



The **WaTchTower**
Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom

Fact or
Fiction?

JWTR03E

TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE:

The Watchtower (WT) magazine of January 18, 1933, p.252 challenge us as follows: "If the message Jehovah's Witnesses are bringing to the people is true, then it is of the greatest importance to mankind. If it is false, then it is the duty of glergymen and others who support them to come boldly forward and plainly tell the people where the message is false."

THE WATCHTOWER—God's Word?

Do we have to take this magazine seriously? In a court case in Scotland in 1945 the then President (NH Knorr) and Vice President (FW Franz) of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society (WTB) **BOTH TESTIFIED UNDER OATH** that Jehovah God is Himself the editor of the magazine. So we find Jehovah says: "*The Watchtower* is a magazine without equal...[it] has increased in importance with the progress of the years...[for] the getting of correct information and instruction...Informed persons well acquainted with the **CONSISTENT CONTENTS** of *The Watchtower* agree that those who want to gain life...should read and study it...This is not giving any credit to the magazine's publishers, but is due to the great Author of the Bible with its truths and prophecies, and who now interprets its prophecies." (WT, April 15, 1943, p.127. Capitals ours) With credentials like these we have to take the message of this magazine as truth directly from the living God. If we seriously believe what His word tells us—that He is not a man who lies or goes back on His word (Num 23:19; Heb 6:18) then it is obvious that the messages in this magazine must be consistent and correspond with what He gives to us in His word, the Bible!

Should this not be the case, would it be logical and fair to blame Him for the changes? If He is not responsible, who is, and can we continue to trust that someone?

From here onwards please remember that Jehovah God as editor is responsible for what is published in *The Watchtower* from which most of the quotes below come!

1st MESSAGE—ANOTHER GOSPEL:

The Watchtower of May 1, 1981, p.17 tells us of the Good News of Jehovah's Witnesses: "Let the honest-hearted person compare the kind of preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom done by the religious systems of Christendom...with that done by Jehovah's Witnesses...They are not one and the same kind. That of Jehovah's Witnesses is really 'gospel,' or 'good news,' as of God's heavenly Kingdom that was established by the enthronement of his Son Jesus Christ at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914." "...Jehovah's Witnesses alone are declaring the good news that the Kingdom has been functioning in the heavens since 1914 with Jesus Christ as King." (WT, July 15, 1984, p.15)

The establishment of God's heavenly Kingdom coincided with the invisible second coming of Jesus Christ, so they tell us: "Christ's return does not mean that he literally comes back to earth...it means that he takes Kingdom power...[and] does not need to leave his heavenly throne...in 1914 God's time arrived for Christ to return and begin ruling...Since Christ's return is invisible..." (Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society <WTB>, *You can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth* <Live Forever>, 1982, p.147)

It is clear from the above quotes that the message or gospel Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) bring to the world is the establishment of God's Kingdom in heaven in the year 1914 when Jesus Christ returned invisibly and sat down on His heavenly throne to begin ruling. Would it therefore, be safe and logical to conclude that if their own records show

that 1914 is faulty and that His second coming is not invisible their message is also false?

"The Scriptures show that his (Jesus) second presence was due in 1874...This proof shows that the Lord has been present since 1874..." (WT, March 1, 1923, p.5) "Quite a number endeavour to satisfy themselves with the thought that it [Jesus' second coming] is a spiritual coming...[It] cannot refer to a spiritual coming again, because, spiritually He never went away, as He said, 'Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.' Therefore, Jesus taught His second personal coming." (WT, July 1879, p.4)

NEW LIGHT:

Is it possible that the later views may be attributed to a new and clearer understanding of Scripture by the Governing Body of the WTB? This is a possibility if this magazine was the work of men but we have already seen that the all-knowing and unchangeable God is the editor of this paper! Therefore, His words: "A new view of truth never can contradict a former truth. 'New Light' never extinguishes older 'light.'" (WT, February 1881, p.3) must be taken to heart.

Please consider seriously what we have seen above and what follows in the light of this statement and decide for yourself whether these changing views should be taken seriously!

1st FALSE MESSAGE:

The Editor, in His magazine, *The Watchtower*, first gave us a bodily (personal) second coming in 1874 and later an invisible presence in 1914. Shall we blame God for changing His mind or is someone else responsible? Whoever it is, can we continue to trust him and for that matter, the message of *The Watchtower*?

Is the message of God's word, that Jesus' second coming would be like lightning (very visible: Matt 24:27) and that it will be witnessed by every person, even those who crucified Him (Rev 1:7), faulty and that of *The Watchtower* correct?

If the gospel of the WTB is the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the heavens in 1914 why does the Bible have a different gospel? That of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:3-4)? Who's gospel is the truth? The Church's or the JWs? If Christ only sat down on the throne in 1874 or 1914 why does the infallible word of God, the Bible, tell us in Ephesians 1:20-22 that Jesus sat down on the power seat (the right hand of God) after His ascension, which we know was in ±30-35 C.E? Is this not an illustration of the false gospel Paul writes about in 2 Cor 11:4, "For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully." (NASB) Paul warns the believers against people who will not only bring a false gospel but also false Jesusses and false spirits. Is it possible that the JWs also bring the other two?

2nd MESSAGE—ANOTHER JESUS:

"...Jesus had a prehuman existence as the Word. When on earth, he was not a divine God-man. He was wholly human, though perfect, as Adam originally was. Since Jesus' resurrection, he had been an exalted immortal spirit ever subordinate to God. Clearly therefore, the Scriptures do not support the idea of 'the divinity' of Christ." (WT, January 15, 1992. p23) "...he [Jesus] is the only one who was directly created by Jehovah God...he is Jehovah's chief angel, or archangel...the word 'arch' meaning 'chief' or 'principal' implies that there is **ONLY ONE ARCHANGEL**...[and] has a name [Michael], as we read at Jude 9..." (WT, February 1, 1991, p.17. Capitals ours) Not only

was Jesus known as Michael before His incarnation but *Live Forever* (p.21) tells us that He is also known by that name after His resurrection and that He was the first and only direct creation of Jehovah God. (p.56). He should also not be worshipped, but doing obeisance to (honouring Him) is Scriptural. True worship must be addressed to Jehovah God. (WTB: *Insight On The Scriptures Vol I <Insight I>*, 1988, p.217)

2nd MESSAGE IS FALSE:

Once again we find, either Jehovah God making mistakes, changing His mind or misleading people, or someone else must be responsible:-

In 1898 a reader of *The Watchtower* magazine wanted to know: "...while on earth was he [Jesus] really worshiped, or is the translation faulty?" "Yes, we believe our Lord Jesus, while on earth, was really worshiped and properly so." (WT, July 15, 1898, p.216) "...whosoever would worship Him [Jehovah] must also worship and bow down to Jehovah's Chief One in that capital organization, namely, Jesus Christ." (WT, October 15, 1945, p.313)

In 1879 Jehovah as editor told JW's: "His (Jesus') position is contrasted with that of angels, as He is Lord of both, having 'all power in heaven and earth.' Hence, it is said, 'Let all the angels of God worship him'; [that must include Michael, the chief angel, hence Michael is not the Son of God] and the reason is, because he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent Name than they." (WT, November, 1879, p.4. <brackets "[...]" in original>)

So, Jesus Christ was not Michael and it was proper to worship Him. This is in harmony with Scripture. John 1:1 tells us that the Word was (before!) the beginning and that He is God. Revelation 1:8 says that God is the Alpha and the Omega. Chapter 21:6 that He is also the Beginning and End and chapter 22 says that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Chapter 1:17-18 leaves no doubt as to who claims that He is the First and the Last as He says that he was dead and lives forevermore. Jehovah God is very clear, even in the biased translation of the WTB (*The New World Translation Of The Holy Scriptures <NWT>*, 1984): "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.'" (Isaiah 44:6) Either there are two Alphas and Omegas, Beginnings and Ends and Firsts and Lasts or Jesus Christ is Eternally God with the Father.

If Jesus was the first creation of God, as the WTB tells us, why does God say, "'You are my witnesses,' is the utterance of Jehovah, 'even my servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and have faith in me, and that you may understand that I am the same One. Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none?'" (Isaiah 43:10, *NWT*)

If Jesus is Michael, the archangel and there is only one arch/ chief/principal angel, as the WTB tells us why does the word of God call Michael "one of the foremost (chief) princes"? (Dan 10:13, *NWT*) If He is Michael how is it possible that he could rebuke Satan on more than one occasion even when on earth, yet Michael dared not do it? "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgement, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'" (Jude 9, NASB)

Is it any wonder that we find Jehovah speaking of the Son in Hebrews: "...Let ALL the angels ("ALL" must include Michael as he is an angel) of God worship Him' (the Son)...But of the Son He says, 'Thy throne O God, is forever...' "(God the Father calling the Son God!!!,

Heb 1:6-8, NASB) The JW's argument that God called the judges and other rulers Gods (Ps 82:6) and that Jesus did the same in (John 10:34) cannot hold water when viewed in the context of Scripture! God the Father was not comparing His Son with a mortal god but referred to Him as the Eternal God, knowing full well that worship only belongs to the only true and eternal God. That is why His (the Son's) throne or rulership is forever. Bear in mind that the Pharoas and later the Ceasars were called and worshipped as gods.

3rd MESSAGE—ANOTHER SPIRIT:

"If the names of the Father (Jehovah) and of the Son (Jesus) are so important, why does the holy spirit not have a personal name? Surely, this detail alone should make a person wonder whether the spirit is really equal to the Father and the Son...We read that the holy spirit can fill a person, come upon him, and envelop him. (Exodus 31:3; Psalm 51:11; Joel 2:28, 29)...What can reasonably be concluded from such statements? Surely not that the holy spirit is a person." (WT, January 15, 1991, p.4) To sum this up for us let us consider *Live Forever*, p.37: "A power plant has a certain location in or near a city. But its electricity is distributed over all that area, providing light and power. It is similar with God. He is in the heavens. (Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 123:1) Yet his holy spirit, which is his invisible active force, can be felt everywhere, over all the universe...He can send out his spirit, his active force, to do whatever he wants even though he is far away." That Jehovah God is limited in whereabouts is not foreign to the theology of the WTB. We read in their book, *Reconciliation* of 1928 on p.14: "The constellation of the seven stars forming the Pleiades...has been suggested, and with much weight, that one of the stars of that group is the dwelling place of Jehovah...the Pleiades is the place of the eternal throne of God." The Biblical omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God limited by the WTB to live on a star, one of His creations?

So we see the WTB making a nameless force, like electricity, out of the Holy Spirit who becomes an abstract principle of goodness. Is this the message of the Bible?

3rd FALSE MESSAGE:

We find this not to be so as the WTB own translation tells us: "And all of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, exactly as done by **Jehovah [the] Spirit**." (2 Cor 3:18, *NWT* <[the] in original>). Based on their own argument that a qualifier for being a person is the fact that the person has name. What do find here? That the Spirit not only has a Name, but that He is called Jehovah. We see then that the Father is called Jehovah, which to them is so important. Yet their Bible (*NWT*) clearly call the Holy Spirit Jehovah as well. Therefore, not only is Jesus Christ a Person (He has a Name) and called God (or Jehovah) by the Father as we have seen but two other Persons share the same name—Jehovah! Yet we know that there is only One True God. With three Persons and One True God do we not have the Biblical Triune God here?

The question now remains: Is the Holy Spirit called God? Let us briefly consider what Scripture tells us."But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...thou hast not lie unto men, but onto God." (Acts 5:3-4) Two very important things must be clear in these verses: 1. Peter, who as a Jew, staunchly believed in one God, called the Father God in 2 Peter 1:17, also calls the Holy Spirit God. 2. Satan "FILLED" Ananias' heart. The JW's say it is impossible for a person to fill another person. Yet they have no problem with this filling of Ananias by Satan. They confirm that Satan is a person: "He (Satan) is

a spirit person, for he appeared in heaven in the presence of God...Throughout the Scriptures the actions attributed to him could be attributed only to a person, not an abstract principle of evil." (*Insight II*, p.866)

"Can an unintelligent 'force' carry on a conversation with a person? Also, the Bible calls Satan a manslayer, a liar, a father (in a spiritual sense) and a ruler. (John 8:44; 14:30) Only an intelligent person could fit all those descriptions." (*Awake!*, December 8, 1973, p.27, (brackets) in original) The question we have for JW's is: If Satan who is a spirit, albeit evil, could have a body, be called a person and can carry on a conversation, why is it not so with the Holy Spirit? Especially when we consider verses like, Acts 13:2, 4, "And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting the Holy Spirit said. 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them...So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went..." Is it possible for a force or an animal to refer to itself as "I" and "ME", be able to send, choose, be grieved, lied to, give gifts etc? Some of the things we know the Holy Spirit did. If you still doubt this and believe that the Holy Spirit could be a force like electricity, then please go and stand by a burning light bulb in your house and lie to it or do your utmost to grieve it. Ask the electricity to ensure your children are sent off to school on time tomorrow morning and then trust it that it will do it!

CONCLUSION:

We have seen the inconsistency of the message of *The Watchtower*. One magazine witnessing against the other. Messages that supposedly come from God but totally contradict that of the Bible and then people are asked to read and study *The Watchtower* for it is such an invaluable aid in understanding the Bible that you cannot be without it. So-called donations to cover the printing costs are solicited from the non-expecting public on the street and at their doors by sincere misled Jehovah's Witnesses who all trust the Governing Body of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society for truth and meat in due season but instead are fed one lie after the other. It is time that Christians wake up to this and really make an effort to get equipped to deliver an effective witness to these poor but such sincere and well meaning people.

With a track record like we have seen above would you honestly dare to believe or trust any Jehovah's Witness for giving you the unfeigning truth. Think of the danger locked up in starting a free Bible study with them in the convenience of your own home!

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

You may doubt much or some of the things in this tract but it can all be backed up with photostatic copies of the original WTB documents. You are welcome to write for it or ask us about any topic concerning the cults.

We not only supply information about the cults but also undertake the equipping of Christians in witnessing effectively to the cults. For more information write us.

A quarterly news letter, *Sentinel*, that deals with cult related topics is available on a donation basis from the following address.

If more of these tracts are required write to:

P O Box 8009
EDLEEN South Africa
1625