total of 3500 years. That period of time beginning 1575 before A.D. 1 of necessity would end in the fall of 1925, at which time the type ends and the great antitype **must** begin. What, then, should we expect to take place? In the type there must be a full restoration; beginning of restoration of all things. The chief thing to be restored is the human race to life; and since 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 and 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." (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 1920, p. 89-90)

[1920] "Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then, based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die." (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 1920 p. 97)

[1921] "'The time of the end' embraces a period from 1799 A.D., as above indicated, to the time of the complete overthrow of Satan's empire and the establishment of the kingdom of the Messiah. The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874, as above stated. The latter period is within the first named, of course, and in the latter part of the period known as 'the time of the end'." (*The Harp of God*, 1921 p. 236)

[1921] "We should expect, then, the general harvest of the gospel age to end in 1918." (*The Harp of God*, 1921, pp. 235-236)

[1922] "The period **must end in 1925**. The type ending, the antitype must begin; and therefore **1925 is definitely fixed** in the scriptures. every thinking person can see that a great climax is at hand. The Scriptures clearly indicate that the climax is the fall of Satan's empire and the full establishment of the Messianic kingdom. This climax being reached by 1925, and that marking the beginning of the fulfillment of the long promised blessings of life to the people, millions now living on earth will be living then and those who obey the righteous laws of the new arrangement will live forever. Therefore it can be confidently said at this time that millions now living will never die." (*Golden Age*, Jan. 4, 1922, p. 217, emphasis added)

[1922] "The indisputable facts, therefore, show that the "time of the end" began in 1799; that the Lord's second presence began in 1874." (*Watchtower*, March 1, 1922)

[1922] "We have no doubt whatever in regard to the chronology relating to the dates of 1874, 1914, 1918, and 1925. It was on this line of reckoning that the dates 1874, 1914, and 1918 were located; and the Lord has placed the stamp of his seal upon 1914 and 1918 beyond any possibility of erasure. What further evidence do we need? Using this same measuring line.... it is an easy matter

to locate 1925, probably in the fall, for the beginning of the antitypical jubilee. There can be no more question about 1925 than there was about 1914." (*Watchtower*, May 15, 1922, p. 150)

[1922] "It is on the basis of such and so many correspondencies -- in accordance with the soundest laws known to science- that we affirm that, Scripturally, scientifically, and historically, **present-truth chronology is correct beyond a doubt**. Its reliability has been abundantly confirmed by the dates and events of 1874, 1914, and 1918. Present-truth chronology is a secure basis on which the consecrated child of God may endeavor to search out things to come." (*Watchtower*, June 15 1922) **

[1922] "This chronology is **not of man, but of God**. Being of divine origin and divinely corroborated, present-truth chronology stands in a class by itself, absolutely and unqualifiedly correct. ..." (*Watchtower*, July 15, 1922 p. 217, emphasis added)

[1922] "1914 ended the Gentile Times...The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures...by then the great crisis will be reached and probably passed." (*Watchtower*, Sept. 1, 1922, p. 262)

[1923] "1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures...the Christian has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had (so far as the Scriptures reveal) upon which to base his faith in the coming deluge" (*Watchtower*, April 1, 1923, p. 106)

[1924] "No doubt many boys and girls who read this book will live to see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, and those other men of old come forth in the glory of their better resurrection, of perfect in mind and body. It will not take long for Christ to appoint them to their post of honor and authority as his earthly representatives. The world and all the present conveniences will seem strange to them at first, but they will soon become accustomed to the new methods. They may have some amusing experiences at first; for they never saw telephones, radios, automobiles, electric lights, aeroplanes, steam engines, and many other things so familiar to us." (*The Way To Paradise*, 1924, p. 226)

[1924] "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." (*Watchtower*, Jan. 1, 1924, p. 5)

[1924] "The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in Scriptures, even more clearly than that of 1914." (*Watchtower*, 1924, p. 211)

[1924] "We cannot be blamed for presenting from the Scriptures such evidence as they afford which leads us to believe that a certain event will take place at a given time. Some times the Lord has let His people looking for the right thing at the wrong time, and more frequently they have looked for the wrong things at the right time. But all the enemies of the cause of present truth in the earth are fervently hoping that the Bible students will not be so successful in 1925 in looking for the right thing at the right time as they were in 1914. If they are, however, it will be the other fellow that will have to do the explaining, and not we." (*The Golden Age*, Feb. 13, 1924, p. 314)

[1925] "It is to be expected that Satan will try to inject into the minds of the

consecrated, the thought that 1925 should see an end to the work." (*Watchtower*, Sept. 1925, p. 262)

[1925] "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 this year. This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own due time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire this year." (*Watchtower*, Jan. 1, 1925, p. 3)

[1926] "Some anticipated that the work would end in 1925, but the Lord did not state so. The difficulty was that the friends inflated their imaginations beyond reason; and that when their imaginations burst asunder, they were inclined to throw away everything." (*Watchtower*, 1926, p. 232)

[1927] "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 and 1918 are specially marked dates with reference to his coming." (*Creation*, 1927, p. 289, early editions; p. 310 in later editions)

[1927] "Prophecy can not be understood until it has been fulfilled or is in the course of fulfillment. From 1874 to 1914 the prophecy concerning the Lord's coming was being fulfilled and could be understood, and was understood, by those who were faithful to the Lord and who were watching the development of events, but not by others." (*Creation*, 1927, p. 290)

[1927] "Napoleon began this Egyptian campaign in 1798, finished it, and then returned to France on October 1, 1799. The campaign is briefly, yet graphically described in the prophecy, verses 40-44; and its being completed in 1799 marks, according to the prophet's own words, the beginning of 'the time of the end.'" (*Creation*, 1927, p. 293)

[1927] "Twelve hundred and sixty years from 539 A.D. brings us to 1799, which is another proof that 1799 definitely marks the beginning of "the time of the end." this also shows that it is from the date 539 A.D. that the other prophetic days of Daniel must be counted." (*Creation*, 1927, p. 294)

[1928] "The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874 ..." (*The Harp of God*, p. 236, 1928 edition)

[1929] "If these prophesies have not been fulfilled, and if all possibility of fulfillment is past, then these prophets are proven false." (*Prophecy*, 1929, p. 22)

[1929] "The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D." (*Prophecy*, 1929, p. 65)

[1929] "Many of such had been looking for the Lord to come and take them to heaven, and had particularly fixed the year 1914 as when this should be done. The year 1914 was a marked date; but these had merely contemplated something to happen which did not come to pass." (*Prophecy*, 1929, p. 89)

[1930] "But how will you identify King David or any of the other representatives from God?" Rutherford was asked. 'I thought all that out before I wrote the deed,' the judge replied with a twinkle in his gray eyes. 'I realized the possibility of

some old codger turning up bright and early some morning and declaring he was David. The men whom I have designated to test the identity of these men are officers of my societies and have consecrated themselves to the Lord, they will be divinely authorized to know impostors from the real princes." (*The San Diego Sun*, Saturday, March 15, 1930)

[1930] "Judge Joseph Frederick Rutherford 60, lives in a ten room Spanish mansion, No 4440 Braeburn Rd, San Diego, Calif. Last week he deeded No 4440 Braeburn Road, and adjacent two car garage and a pair of automobiles to King David, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, Samuel and sundry other mighties of ancient Palestine. Positive is he that they are shortly to reappear on earth, Said he: 'I have purposely landscaped the place with palm and olive trees so that these princes of the universe will feel at home..'" (*Time Magazine*, March 31, 1930)

[1930] "The Watchtower, and its companion publications of the society, for forty years emphasized that fact that 1914 would witness the establishment of God's kingdom and the complete glorification of the church. During that period of forty years God's people on earth were carrying on a witness work, which work was foreshadowed by Elijah and John the Baptist. All of the Lord's people looked forward to 1914 with joyful expectation. when that time came and passed there was much disappointment, chagrin and mourning, and the Lord's people were greatly in reproach. They were ridiculed by the clergy and their allies in particular, and pointed to with scorn, because they had said so much about 1914, and what would come to pass, and their prophecies had not been fulfilled." (*Light*, Book 1, 1930, p. 194)

[1930] "The great climax is at hand." (J.F. Rutherford, *Light*, II, 1930 p. 327)

[1931] "God's faithful people on earth emphasized the importance of the dates 1914 and 1918 and 1925. They had much to say about these dates and what would come to pass, but all they predicted did not come to pass." (*Vindication*, vol. 1, 1931, p. 146)

[1931] "God's kingdom has begun to operate. His day of vengeance is here and Armageddon is at hand and certain to fall upon Christendom and that within an early date. God's judgment is upon Christendom and must shortly be executed." (J. F. Rutherford, *Vindication*, 1931, Vol. I, p. 147)

[1931] "There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918 and 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, but to rely (and they do rely) upon the Word of God as to the events that must come to pass." (*Vindication*, 1931, p. 338-339)

[1931] "A gaunt unshaven tramp has been the lone claimant for the \$75,000 Southern Californian mansion of David, king of Israel, since it was deeded to the Biblical character a year ago. This was revealed today by Judge James Rutherford, temporary owner of the luxuriantly furnished Spanish type mansion at 440 Braeburn Rd in the exclusive Kensington Heights district. In one of the oddest deeds ever recorded, Rutherford, president of the International Bible

Students Association and the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, has placed in trust the magnificent estate for ancient kings and prophets of Israel The slayer of Goliath and his companions may occupy the 10 room modern home with it's landscaped gardens and patio as soon as their credentials are approved by Rutherford and officials of his societies, divinely authorised to recognise them. One morning as I was going from the house to the garage, a queer looking creature approached me, tipped his dirty hat and cried 'Howdy Judge, I'm David' 'Go and tell that to the winds', I told him and he left without arguing the matter. I could see at a glance that he was not David. He didn't look like I knew David would look.' Asked how he expected David and his distinguished brethren to look, Rutherford, without hesitation, opened his huge Bible and pointed to a verse which said that the Princes of the Universe would be risen from the dead 'as perfect men'. 'I interpret that to mean', the tall dignified Judge declared, 'that David, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, Joseph and Samuel will be sent here to wrench the world from Satan's grasp, clothed in modern garb as we are, and able, with little effort, to speak our tongue.' Rutherford pictured the arrival of the biblical delegation perhaps in frock coats, high hats, canes and spats. At Beth Sarim (House of Princes) as Rutherford has named his mansion, David will find the most modern appliances that science has devised. When the distinguished guests walk up the circular stairway to the second floor, they will find a large office with red leather chairs and shiny flat topped desk with inverted lighting. Even French telephones await the touch of the princes. Opening a wide door, the native sons of Palestine will behold a large bathroom, resplendent in shiny black tile with needle shower and an amply filled medicine chest. What a thrill giant shouldered Samson, who wrecked a palace with his bare fists might find in the gold safety razor and strop! Rutherford built the second floor bedroom, which he temporarily occupies, large in order to accommodate several of the expected owners. With wide pane windows that look out on the purple Cuyamacas to the East and California's first mission to the north, the bedroom is almost severe in it's furnishings. The rulers of the universe will have simple tastes, the judge apparently believes, although the austere end tables sported gaily covered fiction magazines. Rutherford has imported some Koniach, Wasser from Cologne, Germany to freshen the princely faces after shaving. A black skull cap hangs over one of the bedposts. The coming of David and his companions will be the greatest news story of the ages, Rutherford predicted. 'I am not a publicity seeker,' Rutherford said with a twinkle in his kindly brown eyes, 'but I feel that the world should know about their arrival. It will be a great news story.' Word of his 'House of king David' has reached into every corner of the world, the judge stated. 'Everywhere I went people asked me about this place,' Rutherford said. 'In Chicago a millionaire manufacturer offered to build another house for David, but I declined the offer. 'Literally thousands have driven here to see this place,' Rutherford continued. 'Many have come to the door and my secretary has shown them about the place.' The patio with it's silver pool and olive and palm trees is gay with flowers. Down toward the canyon, paths have been landscaped to allow David and his friends to walk in meditation. Many of the fruits and trees, native to their Palestine, will greet the rulers when they arrive. In the two car garage next door stands a new, yellow 16 cylinder coupe which will be turned over to the rulers along with all the personal property on the place. 'Everything will be theirs, the

house, the land, the furnishings and even the clothes if they need them,' Judge Rutherford said. 'What will I do? Oh, don't worry about me. I'll manage somehow.' the judge smiled. He had another 'Watch Tower' residence on Staten Island and practically an entire floor at Bethel. The seven famous men will not have long to rest at their San Diego estate because they soon will lead the forces of the Lord to vanquish the minions of Satan at the battle of Armageddon, Rutherford believed. 'But they will win out. The Lord will punish the devil and will show that the preachers and the politicians have been giving the people false counsel,' Rutherford said confidently. Rutherford will sail May 9 for Europe where he will speak before conventions in Berlin, Paris and London." (*San Diego Sun*, Jan. 9, 1931)

[1935] "...the scriptural evidence and the physical facts strongly indicate that such witness work is now almost done; and when it is done the universal war will begin. Universal war is absolutely certain to come and that soon, and no power can stop it. ...during **the few remaining months** until the breaking of that universal cataclysm the powers that rule the nations of the earth will continue to make treaties and tell the people that by such means they will keep that world peace and bring about prosperity." (*Universal War Near*, 1935, p.3, 26-27, emphasis added)

[1938] "...mark the words of Jesus, which definitely seem to discourage the bearing of children immediately before or during Armageddon....It would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or scriptural injunction to bring children into the world **immediately before Armageddon, where we now are.**" (*Watchtower*, Nov. 1, 1938, p. 324, emphasis added)

[1938] "They had preached that in an early time God would overthrow 'Christendom'. Many had emphasized the year 1925 as the date, and then when that date did not materialize the date was moved up to 1932. Again, 1932 came and 'Christendom' was not destroyed, and now it was discovered that 'Christendom' would be spared for a while longer for the sake of the Jonadab class, and this made the proud 'elective elder' crowd very mad." (*Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1938, p. 54)

[1938] "Would it be scripturally proper for them to marry and begin to rear children? No, is the answer, which is supported by the scriptures....I will be far better to be unhampered and without burdens, that they may do the Lord's will now, as the Lord commands, and also be without hindrance during Armageddon. Those... who now contemplate marriage, it would seem, would do better if they **wait a few years, until the fiery storm of Armageddon is gone.**" (*Face the Facts*, 1938, p. 46, 47, 50, emphasis added)

[1938] "As far back as 1880 The Watchtower **pointed to A.D. 1914 as the date marking the end of the world**, at which time great trouble would come upon the nations; but at that time it was not seen by God's people on earth that the trouble would be the battle of Jehovah against Satan's organization. For many years it was believed by them, and so stated in The Watchtower, that "the time of trouble" would be a terrific clash between the various elements of the earth, such as capital and labor. Not until 1925 was 'the time of trouble' Scripturally understood." (*Watchtower*, , Feb 1, 1938, p. 35, emphasis added)

[1939] "The abundance of Scriptural evidence, together with the physical facts that have come to pass showing the fulfillment of prophecy, conclusively proves that the time for the battle of the great day of God Almighty is very near and that in that battle all of God's enemies shall be destroyed and the earth cleared of wickedness. Likewise today, all the nations and peoples of earth are face to face with the greatest emergency. They are being warned as God commands, that the disaster of **Armageddon is just ahead.**" (J. F. Rutherford, *Salvation*, 1939, p. 310, 361, emphasis added)

[1939] "At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929 there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth Sarim. The Hebrew words Beth Sarim mean 'House of the Princes'; and the purpose of acquiring that property and building the house was that there are those on earth today who fully believe in God and Christ Jesus and in His Kingdom, and who believe that the faithful men of old will soon be resurrected by the Lord, be back on earth, and take charge of the visible affairs of earth. The title to Beth Sarim is vested in the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in trust, to be used by the president of the Society and his assistants for the present, and thereafter to be forever at the disposal of the aforementioned princes on the earth.... It stands there as a testimony to Jehovah's name; and when the princes do return, and some of them occupy the property, such will be a confirmation of the faith and hope that induced the building of Beth Sarim." (*Salvation*, 1939, p. 311)

[1940] "The year 1940 is certain to be the most important year yet because Armageddon is very near. It behooves all who love righteousness to put forth every effort to advertise The Theocracy while the privileges are still open." (*Informant*, April, 1940, p. 1)

[1940] "The Kingdom is here, the King is enthroned. Armageddon is just ahead. The glorious reign of Christ that shall bring blessings to the world will immediately follow. Therefore the great climax has been reached. Tribulation has fallen upon those who stand by the Lord." (*The Messenger*, Sept. 1940, p. 6)

[1940] "The prophecies of Almighty God, the fulfillment of which now clearly appears from the physical facts, show that the end of religion has come and with its end the complete downfall of Satan's entire organization." (J. F. Rutherford, *Religion*, 1940, p. 336)

[1940] "The witness work for The Theocracy appears to be about done in most of the countries of 'Christendom'. ... Now the totalitarian rule has suppressed the Theocratic message, and it should be expected that when they quit fighting amongst themselves all the totalitarian rulers will turn their attention to the complete suppression of everything pertaining to the Theocratic Government. What, then, does it mean that the Theocratic Government is now suppressed in many nations? It means that the hour is rapidly approaching when the "sign" of Armageddon will be clearly revealed and all who are on the side of Jehovah will see and appreciate it." (*Watchtower*, Sept. 1, 1940, p. 265)

[1941] [a fictional dialogue between a young man and woman deciding whether to marry or 'serve Jehovah'] "Armageddon is surely near, and during that time

the Lord will clean off the earth everything that offends and is disagreeable. ... From now on we shall have our heart devotion fixed on The Theocracy, knowing that soon we shall journey forever together in the earth. Our hope is that within a few years our marriage may be consummated and, by the Lord's grace, we shall have sweet children that will be an honor to the Lord. We can well defer our marriage until lasting peace comes to the earth." (J. F. Rutherford, *Children*, 1941, p.366)

[1941] "Receiving the gift, [Rutherford's book, *Children*] the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work in **the remaining months before Armageddon**." (*Watchtower*, Sept. 15, 1941, p. 288, emphasis added)

[1942] "Now, with **Armageddon immediately before us**, it is a matter of life or destruction." (*Watchtower*, April 1, 1942, p.139, emphasis added)

[1942] "The New World Is At The Doors. ... The time is short. Those who do not inform themselves and who do not now choose the new world which Higher Powers shall establish will never live to enter into blessings and glories." (*The New World*, 1942, p. 10)

[1942] "The Lord Jesus has now come to the temple for judgment, and the remnant of the members of 'his body' yet on earth he has gathered into the temple condition of perfect unity with himself (Malachi 3:1-3), and hence those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead **any day now**. The Scriptures give good reason to believe that it shall be **shortly before Armageddon breaks**. In this expectation the house at San Diego, California, which house has been much publicized with malicious intent by the religious enemy, was built, in 1930, and named 'Beth Sarim,' meaning 'House of Princes.' It is now held in trust for the occupancy of those princes on their return. The most recent facts show that the religionists of this doomed world are gnashing their teeth because of the testimony which that 'House of Princes' hears to the new world. To those religionists and their allies the return of those faithful men of old to rule with judgment over the people shall not bring any pleasure. But to the people whom the angels sang about, 'men of good will,' it shall be an occasion for unbounded jubilation, and they shall rally to the side of those princely representatives of the kingdom of heaven." (*The New World*, pp. 104-105, 1942, emphasis added)

[1942] "Before the Lord's Messenger came to the temple and began interpreting God's will and teaching, the Job class had been darkening counsel by words without knowledge, it not then being due time for the disclosure of such knowledge. Some of the consecrated ones thought they must be taken home to heaven at a time certain in order to help God run the universe." (*The New World*; 1942, p. 308)

[1942] "Proof is now submitted that we are now living at the end of the days, and we may expect to see Daniel and the other mentioned princes **any day now!**" (*Consolation*, April 27, 1942, p. 13, emphasis added)

[1943] "Man cannot by airplane or rockets or other means get above the air envelope which is about our earthly globe..." (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, 1943 edition, p. 285)

[1943] "The final war will come as a most sudden and complete surprise ... Nevertheless, the appearing of the 'desolating abomination in the holy place' is an unerring proof that the **unknown day and hour** of the beginning of the final war is **dangerously near**." (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, 1943, p. 341, emphasis added)

[1946] "the disaster of Armageddon, greater than that which befell Sodom and Gomorrah, is **at the door**." (*Let God Be True*, 1946, p. 194, emphasis added)

[1951] "Under the guidance of God's spirit of freedom the magazine today known as the Watchtower but known back there as Zion's Watch Tower, began to be published in July, 1879. In the first year of its publication it pointed to the date 1914 as marked in the Bible." (*What Has Religion Done For Mankind?*, 1951, p. 308)

[1953] "After almost six thousand years of human sorrow, suffering and death, at last permanent relief is near at hand and will be realized within **this generation**." (*New Heavens And A New Earth*, 1953, p. 7, emphasis added)

[1955] "in the light of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy it is becoming clear that the war of Armageddon is **nearing its breaking-out point**." (*You May Survive Armageddon into God's New World*, 1955, p 331, emphasis added)

[1955] "The very fact that, as part of Jehovah's secret, no one today is able to find out how much time Adam and later Eve lived during the closing days of the sixth creative period, so no one can now determine when six thousand years of Jehovah's present rest day come to an end. Obviously, whatever amount of Adam's 930 years was lived before the beginning of that seventh-day rest of Jehovah, that unknown amount would have to be added to the 1976 date." (*Watchtower*, February 1, 1955, p. 95)

[1961] "Like Elijah of old, they became quite disconsolate, uncertain of life, thinking the end of existence and work was at hand. This was especially the case since the remnant was part of the virgin class espoused to Christ as his Bride and she failed to realize her hopes of being glorified to heavenly life with him both in 1914 and now in 1918. (*Let Your Name Be Sanctified*, 1961, p. 313)

[1963] "Of what significance is this today? It means that by the fall of 1963 mankind has dwelt upon this earth 5,988 years. Does this mean, then, that by 1963 we had progressed 5,988 years into the 'day' on which Jehovah 'has been resting from all his work'? (Gen. 2:3) No, for the creation of Adam does not correspond with the beginning of Jehovah's rest day. Following Adam's creation, and still within the sixth creative day, Jehovah appears to have been forming further animal and bird creations. Also, he had Adam name the animals, which would take some time, and he proceeded to create Eve. ... Whatever time elapsed between Adam's creation and the end of the 'sixth day' must be subtracted from the 5,988 years in order to give the actual length of time from the beginning of the 'seventh day' until now. It does no good to use Bible chronology for speculating on dates that are still future in the stream of time." (*All Scripture is Inspired of God and Beneficial*, 1963, p. 286)

[1966] "According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of

human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E. Six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yea within this generation. The reign of Christ ... to run parallel with the 7th millennium ..." (*Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, 1966, p. 29-30)

[1966] "Discussion of 1975 overshadowed about everything else. 'The new book compels us to realise that Armageddon is, in fact, very close indeed,' said a conventioneer." (*Watchtower* Oct. 15, 1966, p. 629)

[1966] "In this twentieth century an independent study has been carried on that does not blindly follow some traditional chronological calculations of Christendom, and the published timetable resulting from this independent study gives the date of man's creation as 4026 B.C.E. So six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation." (*Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, 1966, p. 29)

[1967] "Just think, 1975 marks the end of 6,000 years of human experience. ... Will it be the time when God executes the wicked?... It very well could be, but we will have to wait to see." (*Watchtower*, Jan. 5, 1967, p. 262)

[1968] "The immediate future is certain to be filled with climatic events, for this old system is nearing its complete end. **Within a few years at most** the final parts of Bible prophecy relative to these last days will undergo fulfilment resulting in the liberation of surviving mankind into Christ's glorious 1000 year reign!" (*Watchtower*, Jan. 5, 1968, emphasis added)

[1968] "Eight years from the Autumn of 1967 would bring us to the Autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day." (*Watchtower*, May 1, 1968, p. 271)

[1968] "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." (*Watchtower*, Aug. 15, 1968, p. 494)

[1968] "'Adam Created At Close Of 'Sixth Day' Are we to assume from this study that the battle of Armageddon will be all over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ will begin by then ? Possibly, but we wait to see how closely the seventh thousand-year period of man's existence coincides with the Sabbath-like thousand-year reign of Christ....It may involve only **a difference of weeks or months, not years.**" (*Watchtower*, Aug. 15, 1968, p. 499, emphasis added)

[1968] "'I know enough of what is going on to assure you that, in fifteen years from today, this world is going to be too dangerous to live in.'" (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, p. 9, 1968 edition, quoting USA Secretary of State Dean Acheson in 1960 ["in fifteen years from today" i.e. in 1975, was removed from 1981 edition])

[1968] "More recently, the book entitled 'Famine-1975!' [by W. & P. Paddock, 1967, pp. 52,55,61.] said concerning today's food shortages: 'Hunger is

rampant throughout country after country, continent after continent around the undeveloped belt of the tropics and subtropics. Today's crisis can move in only one direction -toward catastrophe. Today hungry nations; tomorrow starving nations.' 'By 1975 civil disorder, anarchy, military dictatorships, runaway inflation, transportation breakdowns and chaotic unrest will be the order of the day in many of the hungry nations.'" (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, 1968, p. 88-89)

[1968] "Years in advance Bible Scholars realized that 1914 was to be a year of great significance. They expected great changes to take place, and the facts confirm that 1914 was, indeed, a marked year." (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, 1968, p. 91)

[1968] "But there are people still living who were alive in 1914 and saw what was happening then and who were old enough that they still remember those events. **This generation is getting up in years now.** A great number of them have already passed away in death. Yet Jesus very pointedly said: 'This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur.' Some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. This means that **only a short time is left** before the end comes!" (*The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life*, 1968, p. 94, emphasis added)

[1968] "Just think, brothers, there are only about **ninety months** left before 6,000 years of man's existence on earth is completed... The majority of people living today will probably be alive when Armageddon breaks out, and there are no resurrection hopes for those who are destroyed then. So, now more than ever, it is vital not to ignore that spirit of wanting to do more." (*Kingdom Ministry*, March 1968, p. 4, emphasis added)

[1968] *Awake!* October 8, 1968, headlines] "Is It Later Than You Think?" "Is Time Running out For This Generation? What Will the 1970's Bring?" "During world war 1, God's people expected it to lead directly into Armageddon, but Jehovah prevented such a climax at that time. We didn't succumb to such an expectation during world war II." (*Kingdom Ministry*, Jan. 1968, p. 5)

[1968] "But what about today? Today we have the evidence required, all of it. And it is overwhelming! All the many, many parts of the great sign of the last days are here, together with verifying Bible chronology." (*Awake!*, Oct. 8, 1968, p. 23)

[1968] "True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end" to the world, even announcing a specific date. Yet nothing happened. The 'end' did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing? Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that He was using and guiding them." (*Awake!*, Oct. 8, 1968)

[1969] "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 scholarship or employment that promised fine pay. However, they turned them down and put spiritual interests first." (*Kingdom Ministry*, June 1969, p. 3)

[1969] "More recently earnest researchers of the Holy Bible have made a

recheck of its chronology. According to their calculations the six millenniums of mankind's life on earth would end in the mid-seventies. Thus the seventh millennium from man's creation by Jehovah God would begin within less than ten years. Apart from the global change that present-day world conditions indicate is fast getting near, the arrival of the seventh millennium of man's existence on earth suggests a glad change for war-stricken humankind. ... In order for the Lord Jesus Christ to be Lord even of the Sabbath day, his thousand-year reign would have to be the seventh in a series of thousand-year periods or millenniums. (Matt 12:8, AV) Thus it would be a sabbatic reign. Since early in the existence of mankind Satan the Devil has been on the loose, making the human family to toil in hard bondage, causing the earth to be filled with violence before the global flood of Noah's day and inducing the same old earth to be filled with even greater violence today. Soon now six millenniums of his wicked exploiting of mankind as his slaves will end, **within the lifetime of the generation** that has witnessed world events since the close of the gentile times in 1914 till now, **according to the prophetic words of Jesus** in Matthew 24:34. Would not, then, the end of six millenniums of mankind's laborious enslavement under Satan the Devil be the fitting time for Jehovah God to usher in a Sabbath millennium for all his human creatures? Yes, indeed! And his King Jesus Christ will be Lord of that Sabbath." (*Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1969, p. 622, 623, emphasis added)

[1971] **"Shortly, within our twentieth century**, the 'battle in the day of Jehovah' will begin against the modern antitype of Jerusalem, Christendom." (*The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah*; 1971; 2nd ed.; p. 216)

[1972] "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 show?" (*Watchtower* April 1, 1972, p. 197)

[1972] "Does this admission of making mistakes stamp them [Jehovah's Witnesses] as false prophets? Not at all, for false prophets do not admit to making mistakes." (*Watchtower*, Nov. 1, 1972, p. 644)

[1972] "If it is his purpose to have this beautification of the whole earth accomplished by the end of his seventh creative day - Scripturally a period of seven thousand years, then the time is near at hand for the ruining of the earth by exploiters to be stopped by theocratic power and the blessed transformation to a delightful garden to begin. Already, nearly six thousand years of man's existence from the close of the sixth creative day have run their dreary course. We must be approaching the threshold of that thousand-year-long reign of Jesus Christ, which must be accompanied by Paradise according to what Jesus promised the sympathetic evildoer on the stake there at Mount Calvary." (*Paradise Restored to Mankind - By Theocracy*, 1972, p.18)

[1974] "This remnant of anointed ones have identified themselves on the pages of history since 1914 C.E. Before this year members of this anointed remnant had been earnestly studying God's Word apart from Christendom. They put the Holy Bible ahead of man-made religious traditions. As early as 1876 they were publishing that the Gentile Times of 2,520 years would terminate in the year 1914. Events that have taken place from that year onward prove they were not wrong." (*God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphant For Man's Good*, 1974,

p.178-179)

[1974] "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." (*Kingdom Ministry*, May 1974, p. 3, emphasis added)

[1974] "It also tells us that this millennium must be preceded immediately by the most destructive war in all human history. We can now see the political rulers... being gathered... for that War of all wars...." (*Watchtower*, July 1, 1974, p.397)

[1975] "The year 1925 came and went. Jesus' anointed followers were still on earth as a class. The faithful men of old time - Abraham, David and others - had not been resurrected to become princes in the earth. (Ps. 45:16) So, as Anna MacDonald recalls: '1925 was a sad year for many brothers. Some of them were stumbled; their hopes were dashed...Instead of it's being considered a 'probability,' they read into it that it was a 'certainty,' and some prepared for their loved ones with expectations of their resurrection.'" (*Yearbook*, 1975, p. 146)

[1975] "In time, a direct contribution was made for the purpose of constructing a house in San Deigo for brother Rutherford's use. Concerning this property the 1939 book *Salvation* stated: 'At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth Sarim.'" (*Yearbook*, 1975, p. 194)

[1975] "Furthermore, the remnant of spiritual Israel had for decades, yes, since 1876, been looking forward to the ending of the Times of the Gentiles in the autumn of 1914. They were expecting God's Messianic Kingdom to be fully established in the heavens by then and also for the remnant of spiritual Israel to be glorified with Jesus Christ in the heavenly kingdom at that time. All understanding of the Holy Scriptures was slanted in that direction or adjusted to that idea. And when the year 1914 ended amid the flames of World War 1 and the remnant of spiritual Israel found themselves still here on the earth, then they were inclined to think that they would be glorified in the year 1918, three and a half years after the end of the Gentile Times." (*Man's Salvation Out Of World Distress At Hand*, 1975, p. 136)

[1976] "It may be that some who have been serving God have planned their lives according to a mistaken view of just what was to happen on a certain date or in a certain year. They may have, for this reason, put off or neglected things that they otherwise would have cared for. But they have missed the point of the Bibles warnings concerning the end of this system of things, thinking that Bible chronology reveals the specific date." (*Watchtower*, July 15, 1976, p. 440)

[1977] "Truly the year 1926 deserved to be marked as the happy climax of the close of the 1,335 days. Those of Daniel's "people" who kept in expectation and reached the end of the 1,335 days were launched off into a happiness that has not diminished, but that, despite mounting persecution and World War II (1939-1945) and subsequent world troubles, has persisted and increased. (*Our Incoming World Government-God's Kingdom*, 1977, p.146-147)

[1979] "Because of this hope, the 'faithful and discreet slave' has alerted all of God's people to the sign of the times indicating the nearness of God's Kingdom rule. In this regard, however, it must be observed that this 'faithful and discreet slave' was **never inspired, never perfect**. Those writings by certain members of the 'slave' class that came to form the Christian part of God's Word were inspired and infallible, but that is not true of other writings since. Things published were not perfect in the days of Charles Taze Russell, first president of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society; nor were they perfect in the days of J.F. Rutherford, the succeeding president. The increasing light on God's Word as well as the facts of history have repeatedly required that adjustments of one kind or another be made down to the very present time. But let us never forget that the motives of this 'slave' were always pure, unselfish; at all times it has been **well-meaning**." (*Watchtower*, March 1, 1979, p. 24, emphasis added)

[1980] "With the appearance 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. 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. There were statements made then, and thereafter, stressing that this was only a possibility. It is to be regretted that these latter statements apparently overshadowed the cautionary ones and contributed to a buildup of the expectation already initiated. ... In saying anyone, the Watchtower included all disappointed ones of Jehovah's Witnesses, hence including persons having to do with the publication of the information that contributed to the buildup of hopes centered on that date." (*Watchtower*, March 15, 1980, p. 17-18)

[1980] "If the wicked system of this world survived until the turn of the century (the year 2000), which is highly improbable in view of world trends and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, there would still be survivors of the World War I generation. However, the fact that their number is dwindling is one more indication that 'the conclusion of the system of things' is moving fast toward its end." (*Watchtower*, Oct. 15, 1980, p. 31)

[1982] "The Bible not only foretold these things, but indicated that they would occur on a worldwide scale. Also, **the Bible said that all these things would happen upon the generation that was alive in 1914**. Yet what were prominent world leaders foretelling just before 1914? They were saying that conditions promising world peace were never more favorable. Yet the terrible troubles the Bible foretold began right on time, in 1914! In fact, world leaders now say that 1914 was a turning point in history. 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 all these things [including the end of this system] occur.'** (Matthew 24:34, 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." (*You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth*, p 154, 1982,

emphasis added)

[1984] "Some of that 'generation (of 1914)' could survive until the end of the century. But there are many indications that 'the end' is much closer than that!" (*Watchtower*, March 1, 1984, pp. 18-19)

[1984] "These definitions embrace both those born around the time of a historic event and all those alive at that time. 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.'" (*Watchtower*, May 15, 1984, p. 5)

[1986] "As far back as 1876, Jehovah's Witnesses realized that Bible prophecy marked the year 1914 C.E. as a time when major events would take place that would have far-reaching effects on human affairs. They gave the reason for this fact wide publicity." (*True Peace And Security*, 1986, p.70)

[1989] "The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for **a work that would be completed in our 20th century**." (*Watchtower*, Jan. 1, 1989, p. 12, emphasis added [that year's Watchtower bound volume changed "20th century" to "day"])

[1989] "They have a modern **Governing Body** of older Christian men from various parts of the earth who give needed oversight to the worldwide activities of God's people. these men, like the apostles and older men in Jerusalem in the first century, are anointed members of the faithful and discreet slave class designated by Jesus to care for all of his Kingdom interests here upon earth. **History has proved that they can be trusted to follow the direction of the holy spirit** and that **they do not rely on human wisdom** in teaching the flock of God the ways of genuine peace. (*Watchtower*, Dec. 15, 1989, p. 6, emphasis added)

[1990] "Adult Christians too can be disappointed, and this has in some cases led to spiritual disaster. Some set their hope on a date when they were sure Armageddon would come. When nothing happened on that day, they felt let down." (*Watchtower* Apr.15,1990, p. 27)

[1992] "Today, a small percentage of mankind can still recall the dramatic events of 1914. Will that elderly generation pass away before God saves the earth from ruin? Not according to Bible prophecy. 'When you see all these things,' **Jesus promised**, 'know that he is near at the doors. Truly I say to you that THIS generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur.'" (*Watchtower*, May 1, 1992, p.3, emphasis added)

[1993] "Further, the widely circulated booklet Millions Now Living Will Never Die presented the view that in 1925, God's purposes regarding the restoring of the earth to Paradise and the resurrecting of the faithful ones of old would begin to be fulfilled. ... The year 1925 came to its conclusion, but the end was not yet! Ever since the 1870's, Bible Students had been serving with a date in mind - first 1914, then 1925. Now they realized that they must serve for as long as Jehovah wishes." (*Watchtower*, Nov. 1, 1993, p. 12)

[1995] "Bible Students, known since 1931 as Jehovah's Witnesses, also expected that the year 1925 would see the fulfillment of marvelous Bible prophecies. ... More recently, **many Witnesses conjectured** that events associated with the beginning of Christ's Millennial Reign might start to take place in 1975. Their anticipation was based on the understanding that the seventh millennium of human history would begin then." (*Awake*, June 22, 1995, p. 9, emphasis added)

[1995] ***Why Awake is Published*** [issues prior to Nov 8th 1995] "Most important, this magazine 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." [since altered to] "Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things."

HOW OFTEN WILL THEY SAY
'THE SKY IS FALLING'
BEFORE YOU TUNE OUT?

"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 show?"

(*Watchtower* April 1, 1972, p. 197)

"They have a modern Governing Body ... History has proved that they can be trusted to follow the direction of the holy spirit and that they do not rely on human wisdom ..."

(*Watchtower*, Dec. 15, 1989, p. 6)

"True, there have been those in times past who predicted an 'end' to the world, even announcing a specific date. Yet nothing happened. The 'end' did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing? Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that He was using and guiding them."

(*Awake*, Oct. 8, 1968)

“... REVIEW THE RECORD – WHAT DOES IT SHOW?”

*When God’s “mouthpiece” mouths
foolishness, what shall we conclude?*

This is what Jehovah has said ... [I am] frustrating the signs of the empty talkers, and [I am] the One that makes diviners themselves act crazily; the One turning wise men backwards, and THE ONE THAT TURNS THEIR KNOWLEDGE INTO FOOLISHNESS

... Isaiah 44:24,25 (NWT)

*Is the “faithful and discreet slave”
Jehovah’s servant?*

[I am] the One making the word of his servant COME TRUE, and the One who CARRIES OUT COMPLETELY THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN MESSENGERS ... Isaiah 44:26 (NWT)

*Has Jehovah spoken
through The Watchtower?*

... when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that JEHOVAH DID NOT SPEAK. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. YOU MUST NOT GET FRIGHTENED AT HIM. Deut. 18:22 (NWT)

*How does Jehovah view
those who promote their own
speculations as light from God?*

Woe to those ... who are putting darkness for light and light for darkness ... woe to those wise in their own eyes and discreet even in front of their own faces!

Isaiah 5:20,21 (NWT)