

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Dear Witnesses of Jehovah,

I know that you like to think of yourselves as a group of people who appreciate the truth and who have the ultimate Christian conscience. I would like to bring to your attention a case which will address both above qualities.

I was born on the island of Salamina, in the Gulf of Athens, to JW parents. Since the time I was 14 years old I worked very hard for the organization, first in Greece and later in Canada. Because of my hard work, I was appointed to serve as a Theocratic Ministry School Servant. This took place when I was 20 years old. This position gave me the “privilege” to be a member of the committee in our Greek congregation in Vancouver, British Columbia, and it brought me to Bethel, our Canadian headquarters in Ontario, for two weeks of special training. When the title “elders” was adopted in the congregations, our circuit servant and my superiors recommended that the Society appoint me as an elder. At that time, I was 23 years old.

At that time, when I studied the Bible, I had to use the available text of the Koine Greek, because the organization had not yet produced the New World Translation in Greek. Every time I had to deliver a talk before my Greek brothers and sisters (talks which were prepared by the Watchtower Society), I had to read the supporting scriptures from the Greek text of the Bible. This proved to be a difficult task for me because a number of times the Greek text of the Bible was in direct contradiction with the doctrines of our organization. In time, I realized why the “teachers” of the Watchtower Society decided to produce their own Bible translation. They needed a Bible which would not contradict their doctrines!

When I examined their Bible Translation, I observed that their translators had shown little or no respect for the exact meaning of the Greek words. Those who claim that they wish to have “the accurate knowledge of the truth” must show respect for the exact meaning of the words. Allow me to give you two simple examples; please use your interlinear:

a) The Greek preposition “**EN**” (in), sometimes has been translated correctly as “**in**” but, sometimes incorrectly as “**in union with**” (John 10:38), or “**in connection with**” (John 14:13), or “**What has come into existence by means of**” (John 1:4)!

b) In John 17:3, the Greek verb “**Γινώσκω**” (Ginosko: to know) has been translated as “**to take in knowledge**” which is expressed by the Greek verb “**Μαθηάω**” (manthano: to learn).

Let us view John 17:3 from the Greek text:

“αὕτη δὲ ἐστὶν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωὴ, ἵνα γινώσκωσι σὲ τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν”

The third word in the above verse, the Greek word “ἐστὶν” (esteen) means “is”! A good translation of the above verse in English is:

“And this is everlasting life, that they may know (Ginosko) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” (LITV; author’s emphasis and parenthesis)

Now let us read the above verse from the New World Translation:

“This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.” (NWT; author’s emphasis)

When we read the above verse carefully, we observe that the Greek word “ἐστὶν” (esteen) which means “is”, has been replaced with the word “means” and the words “(to) know you” have been replaced with the words “their taking in knowledge of you”! Please consider the following:

“Ginosko” a person means that I really know that person. It means that I am united with that person; that I have a personal relationship with that person. It may go as far as to indicate that I have an intimate relationship with that person, like the relationship that exists between a husband and his wife. A good scripture to verify this is Matthew 1:25. There, we read (from the Greek text), that Joseph did not know (Ginosko) Mary, until she gave birth to Jesus. Is it possible that Joseph did not know Mary, that he had never seen her before, or heard of her, until she gave birth to Jesus? **Of course not!** Joseph knew Mary before she gave birth to Jesus, but, **he did not “know” Mary intimately as a husband.**

From the foregoing study, therefore, we realize that John 17:3 does not tell us that everlasting life “means” our “taking in knowledge”, i.e., to learn about God and about Christ. **The above scripture reveals that everlasting life is based on a personal relationship with God and Christ!** It reflects the words of Jesus who said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in to him, and I will dine with him and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20). Those who invite Jesus to literally enter and indwell them by His Spirit (Romans 8:9), become born again. Unless a person becomes born again, he/she cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). When the Spirit of God indwells a person (John 14:7), that person begins to have **a personal relationship with God.** From that moment on, the believer in Christ has direct access to God through the Holy Spirit, in the Name of Jesus. **This personal relationship with the Divinity YHWH generates in the believer eternal life because that person becomes a partaker of the Divine nature** (2 Peter 1:4).

Consequently, we realize that the translators of the Watchtower Society have, intentionally, altered the message of John 17:3. Since they have given the Greek “Ginosko” (to know) the meaning of the Greek verb “manthano” (to learn), **they have removed from you the need to have a personal relationship with God and Christ**, and have led you to believe that as long as you live you need their product, their publications, in order to continue to take in their knowledge which leads you (as you think), to everlasting life. **What a perverted and false message! Even the Demons and Satan have knowledge of God and of Christ but this knowledge will not save them because they do not have a personal relationship with God and Christ; they are not united with God and Christ (John 14:30)!**

As you will understand, from the foregoing examples, it would have been very hypocritical on my behalf to close my eyes to the truth and willingly agree and support the men who make up the governing body of a publishing house which tries to alter my mother tongue. **My acute Christian conscience**, my responsibility before God and my fellow servants, and my moral ethics, did not allow me to remain silent. I believed that I had the moral responsibility to bring the matter to light. I did nothing less than what the Watchtower of January 15, 1974, wrote:

“When persons are in great danger from a source that they do not suspect or are being misled by those they consider their friends, is it an unkindness to warn them? They may prefer not to believe the warning. They may even resent it. But does that free one from the moral responsibility to give the warning?”

As soon as I discussed a few points of Biblical truth with a couple of “mature” Witnesses in my congregation, I was labeled an apostate, a heretic, and a rebel, and was disfellowshipped within that same week.

The judicial committee that disfellowshipped me was made up of our district servant, our circuit servant, and a congregational overseer. During that meeting they showed no Christian love towards me whatsoever, neither did they display any interest in discussing with me my findings. However, there was a witness present who told the committee that he had heard me say that I did not believe that today's Jehovah's Witnesses are the “great crowd” of Revelation 7. The District Servant asked me:

“Is it true brother Lenis that you don't agree that we, the Witnesses of Jehovah, are the ‘great crowd’ of Revelation 7?”

“My brother”, I replied, “where does the great crowd come from? What does Revelation 7 say about them?”

“They come out of the ‘great tribulation’”, he replied.

Then I asked, “When does this great tribulation take place? Did it take place in the period of 1914 - 1918 A.D. as the organization has taught us in the past, or is it going to happen in the future, as the organization teaches us now?”

“The great tribulation will take place in the future”, he answered, “when this system of things comes to an end.”

“Then”, I continued, “as the great tribulation has not taken place yet, how can we say that we, today’s Jehovah’s Witnesses, are the ‘great crowd’ of Revelation 7?”

His eyes opened wide.

“Brother Lenis is right!” he exclaimed. “We cannot possibly be the great crowd!”

Immediately, the other two members of the judicial committee said that they refused to hear anymore of my “demonic” teaching. The circuit servant advised me to commit suicide. He told me that it would be better for me to take my own life than going through the pains and the emotional turmoil of the disfellowshipping! And they decided to disfellowship me for apostasy. At that time, I was 23 years old, married and the father of two sons. I did not consider the circuit servant’s “mature” and “Christian” advice to commit suicide for even a moment. My family needed me!

When I asked them whether they had found me guilty of apostasy from the Bible and the true God, they replied:

“Oh, no! Not from the Bible and the true God! You are guilty of apostasy from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society!”

At that moment I realized that the organization of the Watchtower had nothing to do with the Bible and the True God. I understood that those who serve the organization of a publishing house instead of the True God have not a trace of Christian love, justice or conscience, neither do they appreciate truth.

After my disfellowshipping, several Witnesses wrote letters directly to the governing body of the organization imploring them to take the matter into their own hands and undo the injustice. The governing body ignored them all! Thus, we realized that the governing body of the publishing house called “The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society” does not care about the salvation of men, as they proclaim. Apparently, they have one goal only: To bring more people through the front door of their corporation than those who leave or are forced to leave through the back door.

Why did I have to appear before the judicial committee? What was my offense? Was it my fault that I knew Greek? Who, really, should have appeared before a judicial committee? I, who discovered several translation and doctrinal mistakes, or those who had made these mistakes and were responsible for misleading millions of innocent people? Even though the Watchtower Society has forbidden you to use independent thinking (Watchtower 1/15/83, page 27), I will let **you** be the judge.

(If you wish to have more details about my life as a Witness of Jehovah and about the events which caused me to be disfellowshipped, please read the first six chapters of my

book, "Jesus Brings Deliverance to the Captives". You will find it on this website, thebiblestudy.ca You will be shocked to learn how our living God directed my life!)

Has the organization misled you on other doctrinal points? Yes, it has! Let me present one of them. Please pay close attention to the following **dates**:

In Revelation chapter 11, we read about the two prophets who prophesy for a period of 3 ½ years, and who are killed by the "beast" that comes out of the abyss.

The organization explains this event in its book "Revelation". On pages 164-166 they claim that the two prophets of the above chapter are the Witnesses of Jehovah of the period **1914-1918** A.D (Paragraph 12). On pages 168, they claim that the beast "killed" the two "prophets" in **1918** when "responsible ministers of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society were imprisoned." (Paragraph 21) On page 247, paragraph 5, they assert that the "beast" was the League of Nations which was founded on January 10, **1920**. In the same paragraph they explain that the beast fell into the abyss in **1942**. On page 248, paragraph 6, they say that the "beast" came out of the abyss on June 26th, **1945**, with the name "United Nations".

Now, according to the prophecy, the two prophets were to be killed by the beast which comes out of the abyss. In other words, if the explanation given by the Watchtower Society about the "beast" and about the two prophets were correct, the United Nations should have put them to death some time after June 26th, **1945!** How could the responsible ministers of the Watchtower Society be the two prophets of Revelation 11 whom the "*beast which comes out of the abyss*" killed (symbolically) in **1918** A.D., when, according to their explanation, the "beast" did not come out of the abyss until **1945?** According to their explanation, the "beast" **DID NOT EVEN EXIST IN 1918 A.D.**, since the League of Nations did not come into existence until **1920**. **Did the beast "kill" them in advance, two years before it even existed?** How foolish! My conscience would not allow me to preach something like that to anyone! **Does yours?**

(If you wish to have more details about the "*two prophets*" and the "*beast*" that kills them, please read my book, "The Book of Revelation Decoded!" You will find it on this website, thebiblestudy.ca You can read it or download it **free of charge.**)

I am sure you wonder why I wrote this letter to you. Am I looking for sympathy? Do I hate you? Do I seek revenge? Am I trying to make you, my followers? None of the above. What motivates me to write to you at this time is the fact that **I know you have been misled by those you consider your friends, and I feel that I have the moral responsibility to give you a warning because I care about you. I am motivated by love.**

Jesus warned His followers about false christs (i.e., false anointed ones) and **false prophets** that would rise to mislead many (Matthew 24:4,11). Do you think that these deceivers will come out in the open and say, "**We are false anointed and false prophets; follow us!**"? The answer is obvious! How will Christians be able to recognize the

deceivers and stay away from them? By staying alert and by examining carefully in the light of the Scriptures (not the Scriptures produced by the deceivers) every word that comes out of their mouths. It is a believer's responsibility to do so (Acts 17:11; Revelation 2:2; Matthew 24:4; 2 Peter 2:1-3). In order to mislead, these men will be forced to twist the meaning of certain words like the ones I exposed earlier in this letter.

As far as the **false prophets** are concerned, it takes less effort to recognize them. To prophesy ("prophitevo" in Greek), means to foretell a future event. All we must do in this case is **to review the record of the one who poses as a prophet**. In the Watchtower 4/1/72, page 197, we read:

"However, Jehovah...had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women...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?"

All right then, let us review their record!

In the book "Thy Kingdom Come", 1902, page 342, they proclaimed that **"1874 was the Chronological beginning of the time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation - no, nor ever shall be afterward."**

The above statement was a **false prophecy!** The First and the Second World Wars testified against them!

In a later edition of the same book, 1907, same page, they predicted a **different date**. They proclaimed that **"1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble such as was not since there was a nation - no, nor ever shall be afterward."**

Again, the above statement was a **false prophecy!** The Second World War testified against them!

In the book "The Time is at Hand", 1908, page 101, they wrote:

"...the Kingdom of God is already began...in A.D. 1878, and that the battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:4), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the overthrow of earth's present rulership is already commenced."

Definitely, the above statement was a **false prophecy!**

In the same book, page 170, they wrote:

"... the Times of the Gentiles," ... will run fully out with the year A.D. 1914, and that at that time they will all be overturned and Christ's Kingdom fully established."

Definitely, the above prophecy was a **false prophecy!**

In "The Golden Age", 6/6/23, page 563, they predicted a **new date**. They wrote:

"The dissolving of Satan's empire began in the world war; and there is no possible restoration of any crumbling kingdom, but rather the crushing, disintegrating process continues until all shall cease to function. The Scriptures seem to limit this transition period to eleven years, from 1914 to and including 1925."

Therefore, as Satan's empire continues to exist after **1925**, proves that even this prediction of theirs was a **false prophecy!**

In the WT 9/11/22, page 262, they wrote:

"The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914."

Again, even these words proved to be a **false prophecy!**

In the WT 4/1/23; page 106, they wrote:

"Our thought is that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures...As to Noah, the Christian now has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had upon to base his faith in a coming deluge."

From all the above, what was their prediction about **1925? A false prophecy!**

In 1921 and 1922 they prophesied that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful men will be resurrected in the year 1925, and that millions of people who now live will never die! ("The Golden Age", 3/18/21, page 381 and 3/1/22, page 350.)

Can anyone deny the fact that the above predictions were the greatest false prophecies given in the last two thousand years?

The foregoing false prophecy regarding the resurrection of the "ancient worthies", i.e., Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc., was firmly believed by the leaders of the organization at that time. They put their beliefs into tangible practice. **They built two mansions in San Diego, California, to house the resurrected "ancient worthies"!** They even titled these properties to the ancient worthies! The first mansion was called "**Beth-Sarim**" and the second "**Beth-Shan**". These mansions became **monuments to their false prophecy!**

How many times must a person commit murder before we say that he/she is a murderer? **Once!** How many times must a person prophesy falsely before we say that he is a false prophet? **Once!** Therefore, **now that we have reviewed the record of those who in times past have predicted the end of the world and have even announced specific dates, what does it show?** I will let **you** give the answer. Will you be true to yourselves? Will you apply in your life the warning the Lord Jesus gave to His followers in Matthew

24 or will you continue to be followers of false prophets? The decision is yours to make. May the True Jehovah of the Bible give you courage.

Do not let yourselves be deceived twice when you are told that they had never prophesied falsely, that they only had **“wrong expectations”**. **Please consider**: If you were to apply the same excuse to all the false prophets of all ages, there will not be one false prophet --- **ever!**

Do not deceive yourselves by thinking that **“Our brothers are very humble. They admit that they have made mistakes in the past.”** Jesus did not make any distinction between humble false prophets and arrogant ones. In Matthew 24 He did not say to his followers that it is okay to follow or to believe humble false prophets! False prophets are false prophets! Even if they give a thousand excuses, when their “prophecies” fail to be fulfilled, they should not be able to escape the stigma! When their prophesies fail to be fulfilled, they should be declared as false prophets so that none of those who wish to know and to serve God will ever follow them.

Now, please pay attention to the comments they have made about **“those”** who have prophesied falsely. In the Awake 10/8/68, they wrote:

“True, there have been those in times past who predicted an “end” to the world, even announcing a specific date. Yet nothing happened. The “end” did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing? Missing from such people were God’s truths and the evidence that He was using and guiding them.”

And Jesus said, *“For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”* (Matthew 12:37)!!!!

Who are **“those”** who predicted an **“end”** to the world and even announced **“specific dates”**? You know who! And I fully agree that God had never used them or guided them! **Do you?**

In the WT 4/1/23, page 106, they declared:

“Our thought is, that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures.”

Yet, in the WT, September 1925, page 262, they wrote:

“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 to the work.”

Who injected the thought about 1925? **Satan? Wow!** Are they openly proclaiming that **Satan** injected into their minds the thought about **1925**? I would say, **“Yes, definitely!”** The True Jehovah of the Bible is not the author of false prophecies. Consequently, it is reasonable to conclude that Satan has injected other false thoughts into their minds to mislead **you!**

What is Satan's goal? The apostle Paul said that Satan's goal is to blind the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4). **Did you notice the exact words of the apostle Paul?** He did not say that Satan blinds the minds of the unbelievers so that they will not see the gospel of the Kingdom, but "the gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ", who, according to Romans 9:5, **is God over all and blessed forever** (from the Greek text). I pray that the True Jehovah God of the Bible will reveal his "*only-begotten*" (not "**only created**") Son to you (John 3:16).

Please keep in mind that "*only-begotten*" **does not mean** "**only-created**"! The title "*only-begotten Son*" tells us that **Jesus is the only born Son, the only Son of God's essence and therefore, God by nature!** On the other hand, you have been taught that Jesus is the **only one who was created directly by God** and that, for this reason, he is not God but a created angel, Michael, the brother of Satan (Watchtower 3/1/1932, page 76, paragraph 2,3)! If you are a truth-lover, you will consider seriously the information I have presented in this letter. I have written a book entitled "**Jesus --- God by Nature**" in which I have refuted the misconceptions of the Watchtower Society about the Deity of Christ. You will find it on this webpage, thebiblestudy.ca and you can read it or download it free of **charge**.

Be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11). Be like the Christians in Ephesus who tested those who claimed to be apostles and found them to be false (Revelation 2:2). Do not be afraid of them (Deuteronomy 18:22). Do this **for your conscience, for the truth, and for your eternity**. Say "NO!" to the deception and "YES!" to the real Jesus of the Bible who stands outside your door at this very moment and knocks (Revelation 3:20). Study carefully the first fifteen verses of Romans chapter ten. You will discover that Jesus is the "LORD", the "YHWH" of verses 9,13 **whose name you must call upon**, in other words, that **He is the One you must pray to in order to be saved!**

If you need more information about salvation, please read my book, "**The Gospel of Salvation**". You will find it on this website, thebiblestudy.ca Like the rest of my books and letters, you can read it or download it **free of charge**.

With true Christian love,

Constantine "Gus" Lenis