

## History According to *The Finished Mystery*

**46,084 BCE** circa - The earth is created, 48,000 years prior to 1917 (p139).

**1799** - The "Time of the End" begins (p60).

**1874** - 6,000 years of evil end. The "Millennium" or kingdom of a thousand years commences with the second coming (or Second Advent) of Jesus Christ (pp.60, 301, 386).

**1878** - During the "First Resurrection," God raises up members of the Body of Christ, "the Stem of David" (p539). The "nominal church systems" cease to be mouthpieces of God. (p66) The harvest period begins (p422). The clergy is "cast off" as representatives of the divine word (p386).

**1898** - The literal fulfillment of Ezekiel 7:19 occurred when an Italian miller, who "publicly thanked the Virgin for dear bread", literally threw gold and silver at a crowd in the streets in a vain attempt to pacify them before they eventually killed him (p407).

**1914** - The Great Tribulation (or "Time of Trouble") begins (p178) otherwise known as "God's Day of Vengeance" culminating in 1918 (p404).

**1915** - The year that Satan believed the Millennial Kingdom was due to be set up (p128).

**1918** - 177,300,000 protestants are figuratively "slain" by being deprived of their "reason, manhood and dignity" (p164). God "destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions". Christendom "shall go down as a system to oblivion, (Sheol) to be succeeded by revolutionary republics." This is all expected to occur "on or around April 27, 1918," a date that marks a period of 1 year, 5 months and 26 days from Russell's death, as per Ezekiel 33:21 (pp.485, 513, 530). The "Little Flock" are "glorified", or taken to heaven (p64). The harvest period ends (p422).

**1920** - The republics "will disappear in the Fall of 1920". Every kingdom of the earth is "swallowed up in anarchy" (p258).

**1921** - The "Heavenly Way" closes (p64).

**1925** - The "Kingdom in Palestine" is established (p128).

**1931** - According to Ezekiel 40:1, the establishment of the Kingdom on earth occurs "thirteen years after 1918" (p569).

### What did "*Revelation Climax*" have to say about this book?

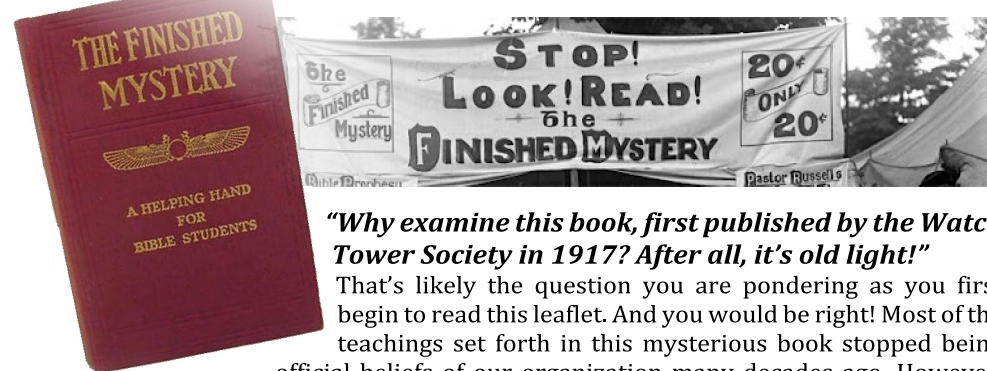
*"Thus, rather than following the example of faithful Peter, these and other popes were an evil influence. They allowed bloodguilt and spiritual and physical fornication, as well as a Jezebel influence, to corrupt the church they ruled. (James 4:4) In 1917 the Bible Students book **The Finished Mystery** set out many of these facts in stark detail. This was one way that the Bible Students in those days struck the earth with every sort of plague. Revelation 11:6; 14:8; 17:1, 2, 5."*(see box on page 208)

*"After his [Russell's] death in 1916, many of his writings were collected and published in a book entitled **The Finished Mystery**. In time, though, this book proved to be unsatisfactory as an explanation of Revelation. The remnant of Christ's brothers had to wait a while longer, until the visions started to be fulfilled, for an accurate understanding of that inspired record."* (p159)

Therefore, according to *Revelation - Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, even though *The Finished Mystery* "proved to be unsatisfactory as an explanation of Revelation", its distribution was somehow instrumental in fulfilling the bible prophecy in Revelation 11 concerning the "Two Witnesses" and the manner in which they "struck the earth with every sort of plague".

This leaflet was produced by [www.jwsurvey.org](http://www.jwsurvey.org)

## Highlights from "THE FINISHED MYSTERY"



**"Why examine this book, first published by the Watch Tower Society in 1917? After all, it's old light!"**

That's likely the question you are pondering as you first begin to read this leaflet. And you would be right! Most of the teachings set forth in this mysterious book stopped being official beliefs of our organization many decades ago. However, there is a profound reason why this book is worthy of your consideration.

According to the Society's current literature, *this book has actually fulfilled bible prophecies from the book of Revelation!* It was also the primary publication being distributed by the Bible Students around 1918 when Christ examined the organization and decided to select it based on the "spiritual food" that the Slave Class were issuing at that time. Wouldn't you be interested to see what Christ saw when he inspected our organization at that crucial moment in the history of the earthly part of God's organization?

To be honest, you will find it either amusing or entirely inconceivable that the Society could have once advocated many of the teachings and scriptural interpretations set forth in this book. However, please do not take our word for the information quoted in these few pages. We urge you to seek out a copy of the book in your congregation library, or wherever it might be found.\* You can then check the passages for yourself. Like us, you will likely be astounded by the notion that Christ could have selected the Bible Students and the Watch Tower Society based on their teachings around the time of their appointment in 1919.

We hope you are not offended by this leaflet. It has been produced by thinking Jehovah's Witnesses who want to share their knowledge about the roots of the organization, which are not fully explained in the Society's modern literature. We hope you will find this brief summary informative and insightful.

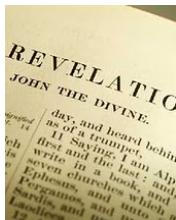
\*We quote from the original 1917 edition. Please remember that changes were made to subsequent editions.

### What the book has to say regarding...



#### JESUS CHRIST

According to *The Finished Mystery*, Christ is the "Alpha and Omega" of Revelation 1:8, 21:6, and 22:13 (pp.15, 112, 318, 336). Jesus "assumed the office of king" in 1878 (p66). A three-page list of Bible texts in the book supposedly proves that "the Lord's Second Advent occurred in the fall of 1874" (pp.68-71). The God seated on the throne in Revelation 19:4 is said to be Jesus (p290).



## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The “7 trumpets” in Rev. 8:2 are the trumpets of the Lutherans, the Anglicans, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Evangelical Alliance, and the Bible Students (chart after p64). The “7 messengers” or “angels” in Revelation are Paul, John, Arius, Waldo, Wycliffe, Luther and Russell (See illustration after p64). The rider on the white horse in Rev. 6:2 is the “Bishop of Rome” who is the “personal representative of Satan” (p106). The “great earthquake” in Rev. 6:12 was *literally* the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755, and *symbolically* the American Revolution (p119). The “stars that fell from the heavens” in Revelation 6:13 foretell a meteor shower in 1833 covering 11 million sq. miles. The symbolic fulfillment occurred when the “stars of the papacy” lost their influence over the minds and consciences of the people. Protestants similarly ‘fell’ by getting involved in politics (p120).

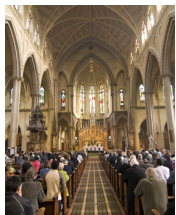
The angels referred to in Rev. 8:5 and 14:18 represent the Watch Tower Society (p145, 227). According to Rev. 9:15, in 1918 “a third of the men” (represented by an estimated 177,300,000 Protestants) will be “killed” by being “deprived of reason, manhood and dignity” (p164/5). The “two wings of the woman” in Rev. 12:14 are the Old and New Testament (p191). Rev. 18:1 refers to the glory of Jesus causing enlightenment for the Earth from 1874 onwards – resulting in great “discoveries” (such as the North Pole, the South Pole and “Darkest Africa”) and inventions (such as artificial dyes, barbed wire, cash registers, railway signals, typewriters and vacuum cleaners), not to mention *The Divine Plan of the Ages* (p273).

The “voice out of heaven” mentioned in Rev. 18:4 is the voice of the Watch Tower Society (p276). According to Revelation 21:17, the number of “sheep” rescued during the millennium will be an estimated 20.736 billion (p323).



## ZIONISM

Evidence shows that the “Kingdom in Palestine” is expected to be established in 1925 (p128). According to Ezekiel 17:22 and 20:42, Zionism and Judaism will “prosper” on Earth, and the Jews will rule the “earthly phase” of the Kingdom through “the resurrected Ancient Worthies - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.” (pp.450, 462). God will bring His chosen people, the Jews, “by the agency of the resurrected Ancient Worthies to Palestine, where He will feed them upon the historic mountains of that hallowed land, in the then great cities of a realized Zionism”. Here will be founded “the world-wide Hebrew dominion over the whole world, into which should be gathered, out of Mystic Babylon, all the Hebrews in the world, wherever they might remain.” Charles Taze Russell began proclaiming to the Jews “the revival of their Zionist hope and its realization” in October 1910 (pp.536, 554-555). Zionist hopes “gained new vitality” thanks to his preaching (p555).



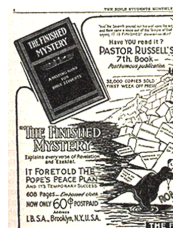
## CHRISTENDOM

In 1918, demons will invade the minds of “nominal church” members, driving them to “exceedingly unwise conduct and leading to their destruction at the hands of the enraged masses” (p128). “Michael and his angels” in Rev. 12:7 are the Pope and his bishops (p188). According to Rev. 18:14, the clergy will become like common people and will need to work for a living, meaning that they will need to buy alarm clocks (p285). The bible describes the clergy as “dumb dogs” because they would rather be subjected to ridicule in the hopes of gaining converts than “humbly admit one item of truth in all Pastor Russell’s beautiful writings” (p238). According to Ezekiel 11:9, “Christendom will fall literally into the hands of revolutionists and anarchists, Industrial Workers of the World, Syndicalists, Socialists...” (p425). The preachers of Christendom say things “originating in their own imaginations” (p432). Christendom turns people from God and the bible using “the most monstrous blasphemies of the Dark Ages” (p252).



## CHARLES TAZE RUSSELL

“The amount of work that Pastor Russell performed is incredible” (despite his “distressing hemorrhoids”), and “it is doubtful whether it was ever equalled by any other human being” (p57). Russell was “the most prolific writer of bible truth that ever lived” (p65); the anti-typical Ezekiel (p554); a “true priest of the Almighty”, chosen expressly by God (p368). He was the “faithful and wise servant” (pp.4-6) as well as the man with the secretary’s inkhorn, spoken of in Ezekiel 9 (p.418-420). Jesus gave him the key to understanding God’s mysteries (p. 5-6). Russell was the seventh angel from Rev. 3:14, 10:7 and 11:15 (pp.53, 169, 180). He was also the angels referred to in Rev. 1:1, 14:17, 19:9,10 and 22:6 (pp.226, 334). The “loud voice” in Rev. 7:2 and 16:1 was that of Russell (pp.125, 237). In Rev. 18:2, Jesus spoke with Russell’s voice. The book notes: “So modestly are [Russell’s] works written that the author is nowhere manifest but attention is always and everywhere drawn to the Lord.” (p273) Russell’s birthstone, as per Rev. 21:20, was amethyst (p326). In fulfillment of Ezekiel 24:15-19, God took away Russell’s wife, Maria, and made her “dead” in his eyes (pp.483-484). Russell continued to supervise the “harvest work” even after his death (pp.144, 256). Ezekiel 33:22 foretells Russell speaking from beyond the grave by means of *The Finished Mystery* (p530).



## THE FINISHED MYSTERY / STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES

*The Finished Mystery* (The Seventh Volume of *Studies In The Scriptures*) was “divinely provided” to humanity. It is the incense vessel of Rev. 8:5 (p145). Indeed, the 7 angels of Rev. 16:1 correspond to the 7 volumes of *Studies In The Scriptures* (p237). Rev. 14:20 predicts the precise traveling distance (137.9 miles) between Scranton, Pennsylvania (where the *The Finished Mystery* was written) and Brooklyn Bethel (where it was printed). This distance was shortened by the building of the Lackawanna Railroad in 1911 (p230). The book also represents the winepress of God’s anger in Rev. 19:15 (p295). The “loud voice” in Rev. 14:18 was a “disappointed cry” because Charles Taze Russell did not have chance to complete *The Finished Mystery* personally (p227).



## POLITICS

England is a “satanic” country because it forcefully exports 5 million pounds of opium to “heathen China” every year (p202). Kaiser Wilhelm was “deceived by evil spirits”, and WW1 was “most certainly the work of evil spirits” (p128). Though “war is in open and utter violation of Christianity” (p250), the American Revolution was “the most successful and most extraordinary movement upward of the lower strata of human society that had ever been seen in the world up to that time” (p119).



## THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 3:6 refers to Russell’s preaching tours in Japan, India and Africa (p382). Ezekiel 3:14 foretells Russell being raised up by the Spirit to reject commercial interests in favor of a life of devotion to the heavenly message (p385). Ezekiel 5:2-17 refers to the way in which Jerusalem was destroyed in 606 BCE and 70-73 CE, and also foretells the “destruction” of Christianity between 1914 and 1918 (p398). The “congregation” spoken of in Ezekiel 23:46 prefigures “Socialists, trades-union men, laborites, social democrats, nihilists and anarchists” (p480).



## STEAM ENGINES

The “behemoth” mentioned in Job 40 is the “stationary steam engine” (p84). The “leviathan” of Job 41 is the “locomotive” (p85). The “valiant men” in Nahum 2:3 are the locomotive engineer and the fireman (p93).