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Beth-Sarim

The Watchtower, March 15, 1937, p. 86

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Salvation, 1939 ed., p. 311

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

Salvation, 1939 ed., p. 312

Drawing of Beth-Sarim

The New World, 1942 ed., p. 104

“In this expectation the house at San Diego, California, which house has been much publicized with malicious intent by the religious enemy, was built, in 1930, and named ‘Beth-Sarim’, meaning ‘House of the Princes’. It is now held in trust for the occupancy of those princes on their return.”

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**1975 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1974
ed., p.194**

“In time, a direct contribution was made for the purpose of constructing a house in San Diego for Brother Rutherford's use. It was not built at the expense of the Watch Tower Society. Concerning this property, the 1939 book *Salvation* stated: ‘At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth-Sarim.’”

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in serving and progressing in peace and working together to the best interests of the kingdom. Let all persons who profess to love and serve God and Christ Jesus see to it that they take heed to the admonition of the Lord, and that they dwell together in peace and present a solid front against the common enemy. There is no excuse for any strife of any kind in a company or assembly of the Lord's people. All who will receive the full approval of the Lord must and will show their love for God and likewise their love for all who love and serve Jehovah and his kingdom. Where strife arises in a company assembled to serve God, let it be known now that someone there is in the wrong and what should be done is for everyone to search his own heart and mind carefully, see to it that he puts aside selfishness, and all see to it that their energy and effort is devoted to the interests of the kingdom.

¹² Joseph sent a message to his father that he should come down to Egypt, and also sent "good things" for his father's use. In this is pictured that Christ Jesus above all things acknowledges and considers his Father and ascribes to Jehovah the greatest honor and praise, and does all things to vindicate the living God, whose name alone is Jehovah and who is the Life-giver to all who shall ever live. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."—Eph. 3:14, 15.

¹³ All who love God will do as the apostle here states: give all glory to Jehovah God as the Giver of every good and perfect gift. At all times Christ Jesus gives honor and glory to his Father, and those who are of his household will likewise give honor and praise to the Most High. Doing this there is never any occasion to exalt self or to laud other human creatures. Having the right view, we can well understand how Jesus said that those highly esteemed amongst men are an abomination unto Jehovah. No creature possesses anything by reason of his own merit, but all he has or ever hopes to have is by the grace of God.

¹⁴ In *The Watchtower* of December 15, 1928, the Lord brought to the attention of his people that which awakened the expectation of the remnant that they might see and meet on the earth the faithful prophets of old, who had foretold the coming of the King. Since then God's people have gladly made known to the world that the Scriptures plainly teach that Jehovah will bring back to earth those faithful prophets of old and use them to the praise of the kingdom. The public press of Satan's organization has ridiculed this declaration of truth in no uncertain terms, but at the same time they have been informed of this great fact, and many people no doubt believe that the faithful prophets will be back on earth ere long and will assume the positions of visible agents of God and his King in the world. They well know that the rulers of the present time are not only imperfect, but wicked, and the righteous-minded look forward with expecta-

tion to the coming of men who, under the direction of the Lord, shall rule in righteousness.

¹⁵ Joseph's action in sending for his father would therefore seem in a secondary way to point to the present-day preparation for the bringing forth and making known 'that cloud of martyrs' of old, who went before the Lord, bearing testimony to the name of Jehovah, and these martyrs or "witnesses" include Israel, that is, Jacob himself. (Heb. 12:1) Jacob had not expected to see his son Joseph again, having for a long while believed that he had been torn by wild beasts. Those ancient witnesses, specially mentioned by the apostle in Hebrews the eleventh chapter, have not expected to see the feet members of Christ, the Greater-than-Joseph, while in the flesh, but the evidence strongly points to the fact that they will see at least some of them on the earth. The Lord in his loving-kindness makes provision, and we may confidently expect that those faithful men of old will be back on the earth before Armageddon ends and while some of the remnant are still on the earth, and that they will unite together in the praise and service of Jehovah God. There is at least one house on earth the title to which is held in trust for the use and benefit of those faithful men. Whether they occupy it or not, this house has been a means of advertising the kingdom throughout the earth and calling to the attention of the people that those faithful men will be back on the earth, and that the Lord will use them as governors or local rulers. It will not be at all difficult to recognize such men, because they will be upstanding and righteous and do righteousness in every way, and will be a joy to those who come in contact and serve with them. The public press has ridiculed and scoffed at BETH-SARIM, but those who love the Lord rejoice that this has been used as a means to publicly call attention to the faithful men whom God will bring forth.

SOJOURNERS IN EGYPT

¹⁶ The drama proceeded in Egypt, being transferred now entirely to that country. Jacob and all of his household journeyed down to Egypt, and in doing this they had the approval of Jehovah. (Gen. 46:1-7) That does not mean at all that they had ceased to look for a "city . . . whose builder and maker is God". (Heb. 11:10, 16) Jacob and those of his household merely became sojourners in another part of the world, being transferred from one Hamitic land, which is Canaan (son of Ham), to another Hamitic land, Egypt, or Mizraim (son of Ham). (Gen. 10:6) They were in both places merely sojourners. Jehovah brought all the descendants of Israel out of the land of Egypt as he had promised; concerning which it is written: "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years." (Ex. 12:40) "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that

BETH-SARIM

At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, 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 WATCH TOWER 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. To be sure, everything then on the earth will belong to the Lord, and neither the Lord nor the princes need others to build houses for them; but it was thought well and pleasing to God that the aforementioned house be built as a testimony to the name of Jehovah and showing faith in his announced purposes. The house has served as a testimony to many persons throughout the earth, and 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.



GREAT MULTITUDE

The theocratic government, that is to say, the heavenly kingdom, the royal house, is composed exclusively of Christ Jesus and 144,000 members with him; and over all is Jehovah God. Jehovah predetermined the number of the royal house, but he did not fix the number that shall constitute the Lord's "other sheep". Hence the number collectively is called the "great multitude, which no man could number" (Revelation 7:9); or, otherwise stated, the great multitude without specific number. The great multitude will not be a part of the theocratic government or kingdom of heaven, but will live forever on the earth and operate under the immediate direction of the Lord. The members of the great multitude must and will maintain their integrity toward Jehovah God and will thus have a part in the vindication of his name. The Lord has graciously re-

were promptly thereafter defeated in battle and cast out of heaven and down to the earth. That wicked one and his demons now bring great woes upon the earth and sea to drive all nations into a totalitarian system and to turn all people in bitterness against God. The Lord Jesus has now come to the temple for judgment, and the remnant of the members of "his body" yet on earth he has gathered into the temple condition of perfect unity with himself (Malachi 3:1-3), and hence those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any day now. The Scriptures give good reason to believe that it shall be shortly before Armageddon breaks.

In this expectation the house at San Diego, California, which house has been much publicized with malicious intent by the religious enemy, was built, in 1930, and named "Beth-Sarim", meaning "House of the Princes". It is now held in trust for the occupancy of those princes on their return. The most recent facts show that the religionists of this doomed world are gnashing their teeth because of the testimony which that "House of the Princes" bears to the new world. To those religionists and their allies the return of those faithful men of old to rule with judgment over the people shall not bring any pleasure. But to the people whom the angels sang about, "men of good-will," it shall be an occasion for unbounded jubilation, and they shall rally to the side of those

San Diego residence known as "Beth-Sarim." For some time it was apparent to his associates and the best medical experts that he could not recover.

Briefly it may be said that Brother Rutherford had a severe case of pneumonia after his release from unjust imprisonment during 1918-1919 because of his faithfulness to Jehovah. Thereafter he had only one good lung. It was virtually impossible for him to remain in Brooklyn, New York, during the winter and still carry out his duties as the Society's president. In the 1920's he went to San Diego under a doctor's treatment. The climate there was exceptionally good and the doctor urged him to spend as much time as possible in San Diego. That is what Rutherford did ultimately.

In time, a direct contribution was made for the purpose of constructing a house in San Diego for Brother Rutherford's use. It was not built at the expense of the Watch Tower Society. Concerning this property, the 1939 book *Salvation* stated: "At San Diego, California there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth-Sarim."

Sister Hazel Burford was one of the nurses who cared for Brother Rutherford during his final illness at Beth-Sarim, where he was taken in November 1941. She tells us: "We had the interesting times, for he got to where he would sleep all day and then all night long he was busy with the Society's business and kept us on the move." One morning about the middle of December three brothers, including Brother Knorr, arrived from Brooklyn. Sister Burford recalls: "They spent several days with him going over the annual report for the *Yearbook* and other organizational matters. After their departure, Brother Rutherford continued to weaken and, about three weeks later, on Thursday, January 8, 1942, he faithfully finished his earthly course and graduated into fuller service privileges in the courts of his heavenly Father." Later that day the news was sent to the Brooklyn headquarters by long-distance telephone at 5:15 p.m.

How was news of J. F. Rutherford's death received at Brooklyn Bethel? "I will never forget the day we learned of Brother Rutherford's passing," comments William A. Elrod. "The announcement was brief. There were no speeches."

A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Thursday, January 8, 1942, marked the end of the earthly life of seventy-two-year-old Joseph Franklin Rutherford. For twenty-five years he had been presi-