



# 1914

## La guerre est déclarée

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# The Prophetic Significance of the year 1914

Jehovah's Witnesses have always said that the year 1914 would be a crucial date in history. What was going to happen and what evidence points to 1914 as such an important year?

By studying the Bible they found out that this year was going to have a major connection with Jehovah's promised Kingdom. What scriptures did they consider?

Look what Jesus said **at Luke 21:24-B**

**New Living Translation:** "And Jerusalem will be conquered and trampled down by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles comes to an end"

(Gentile = People who are not Jewish, i.e. foreign/worldly nations)

Jerusalem was the capital city of the Jewish nation, where kings since the time of David had their throne. These kings were representatives of Jehovah, so Jerusalem symbolised Jehovah's rulership. So in Luke 21, Jesus was telling us that Jehovah would not have anyone represent him as ruler until "the time of the Gentile nations came to an end"

How were Jehovah's kings "conquered and trampled on by the Gentile nations"?

This happened in October 607 B.C.E. when Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians.

**2 Kings 24: 18 - 25:1, 2, 6-11** The throne in Jerusalem was no longer occupied by any king who descended from David. But how long would they stay defeated?

Jehovah had prophesied this concerning the last Jewish king, Zedekiah: **Ezekiel 21:26, 27**

**New Living Translation:** "Take off your jeweled crown, says the Sovereign LORD. The old order changes - now the lowly are exalted, and the mighty are brought low. Destruction! Destruction! I will surely destroy the kingdom. And it will not be restored until the one appears who has the right to judge it. Then I will hand it over to him."

So Jehovah would have no king representing him until a future time when he would appoint a new king.

We need to identify who this one is, who has "the right to judge", because he would get the "crown" back, and would rule again as Jehovah's representative. Any ideas?

**Luke 1:26-33** = Jesus. So the time, of the Gentile nations would end when Jesus became King.

But when did the Jesus become King? There is an account in Daniel that gives us some clues toward when this would happen. It relates a vision given to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. **Daniel 4:10-16**

He saw a huge tree that was chopped down. Its stump could not grow because it was banded with iron and copper. In the Bible, trees are sometimes used to represent rulership. So the chopping down of the tree represented Jehovah's kings being overthrown. But most importantly, the angel in the vision showed that this would only last for a period of "seven times."

So if we can work out how long these "seven times" are, we will know how long the Gentiles would rule for, and how long before Jesus would be installed as King.

We have the start point: October 607BCE, which was when the last Jewish king was overthrown, and the Gentiles took over.

But does the Bible refer to this measure of time - "seven times" - anywhere else? Yes, in Revelation.

Look at **Revelation 12:14** (ignore the subject matter).

It refers to "a time and times and half a time". How many "times" is that? ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ). Now look at **verse 6**.

This talks about the same event and same time period, but instead of talking about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  "times", it speaks of "a thousand, two hundred and sixty days."

" If we double " $3\frac{1}{2}$  "times" we get "seven times, so if we double 1260 days we get 2,520 days.

But the *Gentile* nations did not rule in place of God's kings for just 2,520 days (= 7 years). This prophecy covers a much longer period of time. Jehovah set a pattern in the Bible that he used a few times for measurements of time - "a day for a year, a day for a year". So the 2520 days (seven times) would actually be 2,520 years.

So starting from October 607 B.C.E. we have to count 2520 years.

### **Diagram on page 216 of Bible Teach Book**

The period ended in October 1914. At that point, "the times of the *Gentile* nations" ended, and Jesus Christ was installed as God's heavenly King. **Daniel 7:13, 14**

UNDERSTAND?

It is a historical fact that as far back as March 1880, the WatchTower magazine identified the year 1914 as the time for the end of the seven times of the *Gentile* nations. This was 34 years in advance. In August 1914, a New York newspaper - The World - featured an article that said: "The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy. For a quarter of a century the 'International Bible Students' have been proclaiming to the world that the Day of Judgement prophesied in the Bible would begin in 1914."

Although Jehovah's people knew that 1914 was marked by Bible prophecy, they did not know for sure exactly what events would happen in that year.

There were certain expectations concerning 1914. Alexander Macmillan, who had been baptized in 1900, recalled: "A few of us seriously thought we were going to heaven during the first week of that October." He recalled an incident that took place at a convention of the Bible Students in New York on September 1914. Bro Macmillan gave a public talk on September 30. In it he stated: "This is probably the last public address I shall ever deliver, because we shall be going home to heaven soon."

The following week, in early October, Bro Macmillan admitted: "We were highly excited and I would not have been surprised if at any moment we started ascending heavenward — but of course nothing like that happened."

So the Bible Students were not completely sure what would happen. They had thought that by October 1914 the Kingdom of God would have obtained complete control over the earth. But the date had marked only a starting point as to Kingdom rule.

Jesus is now King-in-waiting. Similar to what happened to Barack Obama: On 4 November 2009 he won election as president of USA, and then was known as "President-elect". But he did not get officially installed as president until 20 January. There is a waiting period whilst the old government is dissolved and the new government is organized.

As sure as Barack Obama took over the presidency of the USA, Jesus will take full control of ruling over the earth. He gave many signs which confirm this, which we will discuss on another occasion.