

## Who Are The "Jehovah's Witnesses"?

What Saith

The Scripture

about the cultic concept known as

Jehovah's  Witnesses

a study developed for the Saints of

**Rock Hill Baptist Church**

605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe  
731-845-6104

online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)

The "Jehovah's Witnesses", compared to the other groups that we will study in this series, are perhaps one of the most mysterious groups. I am sure that you have experienced a "Witness" knocking on your door, politely asking to share a *Bible study* with you. Though the Witnesses are not the only group we label *cultic* that go from door to door, this group has used this method more - I believe - than any other group in cultic history.

How was this group formed? The following is a quotation from "Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry" ([carm.org](http://carm.org)):

The Jehovah's Witnesses was begun by Charles Taze Russell in 1872. ... He had great difficulty in dealing with the doctrine of eternal hell fire and in his studies came to **deny not only eternal punishment, but also the Trinity, and the deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit.** When Russell was 18, he organized a Bible class in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1879 he ... co-published *The Herald of the Morning* magazine with its founder, N. H. Barbour and by 1884 Russell controlled the publication and renamed it *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*, and founded *Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society* (now known as the *Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society*). The first edition of *The Watchtower* magazine was only 6,000 copies each month. Today the Witnesses' publishing complex in Brooklyn, New York, churns out 100,000 books and 800,000 copies of its two

magazines--daily!

After the death of Russell on Oct. 31, 1916, a Missouri lawyer named Joseph Franklin Rutherford took over the presidency of the Watch Tower Society which was known then as the **Dawn Bible Students Association**. In 1931 he changed the name of the organization to "The Jehovah's Witnesses." ... Today the Society ... has over 4 million members world wide. The Watchtower Society statistics indicate that 740 house calls are required to recruit each of the nearly 200,000 new members who join every year. "

You have to admire the drive of this group! 740 house calls to recruit *each member* - that number is astounding. Yet the Witnesses believe in doing something that *many Christians no longer do* - they witness. Would that Christians witnessed as hard as these deluded people do.

### **Why This Group Is Considered A "Cult"**

Why would anyone consider the members of this group *cultic*? There are two things that cause us to label the group this way.

**1** First, the Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) were founded on - not the Holy Bible - but on the *false prophecies* of its leaders. In God's Law He had a very clear method for determining whether someone was a false prophet or not. If someone *professed* to be a prophet, but *his prophecies* failed to come true ...

(Deuteronomy 18:22 <sup>KJV</sup>) When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, **if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.**

then this was a *false prophet* and you did not need to listen to him. As a matter of fact, *false prophets* were killed under the Mosaic Law":

(Deuteronomy 18:20 <sup>KJV</sup>) But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, **even that prophet shall die.**

Now let's fast forward to the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. Our Lord, just before He left us, promised that He was going to *come again*. But Jesus said something interesting about His Second Coming:

(Matthew 24:36-39 <sup>KJV</sup>) But **of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.** {37} But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. {38} For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, {39} And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

Jesus was *very clear* concerning His Second Coming. He said that *no one* knew when He was going to return - no one, that is, except the Father. Jesus even went so far as to say:

**(Mark 13:31-37 KJV) "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. {32} But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. {33} Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. {34} For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. {35} Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: {36} Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. {37} And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."**

that even HE, the Son of God, DIDN'T know when He was going to return. The only One who knew when Jesus was coming again is God the Father. *Yet* the JW's, from its very beginning, has tried to *prophecy the date of Christ's return*. First of all, the Watchtower has professed itself to be THE Prophet of God. In the Watchtower, April 1 1972 we see this quote:

**"So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet?...This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the**

**small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses...."** (page 197)

The JW's profess to be THE true Prophet of God. Does this profession stand up when we look over their history? No, not all, for we can see a pattern where this group falsely prophesied the return of Christ - over and over again. I now quote their own publications.

In 1897 they prophesied: **"Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874,"** *Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 4, page 621.*

In 1899: **"...the 'battle of the great day of God Almighty' (Revelation 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced."** *The Time Is at Hand, page 101 (1908 edition).*

In 1916: **"The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great 1000 year days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great 7th Day, the 1000 years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873."** *The Time Is at Hand, page ii, (forward).*

In 1918: **"Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews 11, to the condition of human perfection."** *Millions Now Living Will Never Die, page 89.*

In 1922: **"The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914."** *The Watchtower 9/1/22, page 262.*

**In 1923: "Our thought is, that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures. As to Noah, the Christian now has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had upon which to base his faith in a coming deluge." The Watchtower, page 106 4/1/23.**

**In 1925: "The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during this year. This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own due time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire this year." The Watchtower, 1/1/25, page. 3.**

**In 1926: "Some anticipated that the work would end in 1925, but the Lord did not state so. The difficulty was that the friends inflated their imaginations beyond reason; and that when their imaginations burst asunder, they were inclined to throw away everything." The Watchtower, page 232.**

**In 1931: "There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1917, 1918, and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time...and they also learned to quit fixing dates." Vindication, page 338.**

**In 1941: "Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon." The Watchtower, 9/15/41, page 288.**

**In 1968: "True, there have been those in times past who predicted an 'end to the world', even announcing a specific date. Yet nothing happened. The 'end' did not**

**come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?.. Missing from such people were God's truths and evidence that he was using and guiding them." Awake, 10/8/68.**

Over and over again the leadership of the JWs prophesied the *return of Jesus* and the *end of earth*, and yet each year that was prophesied passed without *any evidence of Christ's return*. Even more foolishly, you see that later JW publications *forget what they prophesied earlier*, and chide people for fixing dates. **Patrick Zukeran** in an article he wrote for Probe Ministries (probe.org) states:

**"One of the most effective ways to evangelize Jehovah's Witnesses is to destroy their faith in the Society. Remember, salvation is found only in this organization. The Watch Tower Society is seen as the spokesman for God. If you can show Witnesses the serious errors of the organization, they will begin to have doubts and questions. This can sometimes lead them to leave the Society.**

**Attacking the Society's record of false prophecy can cause JWs to question the organization. This approach is effective because they claim to have the true understanding of the end times. If we can show them that the organization has been constantly wrong in the area of prophecy, this will certainly make an impact. When the Jehovah's Witnesses show up at your door again, begin first by asking them, "Are you prophets of God?" Some will say, "Yes." Others may say, "We are prophets in a sense." You must make it clear there is no such thing as "a prophet in a sense." There are only true prophets and false prophets. Some may deny being prophets. If so, show**

8

them a copy of the April 1, 1972, Watch Tower article on page 197, which states clearly that they are prophets.

Second, define clearly what makes a true prophet and a false prophet using Deuteronomy 18:20-22. A true prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and predicts future things which come to pass. A false prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and predicts future things which do not come to pass. Make sure they understand this, for this is the most critical step. " (Jehovah's Witnesses: Witnessing To The Witnesses)

2 The second reason the JW's are considered a "cult" is because - though they mimic and utilize Orthodox Christian terminology - they completely *reject all things that Orthodox Biblical Christianity have supported*. The JW that comes to your door represents him or herself as a *student of the Bible*, but that person does not use the same Bible you use.

### **The Bible of the Jehovah's Witnesses The Kingdom Interlinear Translation**

In order to support many of its fantastic claims (which we will discuss *exhaustively* in a few moments), the JW's had to develop their *own Scripture*, a Bible they call the "Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Bible". This "translation", first introduced in 1950, is now described by **Walter Martin's** website (waltermartin.org). For those of you who do not know, the late Walter Martin was one of the foremost authorities on cults in America. We read:

"The New World Translation systematically sets out to eliminate evidence for the deity of Christ. Instead of falling at Jesus' feet to worship Him, people did "obedience" to Him. John 1:1 no longer says "the Word was God" but "the Word was a God." Jesus did not say, "Before Abraham was, I am" but rather to avoid association with the "I AM" of Exodus 3:14, Jesus's statement becomes, "Before Abraham came into existence, I have been." [which is a clear misrepresentation of the Biblical Greek text note *mine*]

The most widespread change in the Watchtower Bible is the insertion of the name JEHOVAH 237 times in the New Testament. Of course, it is appropriate for a translator to choose to use the divine name JEHOVAH or YAHWEH in the Old Testament where the Tetragrammaton YHWH actually appears in the Hebrew text. However, the Watchtower has gone beyond this by inserting the name JEHOVAH in the New Testament, where it does not appear in Greek manuscripts. One need only look at the word-by-word English that appears under the Greek text in the Society's own Kingdom Interlinear Translation to see that the name JEHOVAH is not there in the Greek." (waltermartin.org)

The New World Translation (NWT) is *re-written every few years*. I discovered this to be true when I was using my NWT to witness to a JW, when I was told "That's our *old translation*. You need to get another, more updated translation. I found out that - when a version is *updated*, the Watchtower *puts another color jacket on the book*."

**Doctor Anthony Hoekema**, author of "The Four Major  
10

Cults", writes:

**"Their New World Translation is by no means an objective rendering of the sacred text into modern English, but is a biased translation in which many of the peculiar teachings of the Watchtower Society are smuggled into the text of the Bible itself"**

What are *valid Biblical Translators* saying about the New World Translation of the Bible? **Dr. Julius Mantey** one of the leading Greek scholars of the world, author of the Hellenistic Greek Reader and co-author of A Manual Grammar of The Greek New Testament had this to say about the New World Translation:

**"I have never read any New Testament so badly translated as The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of The Greek Scriptures.... it is a distortion of the New Testament. The translators used what J.B. Rotherham had translated in 1893, in modern speech, and changed the readings in scores of passages to state what Jehovah's Witnesses believe and teach. That is a distortion not a translation."** Julius Mantey, *Depth Exploration in The New Testament* (N.Y.: Vantage Pres, 1980), pp.136-137

**Doctor Bruce M. Metzger** writes in **"The Jehovah's Witness and Jesus Christ: A Biblical and Theological Appraisal,"** Report of Theology Today article, April 1953 (Princeton, NJ: Theological Book), p 74.

**"The Jehovah's Witnesses have incorporated in their translations of the New Testament several quite erroneous rendering of the Greek."**

**Dr. Robert Countess** wrote his dissertation for his Ph.D. in Greek in the New World Translation:

**"Has been largely unsuccessful in keeping doctrinal considerations from influencing the actual translation. It must be viewed as a radically biased piece of work. At some points it is actually dishonest. And others it is neither modern nor scholarly. And interwoven throughout its fabric is inconsistent application of its own principles."**

How has the Watchtower and the JWs *mistranslated* the Bible in their translation? Look at the following examples:

**Colossians 1:15-17<sup>KJV</sup> '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.'**

**Colossians 1:15-17<sup>New World Translation</sup> 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; because by means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [other] things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist'**

Because the JWs do not accept Jesus Christ as *coequal and coeternal* with the Father, they have *repeatedly*

added the word "other" into their translation of Colossians 1:15-17. By modifying the Scripture this has changed the meaning of the text, making Christ a "lesser god" or a "created being".

**Acts 20:28** <sup>KJV</sup> ‘Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**Acts 20:28** <sup>New World Translation</sup> ‘Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has appointed YOU overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son].’

Because the Watchtower does not accept the fact that God the *Holy Spirit is a Person* - the third Person of the Trinity - they mistranslated this text. They add the word [Son] to the text, and it is not in the original manuscripts. Further, The title "Holy Ghost" (the third person of the Trinity) has also been reduced to (lower case) ‘holy spirit’ to conform to the Watchtower Society’s teaching that the Spirit is merely the impersonal ‘active force’ that Jehovah uses to accomplish his will. In his book *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (Harvest House Pub, Oregon. 1993) **Ron Rhodes** writes:

‘The New World Translation rendering of this verse goes against all legitimate translations of Scripture. For example the NAS refers to "the church of God which he purchased with His own blood." The NIV refers to "the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." The

**KJV** refers to "the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Why do these standard translations render the text this way?. One reason is that there is not a single Greek manuscript containing the word 'Son'.' (p.86)

**Hebrews 1:8** <sup>KJV</sup> ‘But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.’

**Hebrews 1:8** <sup>New World Translation</sup> ‘But with reference to the Son: God is your throne forever and ever, and [the] sceptre of your kingdom is the sceptre of uprightness’

Again, we see a *twisting of the text* to prevent the Doctrine of the Deity of Christ.

**Acts 20:7** <sup>KJV</sup> ‘And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread . . .’

**Acts 20:7** <sup>New World Translation</sup> ‘On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to have a meal . . .’

Because the **Witnesses only have an annual Lord's Table** they have twisted this text out of context. Gerald Wright in his book **The JW's Bible - Perversions & Prejudices of the New World Translation** (Star Bible & Tract Corp., 1975) writes:

"It must be noted that the NWT contains a modernising or interpretation of the original text which destroys the true meaning. Their change of 'breaking bread' to 'meal' is without support. The Greek does not say they had been

gathered to have a 'meal' It says to 'break bread' (Klasai = 'to break,' Arton = 'bread'). A literal translation is not at all difficult here, and the text needs no such interpretive revision as they have supplied (p.72)"

**Titus 2:13** <sup>KJV</sup> 'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;'

**Titus 2:13** <sup>New World Translation</sup> 'while we wait for the happy hope and glorious manifestation of the great God and of [the] Saviour of us, Christ Jesus'

Of this text Gerald Wright states:

"The NWT has insidiously added another article (where none was nor was needed) in order to make it appear that two persons are under discussion here - 'the great God' [Father, according to them] and 'the Saviour' [the Son]. First the witnesses argue that it is proper to add the indefinite article 'a' to an anarthrous noun [in John 1:1] and now they want to add the definite article 'the' (See Machen, New Testament Greek for Beginners, p 23 #26). They could not leave this passage unmolested for it conflicts with their concept of Christ. He is a small god and not the great God (Isaiah 9:6 - a small mighty God??) Yet this text allows but one person to be under consideration - Christ.' (p.50)

**John 1:1-3** <sup>KJV</sup> "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} The same was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

**John 1:1-3** <sup>New World Translation</sup> "In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. This one was in [the] beginning with God. All things came into existence through him, and apart from him, not even one thing came into existence."

This text has been *radically mistranslated* because it is one of the clearest texts in Scripture that declare Jesus is both *coequal and coeternal* with God the Father. Listen to how various Greek scholars talk about the Watchtower's mistranslation of this beloved Scripture:

**Dr. B. F. Westcott** whose Greek text is used in the Kingdom Interlinear Translation writes:

"The predicate (God) stands emphatically first, as in iv.24. It is necessarily without the article.... No idea of inferiority of nature is suggested by the form of expression, which affirms the true deity of the Word. ...In the third clause 'the Word' is declared to be 'God.' and so included in the unity of the Godhead."

**Dr. J. J. Griesbach** whose Greek text is used in the Jehovah's Witnesses work, the *Emphatic Diaglott* states:

"So numerous and clear are the arguments and testimonies of Scriptures in favor of the true Deity of Christ, that I can hardly imagine how, upon the admission of the Divine authority of Scripture, and with regard to fair rules of interpretation, this doctrine can by any man be called in doubt. Especially the passage, John 1:1-3, is so clear and so superior to all exception, that by no daring efforts of either commentators or critics can it be snatched

out of the hands of the defenders of the truth."

**Dr. William Barclay** of the University of Glasgow, Scotland writes:

"The deliberate distortion of truth by this sect is seen in their New testament translations. John 1:1 is translated: '... the Word was a god,' a translation which is grammatically impossible.... it is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest."

**Dr. F. F. Bruce** of the University of Manchester, England:

"Much is made by Arian amateur grammarians of the omission of the definite article with 'God' in the phrase 'And the Word was God.' Such an omission is common with nouns in a predicative construction--'a god' would be totally indefensible."

**Dr. Ernest C. Colwell** of the University of Chicago said:

"A definite predicate nominative has the article when it follows the verb; it does not have the article when it precedes the verb .. this statement cannot be regarded as strange in the prologue of the gospel which reaches its climax in the confession of Thomas. 'My Lord and my God.'--John 20:28."

**Dr. J. Johnson** of California State University, Long Beach said:

"No justification whatsoever for translating theos en

ho logos as 'the Word was a god.' There is no syntactical parallel to Acts 28:6 where there is a statement in indirect discourse; John 1:1 is direct. ...I am neither a Christian nor a Trinitarian."

What the JW's did, in essence, was to re-write the Bible in order that it support their beliefs. This, in itself, not only deludes followers of the JW's, but it *keeps them in a state of delusion*.

### **Specific Doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses**

#### **On The Trinity**

**Christ is not One God with the Father** (Make Sure of All Things, 1965, p. 485)

**There was a time when Jehovah was alone in universal space. All life and energy and thought were contained in Him alone** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 25)

**The obvious conclusion is that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 101)

**Elohim is the plural of majesty. It does not mean that He is mysteriously a trinity** (New Heavens and New Earth, p. 36)

The JW's reject both the doctrine of the Trinity, as well as the Biblical truth that Christ is coequal and coeternal with both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit is *not considered a Person*, but is recognized as the *active force of Jehovah only*. But what does the Scripture say?

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:26-27 And **God said, Let us make** man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Deuteronomy 4:35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

John 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the **name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost**:

Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and **he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my**

**beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

Genesis 11:7-8 Go to, **let us go down, and there confound their language**, that they may not understand one another's speech. So **the LORD** scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Isaiah 48:13-16 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together. All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The LORD hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans. I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous. Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and **now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.**

The Bible clearly recognized one God in Three Persons, Father - Son - and Holy Spirit. In our Isaiah 48 passage it is clear that Almighty God is speaking. He says "**Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens**" and "**from the time that it was, there am I**". Yet at the end of His statement God says "**now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me**". God was sent by God and God the Spirit. Here you see a very clear *representation of the Trinity*.

## On Jesus

**Not Jehovah God, He was the first son that Jehovah God brought forth** (Let God Be True, 1952, p.32)

**The First Creation by God** (Make Sure of All Things, 1965, p.282)

**Michael the archangel is no other than the only begotten Son of God, now Jesus Christ** (New Heavens and New Earth, p. 30)

**At baptism Jesus was anointed to become the Messiah or Jesus Christ (anointed)** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 38)

**He showed His subjection to God by humbling himself to a most disgraceful death on a torture stake** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 35)

**God raised him as a mighty immortal spirit Son** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 40)

**Christ was not raised in flesh, but with a spiritual body** (Make Sure of All Things, 1965, p. 426)

For the Jehovah's Witness Jesus Christ is a *created being*, not eternal God. Jesus did not *ressurrect in a real way*, but came to earth as a *spirit being* following His ressurection. The Scriptures say:

**John 1:1-4** <sup>KJV</sup> **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. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**

Jesus is both *coeternal as well as coequal* with God.

Jesus is Creator God. Jesus was brought into this life through the work of God the Holy Spirit in the life of a virgin called Mary:

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, **she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel.**

**1 Timothy 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

**John 1:14** And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ rose from the grave in *bodily form*, not in *spirit form*.

**Romans 1:4-6** And declared to be the **Son of God** with power, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead:** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom

are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

**1 Corinthians 15:13-17** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Jesus Christ lives to make *intercession for the believer*:

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Just as Jesus ascended *in bodily form to Heaven*, He will return again to receive us to Himself:

**John 14:3 (KJV)** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

**Acts 1:11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

### On The Holy Spirit

The holy spirit is the invisible active force of Almighty God which moves His servants to do His will (Let God Be True,

1952, p. 108)

**holy spirit is God's Active Force, not a person** (Make Sure of All Things, 1965, p.487)

To the Jehovah's Witnesses God the Holy Spirit is *just an illusive power of God*, not the Third Person of the Trinity. Yet the Scripture says that the Holy Spirit *came to serve in Jesus' place on the earth*:

**John 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

The Holy Spirit is repeatedly referred to in Scripture by the personal pronoun *he or him*, and *speaks* - a thing that some indefinable power could not do. The Spirit knows right from wrong, and convicts people of sin.

**John 16:8, 13-14** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ... Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

**John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, and gives the believer new life. The Spirit cries out to God for us.

**Romans 8:11-15** But if the **Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 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.**

God the Holy Spirit lives inside the Christian to *empower us for service to God.*

**Ephesians 5:18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the **Spirit of God dwelleth in you**? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

**Romans 8:9-11** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the **Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.** And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of

**righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

The Holy Spirit will one day *change our mortal bodies*, making them *incorruptable* or sinless and immortal.

### **On Sin**

**Sin is a falling short of God's mark of perfection, transgression of His righteous law** (Make Sure of All Things, 1965, p. 456)

**At death, Adam was to return to the dust, a return to non-existence** (New Heavens and New Earth, p. 88)

**All are born in sin (imperfect, with wayward tendencies)** (Make Sure of All Things, p. 456)

**Perfect human life was lost with its rights and earthly prospects** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 114)

To the Witness *sin* is no more than *wayward tendencies*, not an offense before God. Jesus only died to save *a few chosen Jehovah's Witnesses for salvation*. All others will live out their lives on earth, then cease to be.

**Adam is not included in those ransomed. He had perfect life, and this he deliberately forfeited** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 119)

**Jesus Christ laid down in sacrifice a perfect human life, equal to that which Adam forfeited** (You may survive Armageddon, p.39)

**The ransom or redemptive price with which redemption is**

**made is the man Christ Jesus** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 113)

**His perfect human life with all its rights and prospects, was laid down in death, but not for sin and in punishment** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 116)

**That which is redeemed or bought back is perfect human life with its rights and earthly prospects** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 114)

**The value of the perfect human life was now available for use on behalf of faithful men** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 116)

**Thus, makes possible general resurrection for mankind with opportunity for eternal life** (Make Sure of All Things, p. 411)

**The Bible plainly shows that 144,000 will share in heavenly glory, while the others will enjoy the blessings of life down here on earth** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 298)

**An unnumbered crowd of faithful persons do not expect to go to heaven. They have been promised everlasting life on earth if they prove their faithfulness** (Let God Be True, 1952, p. 231)

**... By faith in Jehovah's baptism "provided ... they abide in him, keeping their good conscience through faith and loyal service".** (New Heavens and New Earth, p. 311)

**Armageddon survivors and the mass of humankind will find life here on earth amid paradise conditions** (Let God Be True, p. 279)

**It is a gross twisting of the Scriptures to throw Jesus' words of John 3.3 to make them embrace all mankind ... This "great crowd" of people are not "born again", nor do they need to be "born again" because they gain**

**everlasting life on the earth.** (The Watchtower, November 15, 1954, p. 681-682)

Jesus did not die for our sins, but died to show us a better life. We are saved by working toward God. Only 144,000 will ever enter Heaven. All other *faithful Jehovah Witnesses* will live forever on the earth in glorified bodies. Are any of these things taught in Scripture? Let's see:

**Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

**1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

**Revelation 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hebrews 9:22-26 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be**

purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now **once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

Colossians 1:20-22 **And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself;** by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled **In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**

Hebrews 10:12-18 **But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, **This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**

John 3:18 **He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,** because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Titus 3:5-7 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;** Which he shed on us abundantly **through Jesus Christ our Saviour;** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:** it is the gift of God: **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Romans 3:24-27 **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; **To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.**

Romans 10:4 For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

The Bible teaches that sin - abominable to God - its penalty was paid for all who believe by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. We *cannot save ourselves*, but must rely on the Blood of Christ to save us. We *must believe on Him*, not on our own works.

## **On Hell**

For the Jehovah's Witness there is *no hell, no place of eternal punishment*. They say:

**The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true** (Let God Be True, p. 99)

**A dead person is unconscious, inactive. The soul (entire being) itself is dead** (Make Sure of All Things, p. 143)

**Those supporting Satan at the end of the Millennium will, with the Devil himself, be cast into the "lake of fire and sulfur". They are drowned in everlasting destruction, annihilated, and for them there is no resurrection** (Let God Be True, p. 270)

Yet the Bible says:

**Daniel 12:2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

**Hebrews 9:27** And as it is **appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

**Revelation 20:12-15** And **I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Is there a place of eternal punishment? Jesus thinks so, and taught us this when He said:

**Mark 9:45-48** And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: **it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

If "hell" is only a place of destruction, then why would it be better for someone to *cut off a foot or put out an eye* than to enter into hell? Jesus taught of hell, and warned:

**Matthew 13:41-42** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: **there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

Hell is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, a place of eternal torment. No hell? That's foolish!

### **Conclusion**

So how can you deal with a Jehovah's Witness? Can they be led to salvation in Christ? Maybe, though I thoroughly believe that the god of this world, Satan, has blinded their eyes:

**2 Corinthians 4:4** <sup>KJV</sup> "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

The reason I say this is because, as we before demonstrated, the Witnesses have *rewritten the Scriptures* to suit their doctrines. So I doubt that any Witness would listen to a *Scriptural refutation* of their belief system. Vincent McCann's *Spotlight Ministries* recommends that the Christian use the following questions when trying to witness to a Witness:

### **Questions about the Bible's Authority**

**"Would you be allowed to study the Bible alone, without any Watchtower literature or study aids? [Many would initially reply "yes" to this question]. Would you be willing to let it be known around the congregation and to the elders that you were doing this? Did you know that in the Spring of 1980 many Jehovah's Witnesses in the Bethel headquarters were disfellowshipped for reading the Bible alone?"**

**"When Witnesses invite someone to have a 'Bible study', is it really a study of the Bible, or is it a study of Watchtower literature?"**

**"Don't you think it would it would surely be impossible for a person to become a Jehovah's Witness by reading the Bible alone? Can someone really come to believe Jehovah's Witness doctrine by reading the Bible only? For example, if you were to have only read the Bible, with no Watchtower study aids, do you think that you would have come to the conclusion that heaven closed its doors in 1935, or that Jesus is really the Archangel Micheal?"**

### **Questions about Truth**

**"Did you know that if the founder of the Watchtower Society, Charles Taze Russel, was alive today, he would be condemned as an apostate because his views differ so much from modern day Jehovah's Witnesses?" [JWs usually say something about "light getting brighter" etc. See next question.]**

**"If the light gets brighter as time goes on, does this mean that the truth you have today, and preach on the doorsteps, may be the error of tomorrow? It is true that**

**God will reveal more light about a truth with the passage of time, but how can yesterday's 'truth' now be today's error? For example, in the past Jehovah's Witnesses taught that Christ's invisible return was 1874 and that 1914 would bring about Armageddon. Today, that view is seen as wrong. Today it is taught that 1914 was the date of Christ's invisible return. In the past the Watchtower taught that vaccines and organ transplants were wrong. Now these are accepted as being o.k. Do you really think that this was just light getting brighter or the teaching of error (especially in the case of the latter where many people lost their lives)?"**

### **Questions about The Organisation**

**"Before Jehovah's Witnesses came into being in the late 19th century, were there any others in existence before that time who believed just as the modern day Watchtower believe today?"**

### **Questions about Criticism**

**"Did you know that groups like The Moonies are extremely abusive towards anyone who would question their organisation? Ex-members who write about and speak out against The Moonies are called names like "evil" and "of the Devil" etc, even though they are expressing legitimate concerns about the group. What is the Watchtower view on ex- members who have legitimate questions and objections about the Watchtower? Would you be allowed to hear the complaints of these people?"**

### **Questions about Critical Literature**

**"Imagine that you, as a Jehovah's Witness, wanted to convince a Roman Catholic of the errors found in the**

**Catholic Church. But suppose that Roman Catholic would refuse to look at your literature or hear your arguments. How would you ever convince them that Roman Catholicism is wrong? If I was to give you literature which shows the error of the Watchtower, but you refuse to take it, how will you ever know about the errors of the Watchtower?"**

**"Where does it say in the Bible that we are not allowed to read critical literature? In fact the opposite is true. We are told to "test all things" (e.g. 1 Thess. 5:21).**

**"Did you know that Christians in Bible colleges and seminaries spend many hours examining the literature of atheists and philosophers and responding to their criticisms? Why doesn't the Watchtower Society encourage its members to do the same? If you have "The Truth", as you call it, why should you fear such an examination?"**

### **Questions about Life Experience in the Watchtower**

**"What is your experience like in the Watchtower Organisation? [They will probably say "great"] Its just that groups like The Moonies, The Way International, and The Children of God, etc. have members who have now left and who now say that their actual experience went against what the group taught. They were taught that they should be happy but were actually secretly miserable and downtrodden. Many suffered depression [Note. Many JWs suffer depression], but feared sharing this with other members as it would be seen as a sign of weakness."**

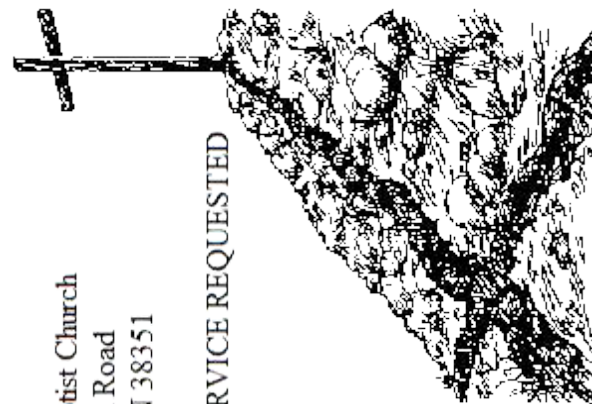
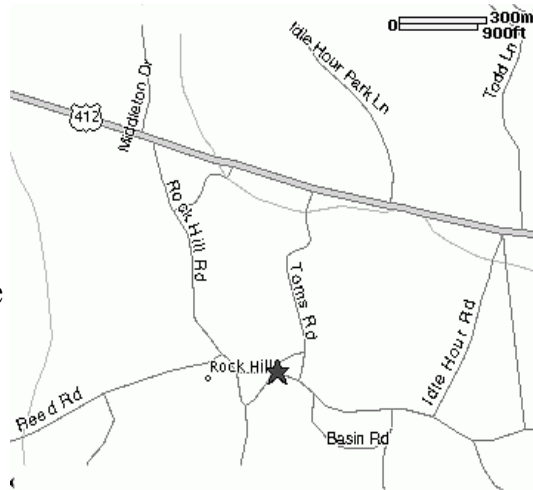
**"Do you think that if you were suffering from depression, for example, that your friends in the Organisation would**

**be there for you? Are your friends really your friends or are they conditional friends? Do you think that they only remain as your friends as long as you are in line with what the Watchtower is teaching?"** (© Spotlight Ministries, Vincent McCann, 2002)

These types of searching questions may open the eyes of the Jehovah's Witness so he or she can be approached with the True Gospel of Christ. I pray that they can be reached while there is yet time.

Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00

AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org); or e-mail him by writing [webmaster@bibleteacher.org](mailto:webmaster@bibleteacher.org). Rock Hill is an independent Church affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and is a regular contributor to missions through the Cooperative Program.



Rock Hill Baptist Church  
605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED