

What Lutherans Believe

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Jehovah's Witnesses – Supplemental Materials

Biblical Refutation of Witness Doctrine

Jehovah's Witnesses...

. . . deny the absolute, unique deity of Jesus Christ.

Scripture demonstrates that the Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah. Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; and 48:12 state that the attribute of being "first and last" belongs to Jehovah alone. In Rev. 1:8,11,17 and 22:13,14, Jesus Christ is shown possessing this very attribute. Isaiah 45:22-25 speaks of a universal worship which one day all mankind will render unto Jehovah. Phil. 2:9-11 applies this passage to Jesus Christ. Isaiah 44:22,23 sets forth Jehovah as the redeemer. Eph. 1:7 establishes Jesus Christ as the Redeemer. In Isa. 45:24 and 54:17 Jehovah is our righteousness. I 1 Cor. 1:30, Jesus Christ is our righteousness. Isaiah 43:11 reserves for Jehovah alone the work of saving man, "Beside me there is no savior." Titus 2:13 teaches that Jesus Christ is the Savior, thereby establishing Him as the Jehovah of Isaiah 43.

. . . teach that Jesus Christ is a created being - a created god.

This error is reached through a false translation in the New World Translation of the Greek New Testament which renders John 1:1 as "And the Word was a god..." This premise is refuted in Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, and 45:5, 21. For times Jehovah declares the impossibility of there being "another god" or "a god" besides Himself.

. . . deny the personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13,14 is one of many scriptures which declare this to be false. Eight times the Lord Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit by the personal masculine pronoun. The deity of the Holy Spirit is clearly demonstrated in the following references: Acts 5:3,4; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 13:14. In 1 Cor. 12:4-6 the Holy Spirit is called Lord and God. In placing Isaiah 68:10 alongside Acts 28:25-27, it becomes evident that the God of Isaiah 6 is the Holy Spirit.

. . . deny the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity.

The truth of the Trinity is amusing to the Jehovah's Witnesses, but it constitutes part of the revelation of God. There are three persons in the Scripture who are called "God": The Father, Eph. 1:2; the Lord Jesus Christ, Titus 2:13; and the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3,4. The Greek word $\theta\epsilon\omicron\varsigma$ is used of all three. The fact of the Trinity is also apparent in Isa. 48:16,17; Matt. 16:17; 28:19, and 2 Cor. 13:14.

. . . deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Their false doctrine declares, "The man Jesus is dead; only his spirit arose." In Luke 24:36-45 a different picture is shown. In verse 39 Christ obviously was talking about His body. Thomas met the physically resurrected Christ, John 20:24-29, as did other disciples who ate fish with him, John 21:12-14. Paul testifies to the bodily resurrections of Christ in 1 Cor. 15:3-19. The guards at the tomb, the chief priests and the Sanhedrin were convinced Christ had risen physically.

. . . deny the bodily visible return of Jesus Christ.

They say, "We must not expect Him to come again as a human being - coming is properly translated presence and refers to the invisible presence of the Lord." In contrast, the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is coming back again physically. Rev. 1:7, "...every eye shall see Him." 1 Thess. 4:16,17, "the Lord himself shall descend from heaven." And in Acts 1:10,11, He "shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven."

. . . deny the presence of the believer with Christ after death.

According to 2 Cor. 5:8, Phil. 1:21-24, and Luke 16:20-22, the believer passes into the presence of Christ immediately after death.

. . . deny the believer's hope of heaven.

There are many Bible passages which speak of the "living hope" of being with Christ forever, including John 14:1-3, Phil. 3:20,21, 1 Pet. 1:3-5, and Rev. 3:12.

. . . deny the reality and eternity of future punishment.

The Bible teaches the reality and eternity of Hell. Jesus Christ spoke more of hell than He did of heaven. Hell is a furnace of fire (Matt. 13:49,50), an unquenchable fire (Mark 9:42-48), a place for Satan and his angels (Matt. 25:41).

. . . deny the perfect salvation of the Cross of Christ.

The Witnesses teach, without using a single verse of Scripture, that the Millennium, the 1,000 year reign of Christ, will give all men, living and dead, an opportunity, under favorable conditions, to earn salvation. But Christ has purchased our salvation on the Cross, Rom. 3:21-26. Salvation is wholly apart from any human effort, Rom. 3:27,28.

Encountering a Witness at Your Door

Should we ignore them, turn them away, or ask them in?

People sometimes ask me how to keep Witnesses away from their doors. My answer is, "Don't!" I invite them in when they visit my home. It seems to me that we Christians are highly skilled at making evangelism appear to be hard work. When a Witness presents himself at your door, God is handing you an opportunity to "witness" your own faith, special delivery!

The Witnesses I have met are upright, moral, and sincere people who believe in the Watchtower's teachings, and are ready and willing to do whatever is asked of them by the Watchtower or the elders of their congregation. These are not evil people; they are people in dire need of God's gracious gift of faith in Jesus Christ as presented in the Holy Bible.

To be an effective witness to Witnesses, one must understand something of their view of the Bible and of good doctrine. The Witnesses are raised and immersed in a heavily law-oriented belief system, and are required to do "pioneering," the door-to-door witnessing that so many of us find objectionable. That they are at your door at all is a testimony to their will to fulfill the teachings of their church. I fully support the right of Jehovah's Witnesses to knock on doors to spread their message. I believe all people should have the right to tell their fellow man the teaching of the Bible.

Of course, the problem with that last statement is that Witnesses in most cases do not teach the words of the Bible. A Witness would disagree strongly with me on this point, but one need not dig too deeply into their teachings to find that it is true. Witnesses are trained to read the Bible in a very special way, one foreign to Christians, and they do not accept the meaning of the words as they are plainly written whenever they contradict the teachings of the Watchtower.

As a Witness reads the Bible he must keep in mind that what he is reading cannot be fully understood apart from the teachings of "Jehovah's visible organization," the Watchtower. When a Witness is talking to you at your door or in your living room, the same holds true. It is very important to keep your conversation about teachings of faith and all doctrinal matters, then, centered wholly on the Word of God alone.

Stick to the meaning of the words!

While this sounds like a simple task, it can be very difficult to do consistently when speaking to a Witness. For example, read John 17:6, Matt. 6:9, where the W.T. says that Jesus made God's name "Jehovah" known, when in fact, Jesus never called him by the name "Jehovah" but called him "Father" instead, or they will realize that they simply support the verse they are trying to contradict. Running away from them would not be a positive solution but facing them with the true meaning of the carefully selected words of the prophets or the apostles or Christ or the Father himself, to express themselves concerning important facts like the resurrection, like eternal life, like the constitution of God's government and its eternal governing laws, and many more, will keep them away from our doors or away from the Watch Tower's teachings.

Don't let them get away with any false interpretation!

With love and understanding, we should not let them get away with any wrong interpretation of the words of the Bible, but instead, show them the true meanings of those words, show them that those words are not our own words but words carefully chosen to explain, to clarify the true teachings, that they are the words of the

prophets, the words of Christ, the words of the Father in heaven, the words of the apostles, and they cannot be changed.

The Watchtower is aiming at those who have little or no knowledge of the Bible's teachings

The W.T. is aiming to every one of us regardless of our skin color, back ground or nationality, but they condemn us rapidly if they find out we have a fair or good knowledge of the Bible's teachings. Their main target is the majority of the world that has little or no knowledge of the Bible's teachings, that are basically good people, having their own difficulties in life, and asking themselves questions concerning that God mentioned in the Bible.

Is Knowledge of the Bible Important?

Yes!

But more important is to read the words as they are written! Christians could and should show Witnesses the **true** teachings of the Bible, which we can do only if we have read the Book ourselves! In order to effectively encourage a Witness to read for themselves, we must already be doing the same. But one need not be a Bible trivia expert, or have a certain number of years of Bible study under one's belt in order to show a Witness the truth of God's Word.

Do not worry about your knowledge of the Bible. Simply show them that they are not reading the words of the Bible.

Be ready for them!

Jehovah's Witnesses are well prepared when they knock on your door; they have already been trained to handle common objections and questions. they are prepared to spread false teachings, we should prepare ourselves to show them the true teachings of the Bible. If needed, and until you can do it on your own, download my page and show them what the Bible really says, stick to the words of the prophets, do not let them get away with their false interpretations. If any one of us loves the truth, it is our own responsibility to destroy the lie. The W.T. may be no fear to yourself but could be a danger to someone else. The majority of the mail I receive is from people that saw loved ones or a good friends falling in their webs, to use their own expression, they saw loved ones or good friendship go down the drain and they feel they cannot do anything to help them. For any one of us that believes in God and in the Bible should believe in the Holy Ghost. By reading the teachings of the Bible as they are and being receptive to the truth, in complete honesty, we will not fear people coming to our doors to speak about God's kingdom, because the Holy Ghost testifies of Christ and of the truth, if we are prepared for the truth we will recognize it when it will comes to us.

The Jehovah's Witness doctrinal system is based on the Bible interpretations of Charles Taze Russel, who announced that he possessed all truth. In his many books, Russel "left scarcely one great truth or fundamental doctrine untouched with his unholy and unwarranted conclusions." (Dr. William E. Biederwolf). Present day Jehovah's Witnesses are following the preposterous teachings of a rascal who divorced his wife and was in trouble with the courts for fleecing his followers with "miracle wheat", which he sold at an exorbitant price, claiming that it would produce 15 times as many bushels per acre as ordinary wheat. The clear teachings of the Bible are opposed to the claims put forth by the Jehovah's Witnesses. Several of their doctrines are presented here along with sound Biblical reasons for their falsehood.

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PROPHECIES

of the

Watchtower Society of Jehovah's Witnesses.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES CLAIM TO BE PROPHETS

The Watchtower of April 1st, 1972, page 197, had this statement, "So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them dangers and to declare things to come? These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is the prophet? This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. Of course it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?

Since the J.W.'s claim to be God's prophet, we are free to put them to the Bible test for a prophet, found in Deuteronomy 18:18-20. Verse 22 of this same chapter says, "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD (YHWH), if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken." Verse 20 plainly says, "that prophet shall die".

False prophecy cannot be "explained away" and treated lightly. The Watchtower has invited us to examine their record, and we will! All quotes are from publications of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society and available at headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. Some of these publications may also be found in local Kingdom Hall libraries. Judge this self-proclaimed "prophet" for yourselves!

6,000 YEARS OF HUMAN HISTORY OF PROPHECIES

- 6,000 years of human history ended in 1873. (The Time is at Hand, p.33).
- 6,000 years of human history ended in 1972. (The Truth Shall Make You Free, p. 152, 1943 edition).
- 6,000 years of human history ended in 1975. (Awake!, October 8th, 1968.)

ARMAGEDDON PROPHECIES

- Armageddon would end in 1914. (The Time is At Hand, Page 101, 1889 Edition).
- Armageddon would end in 1915. (The Time is At Hand, Page 101, 1915 Edition).
- Today, J.W.'s expect Armageddon any minute!

THE RETURN OF CHRIST PROPHECIES

- Since Christ failed to show up for any of the Watchtower dates, J.W.'s altered their teaching to make his coming conveniently "invisible". Christ returned in 1874. (The Finished Mystery, pages 386, 295, 1917 Edition). The Watchtower publications taught this 1874 date right up to 1929. The "Prophecy" book, published in 1929, states on page 65, "The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D." Christ returned in 1914. (The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life, p.

87). THE MILLENIUM PROPHECIES The Millenium began in 1873. (Thy Kingdom Come, page 305).

- The Millenium began in 1874. (Finished Mystery, page 386).

PROPHECIES ON THE RESURRECTION

- The resurrection would occur in 1878. (Thy Kingdom Come, page 234).
- Abraham, Issac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old would return in 1925. (Millions Now Living Will Never Die, page 89).
- The Watchtower Society even published a book telling their followers to add a room onto their houses, and get an undertaker to decorate it. Undertakers, of course, would be looking for employment, since there would be no more deaths in 1926. When the room was completed, Watchtower devotees were to call up Jerusalem, where Abraham would have an office, and request that their parents be "awakened" from death. They would soon appear in the new room! (The Way to Paradise, pages 228, 229).

PROPHECIES ON SPACE TRAVEL

- "Man cannot by airplane or rockets or other means get above the air envelope which is about our earthly globe..."(The Truth Shall Make you Free, p. 285, 1943 edition).

THE BOOK OF RUTH

- The Book of Ruth is "not prophetic". (Watchtower Reprints IV, p. 3110, Nov. 15, 1902).
- The Book of Ruth "is prophetic". (Watchtower Book, "Preservation", pages 169, 175, 176).

PROPHECIES ON SODOM AND GOMORRAH

- Sodom and Gomorrah will receive a second opportunity. (Man of Ages, page 110).
- Sodom and Gomorrah will receive no second opportunity. (Watchtower, March 1965, p. 139).

THE "HIGHER POWERS" OF ROMANS 13:1

- "Higher Powers" refers to earthly governments. (The Time is at Hand (1889) p. 81).
- "Higher Powers" refers to Jehovah God and Jesus. (The Truth Shall Make You Free, p. 312).
- "Higher Powers" refers to earthly governments. (Man's Salvation...at Hand p. 326). Notice how the "brighter light" dimmed back again!

THE REVELATION NAME "ABADDON-APOLLYON"

- Refers to Satan. (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol.7).
- Refers to Jesus Christ. (Then is Finished the Mystery of God, Page 232). Quite a change!

THE "ALPHA AND OMEGA" OF REVELATION

- Refers to Jehovah God. (Awake! August 22, 1978, page 28).
- Refers to Jesus Christ. (Watchtower, October 1, 1978, p.15).
- Notice the rapid change of "truth" and "interpretation of scripture" in just two months!

THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE

- Refers to their founder, Charles Taze Russell. (Watchtowers from Dec. 1, 1916 to March 1, 1923, p. 68).
- Refers to the "Remnant of Spiritual Israelites" (the supposed remnant of the 144,000 "heavenly class"). (From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained, page 193).

IN CONCLUSION

Although the official publication of the Jehovah's Witnesses claims, "...Jehovah's Witnesses today make their declaration of the good news of the kingdom under angelic direction and support" according to the Watchtower of April 1, 1972, page 200, they have proved to be an embarrassment to the angels!

Undaunted, the Watchtower of July 1st, 1973, page 402, goes on to claim, "Consider too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone in all the earth is directed by God's holy spirit or active force."

Obviously the Holy Spirit did not prompt these false prophecies!

Not only does the Bible give us a simple test for prophets, which we considered at the beginning of this tract, namely that their prophecies will fail, but the word of God has more to say about prophecies and prophesying.

The Bible reveals three sources for prophecy. One, it is from God, and inspired by Him. Two, it is from the Devil and inspired by him. Thirdly, prophecies can come out of "the flesh", or out of our "own spirit".

Since the Watchtower Society of Jehovah's witnesses has so many failed prophecies, we know they are not prophesying by God's direction, and through His Holy Spirit, or by the angels.

This leaves us with two alternatives for the false prophecies of the Watchtower Society. They are from Satan, or they are from "the flesh".

The Watchtower has chosen the latter, claiming that "we all make mistakes" etc. "We have new light". Is this an "out" for them? No, for Jehovah's Witnesses should carefully read Ezekiel, chapter 13. This chapter is a judgement of God on prophets who hope for a fulfillment of their words, after prophesying falsely. Verse 8, says, "Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore, behold, I am against you", declared the Lord God."

The Watchtower Society of Jehovah's Witnesses is a proven false prophet, and the Lord, by His own decree, is against them. Why would you want to remain in this doomed organization and share in its judgement?

Mistranslations and Perversions in the New World Translation

The first major perversion that Jehovah's Witnesses attempt to foist upon the minds of the average reader is that it has remained for them as God's true Witnesses to restore the divine name "Jehovah" to the text of the New Testament. But let us observe this pretext as they stated it in their own words.

The evidence is, therefore, that the original text of the Christian Greek Scriptures has been tampered with, the same as the text of the LXX [The Septuagint--a Greek translation of the Old Testament] has been. And, at least from the third century A.D. onward, the divine name in tetragrammaton [the Hebrew consonants YHWH, usually rendered "Jehovah"] form has been eliminated from the text by copyists.... In place of it they substituted the words "kyrios" (usually translated "the Lord") and "theos", meaning "God" (page 18).

The "evidence" that the Witnesses refer to is a recently discovered papyrus roll of the LXX which contains the second half of the book of Deuteronomy and which does have the tetragrammaton throughout. Further than this, the Witnesses refer to Aquila (A.D. 128) and Origen who both utilized the tetragrammaton in their respective Version and Hexapla. Jerome, in the fourth century, also mentioned the tetragrammaton as appearing in certain Greek volumes even in his day. On the basis of this small collection of fragmentary "evidence" Jehovah's Witnesses conclude their argument thusly:

It proves that the original LXX did contain the divine name wherever it occurred in the Hebrew original. Considering it a sacrilege to use some substitute such as kyrios or theos, the scribes inserted the tetragrammaton at its proper place in the Greek version text (page 12).

The whole case the Witnesses try to prove is that the original LXX and the New Testament autographs all used the tetragrammaton (page 18) but owing to "tampering" all these were changed; hence their responsibility to restore the divine name. Such is the argument, and a seemingly plausible one to those not familiar with the history of manuscripts and the Witnesses' subtle use of terms.

To explode this latest Watch Tower pretension of scholarship completely is indeed an elementary task. It can be shown from literally thousands of copies of the Greek New Testament that not once does the tetragrammaton appear, not even in Matthew, possibly written in Hebrew or Aramaic originally, and therefore more prone than all the rest to have traces of the divine name in it yet it does not! Beyond this, the roll of papyrus (LXX) which contains the latter part of Deuteronomy and the divine name only proves that one copy did have the divine name (YHWH), whereas all other existing copies use "kyrios" and "theos", which the Witnesses claim are "substitutes." The testimonies of Aquila, Origen and Jerome, in turn, only show that sometimes the divine name was used, but the general truth, upheld by all scholars, is that the Septuagint, with minor exceptions, always uses kyrios and theos in place of the tetragrammaton, and the New Testament never uses it at all. Relative to the nineteen "sources" the Watch Tower uses (pages 30-33) for restoring the tetragrammaton to the New Testament, it should be noted that they are all translations from Greek (which uses kyrios and theos, not the tetragrammaton) back into Hebrew, the earliest of which is A.D. 1385 and therefore they are of no value as evidence.

These cold logical facts unmask once and for all the shallow scholarship of Jehovah's Witnesses, whose arrogant pretension that they have a sound basis for restoring the

divine name (Jehovah) to the Scriptures, while inferring that orthodoxy suppressed it centuries ago, is revealed to be a hollow scholastic fraud.

No reasonable scholar, of course, objects to the use of the term Jehovah in the Bible. But since only the Hebrew consonants YHWH appear without vowels, pronunciation is at best uncertain, and dogmatically to settle on Jehovah is straining at the bounds of good linguistics. When the Witnesses arrogantly claim then to have "restored" the divine name (Jehovah), it is almost pathetic. All students of Hebrew know that any vowel can be inserted between the consonants (YHWH or JHVH) so that theoretically the divine name could be any combination from JoHeVaH to JiHiViH without doing violence to the grammar of the language in the slightest degree. So much then for this, another empty claim of the Watch Tower's pseudo-scholars.

(2) Colossians 1:16 -- "by means of him all OTHER things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or Lordships or governments or authorities" (N.W.T.)

In this particular rendering, Jehovah's Witnesses attempt one of the most clever perversions of the New Testament texts that the author has ever seen. Knowing full well that the word OTHER does not occur in this text, or for that matter in any of the three texts (verses 16,17, 19), the Witnesses deliberately insert it into the translation in a vain attempt to make Christ a creature and one of the "things" He is spoken of as having created.

Attempting to justify this unheard of travesty upon the Greek language and simple honesty, the New World Translation committee insert a footnote, marked (a) after each use of the word "other", which refers the reader to Luke 13:2,4, "and elsewhere," for apparent support of their ungrammatical rendering. Upon turning to Luke 13:2,4, however, the elementary Greek student can see that the Witnesses plainly do not have any grammatical leg to stand on as is shown by their immature reasoning. The verses utilized by the Watch Tower to cover up their scholastic dishonesty are as follows:

So in reply, he said to them: "Do you imagine that these Galileans were proved worse sinners than all OTHER Galileans because they have suffered these things?" (verse 2, N.W.T.).

"Or those eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam fell, thereby killing them, do you imagine that they were proved greater debtors than all OTHER men inhabiting Jerusalem?" (verse 4, N.W.T.).

In the translation of these verses, the Watch Tower translators also inserted the word "other," not present in the Greek text, on the ground that it is implied in the context, owing to the comparison made by Jesus. It is admissible, of course, that Jesus was drawing a contrast between certain Galileans and their fellow countrymen; but it is NOT admissible to insert terms in order to prove a doctrinal point, and in Colossians 1:15-17 no such comparison or contrast is being made anyway; unless, as is the case with Jehovah's Witnesses, one assumes that Christ Himself was a "creature" or a "thing", which would necessitate inserting the word "other" in order to conform Scripture to a preconceived theology. It is incorrect grammar, no reputable translation dares tamper with doctrinal texts in this way, and not one single competent Greek authority can be cited for this deliberate attempt to reduce the Son of God from Creator to creature.

The entire context of Colossians 1:15-22 is filled with superlatives in its description of the Lord Jesus as the "image of the invisible God, the first-born [or 'original bringer forth'-- Erasmus] of every creature." The Apostle Paul lauds the Son of God as creator of all things (verse 16) and describes Him as existing "before all things" and "holding together all things" (verse 17). This is in perfect harmony with the entire picture Scripture points of the eternal Word of God (John 1:1) who was made flesh (John 1:14) and of whom it was written: "All things were made by him, and without him was nothing made that was made" (John 1:3). The writer of the book of Hebrews also pointed out that God's Son "upholds all things by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3) and that He is Deity in all its fullness, even as Paul wrote to the Colossians: "For...in him should all the fullness [of God] dwell" (Colossians 1:19 A.S.V.).

The Scriptures, therefore, bear unmistakable testimony to the creative activity of God's Son, distinguishing Him from among the "things" created, as THE Creator and Sustainer of "all things."

Jehovah's Witnesses have no conceivable ground, then, for this dishonest rendering of Colossians 1:16,17 and 19 by the insertion of the word "other" since they are supported by no grammatical authorities, nor do they dare dispute their perversions with competent scholars lest they further parade their obvious ignorance of Greek exegesis.

(3) Matthew 27:50 -- "Again Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and ceased to breathe" (N.W.T.).

Luke 23:46 -- "And Jesus called with a loud voice and said: Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit" (N.W.T.).

For many years the Watch Tower has been fighting a vain battle to redefine Biblical terms to suit their own peculiar theological interpretations. They have had some measure of success in this attempt in that they have taught the rank and file a new meaning for tried and true Biblical terms, and it is this trait of their deceptive system that we analyze now in connection with the above quoted verses.

The interested student of Scripture will note from Matthew 27:50 and Luke 23:46 that they are parallel passages describing the same event, namely the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In Matthew's account, the Witnesses had no difficulty substituting the word "breath" for the Greek spirit (pneuma), for in their vocabulary this word has many meanings, none of them having any bearing upon the general usage of the term, Biblically, i.e., that of an immaterial cognizant nature, inherent in man by definition and descriptive of angels through creation. Jehovah's Witnesses reject this immaterial nature in man and call it "breath," "life," "mental disposition" or "something wind like." In fact, they will call it anything but what God's Word says it is, an invisible nature, eternal by creation, a spirit, made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Sometimes and in various contexts, spirit (pneuma) can mean some of the things the Witnesses hold, but context determines translation, along with grammar, and their translations quite often do not remain true to either.

Having forced the word "breath" into Matthew's account of the crucifixion, to make it appear that Jesus only stopped breathing and did not yield up His invisible nature upon dying, the Witnesses plod on to Luke's account, only to be caught in their own trap. Luke, learned scholar and master of Greek that he was, forces the Witnesses to render his account of Christ's words using the correct term "spirit" (pneuma), instead of "breath" as in Matthew 27:50. Thus in one fell swoop the entire watch Tower fabric of manufactured

terminology collapses, because Jesus would hardly have said: "Father into thy hands I commit my breath" -- yet if the Witnesses are consistent, which they seldom are, why did they not render the identical Greek term (pneuma) as "breath" both times, for it is a parallel account of the same scene!

The solution to this question is quite elementary as all can clearly see. The Witnesses could not render it "breath" in Luke and get away with it, so they used it where they could and hoped nobody would notice it, or the different rendering in Matthew. The very fact that Christ dismissed His spirit proves the survival of the human spirit beyond the grave, or as Solomon so wisely put it: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit [pneuma -- LXX] shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

(4) Philippians 1:21-23 - "For in my case to live is Christ, and to die, gain. Now if it be to live on in the flesh, this is a fruitage of my work .. and yet which thing to choose I do not know. I am under pressure from these two things; but what I do desire is the releasing and the being with Christ, for this, to be sure, is far better" (N.W.T.).

In common with other cults that teach soul-sleep after the death of the body, Jehovah's Witnesses translate texts contradicting this view to suit their own ends, a prime example of which is their rendering of Philippians 1:21-23. To anyone possessing even a cursory knowledge of Greek grammar the translation "but what I do desire is the releasing..." (verse 23) signifies either a woeful ignorance of the rudiments of the language or a deliberate, calculated perversion of terminology for a purpose or purposes most questionable.

It is no coincidence that this text is a great "proof" passage for the expectation of every true Christian who after death goes to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). Jehovah's Witnesses realize that if this text goes unchanged or unchallenged it destroys utterly their Russellite teaching that the soul becomes extinct at the death of the body. This being the case, and since they could not challenge the text without exploding the myth of their acceptance of the Bible as the final authority, the Watch Tower committee chose to alter the passage in question, give it a new interpretation, and remove this threat to their theology.

The rendering, "but what I do desire is the releasing...", particularly the last word, is a gross imposition upon the principles of Greek exegesis because the untutored Russellites have rendered the first aorist active infinitive of the verb *analuoo* (*analuasai*) as a substantive ("the releasing"), which in this context is unscholarly and atrocious Greek. In order to translate it "the releasing," the form would have to be the participle construction (*analuasas*), which when used with the word "wish" or "desire" denotes "a great longing" or "purpose" and must be rendered "to depart" or "to unloose". (See Thayer, Liddell and Scott, Strong, Young and A.T. Robertson.)

Quite frankly, it may appear that I have gone to a great deal of trouble just to refute the wrong usage of a Greek form, but in truth this simple switching of terms is used by the Witnesses in an attempt to teach that Paul meant something entirely different than what he wrote to the Philippians. To see just how the Watch Tower manages this, I quote from their own Appendix to the New World Translation which appears on pages 780, 781.

The verb *a-na-ly'sai* is used as a verbal noun here. It occurs only once more in the Christian Greek Scriptures, and that is at Luke 12:36, where it refers to Christ's return. The related noun (*a-na'-ly-sis*) occurs but once, at 2 Timothy 4:6, where the

apostle says: "The due time for my releasing is imminent." ...But here at Philippians 1:23 we have not rendered the verb as "returning" or "departing," but as "releasing". The reason is, that the word may convey two thoughts, the apostle's own releasing to be with Christ at His return and also the Lord's releasing Himself from the heavenly restraints and returning as He promised.

In no way is the apostle here saying that immediately at his death he would be changed into spirit and would be with Christ forever....It is to this return of Christ and the apostle's releasing to be always with the Lord that Paul refers at Philippians 1:23. he says there that two things are immediately possible for him, namely, (1) to live on in the flesh and (2) to die. Because of the circumstances to be considered, he expressed himself as being under pressure from these two things, not knowing which thing to choose as proper. Then he suggests a third thing, and this thing he really desires. There is no question about his desire for this thing as preferable, namely, the releasing, for it means his being with Christ.

The expression to a-na-ly'sai, or the releasing cannot therefore be applied to the apostle's death as a human creature and his departing thus from this life. It must refer to the events at the time of Christ's return and second coming and the rising of all those dead in Christ to be with him forevermore.

Here, after much grammatical intrigue, we have the key as to why the Witnesses went to so much trouble to render "depart" as "releasing." By slipping in this grammatical error, the Watch Tower hoped to "prove" that Paul wasn't really discussing his impending death and subsequent reunion with Christ at all (a fact every major Biblical scholar and translator in history has held), but a third thing, namely, "the events at the time of Christ's return and second presence." With breathtaking dogmatism, the Witnesses claim that "the releasing cannot therefore be applied to the Apostle's death. It must refer to the events at the time of Christ's return...."

Words fail the trained mind when confronted with this classic example of unparalleled deceit, which finds no support in any Greek text or exegetical grammatical authority. Contrary to the Watch Tower's statement that "the word may convey two thoughts, the Apostle's 'releasing' to be with Christ at his return, and also the Lord's 'releasing' himself from the heavenly restraints and returning as he promised" (page 781), the Greek text offers no such thought. As a matter of plain exegetical fact, Christ's return is not even the subject of discussion -- rather it is the Apostle's death and his concern for the Philippians that is here portrayed. That Paul never expected to "sleep" in his grave until the resurrection as Jehovah's Witnesses maintain is evident by the twenty-first verse of the chapter literally -- "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." There would be no gain in dying if men slept till the resurrection, for "God is not the God of the dead but of the living" (Mark 12:27). Clearly then, Paul was speaking of but two things: his possible death and subsequent presence with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8), and also the possibility of his continuing on in the body, the latter being "more needful" for the Philippian Christians. His choice in his own words was between these two (verse 23), and Jehovah's Witnesses have gone to great trouble for nothing; the Greek text still records faithfully what the inspired Apostle said -- not what the Watch Tower maintains he said, all their deliberate trickery to the contrary.

Concluding our comments upon these verses in Philippians, we feel constrained to point out a final example of Watch Tower dishonesty relative to Greek translation.

On page 781 of the New World Translation, it will be recalled that the Committee wrote: "The expression to a-na-ly'-sai or the releasing cannot therefore apply to the apostle's death as a human creature and his departing thus from this life."

If the interested reader will turn to page 628 of the same Watch Tower Translation, he will observe that in 2 Timothy 4:6 the Witnesses once more use the term "releasing" (analuseos), where all translators are agreed that it refers to Paul's impending death. The Revised Standard Version, often appealed to by Jehovah's Witnesses, puts it this way:

"For I am already on the point of being sacrificed, the time of my departure has come." (See also -- An American Translation [Goodspeed], Authorized Version, J.N. Darby's Version, James Moffatt's Version, J.B. Rotherham's Version, Douay Version [Roman Catholic], etc.).

Jehovah's Witnesses themselves render the text: "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the due time of my releasing is imminent" (2 Timothy 4:6, N.W.T.).

Now since it is admitted by the Witnesses under the pressure of every translator's rendering of his text, that it refers to Paul's death, and further, since the noun form of the Greek word (analuseos) is here used and translated "releasing," why is it that they claim on page 781 that this expression "the releasing" (analsai -- Philippians 1:23) "...cannot therefore apply to the apostle's death as a human creature and his departing thus from this life"? The question becomes more embarrassing when it is realized that Jehovah's Witnesses themselves admit that these two forms (analsai and analuseos) are "related" (page 781). Hence they have no excuse for maintaining in one place (Philippians 1:23) that "the releasing" cannot refer to the apostle's death, and in another place (2 Timothy 4:6) using a form of the same word, and allowing that it does refer to his death. This one illustration alone should serve to warn all honest people of the blatant deception employed in the Watch Tower's "translations", a name not worthy of application in many, many places.

(5) Matthew 24:3 -- "While he was sitting upon the mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: 'Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the consummation of the system of things?'" (N.W.T.).

Since the days of "Pastor" Russell and Judge Rutherford, one of the favourite dogmas of the Watch Tower has been that of the parousia, the second coming or "presence" of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jehovah's Witnesses, loyal Russellites that they are, have tenaciously clung to the "Pastor's" theology in this respect and maintain that in the year 1914 when the "times of the gentiles" ended (according to Russell) the "second presence" of Christ began. (See Make Sure of All Things, page 319 -- Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.)

From the year 1914 onward, the Witnesses maintain, Christ has turned his attention toward earth's affairs and is dividing the peoples and educating the true Christians in preparation for their survival during the great storm of Armageddon, when all unfaithful mankind will be destroyed from the face of the earth (op. cit., page 319).

For Jehovah's Witnesses, then, Christ is not coming; He is here! (A.D. 1914) -- only invisibly -- and He is directing His activities through His theocratic organization in Brooklyn, New York. In view of this claim, it might be well to hearken unto the voice of Matthew who wrote:

Then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall deceive the very elect. Behold I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:23-27).

Jehovah's Witnesses in their New World Translation on page 780 list the twenty-four occurrences of the Greek word *parousia*, which they translate each time as "presence." They give the following defense found on page 779:

The tendency of many translators is to render it here "coming" or "arrival." But throughout the twenty-four occurrences, the Greek word *parousia*...we have rendered it "presence." from the comparison of the *parousia* of the Son of man with the days of Noah at Matthew 24:37-39, it is very evident that the meaning of the word is as we have rendered it. And from the contrast that is made between the presence and the absence of the apostle both at 2 Corinthians 10:10-11 and at Philippians 2:12, the meaning of *parousia* is so plain that it is beyond dispute by other translators.

Following this gigantic claim, namely, that their translation of the word *parousia* is "beyond dispute by other translators," the theocratic authorities proceed to list the verses in question.

Now the main issue is not the translation of *parousia* by "presence" because in some contexts it is certainly allowable (see 1 Corinthians 16:16, 2 Corinthians 7:6,7; 10:10 and Philippians 1:26; 2:12). But there are other contexts where it cannot be allowed in the way Jehovah's Witnesses use it, because it not only violates the contextual meaning of the word, but the entire meaning of the passages as always held by the Christian Church.

Jehovah's Witnesses claim scholarship for this blanket translation of *parousia*, yet not one great scholar in the history of Greek exegesis and translation has ever held this view. Since 1871, when "Pastor" Russell produced this concept, it has been denounced by every competent scholar upon examination.

The reason this Russellite rendering is so dangerous is that it attempts to prove that *parousia* in regard to Christ's second advent really means that His return or "presence" was to be invisible and unknown to all but "the faithful" (Russellites, of course). (See *Make Sure of All Things*, pages 319, 320-323).

The New World Translators, therefore, on the basis of those texts where it is acceptable to render *parousia* "presence," conclude that it must be acceptable in all texts. But while it appears to be acceptable grammatically, no one but Jehovah's Witnesses or their sympathizers accepts the New World blanket use of "presence," be the translators Christian or not. It simply is not good grammar, and it will not stand up under comparative exegesis as will be shown. To conclude that "presence" necessarily implies invisibility is also another flaw in the Watch Tower's argument, for in numerous places where they render *parousia* "presence" the persons spoken of were hardly invisible. (See 1 Corinthians 16:17; 2 Corinthians 7:6 and 10:10, also Philippians 1:26 and 2:12.)

If the Watch Tower were to admit for one moment that *parousia* can be translated "coming" or "arrival", in the passages which speak of Christ's return the way all scholarly translators render it, then "Pastor" Russell's "invisible presence" of Christ would

explode in their faces. Hence their determination to deny what all recognized Greek authorities have established.

Dr. Joseph F. Thayer, a Unitarian scholar, author of one of the best lexicons of the Greek New Testament (who, incidentally, denied the visible second coming of Christ), says on page 490 of that work, when speaking of parousia: "...a return (Philippians 1:26) ...In the Advent, i.e., the future visible return from heaven of Jesus, the Messiah, to raise the dead, hold the last judgement, and set up formally and gloriously the Kingdom of God." (For further references, see Liddell and Scott, Strong and any other reputable authority.)

Dr. Thayer, it might be mentioned, was honest enough to say what the New Testament Greek taught, even though he didn't believe it. One could wish that Jehovah's Witnesses were at least that honest, but they are not!

In concluding this discussion of the misuse of parousia we shall discuss the verses Jehovah's Witnesses use to "prove" that Christ's return was to be an invisible "presence" instead of a visible glorious, verifiable event.

The following references and their headings were taken from the book, *Make Sure of All Things*, published by the Watch Tower as an official guide to their doctrine.

(1) Angels Testified at Jesus' Ascension as a Spirit that Christ Would Return in Like Manner, Quiet, Unobserved by the Public (page 320).

And after he had said these things while they (only the disciples) were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud caught him up from their vision...."Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who was received up from you into heaven will come thus in the same manner as you have beheld him going into heaven" (Acts 1:9, 11, N.W.T.).

It is quite unnecessary to refute in detail this open perversion of a clear Biblical teaching because as John 20:27 clearly shows, Christ was not a spirit, and did not ascend as one. The very text they quote shows that the disciples were "looking on" and saw him "lifted up and a cloud caught him from their vision" (verse 9). They could hardly have been looking at a spirit, which by definition is incorporeal, (even angels have to take a human form in order to be seen [Genesis 19:1,2]) not with human eyes as least, and Christ had told them once before, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a Spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Luke 24:39).

So it remains for Christ Himself to denounce the Russellite error that He "ascended as a spirit." Moreover, since He left the earth visibly from the Mount of Olives it is certain that He will return visibly even as the Scriptures teach (see Matthew 26:63,64; Daniel 7:13,14; Revelation 1:7,8; Matthew 24:7,8,30).

(2) Christ's Return Invisible, as He Testified that Man Would Not See Him Again in Human Form (page 321).

A little longer and the world will behold me no more (John 14:19, N.W.T.).

For I say to you, You shall by no means see me from henceforth until you say, "Blessed is he that comes in Jehovah's name!" (Matthew 23:39, N.W.T.).

These two passages in their respective contexts give no support to the Russellite doctrine of an invisible "presence" of Christ for two very excellent reasons:

(a) John 14:19 refers to Christ's anticipated death and resurrection -- the "little longer" He made reference to could only have referred to His resurrection and subsequent ascension (Acts 1:9,11), before which time and during the period following His resurrection He appeared only to believers, not the world (or unbelievers), hence the clear meaning of His words. Jesus never said that NO one would ever "see Him Again in Human Form" as the Watch Tower likes to make out. Rather in the same chapter He promised to "come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (verse 3). The Bible also is quite clear in telling us that one day by His grace alone "we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). So the Watch Tower once more is forced to silence by the voice of the Holy Spirit.

(b) This second text, Matthew 23:39, really proves nothing at all for the Watch Tower's faltering arguments except that Jerusalem will never see Christ again until it blesses Him in repentance as the anointed of God. Actually the text hurts the Russellite position, for it teaches that Christ will be VISIBLE at His coming, else they could not see Him to bless Him in the name of the Lord. Christ also qualified the statement with the word "until," a definite reference to His visible second advent (Matthew 24:30).

(3) Early Christians Expected Christ's Return to Be Invisible. Paul Argued there Was Insufficient Evidence in Their Day (page 321).

However, brothers, respecting the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we request of you not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be excited either through an inspired expression or through a verbal message or through a letter as though from us, to the effect that the day of Jehovah is here. Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3).

This final example from 2 Thessalonians most vividly portrays the Witnesses at their crafty best, as they desperately attempt to make Paul teach what in all his writings he most emphatically denied, namely that Christ would come invisibly for His saints.

In his epistle to Titus, Paul stressed the importance of "looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (2:13), something he would not have been looking for if it was to be a secret, invisible parousia or "presence."

Paul, contrary to Jehovah's Witnesses, never believed in an invisible return, nor did any bona fide member of the Christian Church up until the fantasies of Charles Taze Russell and his parousia nightmare, as a careful look at Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians plainly reveals. Said the inspired Apostle:

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the COMING of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven [visible] with a shout [audible], with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first (4:15,16).

Here we see that in perfect accord with Matthew 26 and Revelation 1, Christ is pictured as coming visibly, and in this context no reputable Greek scholar alive will allow the use of "presence"; it must be "coming." (See also 2 Thessalonians 2:8.)

For further information relative to this subject, consult any standard concordance and Greek lexicon available, and trace Paul's use of the word "Coming," etc. This will convince any fair-minded person that Paul never entertained the Watch Tower's fantastic view of Christ's return.

These things being clearly understood, the interested reader should give careful attention to those verses in the New Testament which do not use the word *parousia* but are instead forms of the verb *elthon* and related to the word *erchomai*, (See Thayer, page 250ff) and which refer to the Lord's coming as a visible manifestation. These various texts cannot be twisted to fit the Russellite pattern of "presence," since *erchomai* means "to come," "to appear," "to arrive," etc., in the most definite sense of the term. (For reference, check Matthew 24:30 in conjunction with Matthew 26:64 -- *erchomenon*; also John 14:3 -- *erchomai*; and Revelation 1:7 -- *erchetai*.)

Once it is perceived that Jehovah's Witnesses are only interested in what they can make the Scriptures say, and not in what the Holy Spirit has already perfectly revealed, then the careful student will reject entirely Jehovah's Witnesses and their Watch Tower translations. These are as "blind leaders of the blind" (Matthew 15:14) who have "turned the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denied our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). Further, that they "wrest the scriptures to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16), the foregoing evidence has thoroughly revealed for all to judge.

Excerpt from: The Kingdom of the Cults; Walter R. Martin, Bethany Fellowship Publishers, 1977

The Resurrection

The Watch Tower said page 143,144:

"FLESHLY BODY NOT TAKEN TO HEAVEN" 6, However, many persons believe that Christ took his fleshly body to heaven. They point to the fact that when Christ was raised from the dead, his fleshly body was no longer in the tomb. (Mark 16:5-7) Also, after his death Jesus appeared to his disciples in a fleshly body to show them that he was alive. Once He even had the apostle Thomas put his hand into the hole in His side so that Thomas would believe that He had actually been resurrected. (John 20:24-27) Does this not prove that Christ was raised alive in the same body in which he was put to death ? No, it does not."

And they say:

"8, Well, then, what happened to Jesus fleshly body ? Did not the disciples find his tomb empty ? They did, because God removed Jesus body. Why did God do this ? It fulfilled what had been written in the Bible. (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:31) Also, if the body had been left in the tomb, Jesus's disciples could not have understood that he had been raised from the dead, since at that time they did not fully appreciate spiritual things. 9, But since the apostle Thomas was able to put his hand into the hole in Jesus' side, does that not show that Jesus was raised from the dead in the same body that was nailed to the stake ? No, for Jesus simply materialized or took on a fleshly body, as angels done in the past. In order to convince Thomas of who He was, He used a body with wound holes. He appeared, or seemed to be, fully human, able to eat and drink, just as did the angels that Abraham once entertained. Genesis 18:8; Hebrews 13:2."

If I say that Christ did not die on the cross but the Father put him to sleep to prove the reality of Christ death and after been put in the tomb, after every body left and as the guard fell asleep, the Father helped him to run away from the tomb and Christ went hiding for three days and after three days he started to appear to many people, would any body believe me ?

If someone can believe the Watch Tower's story, they should believe this one because my own story is by far a better story because Christ would not have to find an other body, an other body with wound holes like his body had, to prove his resurrection. He would not have to lie to the disciples when he said: this is my hands and my feet, that is myself: feel me, because it would of been his hands and his feet, that would of been himself, not the hands and the feet of an other wounded body. But my story is not the true story of Christ's resurrection because I have imagined, I have assumed, I have invented this story, as it is the case for the Watch Tower's story.

How without lying, could Christ of said:

"Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?" :38 "Behold my hands and my feet, that is myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have." Luke 24:38,39, N.W. if as the Watch Tower says, if Christ wished his disciples to believe he had resurrected in spirit only, why would he have shown only his body and asked them to feel it? If Christ was not trying to show them that his body was resurrected, why would he say: "feel me and see; a spirit does not have flesh and bones just as you see that I have.?"

As we read chapter 17 of the same book, because of their teachings, we can sense the need for The Watch Tower to imagine God, the Father, being the author of an impressive

scenario to prove the reality of the resurrection. To justify how Christ would of resurrected without his body, they had to imagine the possibility that the Father in heaven would have removed the body of Christ from the tomb because according to them, if the body had been left in the tomb, the disciples which "did not fully appreciate spiritual things." would not have understood that he had been risen from the dead.

How otherwise, can The Watch Tower explain the fact that his disciples saw him in his resurrected body, that he was able to eat a piece of broiled fish before them, that Thomas was able to touch the hole in his side?

Why would he say: "that is myself" if it was not in fact himself? Christ used parables to teach, he used stories to give a better understanding of his teachings but this is not a story, this is not a parable, Jesus saw that "they were terrified and affrighted and supposed that they had seen a spirit" Luke 24:37. Christ wanted them to know that they were not seeing a spirit but instead they were seeing himself, in his resurrected body. I know Christ never lied, when he said: "Behold my hands and my feet, that is myself", it was himself.

Natural and Spiritual Bodies -- See 1 Cor. 15:32-57

A natural body consists of flesh and bones and blood, a spiritual body consists of flesh and bones and spirit. The life in the natural mortal body is in the blood, as the life in the spiritual immortal body is in the spirit.

Natural mortal bodies of flesh and blood can not go into the kingdom of God because they are impure corruptible, at one time or an other they will get in a decomposition state and no corruption can enter or inherit the kingdom of God, 1 Cor. 15:50. As the spiritual incorruptible eternal bodies can inherit the kingdom of God. Paul told a sacred secret to the Corinthians, and he said: "We shall not all fall asleep (in death), but we shall all be change, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, during the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised up incorruptible, and we shall be changed." verse 51, 52. Paul said that the mortal corruptible bodies of those having not fallen asleep, being alive during the last trumpet, during resurrection day, shall all be changed, in the twinkling of an eye, our physical mortal corruptible bodies will be change to a spiritual immortal incorruptible bodies because flesh and blood cannot inherit God's Kingdom.

A spiritual body comes from a seed and the seed is a natural mortal body. Paul said: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." 1 Cor. 15:44. The spiritual body is different from the natural mortal body, it is not the same body, just as the cob of corn we hold in our hand, as well as the plants that produced the cob is not the same grain that was put into the ground.

As Jesus yielded up his spirit the curtain of the sanctuary was ruptured in two, and the earth did quake, and the rock-masses were split, and the tombs of many bodies of the members of the Church of Jesus Christ, called saints, that had fallen asleep were raised up, and they entered into the holy city and appeared to many people. Matt. 27:51-54 Again this is not a parable but a fact stated by the Bible, it doesn't say the tombs of many spirits, but: the tombs of many bodies of the saints that had fallen asleep were raised up, and entered into the holy city and appeared to many people. If many bodies of the saints that had fallen asleep were raised up, at Christ resurrection, and they entered

into the holy city and appeared to many people, also the body of Christ was raised up, and he, himself appeared to many people in that state.

Flesh and Bones will be Resurrected !

The New World Translation tells us that the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, (the Son), (the Lord Jesus the Christ) brought Ezekiel down in the midst of the valley plain, which was full of bones, they represented the bones of the whole house of Israel, and the Lord had him pass along by the bones and he saw that they were very dry, and the Lord asked him: "Son of man, can these bones come to life?" then the Lord said to these bones: "Here I am bringing into you breath, and you must come to life. And I will put upon your sinews and cause to come upon you flesh and I will overlay upon you skin and put in you breath, and you must come to life; and you will have to know that I am the Lord." Ezekiel 37:3-11 The Lord showed Ezekiel what was in the future for the house of Israel, he showed him the resurrection to come. and here again the Lord doesn't say: "Son of man, can these spirits come to life?" but, can these bones come to life?"

If Christ would of used an other body like the Watch Tower says, what could of stopped him from telling the truth to them? why could he not say: "This is my spirit in an other body with wound holes similar to my own body"?

In the complete Bible we can not find evidence for such stipulation, and there is no relation between the verses used by the Watch Tower and the interpretations they give of those verses.

The Watch Tower says:

In that same book, chapter 17: "For 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus made appearances in a fleshly body to his disciples. (Acts 1:3) Then he left for heaven. But some may ask: Did not the two angels present tell the apostles that Christ will come thus in the same manner as you have beheld him going into the sky? (Acts 1:11) Yes, they did. But notice that they said "in the same manner," not in the same body."

The two angels present said that Christ will come thus in the same manner or in the same way, or in the same conditions, as you have beheld, or observed. or seen him going into the sky. The Watch Tower is completely right when they say that the two angels said: "in the same manner,"- " not in the same body." Neither they said that Jesus ascended to heaven with out his resurrected body, neither they said that Jesus will come back invisible: "Then in his spiritual body he ascended to heaven. Thus his return also would be invisible, in a spiritual body." page 146.

If Christ would be returning invisible how could he meet the same condition observed by the apostles?

Same page The Watch tower says: "There the apostle John writes: 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. Here the Bible speaks of seeing, not with physical eyes, but in the sense of discerning or perceiving." "The Bible, in fact, speaks of the eyes of our understanding. (Rev. 1:7) So the expression 'every eye will see him' means that everyone will then understand or recognize that Christ is present." Why would John said: "Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him," if instead he meant to say: "seeing, not with physical eyes, but in the sense of discerning or perceiving."? What would have stopped him to say it?

In the next verse Paul speaks about the Holy Ghost, not about Christ's resurrection !

To support their teachings, they refer to (Ephesians 1:18), when Paul spoke of the Holy Ghost. Having heard of their great faith in the Lord Jesus, Paul gave thanks to God for them in his prayers, and asked the Father to give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened, that their knowledge may be increased, that they may understand what to hope for in the calling they received from God, that they may know the glorious riches God holds as an inheritance for the holy ones,(the saints): "The eyes of your understanding enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:18.

This verse is not supporting the fact that the body of Jesus could not have being resurrected, or idea of an orchestration from God the Father to make believe in the resurrection of Christ, by removing the body of Christ from the tomb, or for Christ to take an other body with similar wounds, which fleshly body, he would have abandoned or given up in the cloud as he went to heaven. And if he would of abandoned or discarded his fleshly body as he went into the cloud, those watching him go into the cloud would of seen his fleshly body come out of the cloud and crash on the ground before their eyes. It dose not support the idea that when the apostle John said: Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, John meant to say: He is coming with the clouds, and every one will discern or perceive him, or understand or recognize that Christ is present.

The Watch Tower reject the words carefully chosen by God and his prophets to communicate their teachings.

Up to now, how many verses of the Bible have we read in this page? Up to now, how many verses does The Watch Tower agree with the words of the apostles or the words of Christ himself? Not one, for they contradicted every one of them.

They say, page 145,

"While Jesus appeared to Thomas in a body similar to the one in which He was put to death, He also took on a different body when appearing to His followers. Thus Mary Magdalene at first thought that Jesus was the gardener." John 20:11-16

Mary kept standing outside the tomb, weeping. The angels asked her: why are you weeping? She said: they have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have laid him. As she turned she saw Jesus but did not recognize him, her eyes were full of tears at the time, but as he called her name she recognized him. I know that she saw Jesus the Christ with his own resurrected body of flesh and bones that morning, if Christ would of looked like the gardener she would of kept believing it was the gardener, she would not immediately have called the gardener by the name of Rab-bo-ni, which means Master or Teacher, she would not have tried to cling or embrace or hold on to him.

In order to resurrect

In order to resurrect some thing has to be destroyed, or has to die first. Spirits do not resurrect, simply because they do not die. The spirit of Christ could not resurrect because it never died in the first place.

In order to live our natural mortal bodies of flesh and bones and blood have to be united with our spirits. Death is the separation of the body and the spirit. The Bible says: "the body without spirit is dead," James 2:26, but the spirits do not die at, or after the separation of the body but they live in a special place called paradise until resurrection, for judgment day.

Lets recall Jesus death on the cross between two malefactors and find that spirits do not die at separation from the bodies. Speaking to the one that said to him: "remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" Jesus answered him and said: "Verily I say unto thee. To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43 We all know that their bodies did not go to paradise that day because they stayed on the cross as they were separated from the spirits, so if Christ and this man were going to paradise that day, their spirits only were going to paradise, and if their spirits went to paradise after they left the bodies, they could not be dead but were very well alive.

The spirits of the dead are very well alive and communicate with each other, they learn and accept or reject the gospel of Jesus Christ, this is why Christ in this state, as his body was in the tomb for three days and his spirit was alive, in that state Jesus the Christ went and preached to the spirits in prison. Why would he go and preach to the spirits in prison if spirits do not live after their bodies are in the tombs? How could the spirit of Christ teach or "preached to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient in Noah's days," 1Peter 3:19, 20. if spirits do not communicate with one another? What would of been the purpose for Christ of going to preach to them if they are not alive, if they do not make choices, if they do not take decisions concerning what is good or bad for themselves? And how could Christ go and preach to them if his own spirit was dead?

- As we will be, Christ was resurrected with his perfect body of flesh and bones

ANSWERS FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

ATONEMENT OF CHRIST:

1. Blood makes atonement for the soul - Leviticus 17:11

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar, to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood which makes atonement for the soul."

2. Without the shedding of blood, no remission of sin-Hebrews 9:22

"And almost all things are cleansed by blood according to the Law; and apart from shedding of blood no remission occurs."

3. Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world -John 1:29

"On the morrow, John sees Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

4. Christ cleanses from all sin and provides redemption for all who trust in its efficacy -Rev. 13:8

"And all those dwelling in the earth will worship it, those of whom the names was not written in the Scroll of Like of the Lamb having been slain, from the foundation of the world."

5. Sacrifices of old testament were types of the coming sacrifice - Hebrews 9 & 10

6. Bore our sins in His own body on a tree - 1 Peter 2:24

"...who Himself bore in His body our sins onto the tree; that dying to sins, we might live to righteousness; of whom, by His wound, you were healed."

7. Peace through blood of His cross - Colossians 1:20

"...and through Him making peace by the blood of His cross, to reconcile all things to Himself through Him..."

8. Through the blood, God empowers us to do His will-Heb. 13:20,21

"Now the God of Peace, He leading up out of the dead, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of the everlasting covenant, our Lord Jesus, perfect you in every good work, to do His will..."

9. Scriptures give vast testimony to redeeming power of Lamb's blood-

Romans 3:25; 5:9; Col.1:14;Heb.9:22;1 Peter 1:19;1 John 1:7;Rev. 5:9;12:11 "...being justified as a free gift by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus; whom God set forth as a propitiation through faith in His blood..." Romans 3:24,25 "Much more, then, being justified now by His blood, we will be saved through Him from wrath." Romans 5:9 "...in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins;..." Col.1:14 "And almost all things are cleansed by blood according to the Law; and apart from shedding of blood no remission occurs." Heb.9:22 "...knowing that not with corruptible things, silver or gold, you were redeemed from your worthless way of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood of Christ, as of an unblemished and unspotted lamb,..." 1 Peter 1:18,19 "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with Him, and the blood of His Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7 " And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy are You to receive the scroll, and to open its seals, because You were slain, and by Your blood purchased us to God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation..." Revelation 5:9 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony..." Revelation 12:11

10. His blood alone can save and cleanse - Hebrews 9:22

11. Atonement wholly of God - 2 Cor. 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

BODILY RESURRECTION:

Jesus said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, This temple was forty-six years being built, and do you raise it up in three days? But He spoke about the temple of His body.(John 2:19-21)

And going in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were perplexed about this, even behold, two men in shining clothing stood by them. And they becoming terrified, and bowing their faces to the earth, they said to them, Why do you seek the living with the dead? He is not here, but was raised. Remember how He spoke to you, yet being in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and to be crucified, and the third day to rise again. (Luke 24:3-7)*

And as they were telling these things, Jesus Himself stood in their midst, and said to them, Peace to you! But being terrified and filled with fear, THEY THOUGHT THEY SAW A SPIRIT. And He said to them, Why are you troubled? And why do reasonings come up in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that I am He? Feel Me and see, because A SPIRIT DOES NOT HAVE FLESH AND BONES, AS YOU SEE ME HAVING. (Luke 24:36-39)

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Then He said to Thomas, Bring your finger here and see My hands; and bring your hand and thrust into My side, and be not unbelieving, but believing. And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God! (literally, the Lord of me and the God of me) Jesus said to him , Because you have seen Me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are the ones not seeing, and believing. (John 20:27-29)

*COMPARE LUKE 24:3-7 WITH MATT.9:19; ACTS 9:41; 20:12

And rising up, Jesus and His disciples followed him. (Matt.9:19)

And giving her a hand, he raised her up. (Acts 9:41)

And they brought the boy alive , and were comforted not a little. (Acts 20:12)

THE GREEK WORD "ZOA" FOR RISEN WAS USED ALL FOUR TIMES!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:

So that all may honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. The one not honouring the Son does not honour the Father who has sent Him. (John 5:23)

And having heard the king, they departed. And, behold! The star which they saw in the east went before them until it had come and stood over where the child was. And seeing the s tar, they rejoiced exceedingly with a great joy. And having come into the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary. And falling down, they worshiped Him. And opening t heir treasures, they presented gifts to Him : gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matt.2:9-12) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will among men. (Luke 2: 13,14)

CROSS: Then the other disciples said to him, We have seen the Lord. But he said to them, Unless I see the mark of the NAILS in His hands, and thrust my finger into the mark of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, in no way will I believe. (John 20:25; Proves that there was more than one nail in His hands.)

CROSS REFERENCES MADE IN THE NEW WORLD TRANSLATION:

I, Jehovah, am searching the heart, examining the kidneys, even to give to each one according to his ways, according to the fruitage of his dealings. (Jeremiah 17:10, NWT) This passage is cross referenced with Revelation 2:23:

And her children I will kill with deadly plague, so that all the congregations will know that I am he who searches the kidneys and hearts, and I will give to YOU individually according to YOUR needs.

Note that Jehovah makes this first statement and Jesus (verse 18) the second!

Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth itself, And the heavens are the work of your hands... (Psalms 102:25-27, NWT) This passage is cross referenced with Hebrews 1:10-12: And: "You as [the] beginning, O Lord, laid the foundations of the earth itself, and the heavens are [the] works of your hands..."

Note that Jehovah is being referred to in the first passage (verse 24) and Jesus in the second (verse 9).

Jehovah of armies--he is the One whom YOU should treat as holy, and he should be the object of YOUR fear, and he should be the One causing YOU to tremble. And he must become as a sacred place; but as a stone to strike against and as a rock over which to stumble to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and as a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them will be certain to stumble and to fall and be broken, and to be snared and caught. (Isaiah 8:13-15, NWT) This passage is cross referenced with 1 Peter 2:8:

And a "stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offense." These are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were also appointed.

Note that Jehovah is the stumbling stone in the first passage and Jesus (verse 4) is the stumbling stone in the second.

Say to those who are anxious at heart: "Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! YOUR own God will come with vengeance itself, God even with a repayment. He himself will come and save YOU people." At that time the eyes of the blind ones will be opened, and the very ears of the deaf ones will be unstopped. At that time the lame one will climb up just as a stag does, and the tongue of the speechless one will cry out in gladness. For in the wilderness waters will have burst out, and torrents in the desert plain. (Isaiah 35:4-6, NWT) This passage is cross referenced with Matthew 11:5: The blind are seeing again, and the lame are walking about, the lepers are being cleansed and the deaf are hearing, and the dead are being raised up, and the poor are having the good news declared to them; and happy is he that finds no cause for stumbling in me. When did God come and do what is stated in Isaiah 35:4-6? Why did Jesus apply this to Himself? Note that the 6th verse (stumbling) is cross referenced once again with Isaiah 8:14!

DEATH: We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord . (to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord ; 2 Cor. 5:8, NASB)

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle is taken down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in HEAVEN. (2 Cor. 5:1)

I know a man in Christ fourteen years ago--whether IN the body, I do not know; or OUT OF the body, I do not know; God knows--such a one was caught up to the third Heaven. (2 Cor. 12 :2)

For I am pressed together by the two: having a desire to depart and be with Christ , which is far better--but to remain in the flesh is more necessary on account of you. (Philippians 1:23,24)

And now he has died. Why this, that I should fast? Am I able to bring him back again? I shall go to him , but he shall not return to me. (2 Samuel 12:23;) David would go to be with his son.)

Truly, truly, I say to you, If anyone keeps My word, he will never ever see death. (John 8:51); death not cessation of existence)

But if Christ is in you, the body indeed is dead because of sin , but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (Romans 8:10)

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who sleep, that you not grieve, as the rest also, not having hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so GOD WILL ALSO BRING WITH HIM ALL THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP THROUGH JESUS . For we say this to you in the word of the Lord, that we the living who remain to the coming of the Lord not at all will go before those who have fallen asleep; because the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout of an archangel's voice, and with God's trumpet. And the dead in Christ will rise again first, then we who remain alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to a meeting with the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. So, then, comfort each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13 -18)

And He worked in you who were once dead in trespasses and sins , in which you then walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience; among whom we also all conducted ourselves in times past in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed of the flesh and of the understandings, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even we being dead in sins , He made us alive together with Christ - by grace you are being saved - and raised us up together and seated us together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1-5)

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain . (Philippians 1:21)

And crying with a loud voice, Jesus said, Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit . And saying this, He breathed out the spirit. (Luke 23:46; Did Jesus commit His spirit or His BREATH , as the Watchtower interpretation would necessitate?)

For as the body is dead apart from the spirit , so also faith is dead apart from works. (James 2:26; This shows that physical death is separation of the spirit from the body.)

And Jehovah God formed the man out of dust from the ground, and blew into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

And you should not fear the ones killing the body, but not being able to kill the soul . But rather fear Him being able to destroy both soul and body in Hell. (Matthew 10:28; This and Genesis 2:7 show that the soul and body are separate.)

But Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their dead , but going out, you announce the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:60; spiritual death in this passage is the separation of the spirit from God's living presence for eternity because of sin.)

And as it is reserves to men ONCE to die, and after this Judgement... (Hebrews 9:27)

And it happened as her soul was going forth... (Genesis 35:18) Rachel's soul left

And he stretched himself on the child three times, and called to Jehovah and said, O Jehovah my God, I beg You, LET THE SOUL OF THIS BOY RETURN TO HIM. And Jehovah listened to the voice of Elijah, and THE SOUL OF THE BOY RETURNED TO HIM, AND HE LIVED. (1 Kings 17:21,22)

And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those having been slain for the word of God, and for the witness which they had. And they cried with a great voice, saying, Until when, holy and true Master, do You not judge and take vengeance for our blood, from those dwelling on the earth? And there was given to each one a white robe. And it was said to them that they should rest yet a little time, until might be fulfilled also the number of their fellow-slaves and their brothers, those being about to be killed, even as they. (Revelation 6:9-11; see also Revelation 7:13-17! note that this is before the first resurrection!)

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them. And judgement was given to them, and the souls of the ones having been beheaded because of the witness of Jesus, and because of the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast nor its image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand. And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)

Man is not a ruler over the spirit, to restrain the spirit; nor has he power in the day of death. (Ecclesiastes 8:8)

Behold, they are all My souls. As the soul of the father, also the soul of the son; they are Mine. The soul that sins, it shall die. But a man that is righteous and does that which is just and right...he is righteous; surely he shall live, declares the Lord Jehovah...The soul that sins, it shall die...But the wicked, if he will turn from all his sins which he has done, and keep all My statutes, and do justice and righteousness, surely he shall live; he shall not die...And when the wicked turns from his wickedness that he had done, and does justice and righteousness, he shall KEEP HIS SOUL ALIVE. (Ezekiel 18:4, 5, 9, 20, 21, 27)

Jesus said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I WILL RAISE IT UP. Then the Jews said, This temple was forty-six years being built, and do you raise it up in three days? But He spoke about the temple of His body. (John 2:19-21) How could He do this if He didn't exist?

DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST: So, The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold! The virgin is with child, and shall bring forth a son; and she shall call His name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

Compare with: Behold! The virgin will conceive in her womb, and will bear a son; and they will call His name Emmanuel, which translated is, God with us. (Matthew 1:23; also Luke 1:32,33; John 1:14)

You are My witnesses, says Jehovah; and My servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He . BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED; NOR SHALL ANY BE AFTER ME. I, I am Jehovah; and there is no Saviour besides Me . (Isaiah 43:10,11)

So says Jehovah, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, Jehovah of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; and there is no God except Me. (Isaiah 44:6) Why are there two Jehovahs here?

Do not dread, nor be afraid. Have I not declared and made you hear since then? So you are My witnesses: IS THERE A GOD BESIDES ME? YEA, THERE IS NONE. I have not known a Rock. (Isaiah 44:8)

So says Jehovah, your Redeemer and your Former from the womb; I am Jehovah who makes all things; stretching out the heavens; I ALONE, spreading out the earth. Who was with Me...? (Isaiah 44:24) Who created the earth, Jesus or Jehovah?

For a Child is born; to us a Son is given; and the government is on His shoulder; and His name is called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God , the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

And you, Bethlehem Ephratah, being least among the thousands of Judah, out of you He shall come forth to Me, to become Ruler in Israel; and His goings forth have been from old, from the days of eternity. (Micah 5: 2)

* Regarding Isaiah 9:6 - Jehovah's Witnesses say that there is no article in 'the mighty God', so it should be translated 'a mighty god'. In Isaiah 10:21, Isaiah declares that "The remnant shall return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God."(no article either). In Exodus 3:6, God says "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of JACOB." Jeremiah 32:18, with the article, says that Jehovah is "the great, the mighty God"(two forms of saying the same thing) According to Isaiah 45:22, "I am God, and there is no other".

But Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One, God .(Mark 10:18) Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Luke 18:19,NASB) According to these passages, no one is good, except God. Does this exempt Jesus? Was He not perfect?

Because of this, therefore, the Jews lusted the more to kill Him, for not only did He break the sabbath, but also called God His own Father, making Himself equal to God. (John 5:18) Note that JOHN was the one who said that Jesus is equal to God, not the Jews who were saying it.

"Immanuel; which is being translated With us the God." Matthew 1:23, New World Translation, Kingdom Interlinear, Greek side. Compare with Isaiah 7:14 - "So, The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold! The virgin is with child, and shall bring forth a son; and she shall call His name Immanuel."

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, says the Lord, the One who is , and who was, and who is coming--the Almighty." Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last." Revelation 22:13 "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet, as dead. And He put His right hand on me, saying to me, Do not fear. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead ; and, behold, I am living forever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:17,18

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1 compare with: "See now that I, I am He, and there is no other God with Me." Deuteronomy 32:39 John 1:1 in the New World Translation says, "In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was A GOD." This, despite the fact that Isaiah 44:8 says "Does there exist a God besides me? No, there is no Rock. I have recognized none," and 44:24 says, "I, Jehovah, am doing everything, stretching out the heavens BY MYSELF, laying out the earth. Who was with me?" It is fascinating to note, however, that in the Kingdom Interlinear, on the Greek side, the Watchtower has CORRECTLY translated John 1:1 as "and god was the Word." The Watchtower says Jesus is a mighty God, but not THE almighty God. They say that since the re is no article in the Hebrew text, 'mighty', therefore, doesn't mean Jehovah. The quest ion arises, Are there two mighty Gods?: Isaiah 10:21 "The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God." No article is used here. We know, however, that Jehovah is the God of Jacob (Exodus 3:6) In Jeremiah 32:18, with the article, the prophet declares that Jehovah is "The Great, The Mighty God, The LORD of hosts" (two forms of saying the same thing) Isaiah 45:24 "Surely shall one say, In the LORD(kurios is Greek) have I righteousness and strength" Phil.2:10,11 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord(kurios) to the glory of God the Father" Kurios means Jehovah the Creator!

"And Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and My God!" John 20:28 Literally translated : "The Lord of me and the God of me"

"Then the Jews said to Him, You do not yet have fifty years, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I AM. Then they took up stones that they might throw them on Him." John 8:57-59a The New World Translation replaces 'I AM' with 'I have been'. The Kingdom Interlinear Greek side properly translates in 'I AM'! Only if Jesus had said "ego en" (literally, "I was") instead of "ego eimi" could it be translated as "I have been." Jesus uses "ego eimi" again in John 8:24 when He states "Therefore, I said to YOU, YOU will die in YOUR sins. For if YOU do not believe that I am [he], YOU will die in YOUR sins." NWT Here, the Kingdom Interlinear again properly translates "ego eimi" as "I am", and on the right hand side also translates it "I am" (instead of "I have been" as in John 8:58!!) but adds in brackets "he", a word that is NOT in the original! This changes the meaning of the passage, and this is also adding to the Word of God! Jesus was claiming the Divine title that Jehovah identified Himself by in Exodus 3:13,14 " And Moses said to God, Behold, I shall come to the sons of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you; and they will say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM; and He said, You shall say this to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you." The New World Translation of this passage reads "I SHALL PROVE TO BE WHAT I SHALL PROVE TO BE" and "I SHALL PROVE TO BE". In support of this interpretation someone may point out that in the Greek Septuagint, Exodus 3:14 is rendered 'ho ohn' for "I am", instead of 'ego eimi', as in John 8:58. However, 'ho ohn' and 'ego eimi' are forms of the same verb "to be". 'Ho ohn' is the present participle meaning "the One who is", or "the being One", while 'eimi' is the present indicative, "I am". Both are present tense forms of the same verb, and are used to signify timeless existence.

DIVISION IN CHURCH: Romans 14, and Acts 15 illustrate that there is room for differences of opinion in the Church, and that not everyone has to be in total agreement on every subject.

DUAL CLAIMS OF JESUS AND JEHOVAH: Creator: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Jehovah, the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth;...(Isaiah 40:28) *So says Jehovah, your Redeemer and your Former from the womb; I am Jehovah who makes all things; stretching out the heavens; I ALONE, spreading out the earth. Who was with Me ... (Isaiah 44:24) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth;(Genesis 1:1) The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4) *All things came into being through Him(the Word), and without Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. (John 1:3) For all things were created in Him , the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth; the visible and the invisible; whether thrones, or lordships, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Saviour: For I am Jehovah your God, the Holy One of Israel, *your Saviour...I, I am Jehovah; and there is no Saviour besides Me.(Isaiah 43:3, 11) And there is salvation in no other one, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved.(Acts 4:12) And we have beheld and bear witness that the *Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world.(1 John 4:14)

King: For God is the King of all the earth.(Psalm 47:7) So says Jehovah, the King of Israel. (Isaiah 44:6) *But Jehovah is the true God, He is the living God, and the everlasting King. (Jeremiah 10:10) Where is He born king of the Jews? (Matt.2:2)

Judge: The Judge of all the earth, shall He not do right? (Genesis 18 :25) And to God the judge of all.(Hebrews 12:23) Then I solemnly witness before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, he being about to judge living and dead according to His appearance and His kingdom,(2 Timothy 4:1) He commanded us to proclaim to the people, and to witness solemnly that is it He who has been marked out by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. (Acts 10:42)

Rock: He is the Rock; His work is perfect. For all His ways are just, a God of faithfulness. (Deut.32:4) And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of the spiritual rock following - and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4)

Shepherd: He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather lambs with His arms; and in His bosom carry them; those with young He (God) will lead. (Isaiah 40:11) The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1) I am the Good Shepherd! The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

Light: For Jehovah will become your everlasting light; and the days of your mourning shall end. (Isaiah 60:20) Jehovah is my light and my salvation.(Psalm 27:1) Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, I am the Light of the world; (John 8:12) There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for a witness, that he might witness concerning the Light, that all might believe through Him. He was not that Light, but that he might witness concerning the Light. He was the true Light; He enlightens every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. (John 1:6-10)

First And Last: Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel My called: I am He; I am the First; I surely am the Last. (Isaiah 48:12) And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet, as dead. And He put His right hand on me, saying t o me, Do not fear. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead; and, behold, I am living forever and ever, Amen. (Revelation 1:17,18)

The I AM: "Then the Jews said to Him, You do not yet have fifty years, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I AM. Then they took up stones that they might throw them on Him." John 8:57-59a The New World Translation replaces 'I AM' with 'I have been'. The Kingdom Interlinear Greek side properly translates in 'I AM'! Only if Jesus had said "ego en" (literally, "I was") instead of "ego eimi" could it be translated as "I have been." Jesus uses "ego eimi" again in John 8:24 when He states "Therefore, I said to YOU, YOU will die in YOUR sins. For if YOU do not believe that I am [he], YOU will die in YOUR sins." NWT Here, the Kingdom Interlinear again properly translates "ego eimi" as "I am", and on the right hand side also translates it "I am" (instead of "I have been" as in John 8:58!!) but adds in brackets "he", a word that is NOT in the original! This changes the meaning of the passage, and this is also adding to the Word of God!

FIRST BORN NOT FIRST CREATED : And Joseph called the name of the FIRSTBORN MANESSAH; for he said, God has made me forget all my toil, and all the house of my father. And the name of the second he called Ephraim; for he said, God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction. (Genesis 41:51,52) For I am a father to Israel, and EPHRAIM is My FIRSTBORN. (Jeremiah 31:9) If a man has two wives, the one loved, and the other hated; and they have borne him sons, both the loved one and the hated one; and if the firstborn son was of her who was hated, then it shall be, in the day that he causes his son to inherit that which he has, he may not make the son of the loved one the firstborn before the son of the hated one, he who is truly the firstborn. But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the hated one, by giving him a double portion of all that he has; for he is the first fruit of his strength - the right of the firstborn is his. (Deut. 21:15-17) In Hebrew culture, because the first born son was customarily the heir, this term became associated with the meaning of heir, even when the one who was the heir was not the one who was firstborn. It means the one with the right to rule, or preeminent one.

GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH:

"And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in flesh, was justified in Spirit, was seen by angels..." (1 Timothy 3:16)

"For let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus, who subsisting in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, having become in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient until death, even the death of a cross. Therefore, also God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those of Heaven, and those of earth, and those under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11)

"For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham." (Hebrews 2:16, KJV)

Jehovah Made The World By Himself: "So says Jehovah, your Redeemer and your Former from the womb; I am Jehovah who makes all things; stretching out the heavens; I alone, spreading out the earth. Who was with Me?..." Isaiah 44:24

Jehovah speaks to Jehovah!:

"And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;...And God created the man in His own image; in the image of God He created him."(Genesis 1:26,27)

"Come, let Us go down and confuse their lip so that they cannot understand one another's speech. And Jehovah scattered them from there, over the face of all the earth." Genesis 11:7,8

GENESIS 18 AND 19 FEATURE JEHOVAH TALKING WITH JEHOVAH

"For so says Jehovah of hosts: He has sent Me after glory, to the nations who plundered you; for he who touches you touches the pupil of His eye. For, behold, I will shake My hand over them, and they shall be a prize for their servants. And you shall know that Jehovah has sent Me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion. For, lo, I come; and I will dwell among you, says Jehovah. And many nations shall be joined to Jehovah in that day, and they shall be My people; and I will dwell among you; and you shall know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me to you." Zechariah 2:8-11 "And Jehovah said to Satan, Jehovah rebuke you, Satan! And, Jehovah who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!" Zech. 3:2

"And I will make them strong in Jehovah; and they will walk in His name, says Jehovah." Zechariah 10:12

"Come near to Me; hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning. From its being, I was there; and now the Lord Jehovah, and His spirit, has sent Me. So says Jehovah, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,..." Isaiah 48:16,17

Jehovah Valued At 30 Pieces Of Silver:

"And Jehovah said to Me, Throw it to the potter, the splendid price at which I was valued by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw it to the potter in the house of Jehovah." Zechariah 11:13

Jesus A Stumbling Stone:

"Sanctify Jehovah of hosts Himself, and let Him be your fear; and let Him be your dread. And He shall be for a sanctuary, and for a stone of stumbling, and for a rock of falling to the two houses of Israel; for a trap and for a snare to the dweller of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken." Isaiah 8:13-15

"Because of this, it is also contained in the Scripture: 'Behold, I lay in Zion an elect, precious Stone, a Corner-foundation; and the one believing in Him shall never in any way

be ashamed.' Then to you who believe belongs the honour. But to disobeying ones, He is the Stone which those building rejected -- this One became the Head-of-the-corner, and a Stone-of-stumbling, and a Rock-of-offense to those disobeying, stumbling at the word, to which they were also appointed." 1 Peter 2:6-8

"For they stumbled at the Stone-of-stumbling, as it has been written, 'Behold, I place in Zion a Stone-of-stumbling, and a Rock-of-offense; and everyone believing on Him will not be put to shame.'" Romans 9:32,33

Jesus Laid Down And Took Up His Own Life:

"No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down from Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again. I received this commandment from My Father." John 10:18 Only God could do this!

John Says Jesus Is Equal With God:

"Because of this, therefore, the Jews lusted the more to kill Him, for not only did He break the sabbath, but also called God His own Father, making Himself equal to God." John 5:18

Look To The One They Have Pierced:

"And they shall look on Me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and shall be bitter over Him, like the bitterness over the firstborn." Zechariah 12:10

"And again, a different Scripture says, 'They shall look at Him whom they have pierced.'" John 19:37

Man Christ Jesus Is Alive:

"For God is one, also there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

No Other God:

"Do not dread, nor be afraid. Have I not declared and made you hear since then? So you are My witnesses: Is there a God besides Me? Yea, there is none. I have not known a Rock." Isaiah 44:8 Jesus is the Rock: Rom.9:33; 1 Cor. 10:4; 1 Peter 2:8

No Saviour But Jehovah, Or Two Saviours?:

"I, I am Jehovah; and there is no Saviour besides Me." Isaiah 43:11 "But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works in righteousness which we had done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, which He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Saviour;" Titus 3:4-6

"And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world." 1 John 4:14

Not An Angel:

"For to which of the angels did He ever say, 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You'?"

Only Begotten At Resurrection, Not When He Was Created: "...that this God has fulfilled to us, their children, raising up Jesus; as also it has been written in the second Psalm, 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You.'" Acts 13:33

Prayer To Jesus Permissible:

"If ever anything YOU should ask me in the name of me this I shall do." John 14:13,14
Greek side - Kingdom Interlinear

----- FAITH:

Are We In The Faith?:

"Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves." 2 Corinthians 13:5

FALSE PROPHETS:

Test The Spirits:

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world." 1 John 4:1

"But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, that which I have not commanded him to speak, and who speaks in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, How shall we know the word which Jehovah has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah, if the thing does not happen or come about, that is the thing which Jehovah has not spoken--the Prophet has spoken it proudly; you shall not be afraid of him." Deuteronomy 18:20-22

Warning About 'The Time Is At Hand':

"And He said, Watch that you not be led astray. For many will come on My name, saying, I Am! Also, the time has come! Do not go after them." Luke 21:8

Watchtower's Claim To Be 'The Light Of The World':

"Today the New World society of Jehovah's witnesses is this light-bearing organization; it is a city like organization that is prominent around the globe because its members let their light shine before mankind. In a city there are women as well as men, and all contribute various functions. So in this city like organization of light bearers all contribute to the light so that the organization can blaze as the greatest light today, as 'the light of the world'." (The Watchtower, June 15, 1960, page 376, under the heading The Light of Life.)

See John Chapter One to find out who the Light of the world really is!

----- GOSPEL:

"But brothers, I reveal to you the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you also are being saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you in the first place what I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried; and that He has been raised the third day, according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen by Peter, then to the Twelve. Then He was seen by over five hundred brothers at once, of whom the most remain until now; but some also fell asleep. Then He was seen by James; then by all the apostles; and last of all, even as if to one born out of time, He was also seen by me." (1 Corinthians 15:1-8, literal translation)

"But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness, so your thoughts should be corrupted from the purity which is due to Christ. For if, indeed, the one coming proclaims another Jesus, whom we have not proclaimed, or if you receive another spirit which you have not received, or another gospel which you never accepted, you might well endure these." (2 Corinthians 11:3,4, literal translation)

HELL: A Place Of Everlasting Torment:

"But I say to you that many will come from east and west, and will recline with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven; but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of the teeth." Matthew 8:11,12

"And they will throw them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and gnashing of the teeth....and will throw them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and gnashing of the teeth." Matthew 13:42,50

"Then the king said to the servants, Binding his feet and hands, take him away, and throw him out into the outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of the teeth." Matthew 22:13

"There will be weeping and gnashing of the teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, but you being thrust outside." Luke 13:28

"These are springs without water, clouds being driven by tempest, for whom the blackness of darkness is kept forever." 2 Peter 2:17

"...wild waves of the sea foaming up their shames; wandering stars for whom blackness of darkness has been kept forever." Jude 13

"...and he will be tormented by fire and brimstone before the holy angels and before the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever." Revelation 14:10,11

"And the beast was seized, and with this one the false prophet doing signs before it, by which he let astray those having received the mark of the beast, and those worshiping its image. The two were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone." Revelation 19:20

"And the Devil leading them astray was thrown into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet were. And they were tormented day and night forever and ever."

Revelation 20:10 Note that the beast and prophet were still in the Lake of Fire after 1000 years, and that they and the Devil are to be tormented forever. They must continue to exist for this to happen.

"If any one did not regard the Law of Moses, that one dies without pities on the word of two or three witnesses. HOW MUCH WORSE PUNISHMENT (than physical death!) do you think he will be thought worthy to receive having trampled on the Son of God, and having counted the blood of the covenant in which he was sanctified common, and having insulted the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:28,29

"For a fire has been kindled in My anger, and it burns to the LOWEST SHEOL, and consumes the earth and its produce; and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains." Deut.32:22

"For Your mercy toward me is great; and You have delivered my soul from the LOWEST SHEOL." Psalm 86:13

"The cords of DEATH hemmed me in; AND the pains of SHEOL found me; I find distress and sorrow;" Psalm 116:3 How can the pains of sheol follow physical death if one ceases to exist?

"Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on Sheol" Proverbs 5:5; Death and Sheol are separate.

"But he does not know that the departed spirits are there; her guests are in the depths of Sheol." Proverbs 9:18

"Sheol from below is stirred for you, to meet you at your coming; it stirs up the departed spirits for you, all the he-goats of the earth. It has raised all the kings of the nations from their thrones." Proverbs 14:9

"The strong of the mighty shall speak to him from the midst of Sheol; they went with his helpers; they, the uncircumcised, lie slain by the sword." Ezekiel 32:21

"But I say to you, My friends, Stop being afraid of the ones killing the body, and after these things not having anything more they can do. But I will warn you whom you should fear; fear the ones who AFTER the killing have authority to cast into Hell; yes, I say to you, fear that One!" Luke 12:4,5

HOLY SPIRIT:

Personality of The Holy Spirit:

"But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, HE SHALL TEACH you all things, and shall REMIND you of all things that I said to you." John 14:26

"But when that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will GUIDE you into all truth; for He will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will ANNOUNCE the coming things to you." John 16:13

"...for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when that One comes, HE WILL CONVICT the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgement." John 16:7,8

"And passing through the Phrygian and the Galatian country - being FORBIDDEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT to speak the word in Asia - coming against Mysia, they attempted to go along Bithynia; and THE SPIRIT DID NOT ALLOW THEM." Acts 16:6,7

"But Peter said, Ananias, why did Satan fill your heart for you to LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.....You did not lie to men, but to God!"

"...the Holy Spirit SAID, So, then, separate both Barnabas and Saul to Me,....Then these indeed sent out by the Holy Spirit went down to Seleucia...." Acts 13:2,4

"...Well did the Holy Spirit SPEAK through the prophet Isaiah to our fathers,...." Acts 28:25

"And DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT of God," Eph.4:30

Blasphemy Against The Holy Spirit Not Forgiven:

"Every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men, but the blasphemy concerning the Spirit shall not be forgiven to men. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, not in this age, nor in the coming one." Matthew 12:31,32

"If any one did not regard the Law of Moses, that one dies without pities on the word of two or three witnesses. HOW MUCH WORSE PUNISHMENT (than physical death!) do you think he will be thought worthy to receive having trampled on the Son of God, and having counted the blood of the covenant in which he was sanctified common, and having insulted the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:28,29

JUDGEMENT:

"So then each one of us will give account concerning himself to God." Romans 14:12

And as it is reserves to men ONCE to die, and after this Judgement... (Hebrews 9:27)

LITTLE FLOCK:

Who Are The Sheep Jesus Came To In John 10:16?:

"And I have other sheep which are not of this fold. I must also lead those, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock, one Shepherd."

"But answering, He said, I was not sent except to the lost sheep of Israel." Matthew 15:24

The Little Flock:

"Stop being afraid, little flock, because your Father was pleased to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32 The little flock was composed of those Jesus was speaking to, the believing Jews, not the 144,000 of Revelation 7 & 14

PRAYER TO JESUS IS TAUGHT:

"and what likely you should ask in the name of me this will I do, in order that might be glorified the Father in the Son; if ever anything you should ask me in the name of me this I shall do." John 14:13,14 Kingdom Interlinear, Greek side.

"Also, whatever it is that YOU ask in my name, I will do this, in order that the Father may be glorified in connection with the Son. If YOU ask anything in my name, I will do it." John 14:13,14 New World Translation.

Note that in the New World Translation opposite the Greek translation in the Kingdom Interlinear, the word "ME" between "ask" and "in" has been dropped. Was this to discourage anyone from praying directly to Jesus?

REASONING:

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts; nor are your ways My ways, says Jehovah. For as the heavens are high from the earth, so My ways are high from your ways, and My thoughts from your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8,9

"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who became His counselor? Or who first gave to Him, and it will be repaid to him? Because of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen." Romans 11:34-36

RESURRECTION BODY:

Spiritual Body:

"And as they were telling these things, Jesus Himself stood in their midst, and said to them, Peace to you! But being terrified and filled with fear, they thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them, Why are you troubled? And why do reasonings come up in your hearts. See My hands and My feet, that I am He? Feel Me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see Me having." Luke 24:37-39

1 Corinthians 15:35-53 describes the spiritual body that we will have

SALARIES:

Pastors Paid:

"Let the elders who take the lead well be counted worthy of double honour, especially those labouring in word and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox treading out grain' -- and, 'The labourer is worthy of his pay.'" 1 Timothy 5:17,18

"So also the Lord ordained those preaching the gospel to live from the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:14

SALVATION:

Born Again:

"...that He might sanctify it (the Church), cleansing it by the washing of the water in the word,..." Ephesians 5:26

"...having been born again, not by corruptible seed, but incorruptible, through the living word of God, and remaining forever." 1 Peter 1:23 "So that if anyone is in Christ, that one is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

John Chapter 3 explains the new birth

Can Have Eternal Life NOW:

"I wrote these things to you, the one believing in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you HAVE everlasting life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:13

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25, NASB

"From this also He is able to save to perfection those who come to God through Him, ever living to intercede for them." Hebrews 7:25

"But we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to purpose; because whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be the firstborn among many brothers. But whom He predestinated, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; but whom He justified, these He also glorified" Romans 8:28-30 Note that we have been predestined, called and justified, but we will not be actually glorified until we receive our resurrection bodies. Nevertheless, this event is just as certain to happen as if it already had happened, therefore this event can be put in the past tense.

Christian Has Passed From Death To Life:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, The one who hears My word, and believes the One who has sent Me, HAS everlasting life, and does not come into judgement, but HAS PASSED out of death into life." John 5:24

Death Of Jesus Not A Ransom For Sin?:

"For I delivered to you in the first place what I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures;..." 1 Corinthians 15:3

"Hence, also, He is able to save (continually) forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25, NASB

Free From The Law Of Sin And Death:

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus set me free from the law of sin and of death." Romans 8:2

Jesus The Name Above Every Name:

"Therefore, also, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those of Heaven, and those of earth, and those under the earth;..." Philippians 2:9,10

Jesus The ONLY Way:

"Jesus said to him, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 "...and there is salvation in no other One, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Jesus Was BORN The Christ And Saviour:

"...because today a Saviour, who IS Christ the Lord, was born to you in the city of David." Luke 2:11

Only Work Required For Salvation:

"Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of man will give to you; for God the Father sealed this One. Then

they said to Him, What may we do that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, THAT YOU BELIEVE INTO HIM WHOM THAT ONE SENT." John 6:27-29

Those Depending On Works Are Under A Curse:

"For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, to perform them.'" Galatians 3:10, NASB

Way To Be Saved:

"Because if you confess the Lord Jesus with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you WILL be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation." Romans 10:9,10

"Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, If one does not receive birth from above, he is not able to see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

"For by grace you are being saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, that not anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

SECOND COMING:

"Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming in which ALL those in the tombs WILL HEAR HIS VOICE. And they will come out, THE ONES HAVING DONE GOOD into a resurrection of life; and THE ONES HAVING PRACTICED EVIL into a resurrection of judgement." John 5:28,29

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so GOD WILL ALSO BRING WITH HIM ALL THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP THROUGH JESUS." 1

Thessalonians 4:14 "Behold, He comes with the clouds, and EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, and the ones who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Yes. Amen." Revelation 1:7

"And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the land will wail. And THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN coming on the clouds of heaven with power and much glory." Matthew 24:30

"Do not let your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places. But if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you! And if I go and prepare a place for you, I AM COMING AGAIN, and will receive you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know....I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. NO ONE comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:1-4,6

"Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it was not yet revealed what we shall be. But we know that if He is revealed, we shall be like Him, because WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS." 1 John 3:2

"And as it is reserved to men once to die, and after this Judgement; so being once offered to bear the sins of many, CHRIST SHALL APPEAR A SECOND TIME without sin to those expecting Him for salvation." Hebrews 9:27,28

Warning Of Those Who Predict Where Christ Is:

"Then if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ; or, Here! Do not believe. For false christs and false prophets will rise up. And they will give great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I tell you beforehand. Then if they say to you, Behold, He is in the wilderness; do not go out. Behold, he is in the inner rooms; do not believe. For as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines as far as the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of man." Matthew 24:23-27 { or Behold, He is in Brooklyn?}

STONING:

The Five Grounds For Stoning:

1. Having a familiar spirit: Leviticus 20:27
 2. Cursing (Blasphemy): Leviticus 24:10-23
 3. False prophets who lead to idolatry: Deut.13:5-10
 4. Stubborn son: Deuteronomy 21:18-21
 5. Adultery and rape: Deut.22:21-24; Leviticus 20:10
-

THRONE IS SHARED BY JESUS AND JEHOVAH:

"And he showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb..." Revelation 22:1 (NWT) "...the throne of the God and of the Lamb..." (Kingdom Interlinear, Greek side.)

"And no more will there be any curse. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in [the city], and HIS slaves will render HIM sacred service; and they will see HIS FACE, and HIS NAME will be on their foreheads." Revelation 22:3,4

"Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with HIM for the thousand years." Revelation 20:6 NWT

Note that in verse 1, God AND the Lamb share the same throne, not two thrones, indicating inequality of rank or nature, but ONE throne. In verse 3, both Jehovah and Jesus are referred to TOGETHER as "His" and "Him". In verse 4, Jehovah and the Lamb together have but ONE FACE and in the finality only ONE NAME.

In Rev.20:6, God and Christ are referred to as "him". These verses would be grammatically incorrect, unless Jesus IS Jehovah!

TRINITY:

God is the Father:

"For receiving honour and glory from God the Father - such a voice being borne to Him from the magnificent glory." 2 Peter 1:17

God is the Son:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, Says the Lord, the One who is, and who was, and who is coming--the Almighty" Revelation 1:8

"And the One sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He says to me, Write, because these words are faithful and true. And he said to me, It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending. To the one thirsting, I will freely give of the fountain of the water of life. The one overcoming will inherit all things, and I will be God to him, and he will be the son to Me." Revelation 21:5-7

"Behold, I am coming quickly." Revelation 22:7

"And, behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give each as his work is. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last." Revelation 22:12,13 see Isaiah 44:6>

"So says Jehovah, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, Jehovah of hosts; I am the First and I am the Last; and there is no God except Me." Isaiah 44:6

"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet, as dead. And He put His right hand on me, saying to me, Do not fear. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead; and, behold, I am living forever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:17,18

"And Moses said to God, Behold, I shall come to the sons of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you; and they will say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM; and He said, You shall say this to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you." Exodus 3:13,14

"Your father Abraham leaped for joy that he should see My day, and he saw, and rejoiced. Then the Jews said to Him, You do not yet have fifty years, and have you seen Abraham?

Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I AM."
John 8:56-58

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Colossians 2:9

"For let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus, who subsisting in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Him..." Philippians 2:5,6
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

God is the Holy Spirit:

"But Peter said, Ananias, why did Satan fill your heart for to lie to the Holy Spirit,.....You did not lie to men, but to God!" Acts 5:3,4

One God:

"For God is one, and there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus..." 1 Timothy 2:5

"But the Mediator is not of one, but God is one." Gal. 3:20

"Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah." Deut. 6:4

The Trinity Is Proven By The New World Translation In Genesis 18 And 19

The Trinity Is Proven When Man Was Created:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....And God said, Let US make man in OUR IMAGE, according to OUR LIKENESS;...And God created the man in HIS OWN IMAGE." (Genesis 1:1, 26,27) Notice that the words US and OUR refer to singular nouns, namely IMAGE and LIKENESS, rather than "our images and our likenesses," which would have been the correct grammar if God was talking to the angels.

The Trinity Is Proven At The Tower Of Babel:

"Come, let US go down there and confuse their lip so that they cannot understand one another's speech. And JEHOVAH scattered them from there...." (Genesis 11:7,8) We must allow that US means at least two.

Trinity At Resurrection:

"For they themselves announced concerning us, what kind of entrance we have to you, and how you had turned to God from the idols, to serve the true and living GOD, and eagerly to await His Son from Heaven, whom HE RAISED from the dead, Jesus, the One delivering us from the wrath to come." 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10

"Jesus said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I WILL RAISE IT UP. Then the Jews said, This temple was forty-six years being built, and do you raise it up in three days? But HE SPOKE ABOUT THE TEMPLE OF HIS BODY.

Then when He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled that He said this to them. And they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus spoke." John 2:19-22

"But if the SPIRIT of the One having raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One having raised the Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live THROUGH THE INDWELLING OF HIS SPIRIT in you." Romans 8:11

"Truly, then, GOD overlooking the times of ignorance, now strictly charges all men everywhere to repent, because He set a day in which He is going to judge the habitable world in righteousness, by a Man whom He appointed; having given proof to all by RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD." Acts 17:30,31

In the above passages, evidence is given that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, and that God raised Him from the dead. Therefore, the three must be one, unless there is more than one Jehovah God.

Personality of The Holy Spirit: "But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, HE SHALL TEACH you all things, and shall REMIND you of all things that I said to you." John 14:26

"But when that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will GUIDE you into all truth; for He will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will ANNOUNCE the coming things to you." John 16:13

"...for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when that One comes, HE WILL CONVICT the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgement." John 16:7,8

"And passing through the Phrygian and the Galatian country - being FORBIDDEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT to speak the word in Asia - coming against Mysia, they attempted to go along Bithynia; and THE SPIRIT DID NOT ALLOW THEM." Acts 16:6,7

"But Peter said, Ananias, why did Satan fill your heart for you to LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.....You did not lie to men, but to God!"

"...the Holy Spirit SAID, So, then, separate both Barnabas and Saul to Me,....Then these indeed sent out by the Holy Spirit went down to Seleucia...." Acts 13:2,4

"...Well did the Holy Spirit SPEAK through the prophet Isaiah to our fathers,...." Acts 28:25

"And DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT of God," Eph.4:30

Blasphemy Against The Holy Spirit Not Forgiven:

"Every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men, but the blasphemy concerning the Spirit shall not be forgiven to men. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, not in this age, nor in the coming one." Matthew 12:31,32

WARNINGS: Against Those Who Twist The Scriptures:

"And think of the long-suffering of our Lord as salvation, as also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them concerning these things, in which are some things hard to understand, WHICH THE UNLEARNED AND UNSETTLED PERVERT, as also they do the rest of the Scriptures, TO THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION." 2 Peter 3:15-17

Warning Of Those Who Predict Where Christ Is:

"Then if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ; or, Here! Do not believe. For false christs and false prophets will rise up. And they will give great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I tell you beforehand. Then if they say to you, Behold, He is in the wilderness; do not go out. Behold, he is in the inner rooms; do not believe. For as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines as far as the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of man." Matthew 24:23-27 { or Behold, He is in Brooklyn?}

All Scriptures from THE INTERLINEAR BIBLE, unless otherwise noted.

-compiled by Robert W. Hunter

When They Come To Your Door

Jesus warned his disciples not to speculate about the time of his return (Acts 1:7) nor to believe in another gospel (Gal. 1:6-7), for such a different gospel would lead away from God. To be blessed one had to believe in and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8, Rom. 10:8-15).

In spite of these clear statements, Charles T. Russell set out in 1876 to preach another gospel. With it he speculated about the future and set 1914 as the date for the end of the world. He developed new doctrinal statements: no Trinity; no deity of Christ; and, in the place of hope, Armageddon doom. Three times in 90 years, Jehovah's Witnesses (as his followers are now called) have had to change their gospel. They preach a tale of woe!

Going from door to door, they will be coming to see you very soon. This is their way of worship--selling books and perpetuating a protection notion. In their endeavor to sell you their books they are sincere--but I must add, "sincerely wrong."

When you see the Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian, remember a few very important DON'TS. Do not argue religion with the Witness, for his doctrines are built upon a misuse of the Bible. Texts and passages torn out of the Bible are used like building blocks to back up false conclusions.

Another DON'T is not to engage in a conversation about present events with the Jehovah's Witness. DON'T buy literature or accept anything free from him.

With these DON'TS clearly etched into your mind, rejoice! You have never had it so easy. Here is a whole missionary field walking right up to your door. Make the most of it!

Be courteous to the JW--let him continue his presentation without interruption on your part. But also, as the Witness from time to time asks you leading questions, DO NOT answer them. These probes by the JW are to discover whether you are a person who has fear about the troubles in the world; or whether you are a person who is lonely; or whether you are a person who has gripes against the establishment. If you so much as give a hint of such attitudes, you are immediately categorized by the Jehovah's Witness, and he will latch onto you and you will not be able to do him any good.

Wait the Witness out, therefore, without allowing him to categorize or classify you. Finally, when he is through. Promptly forget what he has said. Begin something of your own. Tell him what the Lord Jesus means to you: give him your testimony. Make it short and sweet, but say it with enthusiasm.

Then ask the JW to give you his testimony. This will nonplus him--he cannot speak of the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Press on, saying, "Surely you must have experienced common grace, for God does let his sun shine over the just and the unjust."

Should you succeed in getting the Witness to give you a testimony, you have gotten him off his track--things are looking up. Walk into this opportunity by sitting down with him and reading two chapters of the Gospel according to John. If you are able to do this, invite him back for further readings.

However, most JW's will not give you a testimony and will leave. Do not be dismayed, but as the door closes pray to the Holy Spirit asking him to take over.

Your prayer may bring the Witness back. This time he will want to recite for you a whole list of Bible passages. Do not let him do that! Ask for him to wait as you get your Bible.

With your Bible in your hand ask, "Can I have the first passage?" Reluctantly he will give it to you. Look it up, read it, but also read the context--the verses surrounding it. How that changes the meaning of the passage! Ask for a second, third, and perhaps fourth passage and treat them in like manner. That is about all you will get. But this way you have used the Word of God as it is.

You see, our two most effective weapons are the testimony of Jesus and the Word of God. Use them in this way and you cannot lose.

The above text was from an old Xerox copy I had that came from a book written by an ex-JW. I don't know either the author's or the book's name. It may be helpful to some one who might want to know what to say to a JW, or in developing a future text file concerning JW's. Please bear in mind that it is from a copyrighted (c) book, and I am only submitting it to help develop future public domain files.

Stephen Bresnahan, Crossroads BBS, Safety Harbor, FL, (813) 725-4452

The World's Most Dangerous Book!

Would you place your trust in a surgeon who was about to perform a major operation on you, if he refused to give you his name or credentials?

OR....

Would you place your faith in an attorney, who was defending you against false accusations of felony charges, if he also refused to give you his name or credentials?

We can see how important it is that we rely on the names and credentials of those who serve us in the important aspects of our life. As in the case of the lawyer, it is essential to know these things, for without knowledge, we would have no assurance that he would truly and honestly represent you. It is therefore of the utmost importance to know the men, the credentials and the qualifications of those who we entrust our spiritual lives!!

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society has failed the public at this most crucial point, as they refuse to give their followers the names and credentials of the Translation Committee of their Bible, The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (see pg. 258 of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose). This is more important than the Watchtower Society will admit since the New World Translation Committee has deceived many in their translation of the Bible in the following ways:

1. They have invented non-existent rules of Greek grammar and then proceeded to follow these rules only when necessary to support their peculiar theology. A clear example of this is John 1:1, where the Translation Committee has rendered the Greek "and the Word was a god". We cite the appendix of another Watchtower publication (The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures, page 1158), for their footnote concerning John 1:1: "The reason for their rendering the Greek word Divine and not God is that it is the Greek noun Theos without the definite article..." May we call the Watchtower Society's attention to verses 6, 12 and 13 (also found in the first chapter of the Gospel of John). Here the Greek noun Theos appears without the definite article (as in John 1:1) and yet the Translating Committee has translated each verse as (Jehovah) God.

Another example of non-existent rules followed only when needed to support their theology is found in the forward of the afore mentioned Kingdom Interlinear Translation (pg. 18). Here we are taught how to restore the Divine name. We are instructed that we can render the Greek words "Kyrios" (Lord) and "Theos" (God) into Divine name by determining if the Christian (Greek) writers have quoted from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). If so, we can render "Kyrios" (Lord) and "Theos" (God) as Jehovah God. Once again, the Watchtower "rule" is avoided by the Translation Committee as they translate Philippians 2:11. The Apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 45:23 as he states that "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Jehovah God (Kyrios) to the glory of God the Father.

2. The Translation Committee has made up a Greek tense that is non-existent. We cite the 1950 edition of their "New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures" rendering of John 8:58 where they have translated "ego eimi" as "I have been" and state that it is "properly rendered in the perfect indefinite tense" in the Greek language. There is NO "perfect indefinite sense" in any language! After the Watchtower Society was informed of

this fact, they made the change to the "perfect tense indicative" but as the Greek student knows, it is present tense and is correctly translated "I AM" (see Exodus 3:14).

3. They have added words to Scripture which changes the meaning of the texts to agree with their theology. Notice the Watchtower's rendering of Colossians 1:16,17, where the word "other" has been added four times to the text, completely changing its meaning. When Paul wrote those passages that the Son created all things, it is obvious that the Son was not himself created. The Watchtower, however, believes that the Son is also a created being and has therefore added "other" - not found in the Greek Biblical text at all - to make it appear that the Son is also a creature. As mentioned before, the Translation Committee has added the word "a" to John 1:1 to make the Son a creature rather than God Himself. Take note also of the same deceitfulness displayed in Philippians 2:9 where the word "other" is again added, when it is not found or even suggested in the original Greek.

4. The men who comprised the Translation Committee had no adequate schooling or background to function as critical Bible translators. The self-appointed "scholars" who made up this Translation Committee were: N.H. Knorr, F.W. Franz, A.D. Schroeder, G.D. Gangas and M. Henschel. Aside from the current President Franz, none of the Translation Committee members knew Biblical Greek or Hebrew and Franz's ability is open to serious question. This came out in the Scottish Court Sessions in November, 1954 (just four years after the release of the Watchtower Scriptures). The following exchange of question and answers between the attorney and Franz is taken from the trial transcript:

Q. Have you also made yourself familiar with Hebrew?

A. Yes....

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

A. Yes, for use in my biblical work.

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

A. Yes.....(Pursuer's Proof, pg. 7)

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

A. I do not speak speak Hebrew.

Q. You do not?

A. No

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

A. Which?

Q. That fourth verse of the second chapter of Genesis.

A. You mean here?

Q. Yes.

A. No, I wouldn't attempt to do that. (Pursuer's Proof, pgs. 102,103).

What Franz failed to do was a simple exercise which an average first or second year Hebrew student in any seminary would have no difficulty (see further, "We left Jehovah's Witnesses - A non-Prophet Organization" - Edmond C. Gruss, pg. 59-101). It is also interesting to note that no Greek scholar with any credentials will endorse the New World Translation. Bill Centnar, in 1954 (while still a Jehovah's Witness working at Bethel), was assigned to interview a well known Bible translator, Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed, asking him for his evaluation and recommendation of the New World Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Dr. Goodspeed replied: "No, I'm afraid that I could not do that. The grammar is regrettable...".

We agree with Dr. Goodspeed and go a step further and state that the theology brought forth in this translation is a fatal distortion of Biblical truth. We ask you not to put your trust in such a bias translation of Holy Scripture or in the Society that has deceived many in the writing of it; we ask that your faith and trust be placed in the Lord Jesus Christ who said that unless you believe that HE IS the Eternal God (Ego Eimi - "I AM"), you will die in your sins (John 8:24). It is because of the danger of the perversion of the New World Translation of Holy Scriptures that this warning has been written. Our concern is for you to come to know the TRUE LORD Jesus Christ...

Let us help you discover more...

====[The Christian BBS, Vic., B.C., 604-478-2789, 8,N,1 - 24 Hrs.]====

The following is taken from the book:

"Questions for Jehovah's Witnesses: who love the truth"

In the beginning was the Word.

But WHY was the Word misquoted? JOHN 1:1

This text `THE WORD WAS GOD' has been a problem for four presidents of Jehovah's Witnesses. C.T. Russell thought he found relief when in 1876 N.H. Barbour, an Adventist, introduced him to Wilson's EMPHATIC DIAGLOTT. Mr. Wilson never studied Biblical Greek in a college. He was a follower of John Thomas, a `false prophet' and founder of the Christadelphians. Thomas nor Wilson believed "THE WORD WAS GOD." In the interlinear feature of his book which is no translation at all, Wilson placed `a god' under theos. In his translation, however, of theos, he wrote: "the LOGOS was God."

F.W. Franz, the current President of Jehovah's Witnesses, realized the deficiency of the DIAGLOTT, decided to translate his own Bible called THE NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. Mr. Franz never studied biblical or koine Greek. He did not graduate from any college nor did he receive a Rhodes Scholarship as he claims. He translates the phrase "the Word was a god." In his KINGDOM INTERLINEAR he interlineates "god was the Word." Such a translation creates another god. "To us there is one God."

F.W. Franz found a translation that agrees with his, THE NEW TESTAMENT by Johannes Greber. (SEE MAKE SURE OF ALL THINGS p.489, 1965 revision.) Who was Johannes Greber? He is the author of another book: COMMUNICATION WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD OF GOD. In it Greber writes on page 300: "After I had convinced myself at the spiritistic meetings that God's spirits speak to men through mediums, as they had spoken to the early Christian communities, my first thought was to beg for full enlightenment on these problems concerning Christ. Who was Christ? My request was granted, to the smallest details, and that knowledge thenceforth constituted the most precious possession of my soul. In what follows, I shall repeat the truths regarding Christ. His life, and his work of Redemption, as they were imparted to me by the spirit which taught them." The spirit said: "At that time you were told that Christ is the highest of the spirits created by God and the sole one to be created directly; Christ Himself was not God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world" 1 John 4:1. Greber's translation is directly from the demon world. He is quoted in Watchtower publications. (See AID TO BIBLE UNDERSTANDING p. 1134)

In the Watchtower publications ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED OF GOD & BENEFICIAL p. 327 it states: "Note what Hebrew and Greek scholar Alexander Thomson has to say in his review of the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION: "The translation is evidently the work of skilled and clever scholars," THE DIFFERENTIATOR, April 1952. This sentence is another WATCHTOWER lie. The late Mr. Alexander Thomson was not a Greek or Hebrew Scholar. He in fact did not even formally study Greek or Hebrew in any school according to his co-editor Dr. Frank Neil Pohorlak of Inglewood, CA. Mr. Thomson was employed in a bank in Scotland and did not believe that Jesus was God.

WHAT DO GREEK SCHOLARS THINK ABOUT THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESS TRANSLATION OF JOHN 1:1?

Dr. Julius R. Mantey: Calls the Watchtower translation of John 1:1 "A GROSSLY MISLEADING TRANSLATION." It is neither scholarly nor reasonable to translate John 1:1 "the Word was a god." But of all the scholars in the world, so far as we know, none have translated this verse as Jehovah's Witnesses have done."

Bruce M. Metzger, Professor of New Testament Language and literature at Princeton Theological Seminary said: "Far more pernicious in this same verse is the rendering, ... 'and the Word was a god,' with the following footnotes: "'A god,' In contrast with 'the God'." It must be stated quite frankly that, if the Jehovah's Witnesses take this translation seriously, they are polytheists. In view of the additional light which is available during this age of Grace, such a representation is even more reprehensible than were the heathenish, polytheistic errors into which ancient Israel was so prone to fall. As a matter of solid fact, however, such a rendering is a frightful mistranslation."

- THEOLOGY TODAY April, 1953

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

Dr. Eugene A. Nida (Head of the Translation Department of the American Bible Society Translators of the GOOD NEWS BIBLE): "With regard to John 1:1 there is, of course, a complication simply because the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION was apparently done by persons who did not take seriously the syntax of the Greek."

Dr. William Barclay (University of Glasgow, Scotland): "The deliberate distortion of truth by this sect is seen in their New Testament translations. John 1:1 is translated: '...the Word was a god', a translation which is GRAMMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. It is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest."

- THE EXPOSITORY TIMES Nov. 1953

Dr. B. F. Westcott (Whose Greek text is used in JW KINGDOM INTERLINEAR): "The predicate (God) stands emphatically first, as in John 4:24. It is necessarily without the article...No idea of inferiority of nature is suggested by the form of expression, which simply affirms the true Deity of the Word...in the third clause 'the Word' is declared to be 'God' and so included in the unity of the Godhead."

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

Dr. F. F. Bruce (University of Manchester, England): "Much is made by Arian amateur grammarians of the omission of the definite article with 'God' in the phrase 'And the Word was God.' Such an omission is common with nouns in a predicate construction. 'a god' would be totally indefensible."

Dr. Paul L. Kaufman (Portland, OR.): "The Jehovah's Witness people evidence an abysmal ignorance of the basic tenets of Greek grammar in their mistranslation of John 1:1."

Dr. Charles L. Feinberg (La Mirada CA.): "I can assure you that the rendering which the Jehovah's Witnesses give John 1:1 is not held by any reputable Greek Scholar."

Dr. Harry A. Sturz: (Dr. Sturz is Chairman of the Language Department and Professor of Greek at Biola College) "Therefore, the NWT rendering: "the Word was a god" is not a "literal" but an ungrammatical and tendential translation. A literal translation in English can be nothing other than: "the Word was God."

- THE BIBLE COLLECTOR July-December, 1971 p.12

====[The Christian BBS - Vic., B.C., (604)-478-2789, 8,N,1 - 24 Hrs.]====

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WHAT GREEK SCHOLARS REALLY THINK!

About the New World's translation : "...the Word was a god."

Dr. J. R. Mantey (who is quoted on pages 1158-1159) of the Witnesses own Kingdom interlinear Translation): "A shocking mistranslation." "Obsolete and incorrect." "It is neither scholarly nor reasonable to translate John 1:1 'The Word was a god.'"

Dr. Bruce M. Metzger of Princeton (Professor of New Testament Language and Literature): "A frightful mistranslation." "Erroneous" and "pernicious" "reprehensible" "If the Jehovah's Witnesses take this translation seriously, they are polytheists."

Dr. Samuel J. Mikolaski of Zurich, Switzerland: "This anarthrous (used without the article) construction does not mean what the indefinite article 'a' means in English. It is monstrous to translate the phrase 'the Word was a god.'"

Dr. Paul L. Kaufman of Portland, Oregon: "The Jehovah's Witnesses people evidence an abysmal ignorance of the basic tenets of Greek grammar in their mistranslation of John 1:1."

Dr. Charles L. Feinberg of La Mirada, California: "I can assure you that the rendering which the Jehovah's Witnesses give John 1:1 is not held by any reputable Greek scholar."

Dr. James L. Boyer of Winona Lake, Indiana: "I have never heard of, or read of any Greek Scholar who would have agreed to the interpretation of this verse insisted upon by the Jehovah's Witnesses...I have never encountered one of them who had any knowledge of the Greek language."

Dr. Walter R. Martin (who does not teach Greek but has studied the language): "The translation... 'a god' instead of 'God' is erroneous and unsupported by any good Greek scholarship, ancient or contemporary and is a translation rejected by all recognized scholars of the Greek language many of whom are not even Christians, and cannot fairly be said to be biased in favor of the orthodox contention."

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

Dr. F. F. Bruce of the University of Manchester, England: "Much is made by Arian amateur grammarians of the omission of the definite article with 'God' in the phrase 'And the Word was God.' Such an omission is common with nouns in a predicative construction... 'a god' would be totally indefensible." [Barclay and Bruce are generally regarded as Great Britain's leading Greek scholars. Both have New Testament translations in print!]

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

Dr. Phillip B. Harner of Heidelberg College: "The verb preceding an anarthrous predicate, would probably mean that the LOGOS was 'a god' or a divine being of some kind, belonging to the general category of THEOS but as a distinct being from HO THEOS. In the form that John actually uses, the word "THEOS" is placed at the beginning for emphasis."

Dr. J. Johnson of California State University, Long Beach: "No justification whatsoever for translating THEOS EN HO LOGOS as 'the Word was a god.' There is no syntactical parallel to Acts 28:6 where there is a statement in indirect discourse; John 1:1 is direct....I am neither a Christian nor a trinitarian."

Dr. Eugene A. Nida, head of Translations Department, American Bible Society: "With regard to John 1:1, there is of course a complication simply because the New World Translation was apparently done by persons who did not take seriously the syntax of the Greek." [Responsible for the Good News Bible - The committee worked under him.]

Dr. B. F. Wescott (whose Greek text - not the English part - is used in the Kingdom Interlinear Translation): "The predicate (God) stands emphatically first, as in IV.24. It is necessarily without the article...No idea of inferiority of nature is suggested by the form of expression, which simply affirms the true deity of the Word...in the third clause 'the Word' is declared to be 'God' and so included in the unity of the Godhead."

Dr. J. J. Griesbach (whose Greek text - not the English part - is used in the Emphatic Diaglott): "So numerous and clear are the arguments and testimonies of Scriptures in favour of the true Deity of Christ, that I can hardly imagine how, upon the admission of the Divine authority of Scripture, and with regard to fair rules of interpretation, this doctrine can by any man be called in doubt. Especially the passage, John 1:1-3, is so clear and so superior to all exception, that by no daring efforts of either commentators or critics can it be snatched out of the hands of the defenders of the truth."

Mr. Jehovah's Witness: Are we to simply ignore these eminent Greek scholars, and stubbornly cling to the Man-made teachings of the Watchtower, none of whom had any education to speak of in Greek Grammar?!