

EXAMINING

The

WATCHTOWER

Society

WHO IS WISE
AND UNDER
STANDING
AMONG YOU?

BASIS FOR
RELIANCE ON
PROPHECY

COLOSSIANS 2:9

THE NEW WORLD
TRANSLATION, A
PERFECT SCORE
OF 64, WHY?

ARE YOU MY WITNESSES, SAYS JEHOVAH. ?

"WHO IS WISE AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOU?"

ARE YOU A LOVER OF TRUTH?

"We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God's Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such an examination. It should be the sincere desire of every one of us to learn what God's will is for us, and then to do it." **The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life**, p. 13.

"Jehovah God is interested in having people know him...They can know what to expect from him and what he expects from them...One by observing creation...second...through his Word of truth, the Bible...third...through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers...People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers to declare things to come?"

IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET"

"These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet?...This 'prophet' was not one man, but a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses." **Watchtower**, 4/1/72, p. 197.

IDENTIFYING THE SOURCE OF THE "PROPHET"

After quoting Ezekiel 2:8-10, the above

article continues, "The scroll was doubtless delivered to Ezekiel by the hand of one of the cherubs in the vision. This would indicate that Jehovah's witnesses today make their declaration of the good news of the Kingdom under angelic direction and support. (Rev. 14:6,7, Matt. 25:31, 32) And since no word or work of Jehovah can fail, for he is God Almighty, the nations will see the fulfillment of what these witnesses say as directed from heaven," p. 200.

"God has, however, graciously provided a means of communication, and its columns are constantly used in an effort to give forth the truth to the remnant. It is not man's truth, but it is God's truth; and therefore the channel or instrument is God's and not man's." **Preservation**, 1932 edition, p. 104.

"John, dear, don't you think we should have 'The Watchtower' and study it regularly, that we might be informed of the unfolding of Jehovah's prophecies?" **Children**, 1941 edition, p. 214.

"Those who are convinced that 'The Watchtower' is publishing the opinion or expression of a man should not waste time in looking at it all, because a man's opinion proves nothing except when that opinion is based wholly upon the Word of God. Those who believe that God uses 'The Watchtower' as a means of communicating to his people, or of calling their attention to his prophecies, should study 'The Watchtower' with thankfulness of heart and give Jehovah God and Christ Jesus all the honor and credit and give neither honor or credit to any man." **Watchtower**, 1/1/1942, p. 5.

"Jehovah has made the necessary arrangements within his organization to instruct his people, and all recognize that for some years 'The Watchtower' has been the means of communicating information to God's people.

That does not mean that those who prepare the manuscript for 'The Watchtower' are inspired, but rather it means that The Lord through his angels sees to it that the information is given to his people in due time, and he brings to pass the events in fulfillment of his prophecy and then invites those devoted to him to see the same." **Riches**, 1936 edition, p. 316.

"Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force. (Zech. 4:6) Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book." **Watchtower**, 7/1/1973, p. 402.

"Too many and too rapid now are those unfoldings of Bible prophecy and truths, so that books cannot be written and published fast enough by the Watchtower Society to present them all. But YOU CAN GET THEM in the only magazine of its kind: THE WATCH-TOWER. THIS MAGAZINE stands only for Jehovah God and his Government by Christ Jesus. Its pages gleam with the Scriptural and

prophetic truths now due to be published for the education, comfort and guidance of all who now desire to take their stand (and hold it) on the side of God and his Son, Earth's Rightful Ruler." -from an advertisement in **Riches**, 1936 edition, p. 384.

A TIME-TESTED CHANNEL: SINCE WHEN?

"The WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the Glad Tidings." **Studies in the Scriptures**, Vol. VII, "The Finished Mystery," 1917 edition, p. 144.

"Since 1879 it has been published regularly for the benefit of sincere students of the Bible. Over that extended period of time 'The Watchtower' has consistently proved itself dependable. Unfailingly it has magnified the name of the Almighty God, Jehovah, and made known his purpose toward mankind." **The New World Translation**, 1950 edition, p. 793.

BASIS FOR RELIANCE on Prophecy

JEHOVAH'S INFALLIBLE TEST

"However, 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. And in case you should say in your heart: 'How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?' 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." **Deuteronomy** 18:20-22, NWT.

"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**, 4/1/72, p. 197.

DOES THE RECORD SHOW A PROVEN PROPHET?

"...we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A.D. 1914." **Studies in the Scriptures**, Vol. II, "The Time is at Hand," 1908 Edition, p. 99.

"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 date will be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect men." *ibid.*, pp. 76-77.

1914 "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." *ibid.*, p. 77.

"It will prove that some time before the end of A.D. 1914 the last member of the divinely recognized Church of Christ, the 'royal Priesthood,' 'the body of Christ,' will be glorified with the Head..." *ibid.*, p. 77.

"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 rule-ship, has already commenced." *ibid.*, p. 101.

"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 Watch Tower*, 7/15/1894, reprint p. 1677.

THE FINISHED MYSTERY

"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." p. 404.

"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..." p. 484.

"Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by the millions, it shall be that any escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning..." p. 485.

MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE

"...Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favor, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death..." p. 88.

"Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews chapter 11, to the condition of human perfection." p. 89.

Under the subtitle of "Positive Promise," the Judge also stated

"Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, 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 still be 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." p. 97.

"...millions of persons now living are not destined to die has been clearly prophesied." *Los Angeles Morning Tribune*, 2/25/1918.

"Millions Now Living Will Never Die, Judge Rutherford Tells Audience - 1925 Begins New Era..." Judge Rutherford made the assertion that the old era was over and the new era, when Christ would take charge and everlasting life would begin, was just beginning and would reach its climax in 1925." *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 2/16/1920, p. 8.

VINDICATION

"There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918, 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time. Later the faithful learned that these dates were definitely fixed in the Scriptures, and they also learned to quit fixing dates for the future and predicting what would come to pass in a certain date..." Vol. I, p. 338.

CAN THE TRUTH GET TRUER?

To escape the obvious "false prophecies," most Witnesses will believe that the "light gets brighter and brighter." Prov. 4:18. This does not teach that the truth gets truer as the Witnesses believe, what was truth two thousand years ago is still true today. In I Peter 1:10-12 it speaks of how the prophets wrote of things concerning the grace which we should receive. Yet those men did not understand all of what they wrote. The verse tells us that even the angels desired to look into the things which had been written. The distinction being what they wrote came true, even if they didn't understand it. This is what separates the true prophet of Jehovah from those who merely claim to be His 'prophet.'

PAST LIGHT?

"No, the truths I present, as God's mouthpiece, were not revealed in visions or dreams, nor by God's audible voice, not all at once, but gradually, especially since 1870, and particularly since 1880. Neither is this clear unfolding of truth due to any human ingenuity or acuteness or perception, but to the simple fact that God's due time has come: and if I did not speak, and no other agent could be found, the very stones would cry out." *Zion's Watch Tower*, 7/15/1906.

"Promise was made that greater light should come at the end of the age, and this promise has been kept. We are at that time, as is clearly proven by the contents herein" (Preface to the Harp of God).

Rutherford also wrote in the Introduction to *Vindication*, Vol. 3:

"Ezekiel was given a vision of a great and marvelous temple. That vision of Ezekiel concerning the temple has been a mystery for ages and generations, but now is due to be understood. The Scriptures and the physical facts both show that this prophecy was not due to be understood by God's people on earth until the year 1932. The explanation thereof is fully set forth in this Book Three of Vindication."

When testing Rutherford's "brighter light" we read on page 204 of that same publication:

"This picture shows the position of the great multitude. Ever and anon someone advances the conclusion that the 'great multitude' will not be a spiritual class. The prophecy of Ezekiel shows that such conclusion is erroneous. The fact that their position is seven steps higher than the outside shows that they must be made spirit creatures."

If you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and you are of the "great multitude," are you to be a spirit creature as Rutherford said? Of course you are not, but why not? After all, the Judge had 'the light' on the matter and published it as doctrine. Evidently the Watchtower's light does not get brighter as they claim, rather it goes on and off.

TAKE HEED THAT YE BE NOT DECEIVED

True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world," even announcing a specific date...The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying.

Awake, 10/8/68, p. 23.

"For this is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, had said: Let not YOUR prophets who are in among YOU and YOUR practitioners of divination deceive YOU, and do not YOU listen to their dreams that they are dreaming. For it is in falsehood that they are prophesying to YOU in my name. I have not sent them, is the utterance of Jehovah." *Jeremiah* 29:8-9, NWT.

"Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to you in sheep's coverings, but inside they are ravenous wolves." *Matthew* 7:15, NWT.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?

"True, there have been those in times past who predicted an end to the world, even announcing a specific date...The end did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?

Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy..."

But what about today: Today we have evidence required, all of it. And it is overwhelming!" *Awake*, 10/8/68, p. 23.

"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." *Life Everlasting-in Freedom of the Sons of God*, p. 29.

"How appropriate it would be for Jehovah God to make of this coming seventh period of a thousand years a sabbath period of rest and release...This would be most timely for mankind...It would not be by mere chance or accident but would be according to the loving purpose of Jehovah God for the reign of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the sabbath, to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence" *ibid.*, p. 30.



WHAT "SIGN" ARE CHRISTIANS LOOKING FOR?

"The Bible book of Revelation (chapters 20 and 21) reveals many of the good things that the thousand-year rule will bring. 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 or kings of the entire inhabited earth being gathered, for that War of all wars, at the place called Har-Mageddon." Rev. 16:13-16. **Watchtower**, 7/1/74, p. 397.

JEHOVAH'S ANOINTED BRINGS LATEST LIGHT?

At the Los Angeles Sports Arena on February 10, 1975, Franz maintained that there was a time interval between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve, after which, the sixth day ended. Not knowing exactly when Eve was created, we cannot know when to date the beginning of the 6000 years of human existence. This manufactured excuse that the time of Eve's creation is unknown has already been recognized by the Watchtower Society as far back as 1955 where they stated in the February 1st **Watchtower** p. 95:

"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."

Ten years after the above statement, the light must have gotten brighter, for they revised their opinion and wrote:

"Does God's rest day parallel the time man has been on earth since his creation? Apparently so....Sometime in that same year Eve could well have been created, directly after which God's rest day commenced. In what year, then, would the first 6000 years of man's existence and also the first 6000 years of God's rest day come to an end? The year 1975." **Awake**, 10/8/66, p. 19.

The same article continued, "It means that within a relatively few years we will witness the fulfillment of the remaining prophecies that

have to do with the 'time of the end.'" p. 20.

The effort by Society leaders today to claim ignorance of the time of Eve's creation is merely a return to their 1955 opinion and should be viewed as exactly what it is: an excuse manufactured to keep from what has already been documented beyond refutation, i.e. false prophets. It is understandable why Franz is quoted in the **1975 Yearbook** from a talk he gave in Baltimore, Maryland where he declared, "And don't any of you be specific in saying anything that is going to happen between now and 1975" p. 256.

RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

"Jehovah, the God of the true prophets, will put all false prophets to shame either by not fulfilling the false predictions 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**, pp. 353-354.

Witnessing for the God of True Prophecy

Our witnessing for the God of true prophecy makes us Jehovah's witnesses, and that is what all true Christians must be. Did not Jesus become known as "the Faithful Witness," and "the faithful and true witness"? And did he not declare that he came to the earth for the express purpose of witnessing to the truth and that he made his Father's name known to his disciples? Surely!--Rev. 1:15; 3:14; John 17:6; 26; 18:37.

As Jehovah's witnesses we have the responsibility to make known to others our God, the God of true prophecy. **Watchtower**, 11/1/65, p. 671

EVIDENCE DEMANDS A VERDICT

The Watchtower claims to be Jehovah's "prophet," with their direction and authority coming from Jehovah Himself. Yet, under "Jehovah's guidance," they predicted Armageddon in 1914, then 1918, then 1925. With those failures behind them, they supposedly "learned to quit fixing dates." Today their message is essentially the same as before, except for changing the date now to 1975. Why follow a proven false prophet? Jesus said: "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (Matthew 7:18). What do YOU want from a false prophet?



"Question: I understand that a group of Bible scholars made a comparison of various Bible translations. Was the New World Translation included in this study? D.M., United States.

Answer: It appears that what your letter inquires about is a book written by Professor Ernest Cadman Colwell, entitled **What is the Best New Testament?** This book is published by the Chicago University Press and was first printed in 1952. In 1947 Professor Colwell made a study of a number of translations and put them to the test as to sixty-four citations in the book of John. The book contains what Professor Colwell considers the correct rendering of each of those sixty-four citations. The New World Translation was not released until 1950, hence Professor Colwell could not include this translation in his list of tested ones.

However, if any reader will look up what Professor Colwell has to say about these sixty-four citations and will compare these with the New World Translation he will see that the New World Translation merits a score of sixty-four along with Dr. Goodspeed's translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures, which the book gives a perfect score of sixty-four.

Colwell's book being first published in 1952, it was not available until two years after the release of the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures, which occurred in 1950 at Yankee Stadium. Consequently the New World Bible Translation Committee did not have Colwell's book for reference when work on the New World Translation of the Christian Scriptures was being done." **Watchtower**, 1/1/63, p. 95.

This appears quite commendable concerning the New World Translation especially its rating a perfect score of sixty-four. Two points are worth mentioning about Colwell's survey which the Watchtower neglected to explain to its readers.

First, let it be noted that Professor Colwell's book was not published until 1952. In the prefix we read:

"The University of Virginia in 1947 invited me to deliver a series of lectures on the manuscript sources of the New Testament. These lectures were given as the James W. Richard Lectures in Christian Religion in the Autumn of that year. The present volume is a rewriting and enlargement of the Richard Lectures."

Colwell did not write the book in 1947, but merely gave lectures utilizing much of the material later incorporated into the book. As Colwell stated, the book "is a rewriting and enlargement" of those lectures. He dated the preface September 4, 1952, **thirteen months** after the release of the New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures! Colwell could have included it in his book had he so desired.

Second, the basis for Colwell's rating system shows clearly the reason for the New World Translation's perfect score, although it is not a reliable translation. Professor Colwell's book compared various translations with sixty-four test points in the Gospel of John, using the Greek Text of Westcott and Hort, as does the New World Translation. The "perfect score" actually applies to the Greek Text utilized by the New World Translation Committee. NOT TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION THEY PRODUCED!

I spoke with Professor Colwell shortly before he passed away about enlisting his aid in refuting the claims about the New World Translation, at which time he expressed his desire to help, but was prevented from doing so by poor health.

This is just one of many tactics used by the Watchtower to give the impression of having produced a reputable translation.

Another example of manipulating the text is seen below in footnote from the NWT, 1961 ed., p. 1453 or 1971 ed., p. 1455. They comment, "...this prefixing of the definite article (HA) before the title ADON limits the application of the title to Jehovah God." However, another footnote in the Kingdom Interlinear regarding Romans 10:9, which speaks of confessing Jesus as Lord, they state: "Lord=KURIOS (HA ADON), Not 'Jehovah,' p. 722." Herein they attempt to weaken the true meaning of the passage, that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord (Jehovah) we will be saved.

Colossians 2:9

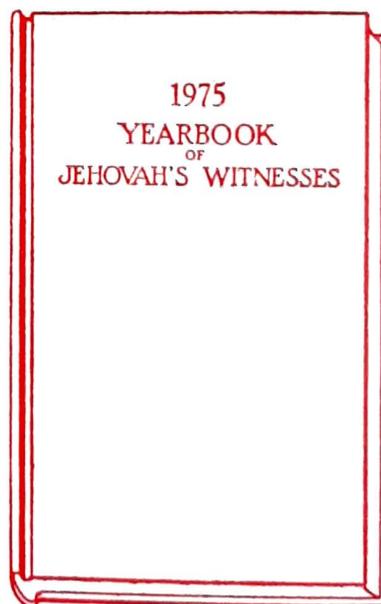
Another text which declares the full Deity of the Lord Jesus (which the New World Translation mangled in an attempt to water it down), is Colossians 2:9 where we read: "In Him (Christ) dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." The Greek word for "Godhead" is THEOTETOS; the Emphatic Diaglott correctly translates THEOTETOS "Deity," but the NWT translates it "Divine Quality." The NWT does this by substituting the word THEIOTES, a form of the word, THEIOT (divinity). The distinction is clearly seen in J. H. Thayer's **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**, 1887 ed., page 288. Under the word THEOTETOS, speaking specifically of Col. 2:9 it says: "Deity i.e. the state of being God, Godhead." And Thayer goes on to say that "THEOT (deity) differs from THEIOT (divinity) as essence differs from quality or attribute." Using Thayer as an authority, one can see the mistranslation in the NWT. It must be said here that Thayer was a Unitarian, not a Trinitarian and would be more apt to agree with the Watchtower in their position on Christ (not the Eternal One). Even though he did not believe Christ was God, he was honest as a Greek scholar whose integrity was displayed by an honest presentation of the facts.

Colossians 2:9 is literally "In his innermost being is dwelling all fullness of the state of being God in flesh." This is exactly what

Christianity is proclaiming--that at a point in time and space the Eternal God became flesh and died for the sins of the world and that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself." (2 Cor. 5:19) Most Jehovah's Witnesses find this illogical or unreasonable even though it is proclaimed in Scripture. Yet, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, died, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to Scriptures, we are by faith in Him, reconciled to God who purchased the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). We have become adopted sons of God and the door is open to all lost mankind that through Him we may have peace with God (Rom. 5:1).

THE NEXT ISSUE

REVIEWING THE



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