

# Challenging the Cults

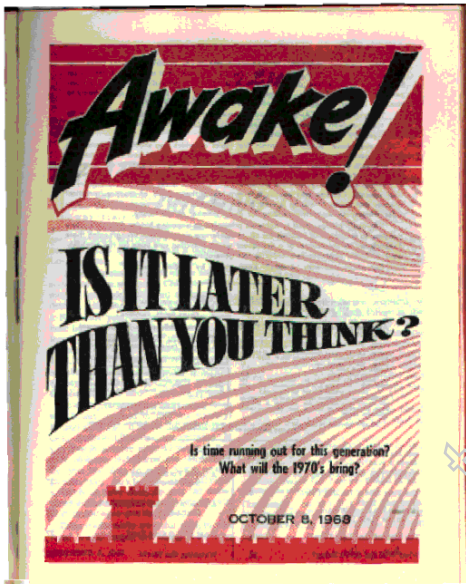
## 6. Answering Jehovah Witnesses



Why should Christians spend the time to answer Jehovah Witnesses? There are several reasons we should concern ourselves with those involved in the "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society". First, Christians are called to be light in a dark world. Many Jehovah Witnesses are sincere people feeling they have the truth. Millions have been born into the movement, and many searching for God, feel they have found the "Truth" in the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. By learning how to share the Gospel with Jehovah Witnesses, we will be able to free

those entrapped in a false system.

Secondly, Jehovah Witnesses are very active in evangelizing, many searching for God, are not aware of the history and beliefs of this movement. By learning how to answer and educate those seeking God, we can rescue souls from Hell, or from years of a fruitless spiritual existence.



### A Strategy to reach Jehovah Witnesses

Jehovah Witnesses sincerely feel they have the truth, and the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the vehicle God is using in the earth to dispense truth.

Jehovah Witnesses believe:

- The Bible is God's inspired Word
- The Bible could only be understood through the Watch Tower

There are two main methods to reach Jehovah Witnesses or any Bible based cults.

#### 1. Discussion of doctrines and verses

The first method used by many is answering JW's verse by verse and doctrine by doctrine. This is the most used and most frustrating method. Because the source of the doctrine, is not addressed, and many discussions can go for hours as a range of topics are discussed. The problem is JW as well as other groups redefine words in symbolic meanings to justify their doctrines. For example, even though the book of Revelation clearly defines the 144,000 as Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel and male virgins, the literal meaning is redefined into a symbolism to mean 144,000 Jehovah Witnesses both male and female regardless of their virginity. This method allows the theology of the group to be incorporate the Bible.

#### 2. Discussion on the "Prophethood" of the "Watchtower" organization

Discussing doctrines and verses can be a great biblical exercise but many times the results can prove fruitless because their understanding of the Bible is based on C. T. Russell and Watchtower explanations. In order to reach Jehovah Witnesses, the most effective method is to challenge the organization claiming to be the fountainhead of truth. Since the Watchtower teaches "Bible Understanding" is impossible without "God's Organization" the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the real issue is not theological understanding but whether the Watchtower is God's organization or man's



organization. If the Watch Tower Organization were pictured as a tree discussion of doctrines and verses could be illustrated as a discussion of limbs and branches while a discussion on the prophet status of the organization could be seen as the roots and trunk. If the roots and trunk are false then rest of the tree is also false.

The steps to establishing this dialogue are the following.

1. First agree the Bible is God's Word
2. Establish the belief that the Watch Tower Organization is the sole instrument on the Earth through which someone can understand the Bible.
3. Review the Test of a prophet and ask the question is what the Bible says about God, "True"?
4. Establish the logical conclusion, since the Watch Tower Claims to be God's Prophet, then they are subject to the "Test of a Prophet". Follow this up with the following line of questioning.

Has "God's Prophet", the Watch Tower Bible and Track Society, been wrong when in Propheying about God? This forces the a decision to be made.

### ***Christian and Jehovah Witnesses Dialogue:***

John Christian is sitting at his kitchen table reading his Bible on a Saturday morning when he hears a knock on the door. John answers the door to find a nicely dressed couple, Charles and Melissa Witness, carrying two bibles and having friendly smiles.

John Christian=JC, Charles Witness= CW, Melissa Witness=MW

**JC:** Hello how can I help you?

**CW:** Hello we are Jehovah's Witnesses and were talking to our neighbors about where to find practical help to cope with problems of life. In the past, many people consulted the Bible. But we live in a time when attitudes are changing. How do you feel about it? Do you believe that the Bible is God's Word or do you feel that it is just a good book written by men?...If it from God, how do you think a person can be sure of that?<sup>1</sup>

**JC:** Well that's great my name is John and I was just reading my Bible, and exploring its meanings myself.

**CW:** John, So do you feel it's a book written by men or from God?

**JC:** I feel it's a book written by God, but there is a lot to understand.

**CW:** Well maybe its no accident we knocked on your door today. Do you have time to talk about it?

**JC:** Sure, what are your names? Would you like some coffee or water?

**CW:** I am Charles Witness and this is my wife Melissa, we have a daughter she is at Grandma today, thanks for having us in today. It's great you are reading the Bible.

**MW:** Hi, nice to meet you.

**JC:** Just like you I love to talk about the Bible, its changed my life, so how long have you been JW's if you don't mind me asking?

<sup>1</sup> Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 10, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, International Bible Students Association. 1985

**CW:** We have been JW's for 10 years, we are from a Catholic background and our lives were empty and meaningless till we met and studied with some Jehovah's Witnesses. After doing a thorough study we joined the local Kingdom Hall, the Kingdom Hall is like our church, and we just want to share Jehovah's love with all our neighbors.

*Transition to the Bible*

*(One tactic the JW will use is to attack items that are part of the periphery of Christianity such as the name of "Resurrection Sunday" known as Easter, Christmas, Christmas Trees, Birthdays, etc..*

*This puts most Christians on the defensive. The argument will then switch to subjects like the Trinity, Hell, and what happens after death, further putting the Christian on the defense, especially if he/she is not prepared to address these issues) The Christian should try to move the conversation toward the real issue...Is the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society God's representative or a false Prophet.*

**JC:** Charles and Melissa that great that you are searching for God, I can you are both very sincere, but how do you know, what you believe is true?

**CW:** Well for one John Jehovah's Witnesses believe and trust the Bible and not traditions. The Bible tells us to go out and spread the Gospel. What other Church is going into neighborhoods and telling people about the love of Jehovah God. Secondly, Much of Christianity celebrates Pagan events like Easter and Christmas, most people don't know that Easter is actually named after "Isthar" a Pagan goddess and Christmas is not Jesus' birthday but was a pagan Roman holiday, celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> before Christmas.

John I hope I didn't offend you, but you asked why I believe JW's are true. I have a hard time believing that God would sanction Pagan celebrations, if these churches really part of Jehovah's Kingdom.

**JC:** Charles and Melissa I can understand your concerns, I have studied name Easter, and there is defiantly a pagan element to the name Easter and the use of Eggs, bunny rabbits and white dresses associated with Easter. But in reality Easter is bad choice in a name by the early Missionaries wishing to convert the Pagan's to Christianity. The real meaning of Easter is the Passover lamb provided by God, Jesus Christ who died for our sins. And those other elements are non-biblical and take away from the true meaning. So I agree with you about some of what you are saying.

As far as Christmas, Christmas is just a day set aside to celebrate the birth of Christ. And if some choose to not celebrate it because of the days Pagan origins that's fine, We celebrate Christ birth on that day, but I understand what you are saying.

**CW:** John those are not the only issues, The Trinity is not in the Bible, and worship of Mary are other issues that really showed us how far Churches have gone from the truth of Jehovah Word.

*Transition to the Test of a Prophet*

*(The goal is to get away from doctrinal and verse by verse debate which will result in little fruit because of JW indoctrination, but to challenge the Watch Tower Organization's prophet status)*

**JC:** Can I ask you guys a question? Do you believe the Bible is God's Word? His inspired Word?

**MW:** Yes we do, We believe the Bible is inspired from God.

**JC:** Have you heard of the "Test of a Prophet"

*(Most JW's are not aware of the test of a prophet, though they might like to sound like they are aware)*

**CW:** John there are several Test of a Prophet, which one are you talking about John.

**JC:** The one I am talking about is in Deuteronomy 18:20-22, can we turn there?

**CW:** Sure

**JC:** Charles can you read the passage?

*(JC is taking control of the meeting and directing the conversation at this point)*

**CW:** 20However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. 21And in case you should say in your heart; "How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?" 22 When the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah

did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him.”<sup>2</sup> Deut 18:20-22

**JC:** Charles, does Jehovah God have prophets or a prophet today on Earth?

*(JW's own materials declare they are God's prophet, so CW cannot respond no, he is forced to admit to the prophethood of the Watch Tower Organization) See supporting materials.*

**CW:** Great question John, the Watch Tower is like a prophet declaring Jehovah's will for mankind.

**JC:** Charles, looking back at the Test of a Prophet, we see God's prophet must have 100% accuracy, if they don't, God inspired word tells us we are not to be frightened, in fact we are told that the "False prophet" must die. Charles I have studied the Watch Tower Bible and Tract society and they have made numerous false prophecies. In fact I have a list right here. Can we discuss this issue?

**CW:** We have to admit our Organization has made mistakes in the past, but we are getting away from date setting from now on.

**JC:** Charles, God's word requires 100% accuracy, meaning one false prophecy disqualifies the whole Watch Tower organization, but there are literally hundreds of false prophecies.

*The Choice is made*

*(At this point Charles and Melissa must make a choice, do they stay and deal with the Truth of their organization, or do they leave because the cost is too great)*

**CW:** John we can see you have made up your mind so don't really want to bother you anymore. Thanks for having us over.

**MW:** Bye, nice meeting you.

*Are the Jehovah Witnesses God's Prophet on Earth?*

The Watch Tower's definition of a False Prophet:

Individuals and organizations proclaiming messages that they attribute to superhuman source but that do not originate with the true God and are not in harmony with his revealed will.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE WATCHTOWER'S CLAIMS ON BEING A PROPHET OF GOD

"Here, then, since 1914, and particularly since the year 1919, after World War I had ended, we should look for the modern-day counterpart of the prophet Ezekiel. Who is Ezekiel's present-day counterpart, whose message and conduct correspond with that of that ancient prophet of Jehovah? Of whom today was he a 'sign' or 'portent'? Not of some individual man, but of a group of people. Being made up of a unified company of persons, the modern Ezekiel is a composite personage, made up of many members, just the same as the human body is...So it is with the modern-day counterpart of Ezekiel; it is, not one person's body, but a composite body, made up of many members. All the members were together to do the will of Jehovah, who is the Creator of this modern 'Ezekiel.' Who, then, are the group of persons who, toward the beginning of this 'time of the end,' were commissioned to serve as the mouthpiece and active agent of Jehovah? In order to determine this, check the history of 1919, the first postwar year after the first world war."

The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah, 1971 ed., p. 70-71

"At the time, they might not view or appreciate him as a prophet of Jehovah. But whether they heard him as such or refrained from hearing and paying attention to him, the occasion was to come when these rebellious people would 'know also that a prophet himself happened to be in the midst of them.' Jehovah would confirm him as a prophet before them by causing what Ezekiel prophesied to come true...Likewise it was a trying mission upon which the modern Ezekiel class was sent, to religious people of the same type as those in Ezekiel's day. But regardless of how Christendom views or regards this group of anointed witnesses of Jehovah, the time must come, and that shortly, when those making up Christendom will know that really a

<sup>2</sup> New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, 1984, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania and International Bible Students Association.

<sup>3</sup> Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 132, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, International Bible Students Association. 1985

'prophet' of Jehovah was among them...Since the year 1919 C.E. the anointed remnant of Jehovah's witnesses have found it to be just like that as they have spoken fearlessly the word of Jehovah in the midst of Christendom."

The Watchtower, March 15, 1972, pages 186/187/189

"THERE is a real need today for someone to speak as a true representative of God. Why? Because things are taking place that people do not understand things that greatly affect their daily activities, yes, their very lives. The churches do not have a satisfactory explanation. But God does have. Is there someone who can bring the truth of God's Word to the people, letting them know what is ahead and what they can do for safety and survival?"(page 186)

"Ezekiel was thereby commissioned. Note that he did not raise himself up to be a prophet. This difficult mission was not one an individual was likely to choose for himself. The fact that Jehovah appeared to him in a remarkable vision (and later in the vision revealed things to him that could not otherwise have been known by Ezekiel), also that Jehovah commissioned him direct .... these things prove that what Ezekiel said and wrote in his prophecy was inspired by Jehovah. He was in an outstanding way made a witness of Jehovah God. His being a witness of Jehovah is emphasized by his unusually frequent use of God's personal name."(page 187)

"Therefore, when it came time for the name of Jehovah and his purposes to be declared to the people, along with God's warning that Christendom is in her "time of the end," who qualified to be commissioned? Who was willing to undertake this monumental task as Jehovah's "servant"? Was there anyone to whom Jehovah's heavenly "chariot" could roll up and whom it could confront? More accurately, was there any group on whom Jehovah would be willing to bestow the commission to speak as a "prophet" in His name, as was done toward Ezekiel back there in 613 B.C.E.?"(page 189)

"It is of importance to every individual on earth to identify the group that Jehovah has commissioned as his "servant" or messenger. We must recognize and understand the warning that he brings. We need to take action on the warning to safeguard our lives, for they are in a danger as grave as that of the lives of Jerusalem's citizens as that city neared destruction. For this reason forthcoming issues of The Watchtower will further discuss the identity and work of Jehovah's commissioned messenger as revealed in His vision to Ezekiel."(page 189)

The Watchtower, April 1, 1972, p. 197/200

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

"The scroll was doubtless delivered to Ezekiel by the hand of one of the cherubs in the vision. This would indicate that Jehovah's witnesses today make their declaration of the good news of the Kingdom under angelic direction and support. (Rev. 14:6, 7; Matt. 25:31, 32) And since no word or work of Jehovah can fail, for he is God Almighty, the nations will see the fulfillment of what these witnesses say as directed from heaven."(page 200)

The Watchtower, July 1, 1973, p. 402

"Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force. (Zech. 4:6) Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book. Many persons of the world are very intelligent, capable of understanding complex matters. They can read the Holy Scriptures, but they cannot understand their deep meaning. Yet God's people can comprehend such spiritual things. Why? Not because of special intelligence on their part, but as the apostle Paul declared: "For it is to us God has revealed them through his spirit, for the spirit searches into all things, even the deep things of God." (1 Cor. 2:10) Jesus Christ praised his heavenly Father for 'hiding such things from the wise and intellectual ones but revealing them to babes.' (Matt. 11:25) How very much true Christians appreciate associating with the only organization on earth that understands the 'deep things of God!'"

The Watchtower 1974, June 15, page 381

"Similarly the "false prophet" is not a person, but is a system or an organization. A "prophet" claims to have inspired information for the direction of others."

Good News--To Make You Happy 1976, page 14

"It was because they did not write of their own impulse, but were inspired by God. What is here meant by the word "inspired"? It means that God, the Creator of heaven and earth, moved these men by his spirit or invisible empowering force, putting into their minds what they should write down as his "word", or message, for mankind."

Clearly from the above quotes from Watchtower material it is very obvious that the Watchtower claims to be God's only channel for truth and God's voice here on earth. The Watchtower is a modern day Ezekiel and all those of Christendom will know that there is a 'prophet' of God on earth, and that prophet is not one person, but many persons which is the Jehovah's Witnesses Organization! They claim to have divine angelic inspiration from heaven, and to speak in Jehovah's name. The Watchtower claimed to be God's inspired prophet here on earth, to speak just like Ezekiel did, and the Watchtower even said to investigate the record to see for yourself! There is no doubt that the Watchtower has claimed to be a prophet of God speaking forth in His name.

### Answering Jehovah's Witnesses Positions

Answering Jehovah's Witnesses
The Return of Christ
<p><u>JW Position</u> JW believe that when Jesus comes, no eye will see Him. They believe he has already come in 1914.</p> <p>2. "Some wrongfully expect a literal fulfillment of the symbolic statements of the Bible. Such hope to see the glorified Jesus coming seated on a white cloud where every human eye will see him. ... Since no earthly men have ever seen the Father ... neither will they see the glorified Son" (LGBT, 186).</p> <p>3. "It does not mean that he [Christ] is on the way or has promised to come, but that he has already arrived and is here" (LGBT, 198).</p> <p><u>Christian Position</u> Their position is un-biblical and conflicts with both Old and New Testaments and Jesus Himself, who tells us every eye will see Him when he returns.</p> <p>1. Matthew 24:30-31</p> <p>30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and <u>they will see the Son of Man coming</u> on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.</p> <p>31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.</p> <p>2. Acts 1:9-11</p> <p>9 Now when He had spoken these things, while <u>they watched</u>, <u>He was taken up, and a cloud received Him</u> out of their sight.</p> <p>10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,</p> <p>11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, <u>will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.</u>"</p> <p>3. Zechariah 12:10</p> <p>"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then <u>they will look on Me whom they pierced.</u> Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.</p> <p>4. Revelation 1:7</p> <p>7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and <u>every eye will see Him</u>, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.</p> <p>5.</p>

## The Deity of Christ

### The JW Position

1. "The true Scriptures speak of God's Son, the Word, as 'a god.' He is a 'mighty god,' but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah" (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1943, 47).
2. "In other words, he was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God" (*The Kingdom Is at Hand*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1944, 46–47, 49).

### Christian Response:

The deity of Christ is clear in both the Old and New Testaments, both directly and indirectly.

1. Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Here Jesus is called Mighty God, Everlasting Father, both terms which would be blasphemous if the Messiah were not God.

2. Zechariah 12:10

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

When Zechariah is read in context clearly God is speaking throughout the whole chapter, then in the 10<sup>th</sup> verse Jehovah God identifies Himself as the "Me whom they pierced". This verse is quoted several times in the New Testament and identified as Jesus, the "Suffering Messiah", See Revelation 1:7, John 19:34,37.

3. Hebrews 1:5-14

- 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?
- 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."
- 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."
- 8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.
- 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."
- 10 And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.  
In the first chapter of Hebrews we clearly told the Son is not an angel, but God Himself. This is verified in several points in these verses.
  - a. The angels are commanded to worship the "Son" when the Son is brought into the world.
  - b. The Father calls the Son "God" and tells Him, His throne is forever.
  - c. The Father also calls the Son, Lord (Kurios), meaning possessor of all things by Father.

## The Trinity

### JW Position

1. "The doctrine, in brief, is that there are three gods in one: 'God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost,' all three equal in power, substance, and eternity" (*Let God Be True*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 ed., 100).

### Christian Position

The Christians do not believe in three Gods in one. We believe God has revealed Himself in three persons, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The deity of the Son and the Father covered above but the unity of the Three is clearly revealed in scripture.

1. John 14:9-12

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.
- 11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.
- 12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

## 2. John 16:8-13

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

"of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

"of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

"of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

## 3. Matthew 3:16-17

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

## 4. Acts 5:3

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? Acts 5:3

## 5. I Corinthians 6:19

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

## 6. Ephesians 4:30

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

## Hell

### JW Position

The JW believe that Hell is just the grave, that it is not a place of punishment. They believe that when people die they cease to exist, after they die only to be re-created at the resurrection.

"Who is responsible for this God-defaming doctrine of a hell of torment? The promulgator of it is Satan himself. His purpose in introducing it has been to frighten the people away from studying the Bible and to make them hate God" (LGBT, 98).

### Christian Response

The JW position is an un-biblical contradicted by Jesus Himself, and throughout the New Testament.

1. Luke 16:19-35 Lazarus and the Rich Man, Jesus describes a scene before and after death or two different individuals and their contrasting fate. The Rich man after his death goes to torment in Hades, (Hell) while the Lazarus goes to place where Abraham dwells (Abraham's bosom, Paradise). Both men clearly died on the physical earth and their lives continued after their death.

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

20 "But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,

21 "desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.

23 "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

25 "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.'

26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,

28 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

30 "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' " Luke 16:19-35

If there was not Life after death Jesus was clearly lying and misleading his listeners with this event of the death of Lazarus and the Rich man. Jesus clearly teaches Hades (Hell) being a place of torment for those who do not know God as demonstrated by Abraham's instruction for the brothers of the Rich man, to listen to Moses and the prophets.

2. Revelation 14:9-11 In Revelation the world is warned by an Angel to not submit to the coming, Antichrist who will demand worship and allegiance by the inhabitants of the earth receiving a mark in their hand or foreheads. Here the angel warns that those who receive the mark will receive eternal punishment.

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:19-11

The eternal aspect as well as the consciousness of their existence is demonstrated by several points.

- He shall be tormented, meaning the person will still exist and feel pain for their actions even after death.
- The person will have no rest, night or day...they will be in a state of soul sleep, they will exist after death

## 144,000

### JW Position

The JW believe the Kingdom of Heaven is limited to 144,000 individuals, all these individuals were called before 1935, after 1935 the Kingdom of Heaven was closed. Of the JW's who were part of this original group only about 8000 are still alive. Those JW's living today are considered part of the "Great Crowd" who will occupy paradise earth.

1. "Who and how many are able to enter it [the Kingdom]? The Revelation limits to 144,000 the number that become a part of the Kingdom and stand on heavenly Mount Zion"(Let God Be True, 136).

### Christian Response

The 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:3-8 and Revelation 14:1-5 do not fit the Jehovah Witness, who claim to be the remnant of this group chosen to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

- 144,000 are Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel Revelation 7:4
- 144,000 are virgin males Revelation 14:4
- 144,000 have no deceit in their mouths.

144,000 of the Watch Tower include both males and females, many who have had children (They are not virgins), and some who have had deceit in their mouths. And most who are not slightly Jewish.

## After Death

### JW Position

JW believe after death the person no longer exists but will be re-created at the resurrection if they are worthy.

"At death man's spirit, his life-force, which is sustained by breathing, 'goes out.' *It no longer exists.* ... When they are dead, both humans and animals are in this same state of complete unconsciousness. ... That the soul lives on after death is a lie started by the Devil" (*You Can Live*, 77).

### Christian Position

The JW position is an unbiblical position, as demonstrated throughout the Bible. The life of Lazarus and the Rich man clearly show that immediately after death, the Spirit/Soul of the individual goes to Hades (Hell) or Paradise. After the death of Christ the Christian goes into Heaven to await the resurrection. The Christian in Heaven is fully conscious of his existence after death and in Heaven.

1. Philippians 1:21-24

21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. Philippians 1:21-24

Paul commenting on his death, says for him death is gain, if Paul were to die and cease to exist how would it be gain? Paul clarifies his statement that his death means to depart and be with Christ, not to cease existing.

## 2. Revelation 6:9-11

- 9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.
- 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
- 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. Revelation 6:9-11

In the Revelation we see souls who were killed dwelling under the Altar, in Heaven. They are aware of how they were killed and the circumstances of their death. This is hardly soul sleep or non-existence.

## 3. Revelation 15:1-3

- 1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.
- 2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Revelation 15:1-3

Here again we see people killed because they refuse to submit to the Antichrist. Their death is seen as victory over the Antichrist and his system. The dead in this chapter are alive and in Heaven singing a song by the "Sea of glass in Heaven".

## 4. John 14: 1-4

- 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
- 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Jesus was talking to all believers here, He was going to prepare a place in his Father's House, that we (who believe) may be where He is, in Heaven.

### The New World Bible Translation

#### JW Position

In the New World Translation, in the New Testament we read the word "Jehovah" as the name of God. The word is not found in the Greek manuscripts, instead the Greek word for Lord or Kurios is used in the Greek Manuscripts. The adding of a Hebrew word is a mistranslation.

#### Christian Position

The Bible warns against adding anything to the text. The NWT has added Hebrew words that are not found in the original Greek, ignoring this warning.

- 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;
- 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18-19