

WHAT DO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BELIEVE?

Bible Version; New World Translation (NWT) – 1961 (NT only – 1950) – revised in 1970/1984 – none of translators had knowledge of original biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek (see sample texts):

HQ: Brooklyn – New York – Bethel!

Founded: 1884, Charles Russell – Zion's Watchtower Tract Society

Materials use: NWT, Watchtower magazine(their teachings)/Awake! (for non-JW's), The Organisation, Reasoning from the scriptures

Meet in: Kingdom Hall

Activity: Very zealous to evangelise and meet together

Their Bible:

- Very Zealous to learn
- Poorly translated – sample translation sheet (run through)

Their Beliefs: sample: How can I become a friend of God? (watchtower.org)

1. To become a friend of God, you must *obtain a good knowledge of Bible truth* ([1 Timothy 2:3, 4](#)), *put faith in the things you have learned* ([Hebrews 11:6](#)), *repent of your sins* ([Acts 17:30, 31](#)), *and turn around in your course of life.* ([Acts 3:19](#)) Then your love for God should move you to *dedicate yourself to him*. This means that in a personal, private prayer you tell him that you are giving yourself to him to do his will.—[Matthew 16:24](#); [22:37](#).

2. After you have made your dedication to God, you should *be baptized*. ([Matthew 28:19, 20](#)) Baptism lets everyone know that you have dedicated yourself to Jehovah. So baptism is only for those who are old enough to make a decision to serve God. When a person is baptized, his whole body should be put under the water momentarily.*—[Mark 1:9, 10](#); [Acts 8:36](#).

3. After you have made a dedication, Jehovah will expect you to live up to your promise. ([Psalm 50:14](#); [Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5](#)) The Devil will try to stop you from serving Jehovah. ([1 Peter 5:8](#)) But draw close to God in prayer. ([Philippians 4:6, 7](#)) Study his Word each day. ([Psalm 1:1-3](#)) Stick close to the congregation. ([Hebrews 13:17](#)) By doing all of this, you will gain the strength to stay faithful to God. For all eternity you thus can do the things that God requires of you!

Exercise: Look at the exercise sheets – read the JW statement – how might you begin to refute it from the Word of God? How might we go about witnessing to them?

Some sample translation Errors within the NWT – clearly translated to support their doctrine – not doctrine obtained from accurately translated scriptures!

Genesis 1:1-2 NWT: *In [the] beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of [the] watery deep; and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters.*

NIV: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

NASB: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*

KJV: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

The Jehovah's Witnesses reject the doctrine of the Trinity. They believe in a non-triune God named Jehovah, they believe Jesus is "a god" subordinate to Jehovah, and they reject the notion that the Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity. They believe that the Holy Spirit is an extension of Jehovah – an "active force" He sends out. The Hebrew words here are *ruwach elohim*, which are accurately translated as "Spirit of God." *Ruwach* can be translated as "wind" also, but when joined in context with God, it is a reference to the Spirit of God (as Strong's Hebrew Lexicon states, "Spirit of God, the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son"). This is the first example of the NWT forcing its doctrinal bias into the text of Scripture.

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

NIV: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

NASB: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

KJV: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Here, every legitimate translation of the Bible reads the same – the Word (*logos*) was God (*theos*). The NWT stands alone in its contention that the Word was **a god**. This is to reinforce the JW doctrine that Jesus is not Jehovah, but is simply a subordinate god. The last Greek phrase in its entirety is *theos en ho logos*, where *ho* is a definite article (the). The Watchtower says that when *theos* is preceded by the definite article *ho*, it implies identity or personality. Since the first use of *theos* in this verse is preceded by *ho*, it refers to God. The second use of *theos* is not preceded by *ho*, making it an indefinite description or quality. This is simply wrong thinking. It's an important point to make that *theos* without the definite article *ho* is used elsewhere in the New Testament in reference to Jehovah God, and is translated appropriately in the NWT (such as in Luke 20:38). They are inconsistent with this argument, positing the "indefinite quality" assertion only in reference to Jesus.

John 8:58

NWT: *Jesus said to them: "Most truly I say to YOU, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been."*

NIV: *"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"*

NASB: *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."*

KJV: *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

There are deep doctrinal implications in the words of Jesus here. "I am" speaks to his eternity. It is also a name of God that He divulged to Moses. Exodus 3:14 says, *God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "* The Greek in John 8:58 is *ego eimi*, where *ego* means "I" and *eimi* is a first person singular present indicative, to "exist". The Septuagint provides *ego eimi* as the Greek words in Exodus 3:14. The Hebrew word is *hayah*, which is derived from the same root as *Yahweh*. The NWT seeks to distance Jesus' claims to eternity or deity. Thus, it stands alone in its gross mistranslation of this verse.

Acts 20:28

NWT: *Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has appointed YOU overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son].*

NIV: *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

NASB: *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

KJV: *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

Some more grammatical games and bracket inclusions combine to once again pervert Holy Scripture in order to deny the deity of Jesus Christ. Going through my collection of legitimate Bible translations (and some not-so good translations), I find the NWT stands alone in their mistranslation of this verse. The verse speaks of God purchasing the church "with His own blood". This is obviously a reference to God the Son, Jesus Christ. What a powerful biblical testimony to the deity of Christ, and what an anathema to the neo-Arian doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses! In order to overcome this, a little mistranslation is made to completely change the meaning and deceive their followers. Not a single extant Greek manuscript contains the word "son".