

The Truth about Jehovah Witnesses

Comment from the Author

Probably every last one of us have met representatives of the Jehovah Witnesses. You see them everywhere. They are neatly dressed and go in twos through the neighborhoods, distributing pamphlets and talking to people about their God. And if you agree, they will come to your house every week and teach you their doctrine.

But what about their doctrine? Is it accurate? Do they really teach the truth about God and His Word?

Unfortunately, the Jehovah Witnesses misrepresent a major portion of the Scriptures. And their doctrines are off in many areas. For instance, they teach that Jesus is not God, something that is firmly established in the Scriptures.

This teaching highlights some of the beliefs of the Jehovah Witnesses and show how they are wrong. This teaching is not intended to write about everything they believe. There are many books available on the market that do that.

It is also important to note that this is not intended to be critical of the members of the Jehovah Witnesses. They are quite sincere in what they do. However, they are misinformed and misled.

The Truth about Jehovah Witnesses

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The Name “Jehovah”

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The Name “Jehovah” Not in New Testament

One of the most important doctrines of the Jehovah Witnesses is that God’s personal name is Jehovah and that He should be known by that name. There are two major problems with this belief. The first problem is that, the name of Jehovah does not appear anywhere in the New Testament. If God wanted us to call Him by a personal name, then He would have said so in the New Testament*! He did not.

To rectify this problem, the Jehovah Witnesses actually use the word “Jehovah” in their version of the New Testament- the New World Translation (NWT). They do this by often substituting the word “Jehovah” for the word “Lord.” An example of this is in Ephesians 5,17. Here is a comparison between the NWT and the King James Version (KJV):

NWT	KJV
“On this account cease becoming unreasonable, but go on perceiving what the will of Jehovah is.”	“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

The Greek word for “Lord” is “kurios.” The King James Version correctly translate it as “Lord.” However, the Jehovah Witnesses use the word “Jehovah” instead. They do this in order to support their doctrine. It is however, a bad translation and a manipulation of the Scriptures.

*It should be noted that the revelation God has given us about Himself is progressive in nature. In Old Testament times, God revealed Himself through His Word, through prophets and so on. But the greatest revelation has come first through His Son, Jesus Christ and then secondly, through the New Testament. One should not build a major doctrine (such as the name of God being Jehovah) from the Old Testament (emphasis on “old!”) when it is not supported by either statements from Jesus or from the writers of the New Testament.

The Name “Jehovah”

Is “Jehovah” an accurate translation?

The second reason that Jehovah Witnesses error saying the name of God is “Jehovah” is that scholars do not actually know how the original Hebrew word should be translated.

The reason for this is that when the Jews wrote the Old Testament, they had such a reverence for God that when they wrote the name of God, they wrote it with the consonants but left the vowels out. So all they would write was YHWY.

Some Bibles translate the name as “Yahweh.” Others translate it as “Jehovah.” But no one is really sure what the accurate translation is. So Jehovah Witnesses make a doctrine out of something that they are not even sure is correct.

The Name “Jehovah”

The significance of the name(s) of God

The real significance of God’s name is not what it is, but what it reveals. God used His name - and variations of it - to reveal His being and character. He did intend for us to make a doctrine on how He should be called.

For instance, look at the verse in Isaiah 63,16:

“...You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.”

So here, God identifies Himself as our Father and says that His name is “Redeemer from of old.” He did not use “Jehovah” here to identify Himself.

Here are other names God uses to reveal Himself to us:

Name of God	Translation	Scripture
Jehovah-Jireh	The Lord who provides	Genesis 22,14
Jehovah-Nissi	The Lord our banner	Exodus 17,15
Jehovah-Rapha	The Lord who heals	Exodus 15,25
Jehovah-Tsidkenu	The Lord our righteousness	Jeremiah 23,5-6
I am that I am		Exodus 3,14

Is Jesus God?

Is Jesus God?

Another major doctrinal error of the Jehovah Witnesses is that they teach that Jesus is a created being, and not God. And again, they manipulate Scripture to help support their views. For instance, let us compare the New World Translation of John 1,1 with King James Version:

NWT	KJV
“In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. ”	“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ”

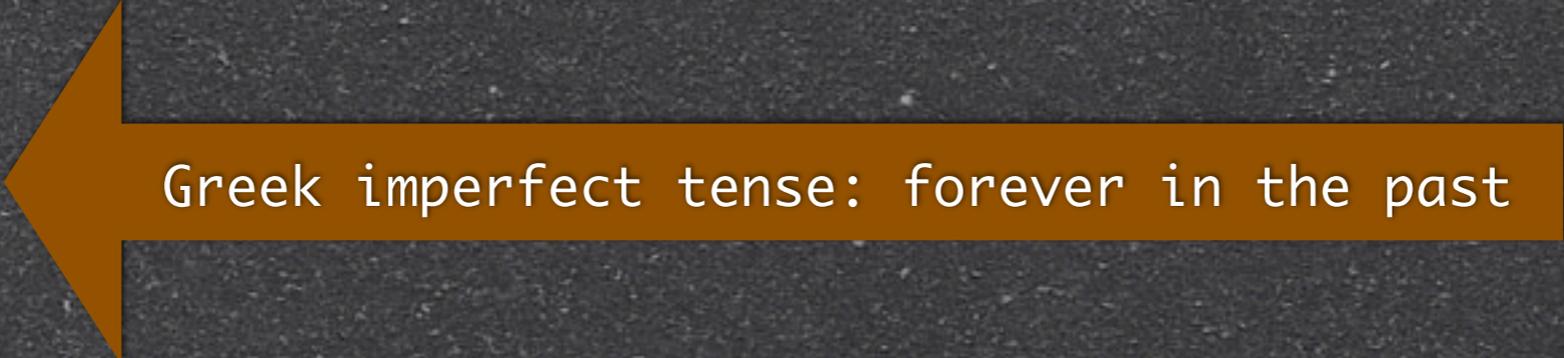
With this verse, John begins to introduce Jesus as the Word of God who left heaven and came into the world to die for our sins. (See also John 1,14). So it is very important that we correctly identify the Word of God. In comparing these translations, we see two major differences. The NWT uses the article “a” to describe God: “**a god;**” while the KJV does not. Secondly, it writes God with a small “**g.**” The KJV writes God with a capital: “**G.**”

In order to know what is correct, one has to look at the original Greek text. First of all, the New Testament Greek used no indefinite articles such as “a”. Secondly, the Greek text was written with all capital letters. Lower case letters were not used. So to use “a god” on their part is purely subjective on their part, intended to teach their doctrine and not an accurate translation of this passage.

Is Jesus God?

What neither translation brings out is that the greek verb for “was” is written in the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense indicates something had no beginning. So the literal translation would be “the Word always was with God and always was God.” When one translates John 1,1 the way the verse in greek was written, it gives it quite a different meaning from the way the NLT translated it. But it is the meaning John intended. Jesus is God!

For more on the subject of the deity of Christ, please see the teaching, “The Ministry of Jesus:” <http://www.faith-without-walls.com/the-ministry-of-jesus.html>



Greek imperfect tense: forever in the past

“the Word always was with God and always was God.”

Is the Holy Spirit God;
Is He a person?

Is the Holy Spirit God*; Is He a person?

The Jehovah Witnesses portray the Holy Spirit as a force, and not part of the Godhead.

One can easily see from Scripture that the Holy Spirit is a person**. Consider Acts 13,2:

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Here are two “proofs” that the Holy Spirit is a person. 1) He is the one doing the talking and 2) He is the one doing the directing.

Scripture also teaches that the Holy Spirit is God, part of the Trinity. For instance, 1 Corinthians 3,16 says that we are the temple of God because the Spirit of God dwells in us.

*For a complete teaching about the Holy Spirit, please see our teaching, “Getting to know the Holy Spirit.”

**By “person,” we mean that He is not an inanimate object. He has a will, emotion and is active: He speaks, leads, guides and so on.

The Trinity in the Old Testament

• The Plurality of God

• Jesus in the Old Testament

• The Father in the Old Testament

• The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The Trinity in the Old Testament

The Plurality of God

While the New Testament gives us more “up to date” revelation, the foundation for the Trinity, God being Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is laid in the Old Testament. The Old Testament accomplishes this in two ways. First of all, the Old Testament Scriptures teach the plurality of God. Secondly, it identifies the different members of the Trinity. Here are two Scriptures that teach the plurality of God.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1,26

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
Deuteronomy 6,4

In Genesis 1,26, God said “Let us!” make man...Who could this “us” be?! The Trinity, of course!

Then in Deuteronomy 6,4, the word for God here is Elohim. What is interesting is that this is the plural form of the word for God. The singular form is Eloah. This verse actually says that, “The Lord our Gods is one!” So again, the Old Testament teaches the plurality of God.

The Trinity in the Old Testament

The Plurality of God

Some might be wondering just how God could express Himself in three different persons and yet be one. There are some examples! For instance, what is man? Is he not body, soul and spirit? These are three distinct parts of our being, with three different functions. Yet we are one.

Another example is a man and wife:

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2,24

Again here are two persons, with two different functions and roles, yet they become one.

And so it is with God! There are three Persons with different functions; each with His distinctive role. But He is still one!

The Trinity in the Old Testament

God our Father in the Old Testament

God often identifies Himself as our Father in the Old Testament. Here are some examples.

Passage	Verse
Psalms 103,13	As a Father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
Isaiah 63,16	For you are our Father...You, O Lord are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.
Isaiah 64,8	But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Jeremiah 3,4	Have you not just now called to me, "My Father, you are the friend of my youth."
Jeremiah 31,9	"...I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn."
Malachi 1,6	"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor?"
Malachi 2,10	Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?

The Trinity in the Old Testament

Jesus in the Old Testament

Jesus is not a New Testament creation! As we have seen, He always was God. He took an human flesh in order to die for our sins. Here is John's testimony from John 1,1 and John 1,14.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus was also active in the Old Testament. Many of these are identified by New Testament revelation. Consider the following passages:

New Testament Revelation	Scripture	Corresponding OT passage
Jesus was active in creation	John 1,3; Colossians 1,16	Genesis 1,1-29
Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus and spoke of Him	John 12,41	Isaiah 6,1-5
Jesus supported Israel in their journey through the wilderness	1 Corinthians 10,4	Exodus & Numbers

The Trinity in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit did not just appear in the New Testament! The Holy Spirit was always involved in our world. Here are some of His activities mentioned in the Old Testament. For some of them, I have also listed a reference for the New Testament.

Scripture	Action	NT Comparison
Genesis 1,2	The Spirit of God moved over the earth	Acts 2.17
Exodus 31,3 & 35,31	Gave people specific abilities	1 Corinthians 12,7
1 Samuel 10,6 & 9	Changed the hearts of men	John 3,3-6
2 Chronicles 24,20	Anointed people to prophesy	1 Corinthians 12,10
Judges 3,10	Enabled men to rule the nation	Romans 12,8
Judges 14,6	Empowered men to do mighty works	Acts 1,8; Acts 4,8
Deuteronomy 34,9	Gave men supernatural wisdom	1 Corinthians 12,8
2 Samuel 23,2 & Ezekiel 2,2	The Spirit spoke	Acts 13,2

The Unity of God in the Bible

The Unity of God in the Bible

As we have seen, the Jehovah Witnesses claim that God is not three persons. In their view, Jehovah alone is God. Jesus is not one with Him. Neither is Jesus deity. However, when you do a comparison of OT and NT Scriptures that describe God, you can see that God is one!

God...	OT Scripture
The Creator	Genesis 1,1
Our Savior	Isaiah 43,11; 47,4
Our Shepherd	Psalms 23
The King	Zechariah 14,9
I am	Exodus 3,13-14
The First and the Last	Isaiah 41,4
We are His witnesses	Isaiah 43,10
Our Rock	Psalms 18,2

Jesus...	NT Scripture
The Creator	John 1,3 & 10; Ephesians 3,9
Our Savior	Acts 4,12
Our Shepherd	John 10,8-10
The King	John 19:19
I am	John 8,58
The First and the Last	Revelation 1,17
We are His witnesses	Isaiah 43,10
Our Rock	Acts 4,11; 1 Corinthians 10,4

The Manipulation of Scripture in the New World Translation

Romans 14,6-12

As stated earlier, the Jehovah Witnesses manipulate the Bible to support their false doctrine. Here is an example from Romans 14,6-12.

New World Translation

He who observes the day observes it to Jehovah. Also, he who eats, eats to Jehovah, for he gives thanks to God; and he who does not eat does not eat to Jehovah and yet gives thanks to God. None of us, in fact, lives with regard to himself only, and no one dies with regard to himself only; for both if we live, we live to Jehovah, and if we die, we die to Jehovah. Therefore both if we live and if we die, we belong to Jehovah, and if we die, we die to Jehovah. Therefore both if we live and if we die, we belong to Jehovah. For to this end Christ died and came to life again, that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you also look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God: for it is written: "As I live," says Jehovah, "to me every knee will bend down, and every tongue will make open acknowledgement to God." So, then, each of us will render an account for himself to God.

Explanation

In the original Greek language, the word for "Lord" is "kurios." In Romans 14:6-12, this word appears 10 times. They are circled in red. As you can see, nine of the times the New World Translation translates the word "kurios" as "Jehovah." Only one time do they properly translate the word as "Lord." Why do they do this? Because they believe "Lord" in the New Testament is the equivalent of "Jehovah" in the Old Testament. Furthermore, the last two verses here say that everyone will give an account of their lives to the "Lord," and that this Lord is God! Jesus being Lord is impossible in the eyes of the Jehovah Witnesses.

The one time they properly translate "kurios" as "Lord" is in verse 9. Here it plainly says that Christ is Lord, so they could not say it differently. However, if Scripture identifies Christ as Lord (kurios) in verse 9, then Christ is also Lord (kurios) the other nine times in this passage. It cannot be translated any other way.

Request for support!

We hope that you have enjoyed these teachings, and that they have been a blessing to you. If so, do you think you could take five minutes and send an offering to our ministry? Galatians 6,6 says, “Let the one who is taught the Word share all good things with the one who teaches.”

Right now, we are only receiving part time wages here in Germany. It is not even enough to cover our expenses. The rest, except for the help of some friends, we cover ourselves.

So if you would like to help, you can contribute online at <http://www.faith-without-walls.com/invest-in-the-gospel.html>.

Thank you very much!

References

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