

“JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES”

DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

© Ken Guindon, September 25, 2007

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All quotations from the Holy Bible are taken from the
Authorized Version (KJV) unless otherwise indicated.

Preface

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

To the Reader,

The Scripture says: "Christ hath made us free." Have *you* experienced the "glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21)? This booklet was written to help you experience God's love personal way. We humbly ask you to honestly and objectively examine the enclosed information. The wise man knows that it would be a shame to make up his mind about a matter without first giving it a hearing (Prov. 18:13). Love motivates this investigation and its sole purpose is to present factual information substantiated by the Holy Scriptures. We respect everyone's decision to be a member of "Jehovah's Witnesses," yet we suspect that many Witnesses may not be aware of several important facts presented here. For this reason, this discussion will be buttressed by numerous quotations from literature published by the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society. May our merciful heavenly Father enlighten you as you read on, keeping in mind that, "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5:1, NET).

PRIORITIES

Who has a right to first place in my life: God, family, friends, myself? Christians usually reply that God is most deserving of our love and devotion. How can we therefore demonstrate our love for him and be assured of his approval and blessing? The Apostle John has answered our question: “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). One who knows God as his heavenly Father is free from bondage and the fear of man. His relationship with God is based on love. He walks according to the Spirit, not according to the flesh. This gives him great liberty, yes, true freedom as a son of God.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom. 8:2).

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Rom. 8:14-16).

Many Jehovah’s Witnesses are reticent to read literature that challenges their beliefs. If you truly desire to serve God in spirit and in truth, you will read this booklet and decide for yourself if there is any truth in it. A servant of God always seeks God’s approval, not men’s (1 Cor. 7:22-23). Has not the Watchtower Society stated, “We are dedicated to him, not to the organization”? *The Watchtower* (June 1, 1967), p. 337.

Why be concerned about “Jehovah’s Witnesses,”¹ their organization or those interested in joining them? Why not just let them go their own way? Reader, God’s love compels us to speak the truth to all (Ezek. 3:19-21). Because some people are not aware of the Watchtower Society’s claims, we begin by looking at some of them in the next section.

¹ Rather than fastidiously write the name Jehovah’s Witnesses with quotations marks each time, we will just ask the reader to understand that we do not accept their claim, but recognize their right to call themselves whatever they wish.

A PROPHET OF JEHOVAH? (Deut. 18:22)

When the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him. (Deut. 18:22, NWT²).

The Watchtower Society claims to be God's unique representative on earth, going so far as to say the Witnesses are the "prophet group," dispensing truth to all nations. They believe they are guided by God's Holy Spirit (they do not capitalize Holy Spirit). Their leaders call themselves the "anointed," saying they possess a unique knowledge regarding God's plan for mankind and events yet in the future. Do the facts demonstrate that they are a "spirit-guided" organization? This is what we seek to discover.

A review of the writings published by the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society should help everyone to grasp the significance of the Watchtower Society's pretensions.

Jehovah had chosen the publication we now call *The Watchtower* to be used as a channel through which to bring to the world of mankind a revelation of the divine will and, through the words revealed in its columns, to begin a division of the world's population into those who would do the divine will and those who would not.... Only Jehovah could have been feeding and directing his people. *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* (1959), p. 22.

This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women.... Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses.... Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show? *The Watchtower* (April 1, 1972), p. 197.

[...] Jehovah poured out his spirit upon them and assigned them the responsibility of serving as his sole visible channel, through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come. Those who recognize Jehovah's visible theocratic organization, therefore, must recognize and accept this appointment of the "faithful and discreet slave" and be submissive to it.... Since 1879 the *Watch Tower* magazine has been used by this collective group to dispense spiritual food regularly to those of this "little flock" of true Christians. *The Watchtower* (October 1, 1967), p. 590.

These are official statements. The leadership presents itself as the "faithful and discreet slave,"³ and says they are appointed by Jehovah God who has poured out his Spirit upon them. This elite class known as the "faithful and discreet slave," makes up some 0.14% of the membership and has the responsibility for the editorial and publishing work of the Society.

² Quoting from *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* does not indicate we endorse this translation.

³ For those readers not familiar with the Jehovah's Witnesses, we refer you to Matthew 24:45 for the source of this teaching.

YOU MUST TEST A PROPHET'S CLAIMS (1 JOHN 4:1)

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Christians must examine the claims of any so-called “prophet.” God himself warns us about false prophets. Throughout the rest of this article we shall examine three questions:

- **Have this organization’s prophecies come to pass?**
- **Do Jehovah Witnesses follow the “Watchtower Society” or Jesus Christ?**
- **Is the *Watchtower’s* teaching on Jesus Christ supported by Holy Scripture?**

Historically, this last point has been a touchstone. Since the Watchtower Society has published its own bible translation, we could be on the right track by asking: Does *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* give us a true picture of Jesus as God incarnate?

“THOU SHALT NOT BE AFRAID OF HIM”

Jehovah says, “If the thing follow not, nor come to pass...thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deut. 18:22). A large number of Jehovah’s Witnesses are converts. They may not be aware of the claims and exaggerations the “modern-day prophet, the spirit-begotten, anointed ones” have made in God’s name. When they uncover changes in doctrine or in the chronology set forth by the leadership, these new ones are told “the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Prov. 4:18). This is supposed to mean that as time goes by the “organization” receives more “light” and understands better the truth. Such reasoning has led many Witnesses to continue serving the organization. Friend, please read this verse again. According to its context, the text applies to a righteous person walking in God’s favor. Do you really think Proverbs 4:18 applies to prophetic statements proven to have been erroneous, that are then dropped or clad in new garments to be presented anew to a fresh generation of Witnesses? May God grant you discernment as you take another look. Proverbs 4:18 has been used by your headquarters as a **pretext** to keep its followers from stumbling because of false prophecies. The Society has used the verse out of **context**. There is a rule of biblical interpretation that says: *A text without a context is a pretext!*

Is or isn't the Society "spirit-guided"? If *The Watchtower's* prophecies have originated with Jehovah God they will be fulfilled, but if they are not inspired by Jehovah, you should reject them and those who proffered them.

Here are some examples of predictions (*prophecies*) which have failed. We shall begin with the founder of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, Charles T. Russell.

True, it is expecting great things to claim, as we do, that within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved; but we are living in a special and peculiar time, the "Day of Jehovah," in which matters culminate quickly...

In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A.D. 1914.

Be not surprised, then when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced. The gathering of the armies is plainly visible from the standpoint of God's Word. *The Time Is At Hand* (Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, 1889), pp. 98-99, 101.

The "Time of the End," a period of one hundred and fifteen (115) years, from A.D. 1799 to A.D. 1914, is particularly marked in the Scriptures.

While the time-prophecies thus point to and harmonize with 1874 as the date of our Lord's second presence, assuring us of the fact with mathematical precision...

That the deliverance of the saints must take place some time before 1914 is manifest, since the deliverance of fleshly Israel, as we shall see, is appointed to take place at that time.... Just how long before 1914 the last living members of the body of Christ will be glorified, we are not directly informed....

That the re-establishment of Israel in the land of Palestine is one of the events to be expected in this Day of the Lord, we are fully assured by the above expression of the Prophet. Notice, particularly, that the prophecy cannot be interpreted in any symbolic sense. *Thy Kingdom Come* (1891), pp. 23, 129, 228, 244.

"CAN IT BE DELAYED UNTIL 1914?"

We see no reason for changing the figures -nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble. *Watch Tower* (July 15, 1894).

[...] Since other Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and these will have the first favor, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity and made the visible, legal representatives of the new order of things on earth. *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1920), p. 88.

Receiving the gift (the book, Children), the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon. *The Watchtower* (September 15, 1941), p. 288.

In the light of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy it is becoming clear that the war of Armageddon is nearing its breaking-out point (p. 331). Each informed individual is now faced with the need to make the decision upon which depends his fate at Armageddon (p. 362). This is no occasion for gambling with time (p. 363). *You May Survive Armageddon into God's New World* (1955).

1975 CHRONOLOGY - TRUSTWORTHY AND RELIABLE?

Some twenty years later, the prophet is still trying to stampede people into its so-called "ark of safety." The Watchtower organization uses the same tactics today as did Pastor Russell up until his death in 1916. His successor "Judge" Rutherford continued pontificating and attacking all religions as "a snare and a racket." With the cloud of the world's end hanging over their heads and putting aside any lingering doubts, many of their disciples quickly ran to safety within the organization. These techniques are easy to identify in the pages of the Society's publications.

How fitting it would be for God, following this pattern, to end man's misery after six thousand years of human rule and follow it with his glorious Kingdom rule for a thousand years! [...] According to reliable Bible chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E. *Awake!* (October 8, 1968), p. 14.

According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975. [...] It would not be by mere chance or accident but would be according to the loving purpose of Jehovah God for the reign of Jesus Christ, the "Lord of the Sabbath," to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence. *Life Everlasting-In Freedom of the Sons of God* (1966), pp. 29-30.

A 34-percent increase! Does that not warm our hearts? Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end. (*Kingdom Ministry*, "How Are You Using Your Life?" May 1974).

The Bible clearly pinpoints the generation alive in 1914 C.E. as the one that will yet witness the ushering in of Kingdom rule free from Satanic interference. Hence, many living today will have the opportunity never to die. They will survive the destruction of the present ungodly system.... *Is This Life All There Is?* (1974), p. 165.

Genuine hope is founded on reality and truth. False hopes only blind people to the true hope, deceiving them. In a time of crisis such as we now face, false hopes would even rob a person of his life. *Peace and Security-From What Source?* (1973), p. 9.

The very fact that, as part of Jehovah's secret, no one today is able to find out how much time Adam and later Eve lived during the closing days of the sixth creative period, so *no one can now determine when* six thousand years of Jehovah's present rest day come to an end. *The Watchtower* (1955), p. 95 (emphasis added).

The Bible provides us no way to fix the date, and so *it does us no good to speculate when that date may be*. *The Watchtower* (October 1, 1975), p. 579 (emphasis added).

Did you notice in the next to last quotation from 1955, no one could determine when Jehovah's rest day of six thousand years would end? Yet, later on the Society deliberately fed people's imaginations concerning what might take place in 1975. It should be obvious how useful **chronology** and **prophetic speculation** have been to the Watchtower Society. What a pitch to think that by a given date all one's worries will have vanished and Jehovah's people will live in paradise! Oh, if it were only true! This powerful leverage has spurred people to distribute more of the Society's propaganda to bolster the ranks. Finally, when 1975 did arrive, notice how the Watchtower Society innocently (?) took a contrary position about speculation, and returned to the view held in 1955.

Should lovers of the truth fear such frightening predictions? Since you began listening to the Watchtower "prophet," have you enjoyed a "genuine hope [...] founded on reality and truth?" Standing with Christianity's founder, we dare say: "Fear them not" (Matt. 10:26); especially, since the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses has been obliged to admit they were mistaken in their predictions! Where is such an admission? In the publication, *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* (1973), pp. 187-188:

The new magazine (*Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*) was heralding Christ's invisible presence as having begun in 1874. This presence was to continue until the end of the Gentile Times in 1914, when the Gentile nations would be destroyed and the remnant of the "chaste virgin" class would be glorified with their bridegroom in heaven Something must have been miscalculated.

In the book quoted above, the Society **admits** that for forty years the "channel," i.e., *Zion's Watch Tower*, was in error; Christ had not been present in Kingdom power since 1874! They currently teach that he came into his kingdom in 1914. Showing how long it took them to make this change can be seen from the book, *Creation*, published in 1927. On pages 326, 318, 319, you will see that they were still saying that Christ was present in Kingdom power since 1874. It is not enough to say, "at least we admit our mistakes." The fact remains that "the remnant" is proved guilty of prophesying falsely and honest-hearted people should resolve to forsake such a "prophet." Shouldn't JW's reject the prognostications of a reckless leadership so often proved to be in error, therefore, clearly not led by Jehovah? Seek the truth, because the truth will make you free. Jesus Christ is the Way, THE TRUTH and the Life (John 14:6).

Until October 1995 the Watchtower Society taught that some of the people living in 1914 would still be alive when the end of the world (Armageddon) would arrive.

The *Awake!* magazine of November 8, 1994 published a cover page article entitled "1914—Gunshots that Still Shake Our World." The article, "The Real Significance of 1914" states in its opening paragraph:

"As indicated on page 4, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away."

The following statement from the 6th paragraph appears rather optimistic, wouldn't you say?

"This time of the end is, however, to be a relatively short period--stretching over one generation. The fact that we are now 80 years beyond 1914 indicates that we can soon expect the deliverance that God's Kingdom will bring."

Now get ready for the bad news! How time flies! The *Watchtower* magazine (Remember, this is *the channel* for truth) of November 1, 1995 changed its teaching as to the meaning of a *generation*:

"Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah's people have at times speculated about the time when the "great tribulation" would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914.

"Does our more precise viewpoint on "this generation" mean that Armageddon is further away than we had thought? Not at all!" *The Watchtower* (Nov. 1, 1995), p.17, pars. 6 & 15).

This magazine explained that a *generation* is not a person's *life-time* but refers to those wicked people who are alive when Armageddon occurs. This removes the limitations tied to the date 1914. No further comment: your honor, we rest our case!

CONVERSION OR DECEPTION?

We are not putting anyone's sincerity in doubt. We appreciate that a Jehovah's Witness believes he has dedicated his life to God and not to an organization. While this may be true, sincerity does not change facts. Many die because they don't correctly read the label on a medicine bottle. Is it possible that you have been deceived and made a slave of men rather than a servant of Jehovah? This important question leads us to review several matters in order to find out.

When you first met Jehovah's Witnesses do you remember spending several hours a week reading their material? At the same time, did you spend an hour or two each week studying with your JW friend who told you to prepare for that study by looking up Scriptures and underlining the answers in your study book. You read *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* and *The New World Translation*. In some cases, Jehovah's Witnesses' students spend time every day reading the Watchtower publications; some may spend from three to ten hours a week reading this material.

Who are these converts? Many are those who have never read the Bible, others were unhappy with their liberal churches or were saddened by a lack of love and indifference in their church. Others were perhaps stumbled by someone's infidelity. Most, never sought counsel from a qualified person outside Watchtower circles.

Did you know that a number of scholars believe *The New World Translation* translates critical Bible passages incorrectly in order to support Watchtower beliefs? If you never made a serious examination of theological or historical publications⁴ that deal with the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses and you never consulted an expert in this field, there is a possibility you were indeed misled. It's one thing to read the Bible in context chapter by chapter and quite another to study topics in Watchtower publications like *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* and *You can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* which led you to believe that both sides of the issue were factually presented when, actually, this is not the case.

WHY SO MANY CHANGES?

Take the time to consider the changes in doctrines and in the prophetic framework (chronology) since Pastor Russell's time. Is this evidence that God is directing this organization as JWs claim? Wouldn't God know his own mind (Mal. 3:6)? Just look

⁴ Please consult the bibliography at the end of this article.

at the “Jehovah’s Witnesses” (who also call themselves “Bible Students”); for over 100 years they have set different dates for the end of the world! Whereas the Watch Tower Society was originally chartered for the worship of Jehovah God and Jesus Christ, the Society now teaches that Hebrews 1:6 is best explained as worshipping Jehovah through Christ. Jehovah’s Witnesses now refuse Jesus Christ any worship. Compare their attitude toward Jesus with that of the early church.⁵ The first Christians were martyred for their acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and God.

The “Russellites” taught that the “great multitude” class would go to heaven with the 144,000; but since 1935, all JWs learn that the great multitude will live forever on earth. Adam was to be resurrected, but today they teach that he will never be resurrected. Israel’s return to the land of Palestine was said to be direct proof of the coming of Christ and evidence that God would keep his promises to her. The current idea is that all the promises to literal Israel are fulfilled in the 144,000, i.e., “spiritual Israel.” According to Pastor Russell and “Judge” Rutherford, the New Covenant was made with literal Israel, but now *The Watchtower* teaches that the New Covenant was made only with spiritual Israel, the 144,000. Six thousand years were supposed to have run out in 1872, then they taught it would be in 1975; proof that their “trustworthy Bible chronology” was off 100 years!⁶ Now they remain coy on the topic.

In the *Divine Plan of the Ages* the Great Pyramid was purported to be a witness to God and a **proof** of the end of the world in 1914. This teaching was abandoned long ago in favor of “new light.” The “higher powers” (Rom. 13:1) were interpreted as the governments until 1929, then JWs were told (again, “new light”) that this was wrong, they were really Jehovah and Christ Jesus. Then came 1962 when *The Watchtower* revealed that the higher powers had to be earthly governments! Anyone who dared to doubt such flip-flops was accused of rebellion and disfellowshipped.

Abaddon (Rev. 9:11), formerly believed to be Satan has since become Jesus. The “ancient worthies” or “faithful men of old” were coming back to life in 1925 before Armageddon; now we are told they will be resurrected after Armageddon. The founder of the *Watch Tower* taught that the “great multitude” was begotten of the Spirit, but this has since been rejected in spite of the fact that Jesus taught that no one could enter the Kingdom *unless* he were born again (John 3). This great multitude (now called the “great crowd”) is supposed to help the “remnant” (meaning: give up money, time and family life to advance the organization’s interests). The “Time of the End” was said to have begun in 1799; today the Society teaches it began in 1914.

⁵ See any volume on church history and the Apostolic Fathers.

⁶ *Life Everlasting-In Freedom of the Sons of God* (1966), p. 29; *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years* (1973), pp. 209, 210.

They also used to teach that Christ was present as King since 1874; now the “prophet” says he returned in 1914. Whereas, 1878 was the date for the “first resurrection,” this event is supposed to have taken place in 1918!

You may be wondering, what will the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society come up with next? We do too! But we won’t follow it, will YOU?

Celebrating the Good News

The Watchtower Society tells you that you are going to be tested during a **one thousand year** period described as Christ’s reign over the earth. **This is real bad news.** The JW goal is to become perfect by the end of the millennium and then pass the final test to *merit* eternal life.⁷ And JWs want people to believe that this is good news? Unfortunately, we must warn you that anyone who follows such nonsense is deceived. One who is seeking to worship God in spirit and in truth should beg God to grant him the grace to know the TRUTH. Knowing Jesus Christ can set you free! Jesus said: “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

Celebrating the Lord’s Supper is part of a Christian’s worship and an offering of praise and thanks for what God has done for us through his Son. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this *do in remembrance of me* (1 Cor. 11:23-24, emphasis mine).

In spite of what Christ commands, the JWs will pass the unleavened bread and a cup of wine once every year but frequently one will observe that no one has partaken! Of course, they will explain that eating the bread and drinking from the cup in their “Memorial” is limited to only 144,000 and there are very few of them on earth today.

Yes, a new birth is necessary to enter into God’s kingdom, but do not allow anyone to refuse to you what Jesus offers to all: a new birth through him who died to give us freely eternal life (1 John 5:1; Romans 6:23). The kingdom does not refer only to a future world or a millennium; it is God’s reign in our heart today.⁸ There are only two spiritual kingdoms, God’s and Satan’s as the Scriptures inform us, not three or four, (Acts 26:17-18).

⁷ *Life Everlasting-In Freedom of the Sons of God* (1966), p. 400; *God’s Kingdom of a Thousand Years*, 1973, p. 147.

⁸ “Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21).

Which kingdom do you want: an invisible 1914 tooth-fairy one or the real one? The choice is yours.

DO CHRISTIANS WORSHIP JESUS?

Jehovah's Witnesses strongly oppose the biblical teaching that the Word of God (the *Logos*) is equal to God the Father in substance, power and glory. Christians worship Jesus, honoring and glorifying him, but Jehovah alone⁹ is worshipped in the Kingdom Halls. We wonder how many Jehovah's Witnesses are acquainted with the Charter of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society as originally written. Article Two of that Charter declared:

The purposes of this Society are: . . . public Christian worship of Almighty God *and* Jesus Christ; to arrange for and hold local and world-wide assemblies for such worship . . . (emphasis mine).

Clearly during the early history of their Society, Jesus received more honor than Jehovah's Witnesses will allow today. Notice how *Jehovah was feeding and directing his people* in 1880.

He was *more* than human [...]. It seems clear that His Divinity was retained in humanity because He repeatedly spoke of Himself as having come down from heaven, and because He, though passing through trial and sorrow as a man, was yet possessed of the authority and exercised the prerogatives of a God. He was *the object of unreprieved worship*. . . . *Watch Tower* (October 1880, emphasis mine).

If *The Watchtower* was the channel for truth in 1880 and is still the same channel today, shouldn't we expect consistency?

Please, whose teaching is more consistent? Those who have honored and worshipped Christ from the times of the apostles onward or the Watch Tower Society which was founded in 1881? Using the Watchtower Society's publications as a guide for Bible study, the Witnesses have gone from "A" to "Z" in their interpretations! Think about this for a moment. Is it proper to pray to Almighty God? Why, certainly. Did you know that Jesus said we could pray to him? Yes he did and you will find it in your own *Kingdom Interlinear* Greek New Testament.¹⁰ See John 14:13, 14 in the *KIT* where we have underlined this:

⁹ According to Watchtower teaching, Jehovah is Almighty God from all eternity and He is the Father (Life-giver) of Jesus (the Word of God) whom He created as his first act of creation.

¹⁰ *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* (1969), pp. 498, 499; see the literal word for word translation under the Greek text. Abbreviated hereafter as *KIT*.

And what likely YOU should ask in the name of me this I will do, in order that might be glorified the Father in the Son; if ever anything YOU should ask me in the name of me this I shall do.

Examples of calling upon Jesus (Greek, *epikaleo*) are found in Acts 9:1-21; 22:16 and 1 Corinthians 1:2. Is *calling upon* Jesus the same as calling upon Jehovah? According to the Greek Septuagint Bible (see Psalm 145:18) it is the same thing. But let's examine Acts 7:59-60 in *The New World Translation*, 1950 edition.

And they went on casting stones at Stephen as he made appeal (ft. "b", "invocation; prayer") and said: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then, bending his knees, he cried out with a strong voice: "Jehovah (Greek, *kurie*, Lord, as seen in *KIT*), do not charge this sin against them." And after saying this he fell asleep in death.

The reader may verify this in the *NWT* [Reference edition of 1984] where the footnote on verse 59 says "invocation; prayer." So, just as Jesus asked God to forgive the people their sin in crucifying him, Stephen also asked the Lord Jesus to forgive those stoning him. Stephen prayed to Jesus! Christians pray to Jesus. They call on Jesus to save them (Romans 10:13; same verb here *epikaleo*). Jesus is one with the Father in the Holy Trinity.

Since the Trinity didn't seem *reasonable* to Pastor Russell and his associates, they rejected it. His successors went a step further when they thought it best to rewrite several Bible passages in order to harmonize them with their teachings. This is apparently the reason for *The New World Translation*. Their New Testament called the *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* came out in 1950 when the group numbered only 373,430 worldwide. Did the Society have competent scholars prepared for such translation work? Why have the translators sought to remain anonymous? What were their credentials? Charles Russell and "Judge" Rutherford always signed their work. Should people be obliged to accept the radical renderings of the *NWT* when the only signature is a rubber stamp?

We will quote without comment from a number of passages in the New Testament. We think these verses are powerful testimony to Jesus' deity and his rightful place alongside his Father. When you have read them, verify them in your copy of the *NWT*. It's important to remember that the *Authorized Version (KJV)* was published in 1611 A.D. We choose to use it because it is forthright and not under copyright.

Since the appearance of the *NWT*, why have many scholars from other denominations refused to recognize its worth, perhaps adopting some of its readings? If these *NWT* renderings are sound, accurate translations of the Greek, shouldn't this Bible have received acknowledgment and a lot of praise? Nevertheless, it appears from the reviews this writer has read that the *New World Translation* stirred up an indignant furor. Do you really believe that those who are devout Christians and have devoted their lives to the study and translation of the Scriptures, are stubborn,

deceitful and just determined to hold onto historic dogmas as the Foreword of the *New World Translation* claims?

In the next section we present key passages that we believe support the deity of Christ. The words in italics are the translators' who wished to indicate words added for good sense. Putting words in italics is a demonstration of their scrupulousness and their desire to accurately translate the original text.

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE SCRIPTURES

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. -John 1:1-3.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. -Jn 5:18.

I said therefore to you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in yours sins. - Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am. - John 8:24, 58.

And Thomas answered and said unto him, my Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou has believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed. - John 20:28, 29.

...the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. -Rom. 9:5.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. -Phil. 2:6.

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. -Col. 1:15-17.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. -Col. 2:9.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. -Titus 2:13. [Greek: "of our great God and Saviour." As in the *RSV*]

And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, and let all the angels of God worship him. -Heb. 1:6.

But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever... -Heb. 1:8.

[...] through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Pet 1:1. [Greek: "our God and Saviour Jesus Christ", as in the *RSV*.]

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. -1 John 5:20.

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. -Rev 22:12, 13.

Why have we quoted verbatim all these verses from the Scriptures? It is because we want you to see that the New Testament writers are not hesitant to ascribe to Jesus the full nature, power and authority which Jehovah claims he alone possesses. In the Old Testament Jehovah tells us: “Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and *there* is none else.” David wrote in the Psalm, “For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone.” In 1 Chronicles we read: “O LORD, *there is* none like thee, *neither is there* any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.” (Is. 45:22; Ps. 86:10; 1 Chron. 17:20). Unequivocally, one finds in the New Testament that Jesus claims the power to save and deliver souls from the power of both sin and death. We see people falling at his feet and worshipping him; but he never objects to this, whereas Peter and the angel in Revelation forbid it (Acts 10:25, 26; Rev. 19:10). If Jesus were *only* a man, therefore lower than the angels, how could he do less than the angel mentioned in Revelation 19:10? (Cf. Matt. 4:10).

Clearly contradicting what the Old Testament teaches (as seen above), the *New World Translation* introduces **another god** along side of the Almighty Jehovah. Have they misunderstood the Scriptures or have they bent them to fit their peculiar conception of what is logical? You must answer this question for yourself. Jehovah’s Witnesses have rendered John 1:1: “In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god” (*NWT*). This is contrary to the harmonious teaching of God’s Word as seen above. The Appendix of the *NWT* seeks justification for their translation of John 1:1 by quoting Greek scholars. Have you ever thought it strange that JWs run to Trinitarians for support? We know for a fact that Professor Mantey has stated in writing he was “quoted out of context.” We beg the reader to compare John 1:1 with Mark 2:28 in the *KIT*. Since the Watchtower translators have translated *theos* “a god” in John 1:1, why have they translated *kurios* as “Lord” in Mark 2:28 when both words are anarthrous¹¹ [note the capital “L”]? Since these two passages are grammatically **exact parallels**, it should be clear that bias alone led the New World Bible Translation Committee to reject what the Apostle John wrote: *kai theos en ho logos* meaning, **the Word was God**.¹²

¹¹ Anarthrous, a Greek noun used without the article. Please notice how the Jehovah’s Witnesses have made use of lower and upper case in the words “god” and “Lord” (John 1:1 and Mark 2:28).

¹² See our article on John 1:1 entitled *The Identity of the Word According to John* on this website.

If the apostle John had wanted to say that Jesus was “a god” or that he was divine, he could easily have done so for the Greek language is perfectly capable of such exactitude. Since John did not choose any of these options, we are obliged to conclude that he was describing the exact nature of the Word. Having written, according to the word order in Greek “God was the Word,” the apostle wasn’t stating that Jesus was the Father or vice versa. He meant the Son is of the same nature (or substance) as the Father. Can you imagine a creature *creating* another creature? Ridiculous? Yet, Jehovah’s Witnesses teach such a thing when they say that Jesus was created by the Father and that Jesus, the Word of God created everything else: “By means of him all **other** things were created in the heavens and upon the earth” (Col. 1:16, *NWT*, emphasis added). Notice how they add the word “other” to the text in order to smuggle their teaching into the New Testament. Having done this, they will then use this passage to prove their point.

Colossians 2:9 is another example of mistranslation. “Because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily” (Col. 2:9, *NWT*). Compare this with a literal translation: “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (*KJV*). Does *theotetos*, mean *divine quality*, or does it mean *deity, Godhead*? We would encourage you to look it up in a Greek lexicon. In the *KIT*, see the interlinear side of the page where they write *godship* underneath *theotetos*. This is rather obscure but better than “divine quality.”

It is not our purpose to write extensively on any of these points; entire books have been devoted to this subject. We simply want to provoke the sincere Jehovah’s Witness to a thoughtful examination of what he may have accepted years ago without sufficient thought or research. Perhaps he never had the opportunity to thoroughly check the sources quoted in the Watchtower literature. Christians everywhere pray to God that he grant Jehovah’s Witnesses the tremendous freedom offered in Jesus. We want them to experience the love, joy and peace which come only from God. Jesus assures us that he will give us “rest,” (Matt. 11:28-30).

Many Christians have been disappointed that Jehovah’s Witnesses are usually unwilling to check out the Watchtower Society that has **falsely prophesied in God’s name**. Many JWs have come out of bondage, have been set free and now rejoice in the “freedom of the sons of God” (Rom. 8). They have come into new life, yes, eternal life, but sometimes only after great effort and much prayer. But it is worth it. Life is always better than death, especially when eternity is the issue.

Do you really believe that Jehovah would allow a creature to share his glory, his throne? If you think so we invite you to examine carefully the following references. In some passages you will note that it mentions one throne, but two persons are sharing the throne of glory. What would this indicate? (Dan. 7:9, 10 cf. Rev. 1:13-15; Zech.

12:10 cf. Rev. 1:7; Jer. 17:10 cf. Rev. 2:23; 2 Peter 3:18; Heb. 10:12; Rev. 4:11; 5:8, 12-14; 21:22; 22:1, 3). There is only One God who exists in three Persons. Our sense of logic may rebel at the idea of a Trinity, but shouldn't we accept with child-like faith, yes with humility, what the Bible teaches?

NOTHING BUT THE FACTS, PLEASE!

In the last section we discussed the *New World Translation* and the manner in which it interprets the deity of Christ. Are we going too far if we say the *NWT* is a *perversion* of the truth? We think not. The discussion here has only scratched the surface. Other publications treat it in even greater depth. Has the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society usurped a position which God never granted to it? If you are a Jehovah's Witness and this article has helped you in some way, we invite you to contact us at the address below for further help. Jesus Christ is the head of his church which is his Body (Eph. 1:22-23). His church, a spiritual entity, could never be destroyed for this very reason; He preserves it through the centuries (Matt. 28:19-20). His church has survived twenty centuries of persecution, malicious lies and all types of assaults. Rather than making all kinds of claims, we urge you to begin to study the Scriptures and church history, asking Almighty God to help you. We are convinced Jehovah answers sincere prayers for help. Turn now to our God and Saviour himself (Titus 2:13; Rom. 9:5) as you continue your search for the Truth. We know THE TRUTH BRINGS FREEDOM, freedom for all who want to become the children of God (Romans 8:21).

**“If the Son therefore shall make you free, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED”
(John 8:36).**

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