

in 1914 C.E. Since that date the Gentile nations, including the nations of Christendom, have been in their "time of the end." Do not world events and developments since then indicate this to be true? (Matthew 24:3-44) Here, then, since 1914, and particularly since the year 1919, after World War I had ended, we should look for the modern-day counterpart of the prophet Ezekiel.

* Who is Ezekiel's present-day counterpart, whose message and conduct correspond with that of that ancient prophet of Jehovah? Of whom today was he a "sign" or "portent"? Not of some individual man, but of a group of people. Being made up of a unified company of persons, the modern Ezekiel is a composite personage, made up of many members, just the same as the human body is. This reminds us of what the onetime persecutor, the Christian apostle Paul, wrote to fellow Christians in Rome, Italy, saying: "Just as we have in one body many members, but the members do not all have the same function, so we, although many, are one body in union with Christ, but members belonging individually to one another." (Romans 12:4,

Using the same illustration, Paul said in his letter the congregation in Corinth, Greece: "Just as the body is one but has many members, and all the members of that body, although being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. For truly by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit."—1 Corinthians 12:12, 13.

* So it is with the modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel: it is, not one person's body, but a composite body, made up of many members. All these members were together to do the will of Jehovah, who is the Creator of this modern "Ezekiel." Who, then, are the group of persons who, toward the beginning of this "time

9. Is the modern-day Ezekiel an individual person, and how does the apostle Paul illustrate how Ezekiel's counterpart could be?

10. In order to determine which group is Ezekiel's modern counterpart, what do we have to do?

of the end," were commissioned to serve as the mouth-piece and active agent of Jehovah? In order to determine this, check the history of 1919, the first postwar year after the first world war.

"We do not look among the natural circumcised Jews, for they had actively taken part in World War I, the famous Zionist leader, Chaim Weizmann, lending his services as a discoverer in the chemical field to the British Government during that world conflict. In 1919 they were mainly interested in establishing a National Homeland for the Jews in Palestine, rather than in fulfilling any religious commission like that of ancient Ezekiel. But what about religious Christendom? Her appearance before Jehovah was also gruesomely blood-stained, for World War I was mainly her war, twenty-four of the twenty-eight participants in carnal warfare claiming to be Christian nations. When this first world conflict ended in 1918 (November 11), victorious Great Britain and her allies were interested in establishing a peace arrangement with the conquered nations, besides dealing with the newly arisen Communist State in Russia. Playing the modern-day role of the Bible "Ezekiel" was far from their thoughts.

"The churches of Christendom had taken no courageous Christian steps to prevent World War I. They had split into two great camps over the nationalistic war issues. The end of the war found them disunited, needing to get reconciled and to become religious friends again. According to the Treaty of London that had been signed on May 9, 1915, by Italy, Great Britain, France and Russia, "the Holy See [the pope of Rome] was not to be permitted to intervene by diplomatic action in regard to peace or questions arising from the war."^{*} So the pro-German Vatican was not allowed to have any part in drawing up the Peace

^{*} Quoted from *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Volume 17, edition of 1929, page 633.

11. When we look at natural Jewry and then at Christendom for the proper group, what objectionableness do we find?

12. When we look at the churches of Christendom, including the Vatican, for the proper group, what do we find?