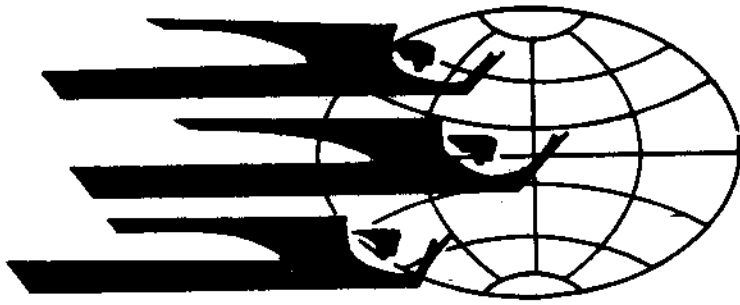
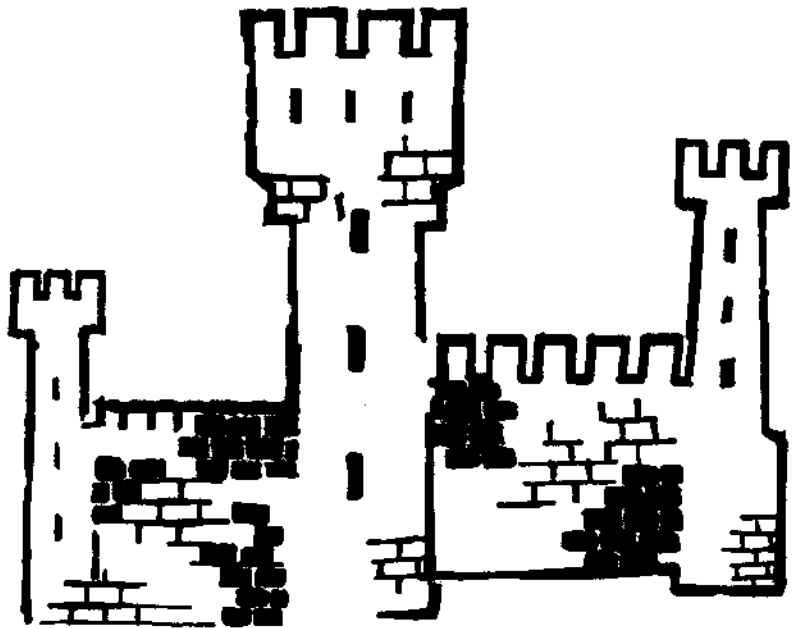


VOL. 1, NO. 4

SEPT. OCT. 1975



WITNESS





Official Organ of the
LAY ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT
Victorian Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

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IN THIS ISSUE:

● 1975 AND ALL THAT! Six thousand years
of human existence ended at the time of us
going to press with this issue of Witness!
Since 1966, our Jehovah's Witness friends
have looked forward with expectancy to the
end of this period, which has been suggest-
ed by the Watchtower as the time when the
End or Armageddon would come.

● WHAT DID THE WATCHTOWER SAY? Since our
Witness friends have become so strangely
quiet on the End coming in 1975, it is of
interest to review exactly what the Watch-
tower did say. If the Watchtower did not
set the 1975 date, then how did the members
come to the conclusion? Could it have
been a 'cunningly devised' plan to rush and
pressure people into the Organisation?

● THE MILLENNIUM DAWNS -- FOR THE SECOND TIME

This is not the first time the Watchtower
has taught the six thousand years has end-
ed. The first date was 1872, and for 50
years this 'truth' was accepted without
question, believing it had been authored
by God. Later it was discovered that the
Watchtower chronology was 103 years in
error, and the date then set for 1975. In
1889, the Watchtower admitted their teach-
ing for something to happen at the end of
the six thousand years was without script-
ural support, and was only a 'venerable'
tradition'.

● SURVIVING 1975 The Watchtower has
survived many false prophecies in the past
and is now even better prepared with the
experience gained to survive what it has
suggested to happen in 1975. Readers
will be interested to examine the methods
used by the Watchtower to survive its past
false prophecies, and how many of these
same methods are being used again.

TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS: Because of re-
quests for the back copies of
Witness, we have reprinted them, and
they will be forwarded to each new
subscriber so that they can have a
complete file of the material we
have produced.

1975

and all that!

MAY 1, 1968

Semimonthly

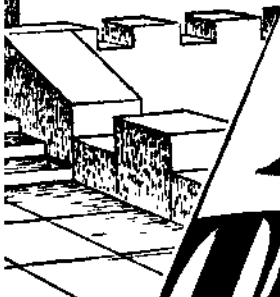
**UNDERSTANDING TIME
A HELP TO TRUE
WORSHIPERS**

**MAKING WISE USE OF
THE REMAINING TIME**

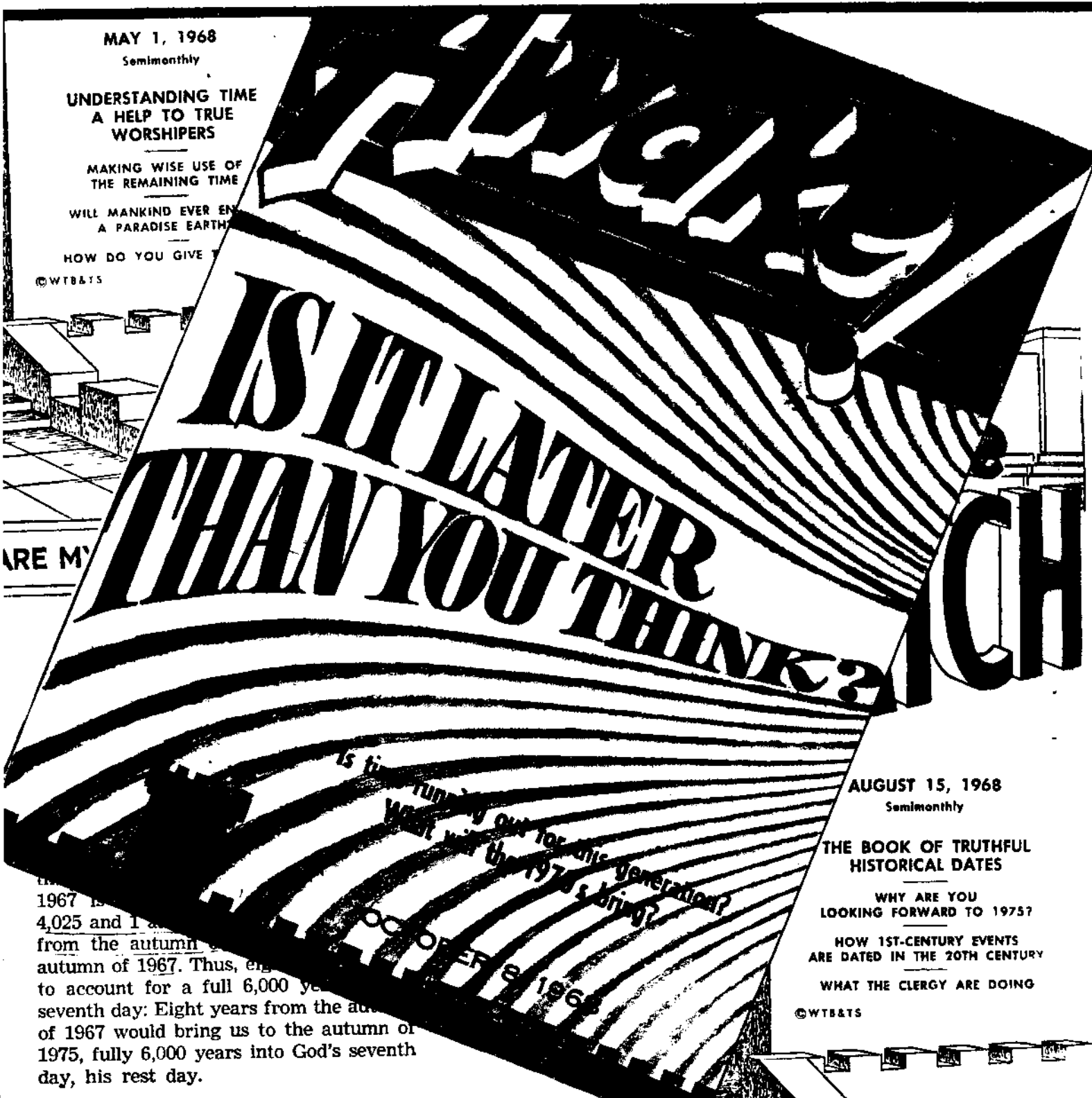
**WILL MANKIND EVER ENJOY
A PARADISE EARTH?**

HOW DO YOU GIVE TIME?

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ARE MY



*Is it worth the price?
What will the 1970's bring?
What will this generation?
OCTOBER 1968*

AUGUST 15, 1968

Semimonthly

**THE BOOK OF TRUTHFUL
HISTORICAL DATES**

**WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?**

**HOW 1ST-CENTURY EVENTS
ARE DATED IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

WHAT THE CLERGY ARE DOING

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1967 is 4,025 and 1... from the autumn of 1967. Thus, eight years from the autumn of 1967 would bring us to the autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day.

What Did

5

the Watchtower Say About 1975?

"It's the 1975 date! I feel all upset and confused. Last year I was urged to get baptised in preparation for 1975, and now..."

"Now what...?" her husband further questioned as he endeavoured to find out what had gone wrong with his wife who had just returned from a large meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses in Melbourne. Usually she returned in high spirits after such meetings, and she had greatly looked forward to attending this one, which was going to feature on closed circuit television a message from the President and Secretary of the Watchtower Society. The thought of hearing one of the 'remnant' or 'heavenly 144,000 class' speak in this manner filled her with happy anticipation. With only months to go before the exciting date of October 1975, when six thousand years of human existence would end, she had felt sure that these chosen channels of truth would have an important and beautiful message to bear.

Unable to hide her keen disappointment she continued, "...Now the Society seems to have changed its mind. The main speaker tonight just ranted and ranted that they have never set 1975 as the date. The way he carried on, I just could not believe that he was one of the 'heavenly remnant class' and as far as the 1975 date is concerned I know..." Her voice trailed off in disappointment and embarrassment. Her husband had never accepted the Watchtower teachings with her, but the Witnesses who in the past few years had visited and studied in their home, had left him in no doubt as to what they believed was going to happen in 1975, as they pleaded with him to join with his wife and be baptised for as 1975 approached, time was fast running out!

As time passed after this meeting, doubts began to grow in this lady's mind concerning the reliability of the Watchtower organisation, and she began to ask questions. When I met her, she was still confused about the changed Watchtower attitude to the 1975 date. After the Witnesses having had so much to say about this date in their local congregations, she found it hard to understand how everyone had become strangely quiet on the subject. Questions began to flood her mind. If the Watchtower Society had never set the 1975 date, then how did the members get so excited about it? How did it all start and who was really responsible?

The answers to these questions are intriguing, to say the least, and reveals much concerning the Watchtower.

WHEN WAS THE 1975 DATE ANNOUNCED BY THE WATCHTOWER?

The first real announcement of this date came with the release of the book "Life Everlasting - Freedom of the Sons of God", on Saturday, June 25, 1966 at the District Assembly, Toronto, Canada. Two million copies of this book came off the press in its first edition, as it heralded to the world in its first chapter the article, "Six Thousand Years of Human Existence Closing".

**SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE
CLOSING**

³⁹ The time is fast drawing near for the reality

"LIFE EVERLASTING - IN FREEDOM OF THE SONS OF GOD", on page 29, named the time of this event as 'the fall of 1975 C.E.':

this independent study of the date of man's creation as 4026 B.C.E.† According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E.

"So six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation.

On page 30 it further stated:

"How appropriate it would be for Jehovah God to make of this coming seventh period of a thousand years a sabbath period of rest and release..."

The chapter closed with a five page "Chart of the Significant Dates From Man's Creation to 7,000 A.M." which in bold print stated that 1975 was the "End of 6th 1,000-year day of man's existence (in early autumn)"

1975	6000	End of 6th 1,000-year day of man's existence (in early autumn)
2075	7000	End of 7th 1,000-year day of man's existence (in early autumn)

FURTHER WATCHTOWER STATEMENTS CONCERNING 1975

Almost two years after the release of the above book, "The Watchtower" and "Awake" magazines in 1968 began to fan the flames of excitement in regard to the 1975 date, with carefully worded articles to suggest that the End would come then:

A. MAY 1, 1968 "THE WATCHTOWER"

Featured this article on pages 270-277

MAKING WISE USE
Of The Remaining Time

On page 271 it stated:

"Thus, eight years remain to account for a full 6,000 years of the seventh day. Eight years from the autumn of 1967 would bring us to the autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day. After 6,000 years of misery, toil, trouble, sickness and death under Satan's rule, mankind is indeed in dire need of relief, a rest. The seventh-day of the Jewish week, the sabbath, would well picture the final 1,000-year reign of God's kingdom under Christ when mankind would be uplifted from 6,000 years of sin and death."

B. AUGUST 15, 1968 "THE WATCHTOWER"

Featured This Article On Page 494-501

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?

WHAT about all this talk concerning the year 1975? Lively discussions, some based on speculation, have burst into flame during recent months among serious students of the Bible. Their interest has been kindled by the belief that 1975 will mark the end of 6,000 years of human history since Adam's creation. The nearness of such an important date indeed fires the imagination and presents unlimited possibilities for discussion.

Left: In this article the suggestion was made that Armageddon could now come before 1975. This resulted in added urgency, in which thousands pressed into the Organisation to be baptised while time lasted.

Below: Back in 1968, the Watchtower felt so sure of the 1975 date it advised the members not to toy with the words of Jesus in Matt. 24:36. However, as 1975 has approached, and the Society has felt less sure of the date, it has been emphasising this very text!

From Pages 500-501

"One thing is absolutely certain, Bible chronology reinforced with fulfilled Bible prophecy shows that six thousand years of man's existence will soon be up, yes, within this generation! (Matt. 24:34) This is, therefore, no time to be indifferent and complacent. This is not the time to be toy-

From Page 499

That means, in the fall of the year 1975, a little over seven years from now (and not in 1997 as would be the case if Ussher's figures were correct), it will be 6,000 years since the creation of Adam, the father of all mankind!

ADAM CREATED AT CLOSE OF "SIXTH DAY"

"Are we to assume from this study that the battle of Armageddon will be all over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ

28. How does this chronology differ from Ussher's in regard to Adam's creation?

29. Why be concerned with the date of Adam's creation?

30. What may occur before 1975, but what attitude should we take?

will begin by then? Possibly, but we wait to see how closely the seventh thousand-year period of man's existence coincides with the sabbathlike thousand-year reign of Christ. If these two periods run parallel with each other as to the calendar year, it will not be by mere chance or accident but will be according to Jehovah's loving and timely purposes. Our chronol-

ing with the words of Jesus that "concerning that day and hour *nobody* knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matt. 24:36) To the contrary, it is a time when one should be keenly aware that the end of this system of things is rapidly coming to its violent end. Make no mistake, it is

C. OCTOBER 8 1968, "AWAKE"

Featured This Article, Pages 13-16:

What will the 1970's Bring?

From Page 14:

6,000 Years Nearing Completion

There is another way that helps confirm the fact that we are living in the final few years of this "time of the end." (Dan. 12:9) The Bible shows that we are nearing the end of a full 6,000 years of human history. What significance does this have?

How fitting it would be for God, following this pattern, to end man's misery after six thousand years of human rule and follow it with His glorious Kingdom rule for a thousand years! This Kingdom

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Christians have prayed for during many centuries.—Matt. 6:10.

When Do 6,000 Years End?

How can it be determined when 6,000 years of human history will end?

According to reliable Bible chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E.* From the autumn of

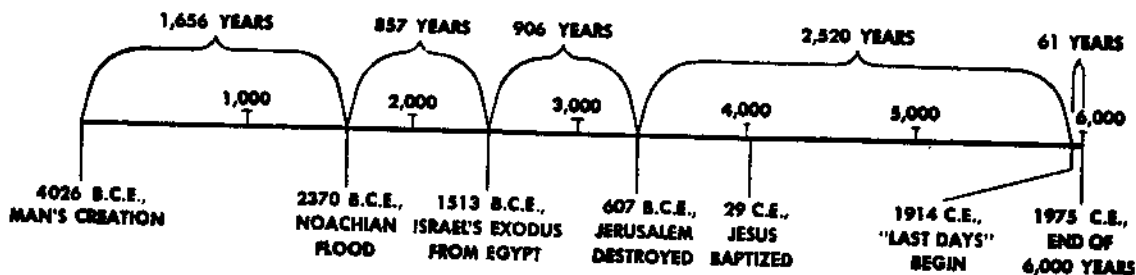
4026 B.C.E. to 1 B.C.E. 4,025 years
 1 B.C.E. to 1 C.E. 1 year
 1 C.E. to 1968 C.E. 1,967 years

Total to autumn 1968 5,993 years

This would leave only seven more years from the autumn of 1968 to complete 6,000 full years of human history. That seven-year period will evidently finish in the autumn of the year 1975.

This Chart Appeared At The Top Of Page 15 —

6,000 YEARS OF HUMAN HISTORY ENDING IN 1975



The Seventh Millennium Dawns

For The Second Time!

For almost ten years the Watchtower Society has been foretelling that six thousand years of human existence will end in 1975, and the latest issue of "The Watchtower" magazine dated October 1, 1975 says on page 579:

"Since a new Jewish lunar year began in September 1975 a significant point in human history was reached. What was that? According to the Bible's count of time, mankind then completed 6,000 years of existence on earth. Yes, the first man Adam, if he had chosen to remain obedient under God's rulership, would have still been alive and 6,000 years old in September of this year."

THE SIX THOUSAND YEARS ENDED THE FIRST TIME IN 1872 A.D.!

September 1975, is the second date that the Watchtower has given for the ending of six thousand years of human existence. For nearly fifty years the Society dogmatically taught that six thousand years from the creation of Adam ended in 1872, and this was for many years one of its cardinal teachings. In fact Pastor Russell's first outstanding volumes published from 1886 onwards, were called the "Millennial Dawn" series, as they believed and taught they were living in the dawn of the seventh millennium of human existence.

In Chapter 2 entitled "Bible Chronology" of ("The Time is at Hand" the second volume of "Millennial Dawn") pages 33 to 54 were devoted to proving that 'six thousand years from the creation of Adam was complete with A.D. 1872':

CHAPTER II.

BIBLE CHRONOLOGY.

CHRONOLOGY NECESSARY TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF PROPHECY.—INDISPENSABLE DATA FURNISHED IN THE BIBLE.—FROM THE CREATION OF ADAM TO A. D. 1872 WAS SIX THOUSAND YEARS.—A STATEMENT OF BIBLE CHRONOLOGY IN GREAT PERIODS.—ITS EXAMINATION IN DETAIL.—FROM CREATION TO THE DAY THE FLOOD WAS DRINK UP.—TO THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT.—TO THE GIVING OF THE LAW.—TO THE DIVISION OF CANAAN AMONG THE TRIBES.—THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES.—THE PERIOD OF THE KINGS.—THE PERIOD OF THE DESOLATION.—TO A. D. 1872.—WHEREIN THIS CHRONOLOGY DIFFERS FROM THAT OF BRADP USHER, NOTED IN OUR ENGLISH BIBLES.—THE TRUE DATE OF OUR LORD'S BIRTH.

In this chapter we present the Bible evidence which indicates that six thousand years from the creation of Adam were complete with A. D. 1872; and hence that, since 1872 A. D., we are chronologically entered upon the seventh thousand or the Millennium—the forepart of which, the "Day of the Lord," the "day of trouble," is to witness the breaking into pieces of the kingdoms of this world and the establishment of the Kingdom of God under the whole heavens.

ACCURATE 'BIBLE' CHRONOLOGY FOR 1872 DATE

- Adam created in 4129 B.C.

Right from its inception the Watchtower Society has been very emphatic that its chronology has been reliable and accurate 'Bible' chronology. On pages 53-54 of "The Time is at Hand" (M.D. Vol. 2) it claimed:

"So, then, whereas Usher dates A.D. 1 as the year 4005 from the creation of Adam, it really was, as we have shown the year 4129, according to the Bible record, thus showing the year 1872 A.D. to be the year of the world 6,000, and 1873 A.D. the commencement of the seventh thousand-year period,..." (Underlining mine), and then went on to show that their chronology was from the 'Bible alone', 'well authenticated', 'clear and strong', 'reliable' and that they were able to 'locate ourselves accurately on the stream of time'.

So, then, whereas Usher dates A. D. 1 as the year 4005 from the creation of Adam, it really was, as we have shown, the year 4129, according to the Bible record, thus showing

Photocopy from:

Pages 53-54 of

"The Time is at Hand"

54

The Time is at Hand.

the year 1872 A. D. to be the year of the world 6000, and 1873 A. D. the commencement of the seventh thousand-year period, the seventh millennium, or thousand-year day of earth's history.

Thus chronology as gathered from the Bible alone, from creation down to well authenticated secular history, is clear and strong, bearing evidence, too, of the peculiar methods of divine providence in its record, in its concealing and in its gradual unfolding in due time. And this, together with the reliable dates of the Christian era and the several centuries before it at hand, enables us to locate ourselves accurately on the stream of time. And we begin hopefully to lift up our heads and rejoice, as we realize that we are actually sweeping into the glorious age of the seventh millennium—even though we recognize that its beginning is to be dark and full of trouble, as foretold by the prophets, and that the storm-clouds are already gathering and growing darker.

WHEN WAS THE 4129 B.C. DATE FOR ADAM'S CREATION DISCARDED?

Russell's volumes containing teaching that Adam was created in 4129 B.C. and the six thousand years ended in 1872, were still being sold over 40 years later in the 1920's. After that time it appears that this chronology was phased out of the Watchtower teaching, along with the date 1874 for Christ's Return. The last Watchtower publication the writer has, which taught 1874, was the book "Prophecy" which was printed in 1929:

"The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D." page 65.

Since the Watchtower has since gained 'scriptural proof' that Christ's second presence came in 1914, it is not to be unexpected that 'scriptural proof' would be found to change other teachings and this included the 4129 B.C.-1872 A.D. chronology. (It is no wonder that when sincere Jehovah's Witnesses realise the depth to which they have been deceived, that many of them blame the Bible and reject it entirely to become atheists!)

'TRUSTWORTHY BIBLE' CHRONOLOGY ESTABLISHES THE 1975 DATE

- Adam now created in 4026 B.C.

For decades the Watchtower publications, outlined that the 'Bible record' proved Adam was created in 4129 B.C. and that Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656) was wrong in his estimated date of 4004 B.C. which was included in the marginal references of the King James Version of the Bible, (1611).

However, the decades have passed, it is interesting to note that the Watchtower has found its once purported 'accurate' and 'reliable' date of 4129 B.C. was in error and has moved it 103 years nearer that of Ussher's! As always, the Watchtower calls this new chronology 'Bible chronology' and describes it as 'trustworthy' with no apologies for their past errors, or to Ussher, who for all these years was closer to the 4026 B.C. date that they now give:

"Since the time of Ussher intensive study of Bible Chronology has been carried on. In this twentieth century an independent study has been carried on that does not blindly follow some traditional chronological calculations of Christendom, and the published timetable resulting from this study gives the date of man's creation as 4206 B.C.E. According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E." (pages 28-29 "Life Everlasting - Freedom of the Sons of God" 1966).

GOD THE "AUTHOR" OR JEHOVAH'S "PROPHET"?

It is unfortunate that the Watchtower in making these bold statements down through the years, has always maintained its chronology is 'Bible chronology', as the mistakes it has made casts question on the authenticity of the Bible itself. However, on itself it casts the greatest question, for in presenting the 4129 B.C. - 1872 A.D. chronology, the Society claimed its books were authored by God. In the preface of the very volume of "The Time is at Hand" (M.D. Vol. 2) which outlined Adam being created in 4129 B.C. and the six thousand years ending in 1872 A.D. Pastor Russell claimed:

"The real author of these jewels of truth is God, whose 'due time' has now come for revealing them through his Word and spirit..."

(These 'jewels of truth' as set out in this volume also included the following dates:

- 1874 - Christ's Return
- 1878 - Resurrection
- 1881 - Babylon Falls
- 1914 - Armageddon

Despite the claim that the real author was God, the Watchtower later had to repudiate all of these dates!)

Our earnest prayer is that the truths herein presented may bring as great a blessing to the conscientious reader as their presentation has been to the writer. The real author of these jewels of truth is God, whose "due time" has now come for revealing them through his Word and spirit to such as have "an ear to hear:" the writer disclaims any originality, and merely presents to the attention of fellow Christians what he gleans from Scripture, citing the student of the divine Word to it as the only "lamp" now shining on the "narrow way." The writer's hope is that each child of God, as he hears the good tidings, that *The Time is at Hand* for the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom in the earth, may thereby be strengthened, and enabled to become a more faithful servant of the Lord. in heralding the truth.

Yours, in fellowship and service,

CHARLES T. RUSSELL.

Allgheny, Pa., 1889.

Was God the real author of those 'jewels of truth'? Was it really 'Bible evidence'? Did the Society accurately locate itself in the 'stream of time'? Such are serious claims, for an organisation which believes it is God's only channel of truth.

Can one be sure that the 4026 B.C. - 1975 A.D. chronology is now 'trustworthy Bible' chronology? The Society would hasten to assure one that this is the case six years after the 1975 date was announced. In "The Watchtower" April 1, 1972 page 197 the Organisation claimed that they were Jehovah's "Prophet" to 'warn of dangers and to declare things to come'. To prove their claim they invited the reader to review their record in the past!:

... 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-

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-

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As one reviews the record (see the kit, "Our Friends the Jehovah's Witnesses) they find that this organisation has taught more false prophecies and teachings than possibly any other in Christendom! It would be presumptuous to claim that the Watchtower is anymore reliable as a channel of truth now, than it was at anytime in its history.

WHERE HAS THE WATCHTOWER GONE WRONG WITH THE 1872/1975 DATES?

The answer was given by the Watchtower itself, right back in 1889, when it published "The Time is at Hand" (M.D. Vol. 2). On page 39 it stated:

Here we furnish the evidence that from the creation of Adam to A. D. 1873 was six thousand years. And though the Bible contains no direct statement that the seventh thousand will be the epoch of Christ's reign, the great Sabbath Day of restitution to the world, yet the venerable tradition is not without a reasonable foundation. The law given to Israel the typical people, appointing that six days

Note in the above quotation that the admission is made that 'the Bible contains no direct statement that the seventh thousand will be the epoch of Christ's reign'. In other words such a teaching is not a scriptural one at all, but as this quotation says, - a 'venerable tradition'.

Irrespective of what the Watchtower has taught for the past century, the six thousand years from Creation has no significance in the Bible at all. Like the idea of each day of Creation being 'seven thousand years', it is only a Watchtower teaching - a 'venerable tradition' and is never mentioned in the Bible at all!

SURVIVING 1975

"Please consider carefully what I have been telling you, and do, do something about it so you can survive 1975", he paused thoughtfully and then added, "In fact from our latest understanding of chronology the end could even come up to two years before this date!". This tall distinguished business man had been one of Jehovah's Witnesses for many years and held a responsible position in the organisation.

We had had a number of frank discussions, and his loving brotherly concern for me, was just as sincere as my deep concern for him.

I thought of my other Witness friends who in their anticipation for 1975, had sold their homes, and placed the money in the bank, to keep them in full-time witnessing work until 1975, when they believed money would no longer be needed.

On the other hand a number of my friends who had watched the '1975 excitement' rising to fever pitch among the Witnesses asked, "What will happen to the Watchtower Society, when 1975 passes and nothing happens?

"Do you reckon it will be able to survive?"

Now the six thousand years has ended, with September 1975, and we have all survived. There is no reason why we should not continue to do so. To a fully committed Christian who has accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, there is no fear of the End, and certainly none of any date set or suggested by the Watchtower. As for the Watchtower itself? There is also no reason why it should not continue to survive, for it has survived much more blantant false prophecies than anything it has outlined to happen in 1975.

THE WATCHTOWER'S FALSE DATES AND PROPHECIES OF THE PAST

The history of the Watchtower Society has been strewn with false dates and prophecies. Based on erroneous chronological calculations, it was raised up initially by Pastor Russell, to herald that Christ came in 1874 A.D. and was present since that date:

In 1877 Pastor Russell called a meeting of all the ministers of Allegheny and Pittsburgh, showed them the Scriptures which indicated our Lord's presence and urged them to investigate and proclaim the message. All of the ministers of the two cities were present; all of the ministers of the two cities refused to believe. In the same year he determined to give

from "Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose" (1959) page 18.

Two years later he began "The Watchtower" magazine whose initial burden was to herald that Christ was present!:

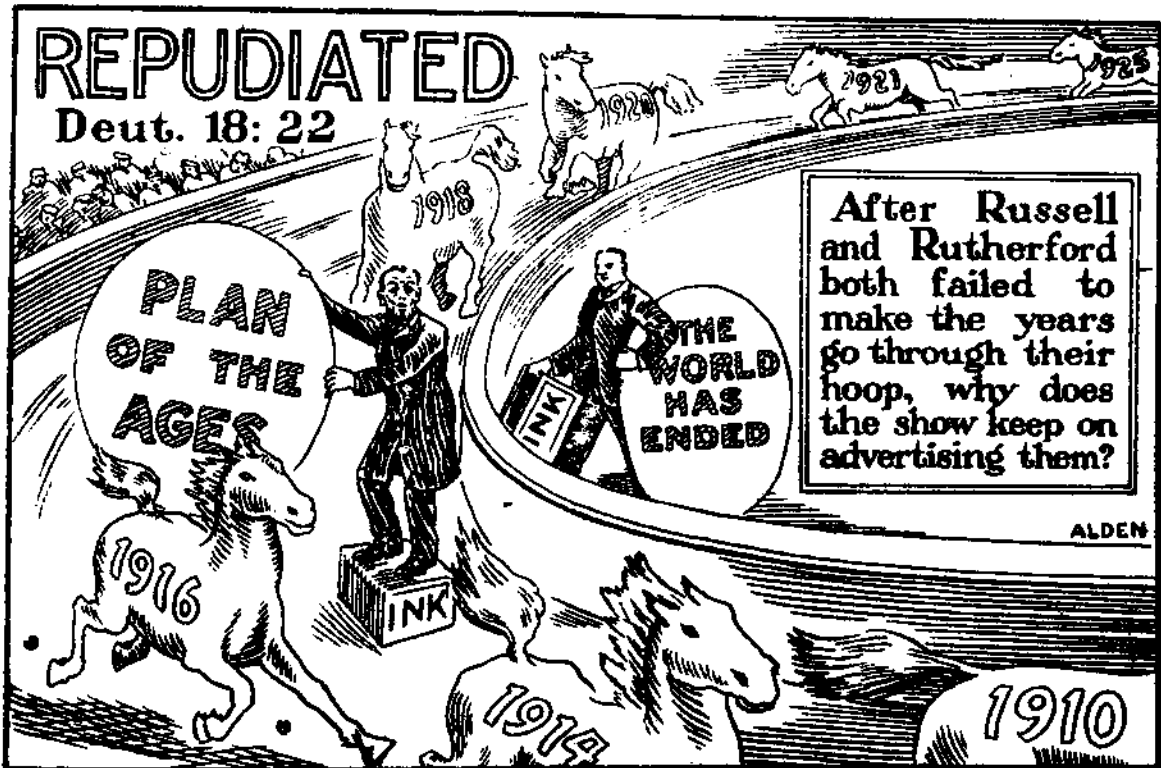
Acting upon this leading of the Lord, I gave up traveling, and in July, 1879, the first number of THE WATCH TOWER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE made its appearance. From the first, it has been a special advocate of the Ransom.

Ibid., page 21.

About fifty years later the Watchtower decided that Christ's second presence had not taken place in 1874 after all, but in 1914. It meant that Russell's initial message in 1877 to 'all the ministers of Allegheny and Pittsburgh' was false teaching and that "The Watchtower" magazine had been falsely heralding Christ's presence which had not taken place!

Built on such an erroneous foundation, it is no wonder that from that time forward, the Organisation has been giving to the world a false message, and one erroneous date after another has been promulgated. What was prophesied for 1872, 1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1925 all fell by the wayside. (See the kit, 'Our Friends, The Jehovah's Witnesses')

In 1928 a Dr. B.H. Shudduck wrote concerning the Watchtower's false prophecies and prefaced his book "The Seven Thunders of Millennial Dawn" with the following cartoon:



SURVIVING 1914

The most difficult false prophecy the Watchtower had to survive was what they had said would happen in 1914. In just the one publication "The Time is at Hand" (M.D. Vol. 2) they prophesied that in 1914:

- a. The world would end in 1914 - page 99
- b. The battle of Armageddon would end - page 101
- c. The Gentile kingdoms would be ground to pieces and utterly removed - page 140 (Their previous understanding of the 'End of the Gentile Times')
- d. Final extinction of the Papacy - page 356
- e. They would be taken to heaven by 1914 - page 77
- f. They would reign over the world from 1914 - page 81 (M.D. Vol. 4 on page 625 prophesied that "Abraham, Isaac etc... would be resurrected to take charge of affairs on the earth, in early 1915)

The statements made by the Watchtower publications before 1914 left one in no doubt as to what they foretold would happen. When of course their prophecies were not fulfilled, there was a great disappointment. Sixteen years later in the book "Light", Vol. 1 on page 194 they confessed:

and he prophesied in sackcloth. (Isa. 20:2) The Watch Tower, and its companion publications of the Society, for forty years emphasized the fact that 1914 would witness the establishment of God's Kingdom and the complete glorification of the church. During that period of forty years God's people on earth were carrying on a witness work, which work was foreshadowed by Elijah and John the Baptist. All of the Lord's people looked forward to 1914 with joyful expectation. When that time came and passed there was much disappointment, chagrin and mourning, and the Lord's people were greatly in reproach. They were ridiculed by the clergy and their allies in particular, and pointed to with scorn, because they had said so much about 1914, and what would come to pass, and their 'prophecies' had not been fulfilled.

...nevertheless the Society survived!

As one examines the ways and means the Society used to survive the 1914 date it is interesting how they endeavoured to move the blame on to the members by blaming them for expecting too much:

"It may be that many of the Lord's people were expecting more than they should have looked for to occur with the opening of the Jewish year 1915 [end of 1914]. . . . The human mind seems to have a nat-

from "Light" Vol. 1 page 195

They also redefined terms such as the "End of the Gentile Times", and "The End of the World". Rather than frankly admit both of these events did not take place as they prophesied, they maintained they did occur! They explained that the world ended 'chronologically' and 'legally' in 1914. Note how the book "Creation" (1927) explains it on page 325:

The facts show that 1914 marked the legal end of the Gentile times and therefore the end of the world, at which time something different from preparatory

In the book "Government" (1928) it was stated plainly on page 279:

More than ten years have elapsed since the end of the world in 1914, and the wicked conditions on the earth continue to grow worse. If God intends to de-

SURVIVING 1925

After prophesying that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be resurrected in 1925 to take charge of the Kingdom, (Millions Now Living Will Never Die (1920) pages 88-89) and describing in "The Way to Paradise" (1925), Chapter 11 how after 1925 one would be able to ring up Abraham in Jerusalem and arrange to have loved ones resurrected, this time also passed, and nothing happened.

To survive this 1925 date failure, the members were assured that although Abraham etc... had not returned in 1925, they would soon return. In many of the "Millions" books the date 1925 was rubbed out and "soon" was rubber stamped over it. The following from page 88,89 is an example of this:

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 ~~soon~~ to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect hu-

brew 8:11) Therefore we may confidently expect that ~~soon~~ will mark the return of Abraham,

Four years after 1925, when Abraham, Isaac etc... had still not arrived, the Watchtower built the house "Beth-Sarim" to bolster their flagging hopes, and to reassure the members that the promised 'princes' would still 'soon' arrive.

In 1939, the President of the Watchtower Society, in the book "Salvation" continued to assure the Witnesses that the expected 'princes' would still arrive and occupy the house which had been built for them. (See the Kit for photostat copies of the above quotations). With the passing of the years other things occupied the Witnesses attention, and 1925 faded in significance. The Watchtower had survived 1925!

QUIT FIXING DATES

As a result of the disappointments which came after 1914, 1918 and 1925, the Society eventually decided to 'quit fixing dates' for a time. In "Vindication" Vol. 1 (1931) pages 338-9 they declared:

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 events that must come to pass. Jeho-

For fifty years, the Watchtower kept to the lesson it had learned, and did not fix another date. However, the temptation of earlier days returned, the excitement of looking forward to a definite date, the upsurge of activity and increased baptisms. The Watchtower had to set another date, and this time it was 1975!

WILL THE WATCHTOWER SURVIVE THE FAILURE OF 1975?

The passing of 1975 and the ending of the 'six thousand years of human existence', without anything happening that was suggested by the Watchtower, should not cause it undue embarrassment, due to the lessons it has learned from its past false prophecies:

1. In 1914, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1925 etc... the Watchtower made definite statements as to what it foretold would happen. With the 1975 date it was careful to suggest that Armageddon and the End could come at that time, but it was careful not to say it would come in 1975! The date was thus established by inference, with carefully worded suggestions such as...

"How fitting it would be for God following this pattern, to end man's misery after six thousand years of human rule..."

"It would not be by mere chance or accident... for the reign of Jesus Christ...to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence."

"How appropriate it would be for Jehovah God to make of this coming seventh period of a thousand years a sabbath period of rest and release..."

2. This left the Watchtower free to later cover itself by saying that they never really set the date and place the blame on its faithful and zealous members for 'expecting more than they should have', as they did with the 1914 date. This has been the Watchtower's most effective weapon in launching the 'cooling' programme to forestall a 1975 disappointment.

3. In surviving the 1925 date failure, the Watchtower continued to emphasise that Abraham, Isaac and the other 'princes' would still 'soon' arrive. They did this until the house for Abraham etc... was disposed of during the 1940's. With the '1975 date' the Watchtower perfected this tactic by suggesting that due to 'several knotty problems of chronology' the End could come not only 'soon' after 1975, but also before! This provided advantages both ways. It added extra pressure before the date, which brought about 100,000s more people being baptised before 1975, and it also left a period of time to fall back on, after 1975 if nothing happened.

4. After the 1914, 1915, 1918 and 1920 dates failed, the Watchtower wrote in "The Harp of God" (ed. 1927) page 250, "Why quibble now about dates...?" ...the Lord is present...the world has ended...the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" and with such statements shrugged off all responsibility for what it had prophesied. Similarly with 1975, a reaction concerning this date is coming of - "So what? ... Why quibble about what has been suggested to take place in 1975?... the six thousand years of man's existence has ended...Armageddon is still coming..." etc...and the Witnesses are shrugging off all they have said would happen at that time.

5. After the great failure of the 1914 date, the Watchtower published "The Finished Mystery" (1917) and set the 1918, 1920 and 1925 dates to divert attention from 1914, and hold the members in a state of constant expectancy. A similar situation can be expected following 1975, with attention soon to be diverted to 1984. The foundation work for this date has already been thoroughly laid, with recent emphasis on the 1914 date and the seventy year 'generation' span from that time, which obviously ends in 1984. Thus as the Witnesses come to realise that 1975 has well and truly passed, this new date is being held in readiness as the final date for man's existence, and will feel that they still cannot afford to relax their efforts or 'faithfulness' to the Watchtower and its teachings. Thus held in the clutches of the Watchtower's false teachings, many sincere people will be prevented from coming to a knowledge of the real Truth of the Bible.

On the other hand many discerning Witnesses remembering the warning of Jesus concerning 'false prophets' in the 'last days' (Matt. 24:24) are willing and even anxious to look further than the Watchtower Society, to make sure they have not 'followed cunningly devised fables'. (2 Peter 1:16)

The 1975 date was based only on a 'venerable tradition' without Biblical support. This the Watchtower admitted early in its history, (see page 12). When Witnesses learn they have been deceived by such teachings they become keenly disappointed and almost embittered.

This is what the Watchtower can not survive concerning 1975!

CURRENT COMMENT:

In reprinting this magazine, (July 1976,) we are including recent statements from the Watchtower Society indicating that they now do not know when God's 'rest day' began, or when Eve was created. When the 1975 date was set, they did know, "according to reliable Bible chronology" and they even claimed to "have the evidence required, all of it". We invite our readers to now check and compare these statements:

NOW WE DO NOT KNOW...

"Have you read the recent issues of The Watchtower carefully? If so you will doubtless recall these points

Why do we not know when God's 'rest day' began and when it will end;

"Although the time of Adam's creation can be determined, the beginning of God's 'rest day' cannot. This is so because there was a time lapse of unspecified length between Adam's creation and the creation of Eve Not until after the creation of Eve did God's 'rest day' begin. The start of that day being unknown, its end is likewise unknown." The Watchtower 1/1/76, p. 30

"Does this mean that we know exactly when God will destroy this old system and establish a new one? Franz showed that we do not, for we do not know how short was the time interval between Adam's creation and the creation of Eve, at which point God's rest day of seven thousand years began." The Watchtower, 5/1/75, p. 285

"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'? Does it mean that Christ's millennial Kingdom rule, as the final 1,000 years of that 'rest day,' is to be reckoned from September 1975? - Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:2, 3; Rev. 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." The Watchtower, 10/1/75, p. 579

ONCE WE DID KNOW...

"'Evening' OF THE SEVENTH CREATIVE 'DAY' BEGINS, 4026 B.C.E. God did make known the fulness of his purpose. It did call for a seventh creative 'day.' Our calling it a 'creative' day does not mean that God kept on creating earthly things on the seventh creative 'day,' but that it was inseparably connected up with the previous six creative 'days,' and it was of the same time length as those previous 'days.' "GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE" NOW TRUMPHING 1974, p. 51,52

"According to reliable Bible chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E." AWAKE!, 10/8/68, p.14 (emphasis ours)

"True, there have been those in times past who predicted an 'end to the world,' even announcing a specific date. Some have gathered groups of people with them and fled to the hills or withdrawn into their houses waiting for the end. Yet, nothing happened. The 'end' did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?

"Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that he was guiding and using them.

"But what about today? Today we have the evidence required, all of it. And it is overwhelming! All the many, many parts of the great sign of the 'last days' are here, together with verifying Bible chronology." AWAKE!, 10/8/68, p. 23.

"Jehovah, the God of the true prophets, will put all false prophets to shame either by not fulfilling the false predictions of such self-assuming prophets or by having His own prophecies fulfilled in a way opposite to that predicted by the false prophets. False prophets will try to hide their reason for feeling shame by denying who they really are." Paradise Restored To Mankind - By Theocracy!, 1972, p. 353, 354.

"According to reliable Bible chronology Adam was created in the year 4026 B.C.E., likely in the autumn of the year, at the end of the sixth day of creation. Then God brought the animals to man to name. Yet, of Adam, Genesis states these words of Jehovah: 'It is not good for the man to continue by himself.' (Gen. 2:18) Adam would realize this lonely condition very quickly, perhaps in just a few days or a few weeks. He would realize he needed another earthling with whom he could communicate, share his experiences, and his life. Nor would his naming the animals take an unduly long time. The basic animal kinds could have been relatively quickly named, for when such basic kinds were taken into the ark in Noah's day, it did not involve millions of beasts, but perhaps only a few hundred basic kinds. Thus, Adam's naming of the animals and his realizing that he needed a counterpart would have occupied only a brief time after his creation. Since it was also Jehovah's purpose for man to multiply and fill the earth, it is logical that he would create Eve soon after Adam, perhaps just a few weeks or months later in the same year, 4026 B.C.E. After her creation, God's rest day, the seventh period, immediately followed.

"Therefore, God's seventh day and the time man has been on earth apparently run parallel. To calculate where man is in the stream of time relative to God's seventh day of 7,000 years, we need to determine how long a time has elapsed from the year of Adam and Eve's creation in 4026 B.C.E. From the autumn of that year to the autumn of 1 B.C.E., there would be 4,026 years. From the autumn of 1 B.C.E. to the autumn of 1 C.E. is one year (there was no zero year). From the autumn of 1 C.E. to the autumn of 1967 is a total of 1,966 years. Adding 4,026 and 1 and 1,966, we get 5,992 years from the autumn of 4026 B.C.E. to the autumn of 1967. Thus, eight years remain to account for a full 6,000 years of the seventh day. Eight years from the autumn of 1967 would bring us to the autumn of 1975, fully 6,000 years into God's seventh day, his rest day." The Watchtower, 5/1/68, p. 271.