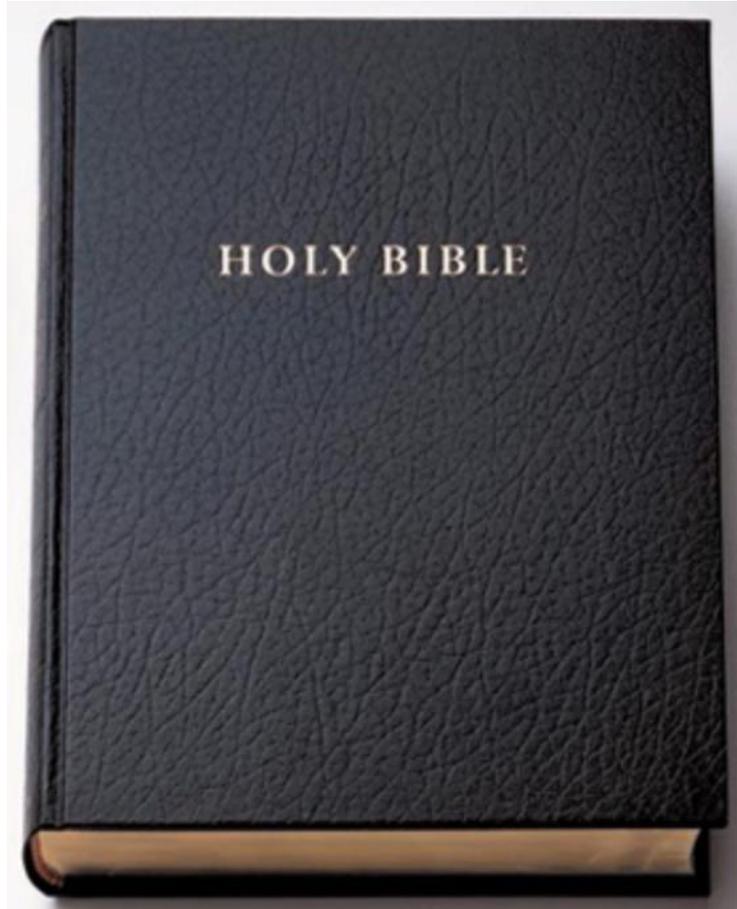


King James Bible Study



A Study Guide On
Jehovah's Witnesses

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Jehovah's Witnesses

I) BACKGROUND

1) Past

1. The founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses was Charles Taze Russell, born in Pennsylvania on February 16, 1852 to Joseph L. and Anna Eliza Russell, who were Presbyterians of Scotch-Irish descent but later, when Charles was 15 years old, joined the Congregational church
2. The more Charles Russell attended church, the more discontent he became with "organized religion", especially with the doctrine of eternal torment
3. One evening, Russell went to a religious service in Allegheny, Pennsylvania and heard the views of Second Adventism for the first time; and although he disagreed with the view that the Second Coming of Christ was physical and visible, by his own admission he was influenced by many of the doctrines of Adventism such as soul-sleep, the annihilation of the wicked, and the denial of hell
4. In 1870, at the age of 18 Russell formed a Bible class that he taught from 1870 to 1878; he was elected "Pastor" of the group in 1876 but resigned in 1878 when controversy arose over his counter arguments on the atonement of Christ
5. In 1879, he founded and began publishing his doctrines in *The Herald of the Morning*, which eventually became *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*
6. In 1880, Russell married Maria Ackley, who helped him administer *The Watchtower* and the soon to be established (1881) Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
7. In 1884, Russell incorporated Zion's Watchtower Tract Society in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (it would later be revealed that Russell held

99% of the stock in the corporation), which published a series of seven books between 1886 and 1917

8. The first six books were written by Russell and were originally published as *The Millennial Dawn*, but are now entitled *Studies in the Scriptures*
9. The seventh volume entitled *The Finished Mystery*, edited from Russell's writings after his death, caused a split in the organization when it was published in 1917
10. The smaller group became "The Dawn Bible Students Association" and the larger group, under the leadership of Russell's successor, Judge Rutherford, became the "Jehovah's Witnesses"
11. The Society showed amazing progress under the joint administration of Charles and Maria Russell, but in 1897 Mrs. Russell left her husband; and six years later, in 1903, she sued for divorce on the grounds of his conceit, egotism, and improper conduct with other women
12. The litigation for alimony revealed that Russell personally controlled the finances of the Society in that the income from the subsidiary societies were under the control of a holding company in which he held 99% of the shares. The case was settled in 1909 with \$6036 being awarded to Mrs. Russell
13. Russell called for "volunteers" to engage in a church-picketing service; that initially entailed distribution of booklets to people as they left their churches on Sunday (Jer 7:2), and eventually led to house-to-house distribution of tracts on Sunday mornings.
14. The Society experienced such tremendous growth due to the "evangelistic" zeal of the "volunteers" that a branch office was

established in London in 1900, then Germany in 1903, and Australia in 1904

15. The headquarters of the Society was moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1908, where property was purchased and became known as "The Brooklyn Tabernacle"
 16. From December, 1911 to March, 1912 Russell went with seven other men on a world-wide tour and reported back on sermons he delivered to enthusiastic crowds
 17. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* conducted a private investigation and discovered that, although Russell's sermons were printed in newspapers throughout the world, they were never publicly delivered in the places that were claimed
 18. The "searching investigations" Russell claimed to have into the missions of China and Japan consisted of spending a few hours in each country- Russell became known as the "phantom speaker"
 19. In 1912, a Baptist pastor named J. J. Ross published a pamphlet entitled, "Some Facts About the Self-Styled 'Pastor' Charles T. Russell" that led to a nasty law suit
- Ross denounced Russell's qualifications as a minister, his moral example as a "Pastor", and his teachings as "anti-rational, anti-scientific, anti-Biblical, anti-Christian, and a deplorable perversion of the gospel of God's Dear Son" (p. 7)
 - As a result, Russell filed a "defamatory libel" suit against Ross
 - Although Russell claimed to have achieved high levels of theological training, a working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, and a valid ordination by a recognized body, all three of these claims were proven false when Russell was cross-examined by Ross' attorney, Counselor Staunton

- Russell had in fact left public school at the age of 14, could not even name the letters of the Greek alphabet, and was never ordained by a recognized body
- Russell's most serious mistake was that he made his claims while under oath, so when the facts came out during the cross-examination, he was proven to be a perjurer and the case was awarded to Ross

20. The following is an excerpt of the *Russell v. Ross* transcript cited on pages 43-44 of *The Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin (Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN, 1985):

Question: (Attorney Staunton)- "Do you know the Greek alphabet?"

Answer: (Russell)- "Oh yes."

Question: (Attorney Staunton)- "Can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?"

Answer: (Russell)- "Some of them, I might make a mistake on some of them."

Question: (Attorney Staunton)- "Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447 I have got here?"

Answer: (Russell)- "Well, I don't know that I would be able to."

Question: (Attorney Staunton)- "You can't tell what those letters are, look at them and see if you know?"

Answer: (Russell)- "My way..." [he was interrupted at this point and not allowed to explain]

Question: (Attorney Staunton)- "Are you familiar with the Greek language?"

Answer: (Russell)- "No."

21. Russell was accused, and guilty, of many fraudulent schemes, the most famous being the "Miracle Wheat" debacle of 1913

- Russell's Watch Tower publication advertised the sale of a "Miracle Wheat" that supposedly would grow five times as much as any other brand of wheat
- The seed was sold for \$1.00 a pound and followers were advised to purchase it so the proceeds could be used to publish the "Pastor's" sermons
- The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* published a cartoon picturing the "Pastor" with his "Miracle Wheat" that resulted in Russell filing a \$100,000 suit for libel
- Government departments investigated the wheat and brought their findings to the trial
- The "Miracle Wheat" tested low and Russell's claims were proven to be fraudulent

22. Russell added the brand "false prophet" to himself and the Society when Armageddon did not take place in 1914 as predicted

- The date was determined by calculating the length of the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24) and assuming that Armageddon would take place at the end of this period of time
- The number 360 (the number of days in a Biblical year) was multiplied by 7 (Lev 26:18,21,24,28) to arrive at a total of 2,520 years
- The 2,520 years were then added to 606 B.C. (the beginning of the "times of the Gentiles" with the Babylonian captivity under Nebuchadnezzar) to arrive at 1914 A.D.

23. During his "ministry", Charles Taze Russell took advantage of every opportunity to make money, and often hid behind the veil of religious persecution while deceiving countless ignorant souls with

his heresies regarding the Trinity, the deity of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection, the Second Coming, eternal punishment, hell, and salvation

24. Russell was a proven egotist and liar, which resulted in frequent legal issues that kept his attorney, Judge Rutherford, quite busy
25. Russell was a prominent conscientious objector (as Jehovah's Witnesses are today) during the early stages of World War I
26. Charles Taze Russell died on October 31, 1916 and the leadership of the Society was transferred to his attorney, Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford
27. Under the leadership of Judge Rutherford, whose parents incidentally were Baptists, the Society became more authoritarian
28. In his pamphlet *Why Serve Jehovah?* Rutherford basically said that he was the mouthpiece of Jehovah for this age and that God designated his words as the expression of divine mandate
29. Rutherford declared "an era of changes" and ignored, altered, or denied some of Russell's teachings claiming a "progressive revelation" permitted him to do so
30. Many left the Society at this time under Rutherford's threat of annihilation if they did not repent and recognize Jehovah's will as expressed through the Society
31. Rutherford also authorized publication of the seventh and last volume of the *Studies in the Scriptures* entitled, *The Final Mystery*
32. This caused a split in the Society that resulted in the "faithful" being renamed "Jehovah's Witnesses"

33. Rutherford was a prolific writer who published over 100 books and pamphlets in 80 languages.
34. Judge Rutherford died on January 8, 1942 and leadership of the Witnesses transferred to Nathan Knorr
35. Under the leadership of Nathan Knorr, membership in the Witnesses grew from 105,000 to 2,200,000
36. Knorr was responsible for establishing the Gilead Missionary Training School in South Lansing, New York and initiating the production of the *New World Translation*, the Jehovah's Witnesses Bible that was originally released in six volumes from 1950 to 1960
37. During Knorr's tenure, the Society made another prediction on the date of Armageddon- 1975
38. When 1975 came and went without the overthrow of the world system and the establishment of Jehovah's kingdom, the Watchtower proved itself again to be a false prophet
39. Nathan Knorr died on June 8, 1977 and leadership of the Witnesses transferred to the vice-president of the Society, Frederick Franz.

2) Present

1. Under the leadership of Frederick Franz, the Watchtower fell into a relative crisis
 - Franz was the head of the *New World Translation* committee while still vice-president, and was exposed in court as misrepresenting his knowledge of Hebrew and Greek
 - He was unable to translate Gen 2:4 when asked
 - In 1982, his nephew Raymond left the Watchtower Society and wrote a book entitled, *Crisis in Conscience*, in which he showed the

Watchtower to be anti-Biblical, deceptive, destructive, and ever-changing in its teachings and policies

2. Frederick Franz died on December 22, 1992 and leadership of the Witnesses transferred to Milton Henschel
3. Henschel remained president of the Watchtower Society until 2000 when he stepped down as part of major organizational changes resulting from the separation of Governing Body of the Jehovah's Witnesses from the Society's board of directors
4. Don Alden Adams assumed the presidency of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in 2000
5. Henschel remained part of the Governing Body until his death on March 22, 2003
6. Their places of assembly are called "Kingdom Halls"; and are modest in appearance and similar in size/structure because once a group reaches 150 to 200 in membership, another one is built
7. Today, Jehovah's Witnesses attempt to disassociate themselves with Charles Taze Russell because they realize his embellished character is a faulty foundation to build truth upon
8. They abhor being referred to as Russellites, or their theology as Russellism, yet their beliefs concerning the Trinity, the deity of Jesus Christ, the resurrection and Second Coming of Christ, and the existence of hell as a place of torment mirror the beliefs of Russell
9. Their heresies are printed in a variety of publications and periodicals:
 - *Studies in the Scriptures* (Charles Taze Russell)
 - *New World Translation*

- *Watchtower* (bi-monthly) (18,000,000 copies circulated each month in 106 languages)
- *Awake!* (bi-monthly) (16,000,000 copies circulated each month in 34 languages)
- Numerous other books and pamphlets

Fast Facts—Worldwide

- **239**—Lands where Jehovah’s Witnesses preach
- **595**—Languages in which we publish Bibles and Bible-based literature
- **111,719**—Congregations
- **7,538,994**—Ministers who teach the Bible
- **19,000,000**—People who attend our meetings or conventions
- **179,000,000**—Bibles published by Jehovah’s Witnesses in 116 languages
- **20,000,000,000**—Pieces of Bible-based literature published by Jehovah’s Witnesses over the past ten years

Source: www.jw.org

II) BELIEFS

FINAL AUTHORITY

1) Assertion

1. The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired word of God as it was originally given, and has been preserved by Him as the revealer of His purposes

"Those who wrote the Bible were inspired by God. They wrote his thoughts, not their own. So God in heaven, not any human on earth, is the Author of the Bible.- 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21...God made sure that the Bible was accurately copied and preserved" (*What Does God Require of Us?*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.3).

"The Son of God taught that the traditions of creed-bound men made the commandments and teachings of God of no power and effect. The endeavor of the *New World Bible Translation* committee has been to avoid this snare of religious traditionalism" (Foreword to the New World Translation, 1950, p.6).

2. Charles Taze Russell claimed that his *Studies in the Scriptures* were practically inspired and more important than the Bible

"If the six volumes of SCRIPTURE STUDIES are practically the Bible, topically arranged with Bible proof texts given, we might not improperly name the volumes THE BIBLE IN AN ARRANGED FORM. That is to say, they are not mere comments on the Bible, but they are practically the Bible itself...Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the SCRIPTURE STUDIES aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years- if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the SCRIPTURE STUDIES with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures" (Charles Taze Russell, from *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1910, p.298).

2) Answer

1. All scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 2:19-21) and has been perfectly preserved through all time in fulfillment of the promise of God (Psa 12:7; Matt 24:35; 1 Pet 1:25)
 - The Jehovah's Witnesses' statement on the Bible appears sound but the Bible they believe is the preserved word of God is the New World Translation (NWT); consequently, this study guide will use the NWT itself, when appropriate, in answer to many of their false doctrines
 - Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's) believe that the Roman Catholic Church immediately corrupted the original inspired text by inserting pagan traditions, such as the Trinity, into copies and translations
 - Consequently, they believe every version of the Bible was tainted with "religious traditionalism" until God preserved the original text in the NWT
 - The NWT is a dishonest translation based on the same corrupt manuscripts that have produced every English perversion since 1884

"The Codex Sinaiticus provided part of the basis for the Greek text from which the *New World Translation* was made...Along with the Vaticanus, this manuscript is the principle basis for the Greek text from which the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* was translated" (*Awake!* Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, July 22, 1988, p.20).

- The head of the NWT translating committee, Frederick Franz, stated on a witness stand in a court of law (November 24, 1954) that he had LIED about his knowledge of Hebrew and Greek
- The Foreword to the NWT (1984 edition) states that the Greek text used in *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* was the Wescott-Hort Greek text

- While claiming to be an unbiased translation, the NWT was published for the sole purpose of creating a "Bible" in the image of the heretical doctrines of the JW's
 - When JW's are confronted with contradictions between the NWT and the teachings of the Watchtower, it becomes very evident that their final authority is the word of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
2. Charles Taze Russell and the Watchtower Society are false prophets based on the failed predictions about the date of Armageddon and the beginning of the kingdom (e.g.- 1914, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975)
- In order for a prophet to be of God his predictions must have a 100% accuracy rate, if but ONE of his predictions is ever wrong, he is a FALSE PROPHET according to the word of God (Deu 18:20-22)
 - Russell's *Studies in the Scriptures* may have been "inspired", but not of God

GOD

1) Assertion

1. The one true and living God, Jehovah, is one and not a Trinity

"Moses reminded the Israelites that 'Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.' (Deu 6:4) Jesus Christ repeated those words. (Mark 12:28-29) Therefore, those who accept the Bible as God's Word do not worship a Trinity consisting of three persons or gods in one. In fact, the word 'Trinity' does not even appear in the Bible." (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society, p.31)

"What, then, do the facts show as to the 'Trinity'? Neither the word nor the idea is in God's Word, the Bible. The doctrine did not originate with God. But, you will be interested to know that, according to the book *Babylonian Life and History* (by Sir E. A. Wallis Budge, 1925 edition,

pp.146,147), in ancient Babylon, the pagans did believe in such a thing; in fact, they worshipped more than one trinity of gods" (*The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.25).

" The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine...The trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians...The plain truth is that this is another of Satan's attempts to keep God-fearing persons from learning the truth of Jehovah and his Son, Christ Jesus. No, there is no trinity" (*Let God be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 edition, p.101,111).

"...sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve Him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God" (*Let God be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 edition, p.102).

"Any trying to reason out the Trinity teaching leads to confusion of mind. So the Trinity teaching confuses the meaning of John 1:1,2; it does not simplify it or make it clear or easily understandable" ("*The Word*" *Who Is He? According to John*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.7).

"This view suited well 'the dark ages' it helped produce...this theory...is as unscriptural as it is unreasonable...if it were not for the fact that this trinitarian nonsense was drilled into us from earliest infancy, and the fact that it is so soberly taught in Theological Seminaries by gray haired professors,...nobody would give it a moment's consideration" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Volume V, p.166).

2) Answer

1. God is a Trinity consisting of three persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) in complete unity

- The Hebrew word ELOHIM is plural (in Hebrew, singular is one, dual is two, plural is more than two) but is translated as GOD (singular) not GODS

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Gen 1:1)	"In the beginning GOD created the heaven and the earth."	"In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth"

- Plural personal pronouns (e.g.- "us", "our") are used interchangeably with singular personal pronouns (e.g.- "his", "he") and the words GOD and THE LORD

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Gen 1:26-27)	"And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in HIS own IMAGE, in THE IMAGE OF GOD created HE him; male and female created HE them."	"And God went on to say: "Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. And God proceeded to create man in HIS image, in GOD'S IMAGE HE created him; male and female HE created them"
(Gen 11:7,9)	"Go to, let US go down, and there CONFOUND THEIR LANGUAGE, that they may not understand one another's speech...Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because THE LORD DID there CONFOUND THE LANGUAGE of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth"	"Come now! Let US go down and there CONFUSE THEIR LANGUAGE that they may not listen to one another's language...That is why its name was called Babel, because there JEHOVAH HAD CONFUSED THE LANGUAGE of all the earth, and Jehovah had scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth"

Who is God referring to when he says, "let US make" in Gen 1:26? The Father was not the only one that was active in the creation of man, but so was the Son (John 1:3) and the Holy Spirit (Job 33:4), even JW's acknowledge this. Note that "OUR image" is "HIS image" and "GOD'S image" in the NWT.

In Gen 11:7, the plural pronoun "US" is used to describe who will go down and confound the languages of the people. The Trinity is implied in that the "US" that goes down and **CONFOUNDS THEIR LANGUAGE** in v.7 is said to be **THE LORD** in v.9 and **JEHOVAH** in the NWT!

- A singular name is applied to a plurality of persons in the baptismal formula

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Matt 28:19)	"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in THE NAME of THE FATHER , and of THE SON , and of THE HOLY GHOST "	"Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in THE NAME of THE FATHER and of THE SON and of THE HOLY SPIRIT "

The Trinity is mentioned here in that the word **NAME** is singular but the name is applied to **THREE** persons, **THE FATHER**, **THE SON**, and **THE HOLY GHOST**. The word **AND** after the words **FATHER** and **SON** make it clear that the Son and the Holy Ghost share **THE NAME** of the Father. This **NAME** that Gentile converts were to be baptized in is **THE LORD** (i.e.- **JEHOVAH**) according to Acts 10:48. The NWT also applies the singular **NAME** to a plurality, **THE FATHER**, **THE SON**, and **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Therefore, if **JEHOVAH** is the name of the Father, it is also the name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

It is important to note that Acts 10:48 of the NWT says **THE NAME** in which the Gentile converts were to be baptized in is **JESUS CHRIST** not

THE LORD (i.e.-JEHOVAH). This is because the King James Bible and the NWT are translated from two different families of Greek texts. The King James is translated from the Antiochian family (i.e.- the Received Text, or Textus Receptus), while the NWT is translated from the Alexandrian family. The reading of JESUS CHRIST in Acts 10:48 of the Alexandrian texts is in direct contradiction with Matt 28:19 unless you believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ commissioned his disciples to baptize Gentile converts in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The converts in Acts 10:48 are GENTILES; therefore, they should have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is THE LORD not JESUS CHRIST. The reading in the King James Bible is right and ALL others are WRONG! For the record, if the JW attempts to cite Acts 2:38,41 as proof that converts can be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, it should be pointed out to that those converts were JEWS (Acts 2:5) not Gentiles.

- The Trinity is clearly stated as THREE being ONE in 1 John 5:7

"For THERE ARE THREE that bear record in heaven, THE FATHER, THE WORD, and THE HOLY GHOST: and THESE THREE ARE ONE" (1 John 5:7)

JW's believe pagan traditions were added to the Bible over the course of time. They cite 1 John 5:7 as an example since it clearly supports the doctrine of the Trinity.

"Another reference that speaks of the three together is found in some older Bible translations at 1 John 5:7. Scholars acknowledge, however, that these words were not originally in the Bible but were added much later. Most modern translations rightly omit this spurious verse" (*Should You Believe In The Trinity*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.23-24).

Since 1 John 5:7 is omitted from the corrupt Alexandrian text, it is also omitted in the NWT:

"For there are three witness bearers" (1 John 5:7 NWT)

JESUS CHRIST

1) Assertion

1. Jesus Christ is a god but not God

"The true God is one Person, separate from Jesus Christ..." (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society, p.31)

"...the true Scriptures speak of God's Son, the Word, as a 'god.' He is a 'mighty god,' but not Almighty God, who is Jehovah" (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.47).

"...our Lord Jesus Christ is a God...still the united voice of the Scriptures most emphatically asserts that there is but one Almighty God, the Father of all" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Volume V, p.55)

"Jesus was 'the Son of God.' Not God himself!" (*"The Word" Who Is He? According to John*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.20).

"The very fact that he was sent proves he was not equal with God but less than God his father" (*"The Word" Who Is He? According to John*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.41).

"Certainly the apostle John was not so unreasonable as to say that someone ('the Word') was with some other individual ('God') and at the same time was that other individual ('God')" (*"The Word" Who Is He? According to John*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.53).

"Our Redeemer existed as a spirit being before he was made flesh and dwelt amongst men. At that time, as well as subsequently, he was properly known as 'a god'- a mighty one" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Volume V, p.84).

"This One was not Jehovah God, but was 'existing in God's form...' He was a spirit person...he was a mighty one, although not Almighty as Jehovah God is...he was a God, but not Almighty God, who is Jehovah" (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.32-33).

2. Jesus Christ was the first creation of Jehovah and the agent of the creation of all other things

"Jesus was called God's 'only-begotten Son' because Jehovah created him directly. (John 3:16) As the 'first-born of all creation,' Jesus was then used by God to create all other things (Col 1:15; Rev 3:14) (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society, p.39)

"Time and again, Jesus showed that he was a creature separate from God and that he, Jesus, has a God above him, a God whom he worshipped, a God whom he called 'Father.' In prayer to God, that is, the Father, Jesus said, 'You, the only true God.' (John 17:3) At John 20:17 he said to Mary Magdalene: 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' (RS, Catholic edition)" (*Should You Believe In The Trinity? Is Jesus Christ the Almighty God?*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.17).

"The truth of the matter is that the word is Christ Jesus, who did have a beginning" (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.88).

"At the time of his beginning of life he was created by the everlasting God, Jehovah...In other words, he was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God...He was not an incarnation in flesh but was flesh, a

human Son of God, a perfect man, no longer a spirit, although having a spiritual or heavenly past and background" (*The Kingdom Is At Hand*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.46,47,49).

"...the Bible shows that there is only one God...'greater than His Son.'...And that the Son, as the First-born, Only-begotten and 'the creation by God,' had a beginning. That the Father is greater and older than the Son is reasonable, easy to understand and is what the Bible teaches" (*From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.164).

"Jesus lived in heaven as a spirit person before he came to earth. He was God's first creation, and so he is called the 'firstborn' Son of God. (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14) Jesus is the only Son that God created by himself. Jehovah used the pre-human Jesus as his 'master worker' in creating all other things in heaven and on earth. (Proverbs 8:22-31; Colossians 1:16,17)" (*What Does God Require of Us?* Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.6).

"...the Bible plainly states that in his pre-human existence, Jesus was a created spirit being, just as angels were spirit beings created by God. Neither the angels nor Jesus existed before their creation. Jesus in his pre-human existence, was 'the first-born of all creation.' (Colossians 1:15, NJB) He was 'the beginning of God's creation.' (Revelation 3:14, RS Catholic edition)...Yes, Jesus was created by God as the beginning of God's invisible creations" (*Should You Believe In The Trinity? Is Jesus Christ the Almighty God?*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.14).

3. In his pre-existent state, Jesus was known as "Michael the archangel"

"'Being the only begotten Son of God,...the Word would be a prince among all other creatures. In this office he bore another name in heaven, which name is 'Michael'" (*The Truth Shall Set You Free*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.49).

"As chief of the angels and next to the Father, he was known as the Archangel (highest angel or messenger), whose name, Michael, signifies, 'Who as God' or God's Representative" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Volume V, p.84).

4. Jesus Christ did not die on a cross but on a pole or stake

"Jesus did not die on a cross. He died on a pole, or a stake. The Greek word translated 'cross' in many Bibles meant just one piece of timber. The symbol of the cross comes from ancient false religions" (*What Does God Require of Us?* Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.23).

"The Roman governor Pontius Pilate then sentenced him to death on a torture stake. He was nailed to a wooden pole and hung there upright." (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society, p.66)

5. Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead bodily, but as a spirit

"Jesus died and was resurrected by God as a spirit creature" (*What Does God Require of Us?* Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.7).

"He slept in death for parts of three days, and then Jehovah God resurrected him to life as a mighty spirit being.- 1 Peter 3:18." (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society, p.68)

"In his resurrection he was no more human. He was raised as a spirit creature...Therefore the bodies in which Jesus manifested himself to his disciples after his return to life were not the body in which he was nailed to the tree. They were merely materialized for the occasion, resembling on one or two occasions the body in which he died" (*The Kingdom is at Hand*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.258-259).

"So the King Christ Jesus was put to death in the flesh and was resurrected as invisible spirit creature...This firstborn from the dead was raised from the grave not a human creature, but a spirit" (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.138,276).

"...our Lord was put to death in flesh, but was made alive in spirit; he was put to death as a man, but was raised from the dead a spirit being of the highest order of the divine nature...it could not be that the man Jesus is the Second Adam, the new father of the race instead of Adam; for the man Jesus is dead, forever dead" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Volume V, p.453-454).

6. Jesus Christ will not return visibly or physically to the earth

"Christ Jesus returns, not again as a human, but as a glorious spirit person...It does not mean that he is on the way or has promised to come, but that he has already arrived and is here" (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.196,198).

"It is a settled Scriptural truth, therefore, that human eyes will not see him at his second coming, neither will he come in a fleshy body...Christ Jesus came to the Kingdom in A.D. 1914, but unseen to men" (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.295,300).

"Jesus is enthroned in the heavenly Kingdom in 1914 C.E. as 'the appointed times of the nations' end.- Revelation 11:15." (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible And Tract Society, p.94)

"He does not come in the body of his humiliation, a human body, which he took for the suffering of death,...but in his glorious spiritual body" (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Volume II, p.108).

2) Answer

1. Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be God

- He is the EVERLASTING FATHER

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Isa 9:6)	"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, The Prince of Peace."	"For there has been a child born unto us, there has been a son given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, ETERNAL FATHER, Prince of Peace."

- He is GOD WITH US

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Matt 1:22-23)	"Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, GOD WITH US."	"All this actually came about for that to be fulfilled which was spoken by Jehovah through his prophet, saying: 'Look! The virgin will become pregnant and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Immanuel, which means, when translated, 'WITH US IS GOD.'"

- There is no god besides The Lord (Jehovah) yet Jesus Christ is called GOD

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Isa 43:10)	"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD,... BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME."	"'YOU are my witnesses,' is the utterance of Jehovah,"...BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, AND AFTER ME THERE CONTINUED TO BE NONE."
(Isa 45:5)	"I am the LORD, and there is none else, THERE IS NO GOD BESIDE ME: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:"	"I am JEHOVAH, and there is none else. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ME THERE IS NO GOD. I shall closely gird you, although you have

		not known me"
(Isa 9:6)	"For unto us a child is born, unto us A SON is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be CALLED Wonderful, Counsellor, THE MIGHTY GOD, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."	"For there has been a child born unto us, there has been A SON given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be CALLED Wonderful Counselor, MIGHTY GOD, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."
(Luke 8:39)	"Return to thine own house, and show HOW GREAT THINGS GOD HATH DONE unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city HOW GREAT THINGS JESUS HAD DONE unto him."	"Be on your way back home, and keep on relating WHAT THINGS GOD DID for you. Accordingly he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city WHAT THINGS JESUS DID for him."
(John 1:1)	"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and THE WORD WAS GOD."	"In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and THE WORD WAS A GOD."
(John 20:28)	"And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and MY GOD."	In answer Thomas said to him: 'My Lord and MY GOD!'"

If Jehovah is the ONLY God, then how can Jesus Christ also be GOD and not be Jehovah? Was Thomas attributing deity to Jesus Christ or was he taking the name of Jehovah in vain (Exo 20:7)? The other so-called "gods" are all FALSE GODS before the one TRUE GOD (1 Cor 8:5-6). If ONLY means ONLY, then Jesus Christ must be Jehovah or he is a FALSE GOD. There is no middle ground! If he is a false god, then the Jews were 100% right in trying him as a blasphemer and putting him to death. Rather than honoring him, JW's should diligently seek to obliterate his name and memory from all history. In addition, if Jesus Christ was A GOD created by Jehovah, as JW's assert, then why does the NWT say that there was NO GOD after Jehovah? Is the NWT correct or JW's theology? If both are correct, then Jesus Christ is a FALSE GOD!

- There is no Savior besides The Lord (Jehovah) yet Jesus Christ is THE SAVIOR

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Isa 43:11)	"I, even I, am the LORD; and	"I- I am JEHOVAH, and BESIDES

	BESIDE ME THERE IS NO SAVIOUR."	ME THERE IS NO SAVIOR."
(Luke 2:11)	"For unto you is born this day in the city of David A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD."	"because there was born to YOU today A SAVIOR, who is CHRIST [THE] LORD, in David's city."
(John 4:42)	"And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the CHRIST, THE SAVIOUR of the world."	"and they began to say to the woman: 'We do not believe any longer on account of your talk; for we have heard for ourselves and we know that THIS MAN IS for a certainty THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.'"
(Tit 3:4,6)	"But after that the kindness and love of GOD OUR SAVIOUR toward man appeared,... Which he shed on us abundantly through JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR;"	"However, when the kindness and the love for man on the part of OUR SAVIOR, GOD, was manifested,... This [spirit] he poured out richly upon us through JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR,"

If there is NO Savior besides Jehovah, then how can Jesus Christ be called THE Savior and OUR Savior without being Jehovah? If Jesus Christ is not Jehovah, then he is a FALSE Savior according to the NWT.

- The Lord (Jehovah) is THE KING OF ISRAEL and the King of Israel is the Son of God

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Isa 44:6)	"Thus saith the LORD THE KING OF ISRAEL..."	"This is what JEHOVAH has said, THE KING OF ISRAEL..."
(Zep 3:15)	"The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: THE KING OF ISRAEL, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more."	"Jehovah has removed the judgments upon you. He has turned away your enemy. THE KING OF ISRAEL, JEHOVAH, is in the midst of you. You will fear calamity no more."
(John 1:49)	"Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art THE SON OF GOD; thou art THE KING OF ISRAEL."	"Nathanael answered him: Rabbi, you are THE SON OF GOD, you are KING OF ISRAEL."

- THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH is the Lord (Jehovah)

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Exo 3:2,4,6)	"And THE ANGEL OF THE LORD	"Then JEHOVAH'S ANGEL

	APPEARED unto him in a flame of fire out of THE MIDST OF A BUSH...And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, GOD called unto him out of THE MIDST OF THE BUSH...he was afraid to look upon GOD."	APPEARED to him in a flame of fire in THE MIDST OF A THORN BUSH...When Jehovah saw that he turned aside to inspect, GOD at once called to him out of THE MIDST OF THE THORN BUSH...he was afraid to look at THE [TRUE] GOD"
(Zec 12:8)	"In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be AS GOD, AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD before them."	"In that day Jehovah will be a defense around the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and the one that is stumbling among them must become in that day like David, and the house of David LIKE GOD, LIKE JEHOVAH'S ANGEL before them"

- The Lord (Jehovah) is THE ALMIGHTY, THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, and THE FIRST AND THE LAST; and so is Jesus Christ

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Isa 44:6)	"In that day Jehovah will be a defense around the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and the one that is stumbling among them must become in that day like David, and the house of David LIKE GOD, LIKE JEHOVAH'S ANGEL before them"	"This is what JEHOVAH has said, the King of Israel and the Repurchaser of him, Jehovah of armies, 'I AM THE FIRST AND I AM THE LAST, and besides me there is no God'".
(Rev 1:8)	"I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, the beginning and the ending, saith THE LORD, which is, and which was, and which is to come, THE ALMIGHTY."	"I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,' says JEHOVAH GOD, 'the One who is and who was and who is coming, THE ALMIGHTY.'"
(Rev 22:13,16)	"I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, the beginning and the end, THE FIRST AND THE LAST...I JESUS have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."	"I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE FIRST AND THE LAST, the beginning and the end...I, JESUS, sent my angel to bear witness to YOU people of these things for the congregations. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star.'"

- He is equated with the Lord (Jehovah)

Reference	KJV	NWT
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(Isa 40:3)	“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of THE LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”	“Listen! Someone is calling out in the wilderness: Clear up the way of JEHOVAH, You people! Make the highway for our God through the desert plain straight.”
(Matt 3:1-3)	“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of THE LORD, make his paths straight.”	“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.’ This, in fact, is the one spoken of through Isaiah the prophet in these words: ‘Listen! Someone is crying out in the wilderness, Prepare the way of JEHOVAH, You people! Make his roads straight’”.
(John 1:31)	“And I knew him not: but that HE (Jesus) should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.”	“Even I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that HE (Jesus) might be made manifest to Israel.”
(Zec 11:12-13)	“And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I (THE LORD) was prized at of them.	“Then I said to them: ‘If it is good in your eyes, give [me] my wages; but if not, refrain.’ And they proceeded to pay my wages, THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER. At that, JEHOVAH said to me: ‘Throw it to the treasury- the majestic value with which I have been valued from their standpoint.’”
(Matt 26:14-15)	Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver HIM (Jesus) unto you? And they covenanted with him for THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER.”	“Then one of the twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said: ‘What will you give me to betray HIM (Jesus) to you?’ They stipulated to him THIRTY SILVER PIECES.”
(Mark 5:19-20)	“Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things THE LORD hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things JESUS had done for him: and all men did marvel.”	“However, he did not let him, but said to him: ‘Go home to your relatives, and report to them all the things JEHOVAH has done for you and the mercy he had on you.’ And he went away and started to proclaim in the Decapolis all the things JESUS did for him, and all the people began to wonder.”
(John 20:28)	“And Thomas answered and said unto HIM (Jesus), My LORD and my GOD.”	“In answer Thomas said to him (Jesus): ‘My LORD and my GOD!’”.

(Isa 40:10)	“Behold, THE LORD GOD WILL COME with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, HIS REWARD IS WITH HIM, and his work before him.”	“Look! THE LORD JEHOVAH HIMSELF WILL COME even as a strong one, and his arm will be ruling for him. Look! HIS REWARD IS WITH HIM, and the wage he pays is before him.”
(Rev 22:12,16)	“And, behold, I COME QUICKLY; and MY REWARD IS WITH ME, to give every man according as his work shall be...I JESUS...”	“Look! I AM COMING QUICKLY, and THE REWARD I GIVE IS WITH ME, to render to each one as his work is...I, JESUS...”

2. The Lord Jesus Christ is an eternal being not a created one

- He is from everlasting to everlasting (Mic 5:2)
- He is God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16)
- The phrases, “first born of every creature” (Col 1:15), “first begotten of the dead” (Rev 1:5), and “beginning of the creation of God” (Rev 3:14) all refer to Christ as the head of the new creation as Adam was of the old
- Jesus Christ is the first to die, rise from the dead, never to die again

3. The Lord Jesus Christ is not, nor ever has been Michael the archangel

- The Lord will come WITH THE VOICE of the archangel (Michael) (1 The 4:16), not AS the archangel
- In Daniel 10, Daniel is visited by an angelic being whose description (v.5-6), actions (v.10) and words (v.12,19) are exactly the same as those attributed to Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:13-17, and this angelic being distinguishes himself from Michael in v.21

4. Jesus Christ was crucified on a cross not a pole or stake

- Although the Greek word σταυρος (stauros) can be translated as “stake”, it can also be translated as “cross” (*The Analytical Greek Lexicon Revised*, Harold K. Moulton, 1978, Zondervan Corporation, p.374)- JW's simply select the definition that best fits their theology

- The instrument of crucifixion may originally have been a stake, the act being similar to impalement, but every credible history attests that the cross eventually became the instrument of crucifixion
- The cross is called a/the TREE 5x (# of DEATH) (Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29; Gal 3:13; 1 Pet 2:24) because a tree, with its trunk and outstretched branches, is in the shape of a cross

5. The Lord Jesus Christ rose BODILY from the dead

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Luke 24:6,39)	“He is not here, BUT IS RISEN: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee...Behold my HANDS and my FEET, that it is I myself: HANDLE ME, and see; for A SPIRIT HATH NOT FLESH AND BONES, AS YE SEE ME HAVE.”	“[He is not here, but has been RAISED UP.] Recall how he spoke to you while he was yet in Galilee...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.”
(John 2:19,21)	“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will RAISE IT UP. But he spake of the temple of HIS BODY.”	“In answer Jesus said to them: ‘Break down this temple, and in three days I will RAISE IT UP.’ But he was talking about the temple of HIS BODY.”
(John 20:27)	“Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my HANDS; and reach hither thy hand, and THRUST IT INTO MY SIDE: and be not faithless, but believing.”	“Next he said to Thomas: ‘Put your finger here, and see my HANDS, and take your hand and STICK IT INTO MY SIDE, and stop being unbelieving but become believing.”

6. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be physical and visible

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Zec 14:4)	“And HIS FEET SHALL STAND in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward	“And HIS FEET WILL ACTUALLY STAND in that day upon the mountain of the olive trees, which is in front of Jerusalem, on the east; and the mountain of the olive trees must be split at its middle, from the

	the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”	sunrising and to the west. There will be a very great valley; and half of the mountain will actually be moved to the north, and half of it to the south.”
(Matt 24:30)	“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and THEY SHALL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”	“And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”
(Acts 1:10-11)	“And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? THIS SAME JESUS, which is taken up from you into heaven, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN.”	“And as they were gazing into the sky while he was on his way, also, look! two men in white garments stood alongside them, and they said: ‘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.’”
(Rev 1:7)	“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”	“Look! He is coming with clouds, and EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen.”

HOLY SPIRIT

1) Assertion

1. The Holy Spirit is not a person but God’s “active force”

“Are there not, however, Bible verses that speak of the holy spirit in personal terms? Yes, but note what Catholic theologian Edmund Fortman says about this in *The Triune God*: ‘Although this spirit is often described in personal terms, it seems quite clear that the sacred writers [of the Hebrew Scriptures] never conceived or presented this spirit as a distinct person.’ In the Scriptures it is not unusual for something to be personified. Wisdom is said to have children. (Luke 7:35) Sin and death

are called kings. (Romans 5:14,21) But, of course, sin is not a spirit person; nor does personifying the holy spirit make it a spirit person.”

“...The holy spirit is the invisible active force of Almighty God that moves his servants to do his will” (*Let God Be True*, p.108).

“The scriptures themselves unite to show that God’s holy spirit is not a person but is God’s active force by which he accomplishes his purpose and executes his will” (*Aid To Bible Understanding*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.1543).

2. The Holy Spirit is not God

“As for the ‘Holy Spirit,’ the so-called ‘third person of the Trinity,’ we have already seen that it is not a person, but God’s active force” (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.24).

2) Answer

It is interesting to note that Jehovah’s Witnesses will not hesitate to quote CATHOLIC sources when those sources support their theology, while at the same time nullifying the beliefs of Biblical Christianity on the grounds that they are inherited from Catholicism.

The same argument used to refute the verses expressing the personality of the Holy Spirit can be used to refute the personality of Jesus Christ, God, or even yourself!

1. The Holy Spirit is a person (based on the wording of the following verses in the NWT)

- A person is BLASPHEMED (Mark 3:29) not a force
- A person TEACHES and GUIDES (John 14:26; 16:13) not a force
- A person BEARS WITNESS (John 15:26; Rom 8:16; 1 John 5:6)

- A person is PLAYED FALSE (Acts 5:3) not a force
- A person SPEAKS (Acts 13:2; Rev 2:7) not a force
- A person JOINS IN WITH HELP (Rom 8:26) not a force
- A person PLEADS (Rom 8:26) not a force
- A person LOVES (Rom 15:30) not a force
- A person has KNOWLEDGE (1 Cor 2:11) not a force
- A person CRIES (Gal 4:6) not a force
- A person is GRIEVED (Eph 4:30) not a force

2. The Holy Spirit is God

- He possesses divine attributes (he is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and everlasting)

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Job 33:4)	“THE SPIRIT OF GOD HATH MADE ME, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.”	“GOD’S OWN SPIRIT MADE ME, and the Almighty’s own breath proceeded to bring me to life.”
(Psa 139:7)	“WHITHER SHALL I GO FROM THY SPIRIT? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”	“WHERE CAN I GO FROM YOUR SPIRIT, and where can I run away from your face?”
(1 Cor 2:10-11)	“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for THE SPIRIT SEARCHETH ALL THINGS, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so THE THINGS OF GOD KNOWETH NO MAN, BUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD.”	“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. For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man that is in him? So, too NO ONE HAS COME TO KNOW THE THINGS OF GOD, EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF GOD.”
(Heb 9:14)	“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through THE ETERNAL SPIRIT offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”	“how much more will the blood of Christ, who through an EVERLASTING SPIRIT offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to [the] living God?”

- He is equated with the Lord (Jehovah)

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Acts 5:3-4)	<p>“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to LIE TO THE HOLY GHOST, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? THOU HAST not LIED unto men, but UNTO GOD.”</p>	<p>“But Peter said: ‘Ananias, why has Satan emboldened you to PLAY FALSE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? YOU HAVE PLAYED FALSE, not to men, but TO GOD.”</p>
(2 Cor 3:17)	<p>“Now THE LORD IS THAT SPIRIT: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”</p>	<p>“Now JEHOVAH IS THE SPIRIT; and where the spirit of Jehovah is, there is freedom.”</p>
(Heb 10:15-16)	<p>“Whereof THE HOLY GHOST also is a witness to us: for after that he HAD SAID before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, SAITH THE LORD, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them,”</p>	<p>“Moreover, THE HOLY SPIRIT also bears witness to us, for after it HAS SAID: ‘This is the covenant that I shall covenant toward them after those days,’ SAYS JEHOVAH. ‘I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their minds I shall write them,’”</p>

MAN

1) Assertion

1. The spirit of man is simply a “life source”, no different than the life source of animals

“What is the ‘force of life’? It is the vital spark of life that God put into the lifeless body of Adam. This force was then sustained by the breathing process...The spirit that departs from humans at death is the life force that originated with our Creator. (Psa 36:9; Acts 17:28) This life force does not have any of the characteristics of the creature it animates, just as electricity does not take on the features of the equipment it powers. When someone dies, the spirit (life force) ceases to animate the body cells, much as light goes out when electricity is turned off. When the life force stops sustaining the human body, man- the soul-

dies. (Psa 104:29; Ecc 12:1,7)” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.81-82).

“Human death does not differ from that of the animals. They too are souls, and the same spirit, or life force, energizes them (Gen 1:24) At Ecclesiastes 3:19,20, the wise man Solomon tells us: ‘As the one dies, so the other dies; and they all have but one spirit, so that (in death) there is no superiority of the man over the beast.’” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.82).

2. The soul of man is not eternal but mortal; when it dies it lies unconscious in the grave until the resurrection (i.e.- “soul-sleep”)

“Do not put your trust in nobles, nor in the son of earthling man, to whom no salvation belongs. His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; IN THAT DAY HIS THOUGHTS DO PERISH.” (Psa 146:3-4)(NWT)

“For the living are conscious that they will die; but AS FOR THE DEAD, THEY ARE CONSCIOUS OF NOTHING AT ALL, neither do they anymore have wages, because the remembrance of them has been forgotten.” (Ecc 9:5)(NWT)

“THE SOUL that is sinning- it itself WILL DIE...” (Eze 18:20)(NWT)

“The soul dies; it does not live on after death (Ezekiel 18:4)” (*What Does God Require Of Us?*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.23).

“So we see that the claim of religionists that man has an immortal soul and therefore differs from the beast is not Scriptural” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.68).

“The fact that the human soul is mortal can be amply proven by a careful study of the Holy Scriptures. An immortal soul can not die, but God’s Word, at Ezekiel 18:4, says concerning humans: ‘Behold all souls are

mine;...the soul that sinneth it shall die” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.69-70).

“When Jesus told Martha, ‘Your brother will rise,’ she expressed faith in God’s purpose to reverse the effects of death on the human family...Martha expressed no thought about an immortal soul living on elsewhere after death. She did not believe that Lazarus had already gone to some spirit realm to continue his existence. Martha had faith in the wonderful hope of a *resurrection* from the dead” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.83-84).

2) Answer

1. The spirit of man is different from the spirit of animals in that it enables man to know God (1 Cor 2:11) and directly communicate with him (Rom 8:16)
2. The soul is a distinct and eternal part of man that departs the body at death and retains consciousness

The word SOUL has different meanings in the Bible. It can refer to “that which breathes” (Jos 10:39-40; 11:11), (physical) “life” (1 Sam 23:15; 24:11; 26:21,24; Job 33:22; Rev 16:3), the entire physical being (Gen 2:7; Eze 18:4,13), or a distinct and immaterial part of man (1 The 5:23; Heb 4:12) that equates to the self-consciousness. The meaning applicable for a particular verse will be determined by the scriptural context. Jehovah’s Witnesses fail to identify these different meanings and thus, hold to the heretical belief of “soul-sleep”.

Reference	KJV	NWT
(1 The 5:23)	“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our	“May the very God of peace sanctify you completely. And sound in every respect may the SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY of you [brothers] be preserved in a blameless manner at the

	Lord Jesus Christ.”	presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(Heb 4:12)	“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of SOUL and SPIRIT, and of the JOINTS AND MARROW, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”	“For the word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of SOUL and SPIRIT, and of JOINTS and [their] MARROW, and [is] able to discern thoughts and intentions of [the] heart.”
(Gen 35:18)	“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”	“And the result was that as HER SOUL WAS GOING OUT (BECAUSE SHE DIED) she called his name Benoni; but his father called him Benjamin.”
(2 Cor 5:8)	“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be ABSENT FROM THE BODY, AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.”	“But we are of good courage and are well pleased rather to become ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND TO MAKE OUR HOME WITH THE LORD.”
(Phl 1:23)	“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire TO DEPART, AND TO BE WITH CHRIST; which is far better:”	“I am under pressure from these two things; but what I do desire is THE RELEASING AND THE BEING WITH CHRIST, for this, to be sure, is far better.”
(Matt 17:3)	“And, behold, there appeared unto them MOSES AND ELIAS TALKING WITH HIM.”	“And, look! there appeared to them MOSES AND ELIJAH, CONVERSING WITH HIM.”
(Luke 16:23)	“And in hell HE LIFT UP HIS EYES, BEING IN TORMENTS, and SEETH Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”	“And in Hades HE LIFTED UP HIS EYES, HE EXISTING IN TORMENTS, and HE SAW Abraham afar off and Lazarus in the bosom [position] with him.”
(Rev 6:9-10)	“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw UNDER THE ALTAR THE SOULS of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And THEY CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE...”	“And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw UNDERNEATH THE ALTAR THE SOULS of those slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the witness work they used to have. And THEY CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE...”

- If upon death, ALL men lie unconscious in the grave, what was Paul referring to when he said Christians can be ABSENT FROM THE BODY and PRESENT WITH THE LORD (2 Cor 5:8)?

- What benefit is there to be present with the Lord in the grave if we are unconscious and completely unaware of it?
- Why was Paul WILLING to rather be in this state than to be living on the earth?

HELL

1) Assertion

1. Hell is the grave

“It is so plain that the Bible hell is mankind’s common grave that even an honest little child can understand it, but not the religious theologians” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.92).

“...the Bible says that Jesus was in hell. (Acts 2:31) When the apostle Peter stated this on the day of Pentecost, he clearly meant that Jesus had been in the grave, not in a place of fiery torment. (1 Cor 15:3-4) In saying this the apostle quoted from Psalm 16:10. Here the word *sheol* was used, and at Acts 2:31 this word is translated by the Greek word *hades*. This shows that *sheol* and *hades* refer to the same thing. The Bible “hell” is actually mankind’s grave.” (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.41-42).

“...Jesus spoke of the rich man and Lazarus, and said that the rich man died, and in *hades* experienced torment. (Luke 16:22-31)...Jesus was giving a parable or illustration and was not speaking of a literal place of torment. (Matthew 13:34)...In this illustration the rich man stood for the class of religious leaders who rejected and later killed Jesus. Lazarus pictured the common people who accepted God’s Son. The Bible shows that death can be used as a *symbol*, representing a great change in one’s life or course of action.” (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.42-43).

2. The second death is annihilation; the lake of fire or hell, as a place of eternal suffering and fiery torment, does not exist

“...those who have been taught by Christendom to believe the God-dishonoring doctrine of a fiery hell for tormenting conscious human souls eternally.” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.88).

“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 people away from studying the Bible and to make them hate God.” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.98).

“Imperfect man does not torture even a mad dog, but kills it. And yet clergymen attribute to God, who is love, the wicked crime of torturing human creatures merely because they had the misfortune to be born sinners...” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.99).

“The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: (1) Because it is wholly unscriptural; (2) it is unreasonable; (3) it is contrary to God’s love; and (4) it is repugnant to justice.” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.99).

“Many have imbibed the erroneous idea that God placed our race on trial for life with the alternative of *eternal torture*, whereas nothing of the kind is even hinted at in the penalty.” (*Studies In The Scriptures*, Charles Taze Russell, Vol. I, p.127).

“...when Jesus said that persons would be thrown into Gehenna for their bad deeds, what did he mean? Not that they would be tormented forever. Jesus used that valley (Gehenna) of fire and brimstone as a proper symbol of everlasting destruction...The “lake of fire” mentioned

in Revelation has a similar meaning, not conscious torment, but “second death,” everlasting death or destruction. It is evident that this “lake” is a symbol, because death and hell (*hades*) are thrown into it. Such things cannot literally be burned, but they can be done away with, or destroyed.- Revelation 20:14; 21:8.” (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.44).

“Jehovah is guarding all those loving him, But ALL THE WICKED ONES HE WILL ANNIHILATE.” (Psa 145:20)(NWT)

“And do not become fearful of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; but rather be in fear of him that can DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN GEHENNA.” (Matt 10:28)(NWT)

“and their finish is DESTRUCTION...” (Phl 3:19)(NWT)

“These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength.” (2 The 1:9)(NWT)

“For our God is also a CONSUMING FIRE.” (Heb 12:29)(NWT)

“And ye well know today that Jehovah your God is crossing before you. A CONSUMING FIRE HE IS. He will ANNIHILATE them...” (Deu 9:3)(NWT)

2) Answer

1. Hell is not the grave

- When the Lord speaks a parable the Bible clearly indicates such, and the Bible does not state that the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:22-31) was a parable

- Matthew 13:34 states that the Lord always used parables to speak to THE MULTITUDE, but he spoke all of Luke 16 to HIS DISCIPLES (Luke 16:1), with just the Pharisees overhearing at least Luke 16:1-13
- If hell is the grave, then how can the rich man of Luke 16:22-31, LIFT UP HIS EYES (v.23), SEE (v.23), CRY (v.24), SPEAK (v.24), FEEL TORMENT (v.24), REMEMBER (v.25), ATTEMPT TO PASS FROM PLACE TO PLACE (v.26), BEG (v.27), and HEAR (v.27,29-30)?
- If hell is the grave, how could the SOULS of Revelation 6:9-11 also be UNDER THE ALTAR (v.9), CRY WITH A LOUD VOICE (v.10), and WEAR WHITE ROBES?

2. Hell is a place of eternal fiery torment

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Luke 16:23,28)	“And IN HELL he lift up his eyes, BEING IN TORMENTS , and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into THIS PLACE OF TORMENT. ”	“And IN HADES he lifted up his eyes, he EXISTING IN TORMENTS , and he saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in the bosom [position] with him. For I have five brothers, in order that he may give them a thorough witness, that they also should not get into THIS PLACE OF TORMENT. ”
(Matt 25:41)	“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into EVERLASTING FIRE , prepared for the devil and his angels:”	“Then he will say, in turn, to those on his left, ‘Be on your way from me, you have been cursed, into THE EVERLASTING FIRE prepared for the Devil and his angels.’”
(Rev 20:10)	“And the devil that deceived them was cast into THE LAKE OF FIRE and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and SHALL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOR EVER AND EVER. ”	“And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the LAKE OF FIRE and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet [already were]; and THEY WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER. ”

- Many of the scriptures used by Jehovah’s Witnesses to teach the annihilation of the wicked refer to the Second Coming of Christ when he burns the BODIES of the wicked with a fire that proceeds out of

his mouth (Psa 68:2; 97:3; Isa 30:33; 34:9-10; Joel 2:3; Zec 14:12; 2 The 1:8; 2:8; Rev 19:21)

- The word ANNIHILATION as defined by Jehovah's Witnesses ("to bring to oblivion and nothingness") is alien to scripture and a violation to the first law of thermodynamics, which states that matter can neither be created nor destroyed; it only changes form (e.g.- when water is put over a fire it is not annihilated but changes form to steam)
- The words CONSUME and DESTROY never mean ANNIHILATION in the Bible; they mean "to separate the parts of a thing; to ruin the form or condition of a thing so that it cannot be used as intended; to demolish; to pull down; to kill" (e.g.- a drinking glass that falls on the floor and breaks is DESTROYED, in that it is no longer in a condition suitable for use in drinking but it is not annihilated)
- The SOUL is DESTROYED in the sense that it is in a ruined condition (lost and separated from God); and cannot be used for the purpose for which it was intended (to dwell with God and worship, love, and serve him forever)
- If DESTRUCTION means ANNIHILATION how is something destroyed TWICE (Jer 17:18)?
- When the enemies of Jesus sought to DESTROY him were they seeking to ANNIHILATE him (Matt 2:13; 12:14; 27:20)?
- The word DESTROY first appears in Gen 6:7 and it does not mean to ANNIHILATE because Noah and his family survived
- The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire at the end of Armageddon (Rev 19:20) yet when Satan is cast into it at the end of the Millennium 1,000 years later, they are still there and not "annihilated" (Rev 20:10)
- Since everlasting PUNISHMENT is contrasted with LIFE eternal (Matt 25:46), the wicked will EXPERIENCE punishment as the righteous will EXPERIENCE life

Death is a SEPARATION (a condition as well as a result). Physical death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body (Gen 35:18;

Jam 2:26) and will endure until God rejoins them through resurrection (1 The 4:14-16). The second death is separation from God (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:14-15) and will endure forever since the only way to rejoin God and the sinner is through regeneration (Eph 2:1,5) before physical death. The only way this condition will not last forever is if God were to become a sinner or cease to exist himself.

SALVATION

1) Assertion

1. Salvation is a process that requires human merit and works

“Salvation is by personal merit and good works...In all areas of life, we should be prepared to do our very best. We should not be half-hearted about such vital matters. What is at stake is Jehovah’s approval and our being granted life” (*The Watchtower*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, May 1,1979 edition, p.20).

“Throughout the Millennium, a wonderful miracle will be taking place. For mankind, it will be perhaps the most thrilling aspect of Christ’s Thousand Year Reign. Jehovah will direct his Son to apply the benefits of the ransom sacrifice to each and every faithful and obedient man and woman. By that means, all sin will be removed and mankind will be raised to perfection” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.187).

- A person must be baptized

“...all of us are imperfect and therefore sin daily. However, as a dedicated, baptized servant of Jehovah, you will have entered into a special relationship with him. Because of your repentance and your humble submission to baptism, Jehovah is willing to forgive your sins on the basis of Jesus’ ransom sacrifice” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.176).

“...baptism means so much and is the most important milestone in a person’s life” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.177).

- A person must have the proper knowledge of Jehovah and accept his Theocratic Rule

“Unlike Jesus, we are imperfect and can reach the milestone of baptism only after taking other vital steps. This begins by taking accurate knowledge of Jehovah God and Jesus Christ into our heart. Doing this causes us to exercise faith and to have profound love for God” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.173).

“This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one who you sent forth, Jesus Christ.” (John 17:3)(NWT)

- A person must endure to the end

“Although baptism is vitally important, it is not a guarantee of salvation. Jesus did not say: ‘Everyone baptized will be saved.’ Instead, he said: ‘He that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved.’ (Matthew 24:13)” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p. 178).

“To endure in your service to Jehovah...further your knowledge of God through regular personal study of his Word...Attend Christian meetings regularly...pay constant attention to what you do” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.178-179).

2. Only 144,000 will live in heaven forever and rule with Christ as kings and priests

“Only the 144,000 will be born again, as Jesus was at His baptism. These will rule with Him in heaven after the resurrection. They are the only ones who will be in heaven.” (*Reasoning From The Scriptures*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.76-77).

“Who and how many are able to enter it. 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*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.136).

“Those beside the 144,000 who rule with Christ from heaven: the ‘great crowd’ of his ‘other sheep’...will continue to serve him day and night...They will multiply and fill the earth in righteousness.” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.318-319).

The Jehovah’s Witnesses are now shying away from the belief that only “the 144,000” witnesses would be born-again and reign with Jehovah in his kingdom. They made adjustments to this belief through the years, particularly when it was obvious their membership would exceed 144,000.

2) Answer

1. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ without works

Reference	KJV	NWT
(Rom 3:20,28)	“Therefore BY THE DEEDS OF THE LAW THERE SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Therefore we conclude that a MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW. ”	“Therefore BY WORKS OF LAW NO FLESH WILL BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS before him, for by law is the accurate knowledge of sin. For we reckon that a MAN IS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS OF LAW.”
(Gal 2:16)	Knowing that a MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF	“knowing as we do that a MAN IS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS, NOT

	THE LAW, BUT BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST..."	DUE TO WORKS OF LAW, BUT ONLY THROUGH FAITH TOWARD JESUS CHRIST..."
(Eph 2:8-9)	"For BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast."	"By this undeserved kindness, indeed, YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH; and this is not owing to you, it is God's gift. No, IT IS NOT OWING TO WORKS, in order that no man should have ground for boasting."
(Tit 3:5)	"NOT BY WORKS of righteousness which we have done, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US..."	"OWING TO NO WORKS in righteousness that we had performed, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US..."

2. The number of those saved in heaven and will rule with Christ as kings and priests is well beyond 144,000

- **"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign upon the earth...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands"** (Rev 5:10-11)
- **"A great multitude, which no man could number...stood before the throne"** (Rev 7:9)
- The 144,000 of Revelation 7 are "out of every tribe of the SONS OF ISRAEL" (i.e.- JEWS) (Rev 7:4)(NWT) and "ones that did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are VIRGINS" (Rev 14:4)(NWT)
- If a Jehovah's Witness claims to be one of the 144,000 ask them if they are a Jew and a virgin. If they are not, then they have proven themselves to be a false witness!

OTHER

1) Assertion

1. Saluting a nation's flag constitutes idolatry

“Any national flag is a symbol or image of the sovereign power of its nation...all such likenesses [symbols of a national power, eagle, sun, lion, etc.] are forbidden by Exodus 20:2-6 [the commandment of idolatry]...hence no witness of Jehovah, who ascribes salvation *only* to Him, may salute any national emblem without violating Jehovah’s commandment against idolatry as stated in his Word” (*Let God Be True*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.242-243).

2. Since Christians are citizens of heaven and not of the world, they should not vote or serve in their nation’s military

“Jesus said of his followers: ‘They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world.’ (John 17:16) Is your religion involved in ceremonies and holidays that violate the principle of neutrality toward this world’s affairs?” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.49-50).

3. Christians should abstain from observing pagan holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and birthdays

“December 25 was set aside by the Romans as the birthday of their sun god. Centuries after Jesus was on earth, apostate Christians adopted this date for the celebration of Christ’s birth. Consequently, true Christians do not celebrate Christmas or any other holiday based on false religious beliefs. Because they give Jehovah exclusive devotion, they also do not observe holidays that idolize sinful humans or nations” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.126).

“The Bible specifically mentions only two birthday observances, both involving men who did not serve God. (Genesis 40:20-22; Matthew 14:6-11) Since the Scriptures do not reveal the birth date of the perfect man Jesus Christ, why should we give special attention to the birthdays of imperfect humans? (Ecclesiastes 7:1)” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.126).

4. Blood transfusions are forbidden by the word of God

“Genesis 9:3,4; Leviticus 17:12; Acts 15:28,29...Jehovah requires that we abstain from blood. This means that we must not take into our bodies in any way at all other people’s blood or even our own blood that has been stored. (Acts 21:25) So true Christians will not accept a blood transfusion. They will accept other kinds of medical treatment, such as transfusion of non-blood products.” (*What Does God Require Of Us?*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.25).

“Out of respect for the sanctity of life, godly people do not accept blood transfusions, even if others insist that such a procedure would be lifesaving. Many medical alternatives acceptable to Jehovah’s Witnesses have proved to be very effective and do not expose one to the hazards of blood transfusions” (*Knowledge That Leads To Everlasting Life*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.129).

2) Answer

1. Saluting a flag or reciting a pledge is not an act of idolatry. The Christian does not believe that their nation or the flag representing their nation is deity
2. Every Christian should be subject to the earthly/national authorities placed over him as long as the national laws do not require him to violate the word of God (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Rom 13:1-2,7)
3. Observance or non-observance of special days (i.e.- holidays) is a matter of individual conscience, the only requirement is that whatever is done it be done unto the Lord and for his glory (Rom 14:4-6; 1 Cor 10:31)
4. The verses forbidding the ingestion of blood refer to ORAL ingestion (i.e.-“eating) not blood transfusions

CONCLUSION

The Jehovah's Witnesses are second only to Mormons in measured global success. The Watchtower has proven itself to be a false prophet many times over and the New World Translation (NWT) is clearly a product of their heretical beliefs as opposed to a work of divine inspiration. It is also based on the same corrupt manuscripts that are endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church. If JWs come to your door, you can attempt to deal with them outside but do not allow them in your home because of their clear rejection of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 John 9-10). When dealing with them, attempt to show them the deity of Christ from the NWT. If they resort to the, "that's just your interpretation" tactic, then deal with them on the issue of final authority and the fact that they do not have an infallible authority.