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JEHOVAH WITNESSES



Is the Watchtower Society a prophet?

- ♠ A different God
- ♠ A different Jesus
- ♠ A different Gospel

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JEHOVAH WITNESSES

Written by Robert E. Kiser



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JEHOVAH WITNESSES

Many people have at least met a Jehovah Witnesses because the Jehovah Witness knocked on their door. The Churches that these people go to are called Kingdom Hall. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society print the literature that the Jehovah Witnesses read and distribute. Charles Taze Russell established the church in 1879. Russell died in 1916 and was replaced by the 2nd president, Joseph F Rutherford. In the early stages the church was also known as the "International Bible Students Association. The Jehovah Witnesses that I have met are very sincere and good honest people. Unfortunately a person can be very sincere and still be wrong. Our question should be: "Is the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society a prophet of God? Does the Watchtower Society print the truth about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and salvation? Sadly they do not teach the truth and they have proven to be false prophets. However this does not mean that you should chase their people away from your door or be disrespectful to them. They are people whom the Lord loves and he wants them to hear the truth. We need to remember that the Jehovah Witness is not our enemy. They are instead the one who is deceived by our enemy.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (NAS)

1 Pet 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; (NAS)

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IS THE WATCHTOWER A PROPHET OF GOD?

To accurately answer the question above the following questions must also be answered.

1. Did the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society which write the literature for the Jehovah Witnesses claim to be a prophet of God?
2. How does the Bible say to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet?
3. Does the Watchtower measure up to this test?

Throughout this study all quoted references followed by (JW) or (NWT) is material printed by the Watchtower.

JW= Jehovah Witness

NWT= New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures

1. Did the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, which write the literature for the Jehovah Witnesses, claim to be a prophet of God?

The Watchtower is a self-proclaimed prophet of God, following is a quote by them:

The Watchtower, April 1, 1972, p.197. (JW)

'They Shall Know that a Prophet Was Among Them'

JEHOVAH GOD is interested in having people know him. Though he is invisible to human eyes, he provides various ways by which they can know his personality. They can know what to expect from him and what he expects of them.

One can come to understand that Jehovah is a God of surpassing wisdom by observing creation. This also reveals the loving care with which he designed things for man's welfare and enjoyment. A second way to know God is through his Word of truth, the Bible. Herein one finds the full expression of Jehovah's purpose toward mankind-why man is on the earth and the blessings that God has in store.

A third way of coming to know Jehovah God is through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers. While these men foretold things to come, they also served the people by telling them of God's will for them at that time, often also warning them of dangers and calamities. People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. **So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?**

IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET"

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? The clergy of the so-called "Christian" nations hold themselves before the people as being the ones commissioned to speak for God. But, as pointed out in the previous issue of this magazine, they have failed God and failed as proclaimers of his kingdom by approving a man-made political organization, the League of Nations (now the United Nations), as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth."

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However, Jehovah did not let the people of Christendom, as led by the clergy, go without being warned that the League was a counterfeit substitute for the real kingdom of God. He had a "prophet" to warn them. **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.** They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined and assisted in their commissioned work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief.
(End Quote)

The Watchtower claims to be the only channel of God's truth, following is a quote by them:

The Watchtower, Feb. 15, 1981, p. 19. (JW)
OUR VIEW OF THE "SLAVE"

We can benefit from this consideration. If we have once established what instrument God is using as his "slave" to dispense spiritual food to his people, surely Jehovah is not pleased if we receive that food as though it might contain something harmful. We should have confidence in the channel God is using. **At the Brooklyn headquarters from which the Bible publications of Jehovah's Witnesses emanate there are more mature Christian elders, both of the "remnant" and of the "other sheep," than anywhere else upon earth.**

True, the brothers preparing these publications are not infallible. Their writings are not inspired as are those of Paul and the other Bible writers. (2 Tim. 3:16) And so, at times, it has been necessary, as understanding became clearer, to correct views. (Prov. 4:18) However, this has resulted in a continual refining of the body of Bible-based truth to which Jehovah's Witnesses subscribe. Over the years, as adjustments have been made to that body of truth, it has become ever more wonderful and applicable to our lives in these "last days." Bible commentators of Christendom are not inspired either. Despite their claims to great knowledge, they have failed to highlight even basic Bible truths—such as the coming Paradise earth, the importance of God's name, and the condition of the dead.

Rather, the record that the "faithful and discreet slave" organization has made for the past more than 100 years forces us to the conclusion that Peter expressed when Jesus asked if his apostles also wanted to leave him, namely, "Whom shall we go away to?" (John 6:66-69) No question about it. **We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the "faithful and discreet slave" organization.**

(End Quote)

2. How does the Bible say to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet?

When we look to the Bible we can soon learn how to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet. We are also told why it is important to do so.

Mt 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. **"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me,**

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Here we learn that there are those who prophesy in Jesus name and even perform miracles, but that does not mean they are from God!

Acts 3:22-23 "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

In this passage we can see why it would be important to distinguish a false prophet from a true one. It certainly does not sound wise to ignore what someone has to say, if they really are a prophet of God.

Deut 18:18-22 (NAS)

18 I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

19 'And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

20 'But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

21 **"And you may say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'**

22 **"When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.**

(1) In verse 18-19 We see that we should listen to a true prophet or answer to God for it.

(2) In verse 21&22 We see it is easy to tell the difference from a true prophet from a false one. If he is a true prophet and he tells us something about the future it will come to pass. Notice he does not mention any exceptions, one false prophecy makes one a false prophet.

(3) As we can see in verse 20 God does not take the matter of false prophets lightly.

One might ask how can God judge the false prophet so harshly? The answer is because the prophet said God said something that he knows God did not say. God himself is the one that causes the prophecy to come true. Man when he is involved is only an instrument that God uses. Following is some scripture that shows this.

Ezek 12:22-25 "Son of man, what is this proverb you people have concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The days are long and every vision fails'? "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "I will make this proverb cease so that they will no longer use it as a proverb in Israel." But tell them," The days draw near as well as the fulfillment of every vision. "For there will no longer be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel. "For I the LORD shall speak, and whatever word I speak will be performed. It will no longer be delayed, for in your days, O rebellious house, **I shall speak the word and perform it," declares the Lord GOD.**"

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Hab 2:2-3 Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and **it will not fail**. Though it tarries, wait for it; for **it will certainly come**, it will not delay.

Here we can see that the Lord is the one that fulfills the prophecy and the fulfillment of it is certain. We know that God does not lie and nothing is too hard for him. Heb.6:18, Jer.32:27.

3. Does the Watchtower measure up to this test?

The Watchtower has made numerous false prophecies. I have found that for the average person many of them are hard to verify. The reason for this is because the local library does not collect old publications by the Watchtower. It can be difficult but not impossible to find these old publications. I have decided to share one false prophecy that is found in the New York Times, N.Y., Monday, Oct.5, 1914, pg.8. I have chosen this false prophecy from among the many others. The reason why is because, the average person can obtain it from the local library. I found it on microfilm at Southern Oregon University. If your library does not have it simply ask them if they can borrow it from another library or if they can at least photo copy the requested page from the microfilm. The library will charge a small fee for this service.

You can also obtain a whole book of false prophecies including this one found in the New York Times. There are 2 ways you can do this:

(1) You can borrow the book from your local library by giving them the following information.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Morey, Robert A., 1946-

How to answer a Jehovah Witness.

Bibliography: p.

1. Jehovah Witnesses - Doctrinal and controversial works.

2. Witness bearing (Christianity) I. Title.

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ISBN 0-87123-206-5

(2) You can buy the book. Simply ask your local book store to order the book titled "How to answer a Jehovah's Witness" by Robert A. Morey. It was published by Bethany House Publishers Minneapolis, MN. 55438,

When I checked Christian Book Distributors on 4-28-99 they sold this book for \$5.50.

Christian Book Distributors P.O.Box 7000 Peabody, MA 01961-7000

Phone (978) 977-5050

Website <http://www.christianbook.com>

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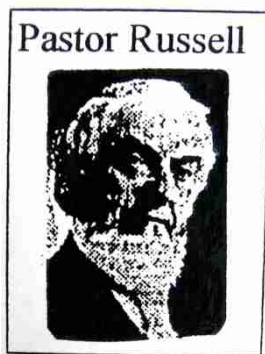
The following pages are the text as it appeared in the New York Times, N.Y, Monday, Oct.5, 1914, pg.8.

I have re-typed it so all of the words are legible and easy to read. Copies from microfilm are readable, but not always easy on the eyes.

Read the article then answer the following questions:

1. What battle was prophesied to follow World War 1?
2. When will the kingdom be established on earth?
3. What date was assigned as the close of the 6,000 years since Adam's creation?
4. Is this a true or false prophecy and how should you respond according to the Bible?

New York Times, N.Y, Monday, Oct.5, 1914



Pastor Russell addressed a very intelligent audience last evening at the New York City Temple. His discourse was based upon the text, "Upon the earth distress of the nations with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing for fear and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth," (Luke 21:25, 26) He said:

Our Honorable President with praiseworthy intent has requested all Christian people to make this a day of prayer for peace in Europe. I have been asked to sermonize accordingly. However I cannot concur with our worthy President in this matter. Much as I appreciate peace--and I have labored all my life to be a peacemaker--I cannot pray the Almighty to change His plans to conform to those of our honored President.

For 2,500 years, God through the Bible Prophets, has been telling His people about this great war and concerning the more terrible Armageddon which will follow it; and can we expect Him to reverse this programme at our behest?

The prayers of these millions praying for the prosperity of the Germans and the extermination of the Allies, and the prayers of other millions for the successes of the Allies and the annihilation of the Germans, and the prayers of the Pope and our President and other good people that this awful war shall promptly cease will all go unanswered if I read my Bible aright. **The war will proceed and will eventuate in no glorious victory for any nation, but in the horrible mutilation and impoverishment of all. Next will follow the Armageddon of anarchy.**

After that, peace, everlasting peace, may be hoped for because God has declared it! It will be brought in by Messiah's Kingdom, for which so long we have prayed--"Thy Kingdom come!"

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For forty years I have been proclaiming this very war and its glorious outcome by sermons oral and printed, and in my books on Bible study in twenty languages. **Now, when the very year has come and the prophecy is being fulfilled, could I consistently ask the Almighty to change his programme? Nay! Rather my discourse will be, as announced, from the Master's words respecting the present "distress of nations with perplexity, *** men's hearts failing for fear of those things about to come upon the earth."**

GOD'S PART IN THE PRESENT WAR.

Doubtless many will be shocked with my declaration that this war and the resulting greater calamity or of Divine permission and arrangement, clearly prophesied in scripture. The gathering of the nations to this present struggle is referred to in the prophecy of Joel, where the weak nations are called upon to assert their strength and where all of them are commanded to go down to the valley of Jehoshaphat- the Valley of Graves--the cemetery outside the city of Jerusalem being used by the Prophet in illustration of terrible slaughter now going on.

Surely this war brought more to the grave than any previous war; and it is only beginning. For years the nations, in harmony with Joel's prophecy, have "beating their plowshares into swords, and their pruning-hooks into spears." in the sense that they have been spending for military purposes money, which should properly have been spent on agricultural implements and developments.

Apparently all the nations will yet be involved. Happy would it be if our own land shall escape! Our president and our Secretary of State are men of peace, and will surely do all in their power to avoid complications and war itself. Nevertheless the great nations of Europe, realizing how much they will be weakened by this war, will do all in their power to ensnare these United States, lest all conclusion of the war we should tower above the others financially and otherwise.

WHY GOD PERMITS SIN AND DEATH

Only as we look at the Divine Plan as a whole can we understand God's relationship with this bloody war-- and with all war. To the majority it is confusing to think that God would bring about any war. There is surely something wrong or there would not be such perplexity, for the Lord tells His people concerning this time of trouble that they "need not be in darkness that that day should overtake them unawares." God's people should have general information regarding His plans and arrangements.

Meaning have seen only small portions of the Divine Plan, and so have failed to grasp the great lengths, breadths, heights; and depths of God's great purpose. But whoever has an understanding of the great plan of God will ever after be able rightly to appreciate and to locate not only the events of today, but also everything that is coming: for the Bible outlines the history of man.

The Scriptures clearly teach that our earth is the only rebellious province in all God's fair creation. In this little planet God has permitted sin to take its course-- to bud, to blossom, to bring forth its fruitage-- that both men and angels may see the dire results of opposition to the Divine Government.

The Bible tells us how this world became rebellious. It tells us that God did not create mankind imperfect, as we are today. Man was created perfect, and earthly being in the image of his Heavenly Creator. In the sense of having a moral character, but limited to earthly conditions. This perfect man was placed in a perfect home, in every way adapted to his needs.

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This Eden was especially prepared for him and he was to enjoy it. He was the king of the whole earth; and therefore his Creator instructed him that as his family increased he was to subdue the earth and develop it. Had mankind remained in harmony with God the world would have become as Eden.

God foreknew just what would occur; however, He foreknew Adam's sin and fall, as well as the mental, moral, and physical degeneracy, which would result from the disobedience of our first parents. He foreknew our weakness and imperfection, our attempts at moral, religious, and mental reform and at mental and physical health. Yet He permitted all to come to pass. Sin entered the world, and has continued to rest upon the human family for six thousand years.

God's penalty upon man is death, and it matters not whether that death come through war or pestilence or famine or by slower processes. Meantime, God would use all of man's experiences of the past six thousand years as a great lesson on the exceeding sinfulness of sin and on the utter hopelessness of any other help than that which God Himself has provided.

From the creation of Adam until now has been a period of six thousand year--days--man's work week--during which he has been permitted to try everything he could imagine for his own relief from sin and its penalty of death.

So far from gaining life everlasting for our race, all our efforts of accomplished nothing. Our most learned physicians and specialists declare that the world is on the verge of collapse; and that at the present rate of increase there would not, in one hundred and sixty, years, be enough sane people in the world to care for the insane. They tell us that various diseases are increasing so rapidly as to endanger the race in a very short time; and that this is so not withstanding the fact that sanitary conditions are made necessary even to the extent of individual drinking cups.

Our only hope lies in the great Seventh Day , the antitypical Sabbath. In it Messiah, associating with Himself the saintly ones of this Gospel Age, will set up the Divine Kingdom amongst men--a spiritual Kingdom, not an earthly one, but ruling amongst mankind, blessing and uplifting them. For a thousand years the work of uplift will progress until all the willing and obedient will have attained again the lost likeness of their Creator; and the whole earth will be there Paradise.

“Times of the Gentiles.”

Amongst other lessons which God has been teaching mankind is the fact that they are incapable of establishing a government such as is necessary for the real blessing and uplift of the race. God appointed Israel after the flesh to be His typical Kingdom for a time and selected King David and his posterity to be rulers. By and by He cut these off, discontinuing the earthly typical Kingdom.

The last monarch of David's line was King Zedekiah, of whom we read: “O thou profane and wicked Prince, whose time as come that iniquity shall have an end. Remove the diadem, take off the crown.*** I will overturn, overturn, overturn it until He comes whose right it is, and I will give it to Him.” (Ezekiel xxi.,25-27.) Messiah is the One whose right it is-- Jesus the Head, the Church His Body-- on the spirit plane.

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Certain Scriptures indicate that the period during which God's Kingdom would be removed would be seven prophetic Times, each 360 years long. Seven Times would therefore equal 2,520 years. Reckoned from the time of King Zedekiah, that period ends this year; for, according to the Scriptures, King Zedekiah's crown was taken away in 606 B.C. If so, with the close of the present year Messiah should take to Himself His great power and begin His glorious Reign of a thousand years, the beginning of which according to the Bible will be a very dark hour-- "a Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation," "no, nor ever shall be" the like again.--Daniel, xii, 1; Matthew, xxiv, 21.

When God removed His typical Kingdom, 606 B.C., He gave to the Gentiles authority or permission to do their best in governing the world in bringing it in righteousness and happiness. That we might know all this, He gave a dream to Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and sent the interpretation of that dream through the Prophet Daniel. The dream showed a great image, whose head was of gold, representing Babylon; its breast and arms of silver, representing the succeeding government of the Medes and Persians; the belly of brass, representing the Grecian Empire, which followed the Medo-Persian; and its legs of iron, representing Rome, the government of the Caesars. Each of these governments has had universal sway, each has shown the best it could do for humanity, and each has failed.

Next came the feet of the image which were of iron smeared with clay, thus made to resemble stone feet. These iron feet represented the Holy Roman Empire, which was really a part of the Roman Empire and the divisions of which are at war with each other today. The dream and its interpretation showed that a stone cut without hands struck the image in its feet, ground them to powder and utterly destroyed the entire image. This stone represented Messiah's Kingdom, which will ultimately fill the whole earth, according to this prophecy.

The clay smeared on the iron feet, making them like stone, represent the fact that the present Roman governments Europe claim to be Christ's Kingdom. On their coins, and otherwise, they claimed to represent God. They have been deceived into thinking and speaking of themselves as Christendom, which signify Christ's Kingdom. In reality they are the last representatives of Gentile power-- "kingdoms of this world"-- the toes of the image of Gentile supremacy of which King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed.

The present war will weaken the nations, draining not only their life blood, but also their wealth :and it will demonstrate the inefficiency of all Gentile Kingdoms to bring to the world peace, righteousness, satisfactory government. But Messiah's Kingdom, which will then be inaugurated, will be "the desire of all nations."

The Prophetic Forecast.

This war, and anarchy of Armageddon, which will follow it, will prove conclusively the need of Divine interposition in human affairs. As Jesus said, speaking of the present trouble and the resulting anarchy. "Unless, those days shall be shortened, there would be no flesh be saved." So virulent, so selfish would that strive be that our civilization would perish did not God through Messiah's Kingdom, the Elect, intervene to bring order out of chaos.

Doubtless earth's great rulers have done the best they new how to do for their peoples. Some of our very best laws came from Julius Caesar, in combination with the Mosaic code. Some of the world's rulers today are also doing their best :but they are confused. Having a false idea of what constitutes Christ's Kingdom, they seem to think it their mission to conquer the world. They also believe that they foresee a general uprising of socialism, and their hearts are failing them, fearing the things coming upon the earth.

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While they knew that this would be the worst war ever known, yet they preferred it to that which they were striving to ward off and which they have succeeded in keeping off for the present. But they have lost their best blood, their best energy, their money, commerce & c.: and when the war is ended, these nations, sorrowful and famine-stricken will be greatly angered at their rulers. Then will come the determination something like socialism. This the Governments will endeavor to put down, into some extent they will succeed. Then will come the great explosion the Armageddon of the Scriptures. Then will be the Time of Trouble, immediately proceeding the Messianic Kingdom, which will inaugurate the long-promised Peace on Earth.

After reading the article you can answer the following questions:

1. What battle was prophesied to follow World War 1?

(Answer) Armageddon pg.10&13

2. When will the kingdom be established on earth?

(Answer) At the close of that present year in 1914 or at the end of World War 2 and Armageddon. pg.13

3. What date was assigned as the close of the 6,000 years since Adam's creation?

(Answer) 2,520 years after 606BC. $2,520 - 606 = 1914$

The time of the article was 1914. Not only in the math by the dates he gave us, but also he stated "that *period ends this year*" pg.12 & 13

4. Is this a true or false prophecy and how should you respond according to the Bible?

(Answer) It is a false prophecy because it did not happen as he stated. The test of a prophet of God was given on page 7-9

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A DIFFERENT GOD

Although Jehovah Witnesses would agree with historic Christianity on some of the attributes of God they only apply these attributes to God the Father. Jehovah Witnesses constantly misrepresent and attack the doctrine of the Trinity. I find it interesting that the Watchtower Society on numerous times defines the Trinity correctly and often defines the Trinity incorrectly as well. One can only wonder do they from time to time forget how to define it, or do they purposely misrepresent the Trinity to suite their own purpose? Following is a quote by the Watchtower on one of the occasions that they misrepresented the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Watchtower, April 1,1970, pg.210 (JW)

It may be necessary for us to teach those with whom we study the Bible how to reason on Scripture texts. For example, Mark 12:29 might be read: "Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah." Ask the student, "How many Jehovah's are there?" Let him answer. The answer is obvious that there is only one Jehovah. When he discerns this, you have caused him to register an important fact in his mind that he might otherwise have missed. Help him to appreciate further what this means to him. Reason with him, perhaps in this way: "If he is one Jehovah, then could he be three gods, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, as the Trinitarians teach?" Again, let him answer. "No, Jehovah could not be three gods, for the Bible plainly says he is one God." Now, you have caused the student to think on a basic Scriptural truth and to understand that Jehovah is but one God. You have also exposed a basic false doctrine-the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Watchtower on this occasion gave a false definition of the Trinity and then argued that the false definition was not biblical. Of course the false definition is un-biblical there is indeed only one God Is.44:8. The Trinity however is not shown to be un-biblical here rather the false definition was shown to be un-biblical instead. Next the Watchtower declared that this exposed the false doctrine of the Trinity.

Trinitarians do not teach that Jehovah is three gods as the Watchtower suggested.

Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary defines the TRINITY as follows:

"The coexistence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the unity of the Godhead (divine nature or essence). The doctrine of the trinity means that within the being and activity of the one God there are three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

One could Just as easily turn this around and ask the Jehovah Witness how many Gods are there? Of course they will say only one. Then ask them: "are all other gods false gods?" They should say yes. Then if Jehovah is the Almighty God who is Jesus? (The New Worlds Translation says Jesus is a god. John 1:1.) The bible clearly teaches there is only one God Is. 44:8. Some Jehovah Witnesses could be confused at this point because Jesus must be the true God or a false god otherwise you have 2 Gods. However the Jehovah Witness that is well informed by Watchtower literature will declare that Jesus only has the title of god or lord, but he is not really a true God like Jehovah. Watchtower literature declares there is only one Almighty God and any other god is merely a title.

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Following are 3 quotes from the Watchtower Society concerning the Trinity.

Knowledge 1995 page 30-31, (JW)

"JEHOVAH OUR GOD IS ONE"

The ancient Egyptians worshiped many gods, but Jehovah is "a God exacting exclusive devotion." (Exodus 20:5) Moses reminded the Israelites that "Jehovah our God is one Jehovah." (Deuteronomy 6:4) Jesus Christ repeated those words. (Mark 12:28, 29) Therefore, those who accept the Bible as God's Word do not worship a Trinity consisting of three persons or gods in one. In fact, the word "Trinity" does not even appear in the Bible. The true God is one Person, separate from Jesus Christ. (John 14:28; 1 Corinthians 15:28) God's holy spirit is not a person. It is Jehovah's active force, used by the Almighty to accomplish his purposes.-Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:1-4, 32, 33; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

The Watchtower, Feb. 1,1974, pg.75 (JW)

Does Christianity Require Belief in a Trinity?

ALL major religions of Christendom accept the Trinity doctrine as an article of faith. The more than 250 churches belonging to the World Council of Churches confess "the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

While the views of the various religious bodies belonging to this fellowship vary radically, all are required to be in agreement that the "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" are but "one God." Hence, rejection of the Trinity doctrine is, in effect, regarded as a rejection of Christianity.....

So, then, can the Trinity doctrine be viewed as Christian? No, for it denies the clear Biblical statements that Jesus Christ is the "Son of God," the "firstborn of all creation" and the "beginning of the creation by God." (John 20:31; Col. 1:15; Rev. 3:14) It falsely claims that he is coequal and coeternal with the Father.

True Christianity, therefore, requires that we reject the Trinity doctrine as false, as an "invention" of sinful men. We should worship the Father as the only true God, and do so through his firstborn Son Jesus Christ, the One who occupies the first place among all of God's intelligent creatures.-Col. 3:17.

Let God Be True, 1946, page 82 (JW)

"The obvious conclusion, therefore is that Satan is the originator of the "trinity" doctrine."

The Watchtower puts out a 32 page pamphlet to argue against the Trinity. The next 3 quotes are from that pamphlet.

Should You Believe in the Trinity?, 1989, page 5 (JW)

However, contending that since the Trinity is such a confusing mystery, it must have come from divine revelation creates another major problem. Why? Because divine revelation itself does not allow for such a view of God: "God is not a God of confusion."-1 Corinthians 14:33, Revised Standard Version (RS).

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Should You Believe in the Trinity?, 1989, page 6 (JW)

Similarly, in his book *The Triune God*, Jesuit Edmund Fortman admits: "The Old Testament . . . tells us nothing explicitly or by necessary implication of a Triune God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. . . . There is no evidence that any sacred writer even suspected the existence of a [Trinity] within the Godhead. . . . Even to see in [the "Old Testament"] suggestions or foreshadowings or 'veiled signs' of the trinity of persons, is to go beyond the words and intent of the sacred writers."-Italics ours

Should You Believe in the Trinity?, 1989, page 7 (JW)

"The formulation 'one God in three Persons' was not solidly established, certainly not fully assimilated into Christian life and its profession of faith, prior to the end of the 4th century. . . .

Summing up the historical evidence, Alvan Lamson says in *The Church of the First Three Centuries*: "The modern popular doctrine of the Trinity . . . derives no support from the language of Justin [Martyr]: and this observation may be extended to all the ante-Nicene Fathers; that is, to all Christian writers for three centuries after the birth of Christ. It is true, they speak of the Father, Son, and . . . holy Spirit, but not as co-equal, not as one numerical essence, not as Three in One, in any sense now admitted by Trinitarians. The very reverse is the fact."

Thus, the testimony of the Bible and of history makes clear that the Trinity was unknown throughout Biblical times and for several centuries thereafter.

In the quotes so far by the Watchtower Society we have seen the following:

- (1) The doctrine of the Trinity has been misrepresented by declaring it to be a belief in 3 gods and with this false definition the trinity is declared to be untrue.
- (2) Those that believe the bible do not worship a trinity
- (3) The word "Trinity" does not even appear in the Bible.
- (4) The true God is one Person, separate from Jesus Christ.
- (5) God's holy spirit is not a person, but rather it is Jehovah's active force
- (6) The doctrine of the Trinity cannot be viewed as Christian
- (7) True Christianity, therefore, requires that we reject the Trinity doctrine as false, as an "invention" of sinful men
- (8) Satan is the originator of the "trinity" doctrine
- (9) The Trinity is confusing therefore God cannot be the author because He is not a God of confusion
- (10) The Trinity is not in the Old Testament
- (11) The Trinity was not developed until the 4th century AD
- (12) THE ante-Nicene Fathers before the 4th century did not teach or believe in the Trinity.

To answer these statements we must show:

- (1) The Trinity is taught in the bible in both the Old and New Testament. (page 18-25)
- (2) Jesus is God. (See a different Jesus page 26-33)
- (3) God the Holy Spirit is a person, not just an active force.(See a different Holy Spirit pg 38-42)
- (4) The Trinity was taught and believed by the early church before the 4th century.
(See Watchtower Literature page 48-53)

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THE TRINITY IS TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE

In this section scripture used is from the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures by the Watchtower Society. The N.W.T is actually a very poor and biased translation. However the N.W.T is the accepted version by the Jehovah Witnesses. Therefore if the verse has not been perverted too badly this version will be used here. In the cases where the text has been twisted and the meaning has been changed the New American Standard is quoted and is abbreviated as N.A.S. For further information on the N.W.T turn to the section titled "Watchtower literature"

Historically the nature of God has been referred to as the Trinity. This means that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are 3 separate persons which constitute only one God. The word "*Trinity*" is not in the Bible. This simply is the name of a doctrine or idea that is taught in the Bible. Jehovah Witnesses also use terms that are not found in the bible such as "Theocratic kingdom". We also use the word omnipotent to describe God as having unlimited power. The word omnipotent is not in the bible yet the bible clearly teaches that God has unlimited power. People that argue against the Trinity often misrepresent it by stating it is a belief in 3 Gods. Similarly they often point out passages where Jesus prays to the Father and then declare that Jesus cannot be the Father. This type of argument shows lack of understanding of the doctrine. Let me try to explain it as clear as I can. God the Father is called God, but this does not mean that he is Jesus, nor does it mean that he is the Holy Spirit. The Father is called God in

Rom 1:7 N.W.T *"to all those who are in Rome as God's beloved ones, called to be holy ones: May YOU have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and [the] Lord Jesus Christ."*

Jesus the Son is called God, but this does not mean that he is the Father nor does it mean he is the Holy Spirit. Jesus is called God.

John 1:1&14 N.A.S

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(14) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Notice this states that God became flesh. In the context this is Jesus. See also Phil.2:5-8)

John 20:27-29 N.W.T Next he said to Thomas: "Put your finger here, and see my hands, and take your hand and stick it into my side, and stop being unbelieving but become believing." In answer Thomas said to him: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "Because you have seen me have you believed? Happy are those who do not see and yet believe."

(Notice Jesus did not rebuke Peter when he called him Lord and God. The conclusion is Jesus is God the Son.)

The Holy Spirit is called God but this does not mean that he is the Father nor does it mean that he is Jesus. The Holy Spirit is called God.

Acts 5:3-4 N.W.T "But Peter said: "An-a-ni'as, why has Satan emboldened you to play false to the holy spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played false, not to men, but to God"

(Notice that Peter stated they played false to or in other words lied to the Holy Spirit. Then in the next breath he states that this was God they lied to.)

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Hebrews 3:7-11 N.W.T For this reason, just as the holy spirit says: "Today if YOU people listen to his own voice, do not harden YOUR hearts as on the occasion of causing bitter anger, as in the day of making the test in the wilderness, in which YOUR forefathers made a test of me with a trial, and yet they had seen my works for forty years. For this reason I became disgusted with this generation and said, 'They always go astray in their hearts, and they themselves have not come to know my ways.' So I swore in my anger, 'They shall not enter into my rest.'"

Here we see the Holy Spirit said that he that was provoked and swore in his wrath "they shall not enter into my rest".

Psalms 95:6-11 N.W.T "O come in, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasturage and the sheep of his hand. Today if YOU people listen to his own voice, Do not harden YOUR heart as at Mer'i-bah, As in the day of Mas'sah in the wilderness, When YOUR forefathers put me to the proof; They examined me, they also saw my activity. For forty years I kept feeling a loathing toward [that] generation, And I proceeded to say: "They are a people wayward at heart, And they themselves have not come to know my ways"; Concerning whom I swore in my anger: "They shall not enter into my resting-place."

Here we were told that Jehovah our maker is God. It is he that was provoked and swore in his wrath "they shall not enter into my rest". The conclusion is God the Holy Spirit said this. (See also Num 14:22-23) Following is a similar reference where we have Jehovah speaking in the Old Testament and in the New Testament it refers to the Holy Spirit as the speaker. We will compare Isaiah 6:8-10 with Acts 28:25-27.

Isaiah 6:8-10 N.W.T "And I began to hear the voice of Jehovah saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I proceeded to say: "Here I am! Send me." And he went on to say: "Go, and you must say to this people, 'Hear again and again, O men, but do not understand; and see again and again, but do not get any knowledge.' Make the heart of this people unreceptive, and make their very ears unresponsive, and paste their very eyes together, that they may not see with their eyes and with their ears they may not hear, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves."

Acts 28:25-27 N.W.T So, because they were at disagreement with one another, they began to depart, while Paul made this one comment: "The holy spirit aptly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to YOUR forefathers, saying, 'Go to this people and say: 'By hearing, YOU will hear but by no means understand; and, looking, YOU will look but by no means see. For the heart of this people has grown unreceptive, and with their ears they have heard without response, and they have shut their eyes; that they should never see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn back, and I should heal them.'"

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We have just seen that the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit are all called God. These 3 are all called God yet they are also 3 separate persons. They are not all the same person.

One passage that clearly shows this is John 14:16-17 N.W.T.(Jesus is the one speaking here.) *"and I will request the Father and he will give YOU another helper to be with YOU forever, the spirit of the truth, which the world cannot receive, because it neither beholds it nor knows it. YOU know it, because it remains with YOU and is in YOU."*

This passage clearly shows they are 3 separate persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All 3 the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are called God and they are 3 separate persons. Yet the Bible does not teach that there are 3 Gods. There is only one God. These 3 Persons constitute only one God.

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.

Isa 44:6-8 N.A.S "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me. 'And who is like me? Let him proclaim and declare it; yes, let him recount it to me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none."

Did you notice King of Israel and his Redeemer seem to be speaking of more than one? Then he says "I am the first and I am the last and there is no God besides Me" this is singular. Then he ask if there are any other Gods besides him and states that he (God) does not know of any! How can there be other Gods that even God himself knows nothing about?

Isaiah 43:10 N.W.T "YOU are my witnesses," is the utterance of Jehovah, "even my servant whom I have chosen, in order that YOU may know and have faith in me, and that YOU may understand that I am the same One. Before me there was no God formed, and after me there

(This even states there will be no other Gods in the future.) So what we have so far is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are 3 separate persons. All 3 persons are called God and there is only one God. We find this in creation also. All 3 are called the creator and there is only one creator.

THE FATHER IS CREATOR

Isaiah 45:18, N.W.T, "For this is what Jehovah has said, the Creator of the heavens, He the [true] God, the Former of the earth and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited: "I am Jehovah, and there is no one else. (see also Isa 42:5 & 1 Cor.8:6)

JESUS IS CREATOR

Col 1:13-16, N.A.S, For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.

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John 1:3, N.W.T All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.

(See also Hebrews 1:2, 1 Corinthians 8:6)

THE SPIRIT IS CREATOR

Job 26:13, N.A.S, "By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent."

Gen 1:2, N.A.S And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Psalms 104:30, N.W.T, "If you send forth your spirit, they are created; And you make the face of the ground new

GOD CREATED BY HIMSELF

Isaiah 44:24, N.W.T "This is what Jehovah has said, your Repurchaser and the Former of you from the belly: "I, Jehovah, am doing everything, stretching out the heavens by myself, laying out the earth. Who was with me?"

The Watchtower claims that Jehovah created Jesus and then through Jesus created everything else. The problem is that even their N.W.T states that apart from Jesus not even one thing came into existence Jn.1:3. Then in Is.44:24 Jehovah states that He did it by Himself. Jehovah even ask "Who was with me? I have had several Jehovah Witnesses give me an illustration to try to explain this. The illustration goes something like this; "*a contractor can point at a building and say "This is the building that I built." In reality others were involved, but it does not make the contractors statement untrue.* The problem with this illustration is that the contractor could not specifically say that he did it by himself or ask, "Who was with me?" Jehovah could not say he created "by myself" and ask "Who was with me?" if the Father and Jesus are not one God. To some people these verses would seem to be in conflict with each other. They are not however in conflict at all. The answer is these 3 persons constitute only one God.

Deut 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! NAS

We find further plurality in the one God in the Old Testament. For example:

Genesis 1:26-27, N.W.T And God went on to say: "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth." And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them.

Notice "Us" & "Our" are plural. Notice also that "His" & "He" are singular. My point again is there is plurality in the one God. There is not 3 Gods, but rather 3 persons in the 1 God.

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THE WHOLE TRINITY IN ONE PASSAGE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 48:12-16, N.W.T

12 "Listen to me, O Jacob, and you Israel my called one. I am the same One. I am the first. Moreover, I am the last.

13 Moreover, my own hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my own right hand extended out the heavens. I am calling to them, that they may keep standing together.

14 "Be collected together, all YOU people, and hear. Who among them has told these things? Jehovah himself has loved him. He will do what is his delight upon Babylon, and his own arm will be upon the Chal-de'ans.

15 I-I myself have spoken. Moreover, I have called him. I have brought him in, and there will be a making of his way successful.

16 "Come near to me, YOU people. Hear this. From the start I have spoken in no place of concealment at all. From the time of its occurring I have been there."

And now the Sovereign Lord Jehovah himself has sent me, even his spirit.

Notice verse 12 God is the speaker. The one who has called Israel. He states " I am the same One. I am the first. Moreover, I am the last." Notice "I" & "One" are singular. Follow the context down and you will see that the speaker who is God and identifies himself as "I am the first. Moreover, I am the last." is also the same one speaking in verse 16. The context does not change speakers. Then this single person (God) speaking says And now the Sovereign Lord Jehovah himself has sent me, even his spirit. In this text God is speaking then he says the Lord God has sent me. Not only has he sent him but he also says "**even** His Spirit" or " And now the Lord GOD has sent me, **and** His Spirit." (NAS) What we have here is 3 separate persons in a singular God.

We find unity in the New Testament in the Trinity as well.

Matthew 3:16-17 N.W.T

After being baptized Jesus immediately came up from the water; and, look! the heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove God's spirit coming upon him. Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said: "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved."

Matthew 28:19 N.W.T, Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit,

In these passages we have seen all 3, Father, Son & Holy Spirit are separate and also in unity. We can see the Trinity in the birth of Christ as well.

Matthew 1:20 N.W.T But after he had thought these things over, look! Jehovah's angel appeared to him in a dream, saying: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for that which has been begotten in her is by holy spirit.

Matthew 16:16-17 N.W.T In answer Simon Peter said: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In response Jesus said to him: "Happy you are, Simon son of Jo'nah, because flesh and blood did not reveal [it] to you, but my Father who is in the heavens did.

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Notice that which was conceived in Mary was of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is not called the Son of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is called the Son of God. So here again we have all three. Jesus refers to God the Father as his father yet that which was conceived in Mary was of the Holy Spirit.

The Watchtower in the pamphlet "Should You Believe in the Trinity?", page 5 said the Trinity is hard to understand, therefore they cannot believe it. Then they used 1 Cor.14:33 to say that "God is not a God of confusion." This passage in context is referring to maintaining order in public worship. It has nothing to do with whether or not God is complex. Anybody that has read the book of Revelation knows that there are things in the Bible that are a little confusing. Whether the Trinity is hard to understand is not the point. The point is, does the Bible teach it? The fact is, the Bible does teach it. Should it surprise us that God is somewhat complex? I do not fully understand the law of gravity. But I know if I step off a cliff I will fall even if I do not understand or believe this law of gravity. The Bible teaches that there are three separate persons that constitute only one God therefore I believe it. I believe it because the Bible is the word of God.

The following are other comparisons, which would cause some to believe scripture conflicts until they recognize that there are 3 persons within the one God. First, we will see that both the Father and Jesus are called the first and the last. How many, first and last, Alpha and Omega, beginning and the ends are there? The answer is there is only one. There is only one God Is.44:8.

GOD THE FATHER

Isaiah 41:4 N.W.T Who has been active and has done [this], calling out the generations from the start? "I, Jehovah, the First One; and with the last ones I am the same."

Isaiah 44:6 N.W.T "This is what Jehovah has said, the King of Israel and the Repurchaser of him, Jehovah of armies, I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God.

Isaiah 48:12-13 N.W.T Listen to me, O Jacob, and you Israel my called one. I am the same One. I am the first. Moreover, I am the last. Moreover, my own hand laid the foundation of the earth

JESUS

Rev 1:7-8 N.A.S Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

(Jesus is the one coming with the clouds, Mt.24:30, 26:64, Mk.13:26, 14:62, 1 Th.4:17)

Revelation 1:7-8 N.W.T Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen. "I am the Al'pha and the O-me'ga," says Jehovah God, "the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty."

(Who is coming? Jesus is coming)

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Revelation 1:17-18 N.W.T And when I saw him, I fell as dead at his feet. And he laid his right hand upon me and said: "Do not be fearful, I am the First and the Last, and the living one; and I became dead, but, look! I am living forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and of Ha'des

(The first and last died. Who died? Jesus died)

Revelation 22:13-16 N.W.T I am the Al'pha and the O'me'ga, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Happy are those who wash their robes, that the authority [to go] to the trees of life may be theirs and that they may gain entrance into the city by its gates. Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie.' "I, Jesus, sent my angel to bear witness to YOU people of these things for the congregations. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star."

(Who is the Al'pha and the O'me'ga, the first and the last? It is Jesus)

Next we will see that your body is a temple of God, your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and it is Christ that dwells in you. How can this be? ANSWER: These 3 persons make only one God.

YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF GOD

2 Corinthians 6:16 N.W.T And what agreement does God's temple have with idols? For we are a temple of a living God; just as God said: "I shall reside among them and walk among [them], and I shall be their God, and they will be my people."

1 Corinthians 3:16 N.W.T Do YOU not know that YOU people are God's temple, and that the spirit of God dwells in YOU

YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 N.W.T What! Do YOU not know that the body of YOU people is [the] temple of the holy spirit within YOU, which YOU have from God? Also, YOU do not belong to yourselves, for YOU were bought with a price. By all means, glorify God in the body of YOU people.

(Jesus\God paid the price Acts 20:28)

CHRIST DWELLS IN YOU

Gal 2:20 N.A.S "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

Next we will see that God will not give his glory to another. Yet Jesus shared this glory with him. How can this be? ANSWER: They are one God.

Isaiah 42:8 N.W.T "I am Jehovah. That is my name; and to no one else shall I give my own glory, neither my praise to graven images.

John 17:5 N.W.T So now you, Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory that I had alongside you before the world was.

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Who raised Jesus from the dead? The answer is God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit all raised Jesus from the dead.

1 Corinthians 6:14 N.W.T But God both raised up the Lord and will raise us up out of [death] through his power

(see also Acts 2:24, Acts 13:30, Romans 6:4)

John 2:19-21 N.W.T In answer Jesus said to them: "Break down this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Therefore the Jews said: "This temple was built in forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was talking about the temple of his body

(see also John 10:17-18)

Romans 8:11 N.W.T If, now, the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in YOU, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also make YOUR mortal bodies alive through his spirit that resides in YOU.

(see also 1 Peter 3:18)

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A DIFFERENT JESUS

The Watchtower Society says that the Son of God is a mighty god, but not Jehovah who is the only Almighty God. Jesus is a created being also known as Michael the Archangel. They say their Jesus should not be worshipped. They also say that Jesus was raised spiritually from the dead. (Not bodily) This can be verified in their books in the following locations

1. Jesus is a created being.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 209 (JW)

Jesus Christ - Definition: The only-begotten Son of God, the only Son produced by Jehovah alone. This Son is the firstborn of all creation. By means of him all other things in heaven and on earth were created. He is the second-greatest personage in the universe.

Aid to Bible understanding, pg.918 (JW)

Thus the Scriptures identify the Word (Jesus in his prehuman existence) as God's first creation, his firstborn Son. That Jehovah was truly the Father or Life-giver to this firstborn Son, was actually a creature of God, is evident from Jesus' own statements.

Knowledge page 39 (JW) Jesus was called God's "only-begotten Son" because Jehovah created him directly. (John 3:16) As "the firstborn of all creation," Jesus was then used by God to create all other things. (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14) John 1:1 says that "the Word" (Jesus in his prehuman existence) was with God "in the beginning." So the Word was with Jehovah when "the heavens and the earth" were created. God was addressing the Word when He said: "Let us make man in our image." (Genesis 1:1, 26) Likewise, the Word must have been God's beloved "master worker," described at Proverbs 8:22-31 as wisdom personified, laboring at Jehovah's side in the making of all things. After Jehovah brought him into existence, the Word spent ages with God in heaven before becoming a man on earth.

Tract (1987) (under publication symbols T14) page 2 (JW)

What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?

However, since Jesus said that he is "God's Son" and that the "Father sent me forth," Jehovah's Witnesses believe that God is greater than Jesus. (John 10:36; 6:57) Jesus himself acknowledged: "The Father is greater than I am." (John 14:28; 8:28) Thus we do not believe that Jesus is equal with the Father, as the Trinity doctrine says. Rather, we believe that he was created by God and that he is subordinate to Him.

2. Jesus is a god, but not the Almighty God.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 417 (JW)

Referring to the Word (who became Jesus Christ) as "a god" is consistent with the use of that term in the rest of the Scriptures. For example, at Psalm 82:1-6 human judges in Israel were referred to as "gods" (Hebrew, 'elo·him'; Greek, the·oi', at John 10:34) because they were representatives of Jehovah and were to speak his law.

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Aid to Bible understanding, pg. 920 (JW)

So, Thomas may have addressed Jesus as "my God" in the sense of Jesus' being "a god" though not the Almighty God, not "the only true God," to whom Thomas had often heard Jesus pray. (John 17:1-3)

Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 213 (JW)

Does Thomas' exclamation at John 20:28 prove that Jesus is truly God?

John 20:28 (RS) reads: "Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'"

There is no objection to referring to Jesus as "God," if this is what Thomas had in mind. Such would be in harmony with Jesus' own quotation from the Psalms in which powerful men, judges, were addressed as "gods." (John 10:34, 35, RS; Ps. 82:1-6) Of course, Christ occupies a position far higher than such men. Because of the uniqueness of his position in relation to Jehovah, at John 1:18 (NW) Jesus is referred to as "the only-begotten god." (See also Ro, By.) Isaiah 9:6 (RS) also prophetically describes Jesus as "Mighty God," but not as the Almighty God. All of this is in harmony with Jesus' being described as "a god," or "divine," at John 1:1 (NW, AT).

3. Jesus is Michael the Archangel

Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985 page 218 (JW)

Reasonably, then, the archangel Michael is Jesus Christ. (Interestingly, the expression "archangel" is never found in the plural in the Scriptures, thus implying that there is only one.).....So the evidence indicates that the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth and is known also by that name since his return to heaven where he resides as the glorified spirit Son of God.

Revelation Climax, 1988, page 180 (JW)

Who accomplish this great victory in Jehovah's name? The Bible says it is Michael and his angels. But who is Michael? The name "Michael" means "Who Is Like God?" So Michael must be interested in vindicating Jehovah's sovereignty by proving that no one is to be compared to Him. In Jude verse 9, he is called "Michael the archangel." Interestingly, the title "archangel" is used elsewhere in the Bible with reference to only one person: Jesus Christ.These and other scriptures lead us to the inescapable conclusion that Michael is no one else but the Lord Jesus Christ in his heavenly position.

Aid to Bible understanding, page 1152 (JW)

Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael applied to God's Son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ and also after his return. Michael is the only one said to be "archangel," meaning "chief angel" or "principle angel."

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4. Jesus should not be worshipped

Aid to Bible understanding, page 1242 (JW)

Obeisance to a human king is found in Jesus' illustration at Matthew 18:26. It is also evident that this was the kind of obeisance the astrologers rendered to the child Jesus.

..... If the rendering "worship" is preferred, then it must be understood that such "worship" is only a relative kind, for Jesus himself emphatically stated to Satan that "it is Jehovah your God you must worship (form of pro-sky-ne'o) and it is to him alone you must render sacred service."

Watchtower 1954 5/15, page 317- 319 (JW)

Questions from Readers

• In the January 1 issue of The Watchtower the question from Ethiopia, **"Should we worship Jesus?"** is answered. In paragraph five Hebrews 1:6 is quoted with regard to the angels of God worshipping Jesus, but in the final paragraph it says: "The answer to the above question must be that **no distinct worship is to be rendered to Jesus Christ now glorified in heaven. Our worship is to go to Jehovah.**"

Watchtower 1954, 1/1, pg 30, Questions from Readers, (JW)

• **Should we worship Jesus?**

The clergy of Christendom that believe in a trinity as the main doctrine of Christianity will answer with a positive Yes to this question. Quite to be expected, for they believe that worshipping Jesus is at the same time worshipping God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, for these three they believe to be Three Persons mysteriously making up one God. The King James Version of the English Bible was rendered by trinitarian translators, and doubtless for this reason the translators rendered the Greek word proskyne"o by the word "worship," when applying to Jesus. In fact, in every case of its occurrence in the Christian Greek Scriptures they consistently rendered this Greek verb by "worship." So we read of the magi's "worshipping" the babe Jesus, and of persons who approached Jesus or received healing from him or asked favors of him "worshipping" Jesus on earth.

.....Consequently, since the Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ is not a trinitarian co-person with God the Father, but is a distinct person, the Son of God, the answer to the above question must be that no distinct worship is to be rendered to Jesus Christ now glorified in heaven. Our worship is to go to Jehovah God. However, we show the proper regard for God's only-begotten Son by rendering our worship to God through and in the name of Jesus Christ.

I find it interesting that in my copy of the New Worlds Translation, Revised in 1970 Hebrews 1:5-6 (JW) reads as follows:

5 For example, to which one of the angels did he ever say: "You are my son; I, today, I have become your father"? And again: "I myself shall become his father, and he himself will become my son"?

6 But when he again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says: "And let all of God's angels worship him."

In the newer New Worlds Translation the word "worship" has been changed to "obeisance". Still the fact remains that the Watchtower Society themselves have in the past translated this Greek word as "worship".

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5. Jesus did not bodily rise from the dead

Aid to Bible Understanding 1971, pg.1395, (JW) "Jesus appeared to his disciples on different occasions in various fleshly bodies, just as angels had appeared to men at ancient times. Like those angels, he had the power to construct and disintegrate those fleshly bodies at will, for the purpose of proving visibly that he had been resurrected."

Reasoning from the Scriptures 1985, pg.334, (JW) "At his resurrection from the dead, Jesus was brought forth with a spirit body."....."Why did not others see him too? Because he was a spirit creature and when, as the angels had done in the past, he materialized fleshly bodies to make himself visible, he did so only in the presence of his disciples."

Let God be True, 1946, pg.122 (JW) "So the King Christ Jesus was put to death in the flesh and was resurrected an invisible spirit creature"

Greatest Man, 1991, page 116 (JW)

Jesus will be a spirit creature that no human can see. But again Jesus promises his faithful apostles: "You will behold me, because I live and you will live." Yes, not only will Jesus appear to them in human form after his resurrection but in due time he will resurrect them to life with him in heaven as spirit creatures.

Christian Rebuttal against points 1-5 by the Watchtower

1. Jesus is not a created being; he is the creator.

Col 1:15-18 (15) And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.
(see also John 1:3, Heb.1:2, Is. 44:24)

One can hardly look at this list of what Jesus created and not acknowledge that this includes angels. Jesus created angels. Think about that a minute. How can Jesus be the creator of ALL angels and be an angel? Jesus did not create himself. Keep in mind that only God the creator was involved with creation Is.44:24. The Watchtower refers to the word "firstborn" in verse 15 and tells us that means Jesus was created.

Does "firstborn" mean created? Does "firstborn" always establish a literal birth order in the bible? The answer to both of these questions is NO.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words: FIRSTBORN

protokos ^4416^, "firstborn" (from protos, "first," and tikto, "to beget"), is used of Christ as born of the Virgin Mary, <Luke 2:7>; further, in His relationship to the Father, expressing His priority to, and preeminence over, creation, not in the sense of being the "first" to be born. It is used occasionally of superiority of position in the OT, see <Exod. 4:22; Deut. 21:16,17>.

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This same Greek word is used in verse 18 where we are told Jesus is "firstborn from the dead." If the word "firstborn" literally meant "created" then Jesus would be created from the dead in this passage. Even the Jehovah Witnesses do not believe that. As the Vine's Expository dictionary shows this means that Jesus is preeminent over all creation and he is also preeminent in the resurrection. The text tells us that this is "so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."

2. Jesus is not just a god he is God and there is only one God.

In the next two verses we see that God became a man.

John 1:1 & 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. & in verse 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Phil 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus' enemies understood him claim to be God. John 10:30-33 "I and the Father are one." The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

Here is Jesus' response in verse 36-39 do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

So **Jesus declared that he and the Father are one.** The Jews understood this as a claim to be God. **Jesus then calls himself the Son of God** and then reaffirms his statement of "I and the father are one" So the question is did the Jews correctly understand what he meant. He called himself the Son of God, but did he also claim to be God? I believe the answer is yes he did claim to be God. This comes out clear in John 20:28-29

John 20:28-29 "Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Thomas here called Jesus his Lord and God. Jesus being the teacher that he was should have rebuked or at least corrected Thomas. Certainly Jesus would not let this error or using the Lords name in vain, (as some have interpreted it) go by without some correction. Jesus' answer to Thomas shows that Thomas was correct to call him his God and Lord.

So how important is it to accept Jesus' claims of who he is? According to Jesus it is very important, John 8:24-25, "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {He} you shall die in your sins. "And so they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning?"

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The Bible calls Jesus God.

Isa 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (According to this verse the church was purchased with whose blood?)

Col 2:8-9 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

I Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Heb 1:8 But of the Son He says "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

Titus 2:13 Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

Does Jesus possess the attributes of God?

We would expect God to be seen as Creator, Judge, Savior being able to forgive sins, omniscient- all knowing, omnipotent - all powerful, omnipresent - the ability to be every where at once, eternal having always existed, and worshipped. As I will show all of these things can be found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is Creator: Col 1:13-16 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. (see also Jn.1:3, Heb.1:8-10, 1 Cor.8:6, Is.44:24)

Jesus is Judge: John 5:22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son," (see also 2 Tim. 4:1, Rom.14:10)

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Jesus is Savior he can forgive sins: Mark 2:5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." (see also Mk.2:10, Col.2:13)

We can forgive someone for sinning against us, but we cannot forgive someone for sinning against God as Jesus did here.

Acts 5:30-31 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is Omniscient (all knowing or all wise):

1 Cor 1:24 to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Jesus is shown in the New Testament to have knowledge far beyond our human understanding. We do not know the heart of every man but in Jn 2:24-25 it says Jesus knew all men and what was in man. In Jn.6:64 we are told Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. Then in Jn.13:1 we find Jesus knew his hour had come to die and go to the Father.

In Jn.16:30 the disciples said "Now we know that You know all things" Again in Jn.18:4 it says Jesus knew all the things that were about to happen to him. While Jesus was on the cross we are told he knew the Old Testament prophecies concerning himself and our redemption had been fulfilled. Nobody else knew that at that time, yet, he did Jn.19:28. Peter declared that Jesus knew his heart and all things Jn.21:17. What man has ever had this kind of knowledge? This knowledge is far beyond even any of the prophets in the Bible. They may have foretold future events but none of them knew the heart and thoughts of every man. These are only a few examples that could be shown that Jesus knew such things.

**Jesus is Omnipotent
(all powerful, unlimited authority):**

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

In the following references we find that Jesus will return with power. Power flowed through him to heal people who merely touched him. Jesus had power over demons. He was able to give power to his disciples to heal others. Peter declared there was power in Jesus name. Jesus is the power of God. It was through Jesus that Paul received power. Jesus has the power to subject everything unto himself. It is by his power that we will be raised from the dead. He upholds all things by the word of His power. Jesus has the keys i.e. the power over death and Hades. The time will come when Jesus will abolish all other rule, authority and power.

(see also Mk 13:26,5:30, Lk. 4:36, 6:19, 9:1, Acts 4:7-10, Rom.1:4, 1 Cor 1:24, 15:23-25, 2 Cor 12:9, Phil 3:20-21, Heb 1:3, 2 Pet 1:16, Rev 1:17-18)

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Jesus is Omnipresent

(present at all places at all times):

Matt 18:20, 28:20 Jesus said "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst." He also told his disciples "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Paul declared that Jesus dwells in the hearts of believers. Paul further stated if this is not true of an individual they do not belong to him. Rom.8:9.

(See also 2 Cor.13:5, Gal.2:20, Eph.3:17, Col.1:27, Rev.3:20)

Jesus is eternal (he has always existed):

Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, {too} little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

(See also Jn.1:1-2, 17:5, 8:58, Rev.1:17, 2:8, 22:13)

Jesus is worshipped: (See number 4 on pg.34)

There is only one God.

Isa 43:10 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am He. Before me there was no God formed, and there will be none after me.

If Jesus is not Almighty God as the Watchtower would have us believe then he cannot be a god in anything other than a title of respect because before him there was no God formed, and there will be none after him.

Isa 44:8 "Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none."

If God is unaware of the existence of another God then I would say that there is no other God. After reading the numerous places that show Jesus is God how can we then come to the conclusion that he is not God? The context of all of the passages that are mentioned here does not allow for the interpretation of Jesus only had a title of respect.

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3. Jesus is not Michael the Archangel.

Heb 1:5-8 (5) For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"? (6) And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let **all** the angels of God worship Him." (7) And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." (8) But of the Son He says "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

This text makes a distinction between angels and Jesus. The question that is asked starts with "to which of his angels did He ever say." This is our indication that what follows this was never said of an angel. Next we see that all of the angels were to worship Jesus. The text does not say "all of the **other** angels were to give **obeisance** to Jesus." Next we see a contrast between angels and Jesus. Verse 7 & 8 are in contrast to each other "And of the angels He says" "But of the Son He says" "Thy throne, O God is forever." My point is that since this text shows a distinction between all angels and Jesus then Jesus is not an angel. If Jesus is not an angel then he is not Michael the Archangel.

4. Jesus is worshiped in the Bible.

Heb 1:6 And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

Matt 2:11 And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. (see also Mt.2:2 & 8)

Matt 14:33 And those who were in the boat worshipped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

Matt 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

John 9:37-38 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (Rev.7:17 shows the lamb is on the throne. Jn.1:29-36 shows Jesus is the lamb.)

Worship belongs only to God.

Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

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5. Was Jesus resurrected bodily from the grave and is it important?

(A) If Jesus did not rise from the dead the Old Testament prophecy would not be fulfilled.

Ps 16:10 For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.

Next we will see the fulfillment of this prophecy in the New Testament.

Acts 13:33-37 "God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.' And as for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' "Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'Thou wilt not allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.' "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.

(The Apostle Paul is the one speaking in the passage above. Peter refers to this Psalm in the same way Acts 2:27-32)

(B) If Jesus did not rise from the dead we would have no forgiveness of our sins.

The next thing we read in verse 38 of this same passage in Acts Ch.13 is: "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you" Notice the word "**Therefore**" Paul is saying that because Jesus rose from the dead we have forgiveness of sins! This is also confirmed in the next passage.

1 Cor 15:14-17 " if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and **if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.**"

(C) When the Jews asked for a sign Jesus predicted he would rise from the dead. If Jesus did not rise from the dead he would be a false prophet.

John 2:18-22 "The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews therefore said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

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The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society claimed that Jesus "materialized fleshly bodies to make himself visible, he did so only in the presence of his disciples." Furthermore they stated that "Jesus was put to death in the flesh and was resurrected an invisible spirit creature" The problem is these statements are not Biblical. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ arose in the same exact body of flesh and bones in which he had lived and died. It is this same body in which He ascended into heaven. This is not only what the Bible teaches. It is also the historical teaching of the church.

We will address the quotes from the Watchtower Society as follows:

(C-1) First of all Jesus did not appear "only in the presence of his disciples." He appeared also to unbelievers.

(C-2) The Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the dead in the same physical body in which he died.

(C-1) Jesus did not appear "only in the presence of his disciples." He appeared also to unbelievers. Paul was a hostile unbeliever before Jesus appeared to him. This can be seen in Acts 9:1-30. He is called Saul in the context there but we see in Acts 13:9 & Acts 22:1-21 that Saul is indeed the same person who is latter known as the Apostle Paul. This is after the 40-day period that Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples.

In John 7:5 we are told that not even the brothers of Jesus were believing in Him. James and Jude were sons of Mary and Joseph and were half brothers of Jesus since they had the same mother. Later both become believers. Although it cannot be shown as to exactly when they became believers it seems likely that it was after the resurrection. We have no reference to them being believers until after his resurrection. We see in 1 Cor.15:7 that Jesus appeared to James after he arose from the dead. As for reference to show they were the brothers of Jesus the following verses should be read. Jude1:1 & Mark 6:3. (Note Jude is short for Judas see Greek word #2455 in the Strong's.)

(C-2) The Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the dead in the same physical body in which he died.

John 2:18-22 "The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews therefore said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

When Jesus made this statement he had a physical body of flesh and bones. This is the temple or body that he said he would raise in 3 days. Since Jesus said he would raise this physical body, reason and logic tells us it was a physical body not a spiritual body that was to be resurrected. Also we have already seen in Ps.16:10, Acts 2:27-32 & 13:34-38 this body would never undergo decay. What is the purpose of preserving the body if it is not raised from the dead and being used? I have had some Jehovah Witnesses tell me that it did not decay but God destroyed it by gases. Of course they could offer no biblical reference for such a view but they had to rationalize it in some way to support this un-biblical doctrine. Jesus took great pains to show them that it was he himself that rose from the dead and not a spirit. Let us consider the following scripture.

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Luke 24:39-43 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them."

Everything Jesus offered them for evidence of his resurrection was of the physical nature. He spoke to them so they could hear and recognize his voice. Jesus showed his wounds from the crucifixion inviting them to touch him. In John 20:27 Jesus told Thomas to put his finger into the wounds in his hands and to put his hand into his side. Jesus purposely asked them for something to eat and ate fish in front of them. **Jesus declared that a spirit did not have a body of flesh and bones as he had.** He did things like this on several occasions over a period of 40 days. They watched him bodily ascend into heaven Acts 1:9. Jesus never said anything to them that would indicate these "convincing proofs" as we are told in Acts 1:3 should be interpreted as a spiritual body. If this was merely one of several fleshly materialized bodies to make himself visible as the Watchtower claims then Jesus purposely deceived his disciples. The moral implications of this are absolutely contrary to the Jesus we read of in the Bible.

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A DIFFERENT HOLY SPIRIT

Knowledge 1995 page 31 (JW)

God's holy spirit is not a person. It is Jehovah's active force, used by the Almighty to accomplish his purposes

The Watchtower 6-1-1988 pg. 14-15 (JW)

Holy Spirit-A Person or an Active Force?

What about the supposed third person of the Trinity, the holy spirit, said to be equal in power, substance, and eternity to Father and Son? Nowhere in the Bible is the holy spirit mentioned with God and Christ as being equal to them. For instance, on the occasion of Jesus' baptism, Mark 1:10 shows that the holy spirit came down upon Jesus "like a dove," not in a human form. The holy spirit was not some person coming upon Jesus but was God's active force. That power from God enabled Jesus to heal the sick and resurrect the dead. As Luke 5:17 says in the Diaglott: "The Mighty Power of the Lord [God] was on him [Jesus] to cure." Later, at Pentecost, the apostles also were given the power from God to heal the sick and raise the dead. Did that make them part of some "godhead"? No, they were simply given power from God, through Christ, to do what humans ordinarily could not do.

That same active force is mentioned at Ephesians 5:18, where Paul counsels: "Keep getting filled with spirit." Similarly, Acts 7:55 says that Stephen was "full of holy spirit." And at Pentecost, the followers of Jesus "all became filled with holy spirit." (Acts 2:4) Can a human get filled with another person? No, but he can get filled with the power that comes from God. That holy spirit is the same force that God used to create the universe. As Genesis 1:2 says: "God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters."

After Jesus was resurrected, Stephen had a vision of heaven and "caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand." (Acts 7:55) Thus, two separate persons were in evidence in heaven: (1) God and (2) the resurrected Jesus Christ. No holy spirit is mentioned in this vision because it was not any third person of a Trinity. The holy spirit, being God's active force, would proceed from God but not as a separate being. That is why Stephen saw only two persons, not three.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985, 1989 pg. 136-137 (JW)

Jehovah is the only true God. Jesus Christ is not part of a Trinitarian godhead but is the only-begotten Son of God. Redemption from sin is possible only through faith in Christ's ransom sacrifice. The holy spirit is not a person but is Jehovah's active force, and its fruitage must be evident in the lives of true worshipers. The human soul is not immortal, as the ancient pagans claimed; it dies, and the hope for future life is in the resurrection. God's permission of wickedness has been because of the issue of universal sovereignty. God's Kingdom is the only hope for mankind. Since 1914 we have been living in the last days of the global wicked system of things. Only 144,000 faithful Christians will be kings and priests with Christ in heaven, whereas the rest of obedient mankind will receive eternal life on a paradise earth.

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We learn the following from these Watchtower statements.

1. The Holy Spirit is not a person.
2. No where does the Bible say Jesus or the Holy Spirit is equal to Jehovah.
3. The Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove not a person.
4. The Holy Spirit is the power that was given to Jesus to perform miracles.
5. A person cannot be filled with another person; therefore the Holy Spirit is not a person.
6. Stephen only seen two people not three.

Let us now examine these 6 points from a Christian perspective.

(1&3) The Holy Spirit is a person.

Let's look at the definition of a person.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition

per.son n [ME, fr. OF persone, fr. L persona actor's mask, character in a play, person, prob. fr. Etruscan phersu mask, fr. Gk prosopa, pl. of prosopon face, mask--more at prosopopoeia] (13c)
1: human, individual--sometimes used in combination esp. by those who prefer to avoid man in compounds applicable to both sexes <chairperson> <spokesperson> 2: a character or part in or as if in a play: guise 3 a: **one of the three modes of being in the Trinitarian Godhead as understood by Christians** b: the unitary personality of Christ that unites the divine and human natures 4 a archaic: bodily appearance b: the body of a human being; also: the body and clothing <unlawful search of the ~> 5: **the personality of a human being: self**

The Holy Spirit is a person in the sense that he has the personality of a person. A force as the Watchtower describes the Holy Spirit does not have a personality. Electricity is an active force, but it does not have a personality. Because the Holy Spirit is called a spirit does that mean he is not a person? Jesus said that the Father is spirit John 4:24 and in Lk.24:39 Jesus said that a spirit does not have a body of flesh and bones. If God the Father does not have a body of flesh and bones then he is not literally in human form is he? Does that mean that Jehovah is not a person because he is not in a human form? No of course not! Yet this is the type of argument the Watchtower used when telling us *"on the occasion of Jesus' baptism, Mark 1:10 shows that the holy spirit came down upon Jesus "like a dove," not in a human form."* This does not rule the Holy Spirit out from being a person. There is not a verse that directly states that the Holy Spirit is a person. However there are passages that attribute things that are applied only to a person and not to a force or power.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" and "Him" Jn.14:16-17

The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" and He teaches. Jn.14:26, 1 Jn.2:27

The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" and convicts the world of sin. Jn. 16:7-8

The Holy Spirit speaks, Acts 4:8, 8:29, 10:19, 13:2, Heb.3:7

The Holy Spirit intercedes, Rom.8:26

The Holy Spirit leads and directs, Gal.5:18, Acts 16:6

The Holy Spirit appoints men to service, Acts 13:2,
Acts 20:28

The Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus, Jn.15:26

The Holy Spirit can be grieved, Eph 4:30

The Holy Spirit is called God and he can be lied to,
Acts 5:3-4

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The Holy Spirit can be insulted and blasphemed, Heb.10:29, Mt.12:31

These types of references are only applied to a person with a personality. These are not references that one would use for a force or power. One would not say that electricity spoke or interceded. One cannot lie to or grieve electricity yet it is a force. The Holy Spirit however is not an active force rather He is a person.

2.The Holy Spirit is called God and posses the attributes of God.

(Concerning whether Jesus is equal to God see does Jesus posses the attributes of God?

Pg. 31-33

If the Holy Spirit is to be considered equal to God then we would expect to find something of like quality or nature of God. So we will examine some of the attributes that only God has such as being called God, being eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and being involved in creation and our salvation and worship.

The Holy Spirit is called God.

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

Judgment: Ananias and Sapphira were killed for lying to the Holy Spirit. Considering this one could certainly say that the Holy Spirit is in some way involved with judgment.

The Holy Spirit is Eternal (been around forever)

Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent (all powerful)

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit is Omniscient (all knowing)

1 Cor 2:10-11 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent (everywhere at once)

Ps 139:7-10 Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me.

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The Holy Spirit is involved in our salvation.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit in creation.

Ps 104:30 Thou dost send forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou dost renew the face of the ground.

Gen 1:2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent. (KJV)

I find it interesting that the Watchtower declares that the Holy Spirit "is the same force that God used to create the universe." Yet they still maintain that Jehovah created Jesus and then through Jesus created everything else. By their own words they have all three members of the Godhead involved in creation yet Is.44:24 says God did this by himself. God can truthfully say this only because these three persons make only one God.

The Holy Spirit involved in our worship.

Phil 3:3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

4. The Holy Spirit is not just the power that was given to Jesus to perform miracles.

The Watchtower said: "The holy spirit was not some person coming upon Jesus but was God's active force. That power from God enabled Jesus to heal the sick and resurrect the dead." If you think about it this statement really is limiting the power of Jesus. As we can see in the verse below Jesus was more than the instrument through which this power was channeled; He is himself the power. Again this is true because the three persons make only one God.

1 Cor 1:24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

5. The Holy Spirit can fill a person and still be a person.

The Watchtower said: "*Can a human get filled with another person? No, but he can get filled with the power that comes from God.*" Does this argument used by the Watchtower show that the Holy Spirit is not a person? No it does not. Our body is a temple of God 1 Cor.3:16. Does this mean that God is not a person? No of course not. Paul; said Christ lived in him Gal.2:20. Does this mean that Christ is not a person? Again the answer is No. Again the Watchtowers example does not line up with other scripture.

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6. Stephen only seen two people not three.

The Watchtower made the argument " *Stephen had a vision of heaven and "caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand." (Acts 7:55) Thus, two separate persons were in evidence in heaven: (1) God and (2) the resurrected Jesus Christ. No holy spirit is mentioned in this vision because it was not any third person of a Trinity.*"

This is simply a matter of reason and logic. Does failure to mention one member of the Godhead mean in one particular passage prove that there is no third member? No of course not. All three are mentioned together at the birth of Christ Matt.1:18-23 and at his baptism Matt.3:16-17. But even if all three were not mentioned together this would not change the fact that all three are called God and we are told there is only one God.

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A DIFFERENT GOSPEL

Is the gospel message important? Consider what the Apostle Paul said in the following passage.

Gal 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Following is Thayer's definition of the Greek word translated as "gospel" in this passage.

2097 euaggelizo- to bring good news, to announce glad tidings

- a) used in the Old Testament of any kind of good news, of the joyful tidings of God's kindness, in particular, of the Messianic blessings
- b) in the New Testament used especially of the glad tidings of the coming kingdom of God, and of the salvation to be obtained in it through Christ, and of what relates to this salvation
- c) glad tidings are brought to one, one has glad tidings proclaimed to him
- d) to proclaim glad tidings, to instruct (people) concerning the things that pertain to salvation

As you have just seen the gospel message was very important to the Apostle Paul. The gospel is the good news of salvation found in Jesus Christ. The question is does the Watchtower agree with the Bible view of how salvation is obtained? I believe that the Watchtower is a little more subtle when it comes to this subject. I have read several Watchtower articles that stress that works are merely the fruit of genuine faith and not a means of salvation. To this I would agree; however the Watchtower is not always consistent with this view point. Let us now look at a Watchtower publication concerning this subject.

The Watchtower, Feb.15,1983, page 12-13 (JW)

You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth-But How?

'LIVING forever on earth is just an impossible dream. There is no way anybody can do it.' You may have heard people say that. Yet you may know that in the beginning it was God's purpose for obedient humans to live forever in an earthly Paradise. And God never fails to accomplish what he purposes! (Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 55:11) His Word plainly promises: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it."-Psalm 37:29.

That is the thrilling message that Jehovah's Witnesses bring to people when they call at their homes. The Kingdom, with Jesus Christ as Ruler, will see to it that God's original purpose is accomplished. Under the Kingdom's righteous administration this earth will be cultivated to become a beautiful Paradise. However, not everyone will be permitted to live in the Paradise earth. Requirements must be met. That is reasonable.-Matthew 6:10. Consider: If you were the owner of a beautiful home surrounded by well-kept gardens, would you allow just anyone to live there? No, he would have to meet with your approval, meeting your requirements. What does God require of those who will reside forever upon his Paradise earth? Let us examine four basic requirements.

Four Requirements

Jesus Christ identified a first requirement when he said in prayer to his Father: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." (John 17:3) Knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ includes

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knowledge of God's purposes regarding the earth and of Christ's role as earth's new King. Will you take in such knowledge by studying the Bible?

Many have found the second requirement more difficult. It is to obey God's laws, yes, to conform one's life to the moral requirements set out in the Bible. This includes refraining from a debauched, immoral way of life.-1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 1 Peter 4:3, 4.

A third requirement is that we be associated with God's channel, his organization. God has always used an organization. For example, only those in the ark in Noah's day survived the Flood, and only those associated with the Christian congregation in the first century had God's favor. (Acts 4:12) Similarly, Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it.

The fourth requirement is connected with loyalty. God requires that prospective subjects of his Kingdom support his government by loyally advocating his Kingdom rule to others. Jesus Christ explained: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth." (Matthew 24:14) Will you meet this requirement by telling others about God's Kingdom?

Although the Biblical view of heaven and the Watchtower view of Paradise Earth as well as who will go there are different that is not the area we will focus on now. The question we want to answer is; how is salvation obtained? According to the Watchtower there are four requirements that must be met.

1. Knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ includes knowledge of God's purposes regarding the earth and of Christ's role as earth's new King.
2. We must obey God's laws.
3. We must be associated with God's channel, his organization. In other words the Watchtower organization.
4. We must tell others about God's Kingdom.

The question remains does the Bible teach these 4 requirements?

1. Knowledge of God and Jesus are important in fact the bible tells us "*there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.*" Acts 4:12.

However God does not expect us to be a theologian in order for us to be saved. Salvation does not include knowledge of God's purposes regarding the earth and of Christ's role as earth's new King. Jesus told the thief on the cross "*Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise*" Luke 23:43. The thief on the cross only knew to put his trust in Jesus and that was enough.

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2. To obey God's commandments is also important. In fact Jesus said *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"* John 14:15. However we are not saved on the basis of obedience to his commandments, but rather we are saved by his grace alone.

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

(We are to do good works, but we are saved by grace. This is a "gift". One cannot earn a gift, but rather it is given freely)

Rom 3:21-24 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

We are ALL sinners and are justified as a gift by his grace. If we could keep the law we would be sinless. The Bible tells us that we are not sinless.

I Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

3. God never indicated that we need to belong to any organization. We do need to be associated with Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

4. Telling others about God's kingdom is also important.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

However as we have already shown we are not saved by any work. This includes sharing the gospel with others. Is it important? Yes! Does it have anything to do with our salvation? NO!

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IS IT WRONG TO STUDY OR THINK FOR YOURSELF?

As strange as it sounds the Watchtower has strongly discouraged people from studying the Bible on their own or thinking for themselves. This is quite a contrast to the Bible. In the Bible we are told to study the scriptures for ourselves. We are also told that the Holy Spirit can teach us even without the aid of a human teacher. We are also warned of false teachers. How can you recognize what is a falsehood unless you study the truth in the Bible? (2 Tim.2:15, Ezra 7:10, John 14:6. 1John 2:27, Acts 17:11, 1 John 4:1-3, 2 pet.2:1, Gal.1:7-8, Rom.16:17, 2 Cor.11:13-15) Look up the above Bible verses and compare them to the Watchtower quotes below.

The Watchtower Feb.15, 1981, pg.19 (JW)

"We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the "faithful and discreet slave" organization."

The Watchtower August 15, 1981, pg.28-29 (JW)

" From time to time, there have arisen from among the ranks of Jehovah's people those who, like the original Satan, have adopted an independent, faultfinding attitudeThey say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such 'Bible reading,' they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom's clergy were teaching 100 years ago, "

(I find it interesting that if they only read the Bible and not Watchtower literature they end up accepting Christian doctrine and reject the doctrine they were taught as Jehovah Witnesses)

The Watchtower October 1, 1967, pg. 587 (JW)

"Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible."

The Watchtower Feb.15, 1981, pg.19 (JW)

"We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the "faithful and discreet slave" organization."

The Watchtower October 1, 1967, pg. 587 (JW)

"Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible."

The Watchtower October 1, 1967, pg. 591 (JW)

Make haste to identify the visible theocratic organization of God that represents his king, Jesus Christ. It is essential for life. Doing so, be complete in accepting its every aspect. We cannot claim to love God, yet deny his Word and channel of communication.

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The Watchtower, May 1, 1957, p. 274. (JW)

It is through his organization that God provides this light that the proverb says is the teaching or law of the mother. If we are to walk in the light of truth we must recognize not only Jehovah God as our Father but his organization as our mother.

The Watchtower, February 1, 1952, pp. 78-79. (JW)

Down to this day the legal corporation, the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, has been used as an agency to publish for and direct and unify the preaching activities of the society of witnesses overspreading the earth. When Christ came for judgment in 1918 he found some associated with this group that thought the Lord had delayed his coming and they were oppressing their fellow slaves in Christ. These were cast off as the "evil slave" class. Those faithfully serving God were identified as the "faithful and discreet slave" class.

What is the Master's decision regarding the discreet slave? "Truly I say to you that he will appoint him over all his belongings." Before this promotion the slave is over only the Lord's domestics or body of attendants, to give them their spiritual food at the proper time.

..... Pg.79 Are we assigned as individuals to bring forth the food for the spiritual table? No? Then let us not try to take over the slave's duties.

We should eat and digest and assimilate what is set before us, without shying away from parts of the food because it may not suit the fancy of our mental taste.

The Watchtower, July 1, 1973, page 402 (JW) Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force. (Zech. 4:6) Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book

WATCHTOWER LITERATURE IS IT TRUSTWORTHY?

The Watchtower claimed to be a prophet of God. The Watchtower claims that we must belong to their organization to be qualified to live on Paradise Earth. The Watchtower informs us that we cannot read our Bible alone, but we also need their literature to help us to have true understanding. Considering these claims one would certainly expect to find their publications to be extremely accurate if there is any validity in their claims at all.

Although there are many errors that can be focused on in this area we will limit it to two Watchtower publications.

1. Should You Believe in the Trinity, 1989
2. The New Worlds Translation of the Holy Scriptures.

1. Should You Believe in the Trinity?, 1989, page 7 (JW)

THE ante-Nicene Fathers were acknowledged to have been leading religious teachers in the early centuries after Christ's birth. What they taught is of interest.

Justin Martyr, who died about 165 C.E., called the prehuman Jesus a created angel who is "other than the God who made all things." He said that Jesus was inferior to God and "never did anything except what the Creator . . . willed him to do and say."

Irenaeus, who died about 200 C.E., said that the prehuman Jesus had a separate existence from God and was inferior to him. He showed that Jesus is not equal to the "One true and only God," who is "supreme over all, and besides whom there is no other."

Clement of Alexandria, who died about 215 C.E., called Jesus in his prehuman existence "a creature" but called God "the uncreated and imperishable and only true God." He said that the Son "is next to the only omnipotent Father" but not equal to him.

Tertullian, who died about 230 C.E., taught the supremacy of God. He observed: "The Father is different from the Son (another), as he is greater; as he who begets is different from him who is begotten; he who sends, different from him who is sent." He also said: "There was a time when the Son was not. . . . Before all things, God was alone."

Hippolytus, who died about 235 C.E., said that God is "the one God, the first and the only One, the Maker and Lord of all," who "had nothing co-eval [of equal age] with him . . . But he was One, alone by himself; who, willing it, called into being what had no being before," such as the created prehuman Jesus.

Origen, who died about 250 C.E., said that "the Father and Son are two substances . . . two things as to their essence," and that "compared with the Father, [the Son] is a very small light."

Summing up the historical evidence, Alvan Lamson says in *The Church of the First Three Centuries*: "The modern popular doctrine of the Trinity . . . derives no support from the language of Justin [Martyr]: and this observation may be extended to all the ante-Nicene Fathers; that is, to all Christian writers for three centuries after the birth of Christ. It is true, they speak of the Father, Son, and . . . holy Spirit, but not as co-equal, not as one numerical essence, not as Three in One, in any sense now admitted by Trinitarians. The very reverse is the fact." Thus, the testimony of the Bible and of history makes clear that the Trinity was unknown throughout Biblical times and for several centuries thereafter.

(End of Quote)

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Reading the last paragraph of this quote a person is led to believe that no Christian writer in the 1st 3 centuries taught or believed the doctrine that is now known as the Trinity.

It is easy to show that the doctrine known as the Trinity was taught and believed well before the 4th century. To do this we will simply quote someone who lived before that time period. I would like to share 2 quotes from the Early Church Fathers before the 3rd century.

(1) Ignatius was said to be a pupil of the Apostle John he lived 90 A.D.

Ante-Nicene Fathers: Volume I, The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philippians chapter 2. "Wherefore also the Lord, when He sent forth the apostles to make disciples of all nations, commanded them to "baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," **not unto one [person] having three names, nor into three [persons] who became incarnate, but into three possessed of equal honour."**

This clearly shows that the early church in the 1st Century taught and believed the same doctrine that we call the Trinity today.

(2) Tertullian was a Christian theologian who lived 155-220 A.D. The following quote by him can be found in Roberts, Alexander and Donaldson, James, Ante-Nicene Fathers: Volume III, Tertullian Against Praxeas CH.25.

"What follows Philip's question, and the Lord's whole treatment of it, to the end of John's Gospel, continues to furnish us with statements of the same kind, distinguishing the Father and the Son, with the properties of each. Then there is the Paraclete or Comforter, also, which He promises to pray for to the Father, and to send from heaven after He had ascended to the Father. He is called "another Comforter," indeed; but in what way He is another we have already shown, "He shall receive of mine," says Christ, just as Christ Himself received of the Father's. **Thus the connection of the Father in the Son, and of the Son in the Paraclete, produces three coherent Persons, who are yet distinct One from Another. These Three are, one essence,** not one Person, as it is said, "I and my Father are One," in respect of unity of substance not singularity of number."

The following definition of "**Paraclete**" is by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 10th edition. *Par.a.clete n [ME Paraclyte, fr. LL Paracletus, Paraclitus, fr. Gk Parakletos, lit., advocate, intercessor, fr. parakalein to invoke, fr. para- + kalein to call--more at low] (15c): **holy spirit***

Tertullian here is referring to John 14: 9-16 where Jesus said he would ask of the Father and he would send the Holy Spirit also referred to as another Comforter in the King James Version of the Bible. We see in this text that Tertullian referred to the Paraclete as the Holy Spirit. Notice he stated that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were three persons that were distinct from one another. He further stated that these three persons were one in essence. Tertullian just defined the Trinity remember he lived 155-220 A.D.

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Compare what Tertullian said to the following from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

TRINITY

The coexistence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the unity of the Godhead (divine nature or essence). The doctrine of the trinity means that within the being and activity of the one God there are three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

The Ante-Nicene Fathers that are mentioned in this Watchtower publication did not teach or believe what the Watchtower stated.

I have the writings of the Ante-Nicene Fathers on CD Rom. My program has the capability of searching for words or phrases. I used this to search for the quotes in this Watchtower publication. I did not find any of the quotes as the Watchtower used in their publication. I did have two hits when I got to Tertullian however in both cases the text did not say what the Watchtower claimed Tertullian said. So instead I looked for what Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Hippolytus, and Origen did teach regarding the Trinity or the deity of Jesus Christ. Following is a quote from each of these early Christian writers.

Justin Martyr

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 1

The First Apology of Justin chapter LXIII

And all the Jews even now teach that the nameless God spake to Moses; whence the Spirit of prophecy, accusing them by Isaiah the prophet mentioned above, said "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know Me, and My people do not understand." {Isa.1:3} And Jesus the Christ, because the Jews knew not what the Father was, and what the Son, in like manner accused them; and Himself said, "No one knoweth the Father, but the Son; nor the Son, but the Father, and they to whom the Son revealeth Him." {Matt.11: 27} **Now the Word of God is His Son**, as we have before said. And **He is called Angel and Apostle; for He declares whatever we ought to know, and is sent forth to declare whatever is revealed**; as our Lord Himself says, "He that heareth Me, heareth Him that sent Me." {Lk.10:16} From the writings of Moses also this will be manifest; for thus it is written in them, "And the Angel of God spake to Moses, in a flame of fire out of the bush, and said, **I am that I am, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of thy fathers**; go down into Egypt, and bring forth My people." {Ex.3: 6} And if you wish to learn what follows, you can do so from the same writings; for it is impossible to relate the whole here. But so much is written for the sake of proving that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God and His Apostle, being of old the Word, and **appearing** sometimes in the form of fire, and **sometimes in the likeness of angels**; but now, by the will of God, having become man for the human race, He endured all the sufferings which the devils instigated the senseless Jews to inflict upon Him; who, though they have it expressly affirmed in the writings of Moses, "And the angel of God spake to Moses in a flame of fire in a bush, and said, I am that I am, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," yet maintain that He who said this was the Father and Creator of the universe. Whence also the Spirit of prophecy rebukes them, and says, "Israel doth not know Me, my people have not understood Me." {Isa.1:3} And again, Jesus, as we have already shown, while He was with them, said, "No one knoweth the Father, but the Son; nor the

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Son but the Father, and those to whom the Son will reveal Him.”{Matt. 11:27} The Jews, accordingly, being throughout of opinion that it was the Father of the universe who spake to Moses, though He who spake to him was indeed the Son of God, who is called both Angel and Apostle, are justly charged, both by the Spirit of prophecy and by Christ Himself, with knowing neither the Father nor the Son. For they who affirm that the Son is the Father, are proved neither to have become acquainted with the Father, nor to know that **the Father of the universe has a Son; who also, being the first-begotten Word of God, is even God. And of old He appeared in the shape of fire and in the likeness of an angel to Moses and to the other prophets;** but now in the times of your reign, [Rather, “of your empire.”] having, as we before said, become Man by a virgin, according to the counsel of the Father, for the salvation of those who believe on Him, He endured both to be set at nought and to suffer, that by dying and rising again He might conquer death. And that which was said out of the bush to Moses, “I am that I am, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and the God of your fathers.” This signified that they, even though dead, are let in existence, and are men belonging to Christ Himself. For they were the first of all men to busy themselves in the search after God; Abraham being the father of Isaac, and Isaac of Jacob, as Moses wrote." *(End of quote)*

Note Justin did not say Jesus was "a created angel" He did say Jesus was "called" angel and apostle and gave an explanation as to why Jesus was given this title. One of the definitions of Angel in the Webster's Dictionary is a messenger of God. One who is "sent forth to declare whatever is revealed" as Justin stated is a messenger. This is Justin's explanation as to why Jesus was given the title Angel of God. Justin also said of Jesus that he was " appearing sometimes in the form of fire, and sometimes in the likeness of angels. This does not mean that Jesus is literally an angel anymore than it means Jesus is literally a fire. Justin partially quoted EX.3:2-6 Here the Angel of God said, I am that I am, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of thy fathers. Justin did not say Jesus was a created angel inferior to God as the Watchtower would have us believe. He did say Jesus was given the title of Angel and Apostle and Jesus is the God of Abraham.

Irenaeus

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 1

Irenaeus against Heresies, Book 3, Chapter XX & XXI

And again, specifying the place of His advent, he says: “The Lord hath spoken from Zion, and He has uttered His voice from Jerusalem.” And that it is from that region which is towards the south of the inheritance of Judah that the Son of God shall come, who is God, and who was from Bethlehem, where the Lord was born [and] will send out His praise through all the earth, thus says the prophet Habakkuk: “God shall come from the south, and the Holy One from Mount, Effrem. His power covered the heavens over, and the earth is full of His praise. Before His face shall go forth the Word, and His feet shall advance in the plains.” Thus he indicates in clear terms that He is God, and that His advent was [to take place] in Bethlehem, and from Mount Effrem, which is towards the south of the inheritance, and that [He is] man. For he says, “His feet shall advance in the plains: ”and this is an indication proper to man. (Chapter XXI) 1. **God, then, was made man, and the Lord did Himself save us,**

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Clement of Alexandria

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 2

Exhortation to the Heathen, The Instructor, Book 1, Chapter II

Now, O you, my children, our Instructor is like His Father God, whose son He is, sinless, blameless, and with a soul devoid of passion; God in the form of man, stainless, the minister of His Father's will, the Word who is God, who is in the Father, who is at the Father's right hand, and with the form of God is God. He is to us a spotless image; to Him we are to try with all our might to assimilate our souls. He is wholly free from human passions; wherefore also He alone is judge, because He alone is sinless.

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 2 Exhortation to the Heathen, The Instructor, Book 1, Chapter VII

(Clement of Alexandria)

But our Instructor is the holy God Jesus, the Word, who is the guide of all humanity. The loving God Himself is our Instructor.

Tertullian

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 3

Tertullian, Against Praxeas, Chapter XII

But in respect of the previous works of the world what says the Scripture? Its first statement indeed is made, when the Son has not yet appeared: "And God said, Let there be light, and there was light." Immediately there appears the Word, "that true light, which lighteth man on his coming into the world," and through Him also came light upon the world. From that moment God willed creation to be effected in the Word, Christ being present and ministering unto Him: and so God created. And God said, "Let there be a firmament, ... and God made the firmament;" and God also said. "Let there be lights (in the firmament); and so God made a greater and a lesser light." But all the rest of the created things did He in like manner make, who made the former ones—I mean the Word of God. "through whom all things were made, and without whom nothing was made." Now if He too is God, according to John, (who says.) "The Word was God." then you have two Beings—One that commands that the thing be made. and the Other that executes the order and creates. In what sense, however, you ought to understand Him to be another. I have already explained, on the ground of Personality, not of Substance—in the way of distinction, not of division. But although I must everywhere hold one only substance in three coherent and inseparable (Persons)

Hippolytus

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 5

The Extant Works and Fragments of Hippolytus, Part 2 Dogmatical and Historical, Against the Heresy of One Noetus.

6. Let us look next at the apostle's word: "Whose are the fathers, of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever." This word declares the mystery of the truth rightly and clearly. He who is over all is God; for thus He speaks boldly, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father." He who is over all, God blessed, has been born; and having been made man, He is (yet) God for ever. For to this effect John also has said, "Which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." And well has he named Christ the Almighty.

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Origen

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 4

Origen Against Celsus, Book 7, Chapter XLIV

But he prays for no trivial blessings, for he has learnt from Jesus to seek for nothing small or mean, that is, sensible objects, but to ask only for what is great and truly divine; and these things God grants to us, to lead us to that blessedness which is found only with Him through His Son, the Word, who is God.

The Ante-Nicene Fathers Volume 4

Origen de Principiis, Book 1, Chapter I

Whatever, therefore, is a property of bodies, cannot be predicated either of the Father or of the Son; but what belongs to the nature of deity is common to the Father and the Son

Anybody that wants to know if the Watchtower literature is trustworthy should read their pamphlet "Should You Believe in the Trinity?" pg. 7 and then look up these references for themselves. Go to any Kingdom Hall (Jehovah Witness Church) they can get the magazine "Should You Believe in the Trinity?" for you. The writings of The Ante-Nicene Fathers can be found at the Southern Oregon University or can be obtained on CD Rom through Logos Research Systems 715 SE Fidalogo Ave., Oak Harbor, WA. 98277

Phone 1-800-875-6467

Remember the Watchtower claimed to be a prophet of God. The Watchtower claims that we must belong to their organization to be qualified to live on Paradise Earth. The Watchtower informs us that we cannot read our Bible alone, but we also need their literature to help us to have true understanding. Considering these claims one would certainly expect to find their publications to be extremely accurate if there is any validity in their claims at all. Yet the Watchtower has grossly misrepresented 6 early Christian writers in this one pamphlet alone. Keep in mind that this does not mean that your average Jehovah Witness that is untrustworthy rather it is the Watchtower organization that is deceiving them that is untrustworthy.

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2. The New Worlds Translation of the Holy Scriptures.

The New Worlds Translation of the Holy Scriptures is not a good translation at all. In fact it is a biased translation based on Watchtower doctrine not on the Greek or Hebrew language.

I will start with a quote from the book titled "The Kingdom of the Cults" by Walter Martin on page 72-73.

"Let it be remembered that the New World Bible Translation Committee had no known translators with recognized degrees in Greek or Hebrew exegesis or translation. In fact, Frederick W. Franz, then representing the translation committee and now the Watchtower Society's fourth president, admitted under oath that he could not translate Genesis 2:4 from the Hebrew.

From the Pursuer's Proof of cross-examination held on Wednesday, November 24, 1954, p.7, paragraphs A-B, Examining Fred W. Franz, vice-president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and sent as representative of the Society and the Translation Communications:

Q: Have you made yourself familiar with Hebrew?

A: (Franz) Yes.

Q: So that you have a substantial linguistic apparatus at your command?

A: Yes, for use in biblical work.

Q I think that you are able to read and follow the Bible in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, German and French?

A: Yes.

Later, during the same cross-examination:

Q: You, yourself, read and speak Hebrew, do you?

A: I do not speak Hebrew.

Q: You do not?

A: No.

Q: Can you, yourself, translate that into Hebrew?

A: Which?

Q: That fourth verse in the second chapter in Genesis?

A: You mean here?

Q: Yes.

A: No.

We asked a Hebrew teacher at Biola University/ Talbot Theological Seminary if the fourth verse in the second chapter of Genesis was a particularly difficult verse to translate. After all, the pursuer's question would hardly have been fair if it were the hardest verse in the Old Testament to translate. The professor said that he would never pass a first year Hebrew student who could not translate that verse. This is an example of the "scholarship backing the NWT. (end of quote)

There is a lot more said in Walter Martins book "Kingdom of the Cults" for those who care to read it. The book is at the Medford Library and can be borrowed by other libraries for your use.

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I have examined and found some problems trusting the New Worlds Translation that I would like to share with you here.

I have the Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures 1985 Edition copyright by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. A Greek Interlinear shows both the original Greek language as well as the direct translation into English below the word. The full text in English is off to the side. I have included copies of some of these texts with my added comments for you on the following pages.

The 1985 Kingdom Interlinear on page 5 states:

"The Kingdom Interlinear English translation is specifically designed to open up to the student of the Sacred Scriptures what the original *koine'* Greek basically or literally says."

Notice we are told that this is to help us know what the Greek literally says.

In the next two copies from the 1985 Kingdom Interlinear I would like for you to take a look at a couple of things. Take a good look at the Greek word translated as "did obeisance" in Mat. 14:33 and the same exact Greek word translated as "worshiped" in Rev. 7:11

Matthew 14: 31-33

<p>31 εὐθέως Immediately ἐκτείνας having stretched out αὐτοῦ καὶ λέγει of him and is saying εἰς τί ἐδίστασας; into what doubted you? αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον of them into the boat 33 οἱ The (ones) αὐτῶ λέγοντες to him saying</p>	<p>δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς but the Jesus τὴν χεῖρα the hand ἀπὸ αὐτοῦ from him καὶ λέγει and is saying εἰς τί ἐδίστασας; into what doubted you? καὶ ἀναβάντων And having stepped up ἐκκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος. abated the wind. ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ προσεκύνησαν in the boat did obeisance. ἀληθῶς θεοῦ υἱὸς εἶ. Truthfully of God Son you are.</p>	<p>31 Immediately stretching out his hand Jesus caught hold of him and said to him: "You with little faith, why did you give way to doubt?" 32 And after they got up into the boat, the windstorm abated. 33 Then those in the boat <u>did obeisance</u> to him, saying: "You are really God's Son."</p>
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Revelation 7:11-12

<p>11 καὶ πάντες οἱ ἄγγελοι And all the angels κύκλῳ τοῦ θρόνου καὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων καὶ to circle of the throne and of the older persons and τῶν τεσσάρων ζώων, καὶ ἔπεσαν of the four living [creatures], and they fell ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου ἐπὶ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν in sight of the throne upon the faces of them καὶ προσεκύνησαν τῷ θεῷ, and <u>worshiped</u> to the God, 12 λέγοντες (they) saying 'Ἀμήν· ἡ εὐλογία καὶ ἡ δόξα καὶ ἡ σοφία Amen; the blessing and the glory and the wisdom καὶ ἡ εὐχαριστία καὶ ἡ τιμὴ καὶ ἡ and the thanksgiving and the honor and the δύναμις καὶ ἡ ἰσχὺς τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν εἰς power and the strength to the God of us into τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων· ἀμήν. the ages of the ages; amen.</p>	<p>11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell upon their faces before the throne and <u>worshiped</u> God, 12 saying: "Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen."</p>
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προσεκύνησαν
did obeisance

Matthew 14:33

προσεκύνησαν
worshipped

Revelation 7:11

You do not have to be able to read Greek to see that these two Greek words that I copied and pasted are the same.

My point is this, it seems as though the Watchtower has changed the English translation of the Greek word. It appears that this same Greek word was not translated two different ways to be true to the translation of the Greek but rather to try to be consistent with their theology.

In the context of Rev.7: 11 we have worship of Jehovah God. In the context of Matt. 14:33 we have worship of Jesus. They cannot have the bible showing worship to Jesus. This would be in direct conflict with their own teachings because they do not believe that Jesus is God or that he should be worshiped. Jesus himself stated that worship belonged to God alone.

Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" (See also Lk.4:8)

Since Jesus did not rebuke them for worshiping him in the boat in Matthew 14:33 this would make him out to be God. Therefore the Watchtower had to change the bible to fit their theology because they do not believe Jesus is God. This is not being true to the translation from Greek into English.

John 1:1-3

ΚΑΤΑ ΙΩΑΝΗΝ	
ACCORDING TO JOHN	
1 Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.	1 In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.*
2 Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν.	2 This one was in [the] beginning with God.
3 πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν.	3 All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.
ὃ γέγονεν	
Which has come to be	

Notice that the word "a" is not under the direct translation from the Greek. Yet it is added into the text on the right.

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By adding the word "a" in John 1:1, which, is clearly not in the direct translation the meaning, is changed. Why would the Watchtower add a word not found in the Greek to change the meaning of the text?

I believe that the change was made in the Bible to fit their theology. Otherwise it would read as other translations, which makes Jesus out to be God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (NAS)

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NAS)

Acts 20:28-30

627	ACTS 20:28—35
<p>28 προσέχετε ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ, ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἣν περιεποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ ἰδίου. 29 ἐγὼ οἶδα ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἀφίξιν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου, 30 καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα τοῦ ἀποσιπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω ἑαυτῶν;</p>	<p>28 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].^e 29 I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness, 30 and from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.</p>

Looking at the 1985 Kingdom Interlinear published by the Watchtower we can see that the word (Son) is not in the direct translation of the Greek. Why would the word (Son) need to be added to the text? Here again I believe the word was added to make the Bible fit their theology.

Following is how this text appears in the New American Standard.

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

It is true that the church of God was purchased by the blood of Jesus who is called the Son of God. However that is not what Luke wrote in the Book of Acts. Luke was the author of the Book of Acts. Throughout attacks on the Bible Luke has earned the credibility of a reliable Historian. Luke chose to say that God purchased the church with his own blood. Why should the Watchtower have the say so in declaring Luke wrote it incorrectly?

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Colossians 1:16-18

COLOSSIANS 1:16—21	880
<p>εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου, πρωτότοκος image of the God the invisible, firstborn πάσης κτίσεως, 16 ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ of all creation, because in him ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς it was created the all (things) in the heavens καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὰ ὀρατὰ καὶ and upon the earth, the (things) visible and τὰ ἀόρατα, εἴτε θρόνοι εἴτε the (things) invisible, whether thrones or κυριότητες εἴτε ἀρχαὶ εἴτε ἐξουσίαι· lordships or governments or authorities; τὰ πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν the all (things) through him and into him ἐκτίσται· 17 καὶ αὐτὸς ἔστιν πρὸ it has been created; and he is before πάντων καὶ τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ all (things) and the all (things) in him συνέστηκεν, 18 καὶ αὐτὸς ἔστιν ἡ it has stood together, and he is the κεφαλὴ τοῦ σώματος, τῆς ἐκκλησίας· head of the body, of the ecclesia; ὃς ἔστιν ἡ ἀρχή, πρωτότοκος ἐκ who is the beginning, firstborn out of τῶν νεκρῶν, ἵνα γένηται ἐν the dead (ones), in order that might become in πᾶσιν αὐτὸς πρωτεύων, all (things) he holding the first place, 19 ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ εὐδόκησεν πᾶν τὸ because in him he thought well all the</p>	<p>the image of the in- visible God, the first- born of all creation; 16 because by means of him all [other]* <u>things</u> 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] <u>things</u> have been created through him and for him. 17 Also, he is <u>before all [other]</u> <u>things</u> and by means of him all [other] <u>things</u> were made to exist, 18 and he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the <u>firstborn from the</u> <u>dead</u>, that he might become the one who is first in all things;</p>

Here in Colossians 1:16 & 17 we can see that the Watchtower added the word "other" four different times. The word "other" does not appear in the direct translation of the Greek.

In the context this passage is speaking about Jesus. The New American Standard translates this passage as follows:

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.

Why would the Watchtower add the word "other" four different times when it is not in the original Greek?

I believe it was added because otherwise it refutes their doctrine that Jehovah created Jesus and then through Jesus created all other things. Of course this doctrine still falls apart when you read Isa.44:24

Isa 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by myself, and spreading out the earth all alone. (NAS)

God can say he did it all alone even though in Col.1: 16 it says Jesus created because Jesus is God. However if one takes the view that Jehovah created Jesus and then through Jesus created all "other" things then we have a problem with Isa.44: 24 when Jehovah says he did it by himself.

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Colossians 2:9

<p>8 Βλέπετε μή τις ὑμᾶς ἔσται Be you looking at not someone you will be ὁ συλαγωγῶν διὰ τῆς the (one) leading as booty through the φιλοσοφίας καὶ κενῆς ἀπάτης κατὰ philosophy and empty seduction according to τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, κατὰ the tradition of the men, according to τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου καὶ οὐ the elementary things of the world and not κατὰ Χριστόν· 9 ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ according to Christ; because in him κατοικεῖ πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς θεότητος is dwelling down all the fullness of the divinity σωματικῶς, 10 καὶ ἐστὲ ἐν αὐτῷ bodily, and you are in him πεπληρωμένοι, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλὴ (ones) having been filled, who is the head πάσης ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐξουσίας.</p>	<p>8 Look out: perhaps there may be someone who will carry you off as his prey through the philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary things of the world and not according to Christ; 9 because it is in him that all the fullness of the <u>divine quality</u> dwells bodily. 10 And so you are possessed of a fullness by means of him, who is the head of all government and authority.</p>
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Here in Colossians 2:9 we can see that the word "quality" was added by the Watchtower even though it is not in the direct translation of the Greek. By adding the word "quality" which is not in the direct translation the meaning of the passage is changed. The literal translation in the Kingdom Interlinear reads, "Because in him is dwelling down all the fullness of divinity bodily"

Now why would the Watchtower add the word "quality" that even they show is not in the Greek? I believe it was added because otherwise it makes Jesus both God and man. This is against their doctrine; once again I suggest that it is not the Bible that needed changing, but rather the doctrine of the Watchtower that needs changing.

It is not Godlike quality like the New Worlds Translation makes out rather it is the fulness of God in bodily form.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, (NAS)

Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (KJV)

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Revelation 1:8

7	Ἰδοὺ	ἔρχεται	μετὰ	τῶν	νεφελῶν,	
	Look!	He is coming	with	the	clouds,	
καὶ	ὄψεταί	αὐτόν	πάς	ὀφθαλμὸς	καὶ	
and	will see	him	every	eye	and	
	οἵτινες	αὐτόν	ἐξεκέντησαν,	καὶ		
	whichever (ones)	him	stabbed out,	and		
	κόψονται	ἐπ’	αὐτόν	πάσαι		
	they will strike themselves	upon	him	all		
αἱ	φυλαὶ	τῆς	γῆς.	ναί, ἀμήν.		
the	tribes	of the	earth.	Yes, amen.		
8	Ἐγώ	εἰμι	τὸ	Ἄλφα	καὶ	τὸ
	I	am	the	Alpha	and	the
	λέγει	Κύριος,	ὁ	θεός,	ὁ	ὢν
	is saying	Lord,	the	God,	The (one)	being
	ὁ	ἦν	καὶ	ὁ	ἐρχόμενος,	ὁ
	the (one)	was	and	the (one)	coming,	the
	παντοκράτωρ.					
	Almighty.					

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says Jehovah* God, "the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty."

Notice in the direct translation of Revelation 1:8 we have "Lord" as a direct translation. Then in the N.W.T on the right we have "Jehovah God". Certainly Jehovah is Lord, but why did they change the wording? I believe it is because the context from the previous verse makes Jesus out to be God. They are trying to make it appear as though we changed speakers between verse 7 and 8.

The same Greek word here in Rev.1: 8 translated as Lord or Jehovah God is also used in John 20:25 which is specifically used concerning Jesus. This can be confirmed in the back of any Strong's Concordance using the Strong's numbering system. Both places use the word number 2962

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

So far we have pointed out that the Watchtower added words in the Bible changing the meaning to make it fit their doctrine. Following is a blunder found in the New Worlds Translation that was not a change to fit their doctrine, but rather it is in error in reporting an historical event and a complete misrepresentation of what was written in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 27:48-50 N.W.T And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge and soaked it with sour wine and put it on a reed and went giving him a drink. But the rest of them said: "Let him be! Let us see whether Elijah comes to save him." ((Another man took a spear and pierced his side, and blood and water came out.)) Again Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and yielded up (his) spirit.

There are two problems with this passage in the New Worlds Translation.

(1) Matthew never mentioned the spear being thrust into Jesus' side. This is only mentioned in the gospel of John. Although this did indeed happen it is a misrepresentation of what Matthew wrote. This is what John wrote not Matthew.

(2) Historically this is not the order in which things happened. When Jesus was pierced through the side with a spear he was already dead. In this passage in the New Worlds Translation they have Jesus crying out with a loud voice and yielding up his spirit after he is already dead.

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Following is how this passage reads in the New American Standard.

Matt 27:48-50 (NAS)

48 And immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink.

49 But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him."

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

The spear piercing of the side of Jesus is not mentioned here in Matthew at all.

John 19:29-34 (NAS)

29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop, and brought it up to His mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32 The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him;

33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs;

34 but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

Notice in verse 33 Jesus was already dead here before the soldier pierced his side.

As we have shown the Watchtower claimed to be a prophet of God and yet they proved to be a false prophet. The Watchtower claimed we must read their literature and not the Bible alone yet they lied about what the early church writers said concerning the deity of Christ and the Trinity. They have misrepresented the doctrine of the Trinity and then tried to refute it based upon their false definition. They have added and changed words in the Bible to try to make the Bible line up with their false teachings. They have presented us with a different God, a different Jesus, a different Holy Spirit and a different Gospel than which we find in the Bible.

My friend the sad truth is the Watchtower Society is not the place to find truth. Rather they are misleading many away from the truth found in Jesus Christ. Read and trust your Bible not the Watchtower organization!

Meant with Love

Robert Kiser

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RESOURCES

The false prophecy by Charles Taze Russel the founder of the Jehovah Witness church can be found in New York Times, N.Y., Monday, Oct.5, 1914, pg.8. This is on microfilm at Southern Oregon University. If your library does not have it simply ask them if they can borrow it from another library or if they can at least photo copy the requested page from the microfilm. The library will charge a small fee for this service.

You can also obtain a whole book of false prophecies including this one found in the New York Times. There are 2 ways you can do this:

(1) You can borrow the book from your local library by giving them the following information.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Morey, Robert A., 1946-

How to answer a Jehovah Witness.

Bibliography: p.

1. Jehovah Witnesses - Doctrinal and controversial works.

2. Witness bearing (Christianity) I. Title.

BX8526.M66 289.9'2 79-25502

ISBN 0-87123-206-5

(2) You can buy the book. Simply ask your local book store to order the book titled "How to answer a Jehovah's Witness" by Robert A. Morey. It was published by Bethany House Publishers Minneapolis, MN. 55438,

When I checked Christian Book Distributors on 4-28-99 they sold this book for \$5.50.

Christian Book Distributors P.O.Box 7000 Peabody, MA 01961-7000

Phone (978) 977-5050

Website <http://www.christianbook.com>

The Majority of Watchtower literature quoted here can be found on the CD Rom called "Watchtower Library 95" by the Watchtower Bible And Tract Society. I got mine by going to a local Kingdom Hall (Jehovah Witness Church) and asking for one. I simply told them I wanted to study their religion on my own and have access to their literature in full context. They were more than happy to help me out. Let God Be True, Aid to Bible Understanding, The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures and the 1970 copy of the New Worlds Translation are not on this CD Rom. However the average Jehovah Witness should have no problem obtaining these books. I got mine from a used bookstore.

The Following books at the Medford Library also may be of help to you.

Author: Martin, Walter Ralston, 1928- Line Title Pub. Date Type

1 JEHOVAH OF THE WATCHTOWER. 1974

2 KINGDOM OF THE CULTS. 1985

3 WALTER MARTIN'S CULTS REFERENCE BIBLE : KING JAMES VERSION WITH R
1981

The writings of the early church fathers can be obtained on CD from Logos.com

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I also have written other books defending Christianity that may be of help to you. You can contact me through ReasonableAnswers.org

Or you can write

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