

'JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES' and JESUS

Possibly for most Christians the only contact they may ever have with '**Jehovah's Witnesses**' (JW's) is an often brief doorstep encounter when the **JW's** come knocking at the door. At the outset of this article I'm providing a link to a programme that examined the real life '**human stories**' and situations of several **JW's**. This gives an insight into the values and guidelines of those who belong to '**The Truth**' as they call it.

Practical rather than doctrinal matters are highlighted in the programme although there are references to some of their particular beliefs. Much is made of '**Jehovah**' but it is striking that "**Jesus Christ and him crucified**" (1st Corinthians 2:2) doesn't merit a mention (this is especially noticeable in the wording of the 'baptismal vows' read out near the end of the programme during public baptisms at Twickenham). The link to the video is –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6AfsvxxoGE>

High moral values are often espoused by cults (not just JW's but others such as Mormonism and Roman Catholicism) and for many this can prove to be an attraction to them but sadly their 'living lifestyle' doesn't always match up to their 'theological theory' as we shall see later in another video (I hasten to add that sadly this, on occasions, has also been the case within professing 'Protestantism').

As I said earlier this video you have just watched doesn't focus much upon doctrinal matters – matters I would now like to turn my attention to. In a number of recent articles that I have been publishing on the ministry web site I have included the text of some tracts that were written and published in the early years of '**Take Heed Ministries**'.

These articles have related to **PURGATORY, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, THE HARE KRISHNAS, YOGA** and **THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT**. The relevant articles for these can be accessed on –

<http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/November-2014/Purgatory.pdf>

<http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/November-2014/Christian-Science.pdf>

<http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/December-2014/Hare-Krishnas.pdf>

<http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/December-2014/Yoga.pdf>

<http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2015/February/New-Age-Movement.pdf>

As with those other articles I want now to include the text of an early 'Take Heed' tract which in this case was titled "JESUS and the JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES".

"JESUS and the JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES"

"He that does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him"
John 5:23 NWT

INTRODUCTION

Of all the religious groups active in this part of the world I don't believe you could find a more zealous company of people than those known as **Jehovah's Witnesses**'. Week by week, door by door, they actively seek to interest people in their magazines 'Awake' and 'The Watchtower – Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom'. These magazines are published by 'The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society' which has its headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. *** In addition to the magazines **Jehovah's Witnesses** also have their own translation of the Bible known as the 'New World Translation' abbreviated in this leaflet to **NWT**. The views of **Jehovah's Witnesses** concerning Jesus Christ would differ radically from traditional orthodox Christian belief. **Is it important to have a correct understanding of Jesus Christ?** The Apostle John in his first letter, chapter five, spoke of "everlasting life" and wrote "he that does not have the Son of God does not have his life" (v 12 NWT). If you have the wrong Jesus you do not have "everlasting life". If you honour the wrong Jesus you do not honour the Father. Let us therefore examine the Jesus of the **Jehovah's Witnesses**.

*** Margaret and I spent a few days in New York in 2013 and on an early-evening boat trip around the harbour I took a photo of the JW headquarters and this is it –



A CREATED CHRIST

Jehovah's Witnesses are taught that Jesus has not eternally existed but that He was the first thing created by Jehovah God (the Father). They use several scriptures to justify this teaching. Speaking of Jesus, the Apostle Paul wrote, **"the firstborn of all creation"** (Colossians 1:15 NWT). The Greek word used **'PROTOTOKOS'** means first in rank, heir of all things and does not mean 'first created'. If Paul had wished to convey the idea of 'first created' he would have used the word **'PROTOKTISTOS'**. In **Revelation 3:14** Jesus is described as **"the beginning of the creation by God"** (NWT). **The translation "by" in this phrase is incorrect and should read "of". The Greek translated as "beginning" does not mean 'start' but means 'origin'.** The Greek used is **'ARCHE'** from which we get architect. Jesus was the master planner of all creation but not part of it. **We find in Colossians 1:16-17 in the NWT the word "other" has been inserted four times to make phrases read "all (other) things"**. It is admitted by The Watchtower that the word **"other"** is not in the original Greek but they claim it has been inserted to **'clarify'** the meaning of the passage. This addition does not **'clarify'** the meaning but **'changes'** it so as to agree with the false teaching of **A CREATED CHRIST**.

MICHAEL as MESSIAH

On page 393 of **'Insight on the Scriptures': Volume 2** published by The Watchtower we read – **'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'**. In an earlier book also published by The Watchtower called **'The Finished Mystery'** in the exposition of **Revelation 12:7** (p 188) Michael was stated to be the Pope, so Watchtower teaching on Michael has been inconsistent. Could Jesus have been an angel? Worship of angels is forbidden (**Revelation 22:8-9 NWT**) yet Jesus allowed people to worship Him many times during His earthly life. To get around this problem the **NWT** translate the Greek as **'did obeisance'** when it is linked to Jesus but translate the same word as **'worship'** when it applies to Jehovah God the Father.

Would God acknowledge an angel as His son? **Hebrews 1:4-5** show clearly that the unique Son of God is not an angelic being. In **Daniel 10:13** we read **"Michael, one of the foremost princes came to help me"** (NWT) and this shows that Michael was not unique. **Scriptural evidence clearly does not indicate that Jesus, the unique Son of God, was Michael before His birth.** As for Jesus becoming Michael again after His return to heaven, this does not accord with the account of the death of Stephen who **"gazed into heaven and caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand"** (Acts 7:55 NWT) **"and said Lord Jesus receive my spirit"** (v 59 NWT).

MANY MEDIATORS

In **1st Timothy 2:5** we read **“there is one God and one mediator between God and men, a man Christ Jesus”** (NWT). The Watchtower teaches that the blessings of the covenant spoken of by Jesus in **Matthew 26:28** are personally mediated by Him to a special **‘anointed class’** who will number **144,000**. For blessings to be extended to faithful **‘Witnesses’** not included in the **‘anointed class’** a separate group known as the **‘great crowd’** will have such blessings mediated to them by the **144,000 – ‘they (the 144,000) will share in administering the blessings of Jesus’ sacrifice and of His Kingdom rule to all the nations of the earth’** (Insight on the Scriptures: Volume 2: p 363).

‘Witnesses’ are taught that the **‘anointed class’** will reign in **Heaven** with Jesus whilst the **‘great crowd’** will live in a new **Paradise Earth**. This teaching of separate locations is contradicted by scriptures found in **Revelation 7:9; 14:1-3** and **19:1-6** which show the **‘anointed class’** AND the **‘great crowd’** in the same location **“before the throne”** meaning in the immediate physical and visual presence of **“the throne”**.

JESUS – ‘a god’

In **Isaiah 43:10** we read how Jehovah God says, **“Before me there was no God formed and after me there continued to be none”** (NWT). Then in the first chapter of John’s gospel we read that **“the Word became flesh and resided among us”** (v 14 NWT – this is clearly Jesus) and in verse one we learn that **“the Word was a god”** (NWT). The overwhelming majority of Bible versions translate this portion of verse one as **“the Word was God”** so why have The Watchtower translated it as **“a god”**?

In simple terms they make this translation on their understanding of the Greek used. Well qualified scholars have openly refuted this translation. **Dr Paul L. Kaufman** of Portland, Oregon is quoted as follows, **‘The Jehovah’s Witness people evidence an abysmal ignorance of the basic tenets of Greek grammar in their translation of John 1:1’**. ***

However, this is not the main point I want to bring our here. What I want to highlight is the inconsistency of this translation of **“a god”** because in the same chapter in **verses 6, 12, 13** and **18** the same Greek is translated **“God”**. My final thought on this matter is this. In the light of **Isaiah 43:10**, if Jesus is not truly **“God”** how can He be **“a god”** and remain credible?

*** This and other similar comments from those qualified to comment on Greek grammar can be found on <http://www.apologeticsindex.org/j01.html>

MISLEADING MESSENGERS

In the **first chapter** of the book of **Acts** we read of the ascension of Jesus and as the disciples are still looking up to the sky two men in white garments appear beside them and say, **“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who was received up from you into the sky will come thus in the same manner as you have beheld him going into the sky”** (v 11 NWT). These men were saying that just as Jesus had left the earth physically and visibly so one day He would return physically and visibly.

However, according to The Watchtower, at His ascension Jesus **‘had become invisible’** (*‘Insight’: Volume 2: p 977*) and so Jesus would return invisibly. But, the verse, according to their own bible says they **“beheld him going up into the sky”** and He was therefore visible at this time so even The Watchtower’s own strange interpretation of this verse does not stand up to close examination.

This interpretation is the basis for The Watchtower teaching that Jesus returned invisibly in 1914 and appointed The Watchtower to be God’s only true channel of communication to the world.

A CROSSLESS CALVARY

On **page 1117** of **‘Insight: Volume 2’** we find this subheading, **‘Why Jesus Had to Die on a Stake’**. The Watchtower teaches that Jesus was not crucified on a cross but impaled upon an upright torture stake. They state, **‘Jesus had to be hanged on a stake like an accursed criminal’** (p 1117). On **page 1156** of their **Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures** they reproduce a photograph of an illustration of a man on an upright torture stake. This illustration was by a 16th Century Roman Catholic scholar Justius Lipsius. They state, **‘This is the manner in which Jesus was impaled’**.

However this view is not the view of Lipsius himself for he wrote, ‘In the Lord’s cross there were four pieces of wood, the upright beam, the crossbar, the piece of wood placed below (for the feet) and the tittle inscription placed above’ (*De Cruce Liber Primus p 46*). Josephus the famous Jewish historian wrote, **‘Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man... And when Pilate at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us had condemned him to the cross’** (*Antiquities of the Jews: Book XVIII; chapter 3*).

Well did the Apostle Paul warn of **“the enemies of the cross of Christ”** (*Philippians 3: 18 AV*).

A MATERIALISING MESSIAH

Believers await to receive new bodies like that of the risen Christ **“who will refashion our humiliated body to be conformed to his glorious body”** (Philippians 3:21 NWT). Does Jesus have a **“glorious body”** according to The Watchtower? **Charles Taze Russell** who founded ‘The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society’ wrote, **‘Our Lord’s body was however supernaturally removed from the tomb... we know nothing about it except that it did not decay or corrupt. Whether it was dissolved into gasses... or is still preserved somewhere... no one knows’** (‘The Time is at Hand’: p 129).

On **page 785** of ‘Insight: Volume 2’ we read, **‘Jesus was... resurrected in the spirit’** and The Watchtower teach that Jesus is now a mighty Spirit creature who **‘appeared to his disciples... in various fleshly bodies’** (p 786). If Jesus does not have a **“glorious body”** which He showed to His disciples saying, **“See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; feel me and see because a spirit does not have flesh and bones just as you behold that I have”** (Luke 24:39-40 NWT) then surely He would be guilty of cruel deception and yet this is precisely what The Watchtower teaching implies.

NO HEAVENLY HOPE

On **page 1455** of the ‘New World Translation’ of the Scriptures under the heading **HEAVEN** we read, **‘Only 144,000 go to heaven’**. **According to The Watchtower this quota was filled up in 1935.**

If this teaching were true then vast portions of the New Testament would have no relevance to readers and believers would be robbed of rich and glorious promises. **HEAVEN** will be spending eternity in the presence of Jesus, **“Jesus spoke these things and raising his eyes to heaven he said... Father as to what you have given me I wish that where I am they also may be with me”** (John 17:1 & 24 NWT).

NO HORRIBLE HELL

Again on **page 1455** of the ‘New World Translation’ we read under the heading **HELL**, **‘Not a literal place of fiery torment’** and, **‘Fire is a symbol of annihilation’**.

In contrast listen to the words of the Apostle Peter, **“Judas deviated to go to his own PLACE”** (Acts 1:25 NWT).

The Bible makes it clear that **HELL** is a real **PLACE** which Jesus spoke of at great length on many occasions.

CONCLUSION

The following lines are attributed to John Newton –

**‘What think ye of Christ is the test,
To try both your state and your scheme,
You cannot be right in the rest,
Unless you think rightly of Him’.**

The **‘Jesus’** of the **Jehovah’s Witnesses** is a false Christ who alone cannot save. The true **‘Jesus’** of the Bible says, **“The one that comes to me I will by no means drive away”** (John 6:37 NWT). Take Him at His word today and come today to Him.

Some years ago I gave a much more ‘expansive’ talk on the **Jehovah’s Witnesses** and you can listen to that talk by going to this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2ogKXHcsno>

In my early years studying the various cults etc a video that I found helpful was called **‘Witnesses of Jehovah’** and a very useful section of that video has been posted to YouTube and you can access it by going to this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O85mCi8FADU>

Earlier in this article I wrote

‘High moral values are often espoused by cults (not just JW’s but others such as Mormonism and Roman Catholicism) and for many this can prove to be an attraction to them but sadly their ‘living lifestyle’ doesn’t always match up to their ‘theological theory’ as we shall see later in another video...

Back in 2002 a BBC Panorama programme looked at cases of **‘child abuse’** allegedly carried out by members of the **Jehovah’s Witnesses**. I have my own video copy of this programme but I have discovered that it is already posted on YouTube so I will provide the link for it - **it does contain distressing and detailed information of abuse allegedly perpetrated**. The link to watch the programme on is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep4h2IKWRlg>

Amendment 2nd December 2019: This video is no longer available to view due to copyright issues – if anyone wants a DVD copy of the programme please request one from me. **Additional resource:** A detailed analysis of the problem of child abuse within JW ranks can be viewed on this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULsWB2AvxVc>

A short newspaper article on the occurrence of this type of problem within the Jehovah’s **Witness** ranks can also be viewed on

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/02/jehovahs-witnesses-silencing-techniques-child-abuse>

A human tragedy that occurs all too often today, particularly where ISLAM is concerned, is that people are willing to suicidally sacrifice their own lives for the sake of a false faith. Such self-sacrifice, under persecution for a false faith, albeit non-violent towards others, was demonstrated by some **Jehovah's Witnesses** who were living in Germany during World War II. There are various articles about this persecution – one for instance is located on

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_in_Nazi_Germany

Back in 1991 I recorded part of a programme that looked at the experience of one German **Jehovah's Witness** family during that period and shortly I will give a link to watch it. I include this to show the extent to which tragically, Satan so deceives outwardly ordinary, decent, law-abiding people, that they are prepared to lay down their lives for a false faith and a false 'Christ'. The link to watch the programme is

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKTDo4_dQaM

Other previous articles that I have written relating to the **Jehovah's Witnesses** can be accessed by going to these links -

<http://www.takeheed.info/index-for-assorted-articles/>

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-september-2005/>

(Scroll through to 'Jehovah's Witnesses and The Resurrection')

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-june-2001/>

(Scroll through to 'Jehovah's Witnesses')

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-june-2001/>

(Scroll through to 'Jehovah's Witnesses commend The Church of England')

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-december-2000/>

(Scroll through to 'Sir Cliff Richard – Jehovah's Witnesses will be in heaven')

Some years ago at a church midweek meeting in Belfast I also gave an overview talk on **Jehovah's Witnesses** and **Mormons** and you can watch that talk by going to –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzzONXqpj6k>

As I move towards the conclusion of this article I think it would be fair to say that no one can doubt the enthusiasm and commitment of **Jehovah's Witnesses** – by way of illustration this short 5-minute video will demonstrate that zeal as a large group of **Jehovah's Witnesses** got together to erect a new 'Kingdom Hall'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJUZsPdZJwY>

Sadly of course their zeal is misplaced and, like Paul's longing for Israel in **Romans 10:1** "that they might be saved", so our prayers for **Jehovah's Witnesses** should mirror that desire of Paul's heart.

Earlier I set out the text of my tract "**JESUS and the JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**" that was written in the early days of 'Take Heed' Ministries. I will now conclude by asking this question – **Have Jehovah's Witnesses changed their beliefs?**

I want to answer that question by giving quotes from two relatively modern **Jehovah's Witness** publications – 'The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived' (**TGMWEL**) and 'What Does The Bible Really Teach?' (**WDTBRT**).

I will give some relevant quotations from these **Jehovah's Witness** publications and link them to the appropriate section headings from my tract.

A CREATED CHRIST

'He (Jesus) was a very special person because he was **CREATED** by God before all **OTHER** things (Colossians 1:15 NWT)' (**TGMWEL – Introduction p 4**).

'The Bible teaches that Jesus lived in heaven before he came to earth... Jesus is Jehovah's most precious Son – and for good reason. He is called "the firstborn of all creation" for he was God's first **CREATION** (Colossians 1:15 NWT)... Jesus is the only one directly **CREATED** by God' (**WDTBRT – page 41**).

MICHAEL as MESSIAH

'the Bible indicates that Michael is another name for Jesus Christ, before and after his life on earth... it is logical to conclude that Michael is none other than Jesus Christ in his heavenly role' (**WDTBRT – pp 218-219**).

(Cecil – In the NWT translation of Hebrews 1:13 we read "But with reference to which one of the angels has he ever said 'Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet?'" John MacArthur in his Study Bible writes 'The writer re-emphasises the Lordship of the Son by quoting Psalm 110:1. While Christ's destiny is to reign, the angel's destiny (Cecil - including presumably Michael) is to serve the recipients of salvation. This is the seventh and final quotation from the Old Testament to bolster the argument that as Son and Lord the Messiah is superior to the angels'.)

MANY MEDIATORS

'The Bible also refers to another kind of resurrection, one to life as a spirit creature in heaven. Only one example of this type of resurrection is recorded in the Bible, that of Jesus Christ... Jesus was the first ever to receive this glorious type of resurrection (John 3:13). But he would not be the last... Jesus referred to those going to heaven as his "little flock" (Luke 12:32). How many are to be in this relatively small group of faithful Christians? According to Revelation 14:1... a hundred and forty-four thousand... These 144,000 Christians, including Jesus' faithful apostles, are raised to life in heaven... those few remaining ones of the 144,000 who die in our day are instantly resurrected to life in heaven (1st Corinthians 15:51-55)...

What will those resurrected to heaven do there? They will form part of a marvellous Kingdom government in heaven... Since the days of the apostles, God has been selecting faithful Christians in order to complete the number 144,000... After Armageddon, mankind will be under just one government, God's Kingdom... The power of Jesus' sacrifice will be applied so that faithful humans (Cecil – please note – not the 144,000 'faithful Christians' in heaven with Jesus) will no longer get sick and die. Instead, under Kingdom rule they will be able to live forever (Revelation 22:1-3). The earth will be made into a paradise'. ' (WDTBRT – pp 73-84)

JESUS – 'a god'

'Is the Firstborn Son equal to God, as some believe? That is not what the Bible teaches. As we noted in the preceding paragraph, the Son was CREATED, Obviously then he had a beginning, whereas Jehovah God has no beginning' (WDTBRT – p 41)

(Cecil – in spite of what they have written here the JW Bible, the New World Translation still refers [erroneously] to Jesus in John 1:1 as "a god")

MISLEADING MESSENGERS

'Later Jesus meets again with his apostles and leads them out of the city as far as Bethany, which is located on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives... While they are still looking on, Jesus begins rising heavenward, and then a cloud obscures him from their sight. **After dematerializing his fleshly body, he ascends to heaven as a spirit person...** A careful study of Bible prophecies, including Jesus' own prophecy regarding the last days, reveals that "the Lord's day" began in the history-making year 1914, yes, within this generation! **So it was in 1914 that Jesus returned invisibly... Yes in 1914 Christ began ruling as King!**' (TGMWEL – chapter 132)

'When Jesus told his followers to pray "Let your kingdom come" it was clear that the Kingdom had not come at that time... There was a waiting period. For how long? During the 19th and 20th centuries Bible students progressively discerned that the waiting period would end in 1914... The fulfilment of Bible prophecy shows that in 1914, Christ became King and God's heavenly kingdom began to rule' (WDTBRT – p 84-85)

A CROSSLESS CALVARY

'Along with Jesus two robbers are being led out to be executed... The prisoners are stripped of their garments... Jesus is now stretched out **on the stake with his **hands placed above his head**' (TGMWEL – chapter 125)**

'... true Christians (Cecil – by this expression they obviously mean Jehovah's Witnesses) do not use the cross in worship. Why not? An important reason is that **Jesus Christ did not die on a cross' (WDTBRT – p 204)**

A MATERIALISING MESSIAH

'Cleopas and another disciple leave Jerusalem for Emmaus, a distance of about 7 miles. En route, while they are discussing the events of the day, a strange joins them... Cleopas and his companion explain the astounding events of the day... Finally they arrive near Emmaus, and the stranger makes as if he is going on... the disciples urge "Stay with us..." So he stays for a meal. As he says a prayer... they recognise that **he is really Jesus in a materialized human body. But then he disappears'. (TGMWEL – chapter 129)**

'After Jesus was put to death as a human, Jehovah did not allow His faithful Son to remain in the grave (Psalm 16:10; Acts 13:34-35). **God resurrected Jesus, but not as a human' (WDTBRT – p 73).**

NO HEAVENLY HOPE

'Under the direction of Jesus and his associate kings (Cecil – by this expression they obviously mean the 144,000) the survivors of Armageddon will clean up the ruins left by that righteous war... In time Jesus will bring forth untold millions from their graves **to enjoy this beautiful Paradise**

(Cecil – this will be down here on planet earth)

... Among those Jesus resurrects will be the former evildoer who died beside him on the torture stake. Recall that Jesus promised him... "Truly I tell you today, You will be with me in Paradise"

(Cecil – the 'comma' after the word "today" is an unwarranted insertion by the Jehovah's Witnesses)

No, **that man will not be taken to heaven** to rule as a king with Jesus, nor will Jesus again become a man and live on the Paradise earth with him. Rather, **Jesus will be with the former evildoer in the sense that He will resurrect him to life in Paradise and see to it that his needs both physical and spiritual are cared for**' (Cecil – this false teaching reminds me of the expression “Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practise to deceive”) (TGMWEL – chapter 129)

NO HORRIBLE HELL

'Some religions teach that if a person lives a bad life, after death he will go to a place of fiery torment forever. This teaching dishonours God. Jehovah is a God of love and would never make people suffer in this way... **Yet Satan wants us to believe that Jehovah tortures people in fire forever – for countless billions of years**' (WDTBRT – p 64).

Despite becoming much more vehement in recent decades in their claims to be Christians that is one thing the **Jehovah's Witnesses** are not. Except for perhaps a handful of very elderly members who would claim to be 'born again' and so part of the **144,000** (the '**anointed class**'), the remaining huge numbers of unregenerate **Jehovah's Witnesses** (the '**great crowd**') would still claim to be '**Christian**'. They need to ponder deeply the words of **Romans 8:9** as recorded in their own **New World Translation** of the Bible - "**if anyone does not have Christ's spirit, this one does not belong to him**".