

Approach 1 – Challenge the authority of the Watchtower

Pros: Can be effective if not done in an accusatory way

Cons: It's best to have some resources handy

Why this approach works:

The Watchtower claims to speak for God yet, they've made several false predictions.

They Claim to be the Slave, God's Prophet:

“Are you allowed to disagree with the Watchtower's interpretations of a Bible passage and remain a JW?”

“Since the Watchtower claims to be God's organization, can you see why it's important to first establish if that claim is true before we discuss our differences in interpreting Biblical passages?”

Can you see why it's important that we first establish if the Watchtower is indeed God's organization before we discuss doctrinal differences or interpretations of passages?

“Can you see why it's important that we examine old Watchtower literature to see if they have truly lived up to its claim to be God's organization?”

Approach 2 – Who is Jesus?

Pros: They won't accept your literature, but they will always have their Bible with them to ponder.

Cons: You will need to memorize a few references (in their bible version). It's easier for them to get you off track if you aren't careful.

Ps 102:25-27; Heb 1:10-12

Backup Plan:

Is Jesus a true God or a false god?

Shunning and Disfellowship:

There is no honorable way out of the organization for them

It is vital that we appreciate this fact and respond to the directions of the “slave” as we would to the voice of God, because it is His provision. (Watchtower, June 15, 1957, p. 130)

We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the “faithful and discreet slave” organization. (Watchtower, Aug 15, 1981, p. 19)

All who want to understand the Bible should appreciate that the "greatly diversified wisdom of God" can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave. (Watchtower, Oct 1, 1994, p. 8)

They try to sow doubts and to separate unsuspecting ones from the bounteous “table” of spiritual food spread at the Kingdom Halls of Jehovah’s Witnesses, ... They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such ‘Bible reading,’ they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom’s clergy were teaching 100 years ago, (Watchtower, Aug 15, 1981, p. 28-29)

So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? ... 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. ... 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? (Watchtower, April 1, 1972, p. 197)

But it may be asked, How are we to know whether one is a true or a false prophet? 'There are at least three ways by which we can positively decide: (1) If he is a true prophet, his message will come to pass exactly as prophesied. If he is a false prophet, his prophecy will fail to come to pass. This rule is laid down by God himself, through Moses, as follows: “If thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously. "-Deut. 18: 21, 22. (Watchtower, May 15, 1930, p. 154-55)

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The date of the close of the ‘battle’ is definitely marked in Scripture as October, 1914. (Watchtower Jan 15, 1892, p21.)

Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by the millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of “Christianity.” (The Finished Mystery, 1917 ed. (Studies in the Scriptures VII), p. 485)

In the year 1918, when Christendom shall go down as a system to oblivion, (Sheol) to be succeeded by revolutionary republics, God will cause mourning.” (Ibid. p.513)

As we have heretofore stated, the great jubilee cycle is due to begin in 1925. At that time the earthly phase of the kingdom shall be recognized. ... Therefore, we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews chapter eleven, to the condition of human perfection. (Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920, p. 89)

The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during the year. This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own due time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his own people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire during this year that they would fail to joyfully do what the Lord would have them to do. (Watchtower, Jan 1, 1925, p. 3)

It is to be expected that Satan will try to inject into the minds of the consecrated the thought that 1925 should see an end of the work, and that therefore it would be needless for them to do more. (Watchtower, Sept 1, 1925, p. 262)

At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth-Sarim. The Hebrew words Beth Sarim mean "House of the Princes"; and the purpose of acquiring that property and building the house was that there might be some tangible proof that there are those on earth today who fully believe God and Christ Jesus and in His kingdom, and who believe that the faithful men of old will soon be resurrected by the Lord, be back on earth, and take charge of the visible affairs of earth. (Salvation, 1939, p. 311)

In time, a direct contribution was made for the purpose of constructing a house in San Diego for brother Rutherford's use. It was not built at the expense of The Watch Tower Society. Concerning this property, the 1939 book *Salvation* stated, "At San Diego California, there is a small piece of land on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth.Sarim." (1975 Yearbook, p. 194)

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. (Vindication, Vol 1. 1931, p. 338-9)

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. "O six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation. ... This would be most timely for mankind. It would also be most fitting on God's part, for, remember, mankind has yet ahead of it what the last book of the Holy Bible speaks of as the reign of Jesus Christ over earth for a thousand years, the millennial reign of Christ. (Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God, 1966, p. 29-30)

The immediate future is certain to be filled with climactic events, for this old system is nearing its complete end. Within a few years at most the final parts of Bible prophecy relative to these "last days" will undergo fulfillment, resulting in the liberation of surviving mankind into Christ's glorious 1,000-year reign. (Watchtower, May 1, 1968, p. 272)

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? No, it does

not mean that. (Watchtower, Oct 1, 1975, p. 579)

Jesus knew that he had only a short time, and he did not spare himself in finishing his assignment. Should we not today be imitating his example, especially since we have such a short time left now in which to complete the kingdom preaching? ... Yes, this end of this system is so very near! Is that not reason to increase our activity? ... Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end. (Kingdom Ministry, May 1974)

If you are a young person, you also need to face the fact that you will never grow old in this present system of things. Why not? Because all the evidence in fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates that this corrupt system is due to end in a few years. Of the generation that observed the beginning of the "last days" in 1914, Jesus foretold: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things occur." (Matt. 24:34). Therefore, as a young person, you will never fulfill any career that this system offers. If you are in high school and thinking about a college education, it means at least four, perhaps even six or eight more years to graduate into a specialized career. But where will this system of things be by that time? It will be well on the way toward its finish, if not actually gone! (Awake, May 22, 1969, p. 15)

Thus, when it comes to the application in our time, the "generation" logically would not apply to babies born during World War 1. It applies to Christ's followers and others who were able to observe that war and the other things that have occurred in fulfillment of Jesus' composite "sign." Some of such persons "will by no means pass away until" all of what Christ prophesied occurs, including the end of the present wicked system. (Watchtower, Oct 1, 1978, p. 31)

[M]ost of the generation of 1914 has passed away. However, there are still millions on earth who were born in that year or prior to it. And although their numbers are dwindling, Jesus' words will come true, "this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." (Awake, April 8, 1988, p. 14)

Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah's people have at times speculated about the time when the "great tribulation" would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914. However, we "bring a heart of wisdom in," not by speculating about how many years or days make up a generation, ... Rather than provide a rule for measuring time, the term "generation" as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical period, with their identifying characteristics. (Watchtower, Nov 1, 1995, p. 17)

A new view of truth never can contradict a former truth. "New light" never extinguishes older "light," but adds to it. (Watchtower, Feb 1881, p. 188)