

Jehovah's Witnesses:

Ministers of a False Gospel and in need of Evangelization

Mike Sarkissian, Th. M

Everybody knows that Jehovah's Witnesses are identified by going door to door with *Watchtower* and *Awake* magazines. Jehovah's Witnesses are one of the premier cults of our day and age. There are more than 6.5 million Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide and though they definitely have a tremendous zeal that even most Christians do not have, they have no knowledge of the true gospel for they defend a false gospel. In this paper I will present four reasons why we ought to reject Jehovah's Witnesses and consider them as they are: ministers of a false gospel and therefore in need of evangelization.

1. Their History

Jehovah's Witnesses were birthed during a time of cults. They are not as unique as they claim. Many people fail to recognize the history surrounding their origin. They began in the 19th century, which was a spawning ground of the cults and occult. It was a new era of history, for the reign of kings ended and the industrial revolution was happening. With this taking place, people were leaving the local church to the city. This was also the time when religious liberals and secular scholars attacked the Bible vehemently. With brand new weapons of mass destruction people believed that Biblical prophecies speaking of 'wars and rumors of wars' was being fulfilled.¹ On November 13, 1833 the Great Leonid meteor shower hit (there were over 200,000 shooting stars). Many believed that this was the 'signs in the sky' that the Bible spoke about and people believed the world was near its end. With all these things going on, it provided fertile soil for heresies to sprout. If you are familiar with the nineteenth century you know there were a ton of heresies and the Jehovah's Witness heresy was just one of them. Most of the cults we know of and are familiar with were birthed in this so called "Restoration Movement."

These so called 'restorers' all claimed the following:

1. The true church disappeared in the first century.
2. Roman Catholic and all Protestant churches are apostate.
3. The Millennium was going to be ushered in this lifetime.
4. Salvation came through baptism (most groups).
5. Nothing is allowed in the church unless there is a book, chapter and verse for it (i.e. instruments).
6. The historic creeds of Christianity are worthless.

¹ For more on this see Dr. Robert Morey, *The World of the Cults and Occult, How to Recognize and Refute Them*, 7-10.

The facts of history tell us that Jehovah's Witnesses sprang forth from the Campbellite movement that took place in the 19th century. Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Barton Stone, Walter Scott were all part of this movement. They all believed that Alexander Campbell was called by God to restore the true gospel. One Campbellite Evangelist named John Thomas agreed with Alexander Campbell that 1866 was the beginning of Armageddon. Thomas disagreed in a few areas with the Campbellites and left with many starting what would be called the Christadelphians. They said that they ought to throw out the Trinity since it is not a word in the Bible. He then threw out the bodily resurrection of Christ, the personality of the Holy Spirit, salvation by grace through faith, the physical literal Second Coming of Christ and the teaching of an eternal conscious torment in Hell.

A man named Benjamin Wilson followed Thomas and though he never knew Greek published a word for word interlinear translation of the New Testament called *The Emphatic Diaglott*. Wilson introduced Charles Taze Russell in 1852 to these teachings and then the Jehovah's Witnesses were born. Russell founded *Watchtower Magazine* and published his own Bible interpretation. He wrote *Millennial Dawn*, which was re-titled *Studies in the Scripture* in 1886. Russell said, "People cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself. Our experience shows that within two years you will be in darkness. But if you read my book you will be in the light at the end of two years."² Under the second president Rutherford the name Jehovah's Witnesses came about. In 1961 the third president Knorr, mainly with Frederick Franz produced the New World Translation of the Bible.

There is nothing unique in their history, nothing altogether different from the beginning of other cults in this time period. Russell, Campbell, Thomas, all these individuals believed they were in the last days and all made numerous outlandish prophecies to which went unfulfilled. Therefore, the history of the Jehovah's Witnesses demonstrates beyond all shadow of a doubt that they are not unique but just another cult.

2. Their Prophet

Rather than hold to the Word of God as inerrant, infallible, and authoritative in everything it teaches, Jehovah's Witnesses place the Watchtower Society in this position, as their prophet. Their publications take precedence over Holy Scripture. The issue of authority is the second reason to reject Jehovah's Witnesses. The Watchtower is the Jehovah's Witnesses Pope. In July 15, 1960 on page 439 the Watchtower said it "is God's sole collective channel for the flow of biblical truth to men on earth." In *The Watchtower* April 1, 1972, on page 197 they claimed to be the prophet of God and it was not an April Fools joke either.

As the prophetic voice of God they claim that their writings and prophecies must be infallible. Yet, even their own literature says that to prove it one must examine the prophecies made by the Society, (a method that they have used to refute other groups).³

² Charles Taze Russell, *The Watchtower Reprints*, September 15, 1910, 298.

³ *Awake Magazine*, October 8, 1968, 23.

The Watchtower, 1964 page 601 even alludes to false prophecies saying, “They (WTS) have corrected themselves when prophecy revealed their own shortcomings.” Now Deuteronomy 18:20-22 says a false prophecy equals a false prophet. If you claim your organization is prophetic and yet you make numerous false prophecies that is more than just a short coming. Some Jehovah’s Witnesses say that the organization is still learning and that is why there were false prophecies. If that is the case than how can anyone trust what they are taught by the Watchtower? A true prophet of God won't err in prophesying. The Watchtower claims to be a prophet of God, but is really a false prophet.

It is a fact that Charles Taze Russell has made countless bizarre claims. In the late 1870s he taught that 1874 was the beginning of Christ's invisible presence. Supposedly Jesus began his invisible reign in 1878, and 1881 was the last chance to be part of the "anointed" class of Christians. In 1889 Russell stated on page 101 of *The Time Is At Hand*, 1889 Ed., “the battle of Armageddon would end in 1914.”⁴ When 1914 failed, they pushed the date for Armageddon to 1915. Why and how would he come up with these dates? Russell, like many other mystics and religious mavericks in his day were fascinated with the Great Pyramid in Egypt. It was the measurements of the internal passageways of the Great Pyramid that led him to the year 1914.⁵ He was involved in divination.

As a matter of fact, Jehovah’s Witnesses believed that the pyramid was inspired on the same level as the Bible. If you look at old Watchtower magazines and Russell’s books they had pyramids and winged disks on them just like other occult literature. The Watchtower called the pyramid “God’s Stone Witness” and “prophet”⁶ and claimed: “Its wonderful correspondences with the Bible leave **no room for doubt** that the same divine inspirer of the prophets and apostles inspired this ‘Witness’ also.”⁷

The Watchtower Society was also involved in astrology as well. In a 1903 magazine it read, “when Uranus and Jupiter meet in the humane sign of Aquarius in 1914, the long-promised era will have made a fair start in the work of setting man free to work out his own salvation.”⁸

Even when Russell died in 1916, the Watchtower through their second president Joseph Rutherford continued this practice of divination. They began predicting that 1918 was when God would destroy “the churches wholesale and the church members by

⁴ Interestingly enough the 1915 edition of this text changed “A.D. 1914” to read “A.D. 1915.” This can be seen when comparing page 81 of the 1908 edition and page 81 of the 1915 edition of *Studies in the Scriptures* Vol. 2.

⁵ This was found in “*Thy Kingdom Come*,” volume 3 in *Studies in the Scriptures*. Brooklyn. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1891, p. 313ff, 1903 ed. In the 1897 edition of *Studies in the Scriptures: Thy Kingdom Come*, Series III, p. 342, Russell declared, “...this measurement is 3416 inches, symbolizing 3416 years.... This calculation shows A.D. 1874 as marking the beginning of the period of trouble....” The 1916 edition of *Studies in the Scriptures* was changed to read: “We find it to be 3457 inches, symbolizing 3457 years.... Thus the Pyramid witnesses that the close of 1914 will be the beginning of the time of trouble....”

⁶ *Studies in the Scriptures: Thy Kingdom Come*: Vol.3 1903 ed. 313; 1891 and 1905 ed. 17.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 362.

⁸ *The Watchtower Reprints*, May 1, 1903, 130-131, 3184.

millions...any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of 'Christianity.'⁹ After that date came and went the Watchtower said that Armageddon would come around 1925 "because it is fixed by the law God gave to Israel"¹⁰ and "we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob..."¹¹

In a June, 15, 1922 Watchtower magazine they wrote, "In the passages of the great pyramid of Gizeh the agreement of one or two measurements with present truth chronology might be accidental, but the correspondency of dozens of measurements proves the same God designed both pyramid and plan..."¹² They also wrote, "The great pyramid of Egypt, standing as a silent and inanimate witness of the Lord, is a messenger; and its testimony speaks with great eloquence concerning the divine plan."¹³ They were hooked on this occult Pyramid thing and only in 1928 did the Watchtower stop using the Great Pyramid. Rutherford denounced the Pyramid and all who follow the pyramid as "false science and not following after Christ."¹⁴ They could have taken responsibility for the false teachings, but instead they blamed the witnesses for believing it. The Society declared, "Those who have devoted themselves to the pyramid... the mind of such were turned away from Jehovah and his word."¹⁵ If they believe that those who devote themselves to the pyramid had minds turned away from Jehovah than why do they follow many of the teachings of Pastor Russell? Was not he a pagan?

Around 1930 they quietly dropped all mention of Christ's invisible presence in 1874 and began to teach that 1914 was the date of Christ's invisible presence and enthronement. In 1935 Rutherford began teaching that he had received "new light" from God and that 1935 (not 1881 as Russell taught) marked the last chance to be part of the elect class of "anointed" Christians. After 1935 one could only become part of the "Great Crowd" (which was an inferior group of Christians).

In 1968 they began getting their followers hyped up again and said 1975 was when Armageddon would occur (499). In May 1974, as people were selling all their property expecting 1975 to be the end, the Watchtower praised them for doing so.¹⁶

Russell said that "new light never extinguishes older light."¹⁷ However, in numerous articles dating from 1879 to 1989 they have flip-flopped regarding whether or not the men of Sodom would be resurrected. *The Watchtower* of July 1879 says, "the Sodomites will be resurrected" (8). *The Watchtower* of June 1952 says, "the men of Sodom will not

⁹ *The Finished Mystery*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1917, 485.

¹⁰ *The Watchtower*, July 15, 1924, 211.

¹¹ Rutherford, J.F. *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, February 24, 1918. 89. In an October, 1984 Watchtower magazine, on page 24 it was said that after 1925 came and went Rutherford privately admitted "I made an ass of myself."

¹² Watchtower, June 15, 1922, 187.

¹³ Watchtower, May 15, 1925, 148.

¹⁴ Watchtower, November 15, 1928, 341.

¹⁵ Watchtower, November 15, 1928, 344.

¹⁶ *Kingdom Ministry: How are You Using Your Life?* May 1, 1974, 3.

¹⁷ *Watchtower Reprints IV*, February 1881, 188.

be resurrected” (338). *The Watchtower* of August 1965 says, “the men of Sodom will be resurrected” (479). *The Watchtower* of June 1988 says, “men of Sodom will not be resurrected” (31). Which is it?

The Watchtower said the book of Ruth was “not prophetic” in 1902.¹⁸ However, in 1932 they changed their minds and said it was “prophetic.”¹⁹ There are tons of embarrassing prophecies and date settings of the Watchtower. They even wrote that ““Man cannot by airplane or rockets or other means get above the air envelope which is about our earthly globe....”²⁰

Going back to their own writings, *A Prophet was Among Them*, it is easy to say that the Watchtower acts as a prophet. However when we use their own criteria to validate their claims, and review their record as they say we ought to, we find that the Watchtower organization is a false prophet. There is no way that this so called prophetic organization can be directed by God’s Holy Spirit as they say.²¹ Jesus warned us by saying, "For false Christ’s and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect -- if that were possible" (Matt. 24:24). This is common with cults and is a reason why they won’t even look at literature that does not come from the Watchtower. If they were true to their own teachings they would reject Russell’s teachings and admit they were founded by a pagan. This cultic organization is infamous for numerous false prophecies and does not meet the Biblical criteria of a prophet and therefore cannot be “God’s true witnesses.”

3. Their Hermeneutic

Hermeneutics is the art and science of interpreting the Bible. It must be said that most of their interpretations have nothing to do with the grammar or context of the passage. They twist the Scripture up like a pretzel and are so good at it they deserve a Mary Lou Retton Award for the gymnastics they perform. The following is a classic front door argument presented by a seasoned Jehovah’s Witness to argue for his or her position.

Jesus is not God but is Michael the archangel, the first and greatest creation of God. Revelation 3:14 says Jesus is “the beginning of the creation of God.” Therefore, He can’t be the Creator. Hebrews one is used to say Jehovah is only the Father and He created through Jesus. In John 14:28 Jesus said His father was greater than Him so He can’t be equal with God. Philippians 2 says He knew his position. He was chief of the angels, and his name was Michael. This is who is being talked about in Proverbs 8:22 where we read “Jehovah possessed me in the beginning.” 1 Corinthians one tells us that Christ is the power and wisdom of God. Colossians 1:15 says Jesus is the image of the invisible God the firstborn of all creation. If He is the firstborn, then He is a creature. Jesus is the firstborn son of Mary. Jesus always prayed to God. Moreover, John 5:26 says, “as the

¹⁸ *The Watchtower Reprints*, November 15, 1902, 3110.

¹⁹ J.F Rutherford, *Preservation* (Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1932), 169.

²⁰ *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, (Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1943 ed), 285.

²¹ *The Watchtower*, July 1, 1973, 402.

father has life in himself, so he has given the son to have life in himself.” So the Son gets his life from the Father. This is why Jesus cannot be God. He did not know the day or the hour, but Jehovah knows all these things. So Jesus could not have been God. He was just a man who became willing to serve Jehovah, according to Philippians 2. Now John 1:1 says Jesus was divine. He was “a god.” He is begotten by the Father (John 1:18). He can be called “a god” because even the judges of Israel were called “gods” (John 10).

This is not a straw man case for the Jehovah’s Witnesses but a very accurate interpretation of what they teach. As they come to this conclusion from the Scripture not only do they violate all the laws of exegesis and interpretation but they depend upon the same old out of date arguments from the nineteenth century. I believe Dr. Walter Martin is the one who asked the question, whether anyone at the Brooklyn headquarters has read anything from the twentieth century? We will now refute this argument Biblically.

What does Revelation 3:14 say? It states that Jesus is “the beginning of the creation of God” (KJV). The *New International Version* (NIV) translates the text much better saying, “the ruler of God’s creation.” The Greek word in dispute is η αρχη and can be rendered “source or origin.” Jehovah’s Witnesses state this means Jesus was the first thing created. If that was true than when they interpret Revelation 22:13 they would also have to say Jehovah is a created being as well, for the text reads:

I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
ἐγὼ τὸ ἄλφα καὶ τὸ ὦ, ὁ πρῶτος καὶ ὁ ἔσχατος, ἡ ἀρχὴ καὶ τὸ τέλος (Rev. 22:13).

Of course they will not say that Jehovah is a created being. Yet, they have to admit that *arche* ἀρχή can mean ‘origin’ or ‘source’ for even in their own New World Translation edition (NWT) in 1950 they translated John 1:1 “Originally the Word was.” If Jesus is the ‘source’ or ‘origin’ than He is not the first thing created. The inconsistency in translation is evident in their current New World Translation as well.

They also use Hebrews chapter one to prove that Jehovah created through Jesus. Yet, even the New World Translation does a decent job translating the first few verses. In butchering many other passages they could have butchered this one to take away the implications of the Son. The Son is the “exact representation of his very being” (NWT). The literal Greek here says, “He is the radiant outshining of God’s glory and the character stamp of His very nature.” They cannot escape this passage. The Son of God is the “exact representation” of the nature of the Father ὃς ὢν ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης καὶ χαρακτήρ τῆς ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ (Heb. 1:3a).

It would be illogical to say that Jesus who is the image imprinted by Jehovah’s nature is not the nature of Jehovah. There is not one example of any created being declared as the very essence or substance of God besides the Son. This corresponds with Colossians 2:9, “for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ κατοικεῖ πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς θεότητος σωματικῶς.

Even Thayer, the Unitarian Greek scholar stated that *theotetos* θεότητος, “Godhead” is the state of being God!²² Moreover, *The Emphatic Diaglott* translates this word as “deity.” Though this is true, the *New World Translation* erroneously translates it “divine quality,” and therefore robs Christ of his true deity, demonstrating no academic integrity whatsoever. Even to this day, no reputable Greek scholar has ever validated the Jehovah’s Witness translation whatsoever. This could be the real reason why the *New World Translation* translators did not want their names to go public.

But why then does Jesus say His Father is greater than Him? The statement in John 14:28 “for My Father is greater than I” ὅτι ὁ πατήρ μείζων μου ἐστίν in no way diminishes the equality of the Son to the Father. Jesus says the Father is “greater” μείζων *meizon*. This term is used to compare position not nature. If it were to compare nature, the word κρείττων *kreiton* would have been used as in Hebrews 1:4. In Hebrews, the author compared Jesus to the angels and wrote that He:

having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent
τοσοῦτῳ κρείττων γενόμενος τῶν ἀγγέλων ὅσῳ διαφορώτερον παρ’ αὐτοῦς
κεκληρονόμηκεν ὄνομα. (Heb. 1:4).

Even the *New World Translation* gets it right at this point saying Jesus is better than the angels. No doubt He is better because He created them! Furthermore, it is by His very nature He is better. The Father is greater in regards to His office in a similar sense the fact that the President is greater than us by virtue of his office. He is not better than us. If he said he was better than us everyone would know he is talking about natures. The Father is greater than the Son in regards to His office because the Son laid down the independent exercise of his attributes.

This is what Philippians 2:6-7 says that Christ “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men” (NKJV). The NIV says of verse 6, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.” The *New World Translation* says “who although he was existing in God’s form gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God.” Of course, he gave no consideration to seize or grasp after anything for you cannot seize what is already yours by inheritance. Hebrews 1:4 states, “having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” His name is more excellent than the angels, which is why He is to be worshipped in Hebrew 1:6, “Let all of God’s angels worship Him” λέγει· καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ.

The *New World Translation* translates the Greek word *proskuneo* not as “worship” but as “obeisance.” Fifty-five times in the *Watchtower Kingdom Interlinear* the word *proskuneo* is used and every time they translate it as worship except when pertaining to

²² Joseph Henry Thayer, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1981), 288.

Jesus. Yet, in the 1950, 1961, and 1970 editions it was translated as “worship.” Not until 1971 did they change it to the obscure unknown word obeisance. John 5:23 says that “all should honor the Son even as they honor the Father.” The Watchtower is now in a bind, because they do not honor the Son, but they dishonor Him and strip Him of His rightful office.

If we merely stay in the context of Philippians 2 we end up reading, “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” This is a direct quotation of Isaiah 45:23 in which Jehovah says, “Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.” In the Watchtower’s own *Kingdom Interlinear Translation* they went back to the text and found that *kurios* in Greek is the transliteration for the Hebrew *Yahweh* or Jehovah and here in Philippians 2 it reads that every knee bends and every tongue swears ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. So Jesus is Jehovah God to the Glory of the Father! We can simply ask our Jehovah’s Witness friends to turn to the Introduction on page 18, paragraph three of the *Kingdom Interlinear Translation* then go to Philippians 2 in our New Testament and look at the Greek of verse 10. There will be no suitable answer given.

Jehovah’s Witnesses also try to say that Proverbs 8 ties in with 1 Corinthians 1. In 1 Corinthians 1:24 Paul says Christ is “the power of God and the wisdom of God” Χριστὸν θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ θεοῦ σοφίαν (1 Cor, 1:24). Jehovah’s Witnesses take you here than pull the old collapse the context trick and swing you back to Proverbs 8 where wisdom is spoken of as the first of Jehovah’s works (Prov. 8:22).

The whole Proverbs passage was never thought to be Messianic, i.e. speaking of the Messiah. It never says Jesus or Messiah. As a matter of fact, wisdom is spoken of in the female gender. This is common in Hebrew wisdom literature. We must be on guard not to fall for that trick. We know that there was never a time when Jehovah was separated from His wisdom. Could God ever not have his wisdom or reason? Of course not!

Does not firstborn signify that Jesus is a created being? By no means! The word “firstborn” in Colossians 1:15 speaks of the fact that Jesus is a preeminent person and not the first creation.

If Paul wanted to say Jesus was the first created he would have used the verb “to create” (*ktizo*). David, Jacob, and Isaac were all spoken of as firstborns as well, but they were not. The word *prototokos* (πρωτότοκος) has the idea of preeminence. Jesus is also referred to as the firstborn from the dead in Colossians 1:18, does that mean He is the first to ever raise from the dead? No. Lazarus and the son of the widow of Nain rose from the dead before Jesus did. That Jesus is the firstborn of all creation testifies that He is preeminent or sovereign over all creation, as Paul writes in that entire letter because Jesus is the image of the invisible God, by Him all things were created. All things! Now if He existed before all things and created all things than that means He cannot be one of the things that were created. Any first semester student of logic can detect that.

Here is where the *New World Translation* translators perform another act of atrociousness as they insert the word “other” four times between verses 16-20. How can they do such a thing when there is no equivalent word in the Greek here and no Greek scholar validates this? They have deliberately added to the pages of Scripture to make Jesus a created being. The Jehovah’s Witness interpretation of Scripture is controlled by the Watchtower Society which has produced a radically corrupt Bible (NWT) that is scholastically dishonest all in the name of deceiving people as to who Christ is and therefore, this is another reason to reject their teachings and evangelize them.

4. Their Logic

Logic definitely ties in with hermeneutics for you must be able to think logically to interpret the Scripture correctly. However, as the beacons of light in this dark world, when you sit down with the Jehovah’s Witnesses ask them to promise in writing that they will not lie to you. In *Aid to Bible Understanding* pages 1060-1061 it reads, “While malicious lying is definitely condemned in the Bible, this does not mean that a person is under obligation to divulge truthful information to people who are not entitled to it.” They interpret Matthew 7:6, “Do not give what is holy to dogs” as meaning you can lie to those who don’t deserve the truth. The *Watchtower* magazine June 1, 1960, page 352 reads, “As a soldier of Christ he is in theocratic warfare and he must exercise added caution when dealing with God’s foes. Thus the Scriptures show that for the purpose of protecting the interest of God’s cause, it is proper to hide the truth from God’s enemies.” That makes no Biblical sense whatsoever.

Moreover, Christians are constantly ridiculed for believing in the Trinity but when asked a definition they say the Trinity is “three gods in one.”²³ In their article on the Trinity they show pictures of three headed gods and say that is what Christians believe the Trinity is. This is not what we believe and is therefore the fallacy of equivocation. You simply cannot say that the Trinity is related to the pagan triads. That is almost as bad as the elementary argument ‘since the word Trinity is not in the Bible it does not exist.’ The word ‘theocracy’ is not found in the Bible, yet the concept is clearly taught. Either out of deceptiveness or ignorance the Watchtower argues against the Trinity as if the Trinity states that Jesus is only God. Whenever they come across passages that speak of the humanity of Christ they use them as arguments against His deity. This is another display of fallacious reasoning, specifically a straw man argument.

Their convoluted arguments heavily populate their booklet titled *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* On page 27, they argue “Someone who is ‘with’ another person cannot be the same as that other person.” This is obviously referring to John 1:1. Talk about an absolute misunderstanding of the doctrine of the Trinity. The Trinity is the Biblical teaching that within the nature of the one true God there are three eternal, distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When we say that Jesus is God, we do not mean that the Son is the same person as the Father.

²³ *Let God Be True* (Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946), 100.

It was already pointed out that Jehovah's Witnesses translate *proskuneo* as worship in every instance except when pertaining to Jesus. Though they abhor the thought of worshipping Jesus now, they used to teach that worshipping Jesus was acceptable.

The fact that our Lord received worship is claimed by some to be evidence that while on earth he was God the Father disguised in a body of flesh and not really a man. Was he *really* worshiped, or is the translation faulty? Yes we believe our Lord Jesus while on earth was really worshiped, and properly so. While he was not *the* God, Jehovah, he was *a* God. The word 'God' signifies a 'mighty one,' and our Lord was indeed a mighty one. So it is stated in the first two verses of the gospel of John. It was proper for our Lord to receive worship in view of his having been the only begotten of the Father. . . ."²⁴

This is just one of many examples of the Watchtower making no logical sense as they change their minds over and over *ad infinitum*. Many Jehovah's Witnesses are familiar with the back and forth decisions regarding blood transfusions but in the case of the worship of Jesus, they have no clue their leadership held this belief.

Of course, we could not talk about their lack of logic without bringing up the most famous distortion of the *New World Translation*: John 1:1. The *New World Translation* of John 1:1 translates the Greek Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος as the following: "In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." The way the Greek grammar is constructed leaves no doubt that the Jehovah Witness translation is erroneous. It cannot be translated 'a god' for there is no definite article before God in the final clause: καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.

The New World Translation and *The Emphatic Diaglott* reveal incorrect grammar and poor Greek at best and plain out deception at worst. "The Word" is the subject because it has the definite article. "God" does not have a definite article because Jesus Christ is not the Father. Daniel Wallace, professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary states, "John's wording here is beautifully compact! It is, in fact, one of the most elegantly terse theological statements one could ever find...Jesus Christ is God and has all the attributes that the Father has. But he is not the first person of the Trinity. All this is concisely affirmed in καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος."²⁵

Moreover, in the introduction to John's Gospel, six times the word God, *theos* θεός is used without the definite article (1:1, 6, 12, 13, 18 twice) and is rendered "God" in each instance except for the last clause of verse one, "the Word was God." Jehovah's Witnesses are not being consistent in their translation.²⁶ Based upon the evidence in

²⁴ *The Watchtower*, July 15, 1898, 216.

²⁵ William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.), 28.

²⁶ Each of these verses in the *New World Translation* translated the word as "God" rather than "a god" as in verse 1. Εγένετο ἄνθρωπος, ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· (John 1:6). ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα θεοῦ γενέσθαι, (John 1:12). οὐ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκὸς οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρῶν ἀλλ' ἐκ θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν. (John 1:13). Θεὸν οὐδεὶς ἑώρακεν πώποτε· μονογενὴς θεός. (John 1:18)

John's introduction alone they have no epistemic grounds to translate the verse "the Word was a god." This disregarding of the grammatical laws of the Greek language is clearly due to their theological bias.

Again there are more inconsistencies in their logic. They claim that there must be a definite article before God to speak of the true God. However, their own *Emphatic Diaglott* translation of John 20:28 we literally read, "Thomas said, "you are the Lord of me and the God of me." Since there is a definite article in front of God this must mean Jesus is Jehovah. Even if we were to accept such an erroneous translation as "a god" that still makes Jehovah's Witnesses polytheists. Moreover, the question would arise, is Jesus a true god or a false god? The judges whom Jesus referred to in John 10:34 were unjust judges (Psalm 82:6) who would lose their position. If Jesus was a true god than does that mean there two true gods?

The fact of the matter is that the Bible teaches and therefore we believe and "worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the substance." This we can ascertain from numerous passages in Scripture, of which many we have already alluded to. But to close out in a doxological fashion I want to point out the words of the Apostle John. In discussing the unbelief of the Jew's he cited Isaiah 6:1 which undeniably speaks of *Yahweh*. Then in verse 41 of John chapter 12, the Apostle wrote, "these things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him" (NKJV). Of whom? Of Jesus! Without a doubt, John is indicating that when Isaiah saw *Yahweh* in Isaiah 6, he saw Jesus.

In speaking of *Yahweh* our Maker, the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 95:7-9, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did." The author of Hebrews unmistakably attributes this verse to the Person of the Holy Spirit in Hebrew 3:7, "So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did."

Finally, in Matthew 21 after Jesus drove out those in the temple, children were crying out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The chief priests and scribes "were indignant and said to Him "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, '*Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise*'?" In response to His opponents Jesus quoted Psalm 8:2 which is undeniably a psalm of worship and exaltation to *Yahweh* our God. Only God is worthy to receive worship (Rev. 19:10), and we see that Jesus received worship. Hebrews 1:6 tells us that God the Father even commands his angels to worship Jesus. After the resurrection we see the disciples worshipping Jesus in Matthew 28:17. When the apostle John gets the sneak peak of worship occurring in heaven, he sees thousands of angels and other creatures worshipping around the throne of God saying, "Worthy is the Lamb" (Rev. 5:12). Who is that Lamb? It is Jesus.

There are many of other verses and issues that this cultic organization is clearly heretical on, yet the information revealed in this paper is sufficient enough to refute them. As with many other cults, the Jehovah's Witnesses besides taking people completely out of context they also refer back to old out dated materials that fail to engage modern scholarship. Therefore, we can conclude upon examination of the Jehovah's Witnesses that their history, their prophet, their hermeneutic, and their logic are four clear reasons why we ought to reject them and consider them as they are: ministers of a false gospel and therefore in need of evangelism.

Works Cited:

Aland, B. and K. Nestle-Aland. *Novum Testamentum Graece 27th Ed*, Stuttgart, 1993.

The Holy Bible: New King James Version. New York: American Bible Society, 1990.

The Holy Bible: The New International Version. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1973.

Frederick W. Franz. *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures Rendered from the Original Language by the New World Translation Committee*. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1950.

Frederick W. Franz. *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, rendered from the Original Languages by the New World Bible Translation Committee*. Revised 1961. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1961. The Old Testament was originally published in parts from 1953 -1960. The whole was revised for the one-volume edition in 1961, and subsequently revised in 1970 and 1984.

Morey, Robert. *The World of the Cults and Occult, How to Recognize and Refute Them*. Irvine: Faith Defenders, 2003.

Morey, Robert. *The Trinity: Evidence and Issues*. Las Vegas: Christian Scholar's Press, 1996.

Mounce, William D., *Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

Rutherford, J.F. *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, February 24, 1918.

Rutherford, J.F. *Preservation*. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1932.

Thayer, Joseph Henry. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 1886. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1981.

Wilson, Benjamin: *The Emphatic Diaglott containing the Original Greek Text of what is commonly styled the New Testament (according to the Recension of Dr. J. J. Griesbach) with an Interlineary Word for Word English Translation--A New Emphatic Version*. 1902. Reproduced by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1942.

The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1969.

Aid to Bible Understanding. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1971.

Should You Believe in the Trinity? Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989.

Kingdom Ministry, How Are You Using Your Life? May 1, 1974.

The Finished Mystery. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1917.

Let God Be True. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946.

The Truth Shall Make You Free. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1943.

“*Thy Kingdom Come,*” volume 3 in *Studies in the Scriptures.* Brooklyn. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1891, p. 313ff, 1903 edition

Studies in the Scriptures Vol 3. Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 2, The Time Is At Hand, 1889 Ed.

Awake, October 8, 1968.

The Watchtower, June 1, 1960.

The Watchtower, July 15, 1898.

The Watchtower, July 1, 1879.

The Watchtower, June 1, 1952.

The Watchtower, August 1, 1965.

The Watchtower, June 1, 1988.

The Watchtower, July 15, 1924.

The Watchtower, April 1, 1972.

The Watchtower, 1964.

The Watchtower, July 1, 1973.

The Watchtower, August 15, 1968.

The Watchtower Reprints IV, February, 1881.

The Watchtower Reprints, November 15, 1902

The Watchtower Reprints, September 15, 1910.

The Watchtower Reprints, May 1, 1903.

The Watchtower, July, 15, 1928.

The Watchtower, May 15, 1925.

The Watchtower, November 15, 1928.