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Prophets

The Watchtower Reprints, May 15, 1917, p. 6091

“Truly there lived among us in these last days a prophet of the Lord; and although now he has passed from human sight, his works remain an enduring witness to his wisdom and his faithfulness!”

The Watchtower, January 15, 1959, p. 40-41

“Whom has God actually used as his prophet?...Jehovah’s witnesses are deeply grateful today that the plain facts show that God has been pleased to use them.”

The Watchtower, June 15, 1964, p. 365

“As Jehovah revealed his truths by means of the first-century Christian congregation so he does today by means of the present-day Christian congregation. Through this agency he is having carried out prophesying on an intensified and unparalleled scale.”

(continued)

**The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah,
1971 ed., p. 56-57**

“Ezekiel was not raising himself up as a prophet and presuming to speak in the divine name. He was really a prophet sent by the Most High God...Not alone were the inspired words of Ezekiel prophetic, but he himself was a prophetic figure in his action, as is later shown on occasions. (Ezekiel 24:24) Since Ezekiel himself was a ‘portent,’ or ‘sign’ (AV), of someone to come, and since he was not a type or prophetic figure of Jesus Christ, whom did the prophet Ezekiel typify in carrying out his divine commission?”

**The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah,
1971 ed., p. 58**

“Here, then, since 1914, and particularly since the year 1919, after World War I had ended, we should look for the modern-day counterpart of the prophet Ezekiel. Who is Ezekiel’s present-day counterpart, whose message and conduct correspond with that of that ancient prophet of Jehovah? Of whom today was he a ‘sign’ or ‘portent’? Not of some individual man, but of a group of people. Being made up of a unified company of persons, the modern Ezekiel is a composite personage, made up of many members, just the same as the human body is.”

(continued)

**The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah,
1971 ed., p. 58-59**

“So it is with the modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel: it is, not one person’s body, but a composite body, made up of many members. All the members were together to do the will of Jehovah, who is the Creator of this modern ‘Ezekiel.’ Who, then, are the group of persons who, toward the beginning of this ‘time of the end,’ were commissioned to serve as the mouthpiece and active agent of Jehovah? In order to determine this, check the history of 1919, the first postwar year after the first world war.”

**The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah,
1971 ed., p. 62**

“They were a small minority group of men and women who had dedicated themselves to Jehovah as God by following in the footsteps of his Son Jesus Christ. To give public evidence of this dedication to Jehovah, they had undergone water baptism just as their Leader Jesus Christ had done when he was immersed in the Jordan river by John the Baptist.”

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**The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah,
1971 ed., p. 70-71**

“At the time, they might not view or appreciate him as a prophet of Jehovah. But whether they heard him as such or refrained from hearing and paying attention to him, the occasion was to come when these rebellious people would ‘know also that a prophet himself happened to be in the midst of them.’ Jehovah would confirm him as a prophet before them by causing what Ezekiel prophesied to come true...Likewise it was a trying mission upon which the modern Ezekiel class was sent, to religious people of the same type as those in Ezekiel’s day. But regardless of how Christendom views or regards this group of anointed witnesses of Jehovah, the time must come, and that shortly, when those making up Christendom will know that really a ‘prophet’ of Jehovah was among them...Since the year 1919 C.E. the anointed remnant of Jehovah’s witnesses have found it to be just like that as they have spoken fearlessly the word of Jehovah in the midst of Christendom.”

The Watchtower, March 15, 1972, p. 189

“More accurately, was there any group on whom Jehovah would be willing to bestow the commission to speak as a ‘prophet’ in His name, as was done toward Ezekiel...”

(continued)

The Watchtower, April 1, 1972, p. 197

“So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?...These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet?...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...Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a ‘prophet’ of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?”

Holy Spirit--The Force Behind The Coming New Order, 1976 ed., p. 148

“The holy spirit, which Jehovah prophesied that he would pour out in the last days, has not ceased to operate, for the remnant are still baptizing disciples of Christ in the name of that spirit...The announced purpose behind God’s pouring out of his spirit upon all sorts of flesh was that the recipients thereof might prophesy. The facts substantiate that the remnant of Christ’s anointed disciples have been doing that prophesying to all the nations for a witness in favor of God’s kingdom.”

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We made judicious use of the newspapers in advertising these meetings and feel that we had excellent results. We used mostly "Readers" scattered through the papers. The total cost of the four meetings will reach about \$380, which

was all pledged before we started the series for the public. We feel richly blessed and more determined than ever to go on to the end. With fervent Christian love to you all,
Your brother by his grace,
C. B. SHULL.—Ohio.

FOUL SCANDAL'S DANGER

"Brakes on! Go slow! you do not know.
You are not sure that it is so.
A vagrant whisper overheard.
A sneer, a shrug, a dastard word
Are not sound evidence—you may
Unjustly hurt a man today.
The thoughtless things that people say,
The vandal rumors gossip spreads,
The 'I have heard' and 'Someone said's'

And like remarks, destroy and blight
Without a chance to prove the right.
Noblesse Oblige! Who knows when you
May stand in need of fair play, too?
A thousand men and women die
At heart each day because a lie—
Some ill-considered, vicious fling—
Has robbed their lives of everything."

ANGELOPHONE COMPANY REORGANIZED

In a recent issue of the *THE WATCH TOWER* we announced that the Angelophone Company was going out of business. We are glad now to inform our readers that this work will continue, some brethren having taken over the Company and reorganized it.

There was a legal question raised as to whether or not the SOCIETY had authority under its charter to sell talking machines, together with the records. It is our desire to be strictly law-abiding. There could be no question about the right of the SOCIETY to manufacture and sell talking and singing records, because this is another method of preaching the Gospel.

The records made by Brother Russell proved unsatisfactory, but there has been such a demand for them that the SOCIETY has arranged to have these records made again, which is now

being done by the same person who made the PHOTO-DRAMA RECORDS so great a success. The new records are clear and distinct, and easy to be understood, and will be much appreciated by every one, especially by those who enjoyed Brother Russell's discourses. These records will be handled by the Angelophone Company, which still has on hand a few sets of records in the voice of Brother Russell.

Because of the increased cost of rerecording and remaking, and the increased cost of material, the Angelophone Company is compelled to sell these records at 25c each or \$5 per set of twenty-five. Even at this they are cheaper than any other records on the market.

Orders should be sent to us or to the Angelophone Company, 184 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"WHY DO THE NATIONS WAR?"

The announcement that there would be a new issue of Volunteer literature has awakened many to the importance of ordering the first Volunteer matter—Vol. 9, No. 1—"The World on Fire"—and distributing it. We believe that the time is more propitious now than ever for the Lord's people to work, and "The World on Fire" is excellent to begin with. People are thinking now as never before. We believe, too, that the Lord expects us to keep on witnessing as long as it is "called day." It will be time to stop when the night has so far come upon us that no one can work.

The leading article of the new volunteer matter will be: "Why Do the Nations War?" Many orders have been received for it. When ordering it please mention Vol. 9, No. 5. We had thought to make it eight pages, but after considering every

detail, it was concluded, the Lord willing, to issue another volunteer number before the summer ends.

The printers are at work now upon the new issue, and orders will be filled as rapidly as the printing proceeds. There should be no delay in putting it out when it reaches you. A combined effort and systematic distribution would be best!

Whenever there are classes, orders should be sent by the Secretary, and orders should be carefully estimated on a basis of one copy for each English-speaking family. Where there are no classes individuals may order, based upon the same estimate. The literature is furnished free; but we do not pay the transportation charges.

"Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might!"

VIEWS FROM THE WATCH TOWER

"THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL"

We append an editorial from the *New York American* of May 18, which we believe sets forth without exaggeration present conditions throughout the world. After certain parts we have inserted some paragraphs from Vol. IV, "THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON," of the series of "STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES."

The "BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON" was written twenty years ago, and so faithfully does it picture present events leading up to their climax, "THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON," and the introduction of earth's new Government, the kingdom of God's dear Son, that we could wish a copy of it in every home throughout the whole earth. Truly there lived among us in these last days a prophet of the Lord; and although now he has passed from human sight, his works remain an enduring witness to his wisdom and his faithfulness! Following is the editorial referred to with the insertions from "THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON":

"BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY"

May 18, 1917, *The N. Y. American* said:

"The official mind seems to take it for granted that when the governments have made peace and have arranged the division of whatever spoils there may be, the peoples are going quietly back to work for their former masters, to live under the same institutions, to be, in short, the same nations, guided and controlled by the same financial, aristocratic and diplomatic castes that have ruled them for many centuries."

Twenty years ago Pastor Russell said:

"It is becoming more and more manifest to the masses

of men that in the present order of things they are between a nether and upper millstone, whose rapid revolutions must eventually, and at no distant date, grind them down to a miserable and ignoble serfdom, unless interfered with in some way. Such indeed is the actual condition of things: human necessity is the feed-pipe which presses the masses between the millstones; the lower millstone is the fixed law of supply and demand which is crowding the rapidly increasing and growingly intelligent population of the world closer and closer to the pressure of the upper millstone of organized selfishness, driven by the giant power of mechanical slaves, assisted by the cogs and levers and pulleys of financial combinations, trusts and monopolies."—Vol. IV, p. 372, par. 2.

May 18, 1917, *The New York American* said:

"These seem to be also the views and conceptions of the public journals and of most private citizens, who naturally have no other sources of information and of opinion than the public journals.

"We can excuse the private citizen, but it is amazing that men who are hailed as statesmen cannot see what is going on before their eyes; cannot see that the Europe of 1913 has vanished as completely as the Europe of the dark ages; cannot see that the proletariat have at last in their hands the weapons and in their minds the thought and in their hearts the resolve to do away with all the old distinctions and social inequalities; that the institutions of government and laws which still seem to be solid and enduring edifices are in reality only hollow shells, mined and ready to be blown to pieces when relief from the pressure of outside war gives

be done, a work that would run from the beginning of that period of consummation until the accomplished end of it. It was a work toward all the inhabited earth, toward all the nations, a work of being witnesses to all these nations concerning God's kingdom of good news. For more than four years World War I occupied the time and attention of over thirty nations, till near the close of 1918; and the religious systems of Christendom threw themselves into the war on the sides of their respective nations. Certainly they had no time for preaching God's kingdom of good news then. As regards Jehovah's witnesses, the religious systems of Christendom stirred up the political, military and judicial authorities to cut down or almost stop the public preaching that Jehovah's witnesses were trying to do concerning the meaning of world conditions and the times and events. Came the year 1919, and the work of witnessing to the nations in fulfillment of Jesus' words was still there to do. It faced all men who claimed to follow and obey Jesus. In that opening year for postwar decisions and work the question of highest importance to Christendom and to all who called themselves Christians was, not, Should all nations get together in a peace league? but, Who will be Jehovah's prophet to the nations, to speak to them everything that He should command? Who will be the modern Jeremiah?

¹¹ Jeremiah prophesied forty years in the time of the end of the kingdom of Judah. So who will prophesy with his message in this time of the end of the nations of this world?

¹² Back there, about forty years ago, that was the question. Today we may ask, How was the question answered? There are facts to show. We should not appeal to religious pride or boasting or self-made

claims. We should appeal to the facts. Let facts speak for themselves. Consult the factual record of Christendom's religious systems, Catholic and Protestant, not to speak of Jewry. More than that, examine also what those religious systems are doing today. Then consult the record of the one religious organization that all Christendom's religious organizations and Jewry strenuously opposed during World War I and have opposed since. Everybody knows that this opposed organization of Christians is Jehovah's witnesses. Consult the newspaper reports or magazine articles, the police and judicial court records, yes, consult the homes of the millions of people who have been visited by these witnesses of Jehovah, apart from their own annual reports and the *Yearbooks* of Jehovah's witnesses. Ask all these what the witnesses have been doing since 1919 till this very hour. The combined answer will be that they have been preaching by all the means and channels of publicity. They have specialized on preaching just one thing, and that is, God's kingdom of good news. This they have preached, as Jesus commanded, "for the purpose of a witness to all the nations," including the nations behind the Iron Curtain.

¹³ The fact that decides the answer to the question is, not, Do all the clergy of Roman Catholicism and of Protestantism agree that Jehovah's witnesses have been and are God's prophet to the nations? but, Who discerned the divine will for Christians in this time of the world's end and offered themselves to do it? Who have undertaken God's foreordained work for this day of judgment of the nations? Who have answered the call to the work and have done it down till this year 1958? Whom has God actually used as his prophet?

12. (a) How can we find the answer to the question? (b) What must the combined answer be on the part of all the things consulted?

13. 14. (a) What fact decides the answer to the question? (b) As regards the answer, why are Jehovah's witnesses grateful today, and why have they become happy?

14 By the historical facts of the case Christendom is beaten back in defeat. Jehovah's witnesses are deeply grateful today that the plain facts show that God has been pleased to use them. All the preaching and all the Bible educational work that they have done till now in 175 countries and islands of the sea they confess has been, not by help of a military army, nor by human power, but by God's spirit, his invisible active force. (Zech. 4:6, AV) It has been because Jehovah thrust out his hand of power and touched their lips and put his words in their mouths. It has evidently been because he commissioned them to be over the nations and over the kingdoms. Happy are all those who have seen what the work of Jehovah God for now is and who have volunteered to do it.

TWO KINDS OF DIVINE WORK

15 Individuals have not been foreordained for God's work, as in Jeremiah's case. The work was the thing foreordained. Christendom may fail to do the foreordained work, but it will be done just the same. We must harmonize with the work, not decide for ourselves what God's work should be at this time and then ask his divine blessing on what we decide. This latter course is one of lawlessness against God, no matter how loudly and insistently one claims to be a Christian. God offers the foreordained work to Christians, as these claim to have given themselves to him through Christ to do the divine will. Thus God lets Christians live up to their claims, if they want to, by accepting the work he foreordained for Christians in this day. Regardless of the names of the individuals, a remnant of consecrated, anointed witnesses of Jehovah rejoiced to be freed from their captivity during World

15. (a) What was it that was foreordained? (b) How, then, must Christians live up to their claims, and which "Christians" have done so?

War I and to carry out their dedication to God by taking up the foreordained work. Hundreds of thousands have since seen the opportunities of the work and have joyfully joined the anointed Jeremiah class in doing the work.

16 Jehovah's witnesses may be comparatively few in number. They do not have any political ties or influence. Nonetheless, their work is of world importance, because it was foreordained by God. It was foreshadowed and outlined by Jeremiah's own work, which was of world importance. Jehovah's witnesses are absolutely neutral toward the political, ideological and military conflicts of this world, and yet they are under divine command to declare Jehovah's message concerning the nations and kingdoms of this world. As pictured by Jeremiah, they are commissioned "to uproot and to pull down and to destroy and to tear down, to build and to plant."

17 That is the work that Jehovah's witnesses have been doing during these past forty years. In all that work they have not meddled in politics, subverted any governments or raised a violent hand against any of the institutions or political structures of any nation of the world. How, then, have they fulfilled Jehovah's commission to them? Our guide to the right answer is found in the answer to the question, How did our pattern, Jeremiah, fulfill his commission to do such things? He did this by declaring the judgments, the judicial decisions and the purposes of Jehovah God, which, when pronounced over Jehovah's own name, are as good as accomplished. Thus he "calls the things that are not as though they were." (Rom. 4:17) Not one of his judgments and purposes has gone unfulfilled.

16. Despite their fewness, why is the work of Jehovah's witnesses of world importance, and what are they, as pictured by Jeremiah, commissioned to do?
17. In what they have done during the past forty years, how have Jehovah's witnesses fulfilled His commission to them?

Writing under inspiration he revealed such new information as the number making up the Kingdom class, the number of world powers yet to come, the length of time Satan was to be abysed, and other outstanding truths. Progressively Jehovah revealed amazing new truths to sheeplike ones. It happened just as Jesus had said earlier: "I publicly praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intellectual ones and have revealed them to babes."—Matt. 11:25.

THE KINGDOM'S ESTABLISHMENT

²⁰ Bible prophecies such as Matthew chapter 24, Mark chapter 13, Luke chapter 21 and others definitely point to the fact that God's kingdom by Christ has been established in the heavens since the year 1914. Since Jehovah revealed many truths in previous generations to aid in understanding his purpose through this kingdom, are we to expect any less revealing of truths with that kingdom fully established and his King-Son Jesus Christ installed in power? Surely not! The Kingdom's establishment was the signal for a tremendous increase of revealed truth to be dispensed to Jehovah's people on earth. With the King's enthronement came the issuing of a continuous flow of instructions to obedient subjects of that kingdom in order to clarify their understanding on doctrine and procedure. A constant supply of progressively unscaled truths was assured. This is pictured at Revelation 5:1 to 8:1.

²¹ Centuries earlier Isaiah had foretold this flow of truth: "And many peoples will certainly go and say: 'Come, you people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, and we

will walk in his paths.' For out of Zion law will go forth, and the word of Jehovah out of Jerusalem. And he will certainly render judgment among the nations and set matters straight respecting many peoples. . . . O men of the house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of Jehovah."—Isa. 2:3-5.

²² As Jehovah revealed his truths by means of the first-century Christian congregation so he does today by means of the present-day Christian congregation. Through this agency he is having carried out prophesying on an intensified and unparalleled scale. All this activity is not an accident. Jehovah is the one behind all of it. The abundance of spiritual food and the amazing details of Jehovah's purposes that have been revealed to Jehovah's anointed witnesses are clear evidence that they are the ones mentioned by Jesus when he foretold a "faithful and discreet slave" class that would be used to dispense God's progressive revelations in these last days. Of this class Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, He will appoint him over all his belongings."—Matt. 24:47.

²³ The holy spirit of Jehovah is working mightily today! How thankful we should be for the provision God has made of this slave class, the modern spiritual remnant, as they faithfully dispense the revealed truths of Jehovah! With these rich truths to light the way, Christians do not grope in this dark, jungle-like world as do the masses of people in Christendom and heathendom alike. To the contrary, Jehovah's faithful witnesses have been progressively brought to an understanding of Jehovah's purposes, which are clearer now than ever before in history. Their organization, being patterned after the first-century Christian congregation, is blessed by Jehovah. He has prospered their work of preaching "this

20. Concerning revealed truth, what was to be expected with the Kingdom's establishment?

21. What had Isaiah prophesied about this?

22. Through what earthly agency does Jehovah dispense revealed truth in these last days?

23. What evidence do we have that this is so?

⁴ "And he went on to say to me: 'Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to rebellious nations that have rebelled against me. They themselves and their forefathers have transgressed against me down to this selfsame day. And the sons insolent of face and hard of heart—I am sending you to them, and you must say to them, "This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has said." And as for them, whether they will hear or will refrain—for they are a rebellious house—they will certainly know also that a prophet himself happened to be in the midst of them.'"—Ezekiel 2:3-5.

⁶ There Ezekiel is definitely told that he is henceforth to serve as a prophet. He is commissioned to speak in the divine name, saying: "This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has said." Just as Jehovah had sent Moses as his prophet nine hundred years previously, so now he was sending Ezekiel. Ezekiel was not raising himself up as a prophet and presuming to speak in the divine name. He was really a prophet sent by the Most High God. The fact that Jehovah appeared to Ezekiel in vision and spoke from his throne on his celestial chariot and directly sent Ezekiel on a definite mission with a definite message proves that Ezekiel was a true prophet, sent by God, and that what he spoke under inspiration was the real word of God. The fact, too, that he was sent on such a difficult mission adds to the proof that he did not assume to be a prophet speaking in Jehovah's name, but that the Highest Authority in all existence sent him to speak in the divine name. He was thus, in an outstanding way, made a witness of Jehovah.

⁶ Not alone were the inspired words of Ezekiel prophetic, but he himself was a prophetic figure in his action, as is later shown on occasions. (Ezekiel 24:24) Since Ezekiel himself was a "portent" or "sign" (AV), of someone to come, and since he was not a type of

prophetic figure of Jesus Christ, whom did the prophet Ezekiel typify in carrying out his divine commission?

⁷ Although Ezekiel did not know it at the time that he was commissioned to be Jehovah's prophet, the city of Jerusalem was to be destroyed by the Babylonians just six years later, in 607 B.C.E. Ever since Ezekiel's former acquaintance, Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah the priest, was raised up back there in Jerusalem in the year 647 B.C.E., in the thirteenth year of the reign of King Josiah of Jerusalem, that city and the nation of Judah had been in their time of the end. (Jeremiah 1:1-3; 25:10, 11) In the right timing of things we today should look for the modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel as a type or prophetic figure in the "time of the end" in which we now find ourselves. Modern historians are agreed that an era ended in the year 1914 C.E., the year in which World War I began its violent, destructive course of more than four years and three months. What those historians do not take into account is that, according to the Holy Bible, the "times of the Gentiles" ended in early autumn of that very year of 1914. (Luke 21:24, AV) Since then we have been in the world's "time of the end."

⁸ While the prophet Ezekiel was still an exile in Babylon, those Gentile Times began, in 607 B.C.E., when the armies of the king of Babylon brought destruction upon Jerusalem and, two months later, complete desolation came upon the whole land of Judah, including Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:1-26; Jeremiah 39:1 to 43:7; 52:1-27) Ezekiel's fellow exile, the prophet Daniel, was used to indicate that those Gentile Times would continue for a period of seven prophetic "times," or for 2,520 years. (Daniel 4:1-28) A count of 2,520 years from the desolation of the land of Judah in the year 607 B.C.E. proves that these years of uninterrupted rule of the whole earth by the Gentile nations ended

⁴ To whom was Ezekiel told that he was sent, and what he spoke Jehovah's saying to them, what would they certainly know?

⁵ Therefore, what proves that Ezekiel did not presume of himself to assume to be a prophet speaking in the divine name?

⁶ Not only were Ezekiel's words prophetic, but what was he himself at the same time?

⁷ We should look for the antitype of Ezekiel in what period of time, and since when have we been in that time period?

⁸ During whose exile in Babylon did those Gentile Times begin, and at the time for us to look for Ezekiel's modern counterpart began when?

in 1914 C.E. Since that date the Gentile nations, including the nations of Christendom, have been in their "time of the end." Do not world events and developments since then indicate this to be true? (Matthew 24:3-44) Here, then, since 1914, and particularly since the year 1919, after World War I had ended, we should look for the modern-day counterpart of the prophet Ezekiel.

⁹ Who is Ezekiel's present-day counterpart, whose message and conduct correspond with that of that ancient prophet of Jehovah? Of whom today was he a "sign" or "portent"? Not of some individual man, but of a group of people. Being made up of a unified company of persons, the modern Ezekiel is a composite personage, made up of many members, just the same as the human body is. This reminds us of what the onetime persecutor, the Christian apostle Paul, wrote to fellow Christians in Rome, Italy, saying: "Just as we have in one body many members, but the members do not all have the same function, so we, although many, are one body in union with Christ, but members belonging individually to one another." (Romans 12:4, 5) Using the same illustration, Paul said in his letter to the congregation in Corinth, Greece: "Just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. For truly by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit."—1 Corinthians 12:12, 13.

¹⁰ So it is with the modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel: it is, not one person's body, but a composite body, made up of many members. All these members were together to do the will of Jehovah, who is the Creator of this modern "Ezekiel." Who, then, are the group of persons who, toward the beginning of this "time

9. Is the modern-day Ezekiel an individual person, and how does the apostle Paul illustrate how Ezekiel's counterpart could be?
10. In order to determine which group is Ezekiel's modern counterpart, what do we have to do?

of the end," were commissioned to serve as the mouth-piece and active agent of Jehovah? In order to determine this, check the history of 1919, the first postwar year after the first world war.

¹¹ We do not look among the natural circumcised Jews, for they had actively taken part in World War I, the famous Zionist leader, Chaim Weizmann, lending his services as a discoverer in the chemical field to the British Government during that world conflict. In 1919 they were mainly interested in establishing a National Homeland for the Jews in Palestine, rather than in fulfilling any religious commission like that of ancient Ezekiel. But what about religious Christendom? Her appearance before Jehovah was also gruesomely blood-stained, for World War I was mainly her war, twenty-four of the twenty-eight participants in carnal warfare claiming to be Christian nations. When this first world conflict ended in 1918 (November 11), victorious Great Britain and her allies were interested in establishing a peace arrangement with the conquered nations, besides dealing with the newly arisen Communist State in Russia. Playing the modern-day role of the Bible "Ezekiel" was far from their thoughts.

¹² The churches of Christendom had taken no courageous Christian steps to prevent World War I. They had split into two great camps over the nationalistic war issues. The end of the war found them disunited, needing to get reconciled and to become religious friends again. According to the Treaty of London that had been signed on May 9, 1915, by Italy, Great Britain, France and Russia, "the Holy See [the pope of Rome] was not to be permitted to intervene by diplomatic action in regard to peace or questions arising from the war."^{*} So the pro-German Vatican was not allowed to have any part in drawing up the Peace

^{*} Quoted from *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Volume 17, edition of 1921, page 633.

11. When we look at natural Jewry and then at Christendom for the proper group, what objections/inefficiencies do we find?

12. When we look at the churches of Christendom, including the Vatican, for the proper group, what do we find?

THE MODERN-DAY "EZEKIEL"

"They were a small minority group of men and women who had dedicated themselves to Jehovah as God by following in the footsteps of His Son Jesus Christ. To give public evidence of this dedication to Jehovah, they had undergone water baptism just as their Leader Jesus Christ had done when he was immersed in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19, 20; 1 Peter 2:21) They were very active in preaching the good news of God's kingdom because their Leader Jesus Christ had set this preaching before them as their work in his prophecy at Matthew 24:14. They took literally the words of Jesus Christ, when before the Roman governor, that his kingdom does not belong to this world, and so they declined to have any part in the politics of this world and in its political struggles and conflicts. They took to heart Jesus' words to his followers: "You are no part of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world." (John 15:19) Hence they expected to suffer the world's hatred for their living according to that Christian rule. Hatred toward them became violent during World War I.

¹⁷ Did the ancient prophet Ezekiel mean anything to them? He did! One of the prophetic books that these students of the Bible had for years wanted to understand was that of Ezekiel. After years of waiting they felt that attention had been paid to their desire when the book entitled "The Finished Mystery" was published in July of the year 1917. This book of 608 pages, published by the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, contained an explanation, not only of the last book of the Bible, Revelation, but also of the twenty-sixth book of the Bible, Ezekiel. It severely criticized the religious systems of Christendom and exposed the clergy of Christendom as being false to the word of Jehovah. Can we wonder why this book had a circulation of less

17. What distinguished this group as true Christians?
18. This group was interested in what prophetic book of the Bible, and how was this interest met in 1917, with what later developments?

than nine months in the United States and Canada? It was because the book was put under ban, the wartime conditions of both countries being taken advantage of to bring this about. The Watch Tower Society's president and secretary-treasurer, together with six other members of the Society who had a connection with *The Finished Mystery*, were imprisoned in the Federal Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

¹⁹ The crippling of the work of preaching God's kingdom during World War I greatly grieved these peace-loving dedicated, baptized followers of Jesus Christ. The burning question was, Would they have an opportunity to resume their peaceful activities in the service of Jehovah their God? The answer proved to be Yes! World War I did not lead on into an Armageddon for the Gentile nations but ended on November 11, 1918. They endeavored to get the imprisoned officers of the Watch Tower Society and their fellow prisoners out of the Federal Penitentiary. Their efforts were blessed from Heaven. After nine months of imprisonment these falsely charged servants of Jehovah were freed in March of 1919, never to return to prison. All the dedicated, baptized servants of Jehovah rejoiced. They recognized that their dedication to Him was for life and therefore they must do his will in the postwar period then opening up. The encouragement to be fearless and do so came through the columns of the magazine *The Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*.

²⁰ In the issues of August 1 and 15, 1919, of this magazine there was published a series of two articles on the subject "Blessed Are the Fearless." In the third and fifth paragraphs of this article there appeared these statements that discouraged all fear of men: "There is a fear which is very proper, and which everyone must have who is pleasing to God, and this is known as 'Godly fear'. It means a holy reverence for

19. Over what protest did this group rejoice in 1919, and through what magazine did the encouragement for postwar work come?

20. How was fear of men discouraged in the series of articles in the issues of August 1 and 15, 1919, of *The Watch Tower*?

face and hard of heart." In order to carry out his mission to the end he needed to have fulfilled toward him what his name Ezekiel meant, namely, "God Strengthens." At the time, they might not view or appreciate him as a prophet of Jehovah. But whether they heard him as such or refrained from hearing and paying attention to him, the occasion was to come when these rebellious people would "know also that a prophet himself happened to be in the midst of them." Jehovah would confirm him as a prophet before them by causing what Ezekiel prophesied to come true. (Ezekiel 2:3-5) The expectation of this would be a comfort and strength to Ezekiel, not to be discouraged because of the way he was being considered and treated at the moment.

²² Likewise it was a trying mission upon which the modern Ezekiel class was sent, to religious people of the same type as those in Ezekiel's day. But regardless of how Christendom views or regards this group of anointed witnesses of Jehovah, the time must come, and that shortly, when those making up Christendom will know that really a "prophet" of Jehovah was among them.

³¹ Would we today like to tell Jehovah's message among things that prick us and among scorpions? It would take great courage and trust in the One who sent us to do so. Into such a situation Ezekiel was sent, according to the words that Jehovah further said to him: "And you, O son of man, do not be afraid of them; and of their words do not be afraid, because there are obstinate ones and things pricking you and it is among scorpions that you are dwelling. Of their words do not you be afraid, and at their faces do not you be struck with terror, for they are a rebellious house. And you must speak my words to them, regardless of whether they hear or they refrain, for they are

²⁰ Why is the mission of the modern-day Ezekiel class likewise a trying one, but, too, what must Christendom also come to know?
³¹ Ezekiel was told to speak God's word fearlessly despite what about the rebellious house of Israel, and why has the anointed remnant of Jehovah's witnesses likewise had to speak fearlessly?

a case of rebellion." (Ezekiel 2:6, 7) Since the year 1919 C.E. the anointed remnant of Jehovah's witnesses have found it to be just like that as they have spoken fearlessly the word of Jehovah in the midst of Christendom.

³⁵ The religious condition today in Christendom bears witness to the fact that, rebelliously, she has not listened to the word from Jehovah's Holy Scriptures that has been spoken to her by every means of communication, by house-to-house calls with the printed page, by recordings played on portable phonographs, by the loudspeakers of sound cars, by direct public lectures, by radio networks and by television. Regardless of Christendom's indifference or even rebelliousness, the anointed witnesses of Jehovah have done just as He told Ezekiel to do, saying: "And you, O son of man, hear what I am speaking to you. Do not become rebellious like the rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you."—Ezekiel 2:8.

³⁶ What was Ezekiel given to eat? His written account tells us: "And I began to see, and, look! there was a hand thrust out to me, and, look! in it there was the roll of a book. And he gradually spread it out before me, and it was written upon in front and on the back; and there were written in it dirges and moaning and wailing." (Ezekiel 2:9, 10) From what was written on the scroll Ezekiel learned the content of the message that he was to deliver to the rebellious house of Israel in the name of Jehovah.

³⁷ As no space was wasted on the scroll, but it was written upon on both sides, front and back, it was to be a full message that Ezekiel proclaimed, it was to contain a great deal of gloomy dirges, moaning and wailing. It was to be no pleasant message, and it would

³⁵ Christendom's condition today shows that she has responded in what way to Jehovah's word presented by every means of communication, and so in what way should Christendom not be imitated?

³⁶ What was Ezekiel given to eat, and what did it contain, for his information?

³⁷ How was the faithfulness of the message to be delivered portrayed, and why was the kind of message the proper one to be delivered, both by Ezekiel and by Jehovah's witnesses of today?

Covenant of the League of Nations was made a part of that peace treaty.

When the League of Nations was proposed as an international organization for world peace and security, the bloodstained religious organizations backed it, seizing upon this circumstance as an opportunity to "save face." The Church of England and the churches of Canada supported the League, since Great Britain was the League's proposer and chief backer. In the United States of America there was the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America (superseded in 1950 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., a federation of 33 Protestant and Orthodox churches). On December 18, 1918, this Council sent its adopted Declaration to the American president and urged him to work for the League. The Declaration said, in part:

"Such a League is not a mere political expedient; it is rather the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. . . . The Church can give a spirit of good-will, without which no League of Nations can endure. . . . The League of Nations is rooted in the Gospel. Like the Gospel, its objective is 'peace on earth, good-will toward men.'"

By accepting the League of Nations as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth," the members of the Federal Council of churches were really accepting a counterfeit "Kingdom of God on earth." Why? Because Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, when on trial for his life before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, in 33 C.E., said: "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it did, my followers would be fighting to save me from arrest by the Jews. My kingly authority comes from elsewhere." (John 18:36, *New English Bible*) The fact that they were not, as a body, a commissioned messenger of God was made clear and their hypocrisy exposed when, twenty years later, the League of Nations was knocked out of

business by the outbreak of World War II. The churches again entered into this war with all their might, encouraging their members to take part.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF GOD'S MESSENGER

Therefore, when it came time for the name of Jehovah and his purposes to be declared to the people, along with God's warning that Christendom is in her "time of the end," who qualified to be commissioned? Who was willing to undertake this monumental task as Jehovah's "servant"? Was there anyone to whom Jehovah's heavenly "chariot" could roll up and whom it could confront? More accurately, was there any group on whom Jehovah would be willing to bestow the commission to speak as a "prophet" in His name, as was done toward Ezekiel back there in 613 B.C.E.? What were the qualifications?

Certainly such a messenger or "servant" group would have to be made up of persons who had not been defiled with blood-guilt as had Christendom and the rest of Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, by sharing in carnal warfare. In fact, they would be a group that had come out from the religious organizations of Babylon the Great. More than that, they would be persons who not only saw the hypocrisy and God-defaming action of these religions, but in addition actually rejected them and turned to Jehovah God in true worship of him as set forth in the Bible. Who would they be?

In identifying the group that is truly commissioned as God's messenger, these are points for us to consider seriously. God does not deal with persons who ignore his Word and go according to their own independent ideas. Nor does he recognize those who make a profession of serving him and at the same time associate with religions that teach God-dishonoring doc-

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 cler-

gy 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.

Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?

During the World War I period this group, the International Bible Students, was very active in preaching the good news of God's kingdom, as their Leader Jesus Christ had set this work before them in his prophecy at Matthew 24:14. They took literally Jesus' words to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate: "My kingdom is no part of this world." (John 18:36) They also took to heart Jesus' words to his fol-

doing so. She takes part in worldly politics and gives her blessing to the unchristian United Nations. Since the remnant is so small in comparison with the hundreds of millions of church members of Christendom, it has to be true of the anointed remnant as Jehovah said in Zechariah 4:6: "Not by a military force, nor by power, but by my spirit."

"The holy spirit, which Jehovah prophesied that he would pour out in the last days, has not ceased to operate, for the remnant are still baptizing disciples of Christ in the name of that spirit. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21) The announced purpose behind God's pouring out of his spirit upon all sorts of flesh was that the recipients thereof might prophesy. The facts substantiate that the remnant of Christ's anointed disciples have been doing that prophesying to all the nations for a witness in favor of God's kingdom. Logically, then, they must be the ones upon whom God's spirit has actually been poured out. That spirit is behind their worldwide preaching. Why argue about it?"

"After twelve years of such prophesying about God's kingdom, the anointed remnant had become better informed upon Jehovah God, the heavenly Source of the outpoured spirit. They had increased their witnessing about him and had everywhere publicized his name as being the greatest Name in all existence. They had really set themselves to be His witnesses and to live

22. To judge from the Kingdom preaching that is being done, who are the ones upon whom Joel 2:28, 29 has been fulfilled?

23. During the following twelve years of such prophesying, witness to whom was given, and why was this needed?