

\$3.75

ISBN: 0-87552-306-4

The Jehovah's Witnesses and Prophetic Speculation

Edmond C. Gruss

The prophetic claims and interpretations of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning the second coming ("presence") of Christ in 1914 and their speculation that Armageddon was due in the mid-seventies (1975 or before) have never been fully examined or refuted. Currently it is taught that Armageddon could occur at any time. Specifically, it is delayed only by the time interval between Adam and Eve's creation. This book was written because the author concluded after investigation that the Witnesses' position does not accord with the truth and cannot stand under objective examination.

The writer challenges the reader with the statement found in the popular Witness book, *The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life*, published in 1968.

We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God's Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such examination (p. 13).

If the reader is a Jehovah's Witness, or is studying with the Witnesses, will he demonstrate that he is genuinely objective in his search for the truth and is a "lover of the truth" by his careful examination of what he believes and has been taught in the light of this study? As the quotation above states: "If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such an examination."

This is also an excellent book for anyone who desires a clear insight into several crucial beliefs and teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Edmond C. Gruss is Professor of History and Apologetics at Los Angeles Baptist College, in Newhall, California. His other writings include: *Apostles of Denial — An Examination and Exposé of the History, Doctrines and Claims of the Jehovah's Witnesses* (1970), *We Left Jehovah's Witnesses — A Non-Prophet Organization* (1974), and *Cults and the Occult in the Age of Aquarius* (1974). These books are available from:

 **PRESBYTERIAN
AND REFORMED
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Box 817 · Phillipsburg · New Jersey 08865

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**An Examination and Refutation of the Witnesses' Position on
the Second Coming of Christ, Armageddon, and the "End of
the World"**

Lawrence

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Edmond Charles Gruss

PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED PUBLISHING CO.
Box 817, Phillipsburg, New Jersey

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Second edition, December, 1975
Seventh printing, May, 1983

ISBN: 0-87552-306-4

This book is affectionately dedicated to the memory of my mother Frieda Elise Gruss (1898-1966) who received Christ as her Saviour and declared: "I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins."

Printed in the United States of America

THE AUTHOR

Edmond C. Gruss, Professor of History and Apologetics at Los Angeles Baptist College, in Newhall, California, was born in Los Angeles in 1933. He received his A.B. from Los Angeles Baptist College (1955) and his B.D. from Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary (1958). In 1961 he completed the Th.M. in Bible and Theology at Talbot Theological Seminary, La Mirada, California. An M.A. in Modern European History from Drake University was added in 1964.

In addition to his college and seminary teaching Professor Gruss has written articles on the cults and given lectures in area churches. In 1970 he published the book *Apostles of Denial—An Examination and Exposé of the History, Doctrines and Claims of the Jehovah's Witnesses*. Interest in the cult field stems from his conversion from the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1950. His wife also graduated from Los Angeles Baptist College and is an elementary school teacher. The family includes two teen-aged children.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My gratitude is expressed to Dr. Richard D. Patterson of Los Angeles Baptist College and Theological Seminary for his comments and advice in the work of revision and rewording in the manuscript of this book. My appreciation is also given to his wife Ann who typed the final draft. I wish to thank Dr. Edwin R. Thiele for his correspondence on Bible chronology, Mr. Richard F. Miller for locating *Three Worlds* and other sources, and Mr. Maurice Barnett for the Scotland trial microfilm. I am also grateful for the assistance of my family, especially my wife Geraldene, who spent hours in typing and proofreading. And finally, I wish to thank Mr. Charles Craig, editor, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, for his interest in this study and its publication.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. INTRODUCTION	13
2. THE WITNESSES' POSITION ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND "THE END OF THE WORLD"	16
3. AN EXAMINATION AND REFUTATION OF THE WITNESSES' POSITION ON THE 1914 SECOND COMING OF CHRIST	20
The Witnesses' 1914 Predictions	20
The "Appointed Times of the Nations"	26
The Beginning of the "Appointed Times of the Nations"	27
Correspondence with the Watchtower Society	28
Establishing the Date for the Fall of Jerusalem	38
The End of the "Appointed Times of the Nations"	42
The Year-Day Theory	43
The "Time of the End"	46
The Sign of "The Last Days"	47
4. AN EXAMINATION AND REFUTATION OF THE WITNESSES' POSITION ON THE 1975 CHRONOLOGY	59
The Witnesses and the 6000-Year Tradition	59
The Witnesses and Biblical Chronology	62
Confidence in a "Correct" Chronology	62
Chronology Based on Supposition and Faith	64
Chronology and the Creation Date	66
Adam's Stay in the Garden	69
The Witnesses and Biblical Genealogies	72
The Problem of Sources	72
The Probability of Abridged Genealogies	72
The "Second Cainan" of Luke 3:36	75
Additional Problems with the Witnesses' Chronology	76
The Babylonian Captivity	77
From the Dividing of the Kingdom to the Fall of Jerusalem	99

The Date of the Genesis Flood	78
Conclusion	79
5. THE WITNESSES' POSITION ON THE "LAST DAYS" AND ARMAGEDDON: AN ILLUSION OF URGENCY	81
1877-1899	82
1900-1919	84
1920-1929	87
1930-1939	88
1940-1949	90
1950-Present	92
Conclusion	94
APPENDIX Is Time Running Out For the Witnesses?	96
6. FALSE ADVERTISING, FALSE PROPHECY AND FALSE CHRISTIANITY	97
7. CONCLUSIONS AND A PERSONAL TESTIMONY	102
APPENDIXES	
A. THE GREAT PYRAMID OF EGYPT	110
B. THE FATHERS AND THE WATCHTOWER ON THE 6,000-YEAR TRADITION	114
C. RUSSELL'S CHRONOLOGY AND ITS VERIFICATION	115
D. WHITCOMB AND MORRIS ON ABRIDGED GENEALOGIES .	118
E. ARE THE GENESIS DAYS 7,000 YEARS LONG?	128

FOREWORD

The prophetic claims and interpretations of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning the second coming ("presence") of Christ in 1914, and the recent speculation that Armageddon was due in the mid-seventies *(1975 or before according to Witness publications), have never been fully examined and refuted in detail. The present study was written because the author concluded after investigation that the Witnesses' position does not accord with the truth and cannot stand objective examination.

The writer challenges the reader with the statement found in the popular Witness book, *The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life*, published in 1968:

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