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Wresting The Scriptures (No. 3)

When men establish religious bodies other than the one built by Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 16:18), they must perpetuate them by the spread of doctrines **not** taught in the Bible. Consequently, creeds, manuals, disciplines, catechisms, etc. abound on every hand, all of which assist the readers thereof to reach conclusions contrary to the teachings of God in the Bible. One such book is entitled “**Let God Be True**,” which was published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Inc., a society founded by “Pastor” Russell, the founder of the “Jehovah Witness” movement. On page 143 of the Revised Edition of April 1, 1952, the following statement is made: “The undefeatable purpose of Jehovah God to establish a righteous kingdom in these last days **was fulfilled A.D. 1914**” (emphasis mine, bw). Strangely enough, Dan. 2:44 was quoted and Isaiah 9:7; Dan. 7:14, and Luke 1:33 were given as references which supposedly were intended to substantiate the A.D. 1914 date.

Now I, too, believe that “the undefeatable purpose of Jehovah God to establish a righteous kingdom in these last days was fulfilled,” but I **deny** that A.D. 1914 was the date of the fulfillment thereof. My denial is based upon the true teachings of the references cited to substantiate the A.D. 1914 date.

The book of Daniel (from which the first reference was cited) relates to the time period when the Southern Kingdom of Judah was in captivity in Babylon, having been taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army. This fact is revealed in verse one of chapter two which reads as follows: “*In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.*” Daniel, a Jewish captive, was enabled by God to recall for Nebuchadnezzar his dream, and to give the interpretation thereof. In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream he saw a “*great image*,” its “*head was of fine gold, his breast and arms of silver, his belly and thigh of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay*” (Dan. 2:31-33). Daniel informed King Nebuchadnezzar that the image in his dream represented four world empires, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire. Nebuchadnezzar was “*the head of gold*,” and after him would “*arise another kingdom*,” then a “*third kingdom*,” and after that a “*fourth kingdom*.” Both biblical and secular history attest to the fact that the four world empires herein depicted were the Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires (in that order). With reference to the “*fourth kingdom*” (i.e. the Roman Empire) he stated that “*in the days of **these kings** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...*” The “*these kings*” to which he made reference were those of the Roman Empire, the Empire which was in existence when Jesus came to this earth, and which fell in 476 A.D., some 1438 years **before** A.D. 1914!

Isaiah 9:6, the second reference cited, refers to the names by which Christ would “*be called*.” Daniel 7:14, the third reference cited, pinpoints the **time** for the setting up of the kingdom, it being when “*the son of man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of days*,” at which time “*there was given unto him dominion, and glory, and a **kingdom**...*” This

refers to the ascension of Christ following His resurrection from the grave (cf. Acts 1:9). Luke 1:32,33, the fourth reference cited, shows what the Lord would “*reign over*,” and the apostle Peter in his great sermon on the day of Pentecost informs us that Christ “*received*” the “*promise*” when he was “*raised up*” to “*sit on His throne*” by the “right hand of God” (Acts 2:29-36).

Jesus Himself, in the days of His earthly ministry, declared that His kingdom would “*come with power*,” that it would come **before** some of those in His audience would die (Mk. 9:1). And in Acts 1:8, Jesus promised His disciples that “*you shall receive power when the Holy spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, to the end of the earth.*” After Jesus spoke these words to His apostles, He was “*taken up...into heaven*” (Acts 9-11), after which they returned to Jerusalem (Acts 1:12), to “*tarry*” there until they would be “*endured with power from on high*” (cf. Luke 24:49). They were to wait for the “*power*,” the “*power*” would come when the **Holy Spirit** came upon them, and in Acts 2:1-4, on the day of Pentecost the apostles “*were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking with other tongues (or languages, bw) as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

On that day, the first Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the apostles received the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit (cf. Matt. 3:11), and began to speak to the “*multitude*” which had come together on that day. Peter’s sermon on that occasion is recorded in Acts 2:14-39, a sermon in which he let his audience know that God had raised Jesus from the dead (the Jesus Whom **they** had crucified!), and this resulted in their being “*cut to the heart*” and asking the apostles, saying, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do*” (Acts 2:36-37). Peter commanded them to “*repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the of Jesus for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,*” Acts 2:38. On that day those who “*gladly received the word were baptized; and that day about three thousand were added to them*” (Acts 2:41). These constituted the “*saved*,” whom God “*added to the church*” (Acts 2:47).

It is interesting that in Matt. 16:18-19 Jesus used the words “*church*” and “*kingdom*” interchangeably, meaning that they are one and the same. The church or Kingdom came into existence on the day of Pentecost in the **first** century, not in 1914. The members of the church at Colossae had been “*conveyed...into the kingdom of the Son of His love*,” Col. 1:13. They were **in** the kingdom, which could not have been if the kingdom was not then in existence! The apostle John was “*in the kingdom* (Rev. 1:9), and the Hebrew saints had received “*a kingdom which cannot be shaken*” (Heb. 12:28), the kingdom promised in Daniel 2:44 which would come into existence in the days of the Roman Empire, and which will “*stand forever*,” Dan. 2:44). Jehovah Witnesses, who say the kingdom came into existence in AD 1914, and all modern day Premillennialists who say the kingdom won’t come into existence until the return of Christ are guilty of wresting the Scriptures. Beloved, let us study the Bible in order to learn what it actually says, not what we might **want** it to say! —

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