

# **The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close**

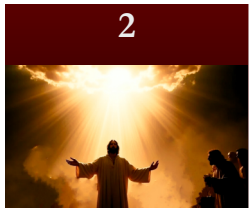
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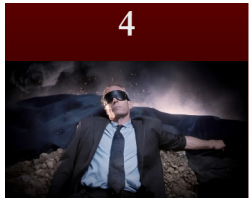
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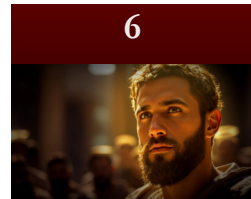
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# INTRODUCTION

To the overseers of Jehovah’s Witnesses:

Reading this brochure may be the most difficult thing you will ever do. Not because the ideas presented are too deep for you to comprehend, but because you have been mentally conditioned to believe that even possessing Bible-based information that is not sanctioned by the Watchtower is an act of unfaithfulness. It is my hope that you will muster the courage to peer more deeply into God’s word than you ever thought possible.

It is true, the information presented in these pages is not in harmony with the Watchtower. That is because the Watchtower is in error, and not in a superficial way. The error is systemic and cannot be corrected by any sort of trifling adjustment or “new light.” The error is 1914. And not merely the chronology. Everything! By “everything,” I mean the many, many prophecies that have been interpreted to have already been fulfilled, foremost being the presence of Christ.

Simply put: Jesus did not begin ruling the world in 1914. Satan and his angels have not been cast down yet. And the parousia of Jesus Christ will not be invisible.

As you know, these teachings are the very foundation of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. That is why the Governing Body cannot make it right. Be assured, though, that does not mean that Jehovah is not in His heavens and that Jesus is not Lord. It does not nullify any of the promises God has made. On the contrary, God foretold the very error the Watchtower embraces. Paul referred to it as an operation of Satan that God permits. Effectively disguised as an angel of light, the Devil has been allowed to fabricate a phony parousia and fake his own ouster from heaven. He has even convinced anointed Christians that the Lord’s day has begun and he has done so using powerful works, lying signs and every unrighteous deception. Did not the Lord himself forewarn us that many false prophets and false Christs would arise and perform great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones?

This brief brochure is not comprehensive, nor conclusive. It is only intended to present the bare outline of what the Scriptures actually say about the parousia and revelation of Christ to the holy ones.

It is natural for you to want to know who has written this material. It is not produced by an organization or sect. I am just a brother with the heavenly hope who has been called to announce Jehovah’s judgments. I have been online since 2002. I have written over a thousand articles as well as four editions of the book, *Jehovah Has Become King* and dozens of YouTube videos and podcasts. My bio is available on e-watchman.com under the tab ABOUT.

*Robert King*

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## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

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# What and when is the parousia of Jesus?

Speaking to his disciples in one of his last post-resurrection manifestations, Jesus said: **“And Look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things”**

Christ being with his disciples prior to the conclusion is understood to be a spiritual presence—obviously, invisible. And that ought to raise the question: What will change when the conclusion begins? Will Jesus no longer be with us? Or will his presence be more profound?

On another occasion, Jesus said, **“For where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst.”** – Matthew 18:20. Surely, if Jesus is in the midst of a gathering of two or more of his anointed disciples, this too is understood to be an unseen spiritual presence. So, again, if Jesus is always invisibly present in the midst of believers, what is the parousia? Is it no different than Jesus being in our midst?

We are blessed to know that the so-called conclusion of the system is not the end of the world, as some translations put it. Still, rather, it is a limited time period marked by wars, famines, pandemics, and terrifying celestial phenomena—not to mention a potentially world-ending tribulation that will necessitate divine intervention to prevent the extinction of the human race.

Since we have Jesus’ assurance of his oversight and intimate spiritual guardianship all the days until the conclusion, what might we expect *during* the conclusion? Will it be more of the same? These are not trick questions but things that every Christian should examine in order to make sure of the more important things.

When the humble Son of God came to Jerusalem for the last time, he wept over the city and pronounced the end of the Jewish system, telling them that because they failed to discern the time of their being inspected, the Kingdom of God was going to be taken from them. A short time later, he stunned his apostles as they were speaking admiringly of the Jewish temple, when he said to them: **“Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, by no means will a stone be left here upon a stone and not be thrown down.”** – Matthew 24:2

When the disciples had a private audience with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, with the holy city in view, they put the question to him: **“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of**

**When the disciples had a private audience with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, with the holy city in view, they put the question to him: “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?”**

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**your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?”** They wanted to know when Jerusalem was going to be destroyed and the temple thrown down.

It is extraordinary that the apostles asked about Christ’s presence, given that there is no record in the gospel of Jesus speaking about his presence before that time. True, it is possible that he spoke of it, given that John concluded his gospel by noting Jesus did many things that were not recorded. We may infer from that he also spoke many things that were not written down. In any case, the holy spirit may have prompted the disciples’ inquiry because Jesus went on to relate many vital details concerning the future presence of the Son of man.

It is unlikely that at the time the apostles attached any special significance to it when they asked for the sign of his parousia. After all, at that point, they were still laboring under the delusion that Jesus was going to restore the kingdom to Israel.

After they observed the Passover and Jesus instituted the annual memorial of his then-impending death, the Lord went on to tell them he was going away and they could not follow him. It seems incredible to us now, but they had no idea where he was going. They did not believe what we now accept as the cornerstone of our faith, namely, that Jesus was going to rise from the dead and return to his original home in heaven.

Even though Jesus told them that he was from the realms above, they evidently did not comprehend how that could have been possible since Jesus was born into a family of humans just like everyone else. (Mary seems to have been very guarded about the details of her pregnancy, evidenced by the fact that Jesus’ half brothers did not put faith in him until after he rose from the dead.) Those who did believe believed Jesus to be from God based upon his words and miracles, but apparently did not then grasp that he had actually come down from heaven.



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The disciples were surely mystified by what Jesus said next: **“In the house of my Father are many dwelling places. Otherwise, I would have told you, for I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you home to myself, so that where I am you also may be. And where I am going, you know the way.”** – John 14:2-4

Thomas responded: **“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”**

It is understood that to be received home means that those called and chosen would be with Jesus in heaven. However, their reception into the spirit realm will not occur until Jesus comes again. Needless to say, all of Jesus’ original disciples have long since died.

No doubt most Bible readers overlook what Jesus said above. Because most professing Christians believe the ancient Babylonian myth that humans have an immortal soul that survives the death of the body, they imagine that when a person dies, they are immediately transferred to heaven or some other less desirable place.

Many years into the Christian era, the apostle Paul explained that the first resurrection will not take place until Jesus comes again. Paul referred to the Lord descending from heaven with the commanding voice of an archangel, and those who are dead in union with Christ will be resurrected first, then the living will be resurrected *during* his presence. Obviously, Jesus’ coming again precedes and initiates his presence.

That being indisputably true, how is it that the Watchtower teaches that Jesus has been present since 1914, but he is coming in the future? If he is already present, how and why is he coming yet again?

## “THE DUE TIME IS NEAR”

All of Jehovah’s Witnesses are at least somewhat familiar with Jesus’ response to the question posed to him on the Mount of Olives. Among many other things, Christ foretold that nations would rise against nations, there would be food shortages, pandemics, and great earthquakes.

There are, though, variations in the three gospels that present to us Jesus’ response. The beloved physician Luke added a few details that Mark and Matthew omitted. Of note, Jesus prefaced his prophecy with a warning, saying: **“Look out that you are not misled, for many will come on the basis of my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The due time is near.’ Do not go after them. Furthermore, when you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified. For these things must take place first, but the end will not occur immediately.”** – Luke 21:8,9

Although Matthew and Mark wrote something very similar, only Luke wrote that some would declare that “the due time is near.” The *American Standard Bible* words it: “The time is at hand.”

We should make a distinction, though. Later in his monologue, the Lord foretold that many false prophets and false Christs would arise and mislead many during the darkest night of the tribulation.

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However, Jesus did not say that those who would come on the basis of his name and say “the due time is near” were false Christs—only that they would have a misleading message.

The fact that some will come in the name of Christ, declaring the distinct message that “the due time is near,” means that the misleading message has to do with the parousia.

Most of Jehovah’s Witnesses are probably unaware that the founder of the Watchtower believed that the parousia had begun in 1874. When Charles Russell began his prolific writing and preaching



campaign, he published a seven-volume series of books called Studies in the Scriptures. The second book, published in 1879, was entitled: *The Time Is at Hand*.

Although the *American Standard Bible* was not published until 1901, its wording seems to highlight the undeniable fact that C.T. Russell proclaimed a false parousia. It matters little that those who acquired control of the Watchtower after Russell died in 1916 eventually readjusted things to make 1914 the beginning of an invisible presence of Christ. The fact is, for 40 years, Pastor Russell falsely claimed the parousia had begun, and Jehovah’s Witnesses are still following a variation of Russell’s original message over 140 years after he proclaimed “the time is at hand.”

The key point, though, is that the false message of the imminent due time precedes the authentic coming and subsequent parousia of Christ.

## “CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS”

The apostle Paul was inspired to expand upon Jesus’ warning. In the first chapter of Second Thessalonians, Paul wrote, not of the parousia, but of the revelation of Jesus Christ, **“when he comes to be glorified in connection with his holy ones and to be regarded in that day with wonder among all those who exercised faith...”**

How might the holy ones be glorified in connection with Jesus in that day? It’s a reasonable question. Hold that thought.

Turning the page, in the second chapter, Paul offered a caution similar to Jesus’ warning regarding those who would proclaim “the due time is near.” Paul wrote: **“However, brothers, concerning the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be alarmed either by an inspired statement or by a spoken message or by a letter appearing to be from us, to the effect that the day of Jehovah is here.”** – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

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First, is there evidence of any gathering of the chosen to Christ? This is an especially pertinent question since in his discussion on the Mount of Olives, Jesus also spoke of the gathering of the chosen ones from the four winds; except, Jesus placed this development as occurring after the tribulation is cut short by divine intervention.

Does the mere fact that there are over 20,000 partakers among Jehovah's Witnesses presently constitute a gathering together to him? Hardly. Quite recently, even the Watchtower now recognizes that the parting of the wise and foolish virgins has not taken place.

It should be pointed out that there are no original copies of any letter that make up the 27 books of the so-called New Testament. And the YHWH does not appear in any extant copy. True, it is unlikely that first-century writers did not use the divine name, especially when quoting from Hebrew texts where the Tetragrammaton appears. Even so, there is no reason to suppose that Paul was quoting a specific passage from the Hebrew Scriptures in the verse above. Paul may well have intended his text to say, "the day of the Lord is here." He spoke of "the day of the Lord" in 1 Corinthians 5:5.

It shouldn't even be an issue because in reality, the day of Jehovah and the day of the Lord are the same thing. But not according to the Watchtower. The Watchtower teaches that the Lord's day began in 1914, but the day of Jehovah is in the future. Actually, though, the Watchtower used to teach that the day of Jehovah began in 1914, along with the great tribulation, but God cut it short. For example, below is an excerpt from a Watchtower published in 1960 (Paragraph six)

Now in this day of Jehovah, the great God of heaven is "doing wondrous things" unsurpassed in all history! It is the day to which David looked forward with joy. It is the day in which prophecy upon prophecy is coming to grand fulfillment. In the modern year of 1914 Jehovah established the everlasting kingdom of heaven in the hands of one greater than David, his Son Jesus Christ.

The point is, there is only one source of authoritative written and verbal messages that has been declaring that the parousia and the Lord's day are here. That source is the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

To place a finer point upon it, Paul said that Christians would be subjected to seemingly inspired statements and even written letters appearing to be from the apostles, saying the Lord's day is here. In



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recent years, the Watchtower has taken to referring to the apostles as the first-century governing body. That is not necessarily improper in itself, but given the fact that in his letter to the symbolic Ephesian congregation in the Lord's day (Revelation 2:2), Jesus spoke of those who falsely claimed to be apostles. It appears that by designating the apostles as a governing body, the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses is elevating itself to the status of apostles.

Certainly, the messaging of the Watchtower, whether spoken or written in the form of magazines and books, is presented as inspired truth from messengers of God, and the core message of those who presume to be apostles is that the parousia and the Lord's day have begun—exactly as Paul foretold.

### “KNOW THAT HE IS NEAR AT THE DOORS”

Up to this point, we have established that both Jesus and Paul warned against those who falsely proclaim that the parousia's due time has arrived, and that the Watchtower has been the sole source of this messaging since its inception.

Returning to the apostles' question regarding when these things will be and what will be the sign of your presence? There is another error we must dispel. Does the sign of the conclusion also signal that the parousia has begun? The answer is no—it does not. Even if World War I was the beginning of the conclusion of the system, the presence of Christ would not have begun then. How do we know?

Jesus gave us a simple illustration. He said, **“Now learn this illustration from the fig tree: Just as soon as its young branch grows tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near. Likewise also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near at the doors.”** – Matthew 24:32-33

It has been over a century since World War One ended, and have we seen “*all these things*” Christ foretold? No. Have we seen the great tribulation? Of course not. That being the case, we ought to honestly consider the question: Have we seen *any* of the things Jesus foretold? Did you personally witness the First World War? Were you affected by the deadly Spanish Flu pandemic? Have men become faint with fear because of their expectation of doom coming upon the world? Again, obviously, no.

If all of these things are a prelude to Jesus being near at the doors, what does his being at the door mean? Jehovah's Witnesses ought to have a special appreciation for this since they knock on many doors in search of interested persons. Jesus uses that as an illustration. But an illustration of what?

At Revelation 3:20, Jesus said: **“Look! I am standing at the door and knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and take the evening meal with him and he with me.”**

Imagine Jesus literally knocking on your door, and you open it to him and invite him in, and you share a meal. What does that signify? Is this personal visitation by the Lord of heaven and earth fulfilled when anointed persons merely partake of the emblems at the Kingdom Hall on Memorial night? No. It is

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something much more profound.

In the 12th chapter of Luke, Jesus was speaking to his little flock, and he exhorted them to be ready for his coming to them. Specifically, he said: **“Be dressed and ready and have your lamps burning, and you should be like men waiting for their master to return from the marriage, so when he comes and knocks, they may at once open to him.”** (Vs 35)

Jesus used the same illustration as in Revelation, but he explained what it meant. Going on, Jesus said: **“Happy are those slaves whom the master, on coming, finds watching! Truly I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at the table and will come alongside and minister to them. And if he comes in the second watch, even if in the third, and finds them ready, happy are they! But know this, if the householder had known at what hour the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also, keep ready, because at an hour that you do not think likely, the Son of man is coming.”** – Luke 12:37-40

You will recall that after the original evening meal, Jesus took off his outer garments, wrapped a towel around his waist, and began to wash the feet of the apostles as if he were *their* servant. But notice that in the illustration, he *“will come alongside and minister to them.”*

It should not be necessary for me to explain to Jehovah’s Witnesses that the Greek word *parousia* means to be alongside another. The Watchtower has explained it well. Charles Russell knew the distinction between his coming and his presence.

Although Jesus did not use the word “*parousia*” in this illustration, the fact that the *New World Translation* says he “*will come alongside*” is significant. It certainly signifies something much more than his being with his followers prior to his coming.

Surely, this illustration will not be fulfilled when the chosen are in heaven. They will not need anyone to minister to them when they are immortal spirits. Since even the Watchtower does not believe the master has already returned at an hour you do not think likely, his coming and knocking and coming alongside to minister is still future.

Coupled with the fact that we have not seen all these things that prove the Lord is near at the doors, and his knocking on the door of those who have been called into his Kingdom has not occurred, his entry into the homes of those who open to him and his coming alongside to minister to them and take the



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evening meal symbolizes his presence among them. The fact that Jesus said he would make them recline at the table and in Revelation he said he would take the evening meal with them, signifies the consummation of the new covenant which Jesus inaugurated at the original evening meal.

And did not the apostle Paul explain that by taking the emblematic bread and wine, we keep proclaiming the death of the Lord until he comes? His coming, then, concludes the new covenant by sealing the last ones of the 144,000. That is what is symbolized by his coming alongside them at the evening meal.

It is worth noting that when Jesus addressed his disciples as the “little flock,” none of them were anointed at that time. Furthermore, none of them will be in the flesh when Christ returns. Therefore, the little flock who are called upon to be ready and waiting for the return of the master are anointed persons living at this present time.

If you have considered all of the facts presented, and you are honest in your reasoning, you must conclude that the presence of the Son of man has not taken place.

Furthermore, all honest reasoning persons will at least acknowledge that Charles Taze Russell proclaimed a false *parousia*. It does not matter if he was sincere. I am sure he was. But he was sincerely wrong. Since it was Russell who devised the doctrine of an invisible *parousia*, we will next consider the falsity of the invisible presence doctrine that underpins the Watchtower Society.

## When he is manifest, we shall see him just as he is

Having established that the presence of the Son of man does not take place at the beginning of the epochal period known as the conclusion and the time of the end, as the Watchtower erroneously teaches, it is self-evident that the actual parousia will not begin until the tribulation is cut short. This is provable by Jesus' illustration of the first leaves of spring heralding the nearness of summer—illustrating Jesus being near at the doors.

Let us now consider what his figurative coming into the house, also called coming alongside, and taking the evening meal with the chosen means.

Admittedly, this is not an easy thing to comprehend, let alone explain. It has been made far more complicated by the Watchtower's false interpretations and the spiritual blindness imposed by the Devil.

Returning to the 14th chapter of John, when Jesus told his confused apostles that he was going away and they could not follow, he further said to them: **"I will not leave you bereaved. I am coming to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. In that day you will know that I am in union with my Father and you are in union with me and I am in union with you."** – John 14:18-19



### 2 - When he is manifest, we shall see him just as he is

The "little while" of bereavement was ostensibly only three days. On the third day, Jesus arose from the dead, and not only the apostles saw him, but Christ revealed himself to over 500 believers over the course of forty days.

It is most noteworthy that no unbeliever saw the resurrected Son of God—only those who believed Jesus was the Christ before he died were privileged to experience his post-resurrection manifestations. So, Jesus' words came true: The world—that is, the unbelievers—did not see Jesus after he arose from the dead.

Was that the actual fulfillment, though, of what Jesus stated concerning his "coming to you"? No. For one thing, Jesus said, "You will live," and yet those to whom Christ appeared after he was risen from the tomb had not even been made alive from the spirit, and all have been sleeping in death for centuries.

Therefore, his "coming to *you*" has to do with his second coming and the parousia. That is when those dead in Christ will live, and the words of Jesus will be fulfilled with those then living: *"You will see me."*

In response to Jesus, one of his disciples asked a very insightful question: **"Lord, what has happened that you intend to show yourself clearly to us and not to the world?"** – John 14:22

Jesus responded, saying: **"If anyone loves me, he will observe my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."** (Vs 23)

Please take note of the logistics in Jesus' answer. In that same chapter of John, Jesus said there were many dwelling places in the house of his Father and that he was going away to prepare a place for them. We understand that those dwelling places are in heaven. But in response to the question posed by Judas (not Iscariot), Jesus said he and his Father would "come to him and make our dwelling with him"—meaning while they are in the flesh on earth.

Though the Lord assured his followers he would be with them all the days until the conclusion, have Jesus and Jehovah at any time taken up dwelling within anointed Christians in fulfillment of Jesus' words to his apostle? No. Having Jehovah take up dwelling within a mere human is something no one has experienced, with the exception of Christ. That none of the children of God have experienced this yet should be apparent because the Son of man has not come.

As presented in the previous chapter, Christ is not yet at the doors. And to emphasize the point, his being near the doors is "when you see all these things." Then if anyone hears his voice and opens the door, Christ will come in and take the evening meal with him.

**Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe anyone will literally see Jesus. Conversely, the Evangelicals believe everyone will see the Son of man.**

**What is the truth?**

Stating the obvious, Jesus will not come and make his dwelling with the apostles or anyone else who is sleeping in death. He and his Father will come and dwell with the living—specifically, those who are awake and waiting for

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the Master to return. How will the chosen know Christ has made his dwelling with them? They will see him. They will speak with him face-to-face. That is what Jesus meant when he said the world would behold me no more—*“but you will see me.”*

Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe *anyone* will literally see Jesus. Conversely, the Evangelicals believe *everyone* will see the Son of man. What is the truth?

The reason Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe in a visible parousia is because we know that Jesus is not coming back in the flesh. The assumption is that to be seen by humans, Jesus would have to be in the flesh, because spirits are invisible and cannot manifest themselves without materializing. Is this reasoning based upon what is revealed in the Scriptures?

Before considering encounters humans have had with spirits, consider the simple statements made by the apostles that reveal Christ will appear and be visibly seen. To the Hebrews, Paul wrote the following: **“And just as it is reserved for men to die once for all time, but after this to receive a judgment, so also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many; and the second time that he appears it will be apart from sin, and he will be seen by those earnestly looking for him for their salvation.”** – Hebrews 9:27-28

Was there a first time Jesus appeared? Of course, there was. And, as already discussed, even though he was raised as a spirit, Jesus also appeared after he rose from the dead. And in these appearances, many people saw him with their eyes. So, the first time he appeared, including his post-resurrection manifestations, the Lord was very much visible.

Speaking of his mission in introducing the Messiah, John the Baptizer said of Jesus: **“Behind me there comes a man who has advanced in front of me, for he existed before me.’ Even I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing in water was so that he might be made manifest to Israel.”** – John 1:30-31. So, when Jesus was baptized, he began his three and a half year ministry and was made manifest to Israel as the promised Christ.

Witnessing to Cornelius and his household, the apostle Peter spoke of another manifestation: **“God raised this one up on the third day and allowed him to become manifest, not to all the people, but to witnesses appointed beforehand by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after his rising from the dead.”** – Acts 10:40-41

Are we saying that the second time he appears will be in a materialized fleshly body, similar to how he appeared after his resurrection? No. How then will he appear the second time? We do not know, at least that is what the apostle John wrote: **“Beloved ones, we are now children of God, but it has not yet been made manifest what we will be. We do know that when he is made manifest we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as that one is pure.”** – 1 John 3:2-3

Just because the apostle said we do not know “what he will be” when he is manifest, does not mean Christ will not be visibly revealed “when he is manifest.” Clearly, Christ’s various manifestations before his ascension were visible to human eyes—to believers. In fact, the primary meaning of the Greek word

## 2 - When he is manifest, we shall see him just as he is

“epiphaneia” means an appearance and even has the connotation of brightness. That is why the *King James Version* renders 2 Thessalonians 2:8 as “the brightness of his coming.”

As we know, though, the Greek word “parousia” has been mistranslated as “coming.” Paul was really speaking of the manifestation of Christ’s presence in doing away with the man of lawlessness. But if his presence is invisible, what about the bright and shining appearance, or manifestation of his presence? If his glorious appearance is, in fact, invisible, words are meaningless. Incredibly, the last time the Watchtower mentioned the word “epiphaneia” was in 1962! And the May 1st Watchtower discussing the coming of Christ, stated the following:

What coming is here referred to? Not Christ’s presence or parousia, which began in 1914, nor the manifestation of his presence, the epiphaneia, which began in 1918 with Jehovah coming to the temple with the messenger of the covenant, but to his coming at Armageddon, his apokalypsis, his revealing, to which Jesus also referred when he said: “Look! I am coming as a thief.

Although the teachers of Jehovah’s Witnesses have quietly walked away from the absurd notion that the manifestation of Jesus Christ took place in 1918, they have yet to discover that parousia, epiphaneia, and apokalypsis are interchangeable terms. This can be easily discerned simply by comparing all of the passages where these various terms appear. I have provided searchers with a convenient reference in *Jehovah Himself Has Become* King, with chapter 5, titled The Parousia.

But since Jesus is not returning in the flesh and humans cannot see spirits, how will he become manifest so that the chosen “see him just as he is”?

## “AS THEY ENTERED INTO THE CLOUD”

One of the most extraordinary things in Jesus’ ministry is what is called the Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John climbed a high mountain with Jesus. It was night, and the three apostles were weighed down with sleep. Suddenly, Jesus’ face changed. It became radiant like the sun. His outer garments became glisteningly white. Two men appeared—Moses and Elijah, and they began conversing with Jesus. As the three astonished disciples were coming to their senses, a brilliant cloud formed overhead.

Matthew, Mark and Luke all relate the Transfiguration phantasm and the appearance of the cloud. However, only Luke provided this additional detail: **“But as he was saying these things, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them. As they entered into the cloud, they became afraid. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying: ‘This is my Son, the one who has been chosen. Listen to him.’”** – Luke 9:34-35

What is the significance of the three apostles becoming enveloped in a brilliantly glowing cloud and hearing the voice of Jehovah? The cloud symbolized the presence of God, and the fact that they entered into the cloud represented their coming into union with God and Christ.

When Solomon inaugurated the temple, a cloud formed in the holy compartment and filled the temple so that the priests were driven out. The cloud represented God’s presence.

What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing in the vision, conversing with Christ? Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets. And both men saw Jehovah, at least to the extent that a mere mortal of flesh and blood can come into proximity with the Almighty. In the 24th chapter of Exodus, Moses and Aaron, the priest, and 70 elders of the people saw God too: **“Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and 70 of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was what seemed like a sapphire pavement, and it was as pure as the heavens themselves. He did not harm the distinguished men of Israel, and they saw a vision of the true God and ate and drank.”**

**“Then Moses went up the mountain while the cloud was covering it... To the Israelites who were watching, the appearance of Jehovah’s glory was like a consuming fire on the mountaintop. Moses then entered into the cloud and went up the mountain...”**

The occasion of the vision was that the Law covenant had just been instituted. Animals were sacrificed at the foot of Mount Sinai, and Moses sprinkled the blood of the covenant on the people. This foreshadows the new covenant made possible by the blood of Christ. It was immediately after the covenant was ratified that the 70 men saw God in vision and ate and drank. Their eating and drinking was not a merry-making feast. It was a solemn communion with God. They were sharing a meal with Jehovah. And is that not what Jesus said, that he would enter into the dwelling of those who open the door, and they will share the evening meal?

This communion with God took place at the foot of the mountain of meeting. Then Moses ascended, alone. The account says: **“Then Moses went up the mountain while the cloud was covering it. Jehovah’s glory remained on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. To the Israelites who were watching, the appearance of Jehovah’s glory was like a consuming fire on the mountaintop. Moses then entered into the cloud and went up the mountain. And Moses stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights.”** – Exodus 24:15-18

Moses’s entering into the cloud on the seventh day prefigures the Son of man coming on the clouds, as depicted in Daniel, to commence the great Sabbath of God. From a distance, the mountain was aflame with fire while Moses entered into God’s presence.

We have the testimony of Peter, who was on the mountain and saw Christ transformed into the glory he will possess in his parousia. And like Moses, Peter, James, and John also entered into the brilliant cloud that formed on the mountain of the Transfiguration, and they heard the voice of God. The apostle explained that this transcendent vision was a foregleam of the coming of the Kingdom and the presence of Christ.

As if anticipating the Watchtower’s invisible parousia hoax, Peter explained the significance of the vision: **“No, it was not by following artfully contrived false stories that we made known to you**



**the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but rather, we were eyewitnesses of his magnificence. For he received from God the Father honor and glory when words such as these were conveyed to him by the magnificent glory: “This is my Son, my beloved, whom I myself have approved.” Yes, these words we heard coming from heaven while we were with him in the holy mountain.”**

Although it was a vision, the apostles were not dreaming. Jesus was actually on the mountain. So were Peter, James, and John, and they actually heard the voice of God from within the visioned cloud. The fact that the apostle said they were eyewitnesses of what took place in the vision confirms that there will be literal eye witnesses of the parousia of Christ. It is as if they will enter into the enshrouding cloud, indicating that no one outside the cloud will be able to see beyond the veil. Hence, the world will not behold Jesus when he comes in the cloud. But the chosen will see him as he is.

## The presence of the Lord has drawn close

Having established that the presence of Christ with the holy ones, yes, his coming alongside them, does not take place until we “see all these things,” now we will distinguish his coming from his presence. This is all the more necessary because of the eschatological mess the Watchtower has created.

While Charles Taze Russell did well to differentiate the two Greek words “parousia” and “erkhomai” and the *New World Translation* consistently renders parousia as “presence” and erkhomai as “coming”—unlike most popular translations—still, the Watchtower has the order of his presence and coming reversed.

Reasonably, his coming and arrival precede his being alongside the chosen. How is it then that the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses has it backward? Jesus’ presence is believed to have begun in 1914, but he is still coming? Is this even sensible?

To complicate matters, the Watchtower also claims Jesus came in 1918 as the messenger of the covenant. Here is the prophecy on which their speculation is based: **“Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will clear up a way before me. And suddenly the true Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant will come, in whom you take delight. Look! He will certainly come,” says Jehovah of armies. “But who will endure the day of his coming, and who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like the fire of a refiner and like the lye of laundrymen.”**—Malachi 3:1,2

Notice in the text above, “come” and “coming” appear three times. So, if Christ came to judge the spiritual temple in 1918, why is he coming again? This question is all the more relevant in light of the warning Jesus directed toward those whom he has appointed to provide spiritual food to the household of God. Jehovah’s Witnesses should be very familiar with what Jesus stated in the 24th chapter of Matthew: **“But know one thing: If the householder had known in what watch the thief was coming, he would have kept awake and not allowed his house to be broken into. On this account, you too prove yourselves ready, because the Son of man is coming at an hour that you do not think to be it...Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so!...the master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and in an hour that he does not know...”**

As in Malachi, note that the word “coming” appears in three places. So, how is it that the messenger of the covenant has already come but the Son of man has not? Furthermore, Malachi poses the question: “But who will endure the day of his coming and who will be

### 3 - The presence of the Lord has drawn close

able to stand when he appears?” Never mind that in 1918, those Bible Students who supposedly endured the day of his coming were deluded into believing Jesus had already come in 1874.

It is noteworthy that Jesus said something similar, as recorded in Luke’s account: **“Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that you may succeed in escaping all these things that must occur and in standing before the Son of man.”** – Luke 21:36

Is it reasonable to suppose that a small group of Bible Students who have long since passed away were able to stand before Christ, but we must remain awake and be sober to stand before the Son of man when he comes again as a thief in the night?

### THE LORD’S DAY IS COMING AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

Although not regarded as a prophet, the apostle Paul was inspired to situate the future thief-like coming of Christ on the world stage, tying it to a specific, political event. According to the *New World Translation* the Lord’s day will begin **“Whenever it is that they are saying, “Peace and security!”**

Although the *New World Translation* says **“Jehovah’s day is coming exactly as a thief in the night,”** the context clearly indicates Paul was referring to the coming of Christ.

The reason Paul told the Thessalonians (and, by extension, us) that they did not need anything to be written to them, as they already knew he was coming as a thief, is because Jesus said he was coming as a thief. Hence, if we allow the Scriptures to speak without the background noise of theocratic dogma, it is evident that their saying “peace and security” will herald that the Lord’s day has begun.

Now we are confronted with the question: What is the “sudden destruction” that will come upon those saying “peace and security”? The Watchtower claims the sudden destruction will befall false religion—otherwise known as Babylon the Great. If that is the true interpretation, that would mean that religious spokesmen will be saying “peace and security” since destruction is destined to befall those saying it.

It is noteworthy that the prophet Paul modified the “sudden destruction that is to be instantly upon them” by saying **“just like birth pains on a pregnant woman, and they will by no means escape.”**

Jesus employed this same analogy when he said, **“All these things are a beginning of pangs of distress.”** All what things? War, famine and pestilence. “All these things” will signal that the Lord’s day has begun.

That presents an enormous stumbling block for the millions of Jehovah’s Witnesses who have been deluded into believing World War 1 was the beginning pangs of distress. No wonder Jesus foretold “many will be stumbled.”

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#### THE CRASH OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN WORLD POWER

All prophecy is connected. It is a matter of putting the pieces together, like a picture puzzle. Of course, since prophecy was inspired by the spirit, God's guiding spirit is required to see the big picture. When I first began an independent study of the Hebrew prophetic books 29 years ago, the spirit brought to my attention the significance of the fall of Egypt and Tyre. While Ezekiel was captive in Babylon, Jehovah revealed to him that the overthrow of Tyre and Egypt would shake the world.

The lord of Tyre is described as the covering cherub in Eden—a clear reference to Satan, the Devil. What then does Tyre represent? None other than the modern British Empire, headquartered in London. Although the modern myth is that the British Empire no longer exists, nothing could be further from the truth. The City of London is the nexus of the global financial and monetary system, and contrary to the fiction that the British monarchy is a powerless figurehead, the Crown possesses enormous wealth and influence. For example, as the young Prince of Wales, King Charles developed the climate change crisis that has redirected trillions of dollars of investment away from vital production of energy and equipment needed in food production and transportation, obviously intended to shut down modern industrial civilization under the pretext of saving the world from climate change.

As for Egypt, symbolized as a towering cedar, the tallest, most majestic tree in God's garden of treelike nations, it represents the greatest nation on earth—America. Together, the fall of Tyre and Egypt portray the sudden, globe-rocking crash of the Anglo-American dual world power.

How do we know the fall of Egypt portends something much greater than what took place when Nebuchadnezzar conquered the land of the Pharaohs? For one thing, in the opening verses of the 30th chapter of Ezekiel, God says: **“Wail, ‘Alas, the day is coming!’ For the day is near, yes, a day of Jehovah is near. It will be a day of clouds, an appointed time of nations.”**

There is only one day of Jehovah. Although God referred to the destruction wrought by the Chaldean juggernaut as the day of Jehovah in various prophecies, it is merely a shadow of the coming day of Jehovah, or the Lord's day.

Furthermore, we find in Ezekiel 32:7-8, these words: **“And when you are extinguished I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. I will cover the sun with clouds, and the moon will not give its light. I will darken all the shining luminaries in the heavens because of you, and I will cover your land with darkness,” declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah.**

Jesus used similar foreboding imagery when discussing the aftermath of the great tribulation. Also, the opening of the sixth seal of the scroll of God's judgments reveals the sun turning black, the moon turning to blood, and the stars falling from heaven.

**As we assemble the pieces of the apocalyptic puzzle, we see the day of the Lord begin when the Anglo-American kings proclaim “peace and security.” That singular event will initiate all these things Christ foretold.**

As we assemble the pieces of the apocalyptic puzzle, we see the day of the Lord begin when the Anglo-American kings proclaim “peace and security.” That singular event will initiate all these things Christ foretold.

This portion of the prophecy of Ezekiel is considered in detail in the book, *Jehovah Himself Has Become King* in the chapters Downfall of America and London – Satan's Throne. Twenty years ago, the first edition was gifted to all members of the then-Governing Body and to all branch offices of the Watchtower around the world. Apparently, though, they are not interested in such matters. Even so, the 2026 Update is also being widely distributed among the leadership of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Since Christ has not come in any capacity, neither has the conclusion of the system begun—nor are these the last days, as Jehovah's Witnesses have been conditioned to say for these many decades.

Paul said that the last days would be critical times, hard to deal with. The reason being, men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, etc, etc. The apostle did not say that the last days would be an extended period when society would be gradually, systematically degraded over successive generations. No, the last days will be critical times, hard to deal with, because the majority of people will be so ungodly. That is where we are now.

The letter of James also speaks about the last days and what we may expect. Although not thought of as a book of prophecy, James warned Christians who were rich but who acted unjustly with their fellow workers that they had stored up something like fire for the last days and fattened their hearts for the day of slaughter. Specifically, James says, **“Come, now, you rich men, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothing has become moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted away, and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh. What you have stored up will be like a fire in the last days.”** (5:1-3)



## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

That this situation involves anointed Christians and not men of the world is evident by what James said next: **“Be patient then, brothers, until the presence of the Lord. Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until the early rain and the late rain arrive. You too exercise patience; make your hearts firm, because the presence of the Lord has drawn close.”** – James 5:7-8

In view of the fact that James indicated that money will utterly fail during the last days—as if burned up with fire—and since no such disaster has occurred on a global scale, it is not due to a lack of faith on our part that we ought to question if these really are the last days or if the conclusion is about to begin. Given the precarious state of the present political and financial system concurrent with alternating talk of both war and peace, it is evident, at least to this watcher, that the presence of the Lord has drawn near.

## One will be taken along, and the other abandoned

After describing all these things destined to occur, Jesus spoke a series of illustrations—each showing the same outcome. The lesson is, there will be a decisive separation among Christians. Jehovah’s Witnesses have no realistic expectation of such a thing. The Watchtower claims the concluding harvest began over 100 years ago and has been ongoing. Supposedly, the angels separated the Bible Students from the mass of members of other Christian sects and denominations and burned them all up only to be replaced by another crop of weeds. Contrary to that fanciful, and frankly, absurd explanation, Jesus clearly indicated that the division will occur when he comes as a thief in the night.

**“Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken along and the other abandoned. Two women will be grinding at the hand mill; one will be taken along and the other abandoned. Keep on the watch, therefore, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”** – Matthew 24:40-42

When Jesus sent out the 70 disciples in pairs, he instructed them to declare that ‘the Kingdom of God has come near to you.’ The Jews had the Messiah in their midst, and if they accepted him as the One sent from God, they could have the inestimable privilege of becoming co-rulers with Christ in his kingdom.

Even so, those original disciples did not expect their Lord to suffer death. As it turned out, those 70 itinerant preachers whom Jesus entrusted with his message did not even know what the Kingdom of God was that they were preaching. At the time, they assumed it was an earthly kingdom, and they imagined that it was going to display itself when Jesus arrived at Jerusalem for the Passover of 33 C.E. Instead, the one whom they hailed as King of Israel was executed like a common criminal. All of Jesus’ disciples were shocked and grieved.

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after he rose from the dead, he assigned to them a new message. They were to be witnesses of his resurrection and ascension. After the anointing spirit was poured upon them on the day of Pentecost, Peter became the fearless spokesman for the newly formed congregation of the Firstborn. And on occasion, when he spoke to the crowds, he gave them witness that Jesus was alive and sitting at the right hand of God in heaven. After all, the apostles had seen Jesus and spoken with him, and they were on the



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Mount of Olives and watched as Jesus was lifted into the sky and disappeared into a cloud. How could they not speak about such matters?

What a turnaround for Peter, especially. The man who three times denied he even knew Jesus, and who had ignorantly tried to comfort Jesus and dissuade him from his sacrificial death, only to hear Christ's stern rebuke—"get behind me Satan"—was later empowered by the spirit to stand before large crowds and the Jewish rulers who had put Jesus to death and explain from the prophecies and Psalms why Jesus suffered death and why the Grave could not hold him.

This is a pattern for when Christ comes. Jehovah's Witnesses are in the position of the 70 whom Jesus sent out in advance of his coming. Unlike the 70 original kingdom proclaimers, though, Jehovah's Witnesses know what the Kingdom of God is. The problem is that they are laboring under the delusion that the Kingdom of God has already begun ruling—that an invisible parousia began in 1914.

The authentic coming and visible presence of the Son of man will parallel Christ's post-resurrection appearances to those who were anointed a short time later. And just as those original anointees became witnesses of his resurrection and ascension, the chosen will be eyewitnesses of his manifestation "*the second time he appears*"—becoming his witnesses in the fullest sense.

There is, however, a slight distinction between Jehovah's Witnesses presently and the 70. Those whom Jesus sent out to preach the Kingdom before his death were not anointed at the time. Whereas, many associated with the Watchtower Society, both in the past and presently, have experienced an anointing and have been servants of Jehovah. It is to these that God will pose the following questions when Christ comes as a thief in the night: **"Listen, you who are deaf; look and see, you who are blind. Who is blind except my servant, so deaf as the messenger I send? Who is so blind as the one rewarded, so blind as the servant of Jehovah? You see many things, but you do not keep watch. You open your ears, but you do not listen."** – Isaiah 42:18-20

Do not Jehovah's Witnesses refer to themselves as servants of Jehovah who carry the Kingdom message? And has not the Watchtower discovered and expounded upon "many things" of spiritual importance? At this late date, it truly is a case of not keeping watch and not listening to God's whisper. A loud rebuke is certainly in order.

Keep in mind that when Jesus appeared to some of his disciples after he was resurrected, he rebuked them, saying: **"O senseless ones and slow of heart to believe all the things the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?" And starting with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them things pertaining to himself in all the Scriptures.**" – Luke 24:25-27

## 4 - One will be taken along, and the other abandoned

Jesus did not say that the good news would be preached during the last days. In Mark's account, he says the good news must be preached first. Then what? Jesus explains: **"As for you, look out for yourselves. People will hand you over to local courts, and you will be beaten in synagogues and be put on the stand before governors and kings for my sake, for a witness to them. Also, in all the nations, the good news has to be preached first. And when they are taking you to hand you over, do not be anxious beforehand about what to say; but whatever is given you in that hour, say this, for you are not the ones speaking, but the holy spirit is. Furthermore, brother will deliver brother over to death, and a father a child, and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all people on account of my name. But the one who has endured to the end will be saved."**  
– Mark 13:9-13

Have Jehovah's Witnesses been beaten in the synagogues or handed over to local courts or made to stand before the highest authorities to give them a witness, a witness wholly inspired by the holy spirit? Have brothers betrayed one another, or have families handed over former loved ones to be put to death?

Obviously, no Christian will be beaten and thrown from a Jewish synagogue when the Son of man returns. Synagogues were Jewish meeting places—the forerunner of the modern Kingdom Hall. That being the case, imagine, if you can, a scenario where Jesus appears to certain persons but not others, and those to whom he appears give testimony of their encounter with Christ. Can you imagine the reaction? Some would believe, and some would not. And that will create a schism.

Jesus also spoke of this division. After explaining how the faithful slave and the evil slave will both be punished, with the erring but ignorant slave being beaten with a few strokes, while the willfully disobedient slave will be punished with the greatest severity and thrown into the outer darkness where he will weep and gnash his teeth, he spoke of starting a fire among his people—pitting brothers and families against one another.

Surely, such an outcome, accomplished by Christ's mighty angels as they collect the weeds out from among the wheat, cannot be conducive to brotherly love between those who have been taken along and those abandoned. That is why Jesus went on to say, as recorded in the 12th chapter of Luke: **"I came to start a fire on the earth, and what more is there for me to wish if it has already been lit? Indeed, I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and how I am distressed until it is finished! Do you think I came to give peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on there will be five in one house divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."**

Although Christ's message undoubtedly created divisions in Jewish families in the first century, the context of the 12th chapter of Luke has to do with Christ coming alongside his faithful ones during the



climactic conclusion. That is why in the passage above, Jesus said he was *“distressed until it is finished.”* It will not be finished until the separation is concluded and the chosen ones are in the storehouse, shining as brightly as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. And no, their shining brightly is not a reference to their heavenly glory; rather, it will take place when they see the Lord as he is and become like him.

This is what is represented in the 10th chapter of Revelation when the glorious angel, with his face shining as the sun—exactly as in the Transfiguration—stands astride the sea and earth, raises his right hand to heaven and proclaims: **“There will be no delay any longer. But in the days when the seventh angel is about to blow his trumpet, the sacred secret that God declared as good news to his own slaves the prophets is indeed brought to a finish.”**

I wonder if any of Jehovah’s Witnesses even realize that the Watchtower makes the preposterous claim that Jesus touched down on earth and proclaimed that the good news was brought to a finish during World War I. No wonder Jesus will pose the question to them: “Who is blind except my servant?”

## THEY HAVE FOLLOWED THE PATH OF CAIN

We all know the story of Cain and Abel. The first human born of a woman murdered his brother. It is most instructive that after revealing that when Christ is made manifest and we shall see him and be like

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him, in the 3rd chapter of his first epistle the apostle John went on to discuss lawlessness and Cain and revealed that Cain originated with the wicked one, implying that there will be a similar outcome for those who see the manifestation of Christ, brought about by those, who like Cain, also originate with the wicked one. Did not Jesus explain that the weeds are sons of the wicked one and grow together with the true sons until the angels make a decisive separation?

Jude also evoked the ignominious name of Cain, saying: **“Too bad for them, for they have followed the path of Cain and have rushed into the erroneous course of Balaam for reward, and they have perished in the rebellious talk of Korah! These are the rocks hidden below water at your love feasts while they feast with you, shepherds who feed themselves without fear; waterless clouds carried here and there by the wind; fruitless trees in late autumn, having died twice and having been uprooted; wild waves of the sea that cast up the foam of their own shame; stars with no set course, for which the blackest darkness stands reserved forever.”** (11-13)

Cain, Balaam, and Korah all had something in common. They were privileged to communicate with God or see his glory. God personally warned Cain that sin was crouching at the door, craving to devour him. Jehovah spoke to Balaam the diviner, too. Neither of them listened.

Korah was a prominent Israelite from the priestly tribe of Levi who was the ringleader of a group of prominent men, called chosen ones. Together, they refused to acknowledge Moses’ authority—this, despite the fact that Moses spent 40 days on the mountain with Jehovah and conversed with God as no other man ever has. Moses’ face emitted an incandescent glow from having a close encounter with the Divine One. Despite the clear evidence that Jehovah had chosen Moses as his representative, Korah refused to accept it. He and the others proclaimed that they were all holy and that Jehovah was in their midst.

Since Jude indicates that these men are shepherds who lurk among unsuspecting Christians, submerged within the Christian congregation as rocks below the water, Cain, Balaam, and Korah represent those evil slaves, collectively known as the man of lawlessness. These will oppose the chosen ones after they have seen Christ. That is why both Peter and Jude describe them as animalistic men who speak abusively of glorious ones. The chosen will have been made glorious by their coming into the presence of Christ. Just as Korah insisted that God was in their midst, these unspiritual men will become the false Christs who will lyingly claim that Christ is with them in the inner chambers.

Since Jesus foretold that brothers would hand over their brothers to be put to death, the Cain faction represents the leadership of the organization that will take the lead in having the revealed sons of God put to death. In this, they will receive the same sentence as Judas—the second death. That is why Jude says they have “died twice.”

## Blood and fire and columns of smoke

Search the Scriptures through and through, and you will not find the phrase “invisible presence.” As common sense would have it, Jesus has always been invisibly present. The parousia is something very different.

To illustrate the point and prove that the manifestation of Christ is the same thing as the parousia, the apostle John wrote the following: **“So now, little children, remain in union with him, so that when he is made manifest we may have freeness of speech and not shrink away from him in shame at his presence.”** – 1 John 2:28

Is there any evidence that anyone has been shamed away by the supposed invisible presence of Jesus since 1914? Further, since the verse above indicates the manifestation of Christ is the same thing as the parousia, why does the Watchtower teach that the parousia has begun but not the manifestation? Is it not your responsibility as teachers to make sure of all things?

Having established that the coming of the Son of man, indeed, the commencement of the Lord’s day, will be evident whenever it is that they are saying, “peace and security,” the “sudden destruction” that will befall the Anglo-American dual world power will culminate in a great tribulation unlike anything that has ever occurred before or will ever occur again. Jesus said that the tribulation would be so severe that it would be necessary for God to cut it short on account of the chosen ones, or else no flesh would survive. You may be certain that the great tribulation is not merely the liquidation of false religion.

What could possibly pose an existential threat to mankind requiring divine intervention to save us from extinction? There is only one thing: Nuclear war.

True, a nuclear holocaust is unthinkable. During the Cold War, the military doctrine of MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) was said to be a safeguard against the madness of nuclear annihilation. But human policies, treaties, common sense, and mutual interest in survival do not take into consideration that Satan is the ruthless ruler of this wicked world, and as Christ said of him, he was a murderer when he began.

**But could there be any greater stage for the entry of the Savior of the world than nuclear war?**

### “THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED”

The coming of Christ to take Satan out will surely provoke a violent reaction from the demonic rulers of this world, a world already primed full of hatred and armed to the teeth with every fiendish weapon imaginable. The Devil has made sure that the system over which he presides as god is booby-trapped and set to self-destruct with the push of a button when the Son of man arrives like a thief in the night.

But could there be any greater stage for the entry of the Savior than nuclear war?

If you are paying attention, you surely know that there has been a lot of talk about the potential risk of nuclear war due to NATO’s increasingly aggressive proxy war against Russia and talk of supplying Ukraine with long-range missiles to strike the heart of Russia. Of course, there are numerous other flash points around the world that also involve nuclear-armed nations. Any of these or an orchestrated false flag could trigger a devastating nuclear exchange.

As a reminder, the prophets of Bethel have assured Jehovah’s Witnesses that there cannot be another world war for the reason that nations are armed with deadly nuclear weapons and a nuclear war would destroy the earth and leave few, if any, survivors. And we know God will not allow Satan to destroy the earth. The meek are not going to inherit a charred, radioactive cinder. However, that does not mean that God will not allow a limited nuclear war.

So, let it be known that the leadership of Jehovah’s Witnesses discounts the possibility of divine intervention to save mankind from self-destruction.

The opening of the sixth seal surely portrays the terrifying collapse of civilization, also known as the great tribulation. How do we know? Because in Matthew’s account, Jesus said, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,**



**and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”** This is the exact same imagery John used to describe what he saw when the sixth seal was opened.

By the way, did you know the Watchtower teaches that the sixth seal was opened sometime shortly after 1914, but the events betokened therein still have not occurred? Supposedly the world has been experiencing preliminary temblors over the past century leading up to the Big One. How sensible is that?

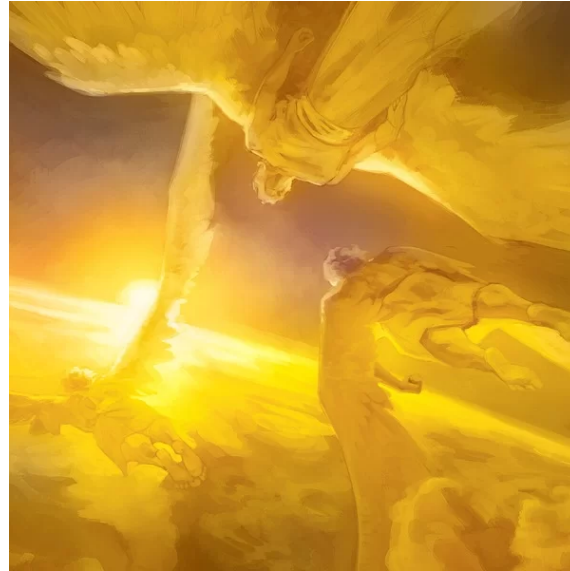
It should be noted that the foreboding imagery of the sun being darkened and the moonlight becoming obscured may not be entirely symbolic. The detonation of only a few dozen thermonuclear devices would create enormous clouds of dust and smoke that would literally shroud the earth in gloom. The prophecy of Joel speaks to this as well: **“And I will give wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awe-inspiring day of Jehovah.”** – Joel 2:30-31

Blood, fire and columns of smoke is an apt description of nuclear explosions. Through Isaiah, Jehovah seems to be speaking to a future day during the tribulation, when all seems lost: **“Why, then, was no one here when I came? Why did no one answer when I called? Is my hand too short to redeem, or is there no power in me to rescue? Look! With my rebuke I dry up the sea; I make rivers a desert. Their fish rot for lack of water, and they die because of thirst. I clothe the heavens with gloom, and I make sackcloth their covering.”** (50:2-3)

Immediately after the opening of the sixth seal Revelation portrays the cutting short of the tribulation, saying: **“After this I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding tight the four winds of the earth, so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrise, having a seal of the living God; and he called with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying: “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads.”** (7:1-3)

## **“LIGHT HAS SHOWN ON THEM”**

The angel ascending from the sunrise can be none other than Jesus Christ, also known as “the bright morning star.” The Watchtower absurdly claims that Jesus ascended as the bright morning star in 1914. This can be easily disproven by an honest reading of the writings of the apostle Peter. Having been an eyewitness of the Transfiguration that foreshadows the parousia, Peter went on to say: **“So we have the**



**prophetic word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a daystar rises) in your hearts.”** – 2 Peter 1:19

If day dawned in 1914 in the form of the ascendancy of the bright morning star, then it would no longer be necessary for Christians to pay attention to God’s prophetic word as if it were a lamp shining in a dark place. But the Watchtower is all about exhorting people to pay attention to God’s prophetic word—at least superficially. Unfortunately, Jehovah’s Witnesses are oblivious to this glaring contradiction.

What is the significance of the daystar or morning star rising in one’s heart? It signifies that the chosen have become one with the bright morning star. When will this occur? When the Lord comes. This is evident by what Jesus said to the symbolic Thyatiran congregation: **“Just the same, hold fast to what you have until I come. And to the one who conquers and observes my deeds down to the end, I will give authority over the nations, and he will shepherd the people with an iron rod so that they will be broken to pieces like clay vessels, just as I have received from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations.”** – Revelation 2:25-29

Through Isaiah, God speaks of the people in the region of the Jordan River (where Jesus was baptized), seeing a great light: **“When they do not speak according to this word, they have no light. And each one will pass through the land afflicted and hungry; and because he is hungry and indignant, he will curse his king and his God as he looks upward. Then he will look to the earth and see only distress and darkness, obscurity and hard times, gloom and no brightness. However, the gloom will not be as when the land had distress, as in former times when the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali were treated with contempt. But at a later time He will cause it to be honored—the way by the sea, in the region of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who were walking in the darkness have seen a great light. As for those dwelling in the land of deep shadow, light has shone on them.”** (8:20-9:2)

That these hard times, gloom and darkness will be the condition of God’s people during the initial phase of the day of Jehovah is evident by what God stated in Amos: **‘Woe to those who yearn for the day of Jehovah! What, then, will the day of Jehovah mean for you? It will be darkness, and not light...Will not the day of Jehovah be darkness, and not light; will it not have gloom, and not brightness?’** (5:18 & 20)

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, he took up temporary residence by the Sea of Galilee. In fact, in the synagogue in Nazareth where he grew up, Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah and announced to the congregation that he was the anointed of Jehovah; thus, introducing himself to Israel as the promised Messiah. He performed many miracles in the cities of Galilee, such as turning water into fine wine. He even calmed the tempestuous sea that threatened to swamp the terrified disciples’ fishing boat.

Jesus even came to his disciples in the dark of night, walking upon the Sea of Tiberius, as it was also called. And it was in Galilee where the resurrected Christ showed himself to over 500 of his disciples. They saw a great light, indeed! But why was the territory of Israel called “Galilee of the nations”?

## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

Perhaps because the things that took place there have significance for the modern world.

It does not seem to be coincidental that the name “Isaiah” means the same as the name Jesus, or more especially Jesus’ full Hebrew name—Jehoshua. The names mean “Jehovah is salvation.” The prophecy of Isaiah seamlessly weaves together elements of the conquest of Israel by the Assyrians, with the ministry of Jesus in the first century, and Christ’s second coming and manifestation.

Hence, a few verses before speaking about the region of the Jordan, Isaiah stated: **“Wrap up the written confirmation; seal up the law among my disciples! I will keep in expectation of Jehovah, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. Look! I and the children whom Jehovah has given me are as signs and as miracles in Israel from Jehovah of armies, who resides on Mount Zion.”**

What is the written confirmation or attestation? It is the Bible. Some even call it the Old and New Testaments—an attestation. The Bible confirms that Jesus was the Christ and 144,000 of Jesus’ disciples will stand with him on heavenly Mount Zion, becoming Christ’s brothers in the fullest sense according to God’s will. Christianity will be complete when Christ comes. The new covenant will be concluded—sealed up as accomplished.

Are we not commanded to stay in expectation of the coming of the Son of man in the name of Jehovah? When then will Jehovah hide his face from the anointed house of Jacob? During the darkness of war, famine, pestilence, and tribulation. It is in that gloom, that unforgiving darkness, that those living in deathly shadow, as Matthew worded it, quoting Isaiah, will see a “great light.” As if walking upon the roaring sea, Jesus will shine upon those keeping in expectation of his presence.

Isaiah confirms that God will no longer hide himself during the time of distress: **“Though Jehovah will give you bread in the form of distress and water in the form of oppression, your Grand Instructor will no longer hide himself, and you will see your Grand Instructor with your own eyes.”** (30:20)

Seeing the Grand Instructor with one’s own eyes will surely be the remedy for the spiritual blindness that presently afflicts even the anointed among Jehovah’s Witnesses.

### “THEN IT WILL BE FACE-TO-FACE”

In the 13th chapter of First Corinthians, Paul said that the gifts of tongues and prophecy will be done away with. Why? When? He goes on to explain: **“For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially, but when what is complete comes, what is partial will be done away with. When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, to think as a child, to reason as a child; but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a child. For now we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be face-to-face.”** (9-12a)

What is the coming of that which is “complete”? It is when the work of Christ is concluded; when the final sealing of those with the upward call seals up the written testimony and law; when the chosen have

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been gathered; when the body of Christ has become a full-grown man. And what is the significance of seeing what is to come “face-to-face”?

There is one man who is said to have had face-to-face meetings with God. That man was Moses. Consider a few passages that explain: **“When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, each of them rose and bowed down at the entrance of his own tent. Jehovah spoke to Moses face-to-face, just as one man would speak to another man. When he returned to the camp, Joshua the son of Nun, his minister and attendant, would not depart from the tent.”** – Exodus 33:10-11

Speaking to Moses’ rebellious brother and sister, God said: **“Hear my words, please. If there was a prophet of Jehovah among you, I would make myself known to him in a vision, and I would speak to him in a dream. But it is not that way with my servant Moses! He is being entrusted with all my house. Face-to-face I speak to him, openly, not by riddles; and the appearance of Jehovah is what he sees. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant, against Moses?”** – Numbers 12:6-8

Speaking to the newly formed Israelite nation, Moses said, **“Jehovah our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. It was not with our forefathers that Jehovah made this covenant, but with us, all of us alive here today. Jehovah spoke face-to-face with you in the mountain, out of the fire. I was standing between Jehovah and you at that time to convey to you the word of Jehovah, for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.”** – Deuteronomy 5:2-5

So, Moses was the only man who conversed with Jehovah face-to-face and saw his appearance. And it was Moses who was taken by God when he was 120 years old. Even at that age, his eyesight had not dimmed, and his strength had not diminished. God took him. But it is as if Moses showed up later in the Transfiguration and, along with the prophet, Elijah, was conversing face-to-face with the glorified Christ. And it is the unnamed Moses and Elijah who appear as two witnesses in Revelation. Of what are they witnesses? The two witnesses are said to be **“symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth.”** – Revelation 11:4

This symbolism is taken from the book of Zechariah, where the prophet asked an angel what these things meant: **“Do you not know what these things mean?” I replied: “No, my lord.” He said: “These are the two anointed ones who are standing alongside the Lord of the whole earth.”** (4:13-14)

Moses and Elijah stood alongside Jesus in the Transfiguration. The Transfiguration was a foregleam of the parousia. So, the two witnesses standing alongside the Lord of the whole earth signify that the chosen will stand alongside Christ and see him face-to-face. Does not parousia mean being alongside?

Just as the first-century disciples gave witness that they had seen the resurrected Christ, the two witnesses will give testimony to the world that they have seen the Lord of the whole earth, face-to-face.

## The revealing of the sons of God

On his final trip to Jerusalem, Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees, and they asked him when the Kingdom of God was coming. The Lord answered them, saying: **“The Kingdom of God is not coming with striking observableness; nor will people say, ‘See here!’ or, ‘There!’ For look! the Kingdom of God is in your midst.”** – Luke 17:20,21

Jesus had just cured 10 lepers of their loathsome disease. It is quite likely that some of the Pharisees witnessed this miracle. By this and many other wonders, Jesus gave convincing proof that he was the Christ, the one whose right it was to the vacated throne of David. And yet, when Jesus entered the holy city riding on a lowly beast of burden, hailed as king by the humble people, a short time later, the king of God’s Kingdom who was in their midst was arrested and executed.

To dispel the error affixed in many people’s minds due to the misunderstanding caused by some translations, Jesus did not mean that the Kingdom of God was within each believer. This can be easily proven given the fact that most of the sect of the Pharisees were hardened opposers of Christ. Which is why on another occasion Jesus castigated the Jewish religious leaders, saying to them: **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut up the Kingdom of the heavens before men; for you yourselves do not go in, neither do you permit those on their way in to go in.”** – Matthew 23:13

What then did Jesus mean when he said “the Kingdom of God is in your midst”? The simple answer is that as the designated king of God’s Kingdom, Jesus was at that time among the people as a teacher sent by God. Although anointed as the messianic king, he commanded no army, as great kings do. He wasn’t attended to by a body of servants. He had no queenly consort. He did not sit on a throne in a grand palace. In fact, he once said the Son of man has no place to lay his head. Thus, the future king walked among them, largely unrecognized. But there is much more to Jesus’ answer than that.

Turning to his disciples, Jesus went on to expand upon his brief reply to the Pharisees, saying to them: **“Days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, but you will not see it. And people will say to you, ‘See there!’ or, ‘See here!’ Do not go out or chase after them. For just as lightning flashes from one part of heaven to another part of heaven, so the Son of man will be in his day.”** – Luke 17:22-24

Clearly, Jesus was speaking about his return and ultimate parousia. We know this to be true since a short time later, while sitting with his disciples on the Mount of Olives, Jesus reiterated and expanded upon his illustrations recorded in the 17th chapter of Luke regarding the conclusion of the system, including the comparison of his presence to

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lightning that lights up the sky from east to west.

There is one notable difference, though. In his Mount of Olives discourse, Jesus spoke of the presence of the Son of man, comparing it to the day Noah entered into the ark and the wicked were swept away; but on the occasion when he enlarged upon his response to the Pharisees, he said: “It will be the same on that day when the Son of man is revealed.” This means that the presence of the Son of man is also the revealing of the Son of man.

This presents yet another contradiction for Jehovah’s Witnesses, though I am certain that they do not realize it. Even so, it should be evident to clear-headed readers that the parousia and the revealing are equivalent and interchangeable terms. That being true, imagine if the Watchtower, instead of speaking of an invisible presence, used the equivalent phrase “invisible revealing.” It jars the mind.

Since Christ did not begin ruling in the first century, it is evident that the Kingdom will not come with striking observableness when it does come. That is why Jesus warned his followers who would be living then not to respond to reports that the Christ is here or there at some physical location.

In what sense will the Kingdom be in our midst? That is an important question in view of the fact Jesus said wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is in their midst. Since Christ is in the midst of believers before the Kingdom comes, what about when it comes?

We have already established that Christ’s being with his disciples all the days until the conclusion will be superseded when he comes alongside them. Surely the revealing of the Son of man will be in relation to the chosen. At that point, the chosen will be sealed and granted entry into the Kingdom. That is why, in his illustration of the wheat and the weeds, Jesus said the righteous will shine as brightly as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Then, as the apostle stated, **“when he is made manifest we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is.”** – 1 John 3:2

Jesus once said that nothing carefully concealed will not be revealed. This principle also applies to those who have been hidden in Christ. That is why Paul stated the following: **“For you died, and your life has been hidden with the Christ in union with God. When the Christ, our life, is made manifest, then you also will be made manifest with him in glory.”** – Colossians 3:2,3

In case the point has not been clear enough, the parousia, manifestation, and the revelation of Christ are the same thing. And since Christ will only come alongside, reveal, and manifest himself to those who have died and been hidden in union with him, the manifestation of the chosen results in their being revealed. That was why Paul informed the Romans: **“For I consider that the sufferings of the present time do not amount to anything in comparison with the glory that is going to be revealed in us. For the creation is waiting with eager expectation for the revealing of the sons of God.”** – Romans 8:18-19

How shall the sons of God be revealed?

## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

### ALL OF US REFLECT THE GLORY OF JEHOVAH

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul likened Christianity to looking at one's reflection in a hazy metal mirror. However, in his second letter to them, he wrote the following: **"Now Jehovah is the Spirit, and where the spirit of Jehovah is, there is freedom. And all of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah, are transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, exactly as it is done by Jehovah the Spirit."** (3:17-18)

The apostle recalled the time when Moses wore a veil because the Israelites were terrified by his radiant appearance from his meeting with Jehovah face-to-face on the mountain. Moses' face reflected the glory of Jehovah—a glory that Paul said would be done away with, as the covenant Moses mediated between God and the Israelite nation had already become obsolete.

We should not imagine, though, that anointed Christians in the first century literally radiated Jehovah's glory as did Moses. Paul contrasted the old covenant, which administered death and was written in stone, with the new covenant, highlighting that the latter is far more glorious. Was Paul using hyperbole when he said, "We with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah"? No. He was speaking to the future when the new covenant will be fulfilled. How do we know? Because Paul contrasted looking at a hazy image in a metal mirror to seeing him face-to-face. The apostle also illustrated it by likening the change from a child to an adult. Christianity will reach full manhood when Christ comes and completes his work.

The new covenant is only mentioned once in the Hebrew texts, in Jeremiah, where we read: **"Look! The days are coming," declares Jehovah, "when I will make with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah a new covenant. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their**



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forefathers on the day I took hold of their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, 'my covenant that they broke, although I was their true master,' declares Jehovah. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares Jehovah. **"I will put my law within them, and in their heart I will write it. And I will become their God, and they will become my people. And they will no longer teach each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know Jehovah!' for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them,"** declares Jehovah. **"For I will forgive their error, and I will no longer remember their sin."** – Jeremiah 31:31-34

In the context of Paul saying we reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah, the apostle also said we are ministers of the new covenant. Christians are still ministers of the new covenant because Christ has not come. This should be evident from Jehovah's statement that the new covenant will bring about a state of complete enlightenment, whereby no one within the covenant will need to be taught about Jehovah. That can hardly be the condition of Christian's now. Isn't the Watchtower all about teaching people, anointed included, to know and love Jehovah? Therefore, the administration of the new covenant will not be completed until he comes. That is when the separation will remove the faithless and wicked, and God will implant His law within the true sons of the Kingdom. Having God's law written on one's heart means they can never be disloyal to their God. That is when the chosen will shine as brightly as the sun, with unveiled faces, reflecting like mirrors the glory of their heavenly Father and Savior.

### "HIS FACE WAS LIKE AN ANGEL'S FACE"

Stephen was one of the original Christians. The account says he was full of divine favor and power and performed great wonders and signs. A group of Jews began disputing with him, but they could not hold their own. So, they persuaded men to falsely accuse Stephen of promoting a rebellion against Moses, and he was hauled before the Sanhedrin—the same judicial body that had condemned Christ to death. What happened next, Acts 6:15 says: **"And as all those sitting in the Sanhedrin stared at him, they saw that his face was like an angel's face."**

In his lengthy defense, Stephen recounted the history of Israel and concluded by condemning the Sanhedrin and the Jews for having murdered the righteous one. As they began to gnash their teeth in rage, Stephen looked up and announced that he was looking at God and Jesus standing at his right side. In other words, Stephen saw Jesus in his glory and spoke to him. At that point, the enraged Jews stoned Stephen to death.

In this, we have a portent of momentous events to come. Jesus foretold that during the conclusion, **"people will lay their hands on you and persecute you, handing you over to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors for the sake of my name. It will result in your giving a witness. Therefore, resolve in your hearts not to rehearse beforehand how to make your defense, for I will give you words and wisdom that all your opposers together will not be able to resist or dispute. Moreover, you will be handed over even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and**

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you will be hated by all people because of my name.” – Luke 21:12-17

Stephen demonstrated how opposers are not able to resist or dispute one who is filled with God’s spirit. Stephen was also handed over and made to stand before the rulers to give them a witness. He was surely hated because of Jesus’ name. And he was put to death, as Jesus said some of us will be. Moreover, Stephen saw a vision of Christ, and it was as a result of his giving witness to what he had seen that the Jews were provoked into murderous madness.

What does an angel’s face look like? We do not know. It was a supernatural manifestation. It should be noted that there is no record that James’ face became like an angel’s face when he was martyred, nor any other first-century Christian who was killed on account of the name of Jesus. The account of Stephen is a portent, a preview of what will occur when the sons of God are revealed.

Do all people hate Jehovah’s Witnesses because of Jesus’ name? Not really. Jehovah’s Witnesses are more hated because of their association with the name of Jehovah, not Jesus. In fact, a legitimate criticism of the Watchtower is that it downplays the role of Jesus. Everything is about Jehovah.

It is understandable if the name Jehovah has been overemphasized, given that Christendom has all but erased the divine name. Still, in recent years, it seems Jesus has been pushed further and further into the background. This is all the more contradictory since Paul stated that when God again brings his Firstborn into the world, he will command his angels to worship him. If Christ returned in 1914 as the Watchtower claims, why don’t Jehovah’s Witnesses worship him or at least honor him more than they do?

Since the chosen have not been thrown from their congregations nor has anyone been handed over to the local courts, governors, or kings to give them a witness, nor have anointed Christians been betrayed by brothers or handed over by family members to be put to death, neither have they become hated by all people because of the name of Jesus. Their giving witness that they have seen Christ face-to-face will bring all these things upon them.

**Since the chosen have not been thrown from their congregations nor has anyone been handed over to the local courts, governors, or kings to give them a witness, nor have anointed Christians been betrayed by brothers or handed over by family members to be put to death, neither have they become hated by all people because of the name of Jesus.**



## “His countenance was like the sun”

John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. John experienced the Transfiguration of Christ and, as a captive of the Roman empire, was exiled to the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. By inspiration, the aged apostle came to be on the Lord’s day. Although the apostle saw heavenly things, he was not initially transported in vision into the heavens. His perspective was as an earthling. And as a man, he heard a commanding voice, saying: **“What you see, write in a scroll and send it to the seven congregations.”**

Let John describe what happened next: **“I turned to see who was speaking with me, and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands someone like a son of man, clothed in a garment that reached down to the feet and wearing a golden sash around his chest. Moreover, his head and his hair were white as white wool, as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame, and his feet were like fine copper when glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars, and out of his mouth a sharp, long, two-edged sword was protruding, and his countenance was like the sun when it shines at its brightest. When I saw him, I fell as dead at his feet.”** – Revelation 1:12-17

John likely immediately recognized the person speaking to him as Jesus since his countenance shone as the sun—exactly as Christ did in the Transfiguration. If there was any doubt in his mind, the one speaking to him identified himself as the living one who became dead but lives forever and ever. John knew that Jesus had been dead for three days but came alive by the power of God and ascended back to the Father. John witnessed his ascension.

But John also knew that Jesus said he would come again and that his disciples would see his manifestation.

By inspiration, John experienced the parousia. That he was a human when he saw the glorious Lord is evident by the fact that John collapsed at Jesus’ feet as if dead. After writing down the messages to the seven congregations (recorded in the second and third chapters of Revelation), the fourth chapter opens with John being transported by the spirit to heaven. **“After this I saw, and look! an opened door in heaven, and the first voice that I heard speaking with me was like a trumpet, saying: “Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place.” After this I immediately came to be in the power of the spirit, and look! a throne was in its position in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne.”**



It is noteworthy that when John saw visions of heavenly things—even God seated upon his throne—the apostle did not fall down as though dead. To underscore the point, John’s face-to-face encounter with Christ in the first chapter of Revelation, although in vision, is an enactment of the parousia.

As incredible as it was, John’s experience was not unique. Just as elements from the prophecies of Daniel are incorporated into Revelation, so too, Daniel also experienced an encounter with a superhuman who manifested himself in much the same way as John experienced. Similarly, Daniel collapsed in a heap and fell asleep at the feet of the appearance. And just as Jesus touched John and told him not to be afraid, the “man” with a face like lightning and eyes like fiery torches placed his right hand on Daniel and urged him to stand up, calling him a “very precious man.” Are there any who are more precious to God than the chosen whose every hair is numbered?

Another parallel, both Daniel and John were captives in a foreign land when they participated in the prophetic visions. The fact that this event represents the parousia is reinforced by the reaction of the men accompanying Daniel. They did not see the vision; instead, a great trembling overcame them, and they ran away to hide, leaving Daniel alone, lying at the feet of this glorious figure.

## “IT IS A VISION YET FOR THE DAYS TO COME”

Just as John envisioned the things to come, Daniel was informed by the angel: **“I have come to make you understand what will befall your people in the final part of the days, because it is a vision yet for the days to come.”** – Daniel 10:14

And what is to befall Daniel’s people in the final part of the days?

When discussing the sign of the conclusion, Jesus connected the desolation of the holy place to the prophecy of Daniel. The discerning reader will surely take note that the eighth chapter of Daniel foretells that the sanctuary will be thrown down and the holy place trampled upon for an appointed time.

If there is an overriding theme in the Hebrew prophecies, it is the unfaithfulness of God’s people, their due punishment, including the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, followed by healing and restoration. However, the restoration of the temple foreshadows a spiritual liberation and recuperation to be accomplished by Christ.

The leadership of Jehovah’s Witnesses has been aware of this overriding prophetic theme, and over the years, the Watchtower has produced thousands of pages of commentary and interpretation.

According to the Watchtower’s latest “understanding,” though, Christians entered spiritual captivity to Babylon the Great many centuries ago, when Christianity was made the state religion of the pagan Roman Empire. It is believed that the Watchtower organization is the restored spiritual estate prophesied. However, this cannot possibly be true.

It is not within the scope of this brochure to debunk the Watchtower’s voluminous eschatology. Neither is it necessary to do so. Detach everything connected to 1914 and shift it to some point in the immediate future, and you have the picture. If we honestly take note of the central feature of Jesus’ prophecy concerning the conclusion of the system, we can accomplish that. And what is the central theme of Jesus’ prophecy of the conclusion of the system? The desolation of Jerusalem.

When David brought the ark of the covenant to the Jebusite stronghold he had captured, Jerusalem became the center of the worship of Jehovah God. When Solomon built the grand temple on Mount Zion and God came down and filled the sanctuary with the cloud of his presence, it thereafter became known as the city where Jehovah had placed His name.

As a child and young man, Jesus traveled with his family to the holy city for all of the religious festivals. As the Messiah, Jesus threw out the money changers from his Father’s house and taught the people in the courtyard of the temple and was executed just outside the walls of Jerusalem. However, Jesus explained to the Samaritan woman at the well that the hour was coming when Jerusalem would no longer be the center of Jewish worship.

Even so, Jerusalem became the birthplace of Christianity. Jesus made sure that the holy city was associated with The Way as it was originally called when he instructed his disciples to stay in Jerusalem

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until they received the spirit. After their anointing, the apostles and many others preached in the temple day and night.

When persecution broke out after Stephen and James were killed, all the disciples were scattered except the apostles. Jerusalem remained the unofficial headquarters of Christianity. That is why Paul traveled from his missionary field to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and older men to discuss the contentious issue of Gentile circumcision. Evidently, the apostles were still in Jerusalem when the Roman armies initially came to lay siege, which they no doubt recognized as the disgusting thing standing in a holy place.

Contrary to the Watchtower's teaching, the apostles did not regard the temple as a center of apostasy and false worship; far from it. According to the biblical record, the apostles instructed Paul to go to the temple and offer a sacrifice to quell the rumor that he was preaching an apostasy against Moses.

So, Jerusalem represents Jehovah's earthly organization that will be trampled upon when Christ comes. To attain salvation, Christians will have to do the unthinkable. They will have to decisively break their attachment to an organization that had been holy to God.

Jesus has already provided life-saving instructions when the crucial moment arrives: **“Therefore, when you catch sight of the disgusting thing that causes desolation, as spoken about by Daniel the prophet, standing in a holy place (let the reader use discernment), then let those in Judea begin fleeing to the mountains. Let the man on the housetop not come down to take the goods out of his house, and let the man in the field not return to pick up his outer garment.”** – Matthew 24:15-18

Jesus went on to say, Then there will be a tribulation unlike anything that has ever occurred.

During that critical time, the Lord also informed us that false prophets and false Christs will arise and perform great signs and wonders to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones. Jesus said, **“Look! I have forewarned you. Therefore, if people say to you, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; ‘Look! He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”** – Matthew 24:25-26

Why may we unreservedly dismiss the sensational reports that Christ is here or there?

## “SO THE PRESENCE OF THE SON OF MAN WILL BE”

Jesus stated: **“For just as the lightning comes out of the east and shines over to the west, so the presence of the Son of man will be. Wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”** – Matthew 24:27-28

First, to re-emphasize a vital point—a careful reading of Jesus' discourse reveals that the presence of the Son of man will not take place until after the desolation of what is symbolized by Jerusalem and the holy place.

What, though, did Jesus mean by his presence being like lightning that streaks across the whole of the

## 7 - “His countenance was like the sun”

sky?

We have already established two vital truths. One, the world will not see Christ—only the chosen. And secondly, Jesus will not appear in the flesh. So, reports that he is in the inner room or in the wilderness cannot be true since, presumably, there would be a visible, materialized flesh and blood person either in the inner room or out in the wilderness.

The lightning must, therefore, represent something spiritual—why not Christ himself? In Daniel's vision, he described the appearance as having a face like lightning. No matter where the chosen are on earth—east or west or in between—they will see the “lightning.” They will not have to travel to a particular location. Jesus will come to them, no matter where they are, and no one else will see him.

Since those anointed by the holy spirit have been born again as potential spirits and have a seat reserved for them in the heavenly places, and at the time of their sealing will be just the twinkling of an eye away

from becoming immortal spirits themselves, Christ's manifestation and revelation to them while they are in the flesh must take place in the spirit realm—or someplace in between.

How is it possible for a human to see into the invisible? I do not know. But dare we assume it is not possible?

Science has shown that humans can only see a very narrow band of the much broader spectrum of light. There are longer and shorter waves of light that we cannot see. Some animals and insects can see light that is invisible to humans. Some invisible forms of energy are radioactive.



Although we know Moses did not literally see the face of Jehovah, he did see an appearance. His face glowed from the encounter, as if he had been exposed to an intense form of light.

We should not rule out the possibility that those born-again spirit sons of God will be given something comparable to X-ray vision to see what is otherwise invisible. Was that not demonstrated in the experience Daniel had when he saw in a vision this great appearance, while the men with him did not see anything but became terrified and ran away and hid themselves?

But what about what Paul wrote that no man can see those who dwell in “unapproachable light”? Consider the context: **“I give you orders to observe the commandment in a spotless and irreprehensible way until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which the happy and only Potentate will show in its own appointed times. He is the King of those who rule as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords, the one alone having immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.”** – 1 Tim. 6:13-16

## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

No man has seen the King of kings and Lord of lords—at least not yet. Please note that Paul said “*until* the manifestation of our Lord,” which he “*will show*.” Will it be an invisible showing?

As stated already, the manifestation is an appearance—an epiphany. The Greek word “epiphaneia” even carries the connotation of brightness. Since the chosen are destined to shine as brightly as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father—even while on earth before their departure, having the daystar arise in their hearts—having the One who dwells in unapproachable light come alongside them cannot possibly go unnoticed.

Consider Saul’s experience on the road to Damascus. The brief account in the ninth chapter of Acts merely says, “**suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him: ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’**”

Saul’s travel companions heard Jesus’ voice but did not see the flash of heavenly light. Saul was temporarily blinded, but his fellow travelers were not. Hence, Saul saw a blinding light that others could not see.

Years later, the apostle explained to the Corinthians that over 500 believers saw Jesus after he was resurrected, but he saw him lastly—the only person to have seen Jesus after his ascension. The fact that Paul listed himself as a witness to Christ’s post-death existence indicates that he saw more than a flash of light.

In 1 Corinthians 15:8, Paul explained the significance of his experience: “**But last of all he appeared also to me as if to one born prematurely.**” What did the apostle mean that it was as if he were born prematurely? All of the others saw Jesus in human form before he ascended. Saul/Paul saw the manifestation of Christ that the remnant will experience in a face-to-face encounter with the divine.

To be sure, the second coming and the manifestation of Christ will be entirely supernatural and beyond the realm of normal, everyday human experience. Since Jesus is coming into the human realm again, this time to receive home to himself those who are in union with him spiritually, why should we expect the ordinary?

## The sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven

Having presented the case for a visible manifestation of Christ to the chosen, what does the Scripture mean that “every eye will see him”?

That statement is made in the opening chapter of Revelation, which says: “**Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen.**”

The coming and presence of Jesus alongside the sealed ones will be an unspeakable privilege for them. Those who experience the revelation, yes, the manifestation of Jesus, will not “beat themselves in grief.” Just the opposite. They will shout for joy and sing a new song of praise to God and Christ. Conversely, those who will experience anguish at “seeing” him coming on the clouds of heaven will wish they had not seen such a sight.

Jesus stated virtually the same thing when discussing the conclusion of the system with his apostles on the Mount of Olives, as recorded in Matthew 24:29-30. Please note the slight variation, though: “**Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**”

Jesus said the masses will see the *sign* of the Son of Man appear in heaven. Seeing a heavenly sign is not the same as seeing Christ face-to-face.

What sort of sign will appear? We do not know. It is noteworthy, though, that the sign of the Son of man will appear after the tribulation is cut short by divine intervention. During that time, Jesus said, “**There will be fearful sights and from heaven great signs.**” – Luke 21:11b

So, the sign of the Son of man in heaven is part of the “great signs” and “fearful sights.” What might these fearful sights be?

Having made the case that nuclear war is the only situation with the potential to pose an immediate existential threat to mankind, God’s intervention will not only be crucial for the survival of Adam and Eve’s offspring, but when God intervenes, it will be undeniable—a great sign, to be sure.

The coming of the Son of man to impose his rule over the world must be the most stupendous event in history. Surely, when God cuts short the tribulation on account of the

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chosen ones, it will be astonishing—miraculous! Doesn't the prophetic Psalm hint at this very thing, where it says? **“Come and witness the activities of Jehovah, how he has done astonishing things on the earth. He is bringing an end to wars throughout the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the military wagons with fire.”** (46:8-9)

Whenever God intervenes in human affairs, it does not go unnoticed. Jehovah once parted the Red Sea to deliver his people from death. God once listened to Joshua's voice and caused the sun to stand still in the sky for a whole day. In the dark of night, Jesus came to his terrified apostles in their little fishing boat, walking upon the stormy sea. And when Christ was nailed to a tree and hung there, slowly dying an agonizing death, God darkened the sun and caused a great earthquake that was so violent it unearthed corpses from their tombs. Seeing this, even a Roman soldier confessed: “Certainly, this was God's Son.”

No one should doubt that Satan intends to detonate a nuclear war to make the earth uninhabitable. Rule or ruin is his policy. No doubt God will allow the Devil to demonstrate his murderous intention, to what extent remains to be seen.

Remember, though, Jesus Christ is the Savior of mankind. And during the bleakest moment when the sun will not shine, the moon and stars have gone dark, when mankind is faint with fright, not knowing the way out, when all seems lost—the Son of man will appear as if walking upon the storm clouds of heaven.

Of course, modern armies no longer use bows and arrows, spears, and horse-drawn wagons. But should it matter what weaponry is involved? Why is it unthinkable that Jehovah's angels might defuse atomic warheads while hypersonic missiles streak across the heavens? Is that too great a challenge for the Almighty? Would that not constitute a fearful sight and a great sign from heaven?

Just imagine, all of the millions of atheists, agnostics, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and the multitudes of rapturists, yes, every eye, being forced to recognize that Jesus Christ, the Son of Jehovah, had entered onto the world's stage. It will be an eye-opening experience for Jehovah's Witnesses, too, since they are laboring under the delusion that the Son of man came on the clouds of heaven in 1914.

## “AND THOSE WHO PIERCED HIM”

What does it mean that, among those seeing him, are “those who pierced him”? The Bible record

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indicates that a single Roman soldier pierced Jesus' side with his spear to determine if he was dead. Obviously, the man who speared Jesus has been dead for nearly 20 centuries. Why then does the scripture speak of a plurality—“*those* who pierced him”?

When Jesus becomes manifest, those who will see him will be sealed—meaning they will have been irrevocably received into the Kingdom, even as flesh and blood humans. The calling and choosing, preaching and teaching, baptizing, will have ended. That will be the conclusion of the Christian system. At that point, those chosen will become the brothers of Christ in the fullest sense – sons of God. They will no longer be ambassadors for the Kingdom, but kings. Wasn't Jesus the designated king when he was on earth? But few recognized him as such. In the same way, the Kingdom of God will not come with striking observableness.

That is when the sheep and the goats will be judged by their treatment of the brothers of Christ. The goats will be condemned for their neglect—even for mistreatment. After all, some of Jesus' brothers will be in prison. And eventually all of them will be killed, as we are informed by the opening of the fifth seal, when the angel said to the resurrected saints: **“rest a little while longer, until the number was filled of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed as they had been.”** – Revelation 6:11

When Stephen's face became an angel's face, it did not prevent the maddened Jews from murdering him. Likewise, most of the Jews who witnessed Christ's execution were not moved when the sky grew dark at noon and a great earthquake rocked Jerusalem. Nor should we assume that when the revealing of the sons of God takes place, those who have no love of God will accept it. Because then it will be the hour of the authority of darkness, and brothers will hand

over brothers to be put to death. Jesus will be pierced anew when his brothers are killed.



## Satan keeps disguising himself as an angel of light

Satan is extremely cunning. The apostle Paul warned Christians that the Devil is adept at disguising himself as an angel of light. It is no wonder Satan is capable of mastering such a clever disguise since he once was a trusted, faithful messenger of God.

How can one tell the difference between an angel and a devil? Only by adhering to God’s word. Have we not been warned by the apostle not to believe “every inspired expression”? If a teaching presented as “inspired” is not from God, from what source is it?

We know the god of this world long ago hijacked Christianity and infused it with the occult mysteries of Babylon. The ministry of Jehovah’s Witnesses has been aimed at overturning the deeply entrenched, popular falsehoods that have been institutionalized as Christian theology.

Even so, Jehovah’s Witnesses are unaware of just how powerful and shrewd the sly old serpent is. That is because the Deceiver operates undetected within the Watchtower institution.

This is nothing new. In the first century, Paul exposed those whom he dubbed “the superfine apostles,” who had disguised themselves as ministers of righteousness while, in reality, they were deceitful workers and false apostles. The fact that Paul called them “false apostles” means that they passed themselves off as genuine apostles. No doubt they were the most prominent men in the congregation—men of stature. Yes, Satan’s agents presided over the Corinthian congregation and the brothers and sisters were unaware.

The fact that these prominent men criticized the founder of the Corinthian congregation as having a weak personal presence and being a detestable public speaker indicates that the impostors were polished Greek orators, even charismatic, well-spoken agents of Satan. That was the context wherein the inspired apostle said that Satan had also disguised himself as an enlightening angel. That is why Paul feared that the naive Corinthians might be corrupted by the insidious influence of the false apostles. (See 2 Corinthians, the 11th chapter)

As regards the second coming of Christ, we have been forewarned by the Lord himself that many false prophets and false Christs will arise and mislead many. Satan is already deceiving the whole world. He is intent on misleading the chosen ones. He surely knows who they are—especially will that be so in the future, once the harvest and final sealing have taken place.

Already, though, the pretending angel of light has cleverly conned those who are otherwise

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light bearers; deceiving them into believing that Christ has come; that the Kingdom reigns; that the demons have been hurled down from heaven and are relentlessly persecuting the offspring of the woman; that spiritual paradise prevails and pure worship has been restored; that these are the last days, and on and on the falsehoods go—enshrined as The Truth.

Paul forewarned that God would allow an operation of Satan to employ **“every powerful work and lying signs and wonders and every unrighteous deception.”** To what end? As the context indicates and has already been expounded upon, the Devil has created a false parousia designed to convince anointed Christians that the Lord’s day has already begun and that Christ’s presence is here. To emphasize the point, it is not necessary for Satan to employ powerful works and lying signs to deceive the masses who have already been thoroughly deceived. His target is all of those who are called to be in union with Christ.

Given the facts presented thus far, why is it deemed impossible that false apostles and deceitful workers exist within the Watchtower organization? The fact is, Jehovah’s Witnesses have been thoroughly deceived by those who are looked to as the source of truth. Sadly, like all persons who have been deceived, they are unaware that they have been deceived. Witnesses have been subtly conditioned to believe that everything the Watchtower teaches is from God and that to question even the most specious teaching and reasoning presented as the truth is tantamount to apostasy. Elders have unwittingly become the enforcers of the delusion.

We may be sure that the one whom Jesus referred to as the wicked one knows the Bible better than any mere human. He has had thousands of years to examine it—to plot, to scheme, to mentally condition, to manipulate. Thus, the satanic angel can create powerful works and lying signs designed to convince us that Bible prophecy has been fulfilled when such is not the case.

Virtually everything the Watchtower has ever published pertaining to the second coming has been interpreted to that end—to convince trusting Christians that all has been fulfilled. And it is all an unrighteous deception.

As an example, consider the 10th chapter of Revelation. The vision reveals something extraordinary: **“And I saw another strong angel descending from heaven, arrayed with a cloud, and a rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs were like pillars of fire, and he had in his hand a little scroll that had been unrolled. And he set his right foot on the sea, but his left one on the earth, and he cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars. And when he cried out, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.”**

Clearly, this strong angel is Jesus Christ. His face, glowing like the sun, is a sure giveaway. No Trinitarian can accept this since their mystery religion requires belief that Jesus is God and therefore cannot be an angel. The Watchtower, however, offers some insight and correctly identifies the angel as Jesus Christ when he descends to declare his dominion over the earth.

When will this vision become a reality? Here is where the operation of Satan comes into play with lying signs and every unrighteous deception.

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The Watchtower claims that the Bible Students were handed the symbolic little scroll in 1919. According to Watchtower lore, *The Finished Mystery*, published in 1916, proved to be “inadequate.” So Jesus required the John class to rework it and get it right to **“prophesy again about peoples and nations and tongues and many kings.”**

Since the Watchtower’s last commentary on Revelation was published more than a quarter century ago, and *The Finished Mystery* was long ago consigned to the rubbish bin, it is doubtful that most Jehovah’s Witnesses have any idea how utterly ridiculous and absurd the book was. Why the publishers would need someone from heaven to tell them what should have been obvious to any thinking person is even more ludicrous.

The falsity of the Watchtower’s interpretation of the 10th chapter of Revelation is clear to anyone willing to use their God-given powers of reasoning—provided they are even interested in the truth.

By considering the words of the strong angel, any honest person knows that Christ is speaking about the end of Christianity—or more appropriately, the accomplishment of God’s purpose in connection with the Christian ministry. Here is what the strong angel swore to God: **“The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the earth raised his right hand to heaven, and he swore by the One who lives forever and ever, who created the heaven and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it: “There will be no delay any longer. But in the days when the seventh angel is about to blow his trumpet, the sacred secret that God declared as good news to his own slaves the prophets is indeed brought to a finish.”** – Revelation 10:5-7

The reason the Watchtower titled their book *The Finished Mystery* is because the King James version used the word “mystery” instead of “sacred secret.” Either way, nothing came to a conclusion in 1919 or at any time since then.

If the Bible Students were enlightened by supposedly eating the symbolic little scroll, why does the Watchtower still teach absurdities such as the Anglo-American head of the beast suffered the prophesied mortal head wound during the First World War, when there is not a shred of historical evidence that London or Washington experienced any instability or unrest, let alone suffered collapse? And why does the Watchtower still promote the lie that the League of Nations had authority over all nations when the USA was not even a member of the League? And were you aware that the Governing Body has never repudiated the absurd notion that since 1922 people of the world have been receiving the 666 mark of the beast and have already had their names blotted out of Jehovah’s book of life? If that were true, why bother preaching and teaching and trying to make disciples of people who have already been sentenced to everlasting death with no reprieve?

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These are not insignificant, trivial details. The facts are the facts. And because the Watchtower’s interpretations do not align with historical facts, they are indicative of falsehood. Since we have already determined that the operation of Satan is intended to create a false parousia, and the Watchtower’s interpretation cannot be true, the fact that men who present themselves as apostles adamantly support a blatant fabrication is evidence of Satan’s insidious influence in conjuring powerful works, lying signs, and every unrighteous deception.

The purpose of Christ commanding John to prophesy again to nations and many kings symbolizes what will take place after Jesus manifests himself to the chosen. Did not Jesus tell his disciples that during the conclusion they would be made to stand before governors and kings to give them a witness, and that no one would be able to dispute their word because the holy spirit would be the one speaking? This has never happened in the modern era.

The disguised angel of light has also convinced Jehovah’s Witnesses that Revelation’s two witnesses have already come on the scene performing miracles like Moses and Elijah, and have been killed. Laughably, the Governing Body claims the prophecy was fulfilled when J.F. Rutherford spent a few months in prison. In truth, the 11th chapter of Revelation portrays the climactic conclusion of Satan’s reign.



## Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations

The Bible is not easy to understand. It is, after all, a product of the inscrutable mind of God. Jesus often spoke in illustrations that have to be interpreted. That can be a little tricky. Even the apostle Peter acknowledged that in Paul's writings, there were some things that were hard to understand, which the untaught and unsteady were twisting to their own destruction. Then there is prophecy and chronology.

To be sure, a higher intelligence inspired the Holy Scriptures, so we may be confident that it all makes sense, even if we do not understand everything. Let's at least be honest with ourselves, though; if someone's interpretation or some religious institution's explanation doesn't make sense and contradicts the Scriptures and violates even common sense, then we may be sure it is not true.

Take the Trinity, for example. Catholic doctrine holds that God exists in three persons and that none was before or after the others. That means that even though Jesus addressed God as his Father and God referred to Jesus as his Son, they do not have a father/son relationship as we understand it. Why then do they refer to each other as "my Father" and "my Son"? No one can explain it—at least not in a sensible way. And the reason no one can explain it is because it is not true. The Trinity is a demon-inspired lie. No matter how skillfully a lie is constructed, it cannot stand up to scrutiny, provided we allow God's word to have the final say.

The same is true with the Watchtower's chronology. It simply doesn't add up—no pun intended. It is contradictory and has all the telltale signs of being a demonic lie. That may hurt someone's feelings. Jehovah's Witnesses may refuse to believe it even when presented with the scriptural evidence. The Watchtower may denounce the presenter of a sensible argument as a mentally-diseased apostate, but that does not change a lie into the truth. 1914 is a fabrication built upon misapplied chronology. That is the truth, and it will become painfully evident when Christ comes and it all comes undone.

Of course, there is biblical chronology. God is the Father of time and an exacting time-keeper. For example, the ninth chapter of Daniel uses weeks of years to foretell the precise year that the Messiah would appear and even the length of his ministry. But as we shall see, God's allowance for an operation of Satan is based upon an artificial interpretation of biblical chronology.

As all of Jehovah's Witnesses know, C.T. Russell pointed forward to 1914 as early as 1879. However, he did not claim it would mark the second coming since Russell taught that an invisible presence had begun in 1874. Rather, the Watchtower's Founder claimed that 1914

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would initiate global anarchy and culminate in the world-ending battle of Armageddon.

Although the vast majority of International Bible Students who followed Pastor Russell's predictions stumbled when everything went sideways, and Russell himself unexpectedly passed away on Halloween, 1916, over the course of the following years, up to around 1930, the Watchtower reworked everything to make 1914 the anchor date for the beginning of the parousia and the coming to power of God's Kingdom.



And Lo and Behold! Satan did his part with every powerful work and lying signs to convince Christians that the Great War, as it was originally called, along with the horrific Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 and the brief persecution of the leadership of the Watchtower, synced with the chronological expectations tied to 1914.

Russell's chronology was based on the seven times of Nebuchadnezzar's madness. Because Jesus also spoke of the "times of the Gentiles," it is claimed that the "seven times" correspond to the "times" allotted for Jerusalem to be trodden down by the nations. The Watchtower adopted an equation that

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calculates the seven times to equal 2,520 years, counting from the year Babylon destroyed Jerusalem. On the surface it seems to work. It is an illusion.

There is only one Bible writer who recorded Jesus' words concerning the times of the Gentiles, or "appointed times" as the *New World Translation* phrases it—Luke. In context, Christ was speaking about the tribulation that was destined to come upon the city of Jerusalem. First, a disgusting thing would stand in a holy place. Then the enemy would pitch a fortification of pointed stakes around the doomed city. Finally, Jesus said: **"And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled."** – Luke 21:24

A few days before the Mount of Olives discourse, Jesus had said the temple would be thrown down without a stone remaining upon a stone. The disciples wanted to know when this disaster would befall them. And Jesus complied with their request. When Jesus said the nations will trample on Jerusalem, it is simply inconceivable that the apostles would have understood Jesus to have meant that the trampling had already begun and that the appointed times for the trampling began when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's temple. Obviously, Jerusalem and the temple had been rebuilt. The apostles were not asking about history. They wanted to know when the rebuilt city and temple would be torn down.

Even so, we are not Preterists. We do not believe for one moment that the great tribulation that Jesus said was destined to come upon the entire inhabited earth and require divine intervention to prevent the extinction of the human race took place in the first century.

So, what are the appointed times that God has allowed for the nations to trample Jerusalem?

It is a historical fact that no one doubts: The Romans obliterated Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E. The Arch of Titus in Rome still stands as a monument to the fulfillment of Christ's words.

If we but read the very next span of verses in Luke, it should be evident to any honest searcher that the trampling of Jerusalem has a modern fulfillment connected with the presence of Christ. Here is what Jesus said in context: **"Also, there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of nations not knowing the way out because of the roaring of the sea and its agitation. People will become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But as these things start to occur, stand up straight and lift up your heads, because your deliverance is getting near."**

Please take note of the little adverb "also" at the beginning of the quotation. "Also" is in addition to the nations trampling upon Jerusalem. So, the question really comes down to this: What does Jerusalem represent? As has already been stated, Jerusalem is a symbol of Christ's congregation. Even the Watchtower recognizes this simple fact — at least when it is convenient.

As for the appointed times for the nations to trample Christ's earthly organization, appropriately, the book of Revelation provides the key to unlock the mystery: **"And a reed like a rod was given to me**

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**as he said: "Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months. I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth." These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth."** (11:1-4)

To underscore the artificiality of the Watchtower's 1914 eschatology, Jehovah's Witnesses have been deluded into believing that the holy city was trampled by the nations for an appointed time of 42 months beginning in 1914.

After correctly identifying the sanctuary as having to do with Christ's congregation, here is what is stated in the *Grand Climax* publication:

We have noted that the inner courtyard pictures the righteous standing on earth of spirit-begotten Christians. As we shall see, the reference here is to the literal 42 months extending from December 1914 to June 1918, when all professing Christians were put to a severe test. Would they uphold Jehovah's righteous standards during those war years? Most did not. En bloc, the clergy of Christendom put nationalism ahead of obedience to divine law. On both sides of the war, which was fought mainly in Christendom, the clergy preached the young men into the trenches. Millions were slaughtered. By the time that judgment started with the house of God in 1918, the United States had also entered that bloodspilling, and the clergy of all of Christendom had incurred a bloodguilt that still cries out for divine vengeance. Their being cast out has become permanent, irreversible.

Contradictions made to sound like inspired statements of truth and even declarations made with apostolic authority may sound authentic, but it is exactly what Paul warned us about when he said not to believe every inspired statement or documents pretending to be authored by the apostles.

If we but reason on the statement above and ask: If the appointed times for the nations to trample symbolic Jerusalem ended in 1914, how is it that 1914 also marked the beginning of a 42-month period for the nations to trample the holy city and sanctuary? How can chronology mark the end of a period of trampling and simultaneously mark the beginning of another appointed time of trampling? Is God's word so convoluted? Or is it the Watchtower's specious reasoning that is suspect?

Of course, Jehovah's Witnesses are oblivious to this glaring contradiction. Even if one were to point out the obvious, they would be dismissed, marginalized, or even punished for having the audacity to question the "faithful and discreet slave." Truth is only truth when the Governing Body declares it to be truth. You know its true.

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We should not suppose, though, that men concocted this fanciful interpretation on their own. No, the fact that Russell was “inspired” to establish an expectation centered on 1914 and when the war began the spokesman for the Watchtower announced to the Bethel family that the Gentile times had ended, and there is what can be construed as a 42-month period in there, somewhere, provided we squint and look really hard into the hazy past, it has all the earmarks of a powerful work and lying sign of Satan to begin and end the war to coincide with the phony application of the appointed times.

While correctly identifying the sanctuary and holy city as having to do with Christianity, the fabricators fail to take into consideration that Jesus placed the trampling of Jerusalem in the context of the great tribulation.

As for the chronology, the 42 months, otherwise expressed as time, times, and half a time, as well as 1,260 days, is the period allowed for the nations to trample on the Kingdom of God from the point at which the sealing takes place. That is when the strong angel will declare that the sacred secret is brought to a finish. The Kingdom is trampled upon because those who are chosen to be kings with Christ will be persecuted and killed during the reign of the last king.



## I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy

While the “holy city” is trampled underfoot by the nations for 42 months, the two witnesses will prophesy for the same period, expressed as 1,260 days.

Some Bible readers at least have a passing interest in the prophecy of the two witnesses. Yet, it seems no one—including the leadership of Jehovah’s Witnesses—has ever considered why they are called “my two witnesses” or what they may witness. Since they are said to be standing before the Lord of the whole earth, it must be that Jesus is the one calling them “my two witnesses.” But why?

The law of Moses stipulated that the testimony of two witnesses establishes every matter. So, it is a legal precept.

To appreciate the role of these two legal witnesses, we should consider the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing in the Transfiguration vision. That is because, although Revelation leaves them unnamed, the two witnesses are described as performing mighty acts similar to those which the real Moses and Elijah were empowered to execute during their ministries.

Moses, therefore, represents the Law since he was the mediator of the Law covenant. It is often even called the law of Moses.

Elijah was the foremost prophet. This is ironic since Elijah did not write any of the prophetic books of the Hebrew Scriptures. Instead, he performed many powerful works, such as the first known resurrection. “Elijah” is also a forerunner of Christ. Jesus identified John the Baptizer as fulfilling the role of Elijah in the first century.

Just as Moses announced in advance to the ruler of Egypt the Ten plagues, Elijah declared to the apostate king of Israel that it would not rain except by his order. For 42 months, a severe drought gripped the land of Israel.

Elijah also called fire down from heaven to convince the Baal-worshipping Israelites that Jehovah was the true God, and later he twice summoned fire from the sky to consume those who had been sent to arrest Jehovah’s prophet.

Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets—the totality of God’s dealings with Israel over 15 centuries that culminated with Christ. That is why Jesus said he did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them.

However, although Paul explained that God had nailed the Law to the stake with Christ, the prophecies were not completely fulfilled with the life and death of the Messiah, far from

## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

it. Do not all of the prophecies ultimately point to the second coming and the establishment of the Kingdom in the final part of the days? They surely do.

It is especially noteworthy that the closing words of Malachi, which was the last book of the Hebrew Scriptures, mentions both Moses and Elijah, and places the coming of Elijah with the fiery day of Jehovah: **“Remember the Law of my servant Moses, the regulations and judgments that I commanded at Horeb for all Israel to obey. “Look! I am sending to you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awe-inspiring day of Jehovah. And he will turn the hearts of fathers back toward sons, and the hearts of sons back toward fathers, so that I may not come and strike the earth, devoting it to destruction.”**

And that is why Moses and Elijah appeared in the Transfiguration vision, which is a foregleam of the parousia. Then is when the new covenant and the prophecies, including Revelation, will be fulfilled, and the sacred secret will come to its finish.

Moses and Elijah had common experiences. Both of them had close encounters with God on Mount Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai—“the mountain of the true God.”

### “SEVEN THOUSAND PERSONS WERE KILLED”

When Elijah was fleeing from the Jehovah-hating, murderous Jezebel, he holed up in a cave in Horeb, and Jehovah came down upon the mountain. And as the true God was “passing by,” there was a fierce windstorm, followed by a great quaking that split mountains and crags, and after the wind and quaking came fire. But Jehovah was not in the quaking, the wind, or the fire. After the mountain settled, Elijah stood at the cave’s entrance and wrapped his cloak over his face as he heard a calm, low voice speak to him. Among other things, Jehovah informed the prophet that he was not alone; God had 7,000 who had not bent the knee to Baal.

The apostle Paul cited this declaration and applied it to the first-century appearance of anointed Christians whom Christ bought for God, saying: **“Yet, what does the divine pronouncement say to him? ‘I have left for myself 7,000 men who have not bent the knee to Baal.’ So in the same way, at the present time also, there is a remnant according to a choosing through undeserved kindness.”** – Romans 11:4-5

The inspired apostle referred to the 7,000 as “a remnant.” That is odd, since in all likelihood there were many more than 7,000 Christians when Paul wrote his letter to the Romans. And why would he call first-century Christians “a remnant”? True, the original Christians were all Jewish, so it could be understood that they were the remnant of Israel. But Paul was writing to non-Jewish Christians.



## 11 - I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy

The expression “remnant” appears in the 12th chapter of Revelation in connection with the dragon going off to wage war against the remnant of the seed of the woman after Christ’s Kingdom comes to power. It seems Paul was speaking prophetically himself, applying the 7,000 making up a remnant, or “remaining ones” as the *New World Translation* words it, to those final sealed ones who will see Christ face-to-face. It is especially to them that the closing words of the letter to the Romans apply: **“For his part, the God who gives peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.”**

Please note that 7,000 are mentioned in connection with the two witnesses in the 11th chapter of Revelation. And just as the two witnesses are killed, the 7,000 are killed as if by a great earthquake. Be reminded that Jerusalem was rocked by a great earthquake when Jesus was killed. So, the two witnesses symbolize the collective of the chosen ones, whereas the 7,000 reveals the actual number of individual witnesses to Christ’s parousia.

As for those laboring under the Watchtower’s theocratic delusion, you may be certain that the 7,000 were not persons who were symbolically killed in 1918 when they rocked Christendom by requesting to have their names removed from church membership rosters. Do Jehovah’s Witnesses even realize the Watchtower makes ridiculous statements such as this and passes them off as truth?

Jesus spoke about his followers being made to stand before governors and kings on two separate occasions. And both times, he warned that brothers would hand over brothers to be killed. In that context, in the 10th chapter of Matthew, Jesus said not to fear those who can only kill the body but not the soul. That takes on even more meaning when we realize that the chosen will not sleep in death for even a nano-second, but will be changed from flesh to spirit in the twinkling of an eye.

Is this not what is represented by Elijah being whisked away in a fiery war chariot that ascended into the heavens in a windstorm? Call it a rapture if you wish. Moses was also taken by God, only literally. Although Moses was 120 years old, and his strength had not diminished, God took him, and no one ever found where God buried him.

### “SEE, I HAVE MADE YOU LIKE GOD”

The ministries of Moses and Elijah have other similarities. Both prophets stood before kings and announced Jehovah’s judgments. At Exodus 7:1, Jehovah told Moses: **“See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your own brother will become your prophet.”**

Jesus said during the finale that the chosen ones will be brought before local courts. In the footnotes of the NWT, “local courts” could mean the judicial body of a local synagogue. When Jesus said men will hand you over to local courts and you will be beaten and thrown from the synagogues, he was foretelling that the chosen will be persecuted and judicially disfellowshipped because all will not accept the witness they will give.

Haven't Jehovah's Witnesses been deluded into believing in an invisible presence and manifestation? Understandably, the testimony of those who will be witnesses to the revelation of Christ will be disbelieved by many, just as many of the Jews refused to accept the witness of those who saw Christ after he rose from the dead.

Jesus pointedly instructed his followers not to rehearse beforehand what they will say when they stand before governors and kings, assuring them that what they will say will be provided in that very hour by the holy spirit. In the 10th chapter of Matthew, Jesus said, **"The ones speaking are not just you, but it is the spirit of your Father that speaks by you."**

They will speak for the Father and Jesus, since they will be in complete union with them then. That is what Jesus meant when he told his apostles: **"In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. In that day you will know that I am in union with my Father and you are in union with me and I am in union with you."** – John 14:19-20

In other words, "in that day," those who will be made to stand before the rulers of the world during the time of the end will be like God to them, as was Moses to Pharaoh.

It surely is no coincidence that the two witnesses prophesy for 42 months, as that corresponds to the three-and-a-half-year ministry of Jesus Christ. And at the end of his 42-month ministry, Jesus came under judgment by the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin, as well as the representatives of the Roman Empire—both Pilate and Herod.

With modern means of communication, the message of the two witnesses for Christ can reach the world in a very short time. What exactly will their message be? It is the prophesying contained in the little scroll that John was handed and commanded to ingest, which made his belly bitter.

Apparently, the two witnesses will present their message to the eighth king. The revived wild beast will then conquer and kill them. Revelation 11:7-10 states: **"When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them. And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and**



**they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth."**

In what sense was the Lord killed in Sodom and Egypt? Through Isaiah, Jehovah unflatteringly referred to the leaders of his people as the dictators of Sodom. And Jesus was condemned to death by the leaders of the Jewish nation, just as the two witnesses will be condemned by their former brothers and beaten in the synagogues. But the designation "dictators of Sodom" especially applies to the leaders of God's people during the final part of the days when the mountain of the house of Jehovah is established.

Since the eighth king springs from the seven, and Egypt was the first, it may symbolize the entire beast, regardless of which empire rules. Hence, the Roman Empire was the "Egypt" in Jesus' day, just as America is the "Egypt" in prophecy, including Daniel, where the king of the south is represented as Egypt, the original king of the south. And it is the seventh head of the beast that advocates making an image of the beast.

The message of the two witnesses is said to torment those dwelling on the earth. In the ninth chapter of Revelation, the locusts of the abyss that the Terminator unleashes are said to torment **"only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."**

Logically, the stinging message of doom can only take place after the final sealing is concluded, after the tribulation is cut short. And apparently, the people of the world will get the message, and that is why they will rejoice when the beast kills the two witnesses. They will not wish to know that they will have approved of the death and piercing of Christ anew.

**It surely is no coincidence that the two witnesses prophesy for 42 months, as that corresponds to the three-and-a-half-year ministry of Jesus Christ.**

## The voices of the seven thunders

**“And he set his right foot on the sea, but his left one on the earth, and he cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars. And when he cried out, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.” - Revelation 10:2-3**

No one can ignore a nearby thunderstorm. Even a distant bolt of lightning can produce a roaring rumble that can rattle windows and shake the earth. In the same way, when Jehovah speaks and wishes to be heard, no one can ignore Him.

Once, Jehovah spoke to Jesus in the temple, and some people imagined that it had thundered. When God came down onto Mount Sinai, the mountain shuddered and erupted in fire, smoke, and thunder.

A young man named Elihu contemplated God’s powerful voice, likening it to thunder: **“Listen carefully to the rumbling of his voice and the thunder that comes from his mouth. He unleashes it under the entire heavens and sends his lightning to the ends of the earth. After that is a roaring sound; He thunders with a majestic voice, and he does not hold it back when his voice is heard. God thunders with his voice in a wonderful way; He does great things that are beyond our understanding.” - Job 37:1-5**

That is not to say every time God speaks, it is earthshaking like thunder. Jehovah strolled through the Garden of Eden about the breezy part of the day and spoke with Adam. It was not a terrifying experience for the man. God had no reason to terrify him. In fact, God more often whispers. That is why those with ears are advised to listen carefully when the spirit speaks.

So then, what are the voices of the seven thunders?

The Watchtower long ago identified the strong angel as none other than Jesus Christ. This is confirmed for us by what is stated at Revelation 10:3. The angel **“cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars.”** And Jesus is called **“the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered.”**

As the Word of God—Jehovah’s spokesman from the beginning of time—it is appropriate that Jesus will express all of God’s judgments, symbolized by the voices of the seven thunders. Seven, as we know, symbolizes the totality of heaven’s judgments; hence, the seven seals, the seven trumpets, the seven bowls filled with the anger of God, and the seven thunders.

Unfortunately, Jehovah’s Witnesses have been deluded into imagining that the seven angels have sounded their trumpets and the seven thunders have already spoken, and apparently

## 12 - The voices of the seven thunders

no one has even noticed. It is implied that the seven thunders have been published in the Watchtower publications over the past 100 years. What a powerful delusion!

In truth, throughout the Christian era to this moment, God has not made himself known. He has remained hidden. Jehovah explains in Isaiah: **“I have kept quiet for a long time. I remained silent and restrained myself. Like a woman giving birth, I will groan, pant, and gasp all at once.”** (42:14)

### **“SEAL UP THE THINGS THE SEVEN THUNDERS SPOKE”**

John heard the thunderous announcements and was about to write them down when the angel said to him, **“Seal up the things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them down.”**

The sound of the seven thunders was intelligible; otherwise, John would not have felt compelled to write down what the seven thunders spoke. The expressions of the strong angel roaring as a lion are only likened to thunder produced by lightning. It is the impact of the pronouncements that will be thunderous.

John being commanded to seal up the things the seven thunders spoke reminds us of what the angel told Daniel—**“seal up the book until the time of the end.”**

Obviously, Daniel did not literally seal up the book he had been inspired to write. How could he have? We can read its contents in hundreds of languages. Its sealing symbolizes that the prophecies contained therein will not be fully understood until the time of the end begins. Ironically, the Watchtower and every other would-be interpreter have demonstrated that the prophecy is sealed and that the time of the end has not begun, evidenced by their inability to interpret the book of Daniel correctly.

As already noted, Daniel not only recorded futuristic visions and dreams but also participated in what may be called a prophetic drama. Daniel unknowingly played a role—the role of a “very precious man,” as the angel called him. And as a “very precious man,” Daniel typified the holy ones who will see Christ during the parousia. Jesus said that every hair on their heads is numbered. That is how precious they are to the Father.

There is another aspect to the prophetic drama. Daniel also stood before kings and announced Jehovah’s judgments, as the chosen will during the parousia.

Besides Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel was made to stand before Babylon’s last king, Belshazzar. Although Belshazzar knew that the God of the Hebrews had humbled his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar—inflicting him with madness for seven years and then restoring him to the throne—the last king of Babylon ill-advisedly ordered that the golden goblets that had been looted from Jehovah’s temple be brought out so the king and his party could boast and toast to their gods.

And then came the disembodied hand writing on the wall. The wise men of Babylon could not interpret the writing. The aged Daniel was brought in to decipher the encryption and explain its

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meaning to the terrified king. It was a message of doom, not only for Belshazzar personally, but for the Babylonian Empire. The Chaldean dynasty ended that very night—October 5th, 539 BCE.

While Daniel depicted Babylon as the first of a series of empires, Babylon also symbolizes the last kingdom, the eighth king. This is evident from numerous prophecies. For example, Habakkuk portrays Babylon as the world's conqueror, but the Chaldeans' conquest elicits a response from God that parallels what Revelation describes as the war of the great day of God Almighty at Armageddon. **"Sun and moon stood still in their lofty abode. Your arrows went out like the light. The lightning of your spear was brilliant. You marched through the earth with indignation. You trampled the nations in anger. You went out for the salvation of your people, to save your anointed one. You crushed the leader of the house of the wicked. It was exposed from the foundation to the top. You pierced the head of his warriors with his own weapons when they stormed out to scatter me. They were overjoyed to devour an afflicted one in secret."** (3:11-14)

The crushed "leader of the house of the wicked" can be none other than Satan, the Devil. Writing to anointed Christians, Paul concluded his letter to the Romans, saying that the God who gives peace will crush Satan under your feet.

But in what sense will God save his anointed one—literally, his Christ? Obviously, Jesus Christ will not need salvation when he comes with all his angels to destroy God's enemies, but the remaining members of the seed will. And since they will be in union with Jesus after the final sealing, it will be as though Christ were on earth himself through his presence alongside them. Their salvation will come in the twinkling of an eye as they are instantaneously transitioned from flesh to spirit.

This was demonstrated by the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace when someone like a son of the gods came alongside them. The prophetic drama demonstrated the matter of indestructibility, as Jesus explained when he told his little flock not to fear those who can only kill the body and nothing more. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were as good as dead when they were hurled into the flaming crucible. But the flames could not extinguish their life. So it will be for those in union with the Son of man.

## "KINGS FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN"

After the king of the north subjugates his longtime rival—the king of the south, symbolized by Egypt, the original king of the south —the king of the north will become the eighth king, the last king. And what is it that will so disturb the king of the north? The prophecy says: **"But there will be reports that will disturb him, out of the sunrising and out of the north, and he will certainly go forth in a great rage in order to annihilate and to devote many to destruction."** - Daniel 11:44-45

A footnote in the Reference Bible references Revelation 16:12 that says: **"The sixth (angel) one poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the rising of the sun."**

## 12 - The voices of the seven thunders

Jesus is the bright morning star (Rev 22:16) that heralds the dawn of a new day. For that reason, Peter advised anointed Christians to keep studying prophecy, **"paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a daystar rises) in your hearts..."** - 2 Peter 1:19

Contrary to the Watchtower's artfully contrived false story that the daystar arose in 1914, it has not, because the kings from the rising of the sun have not risen.

It should be obvious that if 1914 were the genuine break of day heralding the millennial dawn, it would no longer be necessary to keep paying attention to the word of prophecy. Ironically, the fact that the Watchtower has published millions of books and magazines explaining prophecy, and the organization sponsors a study program for Jehovah's Witnesses to consider those publications, and it has even published a book entitled *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy*, repudiates their claim that the daystar has risen. The genuine coming of Christ ends Christianity as we have known it. In other words, it will no longer be necessary to pay attention to a lighted lamp in a darkened place when day has dawned in all of its glory.

The day of the Lord will dawn when God cuts short the tribulation and the sealing is concluded. That is when the daystar will arise in the hearts of the chosen, transforming each of them into the image of Christ.

That is when the seven thunders will speak. No doubt the reports from the sunrising that will disturb the king of the north, driving him into a genocidal rage, will be the witness given by the chosen.

Can you imagine the consternation of those Luciferians who seek to rise above the stars of God, hearing alarming reports that Christ walks among those who had previously been associated with Jehovah's Witnesses as they announce Jehovah's thunderous judgments to come?

But while those of the serpent's offspring will seek to kill the brothers of Christ and will ultimately succeed in throwing them into the fiery furnace, as it were, there will be many who accept the revealing of the sons of God and who will support them.

**"O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God, sing praises to Jehovah,  
to the one who rides the ancient heaven of heavens. Look!  
He thunders with his voice, his mighty voice."**

- Psalms 68:32-33

## Afterword: Millions now living will never die!

Exactly 100 years ago, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society published a booklet titled *“Millions Now Living Will Never Die.”* The pamphlet was a collection of speeches by J.F. Rutherford, delivered beginning in 1919, following his release from prison on trumped-up sedition charges.

The nations had just experienced a series of disasters, including the Great War, followed by the Spanish Flu, which claimed more lives than the First World War. Add to that the internal power struggle at Bethel following Russell’s unexpected passing and the government persecution of the Watchtower in America. As a consequence, the Bible Students were in a heightened state of expectation that the Kingdom was at hand. Rutherford went so far as to proclaim that the earthly resurrection would begin in 1925.

Of course, all of those living then have died, and Rutherford later admitted that he had made an ass of himself.

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Even so, the core message is true. How so, you ask? Unlike the phony church dichotomy of heaven and hell being the only two destinies for mankind, those original Bible Students at least had some understanding of God’s purpose to redeem Adam’s sinful, dying offspring and rejuvenate the earth; yes, to restore an Edenic paradise, only earth-wide.

Since Rutherford’s embarrassing blunder, the Watchtower’s unique message has been clarified, amplified, and proclaimed worldwide. It is now published in over 1,000 languages. Jesus said the good news would first be preached in all the world. And it has. The good news is, you may live forever in paradise right here on earth. It is God’s will that you do.

Not only that, while the billions of dead will come back to life in human form when the earth has been made new, in what Jesus termed the re-creation or the regeneration, the Lord also foretold that some will never die at all. (The Gospel’s only record of Jesus using the term “regeneration” is at Matthew 19:28.)

In a conversation with a Jewess named Martha whose brother Lazarus had just died, Jesus said: **“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; and everyone who is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?”** – John 11:25,26



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To demonstrate the veracity of his claim to be the “resurrection and the life,” Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus had been laid to rest, and in a loud voice, he commanded the dead man to come out. And to everyone’s astonishment, he did!

What did Jesus mean, though, by “everyone who is living...will never die at all”?

Up to this point, we have considered Christ’s second coming, his manifestation to the chosen few, and their being taken to their new home in the heavens. However, Jesus said that he has “other sheep” besides those whom he called the “little flock,” who have not personally been called to be kings and priests in the heavenly realm. Reasonably, if the Kingdom of Christ is going to rule the earth for a thousand years and all of those who experience the first resurrection will become immortal kings and priests with Jesus for the millennium, who will these 144,001 kings rule over?

The simple answer is they will minister to the multitudes who experience the second resurrection, the general resurrection of virtually all of mankind who have ever lived and died—both the righteous and the unrighteous. If anyone does not understand this, a Bible study session with one of Jehovah’s Witnesses might be enlightening.

But what about those of whom Jesus spoke who will never die at all? Even the brothers of Christ who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye must die as to the flesh. Those who will “*never die at all*” are Christians, to be sure. They will be alive when Christ returns and will form what Revelation calls a “great crowd” composed of people “out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues.”

Contrary to the Evangelical rapture myth, millions of people will survive the violent end of this evil civilization. They will not go anywhere. They will be happy to have been “left behind” when the wicked and faithless are torn away from the earth, even as the Proverb says: **“For only the upright will reside in the earth, and the blameless will remain in it. As for the wicked, they will be cut off from the earth, and the treacherous will be torn away from it.”** (2:21-22)

Although some ignorant truth-twisters claim the great crowd will be in heaven, that cannot be true. Being before God’s throne means being judged, either favorably or not. It does not mean those judged are before the very presence of God. This is evident in the illustration of the sheep and the goats. Jesus said When the Son of man sits down upon his glorious throne, all the nations will be gathered before him. That cannot possibly mean that all the people of the world will be teleported to heaven to stand before the judgment seat.

Besides, Revelation clearly says of the great crowd, that Jesus will **“shepherd them and will guide them to springs of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.”** (7:17b) Those who receive the first resurrection will not need to be guided to the springs of waters of life. They will forever have life in themselves, as do Jehovah and his Son.

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The great crowd will come under God’s protection during the great tribulation and come out of it alive and survive the destruction of Satan’s world. Because of their faith, they will have the unspeakable privilege of being the first people who have ever been born who will not die because of inherited sin, and they will become the nucleus of an entirely new world—a world without the baneful influence of Satan and his brood. That is good news—the best news!

Personally, I am confident that millions *now* living will never die, because, unlike 1914, now the presence of the Lord really has drawn close.

While the First World War was fought with what is now considered crude and obsolete weaponry, today the nations possess devices so lethal, so destructive, that they dare not use them for fear of igniting a firestorm that cannot be extinguished, destroying everything and everyone.

### EARTH IS GROUND ZERO FOR WAR BETWEEN THE GODS

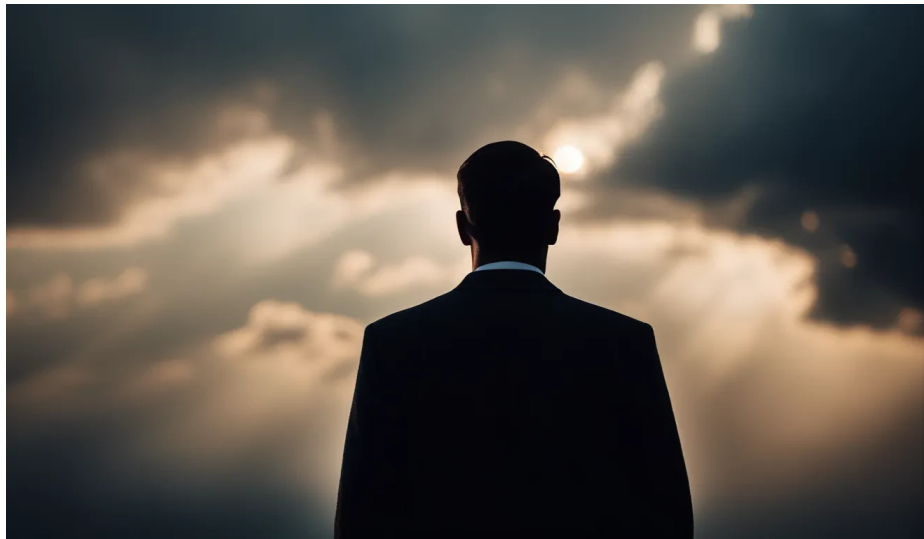
However, while sensible people may consider nuclear war unthinkable and militarists and politicians may devise treaties and policies to prevent the unthinkable, like the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), human

schemes do not take into consideration that the wicked gods that rule over this world know they have been condemned to the everlasting fire of annihilation. These cruel spirits do not care at all about humans. No doubt, the Devil and his angels would prefer to continue their reign over the world, but that is not an option for them. The coming of Christ will force the wicked angels to make a last stand. We earthlings are at ground zero for what will be a war between the demonic gods of this world and the God of gods—Almighty Jehovah God and his Son, whom the Father has bequeathed with all power and authority.

When the Kingdom comes to power, war will break out in heaven. Satan and his angels will be cast down. Then they will know they have only a short period of time before they are locked away. Prophecy reveals that the short period of time is 1,260 days, or three and a half years—not coincidentally, the length of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

Since the world is inescapably under demonic influence, the nations have been impelled by the demons to devise more sophisticated weapons for their own destruction. A global holocaust can literally be set in motion with the push of a button. Just as the local heavens were stored with water that produced the Deluge in Noah’s day, the heavens and the earth that exist now are stored for fire, as the apostle Peter foretold.

Satan obviously intends to manipulate men to do the unthinkable, to use their weapons of mass



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destruction, to set off what will surely be a global conflagration. We should not expect the proud cherub who has ruled the world since he deceived Eve in Eden to go quietly into the night. It is the Devil's intention to destroy mankind and make the earth uninhabitable.

We are confident that God will not allow them to go so far; however, that is not to say Jehovah will not permit them to provoke an existential crisis that will require divine intervention to save mankind from extinction.

Russell, Rutherford, and those who lived before the atomic age began could not have envisioned the situation we find ourselves in now. For certain, the “woe” that Satan will bring upon the world during his last days will be beyond anything ever experienced in all of human history.

But it is not just the destructive power of weaponry. Computers and the Internet have not only made it possible to communicate instantaneously around the world, but the digital age has also given rise to a global financial system that is incomprehensibly interwoven and complex. Without trying to comprehend the complexities of a system that is becoming increasingly inscrutable and opaque, we can at least recognize that the growing burden of debt is approaching a point where the money system itself will cease to function. What comes after the system fails?

There is a simple Bible principle that applies: The borrower becomes the slave of the lender. And in this case, the borrowers are nations, states, cities, banks, hedge funds, corporations, individuals—virtually everyone. And that begs the question: Who is the lender?

Ultimately, it is a mere handful of men who own the central banks that create money from nothing and loan it out at interest. Their personal names are not important. It is no secret that the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States is not a federal institution. Because the power to create money is concentrated in the hands of a few men presently grouped around the British monarchy and the City of London, it is possible—and I say inevitable—that this secretive coven of financiers will deliberately crash the system and bring ruin on a global scale, bankrupting national governments. Entire nations will be put into receivership, and many institutions will be liquidated. Evidently, they intend to use war as the cover for their dastardly plot to crash the system and enslave mankind in a digital gulag.

When tempting Jesus, the Devil boasted that all the kingdoms of the world had been handed over to him and that to whomever he wishes, he gives it. The Devil was not lying! It is apparent that Satan has entrusted the control over modern nations to a small clique of ultra-wealthy, Luciferian financiers. After all, they say money makes the world go around, so whoever controls the money controls the world. With Satan the Devil as the invisible CEO of World Inc., should we expect anything less than an end-game conspiracy to enslave everyone in a tyrannical banker's dictatorship?

For those who may imagine that Jehovah would never allow the Devil to enact such a scheme, please consider a prophecy concerning the last king of Satan's system: **“And in the final part of their kingdom, as the transgressors act to a completion, a fierce-looking king who understands ambiguous sayings will stand up. His power will become great, but not through his own power. He will bring ruin in an extraordinary way, and he will be successful and act**

## Afterword: Millions now living will never die!

**effectively. He will bring mighty ones to ruin, also the people made up of the holy ones. And by his cunning he will use deception to succeed; and in his heart he will exalt himself; and during a time of security he will bring many to ruin. He will even stand up against the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human hand.”** – Daniel 8:23-25

Rest assured that the mighty ones and holy ones were not brought to ruin during World War II, as the Watchtower asserts. How will this scheming tyrant be successful in bringing the mighty ones to ruin, along with Christ's holy ones? By crashing the system and imposing a central bank digital currency, thereby locking everyone out of the system who will not bend their knee in subservience. The Devil intends to coerce Christians into compromising their allegiance by preventing persons from buying and selling who will not bow before the image of the beast. That is why Revelation 13:9-10 states: **“If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone [is meant] for captivity, he goes away into captivity. If anyone will kill with the sword, he must be killed with the sword. Here is where it means the endurance and faith of the holy ones.”**

## “IT WILL CRASH SUDDENLY, IN AN INSTANT”

This unexpected outcome will present an enormous stumbling block, potentially spiritually fatal, for many under the Watchtower's deluding influence. That is not to suggest that there will not be a great crowd that comes out of the tribulation. It means that the conditions will be such that Jesus' words will come true— many will be stumbled and hate one another and betray one another.

Bible prophecy likens the Watchtower's false interpretations of prophecy to a highly-raised wall. It may look impressive, but it is not very sturdy. Concerning this doctrinal wall, this is what Jehovah has said: **“Since you reject this word and you trust in fraud and deceit and you rely on these, so this error will be for you like a broken wall, like a bulging high wall ready to fall. It will crash suddenly, in an instant. It will be broken like a large potter's jar, so completely smashed that no fragment among its pieces will be left to rake the fire from the fireplace or to scoop water from a puddle.”** – Isaiah 30:12-14

What will cause the utter collapse of the Watchtower? Simple. World war, famine, pestilence, and the crash of the Anglo-American empire. These are all the things the Watchtower has attached to 1914 and has assured Jehovah's Witnesses that no future events can match Bible prophecy. The credibility of those who are looked to as God's spokesmen will be shattered in an instant.

The prophecy goes on to reveal how God will accomplish his purpose. **“Though Jehovah will give you bread in the form of distress and water in the form of oppression, your Grand Instructor will no longer hide himself, and you will see your Grand Instructor with your own eyes. And your own ears will hear a word behind you saying, “This is the way. Walk in it,” in case you should go to the right or in case you should go to the left.”** – Isaiah 30:20-21

## The Presence of the Lord Has Drawn Close

When Jesus was on earth, the Jews called him “Rabbi,” which means teacher. To be sure, Jesus always acknowledged that what he taught was not his own, but he only spoke what the Father had taught him. When Christ returns, he will be the Grand Instructor and Wonderful Counselor. And the chosen will see their Grand Instructor with their own eyes when he manifests himself to them. That is when the day will dawn and the heavenly light will shine in all of its glory.

The prophecy goes on to say: **“And the light of the full moon will become like the light of the sun; and the light of the sun will become seven times stronger, like the light of seven days, in the day that Jehovah binds up the breakdown of his people and heals the severe wound from the blow he inflicted.”** – Isaiah 30:26

This event truly will be “new light”!

Writing about the revelation of Christ, Paul went on to say: **“These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength, at the time when he comes to be glorified in connection with his holy ones and to be regarded in that day with wonder among all those who exercised faith, because the witness we gave met with faith among you.”** – 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

The prophecy of Zechariah foretold that 10 men out of all the nations will then take hold of the robe of the man who is a Jew, saying to him: **“We want to go with you, for we have heard that God is with you people.”** (8:23b)

Note that the men of the nations speak of a singular “Jew,” but then refer to a plurality—“you people.” The Jew is Jesus. And “you people” are those in union with Christ who are revealed as the sons of God. Ten represents the complete number of people of the nations who will inherit the Kingdom because they supported the brothers of Christ. They will be those who will never die at all.

Given President Trump’s determination to end two centuries of British geopolitical dominance and endless wars, coinciding with the rise of the BRICS and the global south and the emergence of a multi-polar world, we should expect the dying Anglo empire to set the world on fire. It would not take much to crash the over-ripe, debt-bloated global financial system. Given that the populations of both Europe and America have been deliberately divided into left versus right warring camps, civil war is seemingly inevitable as well. Add to that the inattentiveness of those who claim to be watchers and their cocksuredness that Jesus has already appeared invisibly, the stage is set for the Son of man to arrive like a thief in the night at a time you do not think to be it.

**“Be patient then, brothers, until the presence of the Lord.  
Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth,  
exercising patience over it until the early rain and the late rain arrive.  
You too exercise patience; make your hearts firm,  
because the presence of the Lord has drawn close.”**

—James 5:7-8