

The Challenge of the Cults JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

This study is divided into three sections ...

Section One (pages 1-10) introduces the history of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and deals with their teachings on the Trinity

Section Two (pages 11-17) deals with their teachings concerning Scripture

Section Three (pages 17-25) deals with their doctrines on the End Times.

SECTION I

Throughout the Scriptures God's people have always had to be aware of erroneous and false doctrines, presented under the guise of an acceptable alternative. In the Old Testament, the children of Israel were constantly bombarded by such threats as propagated by apostates who had adopted and adapted various aspects of paganism. Hence, Isaiah instructed his people, **Is. 8:20** **To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.** In the New Testament, Jesus also warned about them ... as did Paul and Peter and John and Jude. False doctrine has always been a threat to the advancement of the truth of God.

In the early church, for example, some taught the Christians had to adopt the ancient Jewish ceremonies and rites, - the 'Judaizers' (Acts 15). Some Gentiles taught antinomianism, - now you are saved, you can do what you like because the law doesn't restrict us (Rom. 6:1-12). Some taught Jesus had returned secretly and left many Christians behind (II Thess. 2:1-3). Such doctrines from the various sects (a sect is a splinter group which breaks away from a mainline denomination or group), - and many more, - were causing havoc amongst the Church ... **Titus 1:2** **For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: **11** Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake ... **16** They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. ... **II Cor. 11:13** **For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. **14** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ... **Jude 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. **4** For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.****

And this process which began in the early church has never lost its ferocity and will continue to advance belligerently, as we draw nearer to the time of Christ's

return for He Himself gave the warning to and through His disciples, **Mt. 24:4** Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ... ¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ... ¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ... ²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, *if it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect. ²⁵ Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶ 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. ... With such advance forewarning, then, we are to **I Thess. 5:21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

When coming to consider the errors of false doctrine, there are many avenues of study we could take. We also need to be careful in our assessments because we must not label those who are not in agreement with us in everything as ‘heretics’ and false teachers. Within mainstream evangelical Christianity there are those who hold different opinions on, - for example, - baptism (believers’ or paedo), the gifts of the Holy Spirit, church membership, the doctrine of the end times, the minutiae of the doctrines of grace ... Such issues are absolutely important, but born-again believers are willing to prioritise the saving-work of Christ on the cross to bring about the salvation of lost Hell-deserving sinners ... and that, - when built upon a firm Biblical foundation, - is our source of unity. Our model is the Berean practice, **Acts 17:1** *in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

Where we *must* ‘draw the line’ is when someone teaches doctrines which are clearly and seriously at odds with what the Bible teaches. It is then, as Jude wrote, we must *earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*. ... Therefore, coming to a knowledge of what the various cults believe is secondary ... for our primary goal is to strengthen ourselves in the doctrines of our own faith ... the doctrines firmly founded in God’s Word.

We shall not be studying every little detail of the cults we choose. (From a Christian perspective, a cult is any group which follows teachings which contradict orthodox Christian doctrine and promote heresy.) Instead, we shall begin each chosen cult with a *brief* history, and then concentrate on five main foundational doctrines ...

1. The doctrine of God
2. The doctrine of Jesus Christ
3. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit

4. The doctrine of Scripture
5. The doctrine of the End Times.

We shall begin with the Jehovah Witnesses. The movement was originally known as the Russellites after Charles Taze Russell, from Philadelphia, in early 1872, - he was born on Feb. 16, 1852. He was baptized a Congregationalist, and raised in a strict Protestant family. However, he began to deny many of the truths he was taught. In 1879, he founded “The Watchtower”, and in 1881 (Russell’s 29th birthday) formed the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. He travelled throughout the United States and Europe, organizing his followers, who were also originally called Millennial Dawnists, International Bible Students and finally Jehovah’s Witnesses. During his missionary work, he faced several scandals including separation from his wife after 18 years of marriage, and the accusation of fraud for selling “miracle wheat” for a very high price.

After his death on Oct. 31, 1916, Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford, a Missouri lawyer who had defended Russell in several of his legal battles, succeeded him as president of the society. Rutherford officially incorporated the group in 1931 as the Jehovah’s Witnesses with the legal title, “The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society”, and then he went on to develop Russell’s ideas into a formal doctrinal system.

Their meeting place is called the “Kingdom Hall”. In Fife, they have “Kingdom Halls” in Kirkcaldy, Buckhaven, Glenrothes and St. Andrews. In their own figures for 2016, they claim to have over 8.3 million active members worldwide, and 119,485 congregations in 240 lands.

- They don’t celebrate birthdays, Christmas, Easter, or any other such festivals. They will not receive blood transfusions.
- They do not believe in military service or being involved in politics.
- They do not consider the cross to be a symbol of Christianity since they believe Jesus was impaled upon a stake.
- They have no paid clergy for all their baptised members are ordained ministers and share in the preaching and teaching work.
- They do have elders known as ‘circuit overseers’ who oversee the work.

... Since we want to give no opportunity of misrepresentation, we shall constantly refer to their official website (www.jw.org).

In our first study, we shall look at what they believe about God, in relation to the how we understand the Trinity, - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

They do not believe in the Trinity, “We worship the one true and Almighty God, the Creator, whose name is Jehovah. He is the God of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus”.

When they come to your door and you tell them you are a Christian, immediately they tell you they are Christians too, - not Protestants, - ... but Christians. They often use the formula, “we simply preach the good news of God’s Kingdom, endeavouring to help others build faith in that good news. We are interested, not in attempting to reform other religious groups, but in teaching *sincere individuals* the truth about God and his Word, the Bible.” And they invite you to study the Bible with them.

So, who is the God they believe in? They do not believe Jesus is God ... and they do not believe the Holy Spirit is either. ... Only *Jehovah* is God, and since 1931, they have insisted He be called “Jehovah”.

They agree with you that God/Jehovah is the creator but they believe He did not create the earth in six literal days for they say, “according to the Bible, the earth and the universe existed before the six days of creation. For that reason, Jehovah’s Witnesses have no objection to credible scientific research that indicates the earth may be billions of years old.” They are content to accept evolution.

What do they believe about Jesus? “We follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and honour him as our Saviour and as the Son of God. Thus, we are Christians. However, we have learned from the Bible that Jesus is not Almighty God and that there is no Scriptural basis for the Trinity doctrine”.

In fact, they condemn the Trinity as pagan idolatry, and they deny the divinity of Christ for Russell claimed the doctrine of the Trinity was the idea of Satan. Ironically though, when Jehovah Witnesses are baptized, they use the formula, “... In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”. ... They also refer to Christ as “our Saviour” ...

On their website, they say, “Yes. We believe in Jesus, who said: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” We [*the JWs*] have faith that Jesus came to earth from heaven and gave his perfect human life as a ransom sacrifice. His death and resurrection *make it possible* for those exercising faith in him to gain everlasting life [*notice their Arminian*”

language]. We also believe that Jesus is now ruling as King of God's heavenly Kingdom, which will soon bring peace to the entire earth. However, we take Jesus at his word when he said: "The Father is greater than I am." So we do not worship Jesus, as we do not believe that he is Almighty God."

Furthermore, the JW's say, "Jesus himself said that he lived in heaven before being born as a human. As a spirit creature in heaven, Jesus had a special relationship with Jehovah. Jesus is Jehovah's most precious Son—and for good reason. He is called "the firstborn of all creation," for he was God's first creation. There is something else that makes this Son special. He is the "only-begotten Son." This means that Jesus is the only one directly created by God." *[They identify Him with Michael the archangel, "it is logical to conclude that Michael is none other than Jesus Christ in his heavenly role"]*

Nevertheless, they recognise "Jesus as the greatest Witness of all, inferior to no one except Jehovah Himself. Before existing as a human being, Jesus was a spiritual creature called the Logos, or Word, or even Michael the Archangel. He died as a man and was raised as an immortal Spirit-Son. His passion and death were the price He paid to regain for mankind the right to live eternally on earth." (These teachings echo Arianism which the early Church condemned beginning at the council of Nicea in 325, - Arianism is the belief Jesus is the Son of God who was begotten by God the Father at a point in time, is distinct from the Father and is subordinate to the Father ... thus denying the Trinity).

So, Jesus is not God ... and neither is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is simply "God's power in action, his active force ... the holy spirit is not a person".

But, what does the Bible say? What does the Bible teach about the Trinity?

The Trinity is one God existing in three Persons ... and it in no way suggests three separate gods. While the term 'trinity' occurs nowhere in Scripture, it is a term used to attempt to describe the triune God, - three coexistent, co-eternal, co-equal Persons ... and thus, the Biblical concept of the Trinity.

Firstly, the Bible teaches there is only one God, **Dt. 6:4** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one Lord ... **Is. 45:5** I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me ... **4** there is none other God but one ... **Gal. 3:20** Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one ... **I Tim. 2:5** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ...

Baptist Confession, The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but himself; a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, every way infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty. (1 Corinthians 8:4, 6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 48:12; Exodus 3:14; John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 4:15, 16; Malachi 3:6; 1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23; Psalms 90:2; Genesis 17:1; Isaiah 6:3; Psalms 115:3; Isaiah 46:10; Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36; Exodus 34:6, 7; Hebrews 11:6; Nehemiah 9:32, 33; Psalms 5:5, 6; Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1:2, 3.)

Secondly, the Trinity consists of three Persons, **Gen. 1:1** In the beginning God [*Elohim ... plural*] created the heaven and the earth ... **26** And God said, , Let *us* make man in *our* image, after *our* likeness ... **3:22** And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil ... **11:7** Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language ... **Is. 6:8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me ... **Is. 48:16** Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me ... **61:1** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me [*compare with* **Lk. 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. **17** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **19** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord/ ... **Mt. 3:16** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: **17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. ... **28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost ... **II Cor. 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all ... three distinct Persons in the Trinity. ...

Baptist Confession, God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; he is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and he hath most sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth; in his sight all things are open and manifest, his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent or uncertain; he is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands; to him is due from angels and men, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience, as creatures they owe unto the Creator, and whatever he is further pleased to require of them. (John 5:26; Psalms 148:13; Psalms 119:68; Job 22:2, 3; Romans 11:34-36; Daniel 4:25, 34, 35; Hebrews 4:13; Ezekiel 11:5; Acts 15:18; Psalms 145:17; Revelation 5:12-14)

Thirdly, each member of the Trinity is distinguished from the other ... For example, the Father and the Son, **Ps. 2:7** I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. The Holy Spirit is distinguished from the Father, **Num. 27:18** And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him, and the Father is distinguished from the Son, **Ps. 45:6** Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. **7** Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows ... **Heb. 1:8** But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. **9** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Also, in the New Testament, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit, **Jn. 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ... This is the same Holy Spirit referred to by the Psalmist, **Ps. 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. **12** Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Therefore, Jesus did not consider Himself to be either the Father or the Holy Spirit ... and yet, **Jn. 10:30** I and my Father are one ... **Jn. 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, *I am* ... If He was not one with the Father, - in the Trinity, - was Jesus speaking to Himself on all those occasions when He spoke to His Father!

... No, of course He was not ... for the Second Person of the Trinity was speaking to the First Person of the Trinity ... co-equal, co-eternal, co-existent.

... The Father is made of none, - neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father, - neither made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, - neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

They are not somehow *merged* into each three, but three separate and distinct Persons in One. ...

The Baptist Confession, In this divine and infinite Being there are three substances, the Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided: the Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore but one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties and personal relations; which doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence on him. (1 John 5:7; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Exodus 3:14; John 14:11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 1:14,18; John 15:26; Galatians 4:6).

Fourthly, there is subordination within the Trinity. Scripture shows the Holy Spirit is subordinate to the Father and the Son, and the Son is subordinate to the Father. This is an internal relationship which does not deny or weaken the deity of any Person of the Trinity. This is an area which our finite minds struggle to comprehend, because of its limitations to understand the infinite God ... and the only means by which we can accept this truth is by the convincing power of the Holy Spirit, - He has shown it to us, **Job 42:3** *Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.*

This 'submission' is seen in relation to the Son, **Lk. 22:42** *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done ...* **Jn. 5:36** *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me ...* **21** *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you ...* **I Jn. 4:14** *And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. ...*

This ‘submission’ is also seen in relation to the Holy Spirit, **Jn. 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever ... **26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you ... **15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me ... **16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you ... **13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Fifthly, the individual members of the Trinity are tasked with different responsibilities. For example, the Father is the ultimate source or cause of the universe, **I Cor. 8:6** But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him ...

The Father is also the fountain of Divine revelation (**Rev. 1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass), and salvation (**Jn. 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.) And it was the Father Who directed the earthly work of Jesus, **Jn. 5:17** But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work ... **14:10** Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

The Son, therefore, is the agent through whom the Father works ... for example, **Jn. 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... **Col. 1:16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

The Son is also the revelation of God, **Jn. 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth ... **Mt. 11:27** All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. ...

And through the Holy Spirit the Father created and maintains the universe, **Job 26:13** By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent ... **Ps. 104:30** Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. ... The Holy Spirit also reveals the Father and the Son, **Eph. 3:5** Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit ... **II Peter 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Through Him, God reveals salvation, **Jn. 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit ... **Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

No wonder, - when men try to present such profound doctrines to explain God, - their attempts fail miserably because the concept of the infinite God extends beyond anything the human mind can capture. Instead, the stance of the born-again believer is simply this, **Ps. 118:23** This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. ... And we, by the faith given to us by the Holy Spirit, accept what the Word declares, without injecting it with our own imagination. What God reveals, by the Holy Spirit, we receive ... and when we receive it, it becomes clearer to our understanding.

The Jehovah Witnesses, though, deny the Holy Spirit as their Teacher, which means they fall back on constructing their own false doctrines and notions. They have nothing more to work with than the only means at their disposal, - the fallen and depraved sinful mind ... And out of their error, they produce a 'gospel' not of the Bible ... and since it is not of the Word of God, it is contrary to the work of God. Their 'Jehovah' is not the God of the Old and New Testaments for they irrefutably deny the Deity of Jesus and the Deity of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the 'building blocks' of their whole doctrinal edifice is fallible and corrupt.

Sadly, many Jehovah's Witnesses came out of traditional churches because what they were hearing was not answering their questions. ... Pray for them. When they come to your door, don't argue with them. Instead, use it as an opportunity to simply tell them how you came to know God through His Son Jesus Christ, Who came to die for you on Calvary. ... And tell them about how you have the assurance that when you leave this world, you will be with Him

forever. ... No arguing. No heated words. No trying to ‘get one over’ ... Just simply tell them how the Lord saved you, and trust the Lord can do the same for them too.

SECTION II

We now turn to consider the first of our two remaining issues ... The doctrine of Scripture.

The Jehovah Witnesses have their own version of the Bible. It is known as the *New World Translation*, and it is based upon the ‘Eclectic Texts’ (i.e. texts which are drawn from multiple manuscripts, rather than from one single manuscript such as the *Masoretic Text* and the *Received Text, or Textus Receptus*). In the *Watchtower Online Library*, *The New World Translation* is described as ... “A translation of the Holy Scriptures made directly from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into modern-day English by a committee of anointed witnesses of Jehovah ... The translators of this work, who fear and love the Divine Author of the Holy Scriptures, feel toward Him a special responsibility to transmit his thoughts and declarations as accurately as possible. ... This translation was originally released in sections, from 1950 to 1960. Editions in other languages have been based on the English translation.”

The New World Translation is a thoroughly, systematic attempt at producing a complete version of the Bible edited and revised for the specific purpose of presenting the doctrines of the Jehovah Witnesses, thus modifying Scripture to conform to their beliefs. Since its original production, the *New World Translation* has been ‘revised’ to accommodate initial inaccuracies which lay open to scholarly criticism, particularly from evangelical Christians.

We shall mention only a few examples of this version’s blatant inaccuracies.

As early as the second verse of Scripture, their error is introduced, “^{Gen. 1:2} Now the earth was formless and desolate, and there was darkness upon the surface of the watery deep, and *God’s active force* was moving about over the surface of the waters”. (Quotations are taken from *The New World Translation, 2013 Revision*, <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/bible/nwt/books/genesis/1/>)

Since the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe the Holy Spirit is God (*ruach elohim*), - they do not believe He is the Third Person of the Trinity because they do not accept the doctrine of the Trinity, - but they believe this term merely describes "God's active force". Therefore, they altered the correct translation of ... *the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters* to ... "God's active force was moving about over the surface of the waters."

We find another example of their mistranslation in **Zech. 12:10** *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced ...* However, *The New World Translation* changes it, "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of favour and supplication, and they will look to *the one* whom they pierced".

In this verse God is speaking about Himself ("me") in reference to how they will look upon *Him* when they nail Him to the cross, *they shall look upon me whom they have pierced ...* This is a clear prophecy relating to how the Son of God, - Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, - will be crucified. Yet, without any textual warrant, the Jehovah's Witnesses make it to comply with their doctrine that Jesus is not God, for they change the word 'me' to 'the one', - "they will look to *the one* whom they pierced". They deliberately disembowel the text!

One of the best known of the many errors in their translation is in the opening verse of John's Gospel. Our Bible correctly translates it, **Jn. 1:1** *In the beginning [obviously relating to Gen. 1:1] was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* Not so, however, *The New World Translation*, which translates it, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." Very simply, this is how totally inaccurate the "committee of anointed witnesses of Jehovah" translated this verse, - a first-year student of Greek could not mistranslate this verse, as these self-proclaimed 'anointed witnesses' have obviously done!

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος ... Ἐν [*in*, preposition (a word governing, and usually preceding a noun, or a pronoun, and expressing a relationship to another word of element in the clause) dative (a word associated with a noun or pronoun, indicating an indirect object or recipient)] ἀρχῇ [*a beginning*, noun, dative, feminine singular] ἦν [*was*, verb indicative imperfect active 3rd person singular from εἶμι] ὁ [*the*, definite article nominative masculine singular] λόγος [*word*, noun

nominative masculine singular], καὶ [*'and', conjunction*] ὁ [*'the', definite article nominative masculine singular*] λόγος [*'word', noun nominative masculine singular*] ἦν [*'was', verb indicative imperfect active 3rd person singular from εἶμι*] πρὸς [*'to', 'towards', 'with', preposition, with the accusative*] τὸν [*definite article accusative masculine singular from ὁ*] θεόν [*'God', noun accusative masculine singular common from θεός*], καὶ [*'and', conjunction*] θεὸς [*'God', noun nominative masculine singular from θεός*] ἦν [*'was', verb indicative imperfect active 3rd person singular from εἶμι*] ὁ [*'the', definite article nominative masculine singular*] λόγος [*'word', noun nominative masculine singular*].

They point out θεὸς does not have a definite article, therefore it should be translated 'a' god, and has no reference to Jehovah. For it to be Jehovah-God, they say, it would need to have a ὁ θεός. However, they say, the word for Word *does* have a definite article, ὁ λόγος ... so ... θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος ... refers to the Word, - Jesus, - not being on a par, - equal, - with God.

Actually, their distortion is an added complication for them because if they believe the Word, - i.e. Jesus, - is 'a god' (... and not Jehovah/God), then they stand accused of worshipping more than one God, - at least, two! They try to dodge the issue by relating the term 'god' back to Michael the archangel by referring to him as the Jesus in the Old Testament who was 'mighty', whereas Jehovah is 'almighty'. ...

Usually, the first Biblical passage Greek students study are the opening ten chapters of the Gospel of John, so therefore, these verses in chapter one were the first we studied so carefully, along with the linguistic principles of analytical exegesis. Should you wish to examine the Greek for yourself, - more carefully, and in your own time, - an excellent aid is available at <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/hac/john-1.html>. It explains very thoroughly the Greek grammatical constructions the Jehovah Witnesses ignore, - or possibly, are unaware of, - in their attempts to distort the Scriptures to 'prove' their false doctrines!

Another passage they regularly use is from Colossians in relation to the Godhood of the Lord Jesus in Colossians, where our Bible reads, **Col. 1:15** *Who [Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things*

consist. ... To suit Jehovah's Witness doctrine, the *New World Translation* translates it, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 because by means of him all *other* things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, + whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All *other* things have been created through him and for him. 17 Also, he is before all *other* things, and by means of him all *other* things were made to exist."

Without any textual reason, they insert the word 'other' four times. The word 'other' is *not* in the original Greek, and neither is it implied. This is a section where Jesus is described as the creator of all things ... However, since the Jehovah's Witnesses believe Jesus Himself was created (i.e. the 'first-created'), they have inserted the word 'other' to allow for Jesus to have been created before all '*other*' things, thus implying He was created. ... There is absolutely no textual justification!

There are two Greek words for 'other' ... the adjective ἕτερος, meaning 'another', 'of a different kind' ... and, in contrast to ἕτερος is ἄλλος, which means 'another', 'of the *same* kind'. But, *neither* of those two words are used in these verses.

Also, Col. 1:15 refers to Jesus Christ as [the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature](#). Therefore, say the Jehovah Witnesses, - there is the proof He was created since Paul taught Jesus was 'the firstborn' ... which they take to mean He was the first created.

The Greek word Paul used for 'first-created' was the familiar word πρωτότοκος, which derives from πρώτος (first in time or place, first in succession ... a superlative of πρό, before) and τίκτω (to bring forth, to be born ... [Mt. 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus ...](#) τέξεται, verb indicative future middle deponent 3rd person singular from τίκτω). Together, πρωτότοκος means 'firstborn'.

However, it does not carry with it the meaning of 'first created', as the Jehovah's Witnesses allege. Yes, it can legitimately mean the first-born person in a family, - which Jesus was, to Mary, - but it is also used as a title of pre-eminence, for example, [Ps. 89:20 I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him ...](#) ²⁷ [Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.](#)

The psalmist, Maschil of Ethan, the Ezrahite, sang, **Ps. 89:1** I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. ² For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. ³ I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, ⁴ Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. Verse four is, of course referring to II Sam. 7 where God promises King David, **II Sam. 7:12** And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: ¹⁵ But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. ¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. ... That is with reference not to King David, but to King David's successor, whose house and Kingdom will be established forever ... and that is King David's successor, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. ... This is also borne out in the New Testament, **Jn. 7:42** Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? ... **Rom. 1:3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh ... ⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.

... But, the psalmist referred to David as 'the firstborn', **Ps. 89:20** I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him ... ²⁷ Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. ... David's name is merely being used in a symbolic way to look ahead to the Lord Jesus, the 'Son of David', and the establishment of His Kingdom from Jerusalem. Here is how we are justified in understanding it in this way ... How many brothers had David? He had at least seven brothers for Jesse, his father began by presenting his first seven sons to Samuel, before he was reminded to present his eighth son, David ... so David was *not* the firstborn ... and neither is he the firstborn in Ps. 89:27, ... but his name is being used, - **David my servant** in v. 20, - to refer to 'the seed of David ... to Jesus ... and that is the same as how Isaiah described the Lord, **Is. 11:1** And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ... That's Jesus Christ!

But contrary to the evidence, the Jehovah's Witnesses stubbornly insist upon interpreting the word 'firstborn' to mean 'first *created*' because it is consistent with their theological position that Jesus is *not* God, but the first *creation* of God ... Therefore, they say, Jesus is not eternal, as Jehovah is eternal. Jn. 1:1-3, though, makes it abundantly clear Jesus *is* God, and *not* a created being ...

There *is* a Greek word which *does* specifically mean ‘first created’, in the sense the Jehovah’s witnesses would want to apply this word, and it was in use at the time of Paul’s writing to the Colossians. It is the word πρωτοχτισω. Paul, though, did not use it here. Instead, he used πρωτότοκος ... which, beyond any shadow of a doubt indicates the eternity of Jesus Christ as eternal God.

Another illustration of the flagrant textual abuse of the interpreters of the *New World Translation* is in Hebrews chapter one where they translate, “But about the Son, he says: “God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your Kingdom is the scepter of uprightness.” Our Bible translates the same verse, **Heb. 1:8** *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

This is a verse where God the Father is calling Jesus God, *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God ...* and it is a direct quote from Ps. 45, **Ps. 45:6** *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. ...* But not only have the Jehovah’s Witnesses changed the text in Heb. 1:8, they have also changed it in Ps. 45:6 to suit their deception, “God is your throne forever and ever; The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness”.

Indeed, their Bible is a restatement of Satan’s words when he set out to corrupt God’s word in Gen. 3, **1** *And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said ...* And so, not only is *The New World Translation* an extremely poor translation, it is also devious in that the Jehovah’s Witness movement have changed the Bible to make it suit their cunning and deceptive theology.

There are many other verses we could attend to ... For example, they don’t believe Jesus was crucified on a cross, but they believe He died on a stake. They reject the cross and any mention of it.

They don’t believe in Hell. Rather, they believe in ‘conditional immortalism’ or ‘annihilationism’, which teaches Hell is not an eternal conscious punishment for those who die without faith in Christ. For those who die without Christ, they simply remain dead in the grave, and that is the extent of their Hell, their punishment. In their booklet, “You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth”, they say, “Hell could not be a place of torment because such an idea never came into the mind or heart of God. Additionally, to torment a person eternally because he did wrong on earth for a few years is contrary to justice. How good it is to

know the truth about the dead! It can truly set one free from fear and superstition.” ... Hell, they say, is a superstition!

All their teachings emanate from the depravity of their master, the devil. And yet, many of them are not beyond God’s salvation, - God’s grace can save them. *He has saved many former Jehovah’s Witnesses, and He will continue to save many more.* Keep on praying for them. They are not the enemy, but they spread the enemy’s deceptive propaganda.

The final aspect of their teaching we shall look at is in relation to their false doctrines on the end times, and we shall continue our studies in this subject next Thursday evening, in the will of the Lord.

SECTION III

Finally, we come to consider the doctrine of the End Times. On this issue, there have been what they refer to as ‘adjustments’ due to ‘new light’ or ‘new understanding’. These alterations have been given by God through the seven (at the moment) ‘anointed witnesses’ who are the members of the executive Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses. This Governing Body, based in New York, formulate doctrine, and oversee and administer the worldwide operations of the movement. They are considered *the* hierarchy ... the only visible channel by which God communicates with humanity.

The Jehovah Witnesses teach that following the death of the apostles, the Church entered a “Great Apostasy”, a falling away from the original true teachings of Jesus. This apostasy has permeated into every religious grouping, denomination, and religion. It is the apostasy, they say, Jesus and the Apostles (Peter, James, John, Paul ... and also Jude) announced would come.

[... Biblically, though, the great apostasy the Lord Jesus and the Apostolic writers addressed referred to the falling away near the end of the age, and not at the beginning, Mt. 24:4ff.]

Nevertheless, the Jehovah’s Witnesses insist the Great Apostasy began following the death of the apostles, at the conclusion of the first century. This, they believe, precipitated the emergence of false doctrines and heresies such as the Trinity, Sunday observance, the Holy Spirit, and many others. Consequently, they identify every other religion and belief system as part of

‘Babylon the Great’, ‘a world empire of false religion’ (Rev. 18:2-24) ... under the control of Satan.

The founder of the movement [*known originally as the Bible Study Movement*], Charles Taze Russell, began a process of ‘restoration’ to original apostolic Christianity. He was born into a Scottish-Irish Presbyterian family, and when he was thirteen years old, he joined the Congregationalists. When he was sixteen he began to investigate other religions, but concluded they were not answering the questions he was asking. At the age of eighteen he heard an Adventist minister preach. This was a group started by a deviant Baptist preacher, William Miller [*Millerites*], who in September 1822 calculated the Second Advent would occur in 1843-1844. His calculations influenced the Adventists, the Seventh-Day Adventists, and the Jehovah’s Witnesses (... and also the Bahai’s). He taught such spurious doctrines as ‘soul sleep’, annihilationism, and a variant form of the end times. This appealed to Russell, and he adopted aspects of Miller’s teaching and developed his own doctrine on the end times.

He taught Satan was originally a perfect angel who developed a craving to be worshipped, in the place of God. He succeeded in persuading Adam and Eve to obey him. When God discovered this treachery, instead of destroying Satan, He decided to test the loyalty of the rest of mankind and to prove to creation Satan was a liar. [*... There is no understanding of the Sovereignty of God ...*] Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Satan is God’s arch-adversary, and the invisible ruler of the world. They also believe demons were originally angels who rebelled against God, and sided with Satan in the ‘controversy’.

Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe Satan lives in Hell or that he has been given responsibility to punish the wicked, - they don’t believe Hell is a real place. They teach Satan and his demons were cast out of heaven and down to the earth in 1914 [*i.e. Miller’s influence*], marking the beginning of the ‘last days’. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Satan and his demons are presently busy in every corner of the world influencing individuals, organizations and nations, and that Satan and his demons are the cause of human misery and suffering.

Outside of and beyond this earth, their publications describe how God’s Kingdom, - established in Heaven, in 1914, - is a literal government, ruled by Jesus, and assisted by 144,000 specially-chosen ‘spirit creatures’, - most of whom (by now) are in Heaven [*They relate this to Rev. 14, 1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven,*

as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: ³ And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb]. This kingdom is the means, - they believe, - by which God will accomplish His original purpose for the earth, ultimately transforming it into a paradise. [... *The 'ordinary' Jehovah Witness who comes to our doors has no such confidence, for since they do not belong to the 144,400 privileged 'spirit creatures'/individuals, they have to wait and see how the future judgment of Christ assesses their good works, so as to be allowed to populate the earth at the end of time paradise.*]

The Jehovah's Witnesses understand the words of Jesus in John 3:3 (Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God) to be referring to the 144,000 who are 'born again'/'anointed' as sons of God in heaven. Similarly, the 'Israel of God' in Gal. 6:16, the 'little flock' in Lk. 12:32), and 'the bride, the Lamb's wife' in Rev. 21:9 are all referring to the 'anointed' 144,000.

The remainder of the Jehovah Witnesses, - those who are not included in the 144,000 [*the 'ordinary' Jehovah's witnesses we would meet*], comprise the 'other sheep' Jesus referred to in Jn. 10:16, *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold [i.e. for the Jehovah's Witnesses, the 144,000]: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.* When finally resurrected and judged favourably, these 'other sheep' will live forever in a paradise earth ... whereas everyone else, - all unbelievers [*including us*], - will not be raised from the dead, but will remain dead forever ('conditional immortalism'). Hell is not a reality for them, - there is no such understanding. [*However, Jehovah's Witnesses contradict themselves for they also believe in a time of judgment for all non-believers, lasting for one thousand years ... so are the unbelievers 'annihilated', or are they not?!]*]

According to them, Jesus was initially understood to come into this world and reign as king over the whole earth in October 1914. It did not happen though, as they described, so they *adjusted* their doctrine to mean Jesus began to reign *in Heaven* as king in October 1914 ... and that is also when Satan was ousted from Heaven to the earth, to introduce a period of 'woe' to mankind. ... [*Had*

there not been a period of ‘woe’ before – allegedly – Satan was cast down into the earth – allegedly – in 1914?’]

There is a myriad of publications presented to substantiate their claims. For example, the first of them was printed on 1st July 1879 by Charles Taze Russell under the title *Zion’s Watch Tower and Herald of Christ’s Presence*. According to its first issue, the magazine’s purpose was to draw attention to Russell’s belief that people of the time were literally “living ‘in the last days’, ‘the day of the Lord’, ‘the end’ of the Gospel age,” and that “the dawn of the ‘new’ age are facts not only discernible by the close student of the Word, led by the spirit, but the outward signs recognizable by the world bear the same testimony” (p.3 of the first addition. The first addition can be accessed online at https://archive.org/stream/1879ZionsWatchTower/1879_Watch_Tower#page/n141/mode/2up/search/1914)

In this 1879 edition of the Jehovah’s Witness *Zion’s Watch Tower*, in a chapter entitled “The Building of Zion”, Russell writes, “When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. Ps. 102:16. ... We believe such prophecies apply primarily to the building up of the old Jerusalem, by restoration, and in a higher sense, to the building up of the New Jerusalem by glorification, and that both will be accomplished in one and the same day, i.e. ‘the day of wrath’, or the 37 years on which we have entered reaching to A.D. 1914.” [*This was a specific prophecy, using calculations from the first Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem, 605 BC.*]

Similarly, in the 1908 edition he wrote, “To our understanding of the Bible, as set forth in the volumes of *Scripture Studies*, this harvest work [*using the symbolism of the wheat and the tares in Mt. 13*] has been in progress since October, 1874, and will be completed within forty years - by October, 1914. Within that time we fully expect that all the wheat will be gathered into the garner, glorified, and that the tares will be gathered into bundles, if indeed by that time their burning will not have commenced.” (p.4, http://www.strictlygenteel.co.uk/watchtower/1908_Zion%27s_Watch_Tower.pdf) ... [*Mt. 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers,*

Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.]

Other supportive statements were regularly produced, for example ...

- “We need not here repeat the evidences that the seventh trump began its sounding in 1840 and will continue until the end of the time of trouble, and the end of the times of the Gentiles in 1914.” (*Zion’s Watchtower*, November 1880, page 1)
- “... the full end of the times of the Gentiles, i.e., the full end of their lease of dominion, will be reached in 1914 ... at that date the Kingdom of God ... will obtain full, universal control ... and it will then be set up, or firmly established, in the earth on the ruins of the present institutions.” (*The Time is at Hand*, 1888, pp. 76-77)
- “... the setting up of the Kingdom of God has already begun... and the battle of the great day of God Almighty (Rev. 16:14)) which will end in 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership, is already commenced. Remember that ... the Gospel age harvest will end October, 1914, and that likewise the overthrow of ‘Christendom,’ so-called, must be expected to immediately follow.” (*Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 2, 1889, pp. 101 and 245)
- “We see no reason for changing the figures — nor would we change them if we could. They are, we believe, God’s dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date of the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble.” (*Watchtower*, July 15, 1894, p. 266)
- “Complete destruction of ‘the powers that be’ of ‘this present evil world’ — political, financial, ecclesiastical — [will occur] about the close of the ‘time of the Gentiles’ in October 1914.” (*Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 4, 1897, p. 622)
- ... “In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished by the end of 1914.” (*The Time is at Hand*, 1902 edition, p. 99 ... this same statement was also contained in the 1908 edition of the same book).
- “According to our expectations, the stress of the great time of trouble will be on us soon, somewhere between 1910 and 1912, culminating with the end of the ‘Times of the Gentiles’ in 1914.” (*Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 6, 1904, p. 579).

(These, and many more, can be accessed in pdf format on <https://archive.org/details/studiesinscript01russgoog>)

Jehovah's Witnesses base their calculations on their understanding of when Jerusalem was destroyed. Jerusalem *was* completely destroyed in 586 BC, but they incorrectly begin their calculations at the first wave in 607 BC, when they say Nebuchadnezzar initially attacked the city [*actually it was 605 BC ... and it was completely destroyed nineteen years later!*]. They believe Daniel chapter four prophesied a period of 2,520 years starting with 607 BCE and ending at 1914 AD. They equate this period with the "Times of the Gentiles" or "the appointed times of the nations" which Jesus referred to in Lk. 21:24, [Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.](#)

Once again, their historical inaccuracies pervade their teachings for they believe that when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, the line of kings descending from David was interrupted. It was not though, because the kings of Judah continued into captivity in Babylon [*i.e. Jeconiah and Zedekiah*]. This, the Jehovah's Witnesses taught, was how God's throne was "[trodden down of the Gentiles](#)" from then (607 BC) until Jesus allegedly began ruling in October 1914 (... which they believe was prophesied in Dan. 4).

They are convinced their doctrine of Christ's reign since 1914 has been confirmed by world events, including wars, famine, earthquakes and increasing lawlessness. They believe their preaching is also part of that sign, for they believe they are uniquely fulfilling the prophecy in Mt 24:14, [And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.](#) ... In other words, *they alone* are preaching the true Gospel ... for the end is frighteningly imminent.

They teach that since 1918, Jesus has resurrected the 144,000 (the 'anointed') and they are presently serving as kings alongside Him in His heavenly government.

The current world era, or 'system of things', is in the last of its 'last days' for destruction by God and Jesus Christ is impending. When this forthcoming destruction arrives, only those who worship God acceptably, i.e. the Jehovah Witnesses, will be delivered and saved. Joseph Rutherford, - who succeeded Russell, - taught that under the supervision of Jesus and the 144,000, this judgment of the apostate nations will be perpetrated by the League of Nations/United Nations, i.e. 'Babylon the Great' (Rev. 17), a counterfeit of God's Kingdom ... and this will mark the beginning of the 'great tribulation', which will result in the United Nations turning against the Jehovah's Witnesses.

... [Israel has no place in Jehovah's Witness eschatology for they believe national Israel has been replaced by 'spiritual' Israel, ... "In the year 33 C.E., the fleshly nation of Israel lost its claim to be God's chosen nation when it rejected Jehovah's Son, the Messiah," (<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/wp20101101/bible-prophecy-modern-state-israel/>)]

Through the apostate 'Christian' United Nations, Satan will attack Jehovah's Witnesses, - God's only remaining faithful people, - an action which will instigate the Battle of Armageddon, during which all forms of government and all people not counted as Christ's 'sheep' will be successfully annihilated, i.e. the Jehovah's Witnesses will be triumphant.

After the defeat of Armageddon, Satan will be cast into an abyss and be unable to influence humanity for 1,000 years. During the 1,000 years, God will extend His heavenly kingdom to include the earth, which will be transformed into a paradise similar to the Garden of Eden. Also during this 1,000 years, the majority of those who had died prior to God's intervention will gradually be resurrected to a 'day of judgment' lasting for one thousand years mentioned in Rev. 20. This judgment will be based on their actions after resurrection rather than their past deeds [*... But if the dead unbelievers and apostates were annihilated on death, how can they appear before the judgment throne? ... They have been annihilated, wiped out ... and there is therefore nothing left of them to judge!*]

After the 1,000 years expires, Satan will be released and given a brief period to mislead the perfect remaining Jehovah Witnesses before he will be ultimately destroyed [*... he will not suffer eternally in Hell, - for there is no such place, - but he will be annihilated*].

At the end of the thousand years, the victorious Christ will hand all authority over to God, which will usher in the eternal reign.

Some of these views have undergone developments by the Jehovah's Witnesses when it was realised their prophecies did not turn out as originally issued. They have also been dogged with various divisions and splits because some of the prophecies did not turn out as they had been prophesied. ... When Armageddon did not happen in 1914, in 1920 Russell's successor Rutherford prophesied that 'millions now living will never die'. He also expected the 'princes of old', - Abraham, Isaac, etc. - to return by 1925 as rulers over the New World.

After so many inaccurate and obdurate predictions, the Watch Tower Society during the middle of last century more or less abandoned specifying a date. However, it did, - and does, - continue to repeat how they believe “this generation will by no means pass away until all things occur”. Back in 1942, Nathan Knorr, who succeeded Rutherford as their leader, predicted the world would end in 1974 [*... it did for him ... he died!*]. ... Nevertheless, the darkness of this cult leaves them deeply convinced in their error. Their error has only one destination ... and that is the destination they will share with all exponents of false doctrine for they will discover Hell is a real place after all.

We have, by no means, exhausted the teachings of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. ... But how do you best relate to these dear folks when they knock on your door with their message which they want to put across so sincerely? You do not meet them with arrogance or ungraciousness ... for what kind of a witness to the *true* Lord Jesus Christ is that? It is not a competition to see who can argue best! ... They are convinced of what they are trying to tell you, and they might seem difficult to get across to, but remember, God can open their hearts to believe for He has saved many Jehovah’s Witnesses in the past, and He will continue to save many more.

It can be useful to ask them respectfully whether they know the Lord Jesus Christ for themselves. Use your personal testimony, not to ‘score points’, but to relate what the Saviour has done for you, and what He means to you. As you explain the preciousness of your faith, use simple passages of Scripture to present the crucified yet triumphant Christ Who died for you, and steer away from inviting arguments and discussion. ... It is a Gospel opportunity the Lord has provided you with.

Jehovah’s Witnesses feel obliged to complete a prescribed number of visitation hours each month ... so they are sincere and have good intentions. You can still ask them, - without inviting confrontation, -whether they would reluctantly admit they are trying to earn their own salvation, and whether they do have a personal assurance that if they were to die this very moment ... do they have the assurance God would accept them into His Kingdom.

Their answer to that question is that they do not know, ... and that is the opportunity to offer *them*, - from God’s Word, - the free gift of His grace, by which they *can* be sure.

If you and I present Christ the way we ought to present Him, they will recognise there is something different about us ... something which connects with what we are saying ... their trust can be gained, while God's truth is being brought to light. Obviously, prayer is imperative, since only Christ can save ... and Christ *can* save them because it does not matter what label the sinner works under, - Jehovah's Witness, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Muslim, or whatever, - they are all people who need to be saved.

I recommend a website published by ex-Jehovah Witnesses, *4Jehovah*
(<http://www.4jehovah.org/statement-of-faith/>).

Further excellent information is to be accessed at <https://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses>