

The Watch Tower Society's Creation of 1914 CE

1914 CE is
critical for
the Watch
Tower
Society

The Watch
Tower Society
dates its
"2,520 Years"

The Watch
Tower Society
creates its
"2,520 Years"

The Watch
Tower Society
starts its
"2,520 Years"
and the
"70 Years"

The true
characteristics
of the
"70 Years"

The Watch
Tower Society
dates the "70
Years"

1914 CE is critical for the Watch Tower Society

The sole self-proclaimed purpose of the Watch Tower Organization is to announce that Jehovah's Kingdom was set up in the heavens in 1914 CE



Jesus began ruling in 1914. ... Jehovah crowned his Son, Jesus Christ, as the Messianic King in 1914. (*The Watchtower*, Simplified edition, January 15, 2014, page 12)



1914 CE is critical for the Watch Tower Society

Its even more vital date of 1919 CE depends on the Kingdom having been set up in 1914 CE.

From 1914 to the early part of 1919, Jesus accompanied his Father to the spiritual temple to do a much needed inspection and cleansing work. Then, starting in 1919, it was time to begin gathering the wheat. (*The Watchtower*, July 15, 2013, page 19)

In 1919, Jesus selected capable anointed brothers to be his faithful and discreet slave. (*The Watchtower*, July 15, 2013, page 22) The appointment of the faithful slave in 1919. (*The Watchtower*, August 15, 2014, page 3)



1914 CE is critical for the Watch Tower Society

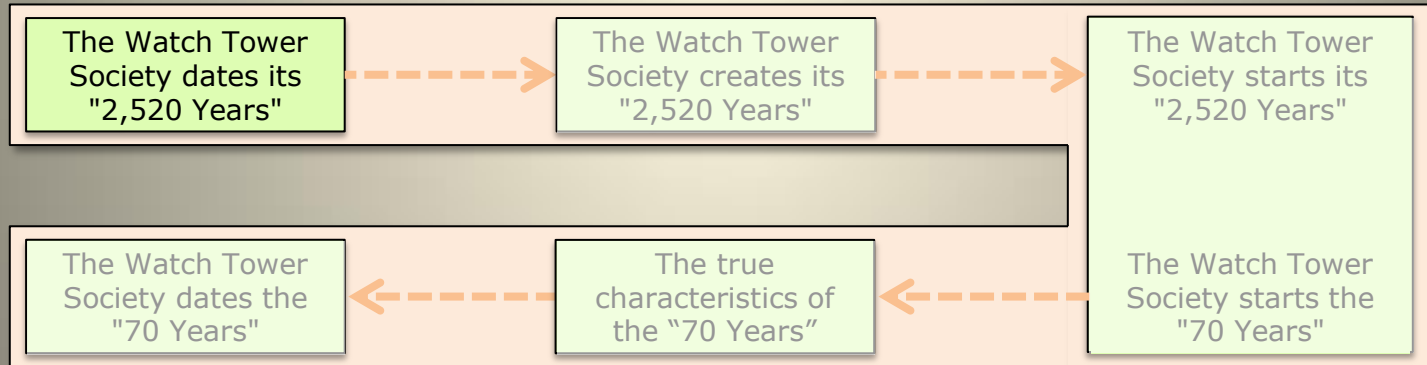
The Society's organization and its claimed authority depend on its idea that God's Kingdom was set up in 1914 CE, and that the Kingdom operates only through the Society.



The Watchtower (simplified edition) April 15 2013, page 24



The Watch Tower Society dates its "2,520 Years"

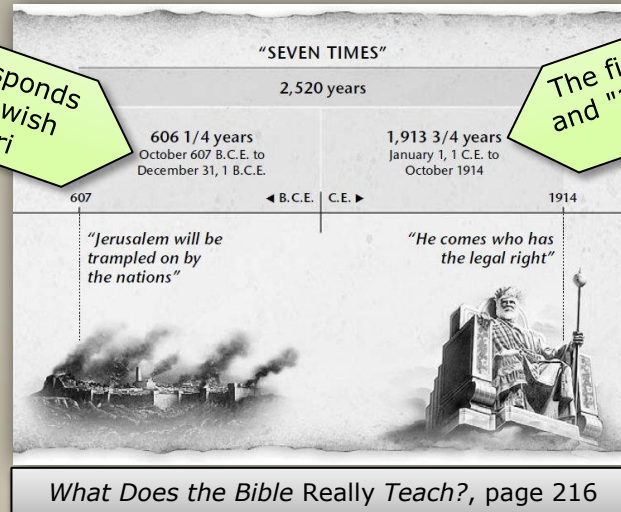


The Watch Tower Society dates its "2,520 Years"

The Watch Tower's terminal dates in 607 BCE and 1914 CE are welded to the Jews' 7th month of Tishri (October)

October corresponds with the 7th Jewish month, Tishri

The figures "1/4 year" and "3/4 year" pinpoint October

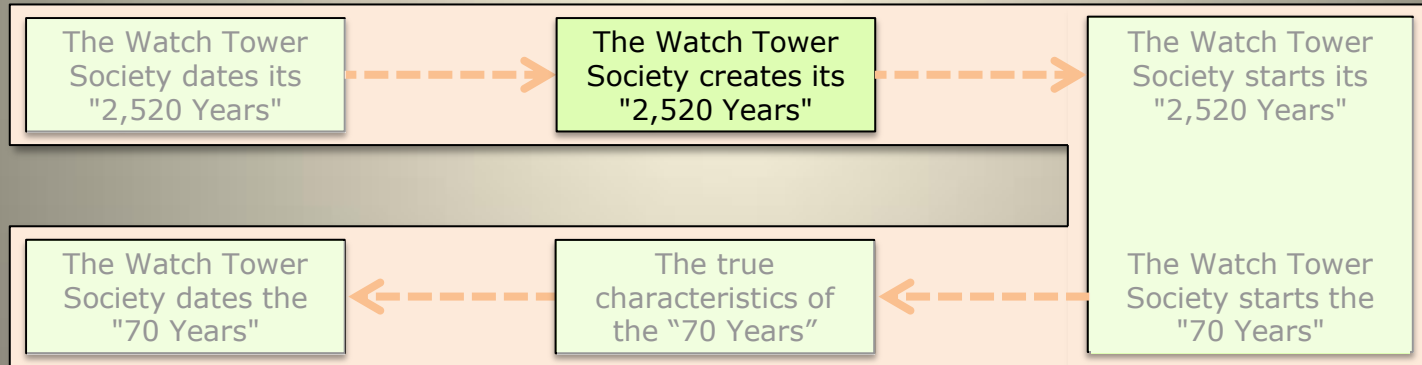


The precision of "1/4 years" and "3/4 year" pinpoint each terminal date to our October. This corresponds to the Jews' 7th month.

This detail is important because Jerusalem was destroyed in the 5th month (July/August). – 2 Kings 25:8-12



The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 years"



The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 Years"

The Society creates its "2,520 Years" from Nebuchadnezzar's dream

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S TREE DREAM
HOW IT RELATES TO GOD'S KINGDOM

THE PROPHECY

An enormous tree (Daniel 4:10, 11)	"Chop down the tree" (Daniel 4:14)	"Let seven times pass" (Daniel 4:16)	"Your kingdom will be yours again" (Daniel 4:26)
Rulership	Rulership interrupted	Interval	Rulership restored

INITIAL FULFILLMENT

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon	Sometime after 606 B.C.E., Nebuchadnezzar loses his sanity and is unable to rule	7 literal years	Nebuchadnezzar regains his sanity and begins ruling again
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LARGER FULFILLMENT

Israelite kings who represent God's rulership	Jerusalem is destroyed, interrupting that line of Israelite kings	2,520 years	Jesus begins ruling in heaven as King of God's Kingdom
October 607 B.C.E.	606 1/4 years	B.C.E. C.E. 1,913 3/4 years	October 1914 C.E.
"Jerusalem will be trampled on... until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24)			

The Watchtower, November 1, 2014, page 11



The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 Years"

"The tree that you saw that grew great and became strong ... it is **you, O king**". ...
The word was fulfilled on Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 4:20, 22, 33. NWT, 2013)



The book of Daniel is prophetic and it sees no fulfilment other than upon Nebuchadnezzar.

The book of Daniel is focused, even obsessed, on the restoration of God's sanctuary and to God's people, yet it does not apply Nebuchadnezzar's experience to them.

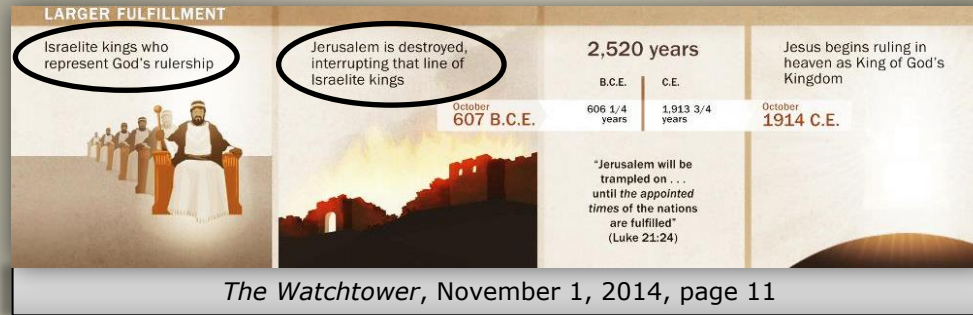
The book of Daniel is concerned with kingdoms that lay in the future, yet it applies the dream only to Nebuchadnezzar's personal downfall.

The book of Daniel is concerned with the "last days" yet it does not apply the dream to that time.



The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 Years"

Despite Daniel's explicit instruction that the dream was fulfilled and that it was fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar, **the Society creates its own fulfilment.**



The Society says that "Israelite kings ... represent God's rulership" but in this case the Society uses a *gentile* king to represent God's rulership.

The Society uses the gentile destroyer of God's people, the gentile destroyer of Jehovah's city where his name lived, the gentile destroyer of Jehovah's temple, as the symbol of God's kingdom.



The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 Years"

"Seven times will pass over you." (Daniel 4:23, 25, 32. NWT, 2013)



The Society converts "seven times" into "7 literal years" and then into "2,520 Years". These assumptions are at the foundation of the Society's existence.

To create its "2520 days", the Society needs each of Nebuchadnezzar's "7 literal years" to be 360 days long. No "literal year" of neo-Babylonia was ever 360 days long.

The Society seeks support by leaping to the future book of Revelation where it speaks of 1,260 "times". However, the Society does not convert Revelation's "1,260 times" into 1,260 years.



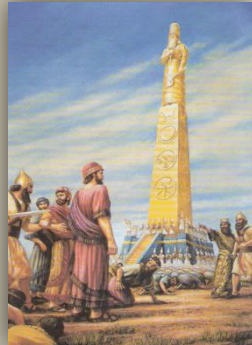
The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 Years"

The true purpose of Daniel chapter 4 is to show Nebuchadnezzar that he rules only because of the permission granted to him by Daniel's supreme God.



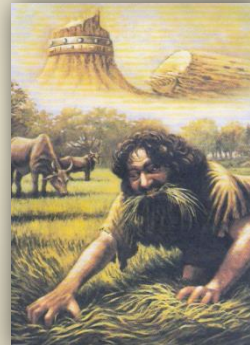
Nebuchadnezzar is told that Babylon is the **head** of gold

Daniel chapter 2



Nebuchadnezzar said golden Babylon is the **whole** idol

Daniel chapter 3



Nebuchadnezzar is brought low to a beastly state

Daniel chapter 4



Nebuchadnezzar praised and glorified Daniel's God



The Watch Tower Society creates its "2,520 Years"

Charles Taze Russell, cofounder and second President of the Watch Tower Society, also applied Daniel 4 and "2,520 Years" to the date 1914 CE.

However, he taught that Nebuchadnezzar symbolised the "mad state of the gentiles" which madness would end in 1914 with the end of their domination and the outbreak of unprecedented peace, when the nations will learn to be still.

Russell applied Leviticus 26 to the restoration of the Jews in 1914 to their rightful state as God's chosen people.

For details: http://jwstudies.com/How_Many_Mistakes_in_one_Paragraph.pdf

When Russell's predictions concerning 1914 failed, the Society altered his books and kept selling them. For example, the Society replaced Russell's "before" with "after". **See one example on the following screen.**

For more, see: http://jwstudies.com/Changed_MD_and_SS_words.pdf



1914; and that that date will be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect men. And be it observed, that if this is shown to be a fact firmly established by the Scriptures, it will prove:—

Firstly, That at that date the Kingdom of God, for which our Lord taught us to pray, saying, “Thy Kingdom come,” will have obtained full, universal control, and that it will then be “set up,” or firmly established, in the earth.

Secondly, It will prove that he whose right it is thus to take the dominion will then be present as earth’s new Ruler; and not only so, but it will also prove that he will be present for a considerable period before that date; because the overthrow of these Gentile governments is directly caused by his dashing them to pieces as a potter’s vessel (Psa. 2 : 9; Rev. 2 : 27), and establishing in their stead his own righteous government.

Thirdly, It will prove that some time before the end of A. D. 1914 the last member of the divinely recognized Church of Christ, the “royal priesthood,” “the body of Christ,” will be glorified with the Head; because every member is to reign with Christ, being a joint-heir with him of the Kingdom, and it cannot be fully “set up” without every member.

Fourthly, It will prove that from that time forward Jerusalem shall no longer be trodden down of the Gentiles, but shall arise from the dust of divine disfavor, to honor; because the “Times of the Gentiles” will be fulfilled or completed.

Fifthly, It will prove that by that date, or sooner, Israel’s blindness will begin to be turned away; because their “blindness in part” was to continue only “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom. 11 : 25), or, in other words, until the full number from among the Gentiles, who are to be members of the body or bride of Christ, would be fully selected.

Sixthly, It will prove that the great “time of trouble such

1914; and that that date will see the disintegration of the rule of imperfect men. And be it observed, that if this is shown to be a fact firmly established by the Scriptures, it will prove:—

Firstly, That at that date the Kingdom of God, for which our Lord taught us to pray, saying, “Thy Kingdom come,” will begin to assume control, and that it will then shortly be “set up,” or firmly established, in the earth, on the ruins of present institutions.

Secondly, It will prove that he whose right it is thus to take the dominion will then be present as earth’s new Ruler; and not only so, but it will also prove that he will be present for a considerable period before that date; because the overthrow of these Gentile governments is directly caused by his dashing them to pieces as a potter’s vessel (Psa. 2 : 9; Rev. 2 : 27), and establishing in their stead his own righteous government.

Thirdly, It will prove that some time before the end of the overthrow the last member of the divinely recognized Church of Christ, the “royal priesthood,” “the body of Christ,” will be glorified with the Head; because every member is to reign with Christ, being a joint-heir with him of the Kingdom, and it cannot be fully “set up” without every member.

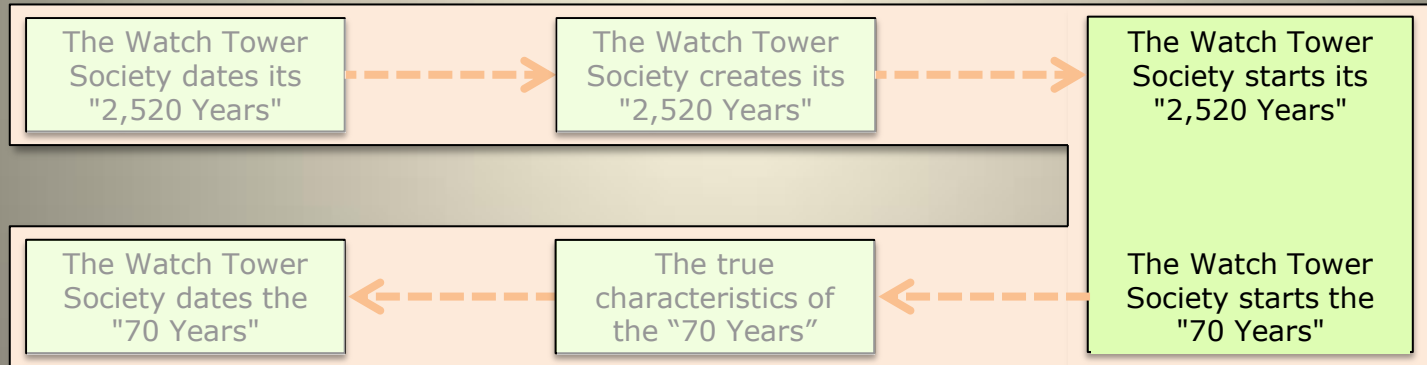
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The Watch Tower Society starts its "2,520 Years" and the "70 Years"



The Watch Tower Society starts its "2,520 Years" and the "70 Years"

The Watch Tower Society starts its "2,520 Years" with **October**, the Jews' 7th month of Tishri. It links that start to the destruction of Jerusalem and to the cessation of the Jews' monarchy.



The Society starts its "2,520 Years" when Jerusalem was conquered and the throne became vacant.

How and when, though, did God's rulership begin to be "trampled on by the nations"? This happened in 607 B.C.E. when Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians. "Jehovah's throne" became vacant, and the line of kings who descended from David was interrupted. (2 Kings 25:1-26)

What Does the Bible Really Teach?, page 216



The Watch Tower Society starts its "2,520 Years" and the "70 Years"

HOWEVER

Jerusalem fell in the **5th** month, our **July/August**

AV	
Month Number:	5
Season:	Summer
Gregorian Equivalent:	July-Aug.

TISHREI	
Month Number:	7
Season:	Autumn
Gregorian Equivalent:	Sept.-Oct.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Read-and-Understand-the-Hebrew-Calendar>

8 In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, that is, in the 19th year of King Neb-u-chad-nez'zar the king of Babylon, Neb-u'zar-ad'an^e the chief of the guard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.^f 9 He burned down the house of Jehovah,^g the king's house,^h and all the houses of Jerusalem;ⁱ he also burned down the house of every prominent man.^j 10 And the walls surrounding Jerusalem were pulled down by the entire Chal-de'-an army that was with the chief of the guard.^k 11 Neb-u'zar-ad'-an the chief of the guard took into exile the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had gone over to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the population.^l 12 But the chief of the guard left some of the poorest people of the land to serve as vinedressers and as compulsory laborers.^m

2 Kings 25:8-12 (NWT, 2013)



The Watch Tower Society starts its "2,520 Years" and the "70 Years"

The Watch Tower Society actually begins the periods **two months** after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians.

It needs to do this because it links the end of the "70 Years" to the 7th month.

And it says that the "70 Years" could not start until the people left Judah and the land was thus desolated.

Month Number:	5
Season:	Summer
Gregorian Equivalent:	July-Aug.
Month Number:	7
Season:	Autumn
Gregorian Equivalent:	Sept.-Oct.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Read-and-Understand-the-Hebrew-Calendar>

A Jewish revolt brought the Babylonians back to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 24:20; 25:8-10)

They razed the city, including its sacred temple, and they took many of its inhabitants captive to Babylon. Within two months, "all the people [who had been left behind in the land] from the least to the greatest, together with the army officers, fled to Egypt for fear of the Babylonians." (2 Kings 25:25, 26, NIV) Only then, in the seventh Jewish month, Tishri (September/October), of that year could it be said that the land, now desolate and unworked, began to enjoy its Sabbath rest. To the Jewish refugees in Egypt, God said through Jeremiah: "You have seen all the disaster that I brought upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah. Behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them." (Jeremiah 44:1, 2, *English Standard Version*) So this event evidently marked the starting point of the 70 years.

The Watchtower, October 1, pages 27-28

Also "Babylon the Great Has Fallen! God's Kingdom Rules", page 372 (1963)



The Watch Tower Society starts its "2,520 Years" and the "70 Years"

However

As shown with the following screen, it is not possible that the exiles went into Egypt only two months after Jerusalem fell.

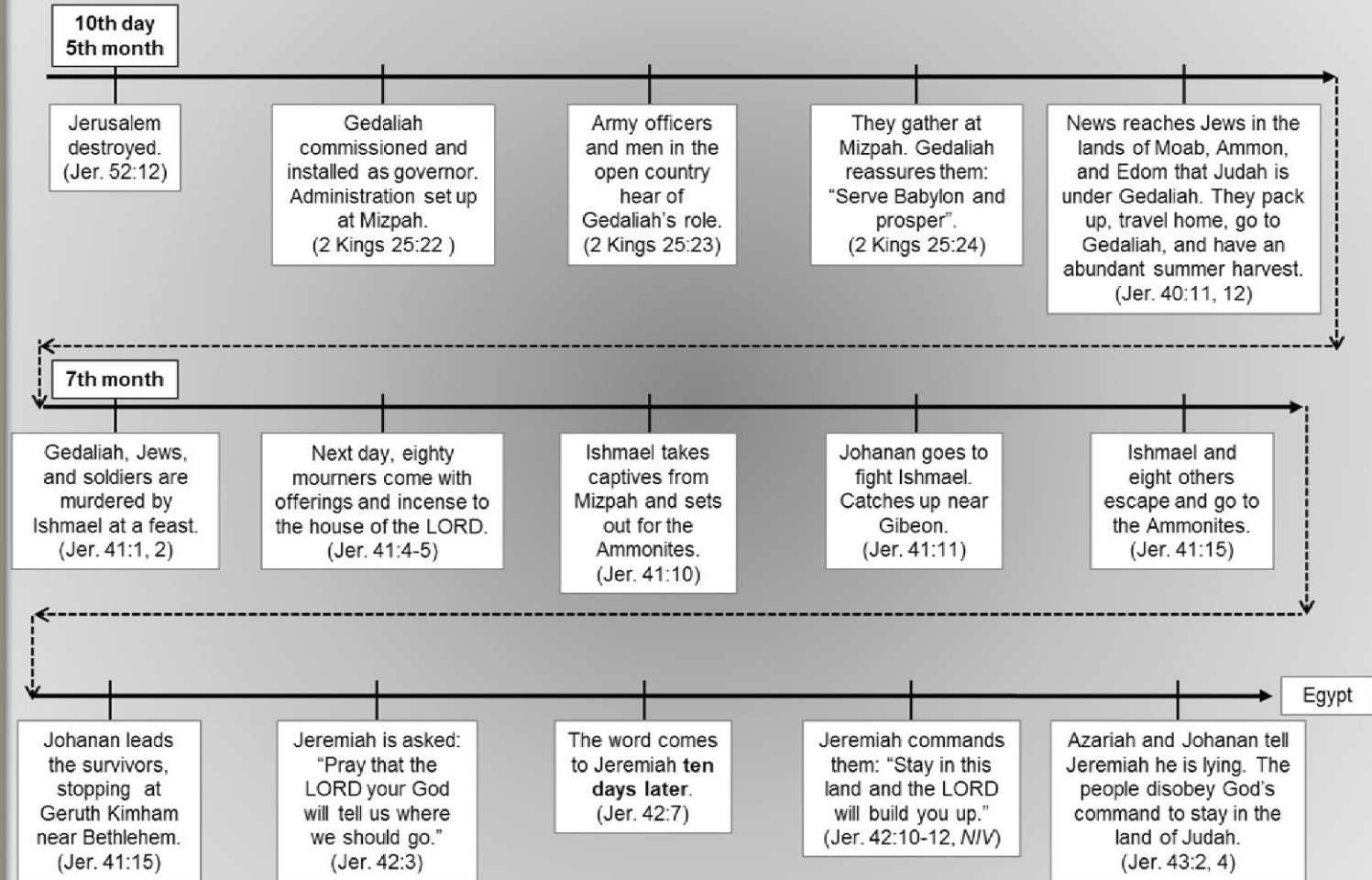
For more details, see: http://www.jwstudies.com/Did_Jews_exit_after_two_months.pdf

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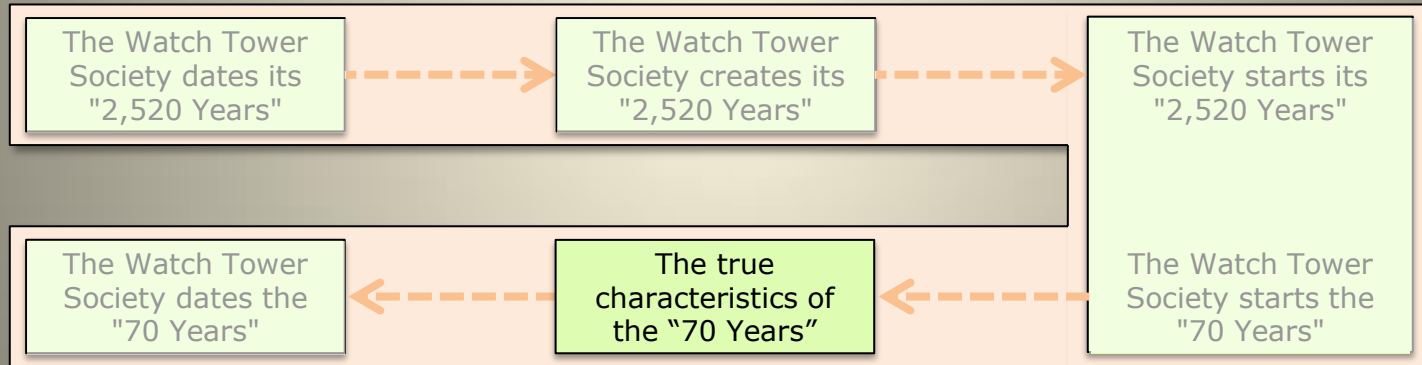
See also pages 20 and 21 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



It is not possible for all these events to take place within two months



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

Judah and its surrounding nations had to serve Babylon for 70 years

"I am sending for all the families of the north," declares Jehovah, "sending for King Nebuchadnezzar of **Babylon**, my servant, and I will bring them against **this land** and against its inhabitants **and against all these surrounding nations**. ...

And **these nations** will have to **serve** the king of **Babylon for 70 years**." (Jeremiah 25:9, 11. NWT, 2013)

There was no need for any nation to be depopulated. They only needed to serve Babylon.

See pages 11, 66 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

The degree of servitude lay in the nations' hands

The false prophet Hananiah said the yoke would be broken within 2 years and the exiles will return. (Jer. 28:2-4)

Jeremiah then replaced the wooden yoke with an iron yoke, saying that rebellion to the servitude would only see it made stronger. (Jer. 28:13-14)

Jeremiah then told the exiles in Babylon to stop listening to the false prophets, who were promising an imminent release. (Jer. 29:8-9)

Contradicting the false prophets, Jeremiah then instructed the exiles in Babylon that the decreed 70 years *would* be fulfilled. When it ended, God would turn his attention to the exiles. (Jer. 29:10-12)

See pages 70-72 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

A nation could serve Babylon while remaining in its own land

"The nation that brings its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serves him, I will allow to remain on its land," declares Jehovah, "to cultivate it and dwell in". (Jeremiah 27:11. NWT, 2013)

See pages 73 -74 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

There was no need for Jerusalem to be destroyed

To King Zedekiah of Judah [Jeremiah] spoke in the same way, saying: **"Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him** and his people, and you will keep living.

Why should you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as Jehovah has said about the nation that will not **serve the king of Babylon?**

Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, 'You will not **serve the king of Babylon,**' because they are **prophesying lies** to you. (Jeremiah 27:11-14. NWT, 2013)

See page 74 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

The remnant were commanded to remain in Judah

Even **after the destruction of Jerusalem** and the **assassination of Gedaliah**, Jehovah commanded the people to **remain on the land**.

"If you will indeed **remain in this land**, then I will **build you up** and not tear you down." ... "For this is what Jehovah of armies, the God of Israel, says: 'Just as my anger and my wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so **my wrath will be poured out on you if you go to Egypt**'" ... "Jehovah has spoken against you, O remnant of Judah. **Do not go to Egypt.**" (Jeremiah 42: 10, 18, 19. NWT, 2013)

See pages 83-84 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

The "70 Years" will end when Babylon is defeated

"When 70 years have been fulfilled, I will **call to account the king of Babylon** and that nation for their error," declares Jehovah. (Jeremiah 25:12. NWT, 2013)

All the nations will serve [Nebuchadnezzar] and his son and his grandson **until the time for his own land comes**, when many nations and great kings will make him their slave. (Jeremiah 27:7. NWT, 2013)



The true characteristics of the "70 Years"

The "70 Years" ended as soon as Babylon had been defeated

[Nebuchadnezzar] carried off captive to Babylon those who escaped the sword, and they became **servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia began to reign.** (2 Chronicles 36:20-21. NWT, 2013)

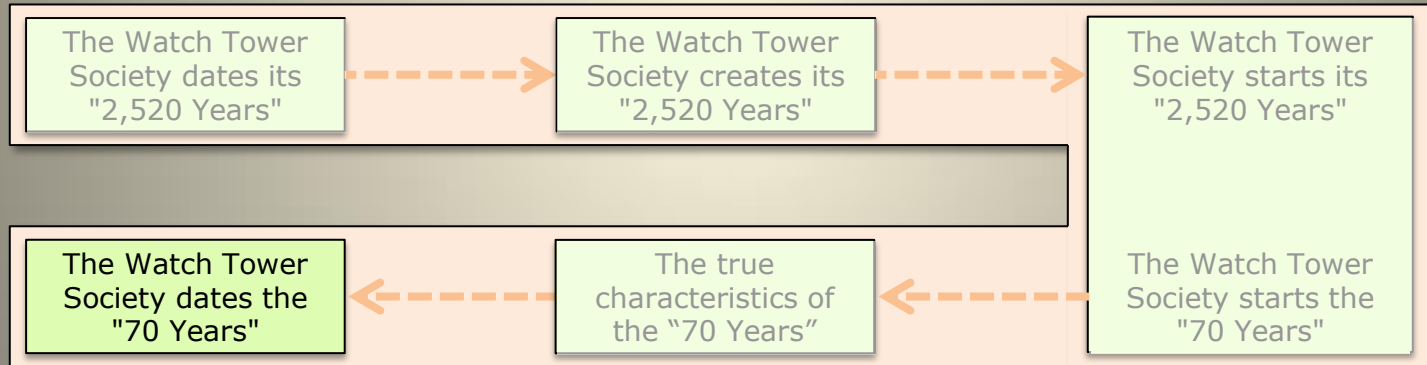
The Exiles were permitted to return, as Jeremiah had promised, because Babylon's rule had ended and therefore the "70 Years" had ended.

Although the Society demands that the land be depopulated for the duration of the 70 years, it does not end the period until well after the Returnees had settled into their homes and had then walked to the temple site at Jerusalem.

See page 131 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf

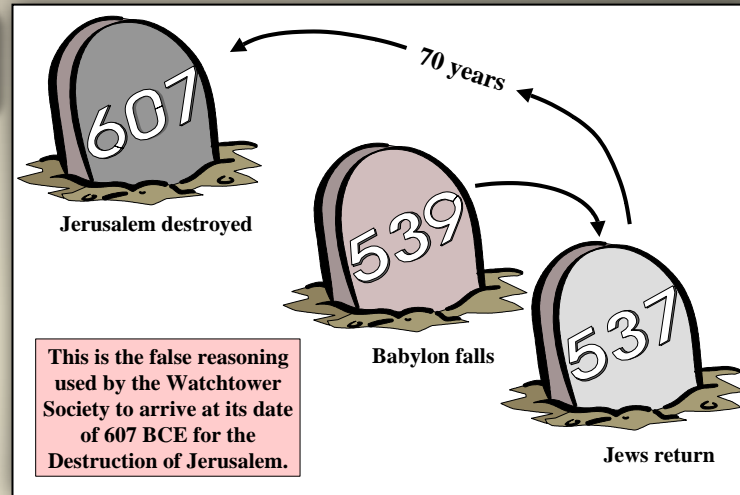


The Watch Tower Society dates the "70 Years"



The Watch Tower Society dates the "70 Years"

The date of 537 BCE is pivotal to the Society's calculations



1. The Society's starting date of 539 BCE is taken from secular scholars.
2. The date of 539 BCE is calculated from dates and the chronology that the Society rejects.
3. No one, not even the Society, can prove which year the Jews returned to the temple site.



The Watch Tower Society dates the "70 Years"

Using the Society's criteria, it is impossible to arrive at 537 BCE as the year when the first exiles assembled at the site of the destroyed temple in Jerusalem.

For the evidence of the Society's inability, see the details at:

pages 6-10 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/The_Jews_return_home.pdf

pages 143-146 of: http://www.jwstudies.com/They_would_not_listen.pdf



The Watch Tower Society dates the "70 Years"

Even though the date of 537 BCE for the return of the Exiles is critical for the Society, it cannot offer any proof for the date it selected. (Scholars hold to dates ranging from 538 BCE to 535 BCE.)

The following citations from the Society's publications show that it cannot provide any positive evidence.

The decree of Cyrus **must have been made** toward the close of winter and the beginning of spring of 537 BCE. (*The Watchtower*, September 15 1965, page 567)

Likely (the decree) was issued in the early spring of 537 BCE. (*Insight on the Scriptures*, vol. 1, page 800)

This decree was **evidently** issued late in 538 BCE **or** early in 537 BCE. (*All Scripture is Inspired of God and Beneficial* [1990], page 85)

It is **very probable** that the decree was made by the winter of 538 BCE **or** toward the spring of 537 BCE. (*Insight on the Scriptures*, vol. 1, page 458)

If Cyrus' decree came late in his first regnal year. (*Let Your Kingdom Come*, page 189)



The Watch Tower Society dates the "70 Years"

The following is another citation from the Society, further showing that it cannot provide any positive evidence.

The Bible record at Daniel 9:1 refers to "the first year of Darius," and this **may have intervened** between the fall of Babylon and "the first year of Cyrus" over Babylon.

If it did, this would mean that the writer was **perhaps** viewing Cyrus' first year as having begun late in the year 538 BCE.

However, if Darius' rule over Babylon were to be viewed as that of a viceroy, so that his reign ran concurrent with that of Cyrus, Babylonian custom would place Cyrus' first *regnal* year as running from Nisan of 538 to Nisan of 537 BCE. (*Insight on the Scriptures*, Vol 1, page 568)

Cyrus' decree freeing the Jews to return to Jerusalem **likely** was made late in the year 538 or early in 537 BCE. (*Insight on the Scriptures* Vol 1, page 568)

