

there shall immediately follow the greatest trouble that has ever been or ever will be again upon the world. That great trouble is Armageddon, which will completely wreck Satan and Satan's entire organization.—Matt. 24: 21, 22.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

¹¹ The kingdom that henceforth shall rule the world is Jehovah God's kingdom, because God is the Author thereof; and it will vindicate his name and prove Jehovah to be the only true and Almighty God. It is also called "the kingdom of heaven", because the seat of government is in heaven. It is also called "the kingdom of Christ", because Christ Jesus is the great and mighty Ruler or King who demonstrates the judgment and decrees of Jehovah God and carries out his purposes.

¹² The great question at issue since the days of Eden has been and is, Who is the Supreme One and whose will shall be done amongst men? Satan the wicked one voluntarily assumed that high position in defiance of Jehovah God. He challenged Jehovah God, declaring that God could not put men on earth who would be faithful and true to him under great stress. That the name of Jehovah God might be for ever vindicated Jehovah first gave Satan the full opportunity to prove his contention, and then he declares that his purpose is to destroy Satan and his organization and thus convince all creation that Jehovah is the Almighty, the Supreme One. During the period of the Christian era Satan has obtained control of the organization called "organized Christianity", and the teachers and the leaders therein Satan has induced to deny the Bible testimony concerning the creation of man as perfect, the fall of man by reason of sin, the redemption of man by the blood of Christ Jesus, and the kingdom of God as the one and only hope for the uplift and blessing of the nations and peoples of the world. Jehovah declares his purpose to bring the whole matter to a final and conclusive issue. He therefore says by his prophet: "Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled; who among them can declare this and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear, and say, It is truth." (Isa. 43: 9) Satan and his representatives in the nations are now challenged to bring forth their witnesses and prove their contention, or else admit that Satan is the great liar and that God's Word alone is true.

¹³ Who will speak in the name of Jehovah God and faithfully bear testimony in his name? That Jehovah will have witnesses who do speak in his name there cannot be the least doubt, because he says: "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am

the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God." This scripture is fully supported by the prophecy uttered by Jesus concerning the testimony that must be given as a witness to the nations, and which must be given by his faithful followers who were made a part of the temple class; and therefore Jesus identifies these his faithful followers and the one whom he calls his "faithful and wise servant" as the ones who shall bear this testimony to the name of Jehovah God. As Jesus declares that the completion of this testimony shall be followed by the great time of trouble known as Armageddon, even so the same prophet of Jehovah says: "Thus saith [Jehovah], your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel [God's chosen people]; For your sake I have sent to Babylon [Satan's organization], and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans [Satan's representatives], whose cry is in the ships. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel [God's chosen people], your King. Thus saith the Lord, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters; which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; They [those composing Satan's organization] shall lie down together, they shall not rise; they are extinct, they are quenched as tow." (Isa. 43: 14-17) Thus the Lord shows that he will completely clean out the Devil's crowd when the testimony by Jehovah's witnesses has been completed.

¹⁴ Christ Jesus is the great Servant of Jehovah God, and the faithful followers of Christ upon the earth at his coming and his kingdom constitute what the Scriptures call 'the feet of him that brings good tidings and publishes peace'. (Isa. 52: 7) These faithful ones are upon the mount of God, Mount Zion, because they have been gathered into God's organization and made a part thereof, and these are following the leadership of Christ Jesus the King. (Rev. 14: 1, 2) Jehovah God has constituted Christ Jesus and his body members as his instrument for the opening of the blind eyes of the people, that the prisoners in Satan's organization may be released, and that others of good will may get their eyes open. (Isa. 42: 6, 7) "Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people."—Isa. 55: 4.

¹⁵ Acting by and through his beloved Son and Chief Executive Officer, Jehovah God has risen up to make an end of lawlessness; but before dashing to pieces the wicked one and his organization he sends forth his witnesses to give warning to Satan's representatives in Christendom. (Ezek. 3: 5-11) For the comfort and encouragement of those who now have boldness to serve God and to speak forth his name in this day of judgment Jehovah says: "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as brightness,

and her salvation as a lamp that burneth. And the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name."—Isa. 62: 1, 2, *R. V.*

¹⁶ Heretofore God's faithful people have been known by divers names, but the time has come when the mouth of Jehovah gives to his people a new name, that there can be no misunderstanding as to whom they represent. To his faithful witnesses who keep his commandments and bear the testimony of Jesus Christ, Jehovah says: "Ye are my witnesses . . . that I am God." Therefore the name bestowed upon his faithful ones is "Jehovah's witnesses". Often Jehovah has used his devoted people to fulfil certain portions of his prophecies, and then later revealed to them that they have been so used. It was in 1918 that the Lord Jesus began judgment at the temple of God. From that time forward the approved ones were brought into the temple and made the witnesses of Jehovah. It was at that time that the new name was given by Jehovah to his anointed ones, and all those who have been brought into the temple and under the robe of righteousness have received that name, "Jehovah's witnesses." It was not until 1931, however, that Jehovah God made known to his people that he had thus named them.

RESPONSIBILITY

¹⁷ Those who have willingly and joyfully received this new name given by Jehovah have taken upon themselves a solemn responsibility. When the Israelites stood before Mount Sinai, and Jehovah spoke his covenant to them by the mouth of Moses, the people there with one accord said: "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." (Ex. 19: 8) The people there took upon themselves a great responsibility. They had an opportunity to be faithful to their covenant. So likewise when God's people stood in his presence and said, "We give our vote knowingly and gladly to receive the new name which the mouth of Jehovah God has given us," thereby all such assumed a grave responsibility before God and each and every one has now the opportunity to prove faithfulness to that name. So likewise every company of anointed ones of God who subsequently adopt or have adopted a like resolution have assumed a like responsibility. This responsibility means that all such, in order to be faithful to God, must faithfully bear testimony to the nations according to God's commandment. That responsibility cannot be fulfilled by merely developing what is called "character", and by living a quiet, pure and pious life. It calls for much more than that. It demands of all such who take the name that they use their best endeavors to carry the testimony of warning and of comfort to the people according to the commandment of God.

¹⁸ Faithfulness by Jehovah's witnesses in giving the testimony as commanded causes the enemy Satan to concentrate his fire upon God's witnesses. These are the only ones on earth who really expose Satan and his

wicked organization, and who enlighten the people concerning the righteousness of God and his Kingdom, and for this reason Satan goes forth to make war against them. (Rev. 12: 17) The most subtle instrument he uses in this warfare is the "man of sin" and the clergy of "organized Christianity", so called. Those clergymen who are apparently pious and pose as representatives of Jehovah God fraudulently induce the officers of the law to believe that they are God's representatives on earth. They tell the officers of the law that the men and women who are going from place to place with the message of God's kingdom are enemies of the government acting under the cloak of religion, that they are seditionists and should be apprehended and punished. By this false and fraudulent means they induce the officers of the law to cause the arrest, trial and imprisonment of the faithful witnesses of Jehovah God.

¹⁹ This is exactly true to the prophecy uttered by Jesus and other of the prophets, and should therefore be of real encouragement to Jehovah's witnesses. God has commanded them to go through the gates or entrances into the kingdom, and to remove the stumbling stones and lift up God's standard for the people. (Isa. 62: 10) To that extent they are made leaders of the people. They are thus entering into the kingdom through much tribulation, even as it was prophetically written long ago.—Acts 14: 22.

THE SOCIETY

²⁰ Does the adoption of the new name mean that we have abandoned the name and title "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society"? What is our true relationship to "the Society"? As our Lord and Master Christ Jesus when on earth was in the world, but no part of it, and as he commanded those of his followers to obey the laws of man which did not conflict with the laws of God, even so it is with the members of the body of Christ on earth that go to make up "Jehovah's witnesses" now. (Matt. 22: 21) There are two ways by which a company of people may collectively hold title to property, to wit: (a) By one or more persons holding title in trust for the entire company, and (b) by a company forming a body corporate or corporation. The latter is the more convenient, because a body corporate is considered as having a perpetual existence, and there is no necessity for the changing of trustees. Some who claim to serve the Lord have foolishly said that the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society is a man-made organization operated by and under the authority of the Devil's organization. Such claim is entirely unreasonable and even worse than foolish. Men have not organized governments in order to serve the Devil. They have not even known that the Devil has any power over governments. The purpose of the early settlers of America was to establish a government where they might dwell in peace and worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. The state and national governments were organized