

JEHOVAH WITNESSES

Many people have at least met a Jehovah Witnesses because the Jehovah Witness knocked on their door. The Churches that these people go to are called Kingdom Hall. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society print the literature that the Jehovah Witnesses read and distribute. Charles Taze Russell established the church in 1879. Russell died in 1916 and was replaced by the 2nd president, Joseph F Rutherford. In the early stages the church was also known as the "International Bible Students Association. The Jehovah Witnesses that I have met are very sincere and good honest people.

Unfortunately, a person can be very sincere and still be wrong. Our question should be: "Is the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society a prophet of God? Does the Watchtower Society print the truth about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and salvation?

Sadly, they do not teach the truth, and they have proven to be false prophets. However, this does not mean that you should chase their people away from your door or be disrespectful to them. They are people whom the Lord loves and he wants them to hear the truth. We need to remember that the Jehovah Witness is not our enemy. They are instead the one who is deceived by our enemy.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (NAS)

1 Pet 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give

IS THE WATCH TOWER A PROPHET OF GOD?

To accurately answer the question, “Is the Watch Tower a Prophet of God?” the following Questions must also be answered.

Has the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (which writes the literature for the Jehovah’s Witnesses) claimed to be a prophet of God?

How does the Bible say to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet? Does the Watch Tower measure up to this test?

Throughout this study, all quoted references followed by (JW) or (NWT) is material printed by Watch Tower. [(JW) = Jehovah’s Witnesses; (NWT) = New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures.]

Has the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (which writes the literature for the Jehovah’s Witnesses) claimed to be a prophet of God?

The Watch Tower is a self-proclaimed prophet of God. Following is a Watch Tower quote. **The Watch Tower, April 1, 1972, p.197 (JW) (PDF pg. 197)**

“‘They Shall Know that a Prophet Was Among Them’

“JEHOVAH GOD is interested in having people know him. Though he is invisible to human eyes, he provides various ways by which they can know his personality. They can know what to expect from him and what he expects of them.

“One can come to understand that Jehovah is a God of surpassing wisdom by observing creation. This also reveals the loving care with which he designed things for man's welfare and enjoyment. A second way to know God is through his Word of truth, the Bible.

Herein one finds the full expression of Jehovah's purpose toward mankind — why man is on the earth and the blessings that God has in store.

“A third way of coming to know Jehovah God is through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers. While these men foretold things to come, they also served the people by telling them of God's will for them at that time, often also warning them of dangers and calamities. People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?

“IDENTIFYING THE ‘PROPHET’

“These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? The clergy of the so-called ‘Christian’ nations hold themselves before the people as being the ones commissioned to speak for God. But, as pointed out in the previous issue of this magazine, they have failed God and failed as proclaimers of his kingdom by approving a man-made political organization, the League of Nations (now the United Nations), as ‘the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth.’

However, Jehovah did not let the people of Christendom, as led by the clergy, go without being warned that the League was a counterfeit substitute for the real kingdom of God. He had a ‘prophet’ to warn them. This ‘prophet’ was not one man, but was 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. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined and assisted in their commissioned work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief.” (End Quote)

The Watch Tower claims to be the only channel of God's truth.

Following is another Watch Tower quote.

The Watch Tower, Feb. 15, 1981, p. 19 (JW) (PDF pg. 119)

“OUR VIEW OF THE ‘SLAVE’

“We can benefit from this consideration. If we have once established what instrument God is using as his ‘slave’ to dispense spiritual food to his people, surely Jehovah is not pleased if we receive that food as though it might contain something harmful. We should have confidence in the channel God is using. **At the Brooklyn headquarters from which the Bible publications of Jehovah's Witnesses emanate there are more mature Christian elders, both of the ‘remnant’ and of the ‘other sheep,’ than anywhere else upon earth.**

“True, the brothers preparing these publications are not infallible. Their writings are not inspired as are those of Paul and the other Bible writers. (2 Tim. 3:16) And so, at times, it has been necessary, as understanding became clearer, to correct views. (Prov. 4:18) However, this has resulted in a continual refining of the body of Bible-based truth to which Jehovah's Witnesses subscribe. Over the years, as adjustments have been made to that body of truth, it has become ever more wonderful and applicable to our lives in these ‘last days.’ Bible commentators of Christendom are not inspired either. Despite their claims to great knowledge, they have failed to highlight even basic Bible truths- such as the coming Paradise earth, the importance of God's name, and the condition of the dead.

“Rather, the record that the ‘faithful and discreet slave’ organization has made for the past more than 100 years forces us to the conclusion that Peter expressed when Jesus asked if his apostles also wanted to leave him, namely, ‘Whom shall we go away to?’ (John 6:66-69) No question about it.

We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the ‘faithful and discreet slave’ organization.”

(End Quote)

How does the Bible say to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet?

When we look to the Bible, we can soon learn how to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet. We are also told why it is important to do so.

Matthew 7:21-23: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me...'"

Here we learn that there are those who prophesy in Jesus' name and even perform miracles, but that does not mean they are from God!

Acts 3:22-23: "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'"

In this passage we can see why it would be important to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet. It certainly does not sound wise to ignore what someone has to say, if that person is truly a prophet of God.

Deuteronomy 18:18-22 “

18) I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

19) And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

20) But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

21) And you may say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'

22)When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

In verses 18-19, we see that we should listen to a true prophet or answer to God for it.

In verses 21-22, we see that it is easy to tell the difference between a true prophet and a false one. If a true prophet speaks, and he tells us something about the future, it will come to pass. Notice there is no mention of any exceptions — one false prophecy makes one a false prophet.

As we can see in verse 20, God does not take the matter of false prophets lightly.

One might ask how God can judge the false prophets so harshly. Think about it; a false prophet is claiming that God said something that God knows he did not say. God Himself is the One Who causes prophecy to come true. Man, when he is involved, is only an instrument God uses. Following is some Scripture that shows this.

Ezekiel 12:22-25: "Son of man, what is this proverb you people have concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The days are long and every vision fails'? Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, I will make this proverb cease so that they will no longer use it as a proverb in Israel.' But tell them, 'The days draw near as well as the fulfillment of every vision. For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. For I the LORD shall speak, and whatever word I speak will be performed. It will no longer be delayed, for in your days, O rebellious house, **I shall speak the word and perform it,' declares the Lord GOD.**"

Habakkuk 2:2-3: "Then the LORD answered me and said, 'Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.'"

In these verses we can see that the Lord is the One Who fulfills prophecy and the fulfillment of it is certain. We know that God does not lie, and nothing is too hard for Him (Hebrews 6:18, Jeremiah 32:27).

Does the Watch Tower measure up to this test?

The Watch Tower has made numerous false prophecies. I am only going to share one here.

Following is a couple of short quotes from **J. F Rutherford the 2nd President of the Watchtower Society**. A paperback version of this book can be purchased at Amazon.com

Ask yourself does this prophecy sound like it came true to you?

Millions now living will never die pg. 88

by J. F Rutherford (PDF pg. 89)

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 favor, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel 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.

Millions now living will never die pg. 97

by J. F Rutherford (PDF pg. 98)

"Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.

Deuteronomy 18:18-22 gives us the test of a prophet and Rutherford fails the test. When what a prophet says does not come true, we know he is a false prophet.

We were told that millions living then before 1925 will NEVER die. We were also expecting Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as well as others to return in 1925.

I would call that a false prophecy.