

With tragic consequences, many will hold the same attitude when Jesus comes the second time. Like lightning, both in speed and visibility, Jesus will come again and the opportunity to get ready will be gone forever. The decision on whether Jesus becomes **my KING and my Deliverer** is to be taken now. There is **no second chance** after death.

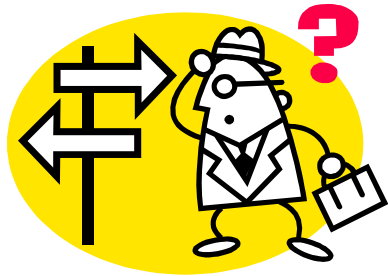
We should learn from the mistakes of those who met Jesus the first time:

**DO NOT** think that belonging to a particular Society will save us. It was a relationship with Jesus that was important (Matthew 11:28, 29)

**DO NOT** think that a 'religious code' will see us through. God does not look at outward works but at the attitude of our hearts. The religious leaders got a shock when Jesus ignored their outward works and exposed the greed, hate and lust of their hearts (Luke 11:39-52)

**DO NOT** be like the foolish man who thought he could put off the decision till tomorrow. It was too late for him (Luke 12:16-21)

**DO** receive the new life that Jesus Christ wants to give everyone. It is a totally new beginning (2 Corinthians 5:17). Those who believe and act upon the words of Jesus Christ are born of God (1John 5:1) and live a worthwhile life here on earth. Jesus also gives a secure eternal future to look forward to (1 John 5:13).



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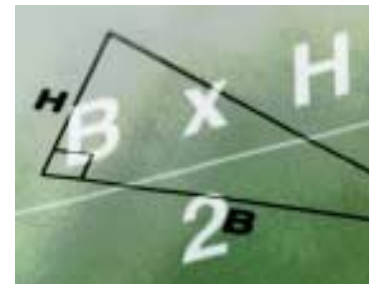
## 1914 - A MARKED DATE?

The Watchtower Society of Jehovah's Witnesses ask us to believe that they are the only channel through which God's truth can come today. Is this right? To find out we will examine one aspect of their truth, namely, the date for Christ's return.

In their book, *You Can Live Forever in Paradise Earth*, p. 149, we read:

"In chapter 16 of this book we considered Bible evidence that Christ returned and began ruling... in the year 1914."

### EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE



The Watchtower 'Bible evidence' for the fulfilment of the return of Christ in 1914 is established from the date 607 B.C. If 607 is proven wrong, so is 1914. Society scholars claim that Jerusalem was captured and its Temple destroyed in 607 B.C. Is this an historical fact or has the Watchtower Society 'bent' history in a vain attempt to patch up their sagging theology?

### NO 'B.C.' DATES IN THE BIBLE

How does the Society arrive at 607 B.C.? We quote:

"One must first measure back...to an absolute date... [then] we can also measure either forward or backward in dating other events of Bible history... one such absolute date... was 539B.C... The fixing of 539B.C... is based on a stone document... giving precise details... [this] enables modern scholars, with their knowledge of astronomy, to translate these dates in terms of the Julian or Gregorian calendars." - *The Watchtower*, August 15, 1968, p. 490.

The historical records for, the fall of Babylon fix 539 B.C. as an absolute date. However, scholars have fixed another absolute date, this time for

the fall of Jerusalem. Seeing as they use the same evidence – an historical document and knowledge of astronomy – we can confidently expect they will agree with the date of 607 B.C.

## MODERN SCHOLARS SAY:

Below we quote 7 of the 22 scholars cited in the Watchtower article (15 August, 1968) to prove Babylon's fall in 539 B.C. **BUT** we also quote what they say concerning the date of the fall of Jerusalem.



### BABYLON FELL

539 B.C... October 12, the arm of Cyrus entered Babylon. - *Light from the Ancient Past – Jack Finegan pp. 227 – 229*

Cyrus entered Babylon in 539 B.C. - *Encyclopædia Britannica Vol. 2 p.. 852*

In 539 B.C. Babylon fell. - *The Encyclopedia Americana Vol. 3 p. 9*

Babylon was captured by Cyrus in 539 B.C. - *Yale oriental series researches Vol. XV, 'Nabonidus & Belshazzar' p.46*

In 539 B.C. Babylon, too, was captured by Cyrus. - *The Story of Ancient Nations – W.L. Westermann p. 73*

In 539 B.C...Cyrus advanced for the conquest of Babylonia. - *History of the Hebrews – F.K.Sanders p. 230*

Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. - *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia V.1 p. 367*

### JERUSALEM FELL

The final destruction of the city [Jerusalem] was in ...586 B.C. - *Light from the Ancient Past – Jack Finegan p. 223*

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 586 B.C. Jerusalem was destroyed. - *Encyclopædia Britannica Vol. 15 p.383*

Nebuchadnezzar...destroyed Jerusalem...in 586 B.C - *The Encyclopedia Americana Vol. 16 p.31.*

Jerusalem fell in 586 B.C. - *Yale Oriental Series Researches Vol. XV, 'Nabonidus & Belshazzar' p.36*

Finally in the year 586 B.C., Jerusalem itself was taken. - *The Story of Ancient Nations – W.L. Westermann p.69*

In July 586 B.C... a breach was made in the wall of Jerusalem. - *History of the Hebrews – F.K. Sanders p. 214/5*

Jehoiachin..surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar (597)...after 11 years ....the Temple (was)... burnt. - *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia Vol. 3 p.1616.*

## CONCLUSIONS

All 22 scholars agree that Babylon fell in 539 B.C; but they also agree that Jerusalem fell in 586 B.C.

Therefore:

**Either** A) We accept these scholars as reliable witnesses of the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. **and also** for the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

**Or** B) we accept that Jerusalem fell in 607 B.C. and have **no reliable witness** of the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. and therefore no 'absolute date'.

### THERE IS NO THIRD ALTERNATIVE

### TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCE TIME



We have **no evidence** either BIBLICAL or HISTORICAL that Jerusalem fell in the year 607 B.C., but we have a wealth of evidence to show that its fall should be dated ad 586 B.C. There is therefore **no evidence** to substantiate the Watchtower teaching that Christ returned invisibly in 1914.

### WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?

The bad news for any Jehovah's Witness is that the Watchtower Society has been shown to be false. The good news is that you are not without hope. The Bible declares that Jesus Christ will be coming back (Matthew 25:29-31). When? NO MAN KNOWS exactly (Matt.24:36) but there are guidelines in the signs that Jesus gave His disciples (Matt.24-5-14). Jesus warned us that we should BE READY for His return (Matt.24:42-51). How do we make ourselves ready? Is it by joining a particular Society? Is it by doing good works?

### HOW CAN I BE READY?

When Jesus was born on this earth, He came to His own people but very few received Him as their King and Deliverer; they said, "We will not have this man to rule over us!"