

which is called and known as Beth-Sarim. The Hebrew words “Beth Sarim” mean “House of the Princes”; and the purpose of acquiring that property and building the house was that there might be some tangible proof that there are those on earth today who fully believe God and Christ Jesus and in His Kingdom. and who believe that the faithful men of old will soon be resurrected by the Lord, be back on earth, and take charge of the visible affairs of earth. The title to Beth-Sarim is vested in the WATCHTOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY in trust, to be used by the president of the Society and his assistants for the present, and thereafter to be for ever at the disposal of the aforementioned princes on the earth ... while the unbelievers have mocked concerning it and spoken contemptuously of it, yet it stands there as a testimony to Jehovah’s name; and if and when the princes do return and some of them occupy the property, such will be a confirmation of the faith and hope that induced the building of Beth-Sarim.

Please note that this house was “*to be for ever at the disposal of the aforementioned princes on the earth.*” But Beth-Sarim was sold by the Watchtower Society in 1942 after Rutherford’s death! *What can we say about “the faith and hope that induced the building of Beth-Sarim?”* Obviously it was very misplaced even though it may have been sincere. *Have you placed your faith in an organisation that while claiming to be God’s sole channel of truth to men, has proven to be unworthy of that trust?*

12. When faced with false prophecies that came from the Society, some may quote “But the path of the righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established.” (Proverbs 4:18.) Did you know that this verse cannot be used as an excuse for false prophesying? For one thing, *truth doesn’t grow truer.* Also, the Old Testament is very explicit about those who make predictions that don’t come to pass:

“However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. And in case you should say in your heart: ‘How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?’ when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak ...” (Deuteronomy 18:20-22.)

“Oh, but the Watchtower Society never actually claimed to be a prophet!” someone may exclaim. Really? Please consider this:

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? ... This “prophet” was not one man, but a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they

are known as Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses. (*The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p 197.)

13. Are you complying with God’s perfect arrangement for eternal life? Are you *really* certain what Jehovah expects? Have you been taking in knowledge and putting in a lot of time from door-to-door, but still sense that somehow you are falling short? Theocratic works and any other self-effort to earn right standing with Jehovah is doomed to failure. Why? Because salvation isn’t found in these things *but in a person.* Are you willing to humble yourself and come to this One who *already* paid the price for your sins, provided you put your faith in Him? He is the One who said “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6.) Jesus is the Way. The apostle Paul put it well when he wrote:

“By this undeserved kindness, indeed, YOU have been saved through faith (“are ye saved though faith” – King James Bible); and this not owing to YOU, it is God’s gift. No, it is not owing to works, in order that no man should have ground for boasting.” (Ephesians 2:8,9.)

14. But doesn’t the Bible say “faith, if it does not have works, is dead” in James 2:17? Yes, faith without works *is* dead, but we are *still* saved by faith alone. You could put it this way: *Faith alone saves, but a saving faith is never alone.* Sheep don’t go “baa, baa” to become sheep. They go “baa, baa” because they *already are!* In other words, if you have a true, saving faith, works will come, given enough time. The works are evidence of the kind of faith that saves. (See Romans 10:9 for what saving faith is against James 2:19 which is mere intellectual assent – “... the demons believe and shudder.”)

15. How can Jesus be equal with the Father when He said “... the Father is greater than I am”? (John 14:28.) Please note that He never said “... the Father is better than I am.” We could say that the Prime Minister of New Zealand (or the President of the United States) is greater than us in terms of position, but not necessarily better than us in terms of character. Positionally, the Son could speak as He did in John 14:28, *but still be God in the flesh.* To get the proper perspective it is helpful to realise that He gave up glory before coming down here (cf. John 17:5) but He never gave up Deity. The Emphatic Diaglott renders Colossians 2:9 “Because in him dwells All the FULLNESS of the DEITY bodily.” Also John 1:1 in that source is:

“In the beginning was the LOGOS, and the LOGOS was with God, and the LOGOS was God.”

# Honest Questions for Honest-hearted Jehovah’s Witnesses

Dear Jehovah’s Witness, please take time right now to give some thought to these questions. The writer of this tract hopes you will seriously consider these matters, and take in accurate knowledge that can lead to eternal life. Honest-hearted ones should not be afraid to look at the facts. “Make sure of all things; hold fast to what is fine.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21 – *New World Translation.*)

Keep the following Watchtower Society statement in mind as you read this tract:

*“Men not only contradict God, they contradict one another. How can they be reliable guides – unless their words are based on God’s words? But how can you know whether they are or not? By going directly to God’s Word as your source of authority. Search for yourself and let God be true!”* (*Awake!*, March 22, 1963, p 32.)

All Scripture references are from the *New World Translation* of the Holy Scriptures unless otherwise specified.

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1. What would you do if it could be shown from the *New World Translation* that Jesus is *Almighty God*? Almighty Jehovah God is *the Alpha and the Omega* (Revelation 1:8). Jesus is *the First and the Last* who was once dead and is now alive (Revelation 1:17,18). Now turn to Revelation 22:12 which tells us of the one who is coming quickly. Who is this? Why it is Jesus of course. He says in verse 13, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Certainly there can’t be two Alpha and Omegas! Because Alpha and Omega is Jehovah God we must conclude that Jehovah God is Jesus. Those who would claim that there must be two “Alpha and Omegas” and two “First and Lasts” had better look at Isaiah 44:6 where Jehovah of armies says “I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God.”

2. How can it be said that the wicked dead are simply put out of existence when Jesus said of Judas “It would have been finer for that man if he had not been born” (Mark 14:21)? If the end were no different from the beginning for Judas, why did Jesus speak of him this way? Also, the fate of certain wicked ones is described in Revelation 14:11 in this way: “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and day and night they have no rest...”

3. Matthew 28:19 tells us: “Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Does this make sense? “... baptising them in the name of the Father and of Michael the Archangel and of the impersonal active force of God.” This is exactly what you end up with when you substitute Watchtower teachings about the Son and Holy Spirit into this verse! Do you see the problem(s)? More can be found in questions 5 and 6.

4. Can a person honestly say that he *knows* he has eternal (everlasting) life and still be scriptural? The answer is found in 1 John 5:11-13. “And this is the witness given, that God gave us everlasting life, and this life is in his Son. He that has the Son has this life; he that does not have the Son of God does not have this life. I write YOU these things that YOU may know that YOU have life everlasting, YOU who put YOUR faith in the name of the Son of God.” Notice it says “know”? Would you like to *know* you have everlasting life? You can if you have the Son of God in your life. If you *know* Him personally through faith (see John 10:4-5 and 17:3) then you will have eternal life. Receive Him by faith today (John 1:12). *Don't delay.*

5. Would you agree that men and angels are only supposed to worship Jehovah God? The NWT tells us in Luke 4:8, “It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.” Isn't it interesting then that the NWT also declares in Hebrews 1:6 “But when he again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says ‘And let all God's angels worship\* him.’” And wasn't Thomas *really worshipping him* when he said “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28)? If this was just an exclamation of surprise, then shouldn't Jesus have rebuked him for taking the Lords's name in vain? *We see in the next verse that Jesus accepted the statement that Thomas made as a statement of fact.* There was no argument from Jesus. He knew who he was!

6. Is the idea that the Holy Spirit is the impersonal active force of God even supported by the NWT? In Acts 13:2 we read “... the holy spirit said: ‘Of all persons set Barnabas and Saul apart for me for the work to which I have called them.’” Notice that the *Holy Spirit* was the One doing the talking, and that He used the personal pronouns “me” and “I”. (It should also be pointed out that you can't grieve, quench, insult or blaspheme the impersonal law of gravity, but you can the Holy Spirit. *Why? Because He's a person!*)

7. Is it really true that the body if Jesus was dissolved into gases or perhaps preserved as a memorial somewhere? In the NWT we read “In answer Jesus said to them: ‘Break down this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Therefore the Jews said: ‘This temple was built in forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was talking about the temple of his body.” (John 2:19-21.) What was going to be raised up? His

*body!* (While it is true that the two disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognise Him in a post-resurrection appearance, this wasn't because He had a different body than what He had before death – ie, some kind of spirit-body. Note that Luke 24:16 says “but their eyes were kept from recognising him.”)

8. What is the gospel that you preach from door-to-door? There is a *very* important warning in Galatians 1:8. “However, even if we or an angel out of heaven were to declare to YOU as good news something beyond what we declared to YOU as good news, let him be accursed.” So is the “Watchtower gospel” the same as the gospel (good news) that the Apostle Paul taught?

In 1 Corinthians 15:1,3-4 we read “Now I make known to YOU, brothers, the good news which I declared to YOU, ... For I handed on to YOU, among the first things, that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, yes, that he has been raised up the third day according to the Scriptures.” Look in the *Aid to Bible Understanding* and see if the Watchtower gospel in the *same* as that of the Apostle Paul (who also gave the Galatians 1:8 warning).

9. Is it true that Christ's 1,000 year rule can not be reckoned from September of 1975 because there is a time lapse of unknown duration between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve? *Awake!* (October 8, 1968, p 14) tells us that the creation of Adam and Eve was in 4026 B.C.E. All doubt should be eliminated (from the standpoint of Watchtower publications) by looking at two other books. The NWT (Genesis 5:3) declares “And Adam lived on for a hundred and thirty years. Then he became a father to a son in his likeness, in his image, and called his name Seth.” The *Aid to Biblical Understanding* (p 538) ties the knot by stating “At the age of 130 another son was born to her. Eve called his name Seth...” Because Adam and Eve were both 130 years old when Seth was born, the time lapse had to be *less than one year!* We can only conclude that *The Watchtower* (October 1, 1975, p 579) has been proven wrong from other official publications when it said:

Does this mean, then, that mankind has now reached 6,000 years into the 7,000-year period that God “blessed and made sacred” as his great “rest day”, is to be reckoned from September 1975? – Genesis 1:27,31; 2:2,3, Revelation 20:1-6.

No, it does not mean that. Why not? Well, the Bible record shows that God's creations on the “day” just preceding that 7,000-year “rest day” did not end with Adam's creation. It shows a time lapse between the creation of Adam and that of his wife, Eve. During that time, God had Adam name the animals. Whether that period amounted to weeks or months or years we do not know. So we do not know exactly when Jehovah's great “rest day” began, nor do we know exactly when it will end.

10. Whatever happened to 1925? In the book *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1920, p 88), by J F Rutherford, we read:

The chief thing to be restored is the human race to life; and since other Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favour, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Isreal from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order of things on earth.

A few years later *The Watchtower* re-emphasised the date when it stated “The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914.” (September 1, 1922, p 262.) If this was not enough, *The Watchtower* (April 1, 1923, p 106) declared:

Our thought is, that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures. As to Noah, the Christian now has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had upon which to base his faith in a coming deluge.

The deluge came however, and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob didn't, so we must conclude Noah based his faith on something (or should we say “Someone”) much more substantial than Watchtower interpretations of Scripture.

The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during this year. This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own due time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire this year. (*The Watchtower*, January 1, 1925, p 3.)

Finally, Rutherford concluded:

There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918 and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time. Later the faithful learned that these dates were definitely fixed in the Scriptures; and they also learned to quit fixing dates for the future and predicting what would come to pass on a certain date, but to rely (and they do rely) upon the Word of God as to the event that must come to pass. (*Vindication*, 1931, pp 338-339.)

Would it fair to conclude that “the faithful” didn't very well learn their lesson on not fixing dates in view of the 1975 episode?

11. What happened to Beth-Sarim? In the book *Salvation* by J F Rutherford (published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society Inc, 1939, p 311) we read:

At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house,

\* mistranslated “obeisance” in 1981 NWT edition.