

THE WATCHTOWER HERESY VERSUS THE BIBLE

by

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CHAPTER SIX

THE SECOND COMING OF THE SON OF GOD

SINCE THE WATCHTOWER system has so thoroughly altered the truth about the first Advent of Jesus Christ, we can rightly expect them to do the same with the second Advent. Using false reasoning rather than Scripture, they arrive at a far-fetched idea, using some clever mathematics taken from the Scriptures (wrongfully).

In Hebrews 9:28 we are told: **“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”** Acts 1:11 reads: **“This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”**

The Watchtower cries out its opposition to this in *Let God Be True*, page 196: “Jesus Christ returns, not again as a human, but as a glorious spirit person.” On page 198, under How Seen: “His return is recognized by the eyes of one’s understanding, such eyes being enlightened by God’s unfolding Word.”

They then bring into question the Greek word PAROUSIA. Here is what they say about it on page 198:

“The meaning of *parousia* is more exact than the word ‘coming’ contained in the general English versions. It does not mean he is on the way or has promised to come, but that he has already arrived and is here.” Page 199 states: “It is not necessary for Christ to be visible at his presence, even as his Father is not visible to human sight. . . . Today the evidence of Christ’s presence is all about us, and yet so-called ‘Christendom’ does not see it.”

The Witnesses think that an invisible “presence” of the Lord has already taken place! *Let God Be True* states on page 201: “For many years prior to 1914 earnest Bible students (Russellites) understood that the year 1914 marked the end of the Gentile times or the ‘appointed times of the nations.’ That date marked the beginning of the ‘time of the end’ of Satan’s rule, and therefore the time when Christ Jesus the righteous Ruler of the new world received control.”

What do they think happened in 1914?

Page 203 explains: “The dead Christians sleeping in the graves were raised with spirit bodies to join him at the spiritual temple. . . . Returning after a long time, he judges his slaves. To the faithful he gives greater privileges and the joy of their Master. The unfaithful (all non-Jehovah’s Witnesses) are thrown into the darkness outside the theocratic organization.”

On this same subject we go to page 205 and read these words: “The final revelation of the King draws nearer. The disaster of Armageddon, greater than that which befell Sodom and Gomorrah, is at the door. . . . The nearness of that event is causing the selfish ones to band together and hide themselves in human organizations for protection.” The fact that Jehovah’s Witnesses are hiding within an organization seems to escape their notice!

Continuing on to page 206: “Christ returns before his thousand-year undisturbed reign to put all enemies under his feet at Armageddon. . . . By clearing out false religion (all faiths except their own), by restoring true worship (forced rule of the New World Society), and by re-establishing the divine government toward our earth, he reveals his kingly power of which he proved himself worthy at his first coming.”

Before going further, we should give attention to the fact that much is made over the Greek word PAROUSIA. Most of the Witnesses do not know the slightest thing about Greek and therefore have not the faintest idea as to the real meaning of the word. They only know what the Watchtower Society tells them. *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* says regarding this word: “The presence of one coming, hence the coming, arrival, advent. . . . In the N. T. especially of the advent i.e., the future, visible return from heaven of Jesus, the Messiah, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God.”

However, PAROUSIA is not the only word in the Greek Scriptures used regarding Christ’s Second Advent. Consider the word APOKALUPSIS for example. It is used at I Peter 1:7: “**That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing (APOKALUPSIS) of Jesus Christ.**” Again in I Corinthians 1:7 we find these words: “**Waiting for the coming (APOKALUPSIS) of our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Bullinger’s lexicon defines this word APOKALUPSIS: “An uncovering, manifestation. When used of a person it always denotes the appearance of the person.” At Romans 8:19 the New World translation renders this word revealing.

If Jesus Christ is a person, then He must appear visibly at His coming or revelation, according to the above-quoted lexicon. *The Watchtower Society* does not attempt to answer this fact.

Another word used in this subject is EPIPHANIA. *The Watchtower Bible* renders this “manifestation” throughout. Regarding this word *Thayer’s lexicon* says: “In the N. T. the ‘advent’ of Christ,—not only that which has already taken place and by which His presence and power appear in the saving light He has shed upon mankind, II Tim. 1:10, but also that illustrious return from heaven to earth hereafter to occur.”

What will *The Watchtower* do to explain away the following text? **“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”** (I Thessalonians 1:16-18). Jehovah’s Witnesses cannot comfort one another with these words,” for they do not believe they will ever meet the Lord at all—in the air or anywhere else!

The fact that the above did not take place in 1914 as the Watchtower predicted does not prevent the Witnesses from believing the strange Watchtower interpretation on the second Coming. Read what they say in the book, *Make Sure Of All Things*, page 319: “This second presence (PAROUSIA) of Christ the Messiah was to be invisible and the unmistakable sign he gave shows conclusively that this return of Christ began in the year 1914. Since that time Christ has turned his attention towards earth’s affairs and is dividing the peoples and educating the true Christians in preparation for their survival during the great storm of Armageddon, when all unfaithful mankind (all those not Jehovah’s Witnesses) will be destroyed from the face of the earth.”

Notice what they are saying: Jesus came down, suffered, bled and died; went back to Heaven and promptly forgot all about the whole thing, as if He lost interest! Then, suddenly, in 1914, He remembered! He recalled that there is a planet earth, and He began to give attention to it! That’s how He returns, according to Jehovah’s Witnesses!

In the same book certain Bible texts are used. The subject is Return of Christ. On page 320 they offer John 20:14-16 with the following commentary: “Appearances of Jesus After His Resurrection Made in Different Materialized Bodies.” Because Mary did not recognize Jesus, they believe He took on a different body and went about incognito.

Matthew Henry’s Commentary says regarding this incident (Volume V, page 1213). “She knew not that it was Jesus; not that he appeared in any other likeness, but either it was a careless transient look she cast upon him, and, her eyes being full of care (tears), she could not so well distinguish, or they were holden, that she should not know him, as those of the two disciples, Luke 24:16.”

The book, *Make Sure Of All Things* now offers Matthew 24:3 with this comment: “Disciples Asked for Evidence of Christ’s Second Presence.” In other words, their argument is: If He were to be visibly present, why the need of signs? The fact that this verse indicates that these were to be signs preceding His second coming eludes them when they read it.

Matthew chapter 24 clearly answers this problem.

Verse 23 reads: **“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is the Christ [as the Watchtower Society does right now], or there; BELIEVE IT NOT.”** We are plainly told that, if in the midst of the events foretold in Matthew 24 someone says that Christ is present (as Jehovah’s Witnesses are saying) **WE ARE NOT TO BELIEVE IT!**

We are told that the second Coming will be in this manner: **“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be”** (Matthew 24:27).

Now *Make Sure Of All Things* page 321 lists Matthew 23:39 with this accompanying comment: “Christ’s Return Invisible, as He Testified that Man Would Not See Him Again in Human Form.” The simple logic of the text does not get through to them. We quote their *New World* translation of the text as it is found in the book: “For I say unto you, You will by no means see me from henceforth until you say, ‘Blessed is he that comes in Jehovah’s name!’” In other words, they would not see Him again until His second coming, when He comes in Jehovah’s name! The indication is that then they will see Him again! He said they would not see Him again until that time!

On page 323 *Make Sure Of All Things* quotes Matthew 24:16 under the comment: “Righteous flee to God’s Mountain-like Organization.” Even the most ardent Jehovah’s Witness will squirm at that one! And even the most gullible Jehovah’s Witness will hesitate before readily accepting it! They are referring, of course, to the Watchtower organization, the *New World Society*. The text thus commented upon reads: “Then let them that are in Judea flee unto the mountains.” It used to be that those mountains represented Jehovah and Jesus to the Witnesses, but the organization changed it to mean the organization itself! This is a classic example of how they wrest the divine text for their own uses.

On that same page they quote Matthew 24:40-42, commenting: “Righteous Ones Taken Along to Safety at Christ’s Second Presence.” The text reads: “Then shall two men be in the field; one is taken, and one is left: two women shall be grinding at the mill; one is taken, and one is left. Watch therefore: for ye KNOW NOT on what day your Lord cometh.” Now try to fit in the Watchtower comment given above!

This second “presence” is supposed to last from 1914 until Armageddon. The Bible admonishes us to watch, for at the second coming one will be taken and the other left. We are to watch because we DO NOT KNOW the day nor hour of His Coming. Read the above-quoted Watchtower comments, and compare with the Scriptures. Does it all make sense? If Christ’s second “presence” is such a long, drawn-out affair, at what time during this long period are they “taken?” Ask a Jehovah’s Witness questions like these and he will quickly want to go to other texts.

One of the signs of Christ’s second “presence” is found on page 343 of this book: “Organized Clergy of Christendom and Evil Slave Manifested in Open Disobedience.” Two texts are then quoted: II Thessalonians 2:3, 4 and II Timothy 3:1-4, 5. What seems to elude them here is the fact that the greatest departure from the faith began in 1872 when Charles Taze Russell began the movement that is today the *New World Society of Jehovah’s Witnesses*. It has now become a complete departure from the original (and hence true) Christian faith.

We have yet another Greek word for coming. It is ERCHOMAI.

As an example of how it is used, we read Matthew 25:27: “**Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming (ERCHOMAI) I should have received mine own with usury.**” In Luke 19:23 the New World translation renders this word arrival, but in Luke 12:45 and 18:5 they render it coming! In Romans 15:22 the Watchtower translation renders it as getting to. Then in Matthew 16:27 it is translated come. The verse following translates it as coming. The same is true at Matthew 24:44. For other uses see Mark 13:26; Luke 19:38; Revelation 1:7.

So you see why they would like to limit the discussion of Christ’s second coming to the word PAROUSIA! By limiting the discussion to that one word, they make it appear as if they have the final answer to the entire subject!

You see how the Watchtower writers easily deceive their readers. It is on-the-surface superficiality, easily exposed by going beneath the surface. *The Watchtower Society* leans heavily on the lack of education of the people who become its Witnesses. Otherwise, their own people would expose this heresy! The Society first impresses the new follower with the organization, and after that has been accomplished, he eagerly believes anything *The Watchtower Society* tells him.

The hope of the Christian in this present day is that Christ is coming soon again. He will then receive unto Himself the redeemed. Mark 13:26 from the New World translation reads: “And then they will see the Son of man COMING in clouds with great power and glory.” John 14:2, 3 tells us: “**In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare [HETOIMAZO] a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**” The Bible closes with this promise: “**He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus**” (Revelation 22:20).

The Watchtower Society holds that the very men who wrote these Scriptures were deceived, because they did not understand them as the Witnesses do today! This deception continued, they tell us, until the Watchtower Society came along to straighten it all out. They hold that the Church of Jesus Christ, which He died to redeem, fell. Then, for nearly 2000 years it remained in darkness.

Their accusations against the Church are as many as their accusations against Christ’s Deity! We have seen what they think of the Saviour, and what they think of the historic faith. Now it behooves us to consider at length exactly what they think of the Church as a body.

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