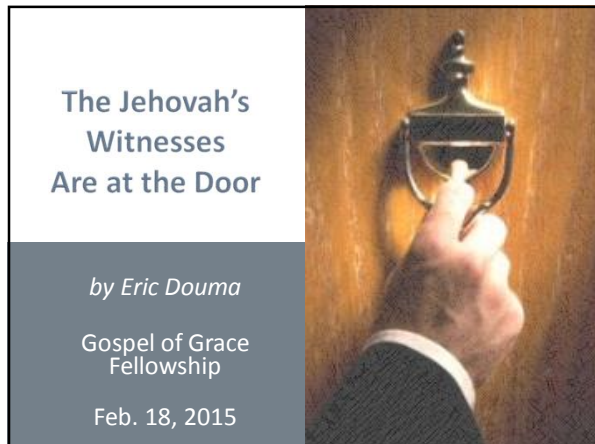


# The Jehovah's Witnesses Are at the Door

Feb. 18, 2015

by Eric Douma



## Watch Tower's Wayward Eschatology

- God will bring utopia to earth after the imminent battle of Armageddon
- "The Millennium began in 1874, with the Return of Christ" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 7, p. 386).
- "The battle of the great day of God almighty (Revelation 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 2, p. 101).

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2

## Gospel Essentials Under Attack

### Gospel Essentials:

1. **The Need** (Sinners under the wrath of God)
2. **The Good News** (Person and work of Jesus Christ)
3. **The Reception** (Faith alone by grace alone)
4. **The Result** (Everlasting life, bodily resurrection)

### Jehovah Witnesses:

1. No eternal damnation
2. Different Jesus (a created being, insufficient atonement)
3. Faith + Works
4. Only the 144,000 have a part in the kingdom

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3

## The Need: Denial of Hell

**J.W.** "Eternal torture is nowhere suggested in the Old Testament Scriptures, and only a few statements in the New Testament can be so misconstrued as to appear to teach it" (*The Divine Plan of the Ages*, p. 128).

2 Thess. 1:8-9 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of **eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...

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4

## The Need: Denial of Body and Soul

- J.W. "A human does not possess a soul separate and distinct from the body" (*Make Sure of All Things*, p. 349).
- Gen. 35:18 "It came about as **her soul was departing** (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni..."
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are **at home in the body we are absent from the Lord**— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be **absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord**.

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5

## The Gospel: A Different God

### J.W. Dynamic Monarchianism

- There is one God in one person (*Make Sure of All Things*, p. 188).
- There is no Trinity (*Let God be True*, 2nd Ed., pp. 100-101; 2/1/1960, p. 94).
- The Holy Spirit is a force, not alive (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 406-407).
- Jesus is a created being who existed as Michael the archangel (*The Watchtower*, May 15, 1963, p. 307; *The New World*, 284).

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6



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## The Gospel: Trinitarian Texts

Titus 3:4-6 But when the kindness of **God our Savior** and His love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing **by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out** upon us richly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**.

Isaiah 43:11 "I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no **savior** besides Me."

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7

## The Gospel: The Holy Spirit Is a Person

- **The H.S. speaks** – Acts 13:2 The Holy Spirit **said**, "set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to **which I have called** them."
- **The H.S. teaches** – John 14:26 ...the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach** you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- **The H.S. prays** – Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words...

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8

## The Gospel: A Different Jesus

**J.W. Position - Jesus had three different states:**

1. **Prehuman** – Jesus was created and existed as Michael the archangel.
2. **Human** – virgin birth yields a strictly human Jesus who traded spirit body (as Michael) for human body (no soul).
3. **Posthuman** – Jesus' resurrection was not physical. God raised up a "spirit body." Jesus' physical body was disposed by God in a "mysterious way."

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9

## The Gospel: J.W.'s Distorted Interpretations

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His **only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**J.W.** – "Only begotten" means Jesus was the first being God created. He then was used as an agent to create everything else.

Judges 11:34 When Jephthah came home to Mizpah, there was his daughter hurrying out to meet him, dancing to the rhythm of tambourines. She was his **only child**; except for her he had no son or daughter.

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10

## The Gospel: J.W.'s Distorted Translations

Colossians 1:15-17 NWT He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; because by means of him all **[other]** things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All **[other]** things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all **[other]** things and by means of him all **[other]** things were made to exist...

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11

## The Gospel: J.W.'s Distorted Translations

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

...καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.

**Colwell's rule:** An anarthrous pre-verbal **predicate nominative** is normally qualitative, sometimes definite, and only rarely indefinite.

Qualitative = the Word is of the same quality as the Father.

Definite = the Word is the same person as the Father.

Indefinite = the Word is a different god than the Father.

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12



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## The Gospel: Proving Christ's Deity

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 22:12-13 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

13

## The Gospel: Proving Christ's Deity

John 20:27-28 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

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

Granville Sharp = ASKS τοῦ μεγάλου θεοῦ καὶ σωτήρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

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14

## The Gospel: Proving Christ's Deity

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Granville Sharp = ASKS: τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν καὶ σωτήρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

Same Honor: Isaiah 45:22-23/ Philippians 2:10-11  
Same Qualities: Malachi 3:6/ Heb. 13:8

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15

## The Gospel: Proving Christ's Deity

Colossians 1:15-17 – Christ created all things!

Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

NWT Col. 2:9 because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily.

Correct = theotes –deity

Incorrect = NWT - theiotes – divine nature or quality (Rom. 1:20)

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16

## The Gospel: Reception

**J.W. Claims:** There are four requirements for the Jehovah's Witnesses to be able to live forever on Paradise earth according to the *Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1983, p. 12.

1. Knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
2. Obeying God's laws
3. Serve in God's true organization (Watchtower)
4. Must be loyal to witness for the organization

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

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17

## The Gospel: Who Is Saved?

**J.W. Claims:**

1. Only 144,000 go to heaven (they were faithful J.W.'s)
2. Other less faithful J.W.'s spend eternity on earth.
3. All others outside of the J.W.'s are annihilated.

Heb. 11:12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.

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18

