

Reasoning

with

**Jehovah's
Witnesses**

Kevin R. Quick

Reasoning with Jehovah's Witnesses

A Scriptural Study of
the Teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses

by

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Scripture verses quoted in this study have been taken from the following Bible translations:

New American Standard Version
New International Version
Revised Standard Version
Authorized (King James) Version
New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (WTB&TS)
Kingdom Interlinear (WTB&TS)
Zondervan Parallel New Testament in Greek and English

Preface

Before getting into the Scripture study itself, let me explain briefly how “Reasoning with Jehovah’s Witnesses” came about.

I was raised with very little religious background. My parents were nominal Christians, and as a child I attended church (Baptist) only once, when I was about 12 years old.

In high school I began to wonder about some of the larger issues in life, and this led to an intense interest in the supernatural. In college I became involved with various Eastern teachings, including yoga and Transcendental Meditation.

After a year of practicing TM, I began studying the Bible with Jehovah’s Witnesses. My brother had been contacted in their door-to-door work and he soon had me studying with them too. I studied with the Witnesses for 3 1/2 years, and was baptized in the spring of 1981.

During my 7-year involvement with the Witnesses, I attended 5 meetings at the Kingdom Hall each week, participated in the Theocratic Ministry School, and was active in the door-to-door preaching work. For the last 3 1/2 years, in which I was a dedicated, baptized Jehovah’s Witness, I was never “irregular” in field service. I never let a month go by without sharing in the witnessing work.

As a Witness I also spent quite a bit of time reading the Bible. Though the only translation I could “understand” was the Watchtower Society’s own New World Translation, I read it through four times, and read the New Testament through eight times. This Bible reading led to some serious problems.

I began to question first of all my personal relationship with Jesus Christ. From reading the New Testament, I could see that the first-century disciples had an intimacy with their Lord that I had great difficulty in relating to. I was told that this was because I was of the “great crowd” of “other sheep,” and that only those of the “anointed” rightly had such a relationship with Jesus, as members of the bride of Christ. In fact, I was taught that the entire New Testament was not written to me, and that I was not under the new covenant. I had no mediator between God and myself, but received blessings from Jehovah by associating with His “earthly organization.”

By the summer of 1984, these questions were increasing both in frequency and in intensity. Was the “great crowd” of Revelation chapter 7 really on earth, or was it in heaven? Did Christ really return invisibly in 1914? Was the Watchtower Society really “God’s organization?”

As I went from door to door, I would occasionally meet persons who identified themselves as “born again” Chris-

tians. Though my “superior” Bible knowledge told me that only 144,000 Christians were to be born again, and that the 9000 present-day members of the “anointed remnant” were all Jehovah’s Witnesses, still these “born agains,” as we called them, were an interesting sort of people. I can recall twelve instances when they actually took the initiative in witnessing to me. They would ask me whether or not I was “saved.” They would say that the shed blood of Christ was wholly sufficient for the justification of every believer. They would tell me that I did not need to add to the work of Christ by performing all sorts of good works. They would say that if I would accept Jesus Christ by faith as my all-sufficient Lord and Savior, He would come into my heart and I would know that I had been saved.

But to my way of thinking, these “born again” Christians were probably either emotionally deranged or demon-possessed. They believed that Jesus was God. They believed in the Trinity. They believed in a hellfire of eternal torment. They believed that Jesus was going to appear visibly and all “born again” Christians would then be taken up bodily to meet Him in the air. These ideas were repugnant to my “Bible-trained” mind.

But still I could not escape the gnawing questions that kept surfacing in my own faith. So in August of 1984, I took a radical step. I decided to undergo a thorough, systematic, and objective Bible study of my own, without the use of Watchtower Society publications. My conviction was that if the Watchtower Society was in fact God’s organization, Jehovah God Himself would show this to me plainly and clearly through an honest study of His word. Jesus had promised that the Spirit of truth would lead Christians into all the truth (John 16:13). I believed this promise, and set out to prove to myself once and for all who God was, who His people were, and what His will was for me.

The first problem I encountered in my study was that I had no idea how to study the Bible objectively. As Jehovah’s Witnesses, our Bible studies consisted solely of reading paragraphs in portions of the Society’s literature, asking and answering questions at the bottoms of the pages, and looking up the cited Scriptures. I obviously could not use this method in an objective study. Knowing no other study method, I had to invent my own.

What I decided to do initially was to read through an independent translation of the New Testament and write down every Scripture that didn’t seem to fit my present understanding of the Bible. I did this, using the New American Standard version, and came up with about 200 Scripture verses. I then compiled these Scriptures into approximately 50 different topics: deity of Christ, personal-

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ity of the Holy Spirit, the great crowd, the 144,000, 1914, the rapture, hellfire, how to be saved, relationship with Christ, who is to be born again, assurance of salvation, etc.

After reading through what I had compiled, the gravity of what I had just done hit me like a ton of bricks. I had now totally destroyed my dearly held convictions concerning God, His people, the outworking of His plan of salvation, and my place in this whole affair! I was now completely and utterly lost!

Three things I knew, however. I knew that God had inspired the Bible. I knew that He had people on this earth who worshiped Him in spirit and in truth, in accordance with an accurate understanding of the Bible. And I knew that God cared for us, and that He had sent His beloved Son to die for us. This was enough to convince me that God would hold true to His promise to lead me into all the truth.

In deep prayer I pleaded with the only God, Jehovah, to explain to me what He had written in His word. I asked Him to reveal Himself to me in a very personal way, and I asked Him to reveal what *His* understanding was on each of these 50 Bible subjects. I vowed that should He save me from this terrible state of confusion, all praise and honor would go to Him. And I trusted that God was faithful, and that He would see me through this most difficult time.

I reread the New Testament, this time using the Revised Standard Version. As I read, I wrote down every Scripture that was applicable to each of the 50 Bible subjects, regardless of the view it seemed to uphold. I then repeated this procedure twice more, using the New International Version and again the New American Standard version. By this time I had amassed approximately 800 Scripture verses, and felt satisfied that I had accumulated enough information on which to base conclusions to each of the subjects in question.

The conclusions came very slowly at first. But one by one the humanized doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses were replaced in my mind and heart by the true knowledge of God. Time after time I was compelled to yield to the Holy Spirit as He performed His extraordinary work. And I remember so clearly the momentous day in October while on a business trip in Los Angeles, when I first realized that I was probably going to become a born-again Christian. In the midst of all the intellectual and emotional torment I was experiencing at this time, it was a wonderful comfort to sense that Jesus was waiting for me somehow on the other side. But all things had to be done honestly and rationally.

During this four-month period of intensive study, though I was working full time and spending from four to fourteen hours each day in personal study, I still attended nearly all of the required meetings at the Kingdom Hall.

I wanted to leave nothing that could be pointed to by the Witnesses as the reason for my "falling away." Also, for fear of bringing reproach upon "God's organization," I spoke to no one during this time about the questions I was having, except my brother Steve (a Bethelite at Watchtower Farms in Wallkill, New York) and the elders of my congregation in Hyde Park, New York.

I met with the elders of my local congregation four times during this period. They did not condemn my studying the Bible on my own, but recommended that I get the study done quickly. As things progressed, they became a bit more disturbed, and had a very difficult time dealing with the questions that I was raising concerning the deity of Christ, the year 1914, our personal relationship with Christ, etc. They refused to look at the thick stack of study notes that I had compiled. Still, these men were sincerely trying to help me as best they could, and I have no negative feelings toward them whatsoever.

The last month or so of meetings at the Kingdom Hall was very intense. My heart was on fire! I often wanted to get up out of my seat and silence the blasphemy that was being presented to the congregation from the platform. And it made me sick to think that I would probably never have the opportunity of sharing with my dear friends the true gospel of Jesus Christ. If I were to speak out to anyone about these things, I would be quickly disfellowshipped, and my name would be blackened before all of my dear friends.

The last meeting that I attended at the Kingdom Hall was the Ministry School and Service meeting on Friday, November 16. Before the meeting began, I approached one of the elders of the congregation and requested a meeting with the elders sometime that weekend. He explained that the KM (Kingdom Ministry) school was taking place that weekend, and that none of the elders could break away to meet with me, but that maybe we could get together the following week. I then explained that I was seriously considering disassociating myself from the Organization, and that next week would probably be too late. Still, he said that the weekend's plans were set, and we would have to wait.

I lasted through about half of the meeting. The Holy Spirit was now convicting me of the blasphemous life that I had lived as a Jehovah's Witness. I was convicted of living my entire life as a Witness in the flesh, continually resisting the Holy Spirit as He reached out to me through the Scriptures and through concerned Christians who had been witnessing to me. I was convicted of sinning against the Church, teaching people that evangelical Christianity was of satanic origin, and that it would be soon destroyed by God. And I was convicted of blaspheming against the Son of God, blindly teaching people from a few twisted

Scriptures that Jesus Christ was really Michael the archangel, and not a manifestation of God Himself in human form.

I went home and broke down before the Lord. I repented of all the wrongs that I had committed against Him both before and after having become a servant of the Watchtower Society. I prayed that He would forgive and remove every sin that remained in my life, and that by the Holy Spirit He would come and dwell in me forever (John 14:17). I didn't know quite what to expect, but I knew that I was leaving all things to gain Christ (Phil 3:8).

And I was born again!

The following week, on November 24, I did meet again with the elders. But this meeting was very different from the previous three. For about two hours I explained to them from the Scriptures the reasons why I had done what I had done and why I now believed what I believed. They had a very difficult time trying to refute the Scriptures I presented to them, and they seemed relieved when I gave them my letter of disassociation.

Though all of my close friends, including my brother, have now fully disowned me, and though I have had to endure some severe mental and emotional stress for a while, all of these trials seem quite small when compared with the joy and freedom that comes with knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells in my heart continually, and I know that I am at long last a real Christian. Eternal life is no longer something to grope or work for, but is something that I possess right now (1 John 5:13). Both from the word of God and from my own day-to-day personal experience, I have the full assurance that I belong to Jesus Christ my Lord, and that I will live with Him forever and ever to the glory of God our Father.

* * *

Though "Reasoning with Jehovah's Witnesses" was originally compiled for my own personal use, I believe the information contained herein could be of considerable help to all those who have become involved with Jehovah's Witnesses in one way or another.

To Jehovah's Witnesses, I would like to present this study as a coherent, Scriptural alternative to Watchtower theology. Although it was put together primarily through an inductive study of the Scriptures alone, it will be obvious that the conclusions drawn do confirm the age-old foundational doctrines of historic evangelical Christianity. It is my sincere prayer that through an honest comparison of the Scriptures cited herein with the teachings of the Watchtower Society, many Jehovah's Witnesses will be enabled

to see clearly the excellence of Christian life and will come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

To those now studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses, I would like to offer this study as the "other side" of the story being presented by the Witnesses. It is my desire that this study might help many make informed decisions regarding their involvement with Jehovah's Witnesses; that they would trust in Christ alone for salvation, and that a solid doctrinal foundation might be established in their own lives.

To Christians involved in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses, I would like to offer this study as a thorough Scriptural refutation of the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses. It is my prayer that this material will be put to use in the challenging work of leading sincere Jehovah's Witnesses to Christ.

Jehovah's Witnesses in general are sincere, humble, and honest people who have been tragically misled in their search for God. They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge; not understanding that Christ is the *end* of the Law for all who believe (Rom 10:1-4).

I hope this study can be of help in making disciples for Christ from among the 3 million people still being held captive by the corrupt and deceptive teachings of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. I pray that many Witnesses will yet be encouraged and empowered to turn from organizational bondage to the life and peace that can only be theirs in fellowship with our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

* * *

How the Study is Arranged

The 28 major subjects discussed in this book are divided into 4 parts each:

- (1) What Jehovah's Witnesses believe (see the footnotes for documentation).
- (2) Specific doctrinal questions and their answers according to Scripture.
- (3) A brief summary of my conclusions on the subject (based on the Scriptures in part 2).
- (4) Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses and some suggested explanations.

The major subjects are arranged topically in the table of contents. Minor subjects are arranged alphabetically in the subject index at the back of the book. Individual Scriptures can be found using the Scripture index also at the back of the book.

Part One

THE NATURE OF GOD

1. THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

- a. Jesus was the first creation of God the Father. ¹
- b. God the Father created all other things through Jesus.²
- c. It is not proper to pray to Jesus.³ Prayer is to be offered to God the Father alone, through Jesus.⁴
- d. It is not proper to worship Jesus.⁵ Only God the Father is to be worshiped.⁶
- e. God the Father alone is sovereign.⁷
- f. Jesus is a god, but not God.⁸
- g. Jesus is not Jehovah.⁹ God the Father alone is Jehovah.¹⁰

* * *

Q1. Is Jesus the creator of all things?

Gen 1:26-27-Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness...” And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him.

Is 44:24-Thus says the Lord [Jehovah], your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, “I, the Lord [Jehovah], am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself, and spreading out the earth all alone...”

John 1:3-All things came into being by Him [the Word], and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. [If Jesus was created, then he created himself]

Rom 11:36-God...For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

John 1:10-He [Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

Eph 3:9-...God, who created all things...

Col 1:15-16-And He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the first-born [cp. Ps 89:27, Gen 41:51-52, Jer 31:9] of all creation. For [Gr. because] by him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-all things have been created by Him and for Him.

Heb 1:8,10-But of the Son...He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will

¹Reasoning From the Scriptures, p. 209, pp. 282-283
²Ibid.
³Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1329
⁴Ibid.
⁵Reasoning From the Scriptures, pp. 282-283
⁶Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1329
⁷Ibid., pp. 1536, 1538
⁸Reasoning From the Scriptures, pp. 136-137, 282-283; Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 919
⁹Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 894
¹⁰Ibid.

perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

Heb 3:3-4-For He [Jesus] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of a house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

Q2. Is Jesus the sustainer of all things?

Col 1:17-He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Heb 1:3-And He [Jesus] is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Q3. Is Jesus the Savior?

Is 43:11-“I, even I, am the Lord [Jehovah]; and there is no savior besides Me.”

Is 45:21-“Is it not I, the Lord [Jehovah]? And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me.”

Hos 13:4-“I...the Lord [Jehovah] your God...there is no savior besides Me.”

Titus 1:3-God our Savior

Titus 1:4-Christ Jesus our Savior

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

Titus 3:4-God our Savior

Titus 3:6-Jesus Christ our Savior

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

Q4. Is Jesus the giver of things of God?

John 1:12-13-But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, [even] to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Rev 2:23-the churches will know that I [Jesus] am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

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Q5. Does Jesus have authority to forgive sins?

Mark 2:5-7,10-And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "My son, **your sins are forgiven.**" But there were some of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; **who can forgive sins but God alone?**" "...the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"

Luke 5:21-And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins, but God alone?**"

Luke 5:24-"**the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**"

1 Cor 8:12-And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you **sin against Christ.**

Eph 4:32-And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as **God in Christ also has forgiven you.**

Q6. Does Jesus have authority to judge men? How should this affect one's response to Him?

John 5:22,23-"For not even **the Father** judges anyone, but **He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

2 Cor 5:10-For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**

Q7. Is Jesus all-seeing?

1 Ki 8:39-"Thou [**Jehovah**] **alone dost know the hearts** of all the sons of men"

Rev 2:23-"all the churches will know that **I [Jesus] am He who searches the minds and hearts**; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds."

Q8. Is Jesus all-knowing?

1 Ki 8:39-"Thou [**Jehovah**] **alone dost know the hearts** of all the sons of men"

Matt 9:4-**knowing their thoughts, Jesus** said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"

Matt 12:25-**Jesus knew their thoughts** and said to them...

Mark 2:8-**Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit** that this was **what they were thinking** in their hearts...

Luke 6:8-But **Jesus knew what they were thinking...**

Luke 9:47-**Jesus, knowing their thoughts...**

John 11:11-"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

Col 2:2-3-**Christ, in whom are hidden ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Rev 2:23-"...all the churches will know that **I [Jesus] am He who searches the minds and hearts**; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. [cp. 1 Ki 8:39]"

Q9. Is Jesus omnipresent?

Matt 18:20-"For **where two or three are gathered** in my name, **there am I** in the midst of them."

Matt 28:20-"And surely **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age."

Q10. Was Jesus eternally preexistent?

Micah 5:2-"Bethlehem...out of you will come...ruler over Israel, **whose goings out are from of old, from days of eternity.**"

John 1:1-**In the beginning was the Word** [Creation is not mentioned until vs.3]

Col 1:17-**He is before ALL things**

Heb 7:3-[Melchizedek]...**having neither beginning of days...like the Son of God**

Q11. Does Jesus ever change?

Heb 1:8,10-But of **the Son...**He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but **you remain**; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But **you remain the same**, and your years will never end."

Heb 13:8-**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Q12. Is it proper to serve Jesus?

John 12:26-"If anyone **serves Me** [Jesus], let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall **My servant** also be; if anyone **serves Me**, the Father will honor him."

Rom 1:1-**Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ**

1 Cor 4:1-Let a man regard us in this manner, as **servants of Christ**

2 Cor 5:15-they who live should no longer **live for themselves,**

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but for **Him who died and rose again** on their behalf

Gal 1:10-If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a **servant of Christ**.

Phil 1:1-**Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus**.

Col 3:24-It is **the Lord Christ whom you serve**

Col 4:12-**Epaphras**, who is one of yourselves, **a servant of Christ Jesus**

Jas 1:1-**James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**

Jude 1-**Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ**

Q13. Is it proper to pray to Jesus?

John 14:14-"If you **ask Me** [Kingdom Interlinear] anything in My name, I will do it."

Acts 7:59-60-And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon [the Lord] and said, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!**" And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lord, do not hold this sin against them!**" And having said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 9:14-"and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind **all who call upon thy [Jesus'-vs. 17] name.**"

Acts 9:20-21-and immediately he [Saul] [began] to proclaim **Jesus** in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all those hearing him continued to be amazed, saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed **those who called on this name**, and [who] had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

Acts 22:16-"Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, **calling on His [Jesus'] name.**"

Acts 22:17-19-"And it came about when I returned to Jerusalem and **was praying**...I saw Him [Jesus] saying to me..."**And I said 'Lord...'**"

Rom 10:9,11-13-**confess Jesus as Lord**...For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed"...**the same Lord** is Lord of all, abounding in riches for **all who call upon Him**; for "**Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.**"

1 Cor 1:2-to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with **all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, their [Lord] and ours:

2 Cor 12:8-9-Three times **I besought the Lord** about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the

power of **Christ** may rest upon me.

1 Ti 1:12-**I thank Christ Jesus** our Lord, who has strengthened me...

Rev 22:20-Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Q14. Is it proper to give glory to Jesus?

Is 42:8-"I am the Lord [**Jehovah**]; that is my name! **I will not give my glory to another.**"

Is 48:11-"**I [Jehovah] will not yield my glory to another.**"

Dan 7:13-14-I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a **Son of Man** was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And **to Him was given** dominion, **glory**, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and [men of every] language might serve Him.

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

John 5:22-23-"Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father**. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him."

John 11:4-"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that **the Son of God may be glorified** by it."

John 13:31-32-**Now is the Son of Man glorified**, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, **God will also glorify Him** in Himself, and **will glorify Him** immediately.

John 16:13-15-"But when He, **the Spirit** of truth, comes...**He shall glorify Me** [Jesus]; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose [it] to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose [it] to you."

John 17:5-"And now, **Father, glorify me** in your presence **with the glory I had with you** before the world began."

Acts 3:13-"The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the **God** of our forefathers, **has glorified His servant Jesus.**"

Phil 2:9-Therefore also **God highly exalted Him**, and **bestowed on Him the name which is above every name**

Col 1:16-**all things were created** by him [Jesus] and **for him**

2 Thess 1:12-...in order that **the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified** in you...

2 Pet 3:18-but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now**

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and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Rev 1:5-6-and from **Jesus Christ**, the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, and He has made us [to be] a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; **to Him [be] the glory** and the dominion **forever and ever.** Amen.

Rev 5:11-14-And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, **“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”** And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and **to the Lamb, [be] blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.**” And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Q15. Is it proper to worship Jesus?

Matt 2:2-**Magi** from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and **have come to worship him.**”

Matt 2:8-He [**Herod**] sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so **that I too may go and worship him.**”

Matt 2:11-On coming to the house, they [**the magi**] saw the child with his mother Mary, and **they bowed down and worshiped him.**

Matt 4:10-Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, **‘You shall worship the Lord [Jehovah] your God, and serve Him only.’**” [Quote from Deut 6:13]

Matt 14:33-Then **those who were in the boat worshiped him**, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Matt 28:9-Suddenly Jesus met them [**the women**]. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, **clasped his feet and worshiped him.**

Matt 28:16-17-Then **the eleven disciples** went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, **they worshiped him...**

John 9:38-Then **the man** said, “Lord, I believe,” and **he worshiped him.** [He recognized Jesus as the Son of Man-vs. 35]

Heb 1:6-And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let **all God’s angels worship him.**”

Rev 5:8-And when he had taken it, **the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.**

Rev 14:7-He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. **Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.**”

See Q1

Jesus is worshiped many times in the New Testament; the worshipers are never rebuked. An angel is worshiped twice in the New Testament [Rev 19:10, 22:8-9]; the worshiper is rebuked both times. Peter is worshiped once [Acts 10:25]; the worshiper is rebuked.

Q16. Is Jesus Lord?

Deut 10:17-For the Lord [**Jehovah**] your God **is God of gods and Lord of lords...**

Matt 12:8-For **the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath**

John 20:27-28-Thomas said to him [**Jesus**], “**My Lord and my God!**” Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed [are] they who did not see, and [yet] believed.”

Rom 10:9,11-13-confess **Jesus as Lord...**For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed”...**the same Lord is Lord of all**, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for “**Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.**”

Eph 4:4-5-**[There is]...one Lord**

James 2:1-My brothers, as believers in **our glorious Lord Jesus Christ...**

Rev 17:14-**the Lamb...he is Lord of lords** and King of kings

Rev 19:16-On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of kings and **Lord of lords...**

Q17. Is Jesus sovereign?

Matt 25:31-“When **the Son of Man** comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on **his throne** in heavenly glory.”

Matt 28:18-“**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**”

John 3:31-“He who comes from above is **above all**, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is **above all.**”

John 3:35-“**The Father** loves the Son and **has placed everything in his hands.**”

John 13:3-[**Jesus**], knowing that **the Father had given all things into His hands...**

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John 16:15-“**All that belongs to the Father is mine.** That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

John 17:10-“All I have is yours [the Father’s], and **all you have is mine.**”

Phil 2:9-11-Therefore **God** highly exalted Him, and **bestowed on Him the name which is above every name**, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Heb 1:2-his Son, whom he appointed **heir of all things**

Heb 2:8-In putting **everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him.**

Rev 22:3-**The throne** [singular] of God and of **the Lamb** will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

Q18. How was Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God understood by His listeners?

John 5:18-This is why the Jews sought all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the Sabbath but also called God his own Father, **making himself equal with God.**

John 10:28-33-“...no one shall snatch them out of **My hand**...no one is able to snatch [them] out of **the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.**” **The Jews took up stones again to stone him.** Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we stone you but for blasphemy; because you, being a man, **make yourself God.**”

John 10:36-“Why then do you **accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son?’**”

Q19. Is Jesus God?

Deut 32:36,39-the Lord [**Jehovah**]...“See now that I, I am He, and **there is no god besides Me...**”

Is 9:6-And he [**Jesus**] will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Is 10:21-A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the **Mighty God [Jehovah].**

Is 43:10-the Lord [**Jehovah**]...“**Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.**”

Is 44:6-This is what the Lord [**Jehovah**] says-Israel’s King and redeemer, the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty: “**I am the first and I am the last**; apart from me there is no God.”

Is 48:12-“**I [Jehovah] am the first and I am the last**”

Rev 1:17-18-“Do not be afraid. **I [Jesus] am the First and the Last.**

I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!”

Rev 2:8-These are the words of him who is **the First and the Last, who died and came to life** again.

Rev 21:6-7-“I am **the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End**...I will be his **God**”

Rev 22:12-13,20-“Behold, **I am coming quickly...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**” Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Rev 22:13-16-“**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End**...**I, Jesus**, have sent my angel...”

Matt 1:23-**Immanuel**-which means, “**God with us**” [cp. Is 7:14]

Matt 13:41-The **Son of Man** will send forth **HIS angels**

John 1:1-In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God** [Gr. God was the Word].

John 2:19,21-**Jesus answered** them, “Destroy this temple, and **I will raise it** again in three days.” But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

Acts 2:24-“**God raised him** from the dead”

John 5:18-For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal with God.**

John 8:19-“You know neither Me, nor My Father; **if you knew Me, you would know My Father** also.”

John 8:28-“When you have lifted up **the Son of Man**, then you will know that **I AM** [Gr. ego eimi-cp. Ex 3:14; LXX-no “he” in Gr.]”

Ex 3:14-**God said** to Moses, “**I AM who I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”

John 8:58-59-“I tell you the truth,” **Jesus answered**, “before Abraham was born, **I AM!** [Gr. no “he”-cp. Ex 3:14; LXX]” At this, they picked up stones to **stone him...**

Five legal cases for stoning:

- 1) spirit mediums [Lev 20:27]
- 2) cursing (**blasphemy**) [Lev 24:10-23]
- 3) false prophets [Deut 13:5-10]
- 4) stubborn son [Deut 21:18-21]
- 5) adultery or rape [Deut 22:21-24, Lev 20:10]

John 10:28-33-“...no one shall snatch them out of **My hand**...no one is able to snatch [them] out of **the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.**” Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” “We are not **stoning you** for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but **for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.**”

John 12:44-And Jesus cried out and said, “**He who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him who sent Me.**”

John 13:19-“From now on I am telling you before [it] comes

1. The Deity of Christ

to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that **I AM** [Gr. ego eimi-cp. Ex 3:14; LXX].

John 14:7-9-“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him...Have I been so long with you, and [yet] you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how do you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

John 15:13-“**Greater love has no one** than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

John 18:4-6-Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” **He said to them, “I AM** [Gr. ego eimi].” And Judas also who was betraying Him, was standing with them. **When therefore He said to them, “I AM** [Gr. ego eimi],” **they drew back, and fell to the ground.**

John 20:28,29-Thomas said to him, “**My Lord and my God!**” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, **you have believed**; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Acts 20:28-Be shepherds of **the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.**

Eph 3:19-and to know **the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to **all the fulness of God.**

Phil 2:6-**Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God...**

Col 2:9-For **in Christ ALL the fullness of the Deity** [or, Godhead] **lives in bodily form**

1 Ti 3:15-16-**God’s household**, which is **the church of the living God**, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the **mystery of godliness** is great: **He appeared in a body...**

Titus 2:13-while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of **our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Heb 1:3-The Son is **the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Heb 1:4-So he became as much superior to **the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.**

See Q20

Heb 1:8-But **about the Son** he says, “**Your throne, O God,** will last for ever and ever...”

Ps 45:6-“**Your throne, O God,** will last for ever and ever.”

Heb 3:1-4-**Jesus...He...as the builder of the house...the builder of all things is God.**

2 Pet 1:1-To those who through the righteousness of **our God and Savior Jesus Christ** have received a faith as precious as ours...

1 John 5:20-We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so **that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true-even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God** and eternal life.

Rev 22:1-4-...**the throne** [singular] **of God and of the Lamb...the throne of God and of the Lamb** shall be in it, and **His** bond-servants shall serve **Him**; and they shall see **His** face, and **His** name shall be on their foreheads.

Q20. Is Jesus spoken of in the Bible as Jehovah, as is His Father?

Zech 2:8-11-For this is what the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty **says**: “After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you-for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye-I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty **has sent me.**

“Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For **I am coming**, and I will live among you,” **declares** the Lord [**Jehovah**]. “Many nations will be joined with the Lord [**Jehovah**] in that day and will become my people. **I will live among you** and you will know that the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty **has sent me** to you...”

Zech 11:12-13-And I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give [me] my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty [shekels] of silver as my wages. Then the Lord [**Jehovah**] said to me, “Throw it to the potter, [that] magnificent **price at which I was valued by them.**” So I took the **thirty [shekels] of silver** and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord [**Jehovah**].

Matt 26:14-15-Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and said, “What are you willing to give me to **deliver Him [Jesus]** up to you?” And they weighed out to him **thirty pieces of silver.**

Zech 12:1,10-declares the Lord [**Jehovah**]...And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that **they will look on ME whom they have pierced**; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

Rev 1:7-Behold, He [**Jesus**] is coming with the clouds, and **every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him**; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.

Zech 14:3-5-Then the Lord [**Jehovah**] will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. And in that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...** Then the Lord [**Jehovah**], my God, **will come, [and] all the holy ones with Him!**

Matt 25:31-But **when the Son of Man comes** in His glory, **and all the angels with Him**, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Acts 1:11-12-“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This **Jesus, who has been taken up** from you into heaven, **will come in just the same way** as you have watched Him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from **the mount called Olivet...**

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Zech 14:5-Then the Lord [**Jehovah**] my God **will come, and all the holy ones with him.**

1 Thess 3:13-at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Matt 3:3, Mark 1:2-3, Luke 3:4, John 1:23-This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, '**Prepare the way for the Lord [NWT-Jehovah]**, make straight the paths for him.'"

Luke 1:76-And you, my child [John the Baptist], will be called a prophet of the Most High; for **you will go on before the Lord [NWT-Jehovah] to prepare the way for him.** [He prepared the way for Jesus]

Is 40:3-A voice of one calling: "In the desert **prepare the way for the Lord [Jehovah]**; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. [Heb. & LXX-make straight the paths of our God]

Matt 21:15-16-But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were crying out in the temple and saying, "**Hosanna to the Son of David,**" they became 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 infants and nursing babes **Thou hast prepared praise for Thyself?**'" [Quote from Ps. 2:6, **Jehovah**]

John 17:11-"Holy **Father**, protect them by the power of **your name-the name you gave me...**"

John 17:12-"While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by **that name you gave me.**"

Rom 10:9,11-13-**confess Jesus as Lord...**For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed"...**the same Lord** is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "**Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.**" [Quote from Joel 2:32-**Jehovah**]

Phil 2:9-Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and **bestowed on Him the name which is above every name...**

Heb 1:4-So he became as much superior to **the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.**

Heb 1:8,10-But **about the Son** he says...He also says, "**In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands...**"
Ps 102:22-25-the Lord [**Jehovah**]..."O my God...**In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands.**"

Q21. What form did Jesus assume when coming to earth as a man?

*Phil 2:5-7-Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although **He existed in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men.

Is 61:1, Luke 4:18-"**The Spirit of the Lord [Jehovah] God is upon me**, because the Lord [**Jehovah**] has anointed me

to bring good news to the afflicted; **He has sent me...**"

Matt 20:23, Mark 10:40-"to sit on My right hand and on My left, this is **not Mine to give**, but it is for those for whom it has been **prepared by My Father.**"

Matt 24:36, Mark 13:32-"But of **that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, **nor the Son, but the Father alone.**"

Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34-"**My God, My God**, why hast thou Forsaken Me?"

Luke 22:42-"**Father**, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet **not My will, but Thine be done.**"

John 1:18-"**No man has seen God at any time**; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained [Him]."

John 4:34-"My food is for me to do the will of **him that sent me** and to finish his work."

John 5:19-"Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless He sees the Father doing**; for whatever [the Father] does, these things the Son also does in like manner."

John 6:38-"For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**"

John 6:57-"**the living Father sent Me**, and I live because of the Father..."

John 7:28-"**I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me** is true..."

John 7:29-"I know Him; because I am from Him, and **He sent Me.**"

John 8:28-"**I do nothing on My own initiative**, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me."

John 8:42-"**I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.**"

John 12:49-"**the Father Himself who sent Me** has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak."

John 14:28-"**the Father is greater than I**"

John 14:31-"**the Father gave me commandment**"

John 17:1-5-"**Father...Thou gavest Him authority** over all mankind, that to **all whom Thou hast given Him**, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know **Thee, the only true God**, and **Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent**. I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished **the work which Thou hast given Me to do**; And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

John 20:17-"I ascend to **My Father and your Father**, and **My God and your God.**"

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John 20:21-“as **the Father has sent Me**, I also send you.”

Heb 2:11-For both **He who sanctifies** and those who are sanctified are all **from one [Father]**...

1 John 4:9-**God sent His only begotten Son** into the world

Q22. In heaven, does Jesus subject Himself to His Father’s headship?

1 Cor 3:23-and you belong to Christ; and **Christ belongs to God**

1 Cor 11:3-Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and **God is the head of Christ**.

1 Cor 15:24-28-then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But **when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him**. And when all things are subjected to Him, then **the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all**.

Phil 2:11-Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father**

1 Pet 1:3-Blessed be **the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**

Rev 3:12-“He who overcomes, I [Jesus] will make him a pillar in the temple of **My God**, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of **My God**, and the name of the city of **My God**, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from **My God**, and My new name.”

* * *

Summary 1

Jesus Christ:

- aa. He is from everlasting (Mic 5:2).
- ab. He was in the beginning (John 1:1).
- ac. He is before all things (Col 1:17).
- ad. He had glory with the Father before the world was (John 17:5).
- ae. He existed in the form of God (Phil 2:6).
- af. He was God (John 1:1).
- ag. He is the Firstborn of all creation (Col 1:15).
- ah. Through Him are all things (Heb 1:2).
- ai. All things were made by Him (Col 1:16).
- aj. God attributes Jehovah’s creative works to Him (Heb 1:8,10).
- ak. All things were created by Him and for Him (Col 1:16).
- al. He made man in His own image (Gen 1:26,27).

ba. The Father sent Him (John 6:57).

bb. He sought not His own will, but that of His Father who sent Him (John 6:38).

bc. The way was prepared for Jehovah, then Christ came (Matt 3:3).

bd. He was Immanuel-God With Us (Matt 1:23).

be. All the angels of God worship Him (Heb 1:6).

bf. The magi worshiped Him (Matt 2:11).

bg. He was the Son of God (John 10:36).

bh. He who has seen Him has seen the Father (John 14:7-9).

bi. The Father was greater than He (John 14:28).

bj. He could do nothing of Himself (John 5:19).

bk. He did nothing of Himself (John 8:28).

bl. His Father gave Him the words which He spoke (John 12:49).

bm. He knew not the day nor the hour of the end (Matt 24:36).

bn. A cured blind man worshiped Him (John 9:38).

bo. He would raise up His body (John 2:19,21).

bp. No one has greater love than Him (John 15:13).

bq. He was one with the Father (John 10:28-33).

br. The Jews believed that He made Himself equal with God (John 5:18).

bs. He forgives sins against God (Luke 5:24).

bt. He gave men power to be born of God (John 1:12,13).

bu. Those in the boat worshiped Him (Matt 14:33).

bv. His 11 disciples worshiped Him (Matt 28:16,17).

bw. The Father’s name has been given to Him (John 17:11,12).

bx. He is heir of all things (Heb 1:2).

ca. God raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:24).

cb. He ascended to His God (John 20:17).

cc. He appeared in the presence of God (Heb 9:24).

cd. He sat down at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19).

ce. God highly exalted Him (Phil 2:9).

cf. God glorified Him (Acts 3:13).

cg. He was made better than the angels (Heb 1:4).

ch. God made Him Lord and Christ (John 2:36).

ci. All men should honor Him as they do the Father (John 5:22,23).

cj. He is the First and the Last, as is Jehovah (Is 44:6, Rev 1:17,18).

ck. In Him dwells all the fulness of the Deity in bodily form (Col 2:9).

cl. He is the exact representation of God’s nature (Heb 1:3).

cm. He is above all (John 3:31).

cn. He sustains all things (Col 1:17, Heb 1:3).

co. He is eternal Father (Is 9:6).

cp. He is Mighty God (Is 9:6).

cq. All things that are the Father’s are His (John 16:15).

cr. All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Him (Matt 28:18).

cs. The Father has given Him power over all flesh (John 17:2).

ct. He is mediator between God and men (1 Ti 2:5,6).

cu. He is in the bosom of the Father (John 1:18).

cv. He is Lord of lords (Rev 17:14).

cw. “Whoever calls upon the name of Jehovah will be saved” applies to Him (Rom 10:9, 11-13).

cx. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).

* * *

Summary 2:

a. Jesus is the creator of all things.

b. Jesus is the sustainer of all things.

2. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

- c. Jesus is the Savior.
- d. Jesus is the giver of things of God.
- e. Jesus has authority to forgive sins.
- f. Jesus is the judge of all.
- g. Jesus is all-seeing.
- h. Jesus is all-knowing.
- i. Jesus is omnipresent.
- j. Jesus was eternally preexistent.
- k. Jesus never changes.
- l. It is proper to serve Jesus.
- m. It is proper to pray to Jesus.
- n. It is proper to give glory to Jesus.
- o. It is proper to worship Jesus.
- p. Jesus is Lord.
- q. Jesus is sovereign with His Father.
- r. Jesus is the Son of God.
- s. Jesus is God, as is His Father.
- t. Jesus is Jehovah, as is His Father.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Matt 24:36-"But of **that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, **nor the Son, but the Father alone.**"

See Q21

John 1:1-[NWT]...and **the Word was a god.**

See APPENDIX B

John 1:18-**No man has seen God at any time...**

See Q21

John 1:18...the **only begotten** [Gr. monogenes-unique, one of a kind] God

Heb 11:17-By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up ISAAC; and he who had received the promises was offering up his ONLY BEGOTTEN [son]... [Ishmael was also a son of Abraham, and was born before Isaac.]

John 5:19-"**the Son can do nothing of Himself**, unless [it is] something He sees the Father doing"

See Q21

John 14:28-"**the Father is greater** [not better] **than I.**"

See Q21

John 20:17-"I ascend to My Father and your Father, and **My God and your God.**"

See Q21,Q22

Phil 2:6-[NWT] **he...gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God.**

See Q21

See APPENDIX B

Col 1:15-He is...the **firstborn** of all creation.

Gen 41:51,52-And Joseph named the FIRSTBORN MANASSEH...And he named the SECOND EPHRAIM

Jer 31:9-"EPHRAIM IS MY FIRST-BORN."

Being the firstborn designates positional prominence; not necessarily being the first born chronologically.

Rev 3:14-The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, **the Beginning** [Gr. arche-origin, source, first cause, ruler, authority, etc.-cp. Luke 12:11,20:20] **of the creation of God...**

2. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The holy spirit is God's active force, and is not a person.¹¹

* * *

Q1. Did Jesus speak of the Holy Spirit as He and Whom?

John 14:16-17-"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He may be with you forever**; [that is] **the Spirit of the truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not **behold Him** or **know Him**, [but] **you know Him** because **He abides with you**, and will be in you."

John 14:26-"But **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He** [Gr. that one] **will teach you** all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

John 15:26-"When **the Helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, [that is] **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, **He will bear witness** of Me."

John 16:7-8-"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** shall not come to you; but if I go, **I will send Him to you**. And **He, when He comes**, will convict the world..."

John 16:13-15-"But when **He, the Spirit of truth**, comes, **He will guide you** into all the truth; for **He will not speak on His own initiative**, but whatever **He hears, He will speak**; and **He will disclose to you** what is to come. **He shall glorify Me**; for **He shall take of Mine**, and shall disclose [it] to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that **He takes of Mine**, and will disclose [it] to you."

Q2. Does the Holy Spirit speak?

Matt 10:20-"it is not you who speak, but **the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.**"

Acts 1:16-"...**the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David...**"

Acts 10:19-20-**the Spirit said to him..."I have sent them Myself"**

¹¹Reasoning From the Scriptures, pp. 136-137, 361; Make Sure of All Things, p. 487

2. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

Acts 20:23-“**the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me** in every city, **saying** that bonds and afflictions await me.”

Heb 3:7-Therefore, just as **the Holy Spirit says**...

Heb 10:15-And **the Holy Spirit** also **bears witness** to us, for after **saying**...

Rev 22:17-**The Spirit and the bride say**, “Come!”

Q3. Does the Holy Spirit teach?

Luke 12:12-“**the Holy Spirit will teach you**”

John 14:26-“But **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 16:13-15-“But when **He, the Spirit of truth**, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and **He will disclose to you what is to come**. He shall glorify Me; for **He shall take of Mine**, and **shall disclose [it] to you**. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that **He takes of Mine**, and **will disclose [it] to you**.”

Q4. Does the Holy Spirit bear witness?

John 15:26-“When **the Helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, [that is] **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, **He will bear witness** of Me.”

Rom 8:16-**The Spirit Himself bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God.

Q5. Is there other Scriptural evidence that the Holy Spirit is a person?

Matt 3:16, Mark 1:10, John 1:32-**the Spirit of God descending as a dove**

Acts 5:3-But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back [some] of the price of the land?”

Acts 5:9-Then Peter [said] to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together to **put the Spirit of the Lord to the test**?”

Acts 15:28-“For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us** to lay upon you no greater burden...”

1 Cor 12:11-But one and the same **Spirit** works all these things, **distributing to each one individually just as He wills**

Eph 4:30-And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Q6. Can a Christian have fellowship with the Holy Spirit?

John 14:16-17-“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He may be with you forever**; [that is] **the Spirit of the truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, [but] you know Him because **He abides with you, and will be in you**.”

Rom 8:9-But if anyone does not **have the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him.

Rom 8:11-**the Spirit** of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**...His **Spirit who indwells you**

Rom 8:14-For all who are being **led by the Spirit of God**, these are sons of God.

Rom 8:26-**the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words.

1 Cor 3:16-Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you**?

1 Cor 6:19-your body is a temple of **the Holy Spirit who is in you**

2 Cor 13:14-the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all

2 Ti 1:14-**the Holy Spirit who dwells in us**

Q7. What is the position of the Holy Spirit?

Gen 1:2-**the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters**

Gen 1:1-In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Matt 12:32-“**whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven**”

Luke 12:10-“**he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven**”

John 14:26-“**the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name**...”

Acts 1:16-“**the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David**”

Heb 1:1-**God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets** in many portions and in many ways...

Acts 5:3-4-“**lie to the Holy Spirit...You have not lied to men, but to God**.”

Acts 28:25-“**The Holy Spirit** was right in **saying to your fathers**...” [cp. Heb 1:1]

2 Cor 13:14-the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all

Heb 10:15-17-And **the Holy Spirit** also bears witness to us; for after **saying** “This is **the covenant that I will make with them** after those days, **says the Lord**; I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds...I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more.”

* * *

Summary 1

The Holy Spirit:

- a. He is spoken of as He and Whom by Jesus (John 14:16,17,26, 15:26, 16:7,8,13-15).
- b. Has a name (Matt 28:19).
- c. Is a revealer of future events (Acts 1:16).
- d. Is an inspirer of prophecy (Heb 3:7).
- e. Bears witness to us through Old Testament prophecy (Heb 10:15).
- f. Is God (Acts 5:3,4).
- g. Descended in bodily form as a dove (Matt 3:16).
- h. He is sent by the Father in Jesus’ name (John 14:26).
- i. He is sent by Jesus (John 15:26).
- j. Is a sender of persons (Acts 10:19,20).
- k. Appoints overseers (Acts 20:28).
- l. Is a decider of decrees (Acts 15:28).
- m. He convicts the world (John 16:8).
- n. The world does not behold Him or know Him (John 14:17).
- o. Can be grieved (Eph 4:30).
- p. Can be spoken against (Matt 12:32).
- q. Can be put to the test (Acts 5:9).
- r. Can be blasphemed against (Mark 3:29).
- s. Can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
- t. Can forbid one to speak (Acts 16:6).
- u. Gives testimony to persons (Acts 20:23).
- v. Bears witness with a Christian’s spirit that he is a child of God (Rom 8:16).
- w. Intercedes in prayer for Christians (Rom 8:26).
- x. Distributes gifts to Christians (1 Cor 12:11).
- y. Speaks in Christians for their defense (Matt 10:20).
- z. He is a counselor (John 14:16).
- aa. He teaches a Christian all things (John 14:26).
- ab. He brings to a Christian’s remembrance all that Jesus said (John 16:13).
- ac. He guides Christians into all the truth (John 16:13).
- ad. He bears witness to Jesus (John 15:26).
- ae. He glorifies Jesus (John 16:14).
- af. He takes of what is Jesus’ and discloses it to Christians (John 16:14).
- ag. He hears (John 16:13).
- ah. He is a helper (John 16:7).
- ai. Is one with whom to have fellowship (2 Cor 13:14).
- aj. Is a comforter (Acts 9:31).
- ak. Jesus’ disciples know Him (John 14:17).
- al. He abides with Christians (John 14:17).
- am. He will be with Christians forever (John 14:16).
- an. With the bride says, “Come!” (Rev 22:17)

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Summary 2:

- a. The Holy Spirit is a Person.
- b. The Holy Spirit is God with the Father and with the Son.

3. THE TRINITY

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

- a. There is no plurality in the Godhead.¹² The Father alone is God.¹³
- b. Jesus is an angel, the first creation of God.¹⁴
- c. The holy spirit is God’s active force, and is not a person.¹⁵

* * *

Q1. Does the Old Testament indicate plurality in the Godhead?

Gen 1:1-In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:2-and **the Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters.

Gen 1:3-Then **God said**, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Gen 1:26-Then **God said**, “**Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness...**”

Gen 3:22-Then the Lord [**Jehovah**] **God said**, “Behold, the **man has become like one of US**, knowing good and evil”

Gen 11:7,9-“Come, **let US** go down and there **confuse their language**”...the Lord [**Jehovah**] **confused the language** of the whole earth

Gen 18-[**Jehovah** and two men [angels-19:1] **visit Abraham**-a distinction is made between Jehovah and the angels.]

Gen 19:24-Then the Lord [**Jehovah**] **rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from** the Lord [**Jehovah**] out of heaven...

Ex 23:20-23-“See, I am sending **an angel** ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared, Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since **my Name is in him**. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say...**My angel will go ahead of you...I will wipe them out...**”

1 Cor 10:4-and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a **spiritual rock which followed them**; and **the rock was Christ**.

Is 48:12,16-“Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; **I am the first and I am the last**. And now the Sovereign Lord [**Jehovah**] **has sent me, with his Spirit**.”

¹²Reasoning From the Scriptures, pp. 136-137

¹³Ibid., p. 218

¹⁴Aid to Bible Understanding, pp. 919, 1152

¹⁵Reasoning From the Scriptures, pp. 136-137

3. The Trinity

Is 63:7-14-the Lord [**Jehovah**]...he became **their Savior...the angel of his presence saved them...they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit...he who set his Holy Spirit among them...who sent his glorious arm of power...they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord [Jehovah]**

Zech 2:8-11-For this is what the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty **says**: “After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you-for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye-**I will surely raise my hand against them** so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty **has sent me**.”

“Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For **I am coming**, and I will live among you,” **declares** the Lord [**Jehovah**]. “Many nations will be joined with the Lord [**Jehovah**] in that day and will become **my people**. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord [**Jehovah**] Almighty **has sent me to you...**”

Zech 3:2-The Lord [**Jehovah**] **said** to Satan, “The Lord [**Jehovah**] **rebuke you**, Satan!”

Q2. In the New Testament do the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit cooperate collectively?

Matt 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22-**Jesus...the Spirit of God descending like a dove...a voice out of the heavens, saying, “This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Matt 28:19-“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in **the name [singular] of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**”

Luke 1:35-And the angel said to her, “**The Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of **the Most High** will overshadow you; the child to be born will be called holy, **the Son of God.**”

John 3:34-35-“For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for it is not by measure that he gives **the Spirit; the Father loves the Son**, and has given all things into his hand.”

John 14:26-“But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my [Jesus’] name**, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

John 16:13-15-“When **the Spirit** of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak of his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he **will take what is mine [Jesus’]** and declare it to you. **All that the Father has is mine**; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Acts 2:32-33-“This **Jesus** God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted to the right hand of God, and having **received from the Father the promise**

of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.”

Acts 2:38-39-And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of **Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of **the Holy Spirit**. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom **the Lord our God** calls to him.”

Rom 15:16-to be a **minister of Christ Jesus** to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the **gospel of God**, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, **sanctified by the Holy Spirit**.

Rom 15:30-I appeal to you, brethren, by our **Lord Jesus Christ** and by the love of **the Spirit**, to strive together with me in your prayers to **God** on my behalf

1 Cor 12:4-6-Now there are varieties of gifts, but **the same Spirit**; and there are varieties of service, but **the same Lord**; and there are varieties of working, but it is **the same God** who inspires them all in every one.

2 Cor 3:4-6-Such is the **confidence that we have through Christ** toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; **our competence is from God**, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not in a written code but **in the Spirit**; for the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor 13:14-**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**, be with you all.

1 John 1:3-our **fellowship is with the Father and with his Son** Jesus Christ

Gal 4:4-6-But when the fulness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, both under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, crying, “**Abba! Father!**”

Eph 4:4-6-**[There is]** one body and **one Spirit**, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father** of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Heb 10:12,15-But when **Christ** had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of **God...And the Holy Spirit** also bears witness to us; for after saying...

1 Pet 1:2-...according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of **the Spirit**, that you may obey **Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood...

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Summary:

a. The Old Testament on several occasions indicates plurality in the Godhead.

b. Individually, the Bible indicates:

1) The deity of Christ [See THE DEITY OF CHRIST]

2) The personality and deity of the Holy Spirit [See THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT]

3) The deity of the Father [undisputed]

These three factors produce a description of the Godhead in trinity.

c. Especially in the New Testament, these three Persons are repeatedly spoken of as cooperating collectively.

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Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Deut 6:4-Hear, O Israel! The Lord [Jehovah] is our God, the Lord [**Jehovah**] **is one** [Heb. ehad-a compound unity; cp. Gen 2:21 (one of his ribs), Gen 2:24 (shall be one flesh), Gen 3:22 (man is become as one of us), etc...not Heb. yahad-unique]

Part Two

THE NATURE OF MAN

4. THE SPIRIT OF MAN

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. The spirit of a man has no existence apart from the body.¹
- b. At death the spirit dissipates.² God retains only the memory of the one who has died.³

* * *

Q1. Is the spirit of a man distinct from his body?

Zech 12:1-the Lord [Jehovah]...forms **the spirit of man within him.**

Matt 26:41, Mark 14:38-"Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; **the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"

Mark 2:8-Jesus, **aware in His spirit** that they were reasoning that way within themselves...

Mark 8:12-And **sighing deeply in His spirit**, He said...

Luke 1:46-47-And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, and **my spirit has rejoiced** in God my Savior."

Rom 1:9-God, **whom I serve in my spirit**

Rom 8:16-The **Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God

1 Cor 2:11-For who among men **knows the [thoughts] of a man** except **the spirit of the man, which is in him?**

1 Cor 5:5-[I have decided] to deliver such a one to Satan for the **destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Cor 6:20-glorify God **in your body, and in your spirit**, which are God's

1 Cor 14:2-For **one who speaks in a tongue** does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but **in [his] spirit he speaks mysteries.**

1 Cor 14:14-For **if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays**, but my mind is unfruitful.

2 Cor 7:1-let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of **flesh and spirit**

2 Ti 4:22-The **Lord be with your spirit.**

Q2. What happens to the spirit at death?

Ecc 12:7-then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and

the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Is 26:19-Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to **the departed spirits.**

Luke 8:52,55-"Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep."...And **her spirit returned, and she rose** immediately

Luke 23:46-"Father, **into thy hands I commend my spirit**"

Acts 7:59-60-And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon [the Lord] and said, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!**"...he fell asleep.

Heb 12:22-24-But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to **the spirits of righteous men made perfect**, and to Jesus...

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Summary:

- a. The spirit of a man is a distinct entity, and normally dwells in the body.
- b. At death the spirit departs from the body.

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Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Ez 18:4,20-The **soul who sins will die.**

See THE NATURE OF DEATH, Q1

Ecc 9:3-10-UNDER THE SUN...For the living know that they shall die: but **the dead know not any thing**, neither have they any more a reward...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...**there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave** [Heb. sheol], whither thou goest.

See THE NATURE OF DEATH, Q1

5. THE SOUL OF MAN

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. Man is a soul.⁴ The soul is made up of the body plus the spirit.⁵
- b. The soul does not live on after the death of the body.⁶

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¹Reasoning From the Scriptures, p. 383

²Ibid.

³Ibid., p. 333

⁴Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 101, 375

⁵Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1533

⁶Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 136-137, 382

6. The Nature of Death

Q1. Of what is man composed?

Gen 2:7-Then the Lord [Jehovah] God **formed man of dust** from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**; and **man became a living being** [Heb. **soul**].

1 Thess 5:23-Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and **may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete**, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q2. According to the Bible, does the soul live on after the death of the body?

Gen 35:18-And it came about as **her soul was departing (for she died)**...

1 Ki 17:21-22-"O Lord [Jehovah] my God, I pray thee, **let this child's life** [Heb. **soul**] **return to him**." And the Lord [Jehovah] heard the voice of Elijah, and **the life** [Heb. **soul**] **of the child returned to him and he revived**.

Matt 10:28-"And do not fear **those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul**; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [Gr. gehenna]."

Acts 20:9-10-...fell down from the third floor, and **was picked up dead**. But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, "**Do not be troubled, for his life** [Gr. **soul**] **is in him**."

Rev 6:9-11-And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **the souls of those who had been slain** because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and **they cried out with a loud voice**, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and **they were told that they should rest for a little while longer**, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Rev 20:4-And **I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded** because of the testimony of Jesus...and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

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Summary:

a. Man is composed of the spirit, the soul, and the body.

b. Though man in totality is often referred to in the Bible as a soul, many passages speak of the soul of man living on after the death of the body.

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Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Ez 18:4,20-**The soul who sins will die.**

See THE NATURE OF DEATH, Q1

Ecc 9:3-10-UNDER THE SUN...For the living know that they shall die: but **the dead know not any thing**, neither have they any more a reward...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...**there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave**, whither thou goest.

See THE NATURE OF DEATH, Q1

6. THE NATURE OF DEATH

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The soul sleeps at death.⁷

b. There is no afterlife immediately following death and preceding the resurrection.⁸

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Q1. Is the term "sleep" ever applied to either the spirit or the soul in the Bible, or only to the body?

Ps 146:3-4-Do not trust in princes, in **mortal man**, in whom there is no salvation. **His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish**.

Matt 9:24-he said, "Depart; for **the girl is not dead but is sleeping**."

John 11:11-"Our friend **Lazarus has fallen asleep**; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep."

Acts 7:59-60-And they went on stoning **Stephen** as he called upon [the Lord] and **said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"...he fell asleep**.

Acts 13:36-"For **David...fell asleep**, and was laid among his fathers, **and underwent decay**"

1 Thess 4:14-For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him **those who have fallen asleep in Jesus**.

Q2. Does the Bible speak of an afterlife immediately following death and preceding the resurrection?

Deut 18:10-11-"There shall not be found among you anyone who...**calls up the dead**."

1 Sam 28:11-15-"**Bring up Samuel for me**"..."**I see a divine being coming up out of the earth**"...Then **Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?"**

⁷Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 136-137

⁸Ibid., pp. 30, 101; Make Sure of All Things, p. 143

Ecc 12:7-**the spirit shall return to God who gave it**

Is 14:9-10-**Sheol** from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; it **arouses for you the spirits of of the dead**, all the leaders of the earth; it raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones. **They will all respond and say** to you, "Even you have become like us..."

Matt 10:28-**"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul;** but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [Gr. gehenna]."

Matt 17:3, Mark 9:4-And behold, **Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.** [Matt 17:9-vision=Gr. orama-that which is seen; a spectacle-cp. Luke 24:23]

Matt 27:49-**"Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him"**

Matt 27:50-And **Jesus** cried out again with a loud voice, and **yielded up [His] spirit.**

Mark 15:36-**"Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down"**

Luke 12:5-**"fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into Hell [Gr. gehenna]"**

Luke 16:22-**"the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom"**

Luke 16:25-**"during your life..."**[as opposed to his present condition-death]"

Luke 16:30-**"if someone goes to them from the dead..."**

Luke 23:43-**"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."**

Luke 23:46-**"Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit."** And having said this, He breathed His last.

John 2:19-Jesus answered and said to them, **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."**

John 8:51-**"Truly, truly I say to you, if any one keeps my word, he will never see death."**

John 11:25-26-**"he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die."**

John 19:30-**he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**

Acts 7:59-And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon [the Lord] and said, **"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"**

Acts 20:10-But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, **"Do not be troubled, for his life [Gr. soul] is in him."**

Rom 8:38-39-For I am convinced that **neither death, nor life...shall be able to separate us from the love of God,** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Cor 5:8-we are of good courage, I say, and **prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.**

Phil 1:23-24-For I am hard-pressed from both [directions], **having the desire to depart and be with Christ,** for [that] is very much better; yet to **remain on in the flesh** is more necessary for your sake.

Phil 2:10-that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those** who are in heaven, and on earth, and **under the earth.**

2 Ti 4:6-For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and **the time of my departure has come.**

Heb 12:22-23-But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the **heavenly Jerusalem,** and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to **the spirits of righteous men made perfect...**

2 Pet 1:13-15-And I consider it right, as long as **I am in this [earthly] dwelling,** to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that **the laying aside of my [earthly] dwelling is imminent,** as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will also be diligent that at any time after **my departure** [Gr. exodus] you may be able to call these things to mind.

Rev 6:9-11-When he opened the fifth seal, I saw **under the altar the souls of those who had been slain** because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. **They called out in a loud voice,** "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and **they were told to wait a little longer,** until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

Rev 20:4-And **I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded** because of the testimony of Jesus...and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

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Summary:

a. The term "sleep" is never applied to either the spirit or the soul in the Bible, but only to the body.

b. Immediately following death, the Bible speaks of an afterlife in the spirit. In this state the individual awaits resurrection of the body.

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Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Ps 146:3-4-Do not trust in princes, in **mortal man,** in whom

⁹Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 334

7. Resurrection

there is no salvation. **His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.**
SEE Q1

Ez 18:4,20-**The soul who sins will die.**
See Q1

Eccl 9:3-10-**UNDER THE SUN...For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing,** neither have they any more a reward...**UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave,** whither thou goest.
SEE Q1

7. RESURRECTION

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. Jesus' body was not resurrected.⁹
- b. The bodies of Christians with the heavenly hope will not be resurrected.¹⁰
- c. Those who are resurrected to life on earth will be judged by future deeds which they will perform during the millennium.¹¹
- d. The second resurrection will occur on earth during the millennium.¹²

* * *

Q1. Was Jesus' body resurrected?

Matt 12:40-**"for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."**

Mark 16:6-**"He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid him."**

Luke 24:3-**they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus**

Luke 24:39-**"touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have"**

John 2:19,21-Jesus answered them, **"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days"**...But the temple he had spoken of was his body [Gr. spoke about the shrine of the body of him].

John 20:27-Then He said to Thomas, **"Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side;** and be not unbelieving, but believing."
[If Jesus was not here actually presenting His resurrected body to His disciples, He would be "proving" His resurrection by trickery.]

⁹Ibid., p. 333

¹¹Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 982; Watchtower, 3/1/87, p. 29

¹²Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 337, 339-345

Acts 2:27-**"because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay** [Gr. corruption; quote from Ps. 16:10]"

Acts 13:34-37-The fact that **God raised him from the dead, never to decay,** is stated in these words: "I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David." So it is stated elsewhere: **"You will not let your Holy One see decay."** For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and **he decayed** [Gr. saw corruption]. **But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay** [Gr. did not see corruption].

Col 2:9-**For in Him [Jesus] all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form**

1 Ti 2:5-**For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.**

Q2. Will Christians' bodies be resurrected?

Rom 8:11-**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies** through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Rom 8:23-**We...groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

Phil 3:20-21-**For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state** [Gr. Christ, who will change the body of the humiliation of us] **into conformity with the body of His glory,** by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Q3. Will the resurrected body have exactly the same characteristics as the original body?

John 20:26-**Jesus came, the doors having been shut**

1 Cor 15:44-**it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body**

1 Cor 15:52-**we shall be changed**

1 Cor 15:53-**For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

Q4. Are resurrected men to be judged by the deeds which they perform during the millennium?

Matt 16:27-**"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds."**

Luke 11:31-32-**"The Queen of the South shall rise up with**

8. The Nature of Hell

the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, **because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon**; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. **The men of Nineveh** shall stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, **because they repented at the preaching of Jonah**; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

John 5:28,29-“an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; **those who did** [Gr. having done] **the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed** [Gr. having done] **the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment**”

Acts 17:31-**He has fixed a day in which he will judge the world**

2 Cor 5:10-For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, **that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done**, whether good or bad.

Heb 9:27-Just as **man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.**

Rev 20:12-13-**the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works**

Q5. When does the second resurrection take place?

Rev 20:5-The rest of the dead did not come to LIFE **until the thousand years were completed** [cp. vs. 4; those of the first resurrection LIVED with Christ for the 1000 years]

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Summary:

- a. Jesus' body was resurrected.
- b. The bodies of Christians with the heavenly hope will be resurrected.
- c. The bodies of Christians with the heavenly hope will be changed at their resurrections.
- d. At the resurrection, men will be judged by the deeds which they performed in their bodies during their previous lives on earth.
- e. The second resurrection occurs after the 1000 years have been completed.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Luke 24:16-Their EYES were **kept from recognizing him**

John 20:14-she [Mary Magdalene] turned around, and **beheld Jesus standing [there], and did not know that it was Jesus.**

John 20:13-And they said to her, “Woman, why are you WEEPING?”

John 20:1-Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while IT WAS STILL DARK...

1 Cor 15:45-“The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” **The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit.**

1 Cor 15:44-it is sown a natural body, IT IS RAISED A SPIRITUAL BODY.

1 Cor 15:50-**flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**

1 Cor 15:52-WE SHALL BE CHANGED

Luke 24:39-“...a spirit does not have FLESH AND BONES as you see that I have.”

1 Pet 3:18-Christ...having been **put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit**

Rom 8:11-But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT who indwells you.

8. THE NATURE OF HELL

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. Since there is no afterlife immediately following death, it is impossible for one to experience either blessing or torment in Hades.¹³

b. Eternal nonexistence is the eventuality of those who are cast into gehenna, or the lake of fire.¹⁴

* * *

Q1. Is it possible to experience either blessing or torment in Hades?

Luke 16:23-“**in Hades** he lifted up his eyes, **being in torment**”

Luke 16:24-“**I am in agony in this flame**”

Q2. What is the eventuality of those who are cast into gehenna, or the lake of fire?

Is 66:24-Then they shall go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For **their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be quenched**; and they shall be an abhorrence to all mankind.

Dan 12:2-And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to **disgrace [and] everlasting contempt.**

Matt 3:12-“And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather

¹³Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 103; Make Sure of All Things, p. 231

¹⁴Make Sure of All Things, p. 146

8. The Nature of Hell

His wheat into the barn, but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**"

Matt 8:11-12-"And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline [at the] table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom shall be **cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

Matt 8:29-And behold, they [demons] cried out, saying, "What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to **torment** [Gr. to torture] us before the time?"

Matt 13:42-"The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will **cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place** [Gr. there] **there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

Matt 13:49-50-"So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will **cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

Matt 18:8-"it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be **cast into the eternal fire.**"

Matt 22:13-"Bind him hand and foot, and **cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

Matt 25:46-"And these will **go away into eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life."

Mark 5:7-and crying out with a loud voice, he [demons] said, "What do I have to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not **torment** me!"

Mark 9:43-"it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to **go into hell** [Gr. **gehenna**], **into the unquenchable fire**"

Luke 3:17-"but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**"

Luke 10:12-"I say to you, **it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom**, than for that city."

Luke 12:5-"**fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell** [Gr. **gehenna**]"

Heb 10:27-29-a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died **without mercy** on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much **more severely** do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot...

Rev 14:9-11-If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of **the wrath of God**, which is **mixed**

in full strength in the cup of His anger; and **he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have NO REST day and night**

Rev 19:20-these two were **thrown alive into the lake of fire**

Rev 20:10-And the devil who deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet **are** also; and **they will be tormented day and night forever and ever** [Gr. they will be tormented day and night unto the ages of the ages]

Rev 22:14-15-the city...**outside** are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and...

* * *

Summary:

- a. It is possible for one to experience torment in Hades.
- b. Eternal, conscious torment is the eventuality of those who are cast into gehenna, or the lake of fire.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Ez 18:4,20-**The soul who sins will die.**

See THE NATURE OF DEATH, Q1

Eccl 9:3-10-UNDER THE SUN...For the living know that they shall die: but **the dead know not any thing**, neither have they any more a reward...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...UNDER THE SUN...**there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave**, whither thou goest.

See THE NATURE OF DEATH, Q1

Part Three
GOD'S PEOPLE

9. ISRAEL

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. Unfulfilled prophecy given to natural Israel is to have fulfillment in "spiritual Israel," the Christian congregation (the church).¹

b. Jehovah's Kingdom program does not include the restoration of natural Israel.²

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Q1. What does the Old Testament indicate as to the future restoration and blessing of the nation of Israel?

Gen 3:15-And I will put **enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed**; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel. [cp. Gen 37:9,10, Rev 12:1,5]

Gen 13:14-15-And the Lord [Jehovah] **said to Abram**, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for **all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.**"

Gen 17:7-8-"And I [Jehovah] **will establish My covenant between Me and you [Abram] and your descendants** after you throughout their generations for **an everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I **will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession**; and I will be their God."

2 Sam 7:16-"And your [David's] **house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.**"

Ps 2:6-"But as for Me, **I have installed My king upon Zion, My holy mountain.**"

Is 2:1-4-The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw **concerning Judah and Jerusalem**. Now it will come about that **in the last days**, the mountain of the house of the Lord [Jehovah] will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and **all the nations will stream to it**. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord [Jehovah], to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For **the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord [Jehovah] from Jerusalem**. And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

Is 11:9,11-12-They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord [Jehovah] as the waters cover the sea...Then it will happen on that day that the Lord [Jehovah] **will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people**, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He will lift up a standard for the nations, **and will assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth**. [cp. Matt 24:31, Rev 7:1-8]

Is 25:6-10-And the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples **on this mountain**; a banquet of aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord [Jehovah] God will wipe tears away from all faces, and **He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth**; for the the Lord [Jehovah] has spoken. And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord [Jehovah] for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation." For the hand of the Lord [Jehovah] will rest **on this mountain**.

Is 27:6-**In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout**; and they will fill the whole world with fruit.

Is 33:20,24-Look upon **Zion, the city of our appointed feasts**; your eyes shall see **Jerusalem an undisturbed habitation, a tent which shall not be folded, its stakes shall never be pulled up nor any of its cords be torn apart**. And no resident will say, "I am sick"; **the people who dwell there will be forgiven** [their] iniquity.

Is 35:5-10-Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. And the scorched land will become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass [becomes] reeds and rushes. And a highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it [will] be for him who walks [that] way, and fools will not wander on it. No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk [there]. And **the ransomed of the Lord [Jehovah] will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion**, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Is 45:17-**Israel has been saved by the Lord [Jehovah] with an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated to all eternity.**

Is 52:1-Awake, awake, clothe yourself in your strength, O **Zion**; clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O **Jeru-**

¹Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 225

²Ibid., p. 224

9. Israel

salem, the holy city. For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no more come into you.

Is 65:17-21,24-“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create **Jerusalem** [for] rejoicing, and her people [for] gladness. I will also rejoice in **Jerusalem**, and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be [in it] an infant [who lives but a few] days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be [thought] accursed. And they shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall also plant vineyards and eat their fruit...The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall do no evil or harm in all **My holy mountain**,” says the Lord [Jehovah].

Is 66:20,22-“Then they shall bring all your brethren **from all the nations** as a grain offering to the Lord [Jehovah], on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, and on camels, **to My holy mountain Jerusalem**,” says the Lord [Jehovah], “just as **the sons of Israel** bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord [Jehovah]...For **just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me**,” declares the Lord [Jehovah], “so your offspring and your name will endure.”

Jer 3:17,18-At that time they shall call **Jerusalem** “The Throne of the Lord [Jehovah],” and **all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem**, for the name of the Lord [Jehovah]; nor shall they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. **In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance.**

Jer 23:3-8-“**Then I Myself shall gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and shall bring them back to their pasture**; and they will be fruitful and multiply. I shall also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord [Jehovah]. “Behold, [the] days are coming,” declares the Lord [Jehovah], “**When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely**; and this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord [Jehovah] our righteousness.’ Therefore behold, [the] days are coming,” declares the Lord [Jehovah], “**when they will no longer say, ‘As the Lord [Jehovah] lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the Lord [Jehovah] lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from [the] north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ Then they will live on their**

own soil.”

Jer 33:14-16-“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord [Jehovah], “**when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah**. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. **In those days Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety**; and this is [the name] by which she shall be called: the Lord [Jehovah] is our righteousness.”

Ez 16:60-“Nevertheless, **I [Jehovah] will remember My covenant with you [Israel] in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.**”

Ez 21:25-27-“And you, O slain, wicked one, the **prince of Israel**, whose day has come, in the time of the punishment of the end,” thus says the Lord [Jehovah] God, “**Remove the turban, and take off the crown**; this will be no more the same. Exalt that which is low, and abase that which is high. A ruin, a ruin, a ruin, I shall make it. This also will be no more, **until He comes whose right it is; and I shall give it to [Him].**”

Ez 37:25-**And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons, and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant shall be their prince forever.**

Hos 3:5-Afterward **the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord [Jehovah] their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days.**

Joel 2:32-And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord [Jehovah] will be delivered; for **on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape**, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

Joel 3:20-**But Judah will be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem for all generations.**

Amos 9:14-15-“**Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live [in them]**, they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. **I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them**,” says the Lord [Jehovah] your God.

Ob 15,17-For the day of the Lord [Jehovah] draws near on all the nations...**on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, and it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.**

Mic 4:1-4,7-“And it will come about in the last days that **the mountain of the house of the Lord [Jehovah]** will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised

above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. And **many nations will come** and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and **to the house of the God of Jacob**, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For **from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the Lord [Jehovah] from Jerusalem**. And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. And each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make [them] afraid, for the mouth of the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts has spoken...I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcasts a strong nation, and **the Lord [Jehovah] will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever.**"

Zeph 3:8,9,14-17-"My decision is to gather **nations**, to assemble **kingdoms**, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord [Jehovah], to serve Him shoulder to shoulder...Shout for joy, O **daughter of Zion!** Shout [in triumph], O **Israel!** Rejoice and exult with all [your] heart, O **daughter of Jerusalem!** **The Lord [Jehovah] has taken away [His] judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies.** The King of Israel, the Lord [Jehovah], is in your midst; you will fear disaster no more. In that day it will be said to **Jerusalem:** 'Do not be afraid, O **Zion;** do not let your hands fall limp. **The Lord [Jehovah] your God is in your midst**'"

Hag 2:6-7,9-For thus says the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts, "Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. And **I will shake all the nations;** and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill **this house** with glory," says the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts..."**The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,**" says the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts, "and **in this place I shall give peace,**" declares the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts.

Zech 2:10-12-"Sing for joy and be glad, O **daughter of Zion;** for **behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,**" declares the Lord [Jehovah]. "And **many nations** will join themselves to the Lord [Jehovah] in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts has sent Me to you. And **the Lord [Jehovah] will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.**"

Zech 8:20-23-Thus says the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts, "[It will] yet [be] that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. And the inhabitants of one will go to another saying, 'Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord [Jehovah], and to seek the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts; I will also go.' So **many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts in Jerusalem** and to entreat the favor of the Lord [Jehovah]." Thus says the Lord [Jehovah] of

hosts, "**In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'**"

Zech 12:9-10-"And it will come about **in that day** that **I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.** And **I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication,** so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born."

Zech 14:3-4,16-17-Then the Lord [Jehovah] will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. And **in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem** on the east...Then it will come about that any who are left of all the **nations that went against Jerusalem** will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the **families of the earth** does not **go up to Jerusalem** to worship the King, the Lord [Jehovah] of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

Zech 14:4-**His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives**

Acts 1:9,11-12-And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight..."This **Jesus**, who has been taken up from you into heaven, **will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.**" Then they returned to Jerusalem from **the mount called Olivet...**

Q2. What does the New Testament indicate as to the future restoration and blessing of the nation Israel?

Matt 5:35-"or by **Jerusalem**, for it is the city of the great **King**"

Matt 10:23-"**you shall not finish going through the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.**"

Matt 19:28-"**you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**"

Matt 23:38-39-"Behold, your house [**Jerusalem**, vs. 37] is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on **you shall not see Me UNTIL you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**"

Luke 1:32-33-"And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him **Jesus**. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;** and **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever;** and His kingdom will have no end."

Luke 13:34-35-"O **Jerusalem, Jerusalem...**How often I wanted to gather your children together...and you would not have it! Behold, your house is left to you, and I say to

10. The 144,000

you, **you shall not see Me UNTIL the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**"

Luke 21:24-**"Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles UNTIL the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."**

Acts 1:6-7-**"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"** He said to them: **"It is not for you to know the TIMES or DATES** the Father has set by his own authority..."

Acts 3:19-21-**"Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until [the] period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."**

Rom 11:25-29-For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that **a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins." From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

Rev 7:4-**144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel**

Rev 12:1,5-And a great sign appeared in heaven: **a woman clothed with the SUN, and the MOON under her feet, and on her head a crown of TWELVE STARS...And she gave birth to a son,** a male [child], who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron...

Gen 37:9-10-Now he [Joseph] had another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, **the SUN and the MOON and ELEVEN STARS** were bowing down to me." And he related it to his father [Israel] and to his brothers [**the 11 other tribes**]; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall **I and YOUR MOTHER and YOUR BROTHERS** actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"

Rev 14:1-**standing on Mt. Zion...144,000**

Rev 20:9-And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and **the beloved city,** and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. [cp. Is 52:1]

* * *

Summary:

a. Unfulfilled prophecies given to natural Israel will have

fulfillment in natural Israel.

b. The restoration and blessing of natural Israel is a critical element in the outworking of Jehovah's Kingdom program.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Matt 23:38-39-**"Behold, your house [Jerusalem, vs. 37] is being left to you desolate!** For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me UNTIL you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Luke 13:34-35-**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...How often I wanted to gather your children together...and you would not have it! Behold, your house is left to you,** and I say to you, you shall not see Me UNTIL the time comes when you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

10. THE 144,000

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The "little flock" of Luke 12:32 is to be equated with the 144,000 of Revelation chapters 7 and 14.³

b. The 144,000 are sealed from among all nations to become "spiritual Israel."⁴

c. The sealing of the 144,000 began at Pentecost, 33 C.E. and continues to the present day.⁵

d. The 144,000 are sealed to be kings, priests, and the bride of Christ.⁶

* * *

Q1. Of whom is the "little flock" of Luke 12:32 comprised?

Luke 12:32-**"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you [Jesus' disciples] the kingdom.**

Q2. From where are the 144,000 sealed?

Rev 7:4-those who were sealed, **a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed OUT OF every tribe of the sons of Israel: OUT OF...**[the tribes are then mentioned by name] Rev 7:9-great multitude...**FROM every nation and all tribes and peoples...**

The 144,000 are not sealed to become Israelites; they are sealed OUT OF Israel to become members of the 144,000 "bondservants of our God" (Rev 7:3).

Rev 14:1-the Lamb was standing **on Mount Zion,** and with Him **one hundred and forty-four thousand...**

³Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 268

⁴Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 683

⁵Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God, p. 161; Our Incoming World Government-God's Kingdom, p. 120

⁶Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 137; Make Sure of All Things, p. 303

11. God's Organization

Rev 14:6-an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to **every nation and tribe and tongue and people...**

In both Revelation chapters 7 and 14, a clear distinction is made between the 144,000 sealed Israelites and “every nation.” If we take “every nation” to be literal, we should also take Israel to be literal.

Q3. From where are earth’s future kings purchased?

Rev 5:9-10-Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood [men] **from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.** And Thou hast made them [to be] a kingdom and priests to our God; and **they will reign upon the earth.**

Q4. Are there other passages in the Bible which indicate that natural Israel plays an important part in the outworking of God’s purposes at the end of this age and during the millennium?

See ISRAEL

Q5. When are the 144,000 sealed?

Rev 7:1,3-After this I saw **four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.** And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, **“Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”**

There is no indication that any of these bondservants are sealed before the holding back of the four winds.

Q6. In Revelation chapters 7 and 14, are the 144,000 ever spoken of as being kings, priests, or the bride of Christ?

- Rev 7:3 - are bond-servants of God
7:4 - are sealed on their foreheads
7:4 - number 144,000
7:4-8 - are sealed from the 12 tribes of Israel
14:1 - stand on Mt. Zion with the Lamb.
14:1 - have the Lamb’s and His Father’s names on their foreheads
14:3 - sang a new song before the throne; no one else could learn the song
14:3 - had been purchased from the earth
14:4 - have not been defiled with women; have kept themselves chaste
14:4 - follow the Lamb wherever He goes
14:4 - have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and the Lamb

14:5 - no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless

There is no mention of their being kings, priests, or the bride of Christ.

* * *

Summary:

a. Jesus spoke to His disciples and referred to them as a “little flock,” which they were at the time. There is no basis for equating the “little flock” of Luke 12:32 with the 144,000 of Revelation chapters 7 and 14.

b. The 144,000 are sealed from among natural Israel to become “bondservants of our God.”

c. The 144,000 are sealed just prior to or during the Tribulation.

d. The Bible nowhere states that the 144,000 are sealed to be kings, priests, or the bride of Christ.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah’s Witnesses:

Rev 14:1-the Lamb was standing **on Mount Zion**, and with Him **one hundred and forty-four thousand...**

See Q2

See ISRAEL

11. GOD’S ORGANIZATION

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

a. In these days God is dealing exclusively with the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and with those who are responding favorably to its teachings.⁷

b. One’s salvation is dependent upon his response to this earthly organization.⁸

c. One can only come to understand the Bible and God’s purposes by associating with this earthly organization.⁹

* * *

Q1. What group of people has God been primarily dealing with since the first century?

Acts 20:28-**the church** of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1 Cor 12:12-**The body** is a unit, **though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many**, they form **one body**. So it is with Christ. For **we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body**-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and **we were all given the one Spirit to drink**.

2 Cor 11:2-I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I prom-

⁷Watchtower, 8/15/34, p. 249

⁸Watchtower, 11/15/81, p. 21

⁹Watchtower, 9/1/54, p. 529; Watchtower, 10/1/67, p. 587; Watchtower, 12/1/81, p.27

12. The Great Crowd

ised **you** to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a **pure virgin** to him.

Eph 2:21-22-In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a **dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**.

Eph 4:4-[**There is**] **one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling...**p[g

Eph 5:29-32-After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does **the church-for we are members of his body**. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and **the church**.

1 Ti 3:15-...**the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth**.

Heb 12:22-23-But you have come to...**the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven**.

Q2. Does the Bible indicate that one’s salvation is dependent upon his response to an earthly organization?

See SALVATION

See CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

Q3. Does the Bible teach that one can only come to understand the Bible and God’s purposes by associating with His “earthly organization?”

See THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE, Q4

* * *

Summary:

a. In our day, as in the first century, God is dealing primarily with the church of Jesus Christ.

b. One’s salvation is dependent upon his response to the person of Jesus Christ.

c. One can only come to understand the Bible and God’s purposes apart from the corrupt and deceptive teachings of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

12. THE GREAT CROWD

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

a. The “other sheep” of John 10:16 are to be equated with

¹⁰Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God, p. 364

¹¹Watchtower, 12/1/68, pp. 733-735

¹²Watchtower, 1/1/86, p. 23

¹³Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 356

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 136-137

the “great crowd” of Revelation 7:9.¹⁰

b. Members of the great crowd are not to be born again.¹¹

c. The majority of true Christians alive today, or 99.7% of Jehovah’s Witnesses, are members of the great crowd.¹²

d. Members of the great crowd will pass through the great tribulation and enter directly into everlasting life on earth.¹³

e. The “earthly hope” is the only valid hope for the majority of true Christians alive on earth today.¹⁴

* * *

Q1. Who are the “other sheep” of John 10:16?

John 10:16-“And I have **other sheep, which are not of this fold**; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and **they shall become one flock** [with] one shepherd.”

John 11:51-52-...that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and **not for the nation only**, but that He might also **gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad**.

Eph 2:13-14,16-But now in Christ Jesus you [**Gentiles**, vs. 11] who **formerly were far off** have **been brought near** by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who **made both [groups into] one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall...reconcile them both in one body** to God through the cross...

Q2. What does it mean to stand before the throne of God?

Rev 7:9,15-a **great multitude...standing before the throne...they are before the throne** of God

Rev 7:11-And **all the angels** were standing around the throne and [around] the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces **before the throne** and worshiped God

Rev 14:1,3-**one hundred and forty-four thousand**...they sang a new song **before the throne**

Q3. In the book of Revelation, where is God’s temple?

Rev 7:9,15-a **great multitude**...and they serve Him day and night **in His temple**

Rev 3:12-He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in **the temple** of My God, and he will not go out from it any more

Rev 11:19-**the temple** of God which is **in heaven**

Rev 15:5-6-**the temple** of the tabernacle of testimony **in heaven** was opened, and the seven **angels** who had the seven plagues **came out of the temple**

Rev 15:8-And **the temple** was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter **the temple** until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Rev 16:1-And I heard a loud voice from **the temple**, saying to **the seven angels**, “Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God into the earth.”

Rev 11:1-2-And there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Rise and measure **the temple** of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it. And leave out **the court** which is **outside the temple**, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

12. The Faithful and Discreet Slave

Q4. Before Revelation chapter 21, where is God's tabernacle?

Rev 7:9,15-a **great multitude...and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.**

Rev 13:6-And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His **tabernacle**, [that is], **those who dwell in heaven.**

Rev 15:5-6-the temple of the **tabernacle** of testimony **in heaven** was opened, and the seven **angels** who had the seven plagues came out of the temple

Heb 8:1-2-Now the main point in what has been said [is this:] we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty **in the heavens**, a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true **tabernacle**, which the Lord pitched, not man.

Heb 9:11,24-But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, [He entered] through the greater and more perfect **tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation...For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a [mere] copy of the true one, but into **heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us...

Q5. What is the eventuality of those who have washed their robes?

Rev 7:9,14-a **great multitude...they have washed their robes** and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

Rev 22:14-Blessed are **those who wash their robes**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and **may enter by the gates into the city** [New Jerusalem, Rev 21:2]

Q6. Must members of the great crowd be born again?

See BEING BORN AGAIN, Q2, Q4

Q7. What hope does the Bible hold out to Christians living in these last days?

See THE RAPTURE, Q1

Q8. Does Revelation chapter 7 state that the great crowd will pass through the great tribulation directly into the new earth without ever having been in heaven?

According to Revelation chapter 7, the great crowd:

- Rev 7:9 - no one could count
7:9 - is from every nation and tribes and peoples and tongues
7:9 - are standing before the throne and before the Lamb
7:9 - are clothed in white robes
7:9 - have palm branches in their hands
7:10 - cry out: "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne,

and to the Lamb"

- 7:14 - these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation
7:14 - have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb
7:15 - serve God day and night in his temple
7:15 - shall have God's tabernacle spread over them
7:16 - shall no more hunger, thirst, nor have sun or heat beat down on them
7:17 - shall have the Lamb as their shepherd
7:17 - will be guided to springs of the water of life
7:17 - God shall wipe every tear from their eyes

* * *

Summary:

a. The "other sheep" of John 10:16 are not to be equated with the "great crowd" of Revelation 7:9. By all indications the "other sheep" of John 10:16 are gentile Christians.

b. Members of the great crowd must be born again.

c. Members of the great crowd may or may not pass through the great tribulation and enter directly into everlasting life on earth. There are indications that many of them will spend some time in heaven.

d. The rapture is the only valid hope (other than dying in Christ and being resurrected) for all true Christians alive on earth today.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Gen 1:28-And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill the earth, and subdue it**; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

See THE KINGDOM, Q4

Ps. 37:29-**The righteous will inherit the land, and dwell in it forever.**

See THE KINGDOM, Q4

Is 45:18-**earth...He created it not in vain** [Heb. tohu-without form; cp. Gen 1:2-the earth was without form], **He formed it to be inhabited**

Matt 5:5-Blessed are **the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.**

See THE KINGDOM, Q4

13. THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The "faithful and discreet slave" of Matt 24:45 repre-

¹⁵Watchtower, 1/15/69, p. 51

¹⁶Then is Finished the Mystery of God, p. 112

¹⁷The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life, pp. 120-121

¹⁸Watchtower, 10/1/67, p. 590

13. The Faithful and Discreet Slave

sents the “anointed remnant” of Jehovah’s Witnesses which has been responsible for overseeing the kingdom-preaching work in modern times.¹⁵

b. The “faithful and discreet slave class” was identified and rewarded shortly after Christ’s invisible return in the year 1914.¹⁶

c. The “faithful and discreet slave” class has proven to be both faithful and discreet.¹⁷

d. Proper interpretation of the Bible cannot be obtained without help from the “faithful and discreet slave” class of Jehovah’s Witnesses.¹⁸

* * *

Q1. Is there only one faithful slave mentioned in Jesus’ parables?

Matt 25:20-23-“Master, you **entrusted five talents to me**; see, I have gained five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, **good and faithful slave**; you were faithful with a few things, **I will put you in charge of many things**”...“Master, you **entrusted to me two talents**; see, I have gained two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, **good and faithful slave**; you were faithful with a few things, **I will put you in charge of many things**”

Q2. According to Jesus, when is the faithful and discreet slave to be identified and rewarded?

Matt 24:44-47-“For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think [He will]. Who then is the **faithful and sensible slave** whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing **when he comes**. Truly I say to you, that **he will put him in charge of all his possessions**.”

See THE RETURN OF CHRIST
See WATCHTOWER CHRONOLOGY-THE YEAR 1914

Q3. Has the “faithful and discreet slave class” of Jehovah’s Witnesses proven to be faithful and discreet?

Here are some of the predictions made by the “faithful and discreet slave class” of Jehovah’s Witnesses over the years:

The year 1799 definitely marks the beginning of the time of the end [Creation, pp. 294,298].

The 1000 years of Christ’s reign began in 1873 [The Time is at Hand, foreword p. 2].

The Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D. [Prophecy, p. 65]

The second coming of the Lord began in 1874 [Creation, pp. 289,298, Prophecy, p. 76].

The beginning of the battle of the great day is dated from October 1874 [WT 1/15/1892, p. 1355].

The Kingdom of God will begin its exercise of power in 1878 [The Time is at Hand p. 101].

The formal inauguration of Christ’s Kingly office dates from April 1878 [The Day of Vengeance, p. 621].

Christ has been invisibly present since October 1884 [The Day of Vengeance, p. 621].

The Battle of the Great Day of God the Almighty had begun by 1886 [WT 1/1886, vol. VII, pp. 816,817].

The battle of the great day of God Almighty is already commenced [The Time is at Hand (1908), p. 101].

The stress of the great time of trouble will be on us somewhere between 1910 and 1912 [The New Creation, p. 579].

World War I is leading into the Battle of Armageddon [WT 4/1/15, p. 102].

By the end of 1914 the blindness of natural Israel will begin to be turned away [The Time is at Hand, p. 77].

The last member of the church will be glorified sometime before the end of 1914 [The Time is at Hand, p. 77].

Christendom will be completely destroyed by October 1914 [WT 1/15/1892, p. 1355].

The year 1914 will be the farthest limit of the rule of imperfect men [The Time is at Hand, pp. 76,77].

The date for the close of the battle of the great day is definitely marked in Scripture as October 1914 [WT 1/15/1892, p. 1355].

Armageddon is likely to begin in the spring of 1915 [WT 9/1/14].

The Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty had begun by 1916 [WT 9/1/16, pp. 265,266].

In the year 1918 God will destroy the churches wholesale and the church members by the millions. Any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of “Christianity” [The Finished Mystery, p. 485].

The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the scriptures than is 1914, and before 1925 the great crisis will be reached and probably passed [WT 9/1/22].

In 1925 the earthly phase of the Kingdom will be recognized [Millions Now Living will Never Die, p. 89].

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old will be resurrected and fully restored to perfect humanity in the fall of 1925 [Millions Now Living will Never Die, pp. 88-90].

We should, therefore, expect shortly after 1925 to see the awakening of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Melchisedec, Job, Moses, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, John the Baptist, and others mentioned in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews [The Way to Paradise, p. 224].

...the remaining months before Armageddon [WT 9/15/41, p. 288].

Those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any day now [The New World (1942), p. 104

Six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975. It may be the purpose of God for Christ's reign to run parallel with the 7th millennium of man's existence [Life Everlasting in the Freedom of the Sons of God, pp. 29,30, WT 8/15/68, pp. 497-501].

Q4. Should we trust in an organization of men for the correct interpretation of God's word?

Matt 16:16-17-And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**"

Matt 18:20-"**where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst**"

John 14:26-"**the Helper, the Holy Spirit, He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you"

John 15:26-"**When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me**"

John 16:13-"**But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...**"

Gal 1:15-18-**when He...was pleased to reveal His Son in me**, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, **I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia**, and returned once more to Damascus. Then **three years later I went up to Jerusalem to be acquainted with Cephas...**

1 John 2:26-27-I write this to you about those who would deceive you; but the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and **you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything**, and is true, and is no lie, just as **it has taught you**, abide in him.

1 John 5:20-And we know that **the Son of God** has come and **has given us understanding**, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ..

Q5. Are human agencies ever used by God to instruct His people?

Acts 8:30-31-"**Do you understand what you are reading?**" And he said, "Well, **how could I, unless someone guides**

me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

* * *

Summary:

a. There is more than one faithful slave mentioned in Jesus' parables.

b. The "faithful and sensible slave" will be identified and rewarded when Christ returns. Christ has not yet returned.

c. The "faithful and discreet slave class" of Jehovah's Witnesses has proven to be neither faithful nor discreet.

d. Christians are taught primarily by God's word, the Bible, and by the Holy Spirit. Often human agencies are also employed.

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Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Acts 8:30,31-"**Do you understand what you are reading?**" And he said, "Well, **how could I, unless someone guides me?**" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. See Q5, also Q3

14. PERSECUTION

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. Christians are persecuted for being servants of Jehovah and for their undivided allegiance to his Kingdom. ¹⁹

* * *

Q1. Why are Christians persecuted?

Matt 5:11-"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely **on my [Jesus'] account.**"

Matt 10:22-"and you will be hated by all **for my name's sake**"

Matt 24:9-"you will be hated by all nations **on account of My name**"

Mark 13:13-"and you will be hated by all **on account of My name**"

Luke 21:12-"persecute you...**for My name's sake**"

Luke 21:17-"and you will be hated by all **on account of My name**"

John 15:21-"But all these things they will do to you **for My name's sake**"

Acts 9:16-"for I will show him how much he must suffer **for the sake of my name**"

Gal 6:12-It is only those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and

¹⁹Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1292

14. Persecution

only in order that they may not be persecuted **for the cross of Christ**

Phil 1:29-**for Christ's sake**, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

2 Ti 3:12-And indeed, all **who desire to live in Christ Jesus** will be persecuted.

1 Pet 4:14-If you are reviled **for the name of Christ**, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Pet 4:16-However, if you suffer **as a Christian**, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Rev 2:3-"I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up **for my name's sake**, and you have not grown weary."

Rev 16:6-blood of the **witnesses of Jesus**

Rev 20:4-beheaded **because of the testimony of Jesus** and because of the word of God

* * *

Summary:

a. Christians are persecuted for bearing the name of Jesus Christ.

Part Four
MAN'S SALVATION

15. THE GOSPEL

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The gospel to be preached now is primarily the good news that the kingdom of God was invisibly established in the year 1914.¹

b. By believing in Christ and by taking refuge in Jehovah's organization, men can now hope to survive the coming great tribulation and enter directly into the earthly realm of the Kingdom.²

c. The gospel preached by Jehovah's Witnesses is the same gospel as that preached by the apostle Paul.³

* * *

Q1. In its 115 occurrences in the New Testament, to what does the term "gospel" apply?

Simply Good News	48
Jesus Christ	29
Redemption	20
God	7
The Kingdom	7
Grace	2
Joy	1
Peace	1

Q2. What was the gospel preached by the apostle Paul?

1 Cor 1:17-18,23-24-For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach **the gospel**-not with words of human wisdom, lest **the cross of Christ** be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...but **we preach CHRIST CRUCIFIED**: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 15:1-4-Now, brothers, I want to remind you of **the gospel I preached** to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as **of FIRST IMPORTANCE: that CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS** according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Col 1:19-23-For God was well pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace through his blood**, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds

because of your evil behavior. But **now he has RECONCILED YOU BY CHRIST'S PHYSICAL BODY through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation**-if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in **the gospel. This is the gospel** that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and **of which I, Paul, have become a servant.**

Q3. Does the gospel preached by Jehovah's Witnesses differ from that preached by Christians throughout the centuries?

"Let the honest-hearted person compare the kind of preaching of the gospel done by the religious systems of Christendom during all the centuries with that done by Jehovah's Witnesses since the end of World War I in 1918. **They are not one and the same kind. That of Jehovah's Witnesses is really "gospel" or "good news," as of God's heavenly kingdom that was established by the enthronement of his Son Jesus Christ at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914.**" (Watchtower, May 1, 1981, p. 17)

Q4. What should be our response to a gospel other than the one Paul preached?

Gal 1:8-9-But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, **let him be accursed.**

* * *

Summary:

a. The gospel is primarily the good news of our redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ, which redemption is to be appropriated by faith.

b. The gospel preached by the apostle Paul was primarily "Christ crucified."

c. The gospel preached by Jehovah's Witnesses is very different from that which was preached by the apostle Paul and by Christians throughout the centuries.

d. The message and the messengers of the gospel preached by Jehovah's Witnesses are to be accursed.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Matt 24:14, Mark 13:10-And this **gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.

See WATCHTOWER CHRONOLOGY-THE YEAR 1914
See THE KINGDOM

¹Watchtower, 5/1/81, p. 17

²The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life, pp. 23,121

³Watchtower, 11/1/68, pp. 652-656

16. Being Born Again

16. BEING BORN AGAIN

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. To be born again means to be begotten by holy spirit so as to have hope of a heavenly resurrection.⁴

b. Only 144,000 Christians are to be born again, of whom approximately 9,000 are presently alive on earth.⁵ The other 3,000,000, or 99.7% of Jehovah's Witnesses alive today have an "earthly hope" and have no need of being born again.⁶

c. One can put on the "new personality" without having been born again.⁷

d. A Christian with an "earthly hope" can enter into God's kingdom without having been born again.⁸

* * *

Q1. What does it mean to be born again?

Jer 31:33-34—"I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying 'Know the Lord [Jehovah]," for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord [Jehovah], "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Ez. 36:25-27-I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

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

1 Pet 1:23-for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable [Gr. corruptible] but imperishable [Gr. incorruptible]...

Q2. Must all Christians be born again?

John 1:12-13-But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, [even] to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Acts 2:38-39-And Peter [said] to them, "Repent, and let each

of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."

Rom 8:8-those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:9-But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. [vs. 15-"Abba! Father!"]

1 John 5:1-Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...

1 John 5:12-He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Q3. Can one put on the new self (new personality) without having been born again?

2 Cor 5:17-Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Eph 4:24-25-and put on the new self [Gr. new man], which in the likeness of God has been CREATED in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

Col 3:9-11-you laid aside the old self with its [evil] practices, and have put on the new self [Gr. new man] who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who CREATED him...Christ is all, and in all.

Q4. Can one see God's Kingdom or enter into it without having been born again?

John 3:3-"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:5-"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:7-"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

* * *

Summary:

a. To be born again means to be born spiritually by a supernatural act of God. One who has been born again has been cleansed from his sin, has a new, living relationship with God, and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to live a sanctified life unto God his Father.

b. All Christians have been born again.

c. The new man is created in a Christian when he is born again.

d. One cannot see God's Kingdom nor enter into it without having been born again.

⁴Watchtower, 12/1/68, pp. 733-735

⁵Watchtower, 2/15/86, pp. 12-14

⁶Ibid., pp. 14,20

⁷Watchtower, 1/1/69, pp.19-21

⁸Watchtower, 2/15/86, p. 14

17. SALVATION

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. To be saved a person must:
 1. Take in knowledge.⁹
 2. Believe in Jesus Christ.¹⁰
 3. Repent.¹¹
 4. Dedicate himself to Jehovah.¹²
 5. Turn around.¹³
 6. Recognize the Watchtower Society as "God's organization."¹⁴
 7. Conduct his life in harmony with the teachings and activities of the Watchtower Society.¹⁵
 8. Maintain integrity to Jehovah and to his earthly organization.¹⁶
 9. Endure faithfully to the end.¹⁷
- b. One need not be born again to be saved.¹⁸
- c. It is presumptuous for a Christian to say that he has been saved.¹⁹
- d. A Christian awaits future salvation.²⁰
- e. A Christian has no assurance of salvation.²¹

* * *

Q1. What is the condition before God of the unsaved?

Matt 8:22-But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me; and allow the **dead** to bury their own dead."

Matt 10:6-"but rather go to the **lost** sheep of the house of Israel."

Luke 13:1-5-Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the **Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices**, and He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were [greater] sinners than all [other] Galileans, because they suffered this [fate]? I tell you, no, but **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**. Or do you suppose that **those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them**, were worse culprits than all the men who lived in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but, **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**."

⁹Watchtower, 6/15/68, p. 359

¹⁰Watchtower 12/1/85, p. 9

¹¹Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1386

¹²The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life, p. 182

¹³Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1388

¹⁴Watchtower, 6/15/68, p. 359

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Watchtower, 12/1/85, p. 18

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Watchtower, 2/15/86, p. 14

¹⁹Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 360

²⁰Ibid., p. 358

²¹Ibid.

Luke 15:24-"for this son of mine was **dead**, and has come to life again; he was **lost**, and has been found."

Luke 19:10-"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was **lost**."

John 3:16-"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not **perish**, but have eternal life."

John 3:18-"he who does not believe **has been judged already**"

John 3:36-"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son **shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him**."

Rom 5:10-For if while we were **enemies**, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gal 4:9-But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God...[The unsaved are **unknown by God**.]

Eph 2:3-Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.

Col 2:13-And when you were **dead in your transgressions**...

2 Thess 1:7-9-and [to give] relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to **those who do not know God** and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And **these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord** and from the glory of His power.

Rev 20:15-And **if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire**.

Q2. How can one be saved?

Matt 19:26-And when the disciples heard [this], they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking upon [them] Jesus said to them, "**With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible**."

1 Pet 2:24-and **He [Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His body** on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for **by His wounds you were healed**.

Q3. To whom must one turn for salvation?

See RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, Q3

17. Salvation

Q4. What must a person do to be saved?

John 3:14-16-“And as **Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that **whoever believes may in Him have eternal life**. For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:36-“**He who believes in the Son has eternal life**; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 6:47-“Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes has eternal life**.”

Acts 13:38-39-“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him **everyone who believes is freed from all things**, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.”

Acts 13:48-And when the Gentiles heard this, they [began] rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed**.

Acts 16:29-31-The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**” They replied, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**-you and your household.”

Rom 10:9-10-**if you confess with you mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved**; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and **with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation**.

Rom 10:13-“**Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord [Jesus] will be saved**.”

Rev 3:20-“Behold, I [Jesus] stand at the door and knock; **if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him**, and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

Q5. Must one be born again to be saved?

See BEING BORN AGAIN, Q2

Q6. Is it proper for a Christian to say that he has been saved?

John 3:36-“**He who believes in the Son HAS eternal life**; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 5:24-“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him who sent Me, **HAS eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **HAS passed out of death into life**.”

John 6:47-“Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes HAS eternal life**.”

Rom 5:11-Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received the reconciliation**

Rom 8:1-2-**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. For the law of the Spirit **HAS set you free from the law of sin and of death**.

Eph 2:5-...when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you **HAVE BEEN saved**)...

Eph 4:32-**God in Christ also HAS forgiven you**.

Phil 4:3-and the rest of **my fellow-workers, whose names ARE in the book of life**.

2 Ti 1:8-9-**God**, who **HAS saved us**, and called us with a holy calling

Heb 10:19-Since therefore, brethren, **we have confidence** to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus...

1 Pet 1:23-For you **HAVE BEEN born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable**, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 John 3:14-We know that **we HAVE passed out of death into life**, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

1 John 5:11-And the witness is this, that **God HAS given us eternal life**, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:13-These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that **you may know that you HAVE eternal life**.

Q7. How does a Christian know that he has been saved?

Rom 8:16-**The Spirit Himself bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God

Eph 1:13-In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit** of promise.

1 John 5:13-These things I have **written** to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **in order that you may know that you have eternal life**.

Q8. Can one test himself to see whether or not he has been saved?

2 Cor 13:5-**Test yourselves [to see] if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!** Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that **JESUS CHRIST IS IN YOU-unless indeed you fail the test?**

Q9. Does a Christian await future, bodily salvation?

Rom 5:9-10-Since, therefore, **we are now justified by his blood**, much more **shall we be saved** by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies **we were reconciled to God** by the death of his Son, much more, **now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved** by his life.

Rom 8:11-But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who indwells you.

Eph 4:30-And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom **you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

1 Pet 1:4-5-you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until **the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**

Q10. Does a Christian have assurance of salvation?

John 5:24-"I tell you the truth, **whoever hears my word and believes** him who sent me **has eternal life** and will not be condemned; **he has crossed over from death to life.**"

John 10:28-"I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.**"

Rom 8:1-2-Therefore, **there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**, because through Christ Jesus **the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.**

Rom 8:11-But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who indwells you.

Eph 1:13-14-In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of [God's own] possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph 4:30-And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom **you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

Phil 4:3-and the rest of **my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.**

Col 3:3-4For you have died and **your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

Heb 10:35-Therefore **do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.**

1 John 5:13-I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **KNOW that you HAVE eternal life.**

* * *

Summary:

- a. To be saved one must:
 1. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. One must be born again to be saved.
 - c. One can test himself to see whether or not he has been saved. If Jesus Christ is in him, he has been saved. If He is not in him, he has not been saved.
 - d. The indwelling Holy Spirit gives the Christian assurance of salvation.
 - e. It is proper for a Christian to say that he has been saved.
 - f. A Christian awaits future, bodily salvation.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Phil 2:12-13-...**work out** [not FOR] **your salvation** with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.

18. JUSTIFICATION

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. A Christian is not justified by faith in Christ alone.²²
- b. True faith is demonstrated by good works.²³

* * *

Q1. Is a Christian justified by faith alone or by faith plus works?

John 3:16-"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.**"

John 3:17-18-"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. **He who believes in Him is not judged**; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:36-"**He who believes in the Son has eternal life...**"

John 5:24-"Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**"

John 6:28-29-They said therefore to Him, "**What shall we do that we may work the works of God?**" Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He hath sent.**"

John 6:40-"For this is the will of my Father, that **every one**

²²Make Sure of All Things, p. 296; Watchtower, 12/1/85, p.7

²³Watchtower, 12/1/85, p. 10

18. Justification

who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life.”

John 6:47-“Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes has eternal life.**”

John 20:31-but these have been written **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; **and that believing you may have life** in His name.

Acts 10:43-“Of Him [Jesus] all the prophets bear witness that through His name **every one who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.**”

Acts 13:39-“through Him **everyone who believes is freed from all things...**”

Acts 26:15,18-“I am Jesus whom you are persecuting...they may **receive forgiveness of sins** and an inheritance among those who have been **sanctified by faith in Me.**”

Rom 3:21-28-But now the righteousness of God has been manifested **apart from law**, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.** For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are **justified by his grace as a gift**, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, **to be received by faith.** This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he **justifies him who has faith in Jesus.**

Then what becomes of **our boasting?** **It is excluded.** On what principle? On the principle of works? No, but on the principle of faith. For we hold that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of law.**

Rom 5:1-Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:23-For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 7:6-But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

Rom 8:1-2-There is **therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.

Gal 2:16-even **we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of law.**

Gal 5:1-It was for freedom that **Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and **do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.**

Eph 2:8-9-For **by grace you have been saved through**

faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Phil 3:9-**not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.**

Col 2:13-14-**And you**, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive** together with him, **having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands**; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Col 2:20-23-If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to **regulations**, “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things which all perish as they are used), according to **human precepts and doctrines?** These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting rigor of devotion and self-abasement and severity to the body, but **they are of no value** in checking the indulgence of the flesh.

Titus 3:5-7-**He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done** in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being **justified by His grace** we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Heb 4:10-for **whoever enters God’s rest also ceases from his labors as God did from his.**

1 John 1:7-**the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

1 John 3:22-23-we keep His commandments...**And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.**

Rev 5:9-“Thou...hast redeemed us to God **by Thy blood...**”

Rev 7:14-they have washed their robes and made them white **in the blood of the Lamb.**

Q2. Do good works naturally follow true faith?

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

Eph 2:8-9-For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. **For we are His**

19. Sufficiency of Christ's Redemption

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Phil 2:12-13-**work out** [not FOR] **your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work** for [His] good pleasure.

Titus 3:5-8-He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may **be careful to engage in good deeds**. These things are good and profitable for men.

Jas 2:17-Even so **faith, if it has no works, is dead**, [being] by itself.

Jas 2:20-But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that **faith without works is useless?**

Jas 2:24-You see that **a man is justified by by works, and not by faith alone.**

Jas 2:26-For just as the body without [the] spirit is dead, so also **faith without works is dead.**

* * *

Summary:

a. The finished redemptive work of Christ is fully sufficient for the justification of a believer. A Christian is justified by faith in Christ alone.

b. Good works naturally follow true faith.

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Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Jas 2:24-You see that a man is **justified by works, and not by faith alone.**

See Q2

19. SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST'S REDEMPTION

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. Christ's redemptive work alone is not sufficient for the justification of a believer.²⁴

* * *

Q1. Is Christ's redemptive work fully sufficient for the justification of a believer?

²⁴Watchtower, 12/1/85, p. 7

Acts 13:39-Through him everyone who believes is justified from EVERYTHING you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

Rom 8:1-2-Therefore, **there is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**, because through Christ Jesus **the law of the Spirit of life set me free** from the law of sin and death.

Col 1:21-22-Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now **he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.**

Col 2:13-14-When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations**, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; **he took it away, nailing it to the cross.**

Col 2:20-23-**Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?** These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but **they lack any value** in restraining sensual indulgence.

Heb 9:12-He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but **he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.**

Heb 10:10-And by that will, **we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

1 Pet 2:24-and **He Himself bore our sins on His body on the cross**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for **by His wounds you were healed.**

* * *

Summary:

a. Christ's redemptive work alone is fully sufficient for the justification of a believer.

20. Relationship with Christ

20. RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. Jesus should not be honored as God, nor should he be worshiped.²⁵

b. A Christian should not come directly to Jesus, but only to the Father THROUGH Jesus.²⁶

c. Only members of the 144,000 of Revelation chapters 7 and 14, of which approximately 9,000 are presently alive on earth, are under the new covenant by virtue of Christ's blood and may rightly partake of the emblematic bread and wine at the Memorial (Communion).²⁷ The vast majority of true Christians alive today, the "great crowd" of Revelation chapter 7, or 99.7% of Jehovah's Witnesses, are to be merely observers at the Memorial.²⁸

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Q1. To what extent should one honor Jesus?

See THE DEITY OF CHRIST, Q14, Q15

Q2. How does one's relationship with Christ affect his position before God?

Gal 3:26-For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:12-He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Q3. Should a Christian come directly to Jesus?

Matt 11:28-30-"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

John 5:39-40-"You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life."

John 6:35-"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

John 6:37-"All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."

John 6:44-"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him"

John 6:45-"Every one who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me."

John 7:37-38-Now on the last day, the great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'".

John 12:32-"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

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

Heb 13:13-let us go forth to him [Jesus] outside the camp...

1 Pet 2:25-For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd [Jesus] and Overseer of your souls.

Q4. Can one know Jesus?

John 14:21-"I [Jesus] will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

John 17:3-"this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

Phil 3:10-that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...

Q5. How much should a Christian love Jesus?

Matt 20:37-"He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Eph 6:24-Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible.

Phil 1:21-For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Q6. What must a Christian be willing to do for Jesus?

Matt 16:25-"whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it."

Phil 3:8-Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ.

²⁵Make Sure of All Things, pp. 282-283

²⁶Aid to Bible Understanding, p. 1329

²⁷Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 268, 324-325; Watchtower, 2/15/86, p. 15

²⁸Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 268, 324-325; Watchtower, 2/15/86, p. 15

Q7. How close of a personal relationship should a Christian have with Jesus?

John 14:23-**"We will come to him, and make Our abode with him."**

John 15:4-5-**"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me...apart from me you can do nothing."**

John 17:23-**"I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one,** so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me."

Rom 13:14-But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and make no provision for the flesh...

1 Cor 1:9-you were called into **fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ** our Lord.

1 Cor 6:16,17-**"The two will become one flesh."** But **the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit.**

2 Cor 12:9-I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that **the power of Christ may dwell in me.**

2 Cor 13:5-Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that **Jesus Christ is in you...**

Gal 2:20-I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me;** and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 3:27-For as many of you who were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**

Gal 4:6-And because you are sons, God has sent **the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,** crying, "Abba! Father!"

Gal 4:19-My little children, with whom I am again in travail until **Christ be formed in you!**

Eph 3:16-17-that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith...

Eph 4:15-we are to **grow up in all [aspects] into Him,** who is the head, [even] **Christ.**

Phil 4:7-And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will **keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Col 2:6-As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **live in him, rooted and built up in him** and established in the faith.

Col 2:10-**in Him you have been made complete...**

Col 3:11-**Christ is all, and in all.**

1 Pet 3:15-**sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts...**

1 John 1:3-**our fellowship is with...His son Jesus Christ.**

Rev 3:20-Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.**

Q8. Should all true Christians partake of the emblematic bread and wine at the Memorial (Communion)?

John 6:33-**"For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."**

John 6:51-**"I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if ANY MAN eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

John 6:53-**"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you."**

Rev 7:9,14-**a great multitude...they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

There is no mention in the Bible of any Christians living before Christ's return who should not partake of the emblems.

* * *

Summary:

- a. It is proper to honor Jesus as God, and to worship Him.
- b. A Christian must come directly to Jesus for salvation.
- c. One who has no relationship with Christ has no relationship with God.
- d. A Christian must love Jesus more than he loves his own life.
- e. A Christian has an intimate personal relationship with Jesus.
- f. All true Christians alive today have been born again, are under the new covenant by virtue of Christ's blood, and rightly partake of the emblematic bread and wine.

21. CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. Acquiring the "accurate knowledge" dispensed by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is essential to a Christian's salvation.²⁹
- b. In order to receive divine approval on his life, a Christian must willingly submit to the teachings and practices of the "faithful and discreet slave class" of Jehovah's Witnesses.³⁰

²⁹Watchtower, 6/15/68, p. 359

³⁰Watchtower, 10/1/67

22. Witnessing

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Q1. Are Christians freed from Pharisaism?

Matt 11:28-30-“Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest**. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **you shall find rest for your souls**. For **My yoke is easy, and My load is light**.”

Acts 13:39-“and by him **every one that believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses**.”

Rom 7:6-But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter**.

Rom 14:14-I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that **nothing is unclean in itself**; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Rom 14:17-for **the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.

1 Cor 10:23-**All things are lawful**, but not all things are profitable. **All things are lawful**, but not all things edify.

2 Cor 11:3-But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the **simplicity and purity [of devotion] to Christ**.

Gal 3:2-3-This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? **Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?**

Heb 4:10-for **whoever enters God’s rest also ceases from his labors as God did from his**.

Titus 1:15-**To the pure, all things are pure...**

1 Pet 2:16-**Live as free men**, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

1 John 5:3-5-For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And **his commandments are not burdensome**. For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world**; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Q2. Are Christians freed from intellectualism?

1 Cor 2:2-For **I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified**.

Q3. Are Christians freed from men’s bondage?

1 Cor 7:23-You were bought with a price; **do not become slaves of men**.

Gal 2:4-5-But [it was] because of the **false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage**. But we did not yield in subjection to them for even **an hour...**

Gal 5:1-**For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery**.

Gal 5:13-For **you were called to freedom**, brethren...

See THE FAITHFUL & DISCREET SLAVE

* * *

Summary:

- a. Christian life, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is fundamentally free and simple.
- b. A Christian is not subject to the bondage of men who would enslave him.

22. WITNESSING

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

a. The extent to which one engages in the house-to-house preaching activity of Jehovah’s Witnesses determines to a large degree his righteous or unrighteous standing before Jehovah God.³¹

b. All of Jehovah’s Witnesses are required to spend time regularly in the preaching work.³²

c. The message to be preached today is that of the established (since 1914) kingdom of God and the hope of eternal life on the paradise earth to come.³³

* * *

Q1. Are Christians encouraged to witness to their fellow men?

Matt 28:19-20-“**Go therefore and make disciples..teaching them**”

Acts 5:42-And **every day, in the temple and from house to house, they [the apostles] kept right on teaching and preaching** Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 20:20-how I [Paul] did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and **teaching you** [the

³¹Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry, p. 106

³²Ibid., pp. 6, 82

³³Watchtower, 5/1/81, p. 17

elders of the church in Ephesus] **publicly and from house to house**

1 Cor 9:16-I [Paul] **am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.**

1 Cor 11:1-**Become imitators of me** [Paul], even as I am of Christ

Eph 6:15-**having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**

Phil 1:14-most of the brethren...because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to **speak the word of God** without fear

2 Ti 4:1-2-I **solemnly charge you** [Timothy]...**preach the word**

Rev 22:17-And **let anyone hearing say "Come!"**

Q2. Is house-to-house preaching a prerequisite for salvation?

See SALVATION

Q3. Do Christians all have identical roles in the ministry?

1 Cor 12:28-29-And **God has appointed** in the church, first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then **gifts of healings, helps, administrations**, various kinds of **tongues**. **All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?**

Eph 4:11-And **He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...

Q4. Does the Watchtower Society place the same emphasis on witnessing as does the New Testament?

Admonition to preach/page in the New Testament=.023
Admonition to preach/page in Watchtower Society literature=.625

Q5. What message is to be preached by Christians today?

Luke 24:45-And He [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that **repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations...**"

See THE GOSPEL
See THE KINGDOM

* * *

Summary:

- a. Christians are encouraged to witness to their fellow men.
- b. House-to-house preaching is not a prerequisite for salvation.
- c. Christians have differing roles in the ministry. Not all Christians are preachers.
- d. The Watchtower Society places 27 times more emphasis on preaching than does the New Testament.
- e. The message to be preached by Christians today is Christ crucified.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Matt 24:14-And this **gospel of the kingdom shall be preached** in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.

See THE KINGDOM

Part Five
THE LAST DAYS

23. THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

- a. The return of Christ occurred invisibly in the fall of 1914 C.E.¹
- b. Christ will not leave heaven and come to earth.²
- c. Christ will not have a visible return to earth.³

* * *

Q1. Do the 24 occurrences of the Greek word “parousia” in the New Testament substantiate the Watchtower Society’s teaching of an “invisible presence?”

Matt 24:3-what will be the sign of your **parousia**?

Matt 24:27-For AS THE LIGHTNING comes from the east and SHINES even to the west, so will be the **parousia** of the Son of Man

Matt 24:37-As were the days of Noah, so will be the **parousia** of the Son of Man

Matt 24:39-they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the **parousia** of the Son of Man

1 Cor 15:23-resurrection...Christ the first fruits, then at his **parousia** those who belong to Christ

1 Cor 16:17-I rejoice at the **parousia** of Stephanas and Fortunatus...because they have made up for your absence

2 Cor 7:6-God...comforted us by the **parousia** of Titus

2 Cor 7:7-and not only by his **parousia** but also by...

2 Cor 10:10-His letters are weighty...but his bodily **parousia** is weak

Phil 1:26-I shall remain and continue with you all...because of my **parousia** to you again

Phil 2:12-obeyed...not only in my **parousia** but much more in my absence

1 Thess 2:19-our hope or joy...before our Lord Jesus at his **parousia**

1 Thess 3:13-that he may establish your hearts unblamable...at the **parousia** of our Lord Jesus WITH ALL HIS SAINTS

1 Thess 4:15-we who are alive, who are left until the **parousia** of the Lord, shall not precede...

1 Thess 5:23-may your...be kept sound and blameless at the **parousia** of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Thess 2:1-concerning the **parousia** of our Lord Jesus Christ

and our assembling to meet him...THAT DAY

2 Thess 2:8-Lord Jesus will...DESTROY HIM BY HIS APPEARING AND HIS **parousia**

2 Thess 2:9-the **parousia** of the lawless one by the activity of Satan

Jas 5:7-be patient...until the **parousia** of the Lord

Jas 5:8-Establish your hearts, for the **parousia** of the Lord is at hand

2 Pet 1:16-we made known to you the power and **parousia** of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Pet 3:4-and saying, “Where is the promise of his **parousia**?” For ever since the fathers fell asleep...

2 Pet 3:12-the **parousia** of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled...fire

1 John 2:28-And now, little children, abide in him, so that WHEN HE APPEARS we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame AT HIS **parousia**.

Q2. Is Christ invisibly present today?

Matt 18:20-“For **where two or three have gathered in My name, there I am in their midst.**”

Matt 28:20-“**I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

Q3. Will Christ leave heaven and come to the earth?

Acts 1:9,11-12-He was taken up...“This **Jesus**, who has been **taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven**” ...from the mount of Olives

Zech 14:4-His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives

Acts 3:21-**whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things.**

Phil 3:20-**heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**

1 Thess 4:16-**the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout**

2 Thess 1:7-when the Lord **Jesus shall be revealed from heaven** with His mighty angels in flaming fire

Q4. Will Christ have a visible return?

Matt 24:26-27-“**If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go forth, or, ‘Behold, He is in**

¹Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 95

²Aid to Bible Understanding, pp. 551, 1336

³Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 314, 343; Make Sure of All Things, p. 451

24. Watchtower Chronology—The Year 1914

the inner rooms,' do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."

Matt 24:30—"and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."

Mark 13:26—"And then they shall see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory."

Luke 17:24—"For just as the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day."

Luke 21:27—"then will they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory"

1 Ti 6:14-until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Ti 4:8-the crown of righteousness, which the Lord...will award on that day...to all who have loved His appearing

Titus 2:13-Looking for...the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ

Heb 9:28-Christ...shall appear a second time for salvation without [reference to] sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

1 John 2:28-And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 3:2-when He appears, we shall be like Him

Rev 1:7-He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced him

Zech 12:10-they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced

* * *

Summary:

a. The return of Christ did not occur invisibly in the fall of 1914 C.E.

b. Christ will leave heaven and come to earth.

c. Christ will have a visible return to earth.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

John 14:19-"After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me..."

John 16:16-"A little while, and YOU WILL SEE ME NO MORE; again a little while, and YOU WILL SEE ME."

See Q4

24. WATCHTOWER CHRONOLOGY —THE YEAR 1914

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The duration of the "times of the gentiles" can be ascertained to be 2,520 years by a study of Daniel chapter 4.⁴

b. The Kingdom is not restored to natural Israel at the end of the "times of the gentiles."⁵

c. The return of Christ occurred invisibly in the fall of 1914 C.E.⁶

d. The signs of Christ's return occur after his return and give evidence that he is now invisibly present.⁷

e. The Watchtower Society is God's sole channel of truth for people on earth today, and has proven to be a faithful guide in the interpretation of Bible prophecy.⁸

* * *

Q1. What are some of Jehovah's Witnesses' doctrines that are dependent upon the coming of Christ in 1914?

1. The fulfillment of prophecies in Revelation [Rev 1:10-I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day]:

a. The seals, trumpets, and bowls judgments (Rev 6-16)

b. Sealing of the 144,000 (Rev 7:3-8)

c. The first resurrection (Rev 20:4-6)

d. Birth of God's Kingdom (Rev 12:5)

2. Faithful and discreet slave put in charge of all Christ's possessions :

Matt 24:45-47-faithful and sensible slave...when he comes ...he will put him in charge of all his possessions

3. Separation of the sheep and the goats:

Matt 25:31-32-when the Son of Man comes in His glory ...He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats

Q2. Is Daniel chapter 4 a prophecy pertaining to the duration of the "gentile times?"

This prophecy was fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4: 24-37.

⁴Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 95-97

⁵Our Incoming World Government- God's Kingdom, pp. 88-89

⁶Reasoning from the Scriptures, pp. 95-97; Make Sure of All Things, p. 89

⁷Watchtower, 2/16/85, p. 16

⁸Watchtower, 1/15/69, p. 51

Q3. Is the Kingdom restored to natural Israel at the end of the “gentile times?”

See ISRAEL

Q4. Does the Bible indicate that Jesus’ second coming will be invisible?

See THE RETURN OF CHRIST, Q4

Q5. Do the signs of Christ’s return occur before or after His return?

Matt 24:7-8-“**nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**, and in various places there will be **famines and earthquakes**. But **all these things are [merely] BEGINNING of birth pangs**.”

Matt 24:33, Mark 13:29-“**when you see all these things, recognize that He is NEAR [not here], at the door.**”

Mark 13:8-“**...kingdom against kingdom...earthquakes... famines... These things are merely the BEGINNING of birth pangs.**”

Birth pangs must occur before, not after the birth of God’s Kingdom.

Q6. Are we to know in what year Christ is to return?

Matt 24:42-“**you do not know which day your Lord is coming**”

Matt 24:44-“**the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think [He will]**”

Acts 1:6-7-“Lord, is it at this time You are **restoring the kingdom** to Israel?” He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or epochs** which the Father has fixed by His own authority...”

Q7. Should we expect to find persons in these last days prematurely announcing Christ’s return?

Luke 21:8-9-“Take heed that you be not misled; for **many will come in My name, saying... ‘The time is at hand’; DO NOT GO AFTER THEM**. And when you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but **the end does not follow immediately.**”

Q8. Has the Watchtower Society made mistakes in the past when setting prophetic dates?

See THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE, Q3

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Summary:

a. The invisible return of Christ in the year 1914 is a foundational doctrine of Watchtower theology.

b. The duration of the “times of the gentiles” cannot be ascertained by a study of Daniel chapter 4.

c. The kingdom is restored to natural Israel at the end of the “times of the gentiles.”

d. The return of Christ did not occur invisibly in the fall of 1914 C.E. This visible event is still future.

e. The signs of Christ’s return are to occur before His return and give evidence that He is shortly to appear.

f. We should expect to find persons in these last days prematurely announcing Christ’s return.

g. The Watchtower Society has made many serious errors when attempting to set prophetic dates.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah’s Witnesses:

Matt 24:3-“Tell us, **when will these things be, and what [will be] the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**”

See Q5

John 14:19-“After a little while **the world will behold Me no more...**”

See Q4

25. THE RAPTURE

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that:

a. The rapture occurred invisibly in the year 1918.⁹

b. Surviving the great tribulation and entering the cleansed earth following the great tribulation is the hope that the Bible holds out for Christians living during these last days.¹⁰ The bodily rapture of the Christian church is a false hope and will not occur.¹¹

c. The rapture and the first resurrection do not involve resurrection of the physical body.¹²

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Q1. What hope does the Bible hold out for Christians living during these last days?

John 14:3-“**I [Jesus] will come again, and receive you to Myself**”

John 14:18-“**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**”

⁹Babylon the Great has Fallen, p. 458

¹⁰Watchtower, 12/1/85, p. 17

¹¹Babylon the Great has Fallen, p. 458

¹²Ibid.

26. The Kingdom

Phil 3:20-21-For **our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body**

1 Thess 1:10-to **wait for His Son from Heaven...Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come**

1 Thess 4:15-18-For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 John 3:2-We know that, **when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.**

Rev 3:10-Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that [hour] which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.**

Q2. Will the Christians be taken up bodily?

See RESURRECTION, Q2

Q3. How should hope of the rapture affect one's Christian life?

Phil 1:6-**He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ**

Phil 1:10-**be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ**

1 John 2:28-And now, little children, **abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.**

1 John 3:2-3-We know that, **when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And every one who has this hope [fixed] on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

* * *

Summary:

a. The rapture is the only valid hope (other than dying in Christ and being resurrected) that the Bible holds out to Christians living in these last days. The rapture has not yet occurred.

b. At the rapture, Christians will be taken up bodily to meet the Lord.

c. Expectation of the rapture has a purifying affect on those who have this hope.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

1 Cor 15:50-**flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**

1 Cor 15:52-WE SHALL BE CHANGED

Luke 24:39-“...a spirit does not have FLESH AND BONES as you see that I have.”

26. THE KINGDOM

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. Christ will not be physically present on earth during the millennium.¹³

b. The 144,000 of Revelation chapters 7 and 14 will rule invisibly with Christ during the millennium.¹⁴

c. The great crowd of Revelation chapter 7 will live through the great tribulation and enter directly into the cleansed earth.¹⁵

d. Humans will inhabit the earth during the millennium.¹⁶

e. The “earthly hope” is the Biblical hope for Christians alive now.¹⁷

* * *

Q1. Will Christ be physically present on earth during the millennium?

See THE RETURN OF CHRIST, Q3

See ISRAEL

Q2. Who will be ruling with Christ during the millennium?

See THE 144,000, Q3

Q3. Will anyone live through the great tribulation and enter directly into the cleansed earth?

See ISRAEL

See THE GREAT CROWD

Q4. Will humans inhabit the earth during the millennium?

See ISRAEL

¹³Aid to Bible Understanding, pp. 551, 1336

¹⁴Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 137

¹⁵Watchtower, 12/1/85, p.17

¹⁶Ibid., pp. 17-18

¹⁷Ibid.

27. The New Heaven and New Earth

Q5. What is the Biblical hope for Christians alive now?

See THE RAPTURE, Q1

* * *

Summary:

- a. Christ will be physically present on earth during the millennium.
- b. The bride of Christ will rule with Christ during the millennium.
- c. There will be those who will live through the great tribulation and enter directly into the cleansed earth.
- d. Humans will inhabit the earth during the millennium.
- e. The rapture is the Biblical hope for Christians alive now.

27. THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

- a. The present heaven and the present earth will remain forever.¹⁸
- b. A new heaven and a new earth will not be created.¹⁹

* * *

Q1. Will the present heaven and the present earth remain forever?

Ps 102:25-26—"Of old Thou didst found **the earth**; and **the heavens** are the work of Thy hands. **Even they will perish**, but Thou dost endure; and **all of them will wear out like a garment...**"

Is 51:6—"Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; **the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment** and its inhabitants die like flies."

Matt 5:18—"For truly I say to you, **UNTIL heaven and earth pass away**, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."

Matt 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33—"Heaven and earth **will pass away**, but My words shall not pass away."

Heb 1:10-12-He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of **the earth**, and **the heavens** are the work of your hands. **They will perish**, but you remain; **they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.**"

2 Pet 3:7-But **the present heavens and earth** by His word **are being reserved for fire**

2 Pet 3:10-11-But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which **the heavens will pass away** with a roar and **the elements will be destroyed with intense heat**, and **the earth** and its works **will be burned up**.

2 Pet 3:12-**the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat**

Rev 20:11-And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence **earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them**.

Q2. Will a new heaven and a new earth be created?

Is 65:17-Behold, **I will create new heavens and a new earth**

2 Pet 3:13-But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness dwells.

Rev 21:1-And **I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away**

* * *

Summary:

- a. The present heaven and earth will be destroyed by fire (at the end of the 1000-yr. reign of Christ).
- b. A new heaven and a new earth will be created.

* * *

Scriptures commonly used by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Gen 8:22-WHILE THE EARTH REMAINS, **seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease**.

Ps 104:5-Who **laid the foundations of the earth** [Heb. erez; as in vss. 9,13,14,24,32; not as in vs. 30], **that it should not be removed for ever**

Ps 119:90-**Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth** [standeth, as in vs. 91] this day [[to] this day, or to-day]

Ecc 1:4-**the earth abides forever** [Heb. olam-for ages]

Is 45:18-**earth...He created it not in vain** [Heb. tohu-without form; cp. Gen 1:2-the earth was without form], **He formed it to be inhabited**

¹⁸Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 436; Make Sure of All Things, p. 166

¹⁹Ibid.

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Appendix A
DISASSOCIATION LETTER

November 24, 1984

Kevin R. Quick
xxxxxxxxxxxx
Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538

Jehovah's Witnesses
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Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538

Dear Friends,

As you well know, over the years I have had many questions as to the accuracy of various teachings of the Watchtower Society. In an effort to dispel all doubts as to the reliability of this organization's basic doctrines, I have recently undertaken a rather extensive, personal, and objective study of the Bible.

Many hundreds of hours and over seven hundred compiled scriptures later, my clear conscience will no longer allow me to uphold the convictions common among Jehovah's Witnesses, and any further identification with the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society on my part would only be hypocritical.

Please accept this letter as my voluntary request for disassociation from the organization known as Jehovah's Witnesses.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Quick

Appendix B

THE NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that:

a. The New World Translation is the most accurate Bible translation produced to date, and exists free from sectarian bias.

* * *

Q1. Does the New World Translation give accurate translations of Bible verses which normally indicate the deity of Christ?

Zech 12:10—"And I [Jehovah] will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of favor and entreaties, and they will certainly look to **the One** [Heb. Me] whom they pierced through, and they will certainly wail over Him as in the wailing over an only [son]; and there will be a bitter lamentation over him as when there is bitter lamentation over the firstborn [son]."

Matt 2:2,8,11,14:33, John 9:38, Heb 1:6, etc.-But when he again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says: "And let all God's angels **do obeisance** [Gr. worship-see NWT, Heb 1:6 footnote] to him."

John 1:1-In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was a god** [Gr. God was the Word].

John 8:58-Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to you, Before Abraham came into existence, **I have been** [Gr. I am-cp. Ex 3:14, LXX]."

John 10:33-The Jews answered him: "We are stoning you, not for a fine work, but for blasphemy, even because you, although being a man, make yourself **a god** [Gr. God]."

Phil 2:6-who, although he was **existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God** [Gr. who in [the] form of God subsisting not robbery deemed [it] the to be equal with God]

Col 2:8-9-Christ; because it is in him that all the fullness of the **divine quality** [Gr. Deity or Godhead] dwells bodily.

Q2. Does the New World Translation give accurate translations of Bible verses which explain the requirements for salvation?

John 17:3-"This means everlasting life, **their taking in knowledge of you** [Gr. that they may know you], the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ."

Rom 10:9-10-For if you **publicly declare** [Gr. confess] that

¹Reasoning from the Scriptures, p. 277

word in your own mouth, that Jesus is Lord, and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one **makes public declaration** [Gr. one confesses] for salvation.

Heb 13:15-Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which **make public declaration to his name** [Gr. confessing to the name of him].

Q3. Does the New World Translation give accurate translations of Bible verses pertaining to the Christian's personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

1 Cor 1:9-God is faithful, by whom you were called into a **sharing** [Gr. fellowship] with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Cor 11:3-But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent seduced Eve by its cunning, your minds might be corrupted away from **the sincerity and the chastity that are due the Christ** [Gr. the simplicity and the purity in Christ].

2 Cor 13:5-Or do you not recognize that **Jesus Christ is in union with you** [Gr. Jesus Christ is in you]?

1 John 1:3-Furthermore, this **sharing** [Gr. fellowship] of ours is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Q4. Are there other verses in which the New World Translation disagrees with the original Greek and with the standard independent translations of the Bible?

Matt 5:18-for truly I say to you that **sooner would** [Gr. until] heaven and earth pass away than for one smallest letter or one particle of a letter to pass away from the Law by any means and not all things take place.

Matt 27:52-53-**And the memorial tombs were opened and many bodies of the holy ones that had fallen asleep were raised up, (and persons, coming out from among the memorial tombs after his being raised up, entered into the holy city,) and they became visible to many people.** [Gr. and the tombs were opened and many bodies of the having fallen asleep saints were raised; and coming forth out of the tombs after the rising of him entered into the holy city and appeared to many.]

Acts 5:3-But Peter said: "Ananias, why has Satan emboldened you to **play false** [Gr. lie] to the holy spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field?"

2 Cor 11:8-Other congregations I robbed by **accepting provisions** [Gr. taking wages] in order to minister to you...

Eph 4:24, Col 3:10-**clothe yourselves with the new personality** [Gr. having put on the new man]

Heb 12:23-**spiritual lives of righteous ones** [Gr. spirits of just men] who have been made perfect

The New World Translation

Q5. The name Jehovah occurs 237 times in the New World Translation of the Greek Scriptures. Does the tetragrammaton appear in any of the extant Greek manuscripts?

“Why, then, do all extant copies of the ‘New Testament’ lack the Tetragrammaton?” (WT 5/1/78, p. 10)

* * *

Summary:

a. The New World Translation has been sorely mistranslated in accord with the preconceived convictions of the New World Translation Committee.

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Date of	Chronology (1914), Q6		
To leave heaven	Return of Christ, Q3		
Now present	Return of Christ, Q2		
Parousia, 24 NT occur.	Return of Christ, Q1		
Signs preceding	Chronology (1914), Q5		
Visible	Return of Christ, Q4		
Salvation			
Assurance of	Salvation, Q10		
Condition of unsaved	Salvation, Q1		
Evidence of salvation	Salvation, Q7		
Future (bodily)	Salvation, Q9		
How to be saved	Salvation, Q2-5		

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