

COMMENTS IN REPLY TO WATCH TOWER CLAIMS

FROM: P.A. CURTIS JOSEPH

Please allow me to make the following points in connection with articles in AWAKE of December 6, 1999.

1. BIRTH OF CHRIST. He was born when Herod the Great was king of Judaea from 37 BC to when he died 4 BC. Jesus Christ could not have been born in 2 BC. Year of his birth should be 6, 5 or 4 BC. The Romans were the overlord of Judaea then.

2. YOUR CLAIM OF NEUTRALITY. This cannot be true because of your attacks on communism, especially misinformation and disinformation about the Soviet Union based on your quotations of pro-West COLD WAR "historians" such as Michael Dobbs (Down with Big Brother) and Norman Davies (Europe - History). Just to mention these two. There are many other falsifiers of history.

3. THAT THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES. This is blatant falsehood which is part of capitalist globalism. When it was not possible to use force to defeat "Communism" in the Soviet Union, capitalist West resorted to infiltration, penetration, deception and confidence trickery to play on Gorbachov's naivette. By the time he (Gorbachov) came to his senses, trenches had been dug around him, and Boris Yetsim's "out-of-favour" situation then was exploited. He became a willing tool of the West.

4. SPONSOR OF COMMUNISM. To say Soviet Union was sponsor of world Communism is pure mischief making and very unripe propaganda. Karl Marx, a German-Jew Philosopher, was the Creator (or sponsor) of world communism. He and Engels, a German, Published the Communist Manifesto in 1848. Lenin borrowed it from the Socialist scientific dissertations of Marx, made necessary amendments to suit Russian national interest for revolution against the oppressive, feudal, Czarist government. Karl Marx has been voted the greatest thinker of this second millennium in a poll conducted by BBC.

5. WHAT IS SOVIET EMPIRE? In both history and world maps, there was, and there is, no where being identified as Soviet Empire. There was the former Czarist Russian Empire. The Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917 put an end to that. All the Colonies were set free. Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic was proclaimed in 1918. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was established in December, 1922, when Byelorussia and Ukraine joined. Others, after 1922, joined at different times until 1940 that it stabilised into fifteen constituent Republics and the name Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, USSR, remains in world maps and history, even after it was dissolved ten years ago. It was not the end of Communism. It is a new begining of

man's struggle for a just world which the new congregation of imperialist forces can never bring about.

6. OUT-DATED AND OUT OF CONTEXT BIBLE QUOTATIONS.

Your organisation first members were identified as Russellites, after the founder "Pastor" Charles Taze Russell. He was Twenty years old in 1872 when he started it. Before then he traded in haberdashery. From orthodox religion, he had a stint with the agnostics. It was believed that he was influenced by the apocalyptic contents of a book, DAY DAWN, written by one J.H. paton. International Bible students Union, Dawnites, Watch Tower people were names they were also called before the official registration of Watch Tower Bible and Tract society, incorporated in 1884.

By then there had been very many versions of Bible translations in different languages. And they have been increasing since then. It is therefore not easy to know the authentic or inspired versions. What I know is that your quotations of prophecies from old and new Testaments cannot apply to events of the present day or your copious references to God's Kingdom that will soon come. Awake of September 22, 1999 asserted that it was beyond human ability to establish a world of Peace and justice, and that ... "Bible prophecy shows that a government ruling over all the earth will soon bring peace to the earth" It was even followed with eight attributes and functions of the government. All supported by three quotations from books of Isaiah, Daniel and Psalms in Old Testament. And Matthew and Revelation from New Testament.

7. AGE AND JEWISH CONNECTION OF PROPHECIES

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the 8th Century during the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah, 715-687 BC. Though the book of Daniel was written between 168 and 160 BC, the real events took place when Nebuchadnezzar was king during the Babylonian Captivity in the 6th Century. Psalms are a collection of songs of praise and prayer, composed by many people, mostly David. Moses, Solomon, Asaph and Korahites. Others wrote also at different times. But they reflect and represent human reactions at different stages of struggles through life, and "like a mirror in which man sees his thoughts". Which was the lot of the Jews before Jesus Christ came to the world.

Matthew and Revelation, by John, are of the 1st Century. So which ever way you examine the Awake contents the age of the prophecies varies from 8th century BC. and 1st Century CE or A.D. The least age being about 1,900 years. **FALSIFICATION OF PROPHECY "IN GOD'S NAME"**.

8. HOW SOON IS SOON FOR GOD'S KINGDOM?

Charles Taze Russell predicted, in 1874, the coming of Jesus Christ in 1914. He died in 1916. "Judge" Joseph Franklin Rutherford took over. Some doctrinal changes he introduced resulted in a splinter group, Associated Bible students. He introduced the name Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931, and claimed that Abel, the Biblical Adam's son, was the first Witness. Nathan Knorr took over after Rutherford's death in 1942 and organised translation of the Bible which produced the first out of six volumes of "NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HEBREW AND CHRISTIAN GREEK SCRIPTURES". He died in 1977 and Fredrick Franz took over. The present head is Milton Henschel, strongly suspected to be involved in COLD WAR politics. Like the present Pope and the American Central intelligence Agency.

9. MY SUSPICIONS AND THE EDO STATE "VILLAGE"

It was when you had your Nigerian headquarters in Shomolu, Lagos, that I saw the very elaborate plan of your new settlement in Igeduma; Edo State. It was easy to visit the Lagos office which was modest. Not so with the Edo State one. It is a paradise and restricted. The structures, facilities, library (richer than any in Nigeria), information technology and modern up-to-date printing facilities which must require more than "donations" to maintain. I made enquiries in my recent visits to Benin City from those who have visited and those who have not. There is unanimity on grounds of suspicion. IS IT AN INTELLIGENCE OUTPOST?

10. POVERTY AND CRIMES IN EDO STATE

With the presence of men and women of God so much in abundance in this historical state where missionaries visited before the Church Reformation of the 16th Century; and where you, in particular, registers so much presence and spread, why the decline? And you preach loud and clear that it is God that can put an end to all this in the New Kingdom of God while all of you preachers of all denominations live in affluence. Vatican is undergoing renovation by an Italian oil company.

END TIME

The OLD TESTAMENT was lifted from Hebrew scriptures of Judaism, the religion of the Jews (Israelites) who regarded (some still do) themselves as special people destined by God to lead the world to a new world of peace and justice. The covenant mentioned in the OLD TESTAMENT was regarded as between God and Israel (Jews). So when Jesus Christ came and preached a universal God and brotherhood and equality of all human-beings, the Jews rejected him. They accused him of blasphemy. The Roman government which virtually ruled over the world then (under which was Palestine Jews) was incensed by Jesus onslaught on its rule, charged Jesus for sedition. The sentence of death was agreed by the two (master and servant) sides.

The New Testament's covenant as represented by Jesus unrelenting crusade was between God and man. It drew a demarcation against "principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places". He also accused the rich in the analogy of the carmel and needle's hole. He was a favourite of the masses, the poor, the oppressed and the infirm. He was so humble and lowly that he had to be identified by Judas's betrayal to be arrested. Unlike the priests all over the world, especially the prosperity evangelists of Nigeria, including Igeduma enclave Jehovah Witnesses.

The Romans still continued to torture, persecute and execute believers in Christ over three hundred years after his death until 313 AD when Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan gave them respite for toleration. Still, when the Emperor constituted the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D which produced first summary of principles of Christian Faith, there was no single believer associated with the lineage of Christ followers that was invited. That was the foundation of what became Roman Catholic Church which subverted the universality and equality of the teachings of Jesus Christ. He became an absolute ruler. Moved Capital to Constantinople (Istanbul) 330 A.D. Ironically he became a "Christian" in A.D. 337 and was baptised on his death bed. But he created what became fashionable - the marriage of Church and state and absolute religious monarchies which has polluted Christianity (CHURCHIANITY) and Islam to this day.

11. THE FINAL ARMAGEDDON

The last book of the Bible REVELATION, is about 1,900 years old, and said to be written by John, predicted the fall of Roman Empire. Though conferred with holiness, a German barbarian and mercenary initiated the fall in 476 A.D. The Israelites, though divided in religious and ideological leanings are very united in the desire to exist. In the new dispensation in which the United State of America, with Britain on tow, is bent on ruling the world, Israel, remains the only country that the US cannot bully or dictate to. The Jews are very strong and rich and influential in US. They have penetrated Britain. Their agricultural base (Community and collective) is socialist oriented which could have attracted attacks or bombing if practised in Africa or other third world countries.

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society with its evangelists, known as Jehovah's Witnesses since 1931, suffered persecution in America more than any other country. But it has, a few years back, since they have their current ageing president, Milton Henchel, joined forces with super capitalist, imperialism, to fight communism, which is non-existent yet, as pretence to see that the Soviet Union never rise again.

And with the new seige on Nigeria it has joined in diverting Nigerians from their national interests. It has also assisted in promoting docility and to keep millions of Nigerians really suffering and dying quietly and wait for God's kingdom coming very soon. This is false.

Other "Christians" are busy peddling miracles, prosperity, forgiveness of sins, fear of Satan and demons, witches and wizards and promises of paradise through vigils, prayers and tithes.

The battle line is drawn and the ripples are growing. A small group in a British suburb saw a group of protesters against capitalism some months ago. It grew and developed into a riot, damaging cars and houses. It was broken up. But the language was clear. It was against capitalism.

The WTO meeting in Seattle, USA, was violently daily disturbed recently until it ended in disaster. The European parliament in France recent meeting witnessed walk outs in protest against France's rebellion against Europe over importation of British beef. Contradictions in capitalism.

Britain and America have no moral right or any historical reference to promote democracy and Human Rights anywhere in the world because they acquired their wealth through centuries of violence (Red Indians), piracy, plunder, slavery, colonisation, neo-colonialism, segregation, Apartheid and imperialism.

They now openly use diplomacy and force, religion and disinformation, investment threats and cajolery to impose subordinate democracy on other nations which create mass poverty, and in turn, crime, disease and re-curring debts.

Watch Tower's doctrine says body and soul are together in life and death. I still have their booklet written in 1968 with copious Bible passages to "prove" that the soul dies with the body. The same people hold that 144,000 of them are in heaven and will come with the hosts of heaven to destroy all governments on earth and instal Jesus Christ as ruler while the Jehovah witnesses will join him to rule for one thousand years.

All these lies will be punctured in the next century in the practical clash between capitalism (imperialism) and socialism (communism); that is between very few oppressors and the masses and the simple message of "Love thy neighbour as yourself and believe in God" left by Jesus Christ two thousand years ago will have full meaning.


P.A. CURTIS JOSEPH.

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