1914—THE TURNING POINT

Many historians and others agree that the year 1914, with the start of World War I, was the great turning point of modern times.

- "It is indeed the year 1914 rather than that of Hiroshima which marks the turning point in our time."—Rene Albrecht-Carrie, *The Scientific Monthly*, July 1951.
- "Ever since 1914, everybody conscious of trends in the world has been deeply troubled by what has seemed like a fated and pre-determined march towards ever greater disaster. Many serious people have come to feel that nothing can be done to avert the plunge towards ruin."—Bertrand Russell, New York *Times Magazine*, September 27, 1953.
- "In 1914 the world, as it was known and accepted then, came to an end." —James Cameron, 1914, published in 1959.
- "In 1914 the world lost a coherence which it has not managed to recapture since... This has been a time of extraordinary disorder and violence, both across national frontiers and within them."—*The Economist,* London, August 4, 1979.
- "Civilization entered on a cruel and perhaps terminal illness in 1914."—Frank Peters, St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, January 27, 1980.
- "Everything would get better and better. This was the world I was born in... Suddenly, unexpectedly, one morning in 1914 the whole thing came to an end."—British statesman Harold MacMillan, New York *Times*, November 23, 1980.

ing in an Upper Room one day and a few days later transformed into a company that no persecution could silence! . . . It seems to me almost meaningless to talk about legends when you are dealing with eyewitnesses themselves."

Additionally, what these sincere wit-

Utod's heavenly government under Christ will bring in a righteous era that will transform the earth into a paradise

nesses had seen was not only one proof or two; there were many. The book of Acts tells us that Jesus "was taken up, after he had given commandment through holy spirit to the apostles whom he chose. To these also by *many positive proofs* he showed himself alive after he had suffered, being seen by them throughout forty days." How much more convincing could the record be—"by many positive proofs he showed himself alive after he had suffered"? This statement was made by an educated medical doctor, Luke. —Acts 1:1-9.

The conclusion is inescapable. There is good reason to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. And what does that mean? What did it mean to his thousands of dedicated followers at that time? Marvelous things. The fact that Jesus lived again gave them courage, something to live for, to look forward to—the fulfillment of his glorious promise that he, at God's appointed time, would come back in royal power and glory and render judgment in order to cleanse the earth of all wickedness forever. Even if they were not to experience this in their lifetime, they knew he could make use of

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the "keys of death and of Hades" by opening the tombs of the dead and resurrecting them to heavenly life with him and making them priests and kings who would reign with him for 1,000 years. That heavenly government would bring in a new, righteous era during which the earth would be transformed into a paradise with everlasting blessings and life for all its inhabitants. The resurrected Jesus meant all of this to them.—Revelation 19:11-16; 1:18; 20:6; 21:1-5.

Still Alive!

Jesus said: "I became dead, but, look! I am living forever and ever." (Revelation 1:18) He is still alive! Not only was he then, but he is now! World events, particularly since the crucial year 1914, indicate that his promises are being increasingly fulfilled. In fact, Bible prophecy shows that the beginning of his Kingdom rule over the earth would be marked by a great upheaval among the nations. It shows that 'when the kingdom of the world would become the kingdom of our Lord, Jehovah, and of his Christ,' then the nations would become "wrathful." (Revelation 11:15, 18) Also, it shows that his Kingdom rule would

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begin in the midst of his enemies. (Psalm 110:1, 2) These prophecies, together with Bible chronology, unanimously point toward the year 1914 as the time of the beginning of Jesus' invisible rule over the earth. Soon the time will come when he will completely 'subdue' his enemies and usher in his glorious reign of peace.

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PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN OUR DAY

The fulfillment of prophecies that Jesus gave show that we have been in the "last days" since 1914, and are now very near the end of this system of things. ---2 Timothy 3:1-5.

- "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom." (Matthew 24:7) World War I involved 90 percent of earth's population; over 8,000,000 soldiers and 12,000,000 civilians died. World War II, also global, took up to 60,000,000 lives.—Encyclopedia Americana.
- "In one place after another pestilences." (Luke 21:11) In 1918 the Spanish influenza killed 21,000,000.
 (Science Digest) Now, heart disease, cancer, venereal disease and others are epidemic, taking millions of lives each year.
- "Food shortages." (Matthew 24:7)
 United Nations World Food Council declares that each year about
 50,000,000 people die from the effects of malnutrition.
- "Earthquakes in one place after another." (Matthew 24:7) Before 1914, an estimated 1,800 persons a year died in earthquakes. Since 1914 the yearly average is 25,300.—Geo Malagoli, in *Il Piccolo*.

"The increasing of lawlessness."
 (Matthew 24:12) Crime is skyrocketing throughout the world. In the United States, the Justice Department says that one out of every three families are now victimized by crime, adding:
 "All Americans are at risk to an extent previously unknown."