

## **Presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a Jehovah's Witness**

by Rev. Tom Aicken

There are two things to keep in mind when reaching out to any member of a cult with the gospel of Jesus Christ: (1) Members of a cult will not listen to anything Christians have to tell them until it is first demonstrated how their cult is promoting error. That is what this present paper attempts to do for the Jehovah's Witness who comes to your door, to point out the error of the Watchtower Society. (2) Members of a cult, if they come to accept that their cult is wrong, will most often turn right away from religion entirely, so it is imperative that they hear a simple, loving and compelling presentation of the truth as it is in Jesus before they walk out your door. Prepare yourself to give them that prior to their visit.

(Special thanks to Robert A. Morey. Much of the material here has been gleaned from his book, How to Answer a Jehovah's Witness, and I recommend it to all.)

### **A Jehovah's Witness comes to your door. How shall you begin?**

Read to him Deut. 18:21,22.

Ask him, "Do you accept this test?"

Read to him Matt. 7:15-20.

Ask him, "What are the fruits of a false prophet?" The correct answer is his false prophecies.

Ask him, "What is the meaning of v.18?" (A true prophet cannot give false prophecies; a false prophet cannot give true prophecies.)

Once this is understood, go on to ask: "Has the Watchtower Society ever claimed to be a prophet of God?"

This is an important question to ask, just as it is important to examine what prophecies the Watchtower Society has made, so that we might then determine whether it is a true prophet. The 15 March, 1972, issue of the Watchtower Magazine did indeed make the claim that God has a prophet speaking in our day, a mouth-piece for God who can say what is happening now and has yet to happen in the future. The 1 April, 1972, issue of the same magazine identified this prophet as the Watchtower Society.

On the basis of Deut. 18 and Matt. 7, according to God's own test for determining who are (and who are not) His true prophets, let us examine some of the prophecies of the Watchtower Society:

- (1) The 15 January, 1892, issue of the Watchtower Magazine prophesied the end of the world in October 1914. It said that the Battle of Armageddon, which had started in October of 1874, would gradually grow in intensity until it climaxed in October of 1914. At that time would be the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership.

Ask him, "Did this happen? What does this tell us about the Watchtower Society as a prophet of God?"

(See also The Time is at Hand, 1897, for more details of this prophecy. The 1912 edition of this same publication stated, "the full end of their lease of dominion will be reached in A.D. 1914; and that date will be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect men".)

- (2) The 1 September, 1922, issue of the Watchtower Magazine prophesied that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (plus other prophets of old) would be resurrected from the dead in 1925 and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order here on earth.

Ask him again, "Did this happen? What does this tell us about the Watchtower Society as a prophet of God?"

(See also Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920, for more details, including the following statement: "Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews chapter eleven, to the condition of human perfection.")

- (3) The 15 August, 1968, issue of the Watchtower Magazine prophesied the end of the world in the autumn of 1975. The 8 October, 1968, issue of the Awake Magazine said that there cannot be the slightest doubt about this. And in this way would the millennial reign of Christ begin. (The Watchtower Society got tired and embarrassed by its own errors, so this was the last time it attempted to prophesy the end of the world.)

Yes, ask him this time, too, “Did this happen? What does this tell us about the Watchtower Society as a prophet of God?”

(For more information on this prophecy, with some interesting specifics, see Life Everlasting – In Freedom of the Sons of God, 1966. See also The Kingdom Ministry, May, 1974, where we read, “Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly, this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world’s end.”)

As a matter of fact, the Watchtower Society never got a single prophecy right in its entire history. (See again Matt. 7:18, the fact that a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.) I challenge anyone to find a prophecy, even one, which he thinks it did get right. The following dates represent a century of prophetic speculation and error: 1874, 1878, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1925, 1929 and 1975. What these dates show us is that the Watchtower Society has a perfect record – it has been wrong every time!

### Thoughts to Ponder

What does 2 Pet. 1:19-21 tell us about the prophets and apostles who gave us Holy Scripture? What does Deut. 18:21,22 tell us about the Watchtower Society?

### Conclusion

Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, and of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, stated in the 15 September, 1910, issue of the Watchtower Magazine that it was more profitable to read his Scripture Studies than to read Holy Scripture itself! For someone who paid lip-service to the Bible as the Word of God and pretended to expound upon it, that tells us what he really thought of it. Let us pursue, rather, the example of the Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether what things they heard were so (Acts 17:10-12). In point of fact, what the Watchtower Society teaches is contrary to the Bible, not only in prophecy but in most of the major doctrines of the faith once delivered to the saints, such as the Trinity, the deity of Christ, salvation by grace, eternal punishment and many more.

