

Cults and Other “Gospels”

Recognizing and Understanding the Differences



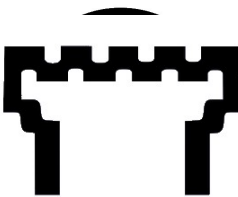
Cults and Other “Gospels”

- ♦ **Remember our definition of a “cult”**
 - ♦ **I've recommended six questions to ask yourself about any religious groups that seem at least potentially suspicious to you...**
 1. **Does the group have a prophet/founder who is revered by followers and claims to have *special* revelation from God or from angels?**
 2. **Are there authoritative writings or scriptures *in addition to* or *instead of* the Bible?**
 3. **Does the group view itself as the one *true* church, founded because the *true* gospel was lost in the early centuries of the church?**
 4. **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 5. **How does the group believe we are *saved*? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 6. **What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?**



Cults and Other “Gospels”

- ♦ Introduction to Cults
- ♦ Peoples Temple
- ♦ Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”)
- ♦ **Jehovah's Witnesses**



Jehovah's Witnesses

- ♦ So, carrying on with our six questions...
 - ♦ What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?
 - ♦ “May people know that you, whose name is Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.”

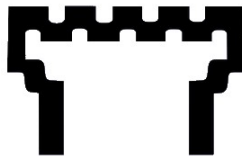
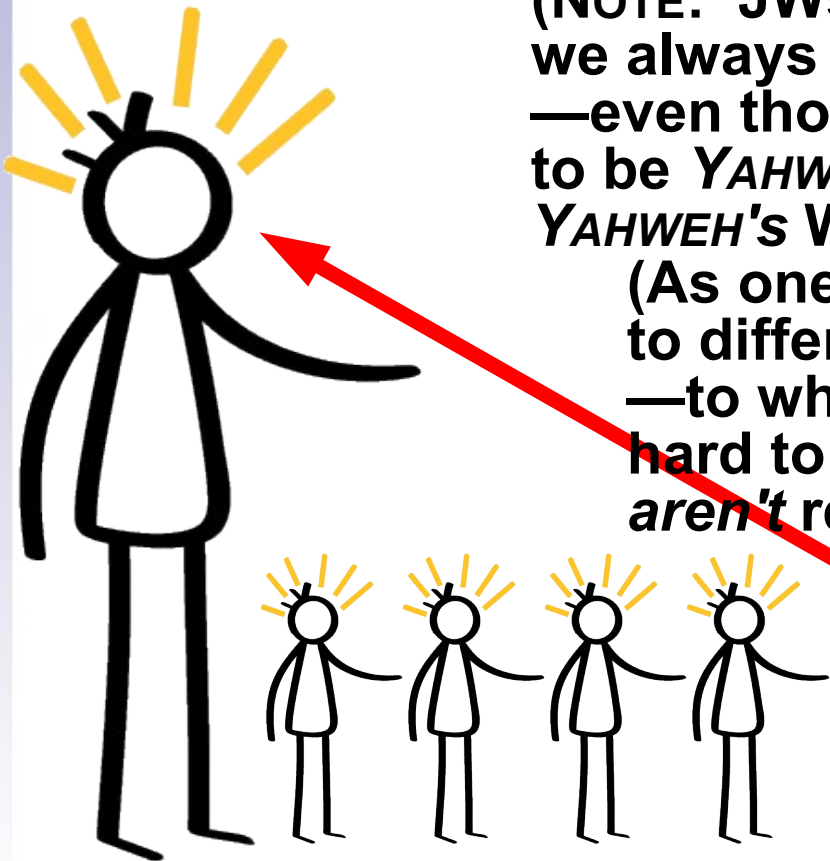
—Psalm 83:18 (NWT)

(NOTE: JW's consider it of crucial importance that we always call God by His *proper* name, *Jehovah*—even though technically, that name really ought to be *YAHWEH*, and they should therefore really be *YAHWEH's* Witnesses)

(As one JW told me, we have to use His name to differentiate God from all of the other gods—to which I countered that it's really not that hard to differentiate Him, since the other gods *aren't* really gods, or even in the same *league*)

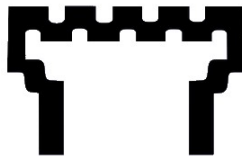
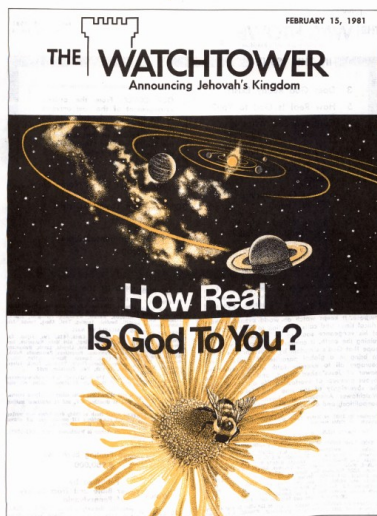
(i.e.; to differentiate, we can just point to the only god who *actually is* God and say, “See *that* one? That's *my* God...”)

(ironically, that's what the name “*YAHWEH*” means...)



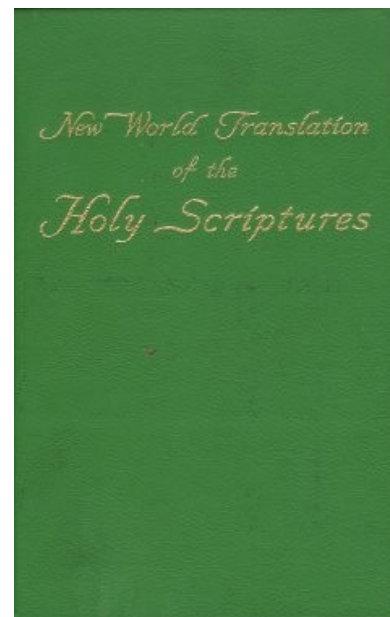
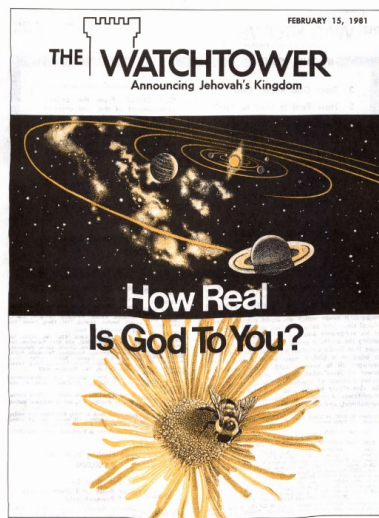
Jehovah's Witnesses

- ◆ **So, carrying on with our six questions...**
 - ◆ **What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?**
 - ◆ “May people know that you, whose name is Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.”
—*Psalm 83:18 (NWT)*
 - ◆ **“Jehovah God truly is a person and has a body as well as a certain location. It could well be that some have been confused due to the fact that God is allseeing; also his power can be felt everywhere. We might illustrate these facts by likening God to an electric power plant. It has a certain location on a certain street in a city. But its electricity is distributed over all the city, providing light and power. And so with Jehovah God. He has a location in the highest heavens, but his active force, his holy spirit, furnishes enlightenment, and its force can be felt everywhere, over all the universe.”**
—*Watchtower* (February 15, 1981) p.5



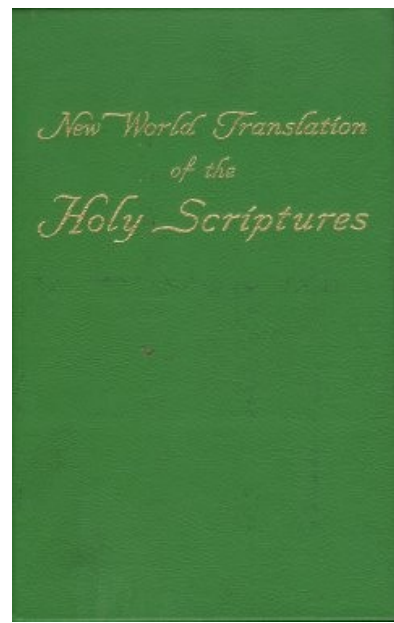
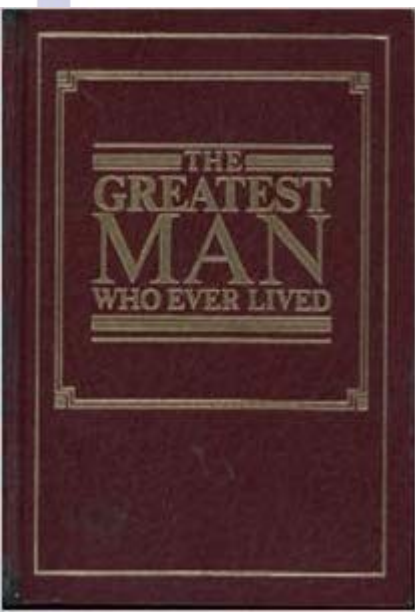
Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - ◆ “Jehovah God truly is a person and has a body as well as a certain location...”
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 - ◆ **Note that there are verses—even from the *NWT*—that would seem to disagree with that...**
“Am I only a God nearby,' declares Jehovah, 'and not a God also from far away? Can any man hide in a concealed place where I cannot see him?' declares Jehovah. 'Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?' declares Jehovah.”
(Jeremiah 23:23-24)



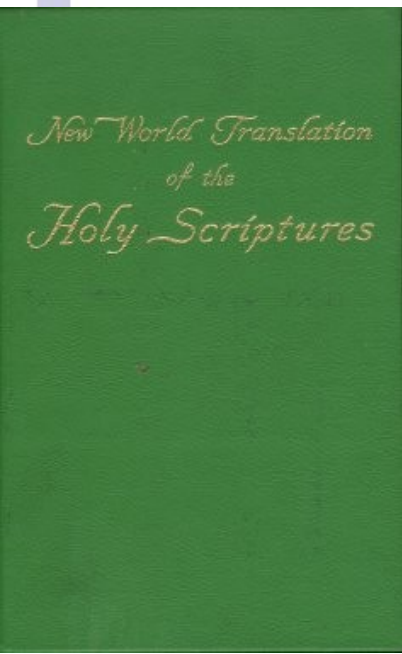
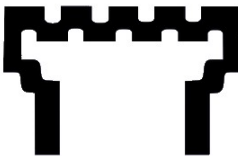
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 - ◆ **As for Jesus, “Jesus never claimed to be God... his associates never believed that he was God...”**
 - The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*
 - ◆ **You might want to respond with John 20:27-28—**
“[Jesus] said to Thomas: 'Put your finger here, and see my hands, and take your hand and stick it into my side, and stop doubting but believe.' In answer Thomas said to him: 'My Lord and my God!'" (NWT)



Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*
 - ◆ You might want to respond with John 20:27-28
 - ◆ But then they would probably answer, “He was a god, but not the *Almighty* God, who is Jehovah... God's justice would not let Jesus, as a ransom, be more than a perfect man. So he could not be the supreme God almighty in the flesh... If Jesus were God, then during Jesus' death God was dead in the grave.”
 - Let God Be True*
 - ◆ Thus, the *NWT* translates John 1:1 this way: “In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.”



John 1:1

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

**ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος
καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν
καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος**

John 1:1

In **the** beginning was **the** Word,
and **the** Word was with **[the]** God,
and **the** Word was God.

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Definite articles
(**the Word** etc.)

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Definite articles
(*the Word* etc.)

But there's no definite article here
(does that mean that He's only "a" god?)

But notice that there's no definite article *here*, either

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Definite articles
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But notice that there's no definite article *here*, either
(but we all still translate it as "the beginning")
(it's called "Colwell's Rule")

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But there's *no* definite article *here*
(does that mean that He's only "a" god?)

But notice that there's no definite article *here*, either
(but we all still translate it as "the beginning")

John 1:1

In [the] beginning was the Word, and the Word was with [the] God, and the Word was [the] God.

So we can translate it *here* as "the" too

ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος
καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν
καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος

Definite articles
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But there's *no* definite article *here*
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John 1:1

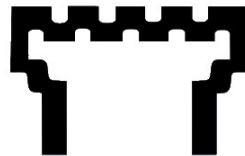
**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

**So we're back to *this* being the best translation of the verse
—with the Word being the same as *God Himself*, from
the very beginning of all things...**

**(NOTE: The *NWT* consistently follows Colwell's Rule
elsewhere in verses like John 1:49, John 5:27, etc.)**

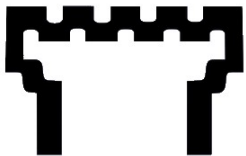
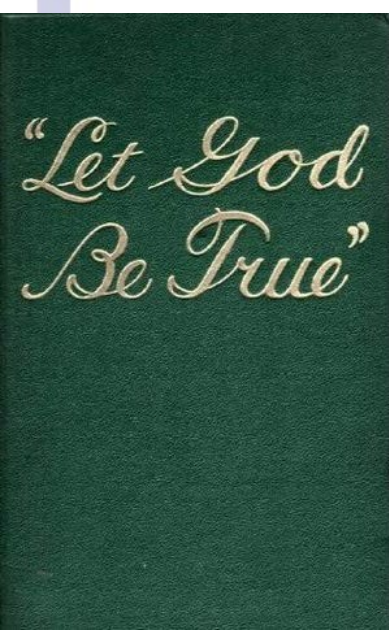
Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - ◆ **As for Jesus, “Jesus never claimed to be God... his associates never believed that he was God...”**
—*The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*
 - ◆ **“He was a god, but not the *Almighty* God, who is Jehovah...”**
—*Let God Be True*
 - ◆ **“Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael applied to God's Son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ and also after his return. Michael is the only one said to be the 'archangel,' meaning 'chief angel' or 'principal angel.’”**
—*Aid to Bible Understanding*
(Linking Jude 1:9 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16—
“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”)
(NOTE: Revelation says that those trumpet calls are coming from various angels...)



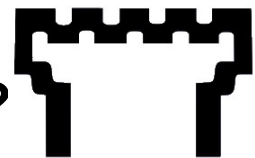
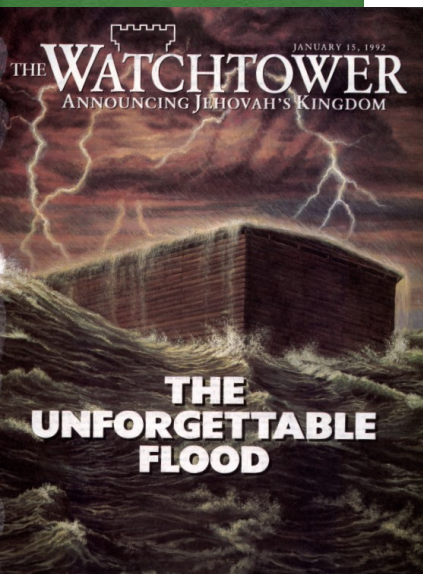
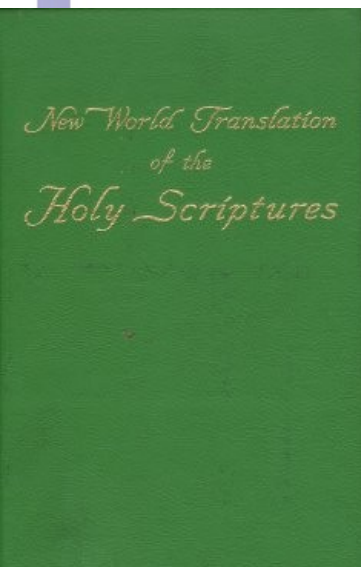
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 - ◆ **“The life of the Son of God was transferred from his glorious position with God the Father in Heaven to the embryo of a human.”**
—*Let God Be True*



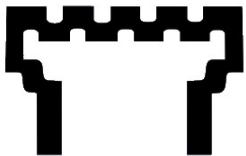
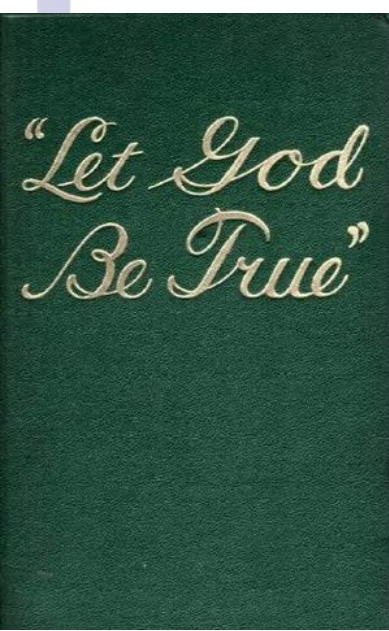
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 - ◆ “Paul called Jesus 'the firstborn of all creation; because by means of him all other things were created'—Colossians 1:13-16 (*NWT*). The Scriptures make it clear that Jesus was entirely human from his birth until his death. John did not say that the Word was merely clothed with flesh. He '*became* flesh' and was not part flesh and part God.”
—*Watchtower* (January 15, 1992) p.21
 - ◆ How would you respond to this?
 - ◆ The *NWT* inserts the word “other” into Colossians 1:16—how does that change the whole meaning of the verse?
 - ◆ In JW thought, Jesus (i.e.; “Michael”) was Jehovah's only *direct* creation—and that initial, unassisted act of creation uniquely identifies Jesus as God's “only-begotten Son”—so how would you respond to that?



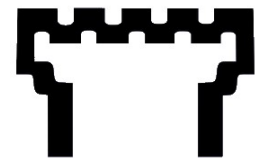
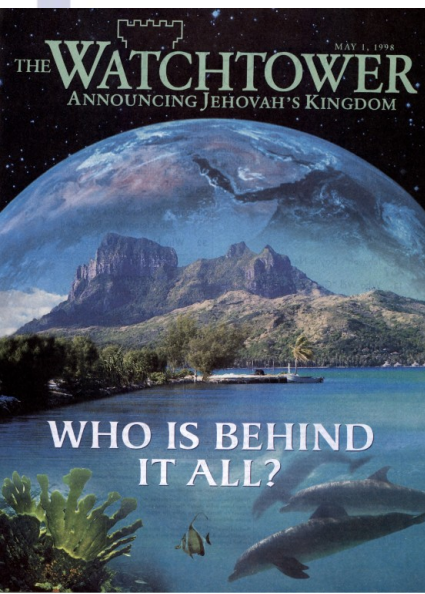
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 - ◆ **As for the Holy Spirit, “Holy Spirit is God's Active Force, not a person.”**
—*Make Sure of All Things*
 - ◆ **“Since God’s holy spirit is not a God, not a member of a trinity, not coequal, and is not even a person, is it “the influence of the Deity on the minds of his servants,” as claimed by some? While the holy spirit is used by God to influence the minds of his servants, its operation takes in far more than just that. It is God’s active force, not Jehovah’s power residing within himself, but his energy when projected out from himself for the accomplishing of his purposes.”**
—*Watchtower* (July 15, 1957) p.433
 - ◆ **“The obvious conclusion is that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine.”**
—*Let God Be True*



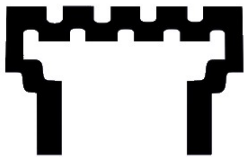
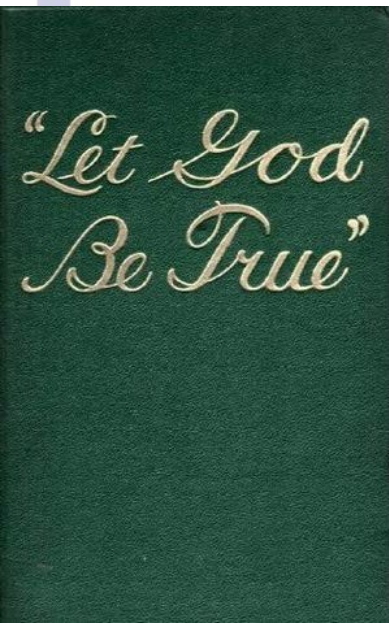
Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - ◆ **How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 - ◆ **“To ensure their salvation, Noah and his family needed to exercise faith. This meant following instructions and the leadings of God's holy spirit. During the great tribulation, it will be just as imperative that we follow the leadings of the holy spirit and obey Jehovah's instructions through his organization.”**
 - Watchtower* (September 15, 1991) p.17
 - ◆ **“Today, events just as terrifying lie ahead, when this whole world system of things will be destroyed at Jehovah's hand. Still, escape is possible. The prophecy goes on to say: 'It must occur that everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will get away safe' (Joel 2:32)... Jehovah's Witnesses are truly grateful to know Jehovah's name, and they have complete trust that he will save them when they call on him.”**
 - Watchtower* (May 1, 1998) p.19



Jehovah's Witnesses

- ◆ **So, carrying on with our six questions...**
 - ◆ **How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?**
 - ◆ **“All who by reason of faith in Jehovah God and in Christ Jesus dedicate themselves to do God's will and then faithfully carry out their dedication will be rewarded with everlasting life.”**
—Let God Be True



Jehovah's Witnesses



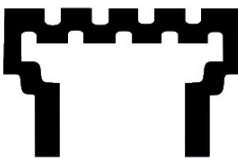
Funky little teaching moment...

♦ But what *exactly* is that faith in Christ Jesus actually pointing to?

♦ “The perfect human life which Jesus Christ laid down in death is that valuable thing which accomplishes the purchase of that which Adam's sin and disobedience lost for him and hence for all of his offspring. Jesus' blood spilled in death, his human life poured out in willing sacrifice, *that* is the ransom. It was provided here upon earth at the death of Jesus. It was presented as a redemptive offering for sin by the resurrected and glorified Christ in heaven, following his resurrection as a spirit creature, immortal, no longer a *human* son of God. That perfect human life, with all the rights and prospects therewith, was laid down in death, but not in sin and punishment... Jesus, by presenting in heaven this redemptive price as the glorified High Priest, is in position to relieve the believing ones of Adam's descendants from the inherited disability under which all are born.”

—*Let God Be True*

(i.e.; Jesus' death erased “original sin” for us, enabling us to be saved—through God's *grace* in even providing the *opportunity*—by the good works that we do here on earth)



“Let God
Be True”

Jehovah's Witnesses

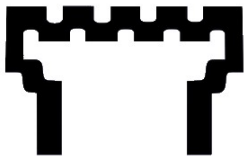
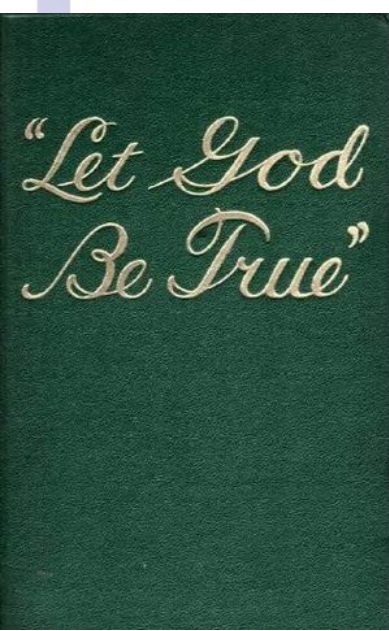
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 - ◆ “All who by reason of faith in Jehovah God and in Christ Jesus dedicate themselves to do God's will and then faithfully carry out their dedication will be rewarded with everlasting life.”

—*Let God Be True*

(NOTE: It's not the *faith* that rewards believers with everlasting life here, but the “doing” and “carrying out” stemming *from* that faith that brings the reward of eternal life)

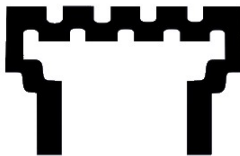
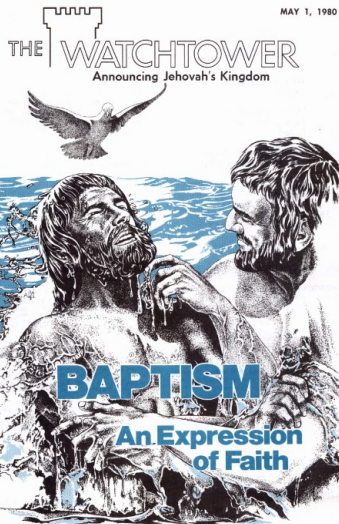
(Contrast that with the order of causation expressed in Ephesians 2:8-10—

“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...”)



Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - ◆ **“All who by reason of faith in Jehovah God and in Christ Jesus dedicate themselves to do God's will and then faithfully carry out their dedication will be rewarded with everlasting life.”**
—*Let God Be True*
 - ◆ **“So taking a comprehensive view of our sacrifices, we must admit that at meetings, when sharing the 'good news' with others, and in attitude, word and action, yes in all areas of life, we should be prepared to give our very best. We should not be halfhearted about such vital matters. What is at stake is Jehovah's approval and our being granted life.”**
—*Watchtower* (May 1, 1979) p.20
 - ◆ **That provides a context for “After following through on what Jehovah God requires, the baptized disciple comes into possession of a good conscience. As long as he maintains that good conscience he is in a saved condition.”**
—*Watchtower* (May 1, 1980) p.13



Jehovah's Witnesses



Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ For the Jehovah's Witness, works are *crucial* to earning our salvation
 - ◆ “It is a great privilege to get baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Moreover, baptism is a requirement for Christians, and it is a vital step toward gaining salvation.”
—*Watchtower* (March, 2016), p.4
 - ◆ “By sharing with others the message of salvation outlined in the Bible, we engage in a work that can result in our own salvation and in that of those who listen to us.”

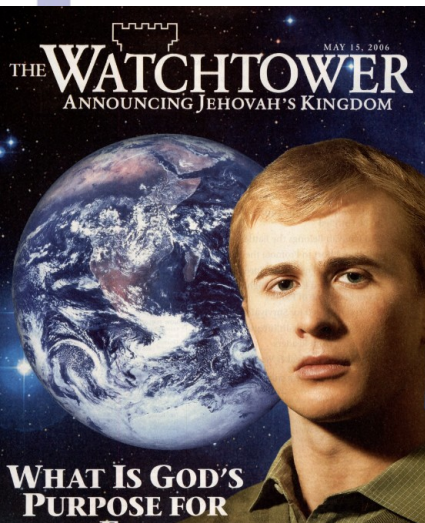
—*Watchtower* (May 15, 2006), p.29

(NOTE: This is why JW's so energetically engage in door-to-door “pioneer” service, sharing their version of the message of salvation—because doing so is part of how *they* receive salvation)

(NOTE²: This is *also* why JW's so emphatically follow church rules on things like blood transfusions

(which are to be avoided, based on Acts 15:29—

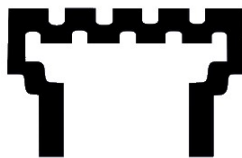
“You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.”)



Advance Decision to Refuse
Specified Medical Treatment

(signed document inside)

NO BLOOD



Jehovah's Witnesses



Funky little teaching moment...

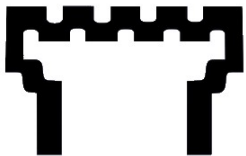
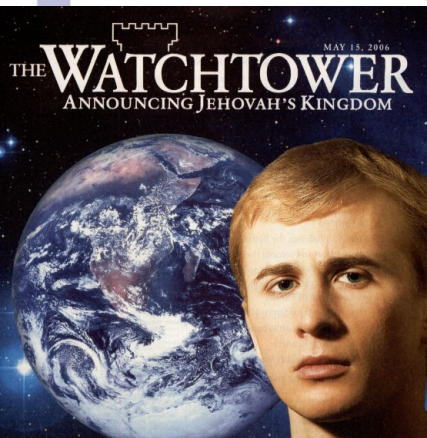
- ◆ For the Jehovah's Witness, works are *crucial* to earning our salvation
 - ◆ “It is a great privilege to get baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Moreover, baptism is a requirement for Christians, and it is a vital step toward gaining salvation.”
- ◆ “By sharing with others the message of salvation outlined in the Bible, we engage in a work that can result in our own salvation and in that of those who listen to us.”

—*Watchtower* (March, 2016), p.4

—*Watchtower* (May 15, 2006), p.29

(NOTE: This is why JW's so energetically engage in door-to-door “pioneer” service, sharing their version of the message of salvation—because doing so is part of how *they* receive salvation)

(NOTE²: This is *also* why JW's so emphatically follow church rules on things like blood transfusions, or celebrating Christmas, Easter, and birthdays (which are to be avoided, since they are “pagan” traditions that “bestow undue importance on the individual,” and the only occurrences of them in the Bible are for the birthdays of Pharaoh and Herod)

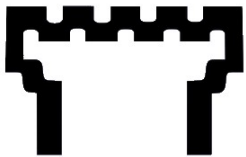


Jehovah's Witnesses



Funky little teaching moment...

- ♦ For the Jehovah's Witness, works are *crucial* to earning our salvation
- ♦ The Jehovah's Witnesses shun (or “disfellowship”) as many as 30,000 members each year who fail to live up to the religion's very strict moral tenets
(NOTE: Believers in good standing must not interact in any way—other than the most basic—with those who have been disfellowshipped, or else they risk becoming disfellowshipped themselves...)
(NOTE²: This is arguably part of why suicide rates among Jehovah's Witnesses are annually between 5 to 10 times the national average)



Jehovah's Witnesses

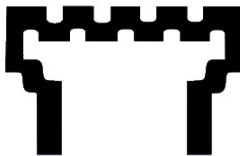


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- ♦ The Jehovah's Witnesses shun (or “disfellowship”) as many as 30,000 members each year who fail to live up to the religion's very strict moral tenets—which also prohibit saluting the flag, serving in the military, swearing, drinking, non-marital sex, being involved in surrogacy in pregnancies, “lascivious” dancing, playing music with immoral or suggestive lyrics, etc.

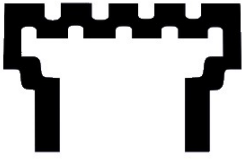
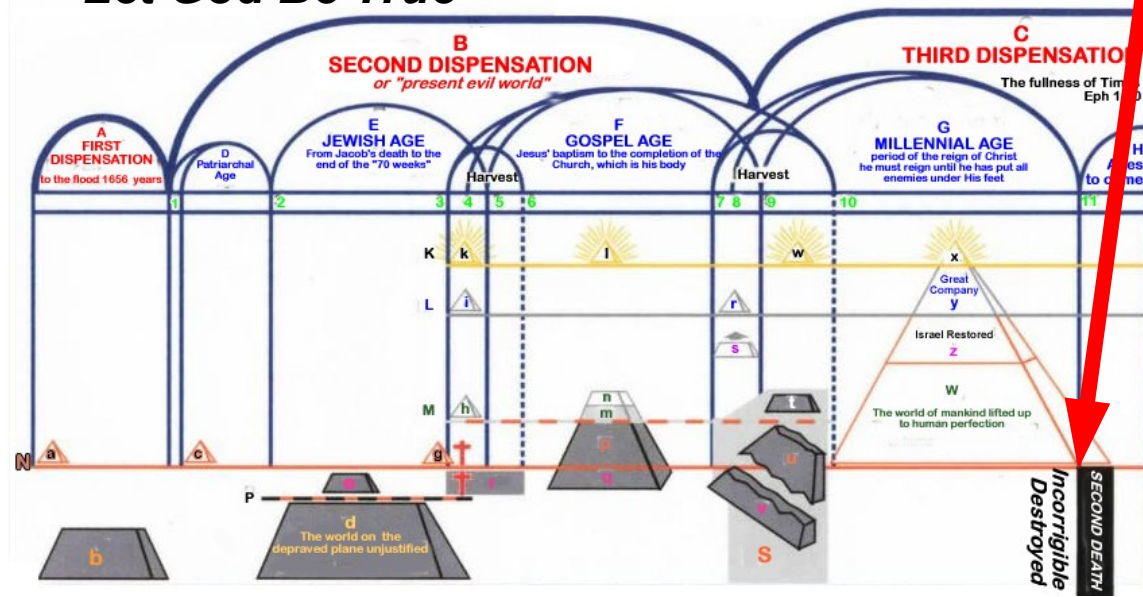
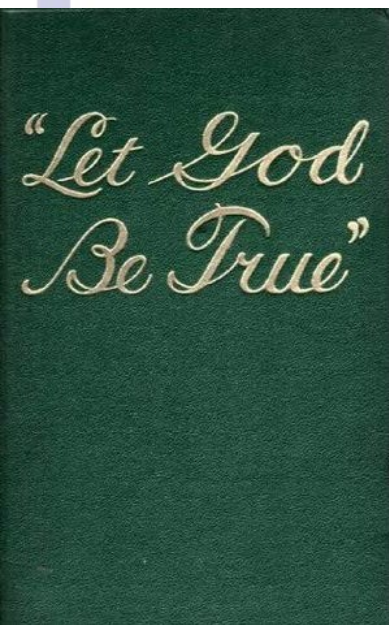
(NOTE: Michael Jackson was a devout Jehovah's Witness until 1987, and he even denounced his own *Thriller* video in *Awake* magazine in 1984—

“I would never do it again! I just intended to do a good, fun short film, not to purposely bring to the screen something to scare people or to do anything bad. I want to do what's right.”)



Jehovah's Witnesses

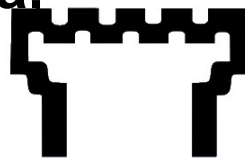
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 - ◆ What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?
 - ◆ “The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true.”
—*Let God Be True*
 - ◆ Instead, “The final test will come by the loosing of Satan out of his restraint (at the end of the Millennium)... Those supporting Satan (at the end of Millennium) will, with the Devil himself, be cast into the 'lake of fire and sulphur.' They are drowned in everlasting destruction (annihilated) and for them there is no resurrection.”
—*Let God Be True*



Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - ◆ **You may be tempted to quote Mark 9:43—**
“It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.”
But the *NWT* translates that differently—
“It is better for you to enter into life maimed than to go off with two hands into Gehenna, into the fire that cannot be put out.”
(i.e.; *you* can't put out the fire—not that it *couldn't* ever just go out...)

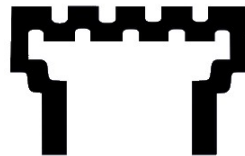
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Jehovah's Witnesses

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 - ◆ **You may be tempted to quote Matthew 25:46—**
“They will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”
But the *NWT* translates that differently—
“These will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous ones into everlasting life.”
(κολασις—*kolasis*—means “penalty” or “punishment,” but its root does etymologically come from “pruning”)

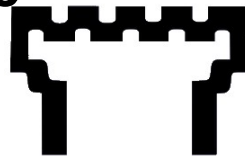
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 - ◆ **You may be tempted to quote Revelation 20:10—
“They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**
**But the *NWT* translates that differently—
“They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”**
(Hey, waitamminute! They don't translate that one differently...)

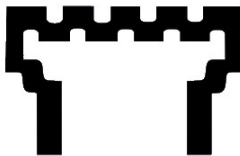
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Jehovah's Witnesses

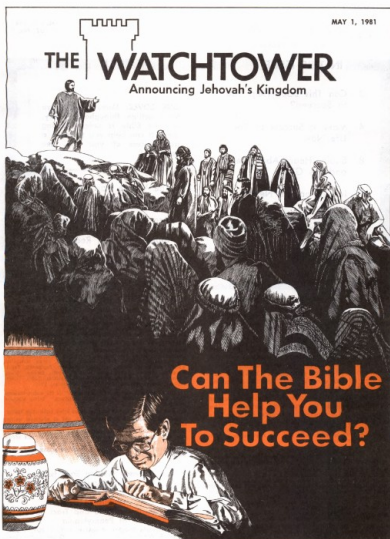
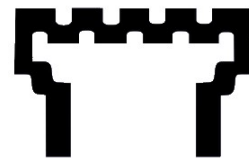
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 - ◆ “It is seen that the serpent is the one that originated the doctrine of the inherent immortality of human souls.”
—*Let God Be True*
 - ◆ **Instead, “A dead person is unconscious, inactive. The soul (entire being) itself is DEAD.”**
—*Make Sure of All Things*
(NOTE: Except in the case of Jesus—who just became the spirit being Michael once again—it is ridiculous to believe that our “spirits” exist after our deaths, or that humans are anything but physical beings)

“MAKE SURE
OF ALL
THINGS”



Jehovah's Witnesses

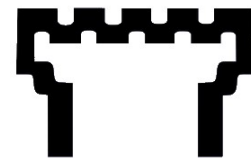
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 - ◆ “It is seen that the serpent is the one that originated the doctrine of the inherent immortality of human souls.”
—*Let God Be True*
 - ◆ “The gospel to be preached now is primarily the good news that the kingdom of God was invisibly established in the year 1914.”
—*Watchtower* (May 1, 1981) p.17
 - ◆ Thus, looking back at that timeline of prophecies, the JWs can say that Russell was absolutely correct —that Jesus did indeed return in 1914, just as Revelation and the Great Pyramid both predicted —but He just did so *invisibly*, performing an “investigative judgment” as Michael from Heaven...
(NOTE: Even in the *NWT*, Revelation 1:7 tells us—
“Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him...”)



Jehovah's Witnesses

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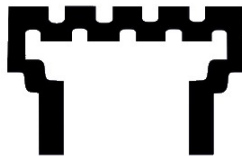
Jehovah's Witnesses



Funky little teaching moment...

- ◆ See, technically, you don't *have* to be a Jehovah's Witness in order to be saved
 - ◆ As Acts 24:15 (*NWT*) says,
“There is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous”
 - ◆ And since we've already established that the *really* unrighteous people will simply cease to exist (i.e.; not be resurrected at all), then there must be some way that the only *sorta* unrighteous (i.e.; decent folk, but not Jehovah's Witnesses) will still be resurrected
 - ◆ In Luke 12:32 (*NWT*), Jesus said,
“Have no fear, little flock, for your Father has approved of giving you the Kingdom.”
 - ◆ Thus, He was saying that only a *few* people will be saved into the Kingdom of Heaven, while the rest will be saved into the cleansed and renewed Earth, to be ruled over by those who have been “anointed” into salvation into the Kingdom of Heaven

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Jehovah's Witnesses

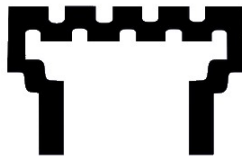


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 - ◆ In Luke 12:32 (*NWT*), Jesus said...
 - ◆ In Revelation 14:1-4 (*NWT*), John told us,
“Look! the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who have his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads... These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb...”
 - ◆ Put that all together, and you clearly see that
“The Bible plainly shows that 144,000 will share in heavenly glory, while the others will enjoy the blessings of life down here on earth.”

—Let God Be True

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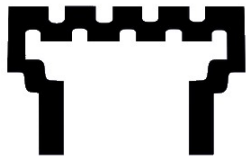
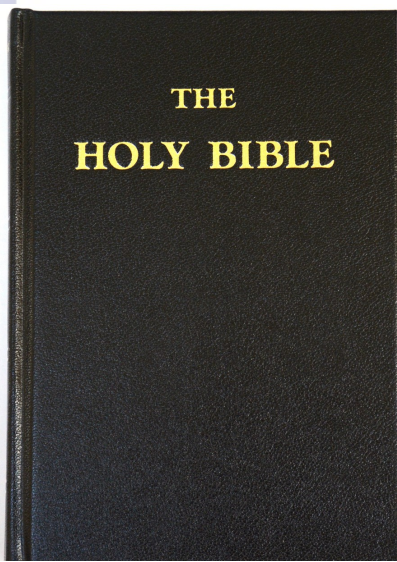
Jehovah's Witnesses



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- ◆ Reasoning from the Scriptures even gives JW's a "script" to follow when dealing with Christians—
 - ◆ 'You say that only 144,000 are going to be saved'
You might reply: 'I am glad that you brought that up so I can tell you what we really believe. Salvation is open to just as many people as will demonstrate true faith in the provision that God has made through Jesus. But the Bible says that only 144,000 will go to heaven to be with Christ. Have you ever seen that in the Bible? ... It is here at Revelation 14:1, 3.' Then perhaps add: (1) 'What will they do in heaven? (Rev. 20:6)' (2) 'It is obvious that they will be ruling over someone. Who might that be? ... (Matt. 5:5; 6:10)'
—Reasoning from the Scriptures (1985), p. 361

- ◆ Let's read Rev. 14:1,3
 - ◆ The 144,000 mentioned here had been referred to before in Rev. 7:4-10, where the context shows that these were 12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel and not 144,000 devoted Jehovah's Witnesses (in fact, Rev. 7:9-10—in the same context—shows "a great multitude... from every nation, tribe, people and language" worshipping God before His throne in Heaven)



Jehovah's Witnesses



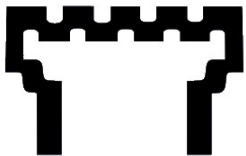
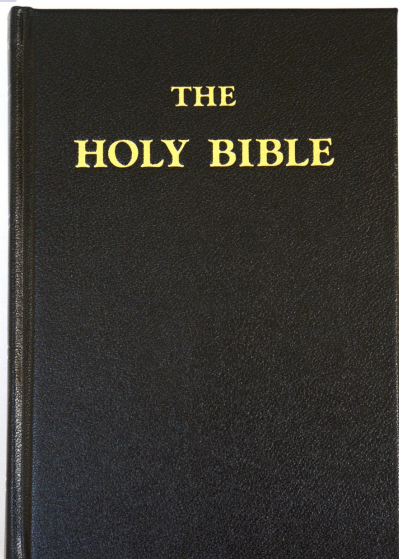
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- ◆ Let's read Rev. 14:1,3

- ◆ Let's read Rev. 20:6

- ◆ Contrary to the JW claim that this verse refers to the rule of the 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses who are destined for Heaven, the context of verses 4 and 5 demonstrates that those who are priests and who will reign with Christ are neither historical JWs nor those of the 144,000 sealed Israelites, but rather those Christians who had been beheaded for their faith during the Tribulation



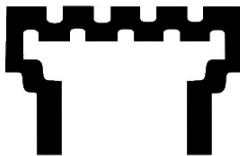
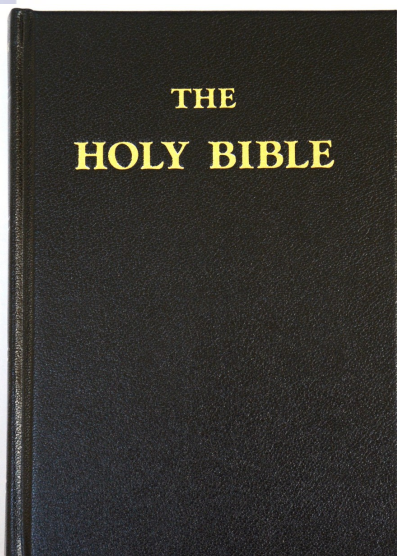
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- ◆ Let's read Rev. 14:1,3
- ◆ Let's read Rev. 20:6
- ◆ Let's read Matt. 5:5 (and Rev. 21:1-4)
 - ◆ Contrary to the JW assertion that those ruling will be ruling from Heaven over those stuck on earth (a misreading of the Beatitude), Rev. 21:1-4 makes it clear that all Christians will live together with God in a new, descended Heaven on a new and redeemed Earth—there is no implication of dichotomy within God's people about being ruled in Heaven



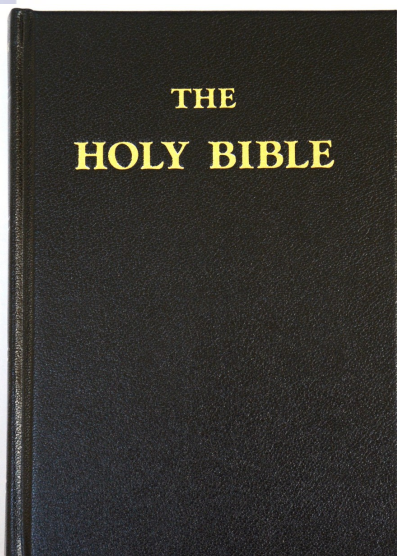
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- ◆ Let's read Matt. 6:10
 - ◆ Jesus is either saying, “May we do your will today on earth as it is done in heaven,” or “May your will be done *someday* on earth as it is done *now* in heaven,” but He is certainly *not* saying “May those left on earth after the second coming do the will of the 144,000 who will rule them from heaven.”



Jehovah's Witnesses

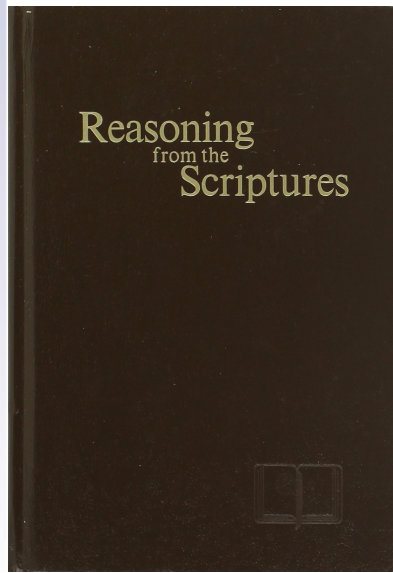
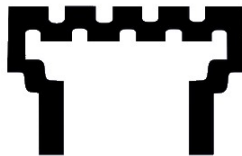


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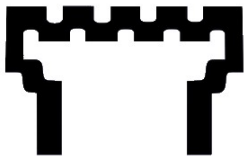
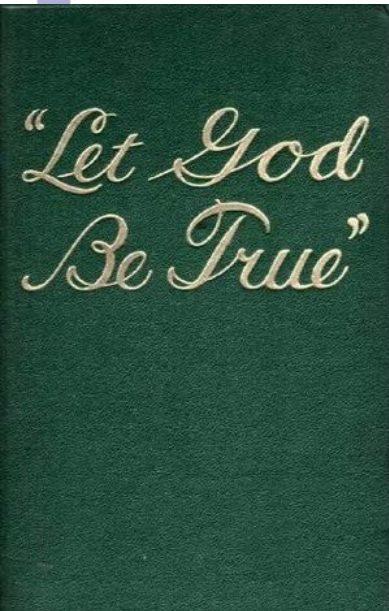
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- ◆ Let's read Matt. 6:10

- ◆ But if all that you've ever done is practice a script, do you see how it might be compelling?
- ◆ What does that suggest to us as Christians?



Jehovah's Witnesses

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(NOTE: This plays itself out painfully in JW services, when taking communion—the “Lord's evening meal”—the elements are there for the taking, but only those 144,000 “anointed” JWs may take part)
(How does a Biblical assurance of salvation *change* this ritual for you as a *Christian*?)



Jehovah's Witnesses

- ◆ **So, carrying on with our six questions...**
 - ◆ **The Jehovah's Witnesses actually summarize their own religion in *Reasoning from the Scriptures*—**
 - ◆ **“Jehovah is the only true God. Jesus Christ is not part of the Trinitarian godhead but is the only-begotten Son of God. Redemption from sin is possible only through faith in Christ's ransom sacrifice. The holy spirit is not a person but is Jehovah's active force, and its fruitage must be evident in the lives of true worshipers. The human soul is not immortal, as the ancient pagans claimed; it dies, and the hope for future life is in the resurrection. God's permission of wickedness has been because of the issue of universal sovereignty. God's Kingdom is the only hope for mankind. Since 1914 we have been living in the last days of the global wicked system of things. Only 144,000 faithful Christians will be kings and priests with Christ in heaven, whereas the rest of obedient mankind will receive eternal life on a paradise earth.”**
 - Reasoning From the Scriptures*
 - ◆ **How can we pray for them today?**

