

WITNESSING TO JW's

(Updated 30 Jan 09)

When the Jehovah Witnesses come to your door, please bear in mind that they are on the Broad Road and will face eternity in hell unless the Lord turns them around. People who consider themselves saved more often than not dismiss them and close the door in their faces. Please be the witness the Lord expects, indeed, commands you to be. Love them as He does.

The following will, hopefully, give you a simple outline of how to put enormous doubt into the mind of a Jehovah Witness, using their Bible, the New World Translation (NWT). The verse quotations used here are directly from the NWT. Use their Bible and it will avoid a 'translation argument.' It's not as hard as it looks. It's just a matter of comparing verse with verse. The verses and subjects are highlighted for quick reference. You don't have to memorise all this or even use it all. Print it out and openly refer to the passages you feel are most useful at the time.

When they arrive on your door, ask the Lord to give you wisdom and love toward them. Don't try to dominate the conversation but listen for a while. Be friendly and when it feels right tell them that you would like to talk about Jesus and who He is because if someone has a false Jesus then he has a false hope. In **John 8:24**, Jesus said that we will die in our sins if we don't believe who He said He was. These people are heavily indoctrinated so don't expect to convert them on the spot. If you witness in a simple and calm manner you will put serious doubt in their minds and the Holy Spirit will use that.

(Your personal testimony, regarding your assurance of salvation, is a great witnessing tool against their beliefs. Because they do not have the Holy Spirit they cannot understand our certainty and can't dispute it either so it is unsettling for them not to have an answer. In simple and honest terms tell them about the witness of the Spirit in your life which gives you peace and joy and, most importantly, the conviction that comes when you sin. They are told that it is alright to lie (for kingdom purposes) so if you talk about the conviction you get about lying, even small ones, they will take it in and hopefully get convicted. Use your personal testimony at some stage as there is no argument against the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit ... For verses to help you explain the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, please read <http://www.ChristianIssues.biz/saved.html>)

Having agreed to focus on Jesus alone, start with the archangel Michael.

Is Jesus Michael the Archangel?

Ask, "Can you show me one verse that **clearly** says Jesus is the Archangel Michael?"

They often go to **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, *"the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet."*

You reply (non-sarcastically), "If you say that He is an archangel because He came with an archangel's voice, then, by the same logic, He must also be God because he came with God's trumpet." Then talk about how God uses angels to announce events such as Jesus' birth in **Luke 2:8-14**. Trumpets are used to herald the coming of kings etc so when Jesus comes it will be announced by angels and trumpets.

Ask if they have any other verses which show that Jesus is Michael. There are none but they read into other verses.

Read **Daniel 10:13** with them. It states that Micheal is '*one of the foremost princes,*' Comment that this is hardly a description for the exalted Son of God. Michael is one of a group in this verse. Also, in regard to angels, **Heb 1:14** says, *"Are they not **all** spirits for public service?"*

Read **John 8:44** where Jesus called Satan a liar and a murderer and note the difference in **Jude 9** where Michael *"did not dare to bring a judgment against him in abusive terms."* These verses show two characters with differing authority.

Say that you can't see anything in Scripture to convince you that Jesus is Michael. They may say that Michael means 'who is like God' but this can be countered by saying that Immanuel means 'God with us' as stated in **Matthew 1:23**.

Note **Hebrew 1:1-6** regarding The Son - He is not an angel (v.5, & 13-14) but is worshipped by them (v.6). (Regarding v.6, the NWT normally translates the Greek word G4352 as worship but when it is in reference to Jesus, who they say is not to be worshipped, they change to the word obeisance).

Michael is clearly depicted as **one** of the archangels (princes) and Israel's Protector and not as the only Son of God.:

Dan 10:13 - "... *Michael, one of the foremost princes*".

Dan 10:21 - "... *Michael, the prince of YOU people*."

Dan 12:1 - "... *Michael will stand up, the great prince which is standing in behalf of the sons of your people*".

These words are being spoken to Daniel and the terms *"YOU people"* and *"your people"* refer to his fellow Israelites.

After going through this say something to the effect:

"We know that God is Love. Jesus said *'No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his soul in behalf of his friends.* Do you think that God would be showing His love toward us by sending someone else to die on the cross? Can you imagine God saying to Michael, "Oh Michael, go down to the earth and die on the cross to show the people how much I love them?" That would not be love at all. Love is self sacrifice. God didn't get someone else to do the 'tough bit,' He did it Himself and that is why **Acts 20:28** says, *'... shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son].'*" (They admit that the NWT translation adds [Son] to this verse). Also, **Phil 2:9-11** says that every knee will bow to Jesus while **Isaiah 45:23** says that every knee will bow to Jehovah. Ask who they will bow to in heaven. Jesus or Jehovah?

From here, start with any of the topics below to show that Jesus and Jehovah are one. They will probably want to talk about the following verse, Colossians 1:15.

Colossians 1:15 - JW's say that Jesus is the first created angel creature.

This verse says that Jesus *"is the firstborn of all creation,"* and **not** that He is the first created angel creature. Explain that the passage, **Colossians 1:15-18**, is to show Jesus' *pre-eminence* over all creation: He is first in everything: He created everything (v.16); He is first in all things (v.17); He is the firstborn from the dead (v.18); He is above all and before all in the heavenly kingdom in the same way that all Jewish firstborn boys are head over their siblings. **Romans 8:29** says that we are *"foreordained to be patterned after the image of his Son, the he might be the firstborn among many brothers."* Clearly, Jesus is the firstborn OVER creation and not the firstborn creature of all creation.

Colossians 1:16 plus other verses show that Jesus is clearly the Creator.

Colossians 1:16 says *"all things have been created through Him and for Him."* If Jesus is Michael then this verse says that creation is not for God but for an angel, yet we know that creation is for God's glory. **Isaiah 42:8** says, *"I am Jehovah. That is my name; and to no one else shall I give my own glory"*

Colossians 1:16 also says, *"by means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth."* yet in **Isaiah 45:12**, Jehovah said, *"I myself have made the earth and have created even man upon it. I - my own hands have stretched out the heavens."*

In **Isaiah 44:24** Jehovah said, *"I, Jehovah, am doing everything, stretching out the heavens by myself, laying out the earth. Who was with me?"* Clearly the answer to this question is "No one."

Genesis 1:1 says that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 19:1 says, *"The heavens are declaring the glory of God; And of the work of his hands the expanse is telling."*

We know from **John 1:3** that Jesus did create all things but because other Scripture tells us that Jehovah created the heaven and the earth by Himself then the only conclusion is that Jesus and Jehovah are one and the same.

In John 1:1, Jesus is called 'a god' in the NWT.

In **John 1:1**, the NWT says that Jesus is 'a god.' Ask, "How many Gods there are ... one or two?"

If they say there is only one God, Jehovah, then look at **Isaiah 9:6** in which Jesus is called Mighty God (note the capital 'G') then ask, "Does that mean there are two Gods?" To say there are two Gods would deny all Scripture. In **Isaiah 44:6** Jehovah says, *"I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God"* and in **Isaiah 43:10** He says, *"Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none."*

If they admit that there is only one God and that Jesus is 'a god,' then they have lowered Jesus to the level of a demon.

The only conclusion is that Jesus is God exactly as Thomas said in **John 20:28**, *"My Lord and my God."*

Also **Deuteronomy 32:39** says, *"SEE now that I - I am he And there are no gods together with me"* while **John 1:1** seemingly contradicts this verse in saying, *"In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god"*

The only way there is no contradiction is if Jehovah and Jesus are one.

Also see the next passage on 'a god.'

John 10:30-36 and the term 'a god.'

Jesus claimed to be more than 'a god' in this passage. In v.36 He said He was God's Son.

Go to **Matt 26:63-64**. Here Jesus was considered blasphemous by the Jews when He said He was God's Son and this statement was their excuse to crucify Him. In this passage, Jesus said, *"YOU will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."* In saying this, Jesus was claiming Divinity by identifying Himself with **Psalm 110** and **Daniel 7:13-14**.

1) Regarding *"sitting at the right hand,"* in **Psalm 110:1**, Jehovah is speaking to David's Lord (Jesus) who is at His right hand. The word for Lord in **Psalm 110:5** is Adonai and is the name the Jews use for God rather than saying His sacred name Jehovah. So Jesus, in claiming to be THE Son of God, was saying that He was Adonai (God) sitting at Jehovah's right hand.

Verse 4 of this Psalm says that this person is *"a priest to time indefinite According to the manner of Melchizedek!"* **Hebrews 7:3** says that Melchizedek was *"... having neither a beginning of days nor an end of life ..."* Only God has no beginning or end.

2) Regarding *"coming on the clouds of heaven"* in **Dan 7:13-14**, the One coming with the clouds of heaven will be served by all kingdoms and peoples with *"an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away."* Only God will rule all, indefinitely (**1 Cor 15:28**).

When Jesus said He was THE Son of God (not a son of God) He was claiming Divinity. The Jews knew this and it is the reason they used to crucify Him ... for blasphemy.

The Alpha & Omega and the First & Last.

In **Revelation 1:7-8** the "*one coming on the clouds,*" in v.7 is obviously the same person as in v.8 and is the "*alpha and omega.*" However, JWs may say that v.7 is speaking about Jesus and v.8 is about Jehovah so, they say, Jehovah is the Alpha and Omega.

Now go to **Revelation 22:12-16** where Jesus says He is both the Alpha and Omega and the First and Last. They may continue to twist things and say that it is Jehovah talking in v.13 and Jesus elsewhere within the passage. Whatever the case, the person in this passage says He is **both** the Alpha and the Omega and the First and the Last.

Now go to **Revelation 1:17-18** in which it is abundantly clear that it is Jesus speaking and saying that He is the First and the Last so there is an apparent contradiction in Revelation. There can't be two First and Lasts.

Also, in **Isa 44:6** Jehovah is clearly seen to be the First and the Last.

Such confusion can only lead to the conclusion that Jesus and Jehovah are one and the same.

JWs say that "No one can see God and live" or "No one has seen God."

Agree that no one has seen God **in His Spirit form** but, before Jesus came, God had already manifest Himself as a man and appeared to men in the following two examples:

1) Jehovah walked and talked with Adam in Genesis 3. Note **Genesis 3:8** where "*they heard the voice of Jehovah God walking in the garden.*"

2) Jehovah appeared to and talked with Abraham in **Genesis 18**. They may say that these men were all angels but Abraham addressed one of the men as Jehovah.

It can't be denied that God appeared as a man before Jesus was incarnate.

Isa 9:6 - Mighty God - (H1368 & H410).

In **Isaiah 9:6** Jesus is referred to as Mighty God. These two Hebrew words are H1368 (mighty) and H410 (God). Exactly the same two words are used in **Jeremiah 32:18** and this verse is translated '*the mighty One, Jehovah of armies being his name.*' Therefore, the 'Mighty God' of Isaiah 9:6, Jesus, is 'the Mighty One' of Jeremiah 32:18 ... Jehovah! Isaiah 10:21 speaks of the remnant returning to the 'Mighty God' who of course is Jehovah.

Isa 7:14 - Immanuel (with us is God).

In **Isaiah 7:14**, Jesus is to be named Immanuel which is interpreted "*With us is God*" in **Matthew 1:23**.

This is a very clearcut statement. In **John 20:28**, Thomas called Jesus God ... note the capital 'G.'

Some other Old Testament references showing that Jesus and Jehovah are one.

Jehovah is valued at thirty pieces of silver in **Zechariah 11:12-13**. Jesus was betrayed for this amount in **Matthew 27:3**.

Jesus ascended and gave gifts in **Ephesians 4:8** and it was Jehovah in **Psalms 68:18**.

Every knee is to bow to Jesus in **Philippians 2:10-11** and to Jehovah in **Isaiah 45:23**.

Who is Saviour?

Jehovah says there is no Savior but Him ... **Hosea 13:4 & Isaiah 45:21**.

Luke 2:11 & Titus 2:13 say that Jesus is Savior.

Compare **Titus 3:4** to **Titus 3:6**.

Who raised Jesus?

In **Acts 3:26**, God is said to have raised Jesus.

In **John 2:19**, Jesus said that He would raise himself.

In **Romans 8:11**, the Spirit is said to have raised Jesus.

Who raised Jesus? How can Jesus raise himself? Three separate identities are said to have done it.

Who did it? The Bible says that they all did and that can only be true if they are one.

Who Is The Spirit?

Matthew 10:20 "... but it is the spirit of your Father that speaks by you."

Acts 16:7 "... but the spirit of Jesus did not permit them."

Romans 8:9 "... if God's spirit truly dwells in you. But if anyone does not have Christ's spirit ..."

There is only one Holy Spirit ... **1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 2:18, Ephesians 4:4**. Who does the Spirit belong to? The answer is simple when you consider them all to be one.

Regarding the 144,000:

In **Rev 7:4** the 144,000 are on the earth at that point in time as an angel said that they are to be 'sealed' for their protection before the earth is harmed. After they are sealed, God will pour out His wrath (**Rev 7:3**). In **Rev 7:9** there is already a great crowd (that cannot be numbered) before the throne and they will serve God and the Lamb will be their Shepherd (**Rev 7:15-17**). Going to **Rev 14:1-4**, it can be seen that the 144,000 have now been bought from among mankind and are also before the throne and the four living creatures and are singing a new song. First the great crowd and then the 144,000 are before the throne, which of course is in heaven. So, it can be seen that the great crowd are before the throne just like the 144,000 so there will be considerably more than 144,000 going to heaven.

If the 144,000 in **Rev 7:4** is a real, literal number of people then they must really be Jews as the following verses (**Rev 7:5-8**) show that they are from Jewish tribes. If the number is literal then they must also be literally Jews.

If the verses are taken figuratively then the number and who they are can only be guessed at. However, if these verses are taken literally then the Bible is speaking about 144,000 Jews.

If the tribes are considered to be 'spiritual' Israel then the number must also be taken as being spiritual and could mean any number.

JWs claim that only the 144,000 go to heaven and that they alone will rule with Christ. This is clearly wrong as Rev. 7:14-15 tells us that the Great Crowd before the throne have come out of the Great Tribulation and are serving God day and night. Furthermore, Rev. 20:4 tells us that those who had not worshipped the Beast or taken the mark (obviously those who came out of the Great Tribulation) came to life and reigned with Christ as kings for a thousand years.

The Holy Spirit is clearly a person.

The Jehovah Witnesses says that the Holy Spirit is a force and not a person. Sometimes inanimate things are called a he or a she, such as a ship being called she, however it's dead and doesn't have attributes of the living like the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit:

1) Creates - "God's own spirit made me" (Job 33:4).

2) Speaks and is referred to by the **personal pronouns** 'me' and 'I' in **Acts 13:2**, "the holy spirit said: "Of all persons set Bar'na-bas and Saul apart for **me** for the work to which **I** have called them." Common grammar dictates that the Holy Spirit is a person.

3) Felt hurt in **Isaiah 63:10**, "they themselves rebelled and made his holy spirit **feel hurt**."

4) Is called 'him' in **John 16:7**, "if I do not go away, the helper will by no means come to YOU; but if I do go my way, I will send **him** to YOU." A personal pronoun is once again to describe the Holy Spirit.

5) Can be lied to as in **Acts 5:3**, "Peter said: 'An-a-ni'as, why has Satan emboldened you to **play false to the holy spirit**'"

6) Loves as in **Romans 15:30**, "through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the **love of the spirit**"

7) Can be blasphemed as in **Mark 3:29**, "*whoever **blasphemes** against the holy spirit has no forgiveness forever*"

8) The Spirit has intelligence because He 'knows' the things of God and the things of man, see **1 Corinthians 2:11**. **Romans 8:26** says that through this knowledge of us the Spirit is able to 'plead for us.' Having knowledge and the ability to pray cannot be considered as attributes of a dead thing.

The word 'God' is plural ... Deuteronomy 6:4

Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "*Listen, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.*" The word 'God' is a plural word in Hebrew and is the same word used in **Genesis 1:1** for our Creator. The word 'one' in this verse, describing Jehovah, is also plural and is the same word as used in **Genesis 2:24** where it is used to describe man and woman becoming one flesh ... two people, yet one flesh. A poor analogy is when we speak of 'one team' ... there is only one team but it is made up of more than one player. A very good and clear explanation of these important words is given in 'The Echad Of God' and can be downloaded by clicking here. Other articles on the Trinity are Names Of God and The Triunity Of God.

There are many other verses that can be used in discussing the JW error. Choose the ones that suit you and the occasion. Remember to be conversational, not argumentative. If you reach a blockage, move onto another verse.

As mentioned above, a simple, honest, personal testimony about your assurance of salvation, accompanied by a few verses, is a powerful tool to unsettle their confidence. The Holy Spirit will then work in their heart.

For a short story that may help to understand why God came to earth as a man, please go to: <http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/miscellaneous/themanandthebirds.pdf>

For further reading and a free one hour mp3 (audio) on witnessing to Jehovah Witnesses, by Lori McGregor, go to <http://www.christianissues.biz/downloads.html>.

For indepth information on Jehovah Witnesses, please go to <http://www.4jehovah.org/>

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