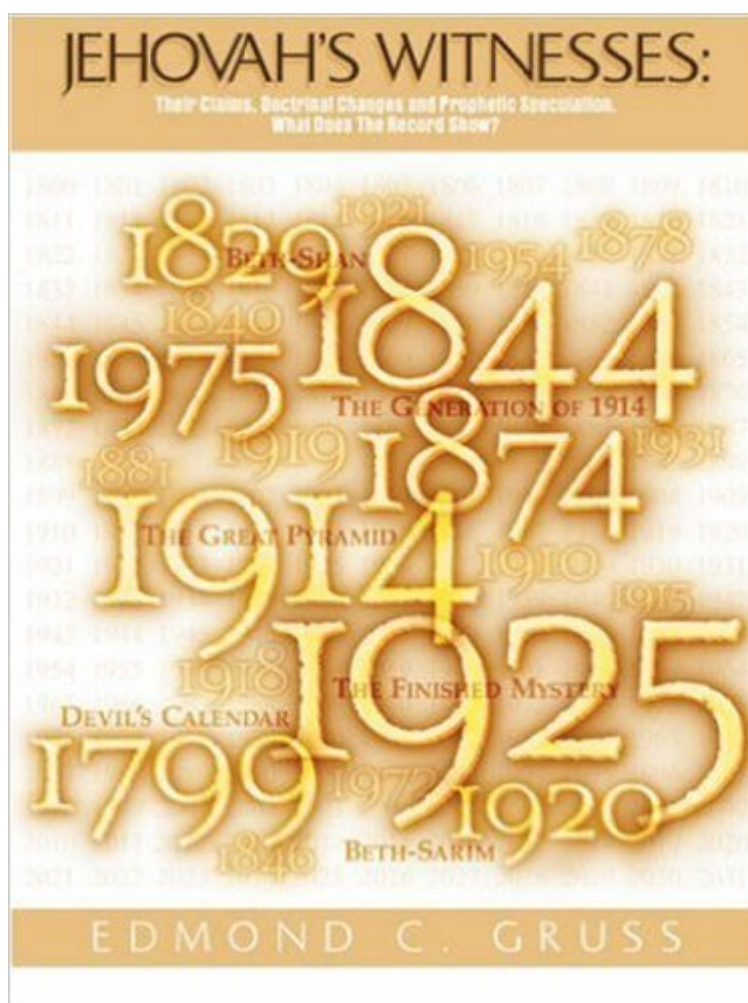


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# Jehovah's Witnesses: Their Claims, Doctrinal Changes, And Prophetic Speculation. What Does The Record Show?



## Synopsis

Very good overview of history of religion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Watchtower organisation has made some rather strong claims about themselves. They are, so they say, the only ones that understand the Bible properly and in order to be a Christian you need to submit to their authority. Edmond Gruss has collected a large amount of quotes from the Watchtower literature, that shows (over and over again) that the Watchtower organisation cannot be trusted. Failed predictions and changes in interpretation, sometimes from one position to another and then back to the first again, are not at all unusual in their history. A lot of Gruss' material concerns the predictions about Armageddon and the end of the World order. The 19th century background in Adventist calculations that the end would be in 1844 and then postponed 30 years to 1874, the latter which Russell came to accept; the 1914 date, which is still central; and the failures of 1925 and 1975 are all dealt with. Because of its importance, quite a lot of space (pp.74-149) is devoted to different aspects of the 1914 date. According to the Watchtower, Christ was installed in heaven in 1914, and in the following years he inspected the churches, and then appointed the Watchtower "over his domestics" in 1919. In other words, the Watchtower draw their authority from what they allege happened in 1914. Gruss discusses what Russell in fact did predict for the year 1914; none of the seven specific predictions came true. The interpretation of the Bible that led to the date is shown to be very questionable in many regards, and the claim that the signs that we are living in the last days are present since 1914 (earthquakes, wars and so on) is examined and found

to be baseless. The thorough discussion of the 1914 date is quite welcome, since it's so important for the Watchtower's identity and claims.

Edmond Gruss was raised by a mother who was a Jehovah's Witness; he is also the author/editor of books such as *We Left Jehovah's Witnesses: Personal Testimonies*, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Prophetic Speculation*, *Apostles of Denial*, *The Four Presidents of the Watch Tower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)*, etc. He wrote in the Preface to this 2001 book, "The more I investigated the matter, the longer the study became. It resulted in my book, 'The Jehovah's Witnesses and Prophetic Speculation'... The study looked back at the past Watch Tower Society failures and forward to the year 1975 (which also failed). As I write this, many years have gone by ... and much has been written exposing the doctrines and prophetic failures of the Witnesses. My interest in the subject has continued over the years with the collection of further historical information, examples of prophetic failure, erroneous interpretations, and doctrinal changes, far beyond what I put in the 'Speculation' book. The present study is the result of those findings.

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