

the Bible, nor could it be the divinely guided interpreter of that inspired Word.

³¹ The claim of any individual or religious organization to be the interpreter of God's sacred Word is false and misleading. No creature or organization on earth can truly presume to sit as the supreme tribunal of interpretation of the Holy Bible. Jehovah God, the Supreme Judge, has set up no such supreme court of interpretation upon our planet. His Associate Judge, Christ Jesus, has appointed no so-called "vicar" or "vicegerent" to act for him as interpreter to His church. In ancient time the faithful Hebrew Joseph said: "Do not interpretations belong to God?" When called before Pharaoh of Egypt to give an interpretation he said: "It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (Gen. 40:8; 41:16) Centuries thereafter the apostle Peter related how God caused the fulfillment of prophecy to take place respecting Christ Jesus and how thereby God gave the interpretation of the prophecy. Then the apostle Peter added: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the holy [spirit]."—2 Pet. 1:19-21. (See also Acts 15:5-18.)

³² Jehovah God is therefore the only Supreme Court of interpretation of His inspired Word. Regarding God's exclusive place Christ Jesus his Son said in the prophecy concerning the end of the world and the time of the final war of Armageddon: "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, NEITHER THE SON, but the Father." (Mark 13:31,32) The heavenly Father chose to call into his service his beloved Son as his divinely inspired Interpreter of the whole Word of God. He foretold his Son acting in such capacity. In the prophetic drama of Job God used Job to portray how the faithful remnant today of the Christian church would suffer great affliction, reproach and persecution at the hands of the Devil and his religious dupes on earth. In the drama God then raised up the young man Elihu. God inspired Elihu to utter a prophecy concerning the end of the world, the time when Jehovah's witnesses would be hated of all nations and would be in great affliction and in need of enlightenment on the Bible. "Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life

to the destroyers. If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness: then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom." (Job 33:22-24) That messenger and interpreter and ransom is Christ Jesus, Jehovah's Judge at the temple.

MANNER OF INTERPRETATION

³³ The Scriptures prophesied that Jehovah's Messenger, Interpreter and Judge would come to the spiritual temple of God. Many facts in fulfillment of prophecy prove that he came thither in A.D. 1918, spring. (See Malachi 3:1-4; Revelation 11:18,19.) Malachi's prophecy shows that Christ Jesus would sit as a refiner of silver, that is, of the Word of God. Not that the written Word of God is impure, but that those seeking to understand God's Word had unwittingly commingled so many impurities of religion with their beliefs. Therefore those fully consecrated to God and dedicated to his service needed purification from all soils and taints of religion. Such defiling had attached to them from the great religious confusion that set in shortly after the death of the apostles and their faithful associates. (Acts 20:28-31; 2 Thess. 2:2-12) At Christ's coming to the temple in 1918 he gathered before him for judgment all professing Christians, because "judgment must begin at the house of God". (1 Pet. 4:17) He foretold that he would judge them by his word, which is the Word of God. This Christ Jesus does by acting as Interpreter of God's Word and making clear the meaning and message of the Bible, to magnify Jehovah's name and purpose and His Theocratic Government or Kingdom.—Isa. 42:19-21.

³⁴ The time of Christ's coming into his kingdom and then coming to the temple is a time for the grand fulfillment of the prophecies telling of the establishment of The Theocracy and the end of Satan's world organization. It is accordingly the time of revealing and publishing the truth, and hence the time of interpreting the prophecies. (Dan. 12:1-4) In ancient days Jehovah God used some visible channel for making known his truth and interpretations to his consecrated people. Jehovah God does not change his rule of action, and he uses a like channel at this end of the world. What is that channel or visible agency? Christ Jesus described it when giving his prophecy on the visible evidences that would mark the end of Satan's uninterrupted rule and the setting up of the Theocratic Government. Our inspired Master and Interpreter said: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler

31 What Scriptural facts show that the claim of any individual or religious organization to be the Bible interpreter is false?

32 (a) What did Jesus say as to Jehovah's exclusive place respecting interpretation? (b) Whom did Jehovah take into the interpreter service, and how did God foretell such in the prophetic drama of Job?

33. When did Jehovah's Messenger and Interpreter come to the temple, and how has he sat and acted as a refiner of silver?

34. (a) The time of Christ's coming to the temple is the time for what treatment of the truth, and what does God use for that purpose? (b) Under what prophetic expression did Jesus describe that visible agency?

over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods." (Matt. 24:45-47; see also Luke 12:42-44) Whom do the facts of our day prove to be that "faithful and wise servant"?

³⁵ Aside from Christ Jesus, divine prophecy foretells no individual man. In times past prophetic figures such as Elijah, Elisha, and others, were used to foreshadow a company or society of faithful, devoted servants of God, who should be Jehovah's witnesses at the end of the world, where we are at present. Likewise, the expression "faithful and wise servant" does not picture any man or individual on earth now, but means the faithful remnant of Jehovah's witnesses who are begotten of His spirit and gathered into a unity unto Him and His service. They are part of his Theocratic organization and are subject to Theocratic rule, which means, the divine will as to organization and work. They act as a unit or society, together doing Jehovah's "strange work" as he reveals it to them. (Isa. 54:13; Ps. 25:14) Such "society" is not a legal society or corporation, chartered according to the laws of some state or nation, but is a society or association formed by the Creator, Jehovah God, and composed of his spiritual remnant approved by Christ Jesus at the temple judgment. Such society, however, may use as their earthly instrumentality or servant a legal corporation, such as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society; and they do so, since A.D. 1884. Christ Jesus is the Chief Servant of Jehovah God, and he is the invisible or heavenly Head of the "faithful and wise servant" class.—Isa. 42:1; Matt. 12:15-21.

³⁶ To such remnant of faithful servants of Jehovah God Christ Jesus has entrusted all "his goods", or earthly interests of the Kingdom. This does not signify that the faithful remnant or society of Jehovah's anointed witnesses are an earthly tribunal of interpretation, delegated to interpret the Scriptures and its prophecies. No; Christ Jesus the King has not entrusted that office to them. THE SUPREME COURT STILL INTERPRETS, thank God; and Christ Jesus, the Court's official mouthpiece of interpretation, reserves to himself that office as Head of Jehovah's "faithful and wise servant" class. He merely uses the "servant" class to publish the interpretation after the Supreme Court by Christ Jesus reveals it. How does the Lord God make known the interpretation? By causing the facts to come to pass visibly which are in fulfillment of the prophecy or dark saying or misunderstood scripture. Thereafter "in due season" he calls such

fulfillment or clarification of prophecy and scripture to the attention of his "faithful and wise servant" class. Thereby he makes them responsible to make known the meaning of such scriptures to all members of the household of faith and to all persons of goodwill. This constitutes giving them the "meat in due season".

³⁷ In bygone days those now composing the "faithful and wise servant" class or remnant of Jehovah's witnesses have believed many things which were not strictly correct according to the Scriptures. They continued to hold on to such beliefs even for some time after A.D. 1918, when Christ Jesus arrived at the temple. Today they see and understand differently, with Scripture backing. Does this mean that God is the Author of confusion or that they are not of His Theocratic organization? No; Jehovah God is not the author of confusion, but is the remover of confusion from his devoted people who both pray and seek to know his truth. Although the understanding of his "servant" class has cleared up and has been corrected, yet the text of God's infallible Word has not changed and its information has been there all the time from days of old.

³⁸ After Jehovah's royal Associate Judge came to the temple for judgment and the purification of his people, Jehovah God used his Messenger and Interpreter to cleanse away, little by little and point by point, any misunderstanding, which misunderstanding was due to their having been in contact with religion in the past or due to not having the fulfilled facts at hand because it was not yet God's due time. Thus Jehovah by Christ Jesus continues to this day to lead them in the path of truth, and they follow the revealed decisions of the Supreme Court of Interpretation and walk on in the light. Such increase of light is in fulfillment of God's promise: "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Prov. 4:18) The light continues to grow brighter, and the perfect day is at hand, as we walk on where our Guide and Interpreter leads us.—Ps. 25:9.

³⁹ Thus the great Supreme Interpreter magnifies now his infallible Word. Shortly, at the battle of Armageddon, Jehovah by his Associate Judge and Executioner will vindicate that Word. He will also magnify his holy name and destroy all opposing kings of this world. For that reason his faithful remnant, who are in line to be "kings and priests" with Christ Jesus, bow toward Jehovah God, who is representatively in his holy temple by Christ Jesus. Their beloved earthly companions bow with them.

35 (a) Whom does that "faithful and wise servant" picture? (b) Is a legal corporation meant, or what part does a legal corporation play therein?
36 (a) The Lord's entrusting "all his goods" to the "servant" class has what connection with interpretation of the Scriptures? (b) How does the Lord God make known the interpretation, and what responsibility thereafter falls upon the "servant" class?

37. Why does difference of understanding today from that held previously not prove God the author of confusion or prove that the remnant of Jehovah's witnesses are not of His organization?

38 How, then, do we explain Scripturally the change of understanding since the Lord's coming to the temple?

39. What is the Supreme Interpreter thereby doing respecting his Word? and for that cause what do the remnant and their faithful companions do respecting Jehovah God?