

Defending the Faith: Witnessing to Jehovah's [False] Witnesses

False Doctrines and Fatal Flaws of the Watchtower Society

Seven Key Points to Show Jehovah's Witnesses:

1. The Watchtower Society Does Not Speak for God
2. The New World Translation is a Deliberate Deception
3. Jehovah is Not God's Only Name
4. Salvation is By Grace Through Faith Alone, Not of Man's Effort or Works
5. The God of the Bible IS a Trinity
6. Jesus IS Jehovah
7. There is Only One People of God; Not Two Peoples With Two Different Destinies

"When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

1.2 The Society has changed its position on several issues over the years, which a true prophet of God would never do.

For example, the Watchtower Society has often reversed its position on what it teaches regarding medical issues. Vaccinations were once forbidden as they were a "direct violation of the everlasting covenant God made with Noah after the flood" [1931 edition of *Golden Age* magazine]. Then in the 1950's the Society reversed this position and in 1965 acknowledged the apparent success of vaccination programs.

The Society also changed its position on organ transplants, all forms of which were labeled by the Society in 1967 and 1968 as cannibalism. In 1980 the Society reversed this position and began to allow organ transplants, when the benefits became a proven fact. The Society also changed its doctrine on the issue of the worship of Jesus (see 2.3 below).

1. The Watchtower Society Does Not Speak for God As They Claim To

The Watchtower Society ("the Society") is the international organization that governs and controls Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. Their false doctrines include:

- The Society is to be viewed as God's voice on earth
- Jehovah's Witnesses (hereinafter "Witnesses") are expected to obey the Society without question
- Witnesses are taught to depend solely on the Society for correct interpretation of the Bible
- Reading the Bible alone, without the aid of the Society's literature, will lead a person into darkness
- The Penalty for failing to obey the Society is called "Disfellowshipping." The Society uses fear of this penalty to control and maintain its membership

1.3 The Bible alone and in its entirety, and NOT the Watchtower or any other group, is to be our sole authority for faith and practice.

The Society claims that reading the Bible alone, without the aid of the Society's literature, will lead a person into darkness, but that a person reading only Society literature can remain in the light. Compare this claim with what the Bible says:

Refuting the Society's Claim to Speak for God

1.1 The Watchtower Society has a history of uttering false prophecies.

The Society falsely prophesied in 1889 that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" of Rev. 16:14 had begun and would end in 1914, and in that year the Kingdom of God would replace all earthly governments. In 1916 they "prophesied" that in 1925 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be resurrected and would live in the mansion they built in San Diego. In 1942 they prophesied that Armageddon would take place within months, and in 1968 that the "end of the age" would occur in 1975 and the millennial reign of Christ would begin. They claimed, "There are only about ninety months [7½ years] left before 6,000 years of man's existence on earth is completed." In 1974 the Society condoned member preparations for the "end of the age" by selling all earthly possessions and making special sacrifices. For documentation of the Society's false prophecies see hand-out "Would You Trust Your Eternal Destiny to a False Prophet?" Concerning these many false prophecies, consider God's warning in **Deuteronomy 18:22**:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Proverbs 30:5-6

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Revelation 22:18-19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

2. The New World Translation is a Deliberate Deception

The Watchtower's "Bible," the New World Translation, (NWT) was produced during the Watchtower presidency of Nathan Knorr (1942-1977). This translation was allegedly produced to "restore" the name Jehovah in the Old Testament where the Hebrew name YHWH appears (rendered "LORD" in the KJV). This name was also inserted 237 times in the New Testament where the text refers to the Father, despite the fact that this change blatantly contradicted thousands of available ancient Greek manuscripts. Further, the NWT contains the following fatal flaws:

2.1 The NWT is translated from a corrupted Greek text.

The NWT uses as its Greek text the same perverted Wescott-Hort Greek text used by the NIV, NASV and other recent perversions of the scriptures, as admitted in its preface. This Greek text, which was compiled by two men who were avowed spiritualists, dabbled in the occult and were also closet Catholics, deletes from the original text in over 6,000 places (see handout "*The Sole Authority of the King James Bible*"). The translators of the NWT took an already corrupted text and further distorted it, producing a radically biased and deliberate distortion of God's Word to promote their own cultic agenda.

2.2 The translators of the NWT were not Bible or language scholars.

The Society publicly resisted naming the NWT's translators, but a high-level defector named Raymond Franz did identify them in his book *Crisis of Conscience* as Nathan Knorr, Frederick Franz, Albert Schroeder, George Gangas, and Milton Henschel, NONE of whom were qualified translators. 4 of the 5 had no Greek or Hebrew training at all and had only graduated from High School. Franz claimed to know Hebrew and Greek, but under oath in open court in Scotland failed a simple Hebrew test. He had dropped out of college his sophomore year without studying anything relating to the Bible.

2.3 Major changes have been made in the NWT through the years to reflect the Society's changing Doctrine.

An example is the Society's change in doctrine regarding the worship of Jesus, which was endorsed by the Society until 1959. An 1880 issue of the *Watchtower* magazine said, "to worship Christ in any form cannot be wrong." In 1892 they said, "Yes, we believe our Lord Jesus while on earth was really worshiped, and properly so..." Then in 1964 the *Watchtower* magazine said, "it is unscriptural for worshippers of the true God to render worship to the Son of God, Jesus Christ." This doctrinal reversal is reflected in the 1971 NWT: the 1961 edition at Hebrews 1:6 says, "And let all God's angels **worship** him." The 1971 edition of the NWT was edited to read: "And let all God's angels do obeisance to him."

⇒ Point out to Society followers that they are basing their eternal salvation on a translation that is evolving to suit the changing doctrines of the Society.

2.4 Key Bible verses were deliberately mistranslated to support Watchtower theology.

Here are just two of many examples:

John 1:1

KJB: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

NWT: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word [Christ] was a god."

The Society teaches that because there is no definite article *the* in reference to Christ is as "the God" ("theos," not "ho theos") that he is not the Almighty God like the Father is, but is god-like, a divine being or lesser god.

⇒ Ask the JW if Jesus is a *true* God or a false god. Don't let him change the subject; make him answer the question. Then ask him/her how many gods he believes in. Then go to **Isaiah 43:10-11**, a passage for *true* witnesses of YHWH:

Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

⇒ Point out that Luke 20:38 refers to God the Father without the definite article "the," and conversely that John 20:28, Matt. 1:23 and Heb. 1:8 clearly refer to Jesus as "the God" (ho theos). The absence of the definite article "ho" in John 1:1 does not mean that Jesus is a "lesser" God.

⇒ Point out also that John could have used the Greek word "*theios*" if he had meant god-like, but rather used the word *theos* to communicate Christ's absolute deity.

Colossians 1:16-17

KJB: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

NWT: "By means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [other] things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist."

⇒ Point out that the Society's own Greek Interlinear Bible says that the Greek word *panta* means "all" things and not "all other" things. The NWT deliberately mistranslates this verse to make it appear that Christ was a created being who was then used by God to create all *other* things. There is **no basis** in the Greek to insert the word *other*; the passage clearly says Jesus created ALL things, and therefore is the creator, not a created being. Take the JW to **Isaiah 44:24**, which says YHWH

(Jehovah) made "all things" "alone" and "by myself," proving with Colossians 1:16-17 and that Jesus is in fact the creator, Jehovah. (See also John 1:1-3 and Heb. 1:2,10)

Conclusion: The *New World Translation* is a **deliberate perversion** of God's holy Word with the intention of **purposely deceiving** its readers.

3. Jehovah is Not God's Only Name

Jehovah's Witnesses are taught they are God's only true people because they alone only use his correct name. The Society teaches that superstitious Jewish scribes removed this sacred name from the Bible centuries ago, and that their Bible has faithfully restored this name in the Old Testament where the name YHWH appears. As stated above, the name Jehovah was also inserted 237 times in the New Testament where the text refers to God, despite the fact that this change blatantly contradicted thousands of available ancient Greek New Testament manuscripts, some dating to the 2nd century, NONE of which contain the name *Jehovah* anywhere. One such insertion is in Romans 10:9: "Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved" (NWT). The Society says this verse makes the proper use of God's "correct" name *Jehovah* essential to one's salvation.

3.1 Jehovah (YHWH) is but one of many names God has ascribed to Himself

Abraham knew God as **El Shaddai** (God Almighty, Exodus 6:3). God also reveals himself as the **God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob** (Ex. 3:6, 3:15, etc.; Matt 22:32); the **Lord of Hosts** (Ps. 89:6,8); **the Rock** (Dt. 32:4 et seq), and 32 times in the OT as the **Holy One of Israel** (2 Ki 19:22, Psalm 71:22, 78:41, Isaiah 1:4 etc., etc.), among other designations in the OT: "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower," Psalm 18:2. Since God has revealed Himself by many names, it is idolatrous for the Watchtower Society to assert that Jehovah is God's only true name.

3.2 Jesus never referred to the Father as *Jehovah*

If *Jehovah* was the only name by which God should be called, then Jesus must have been a heretic since he **never** used the name Jehovah in reference to God. He always taught about and prayed to the "Father," not Jehovah. Every one of His prayers was directed to the "Father," including the Lord's prayer; see Matt. 6:9, (NWT). See also Matt. 11:25, 26:39-42; Mark 14:36; Luke 10:21, 22:42, 23:34; and John 17:1.

3.4 New Testament Believers are uniquely privileged to call God "Father" (Matt. 6:9)

Galatians 4:6

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:15 - *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

3.5 Salvation does not depend on use of the name Jehovah, but is through Jesus' name

The Society quotes their mis-translation of Romans 10:13, wrongly substituting the name *Jehovah* for *the Lord*, claiming the use of the name Jehovah is essential to salvation. The broader context of Romans (10:9-13) shows that *the Lord* we are to call upon is the **Lord Jesus**. In Romans 10:13 Paul is quoting from Joel 2:32, applying Joel's writing to Jesus, equating Jesus with Yahweh, as does Peter also in Acts 2:21.

3.5 The New Testament consistently exalts the name "Jesus" rather than Jehovah.

The frequent (but inconsistent) insertion of the name Jehovah in the NWT is a deliberate attempt to hide the truth that it is the name of *Jesus* that is to be exalted!

1. It is the name of **Jesus** that is above **every name** in heaven and earth:

Ephesians 1:20-21

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. It is only through **Jesus'** name we can be saved (Acts 4:10-12; John 1:12, 3:16-18, Acts 10:43, 1 John 3:23).

3. Repentance and forgiveness are preached in the name of **Jesus** (Luke 24:47).

4. It is in the name of **Jesus** that we are to meet together (Matt. 18:20, 1 Cor. 5:4).

5. It is in the name of **Jesus** that we are to pray (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24)

6. It is the name of **Jesus** to which demons are subject (Luke 10:17, Acts 16:18).

7. It was in the name of **Jesus** that the Holy Spirit was sent (John 14:26).

8. It was only through the name of **Jesus** that the Apostles healed the sick and lame (Acts 3:16, 4:7-10,30)

9. It was for refusing to stop preaching in the name of **Jesus** that the apostles were persecuted (Acts 5:28-29).

10. It is the name of **Jesus** that the Apostle Paul said we are to call upon (1 Corinthians 1:2, Romans 10:9-13).

4. Salvation is By Grace Through Faith Alone, Not of Man's Effort or Works

The Society teaches that a person cannot be sure of salvation in this life, that salvation is based on works and involves total obedience to the Society, including distributing Society literature door to door. They teach that Jesus was a sinless man exactly equal to Adam before the fall, and that Christ's death on the cross only removed the sin guilt inherited from the fall of Adam, so we now have an opportunity to work out our own salvation.

To the contrary: the *Bible* teaches that salvation is by **grace** (unmerited favor) through **faith** (true belief in the revealed word of God) totally apart from man's effort or works:

Romans 5:1-11 - God gives His grace to those who deserve the opposite: condemnation

Romans 6:23 - Eternal Life is a free gift

Revelation 21:6 - Eternal life is given without cost (Is. 55:1)

Ephesians 2:8-9 - Salvation is by grace, through faith, not of works (Titus 3:5)

Romans 11:6 - Salvation cannot be through both works and grace

Romans 3:20, Gal. 2:16 - No one can be justified by works, but only by faith in Jesus

We are saved only by **belief** in Christ: John 3:15-16, 3:36, 11:25, 20:31; Acts 10:43; Rom. 1:16, 3:26-28

5. The God of the Bible *IS* a Trinity (Jesus IS God Almighty)

The Society teaches that the Trinity is a Catholic concept, not Biblical; that Jesus is not God, and that the Holy Spirit is neither God nor a personal being, but is merely a force, and that only Jehovah is God Almighty. Although the word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, the doctrine of the Trinity must be absolutely concluded from the clear teachings of Scripture:

1. There is only One True God

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6, 46:9; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; James 2:19

2. There are **three distinct Persons** in the Bible referred to as being **God**

a. **The Father is God** - 1 Peter 1:2

b. **The Son is God** - John 1:1, 20:28; Heb. 1:8, etc., etc.

c. **The Holy Spirit is God** - Acts 5:3-4; Genesis 1:2;

a Person, not a *force*: John 14:16-17, Ephesians 4:30

3. All three possess all the attributes of Deity:

Omnipresence: the Father (Jer. 23:23-24), the Son (Matt 28:18-20), the Holy Spirit (Psalm 137:9)

Omniscience: the Father (Rom. 11:33, 1 Jn. 3:20), the Son (Jn. 21:17, Rev 2:23), the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-11)

Omnipotence: the Father (1 Pet. 1:5), the Son (Matt 28:18, 2 Cor. 12:9), the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:19)

Holiness: the Father (Rev 15:4, John 17:11), the Son (Acts 3:14), the Holy Spirit (Rom 1:4)

From Eternity Past: the Father (Psalm 90:2), the Son (Micah 5:2; Jn 1:2; Rev 1:8-17), the Holy Spirit (Heb 9:14)

4. **Therefore: God is a "triune" being**; there is a "three-in-oneness" within the Godhead

Romans 8:8-11; Matthew 28:19 ("name," not names); Isaiah 48:12-16; 1 John 5:7; Matt 3:16-17

Proofs of the Deity of the Lord Jesus:

5.1 God The Word

John 1:1-3,14 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...*

5.2 THE Mighty God

Isaiah 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.*

NOTE: The Bible says the "**Mighty God**" is also **Jehovah**, the **Holy One of Israel**, and the **Lord of Hosts**):

Isaiah 10:20-21 - *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the **LORD**, the **Holy One of Israel**, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the **mighty God**."*

Jeremiah 32:18 - *Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recom- pensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the **Mighty God**, the **LORD of hosts**, is his name.*

Habakkuk 1:12 - *Art thou not from everlasting, O **LORD my God**, mine **Holy One**? we shall not die. O **LORD**, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O **mighty God**, thou hast established them for correction.*

5.3 Called God by the Father

Hebrews 1:8 - *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O **God**, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

5.4 God in Human Flesh

1 Timothy 3:16 - *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

5.5 God of the Apostles

John 20:28-29 - *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

5.6 One With the Father

John 10:30 - *I and my Father are one.*

John 12:45 - *...he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*

John 14:7-9 - *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

5.7 God's Redeeming Blood

Acts 20:28 - *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.*

6. Jesus IS Jehovah

6.1 Jehovah the First and Last

Isaiah 44:6 - *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.*

Isaiah 48:12-16 - *Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together...Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning: from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.*

Revelation 1:8-11, 17

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....*

10 *I [(John, v. 9)] was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,*

11 *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea....*

17 *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last...*

Revelation 2:8

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.

(Note: God the Father did not rise from the dead)

Revelation 22:12-13

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

6.2 Jehovah the Only God and Only Saviour

Isaiah 43:11- *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

Isaiah 45:21-23- *Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. [(Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...)] ...I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.*

Philippians 2:10-11- *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Titus 2:10-13 – *...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*

6.3 The Creator and Sustainer

Isaiah 40:28 - *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

Nehemiah 9:6 - *Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*

Proverbs 16:4 - *The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.*

Colossians 1:16-17

16 *For by him [(Jesus)] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."*

John 1:3 - *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

6.4 The Great I AM

John 8:58-59 – *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. 59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by...*

John 8:24 – *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

The Watchtower Society preaches another Jesus (2 Cor. 11:4), not the God of the Bible. Emphasize to the J[F]W that on the basis of John 8:24, until he comes to see who Jesus really is, and what Jesus really did on the cross for him, he cannot be truly saved (Matt. 7:23, John 3:16)

7. There is ONE People of God; Not Two Groups With Different Destinies

False Watchtower teachings on this subject:

- There are 2 groups of saved people with very different eternal destinies, the "Anointed Class" or "little flock" and the "lesser sheep"
- The 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:4 and 14:1-3 are the "Anointed Class," and are the only believers who will inherit eternal spiritual existence in heaven. This group includes the 12 Apostles and other 1st century Christians, along with a select number of the Watchtower Society, and was completely filled by the year 1935.
- Only the 144,000 are born-again (John 3:3), sons of God (John 1:12, 1 John 3:1), heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17), baptized in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13), take the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20-29), will live eternally in heaven (1 Cor. 15:50), and will rule with Christ (Rev. 20:6).
- All other Jehovah's Witnesses have an eternal destiny in an earthly paradise, not heaven. These are the "great multitude" of Rev. 7:9 and "other sheep" of John 10:16.

Refuting the Society's False Doctrine

7.1 The 144,000 are Israelites, not JW's

Revelation 7:4-8 describes 144,000 sealed servants of God; 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Society claims this is not a literal reference to Israelites but is a figurative reference to the "anointed class" of 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses. To prove these are literal Israelites:

- (1) Nowhere else in the Bible does the phrase 12 Tribes of Israel mean anything *other* than the 12 tribes of Israel.
- (2) Jesus said in Matthew 19:28 that the 12 apostles (real persons) would sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel, proving that God still has a specific plan for the 12 tribes of national Israel (see Rom. 11:1-25)
- (3) The Society would switch interpretive methods in the middle of Rev. 7:4, saying the 144,000 is a literal number, but the 12 tribes of Israel is not literal, nor are the 12 groups of 12,000 literal. This is inconsistent and sloppy exegesis at best.
- (4) Rev. 14:4 says the 144,000 are unmarried male virgins, which would exclude the apostle Peter and other apostles (1 Cor. 9:5) and most of the Society leadership who claimed to be in this group. Further Rev. 14:4 clearly says they are virgin *men*, when the Society claims women are in the group too.
- (5) Exclusion of the tribes of Dan and Ephraim and inclusion of Joseph is not a reason for a figurative interpretation. Dan and Ephraim were probably excluded because of historic unrepentant idolatry (Lev. 24:11, Jdg. 18:1,30; 1 Kings 12:28-29; Jdg. 17, Hosea 4:17).

7.2 ALL Believers must be Born Again

Contrary to the Society's doctrine that only the 144,000 need be born again because only *they* will go to heaven, the Bible teaches that **all** believers are born again immediately upon conversion:

John 3:3 - *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

I John 5:1 - *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*

See also John 1:12-13, 2 Cor. 5:17, Ephesians. 2:1, Romans 8:7-10, 1 Peter 1:3-4

7.3 The "Great Multitude" is in Heaven

The Society teaches that the "great multitude" of Rev. 7:9-10 represents the remainder of Jehovah's Witnesses who do not inherit heaven but who will live eternally on earth. This is yet another example of very sloppy Bible interpretation and blatant ignorance of the context of verses 9-10 (v. 11-17), which clearly shows this group's destiny to be in heaven!

7.4 Scripture consistently speaks of One People of God, all of whom share the same ultimate eternal destiny in HEAVEN

Jesus never restricted the kingdom of God to a specific number of people, as does the Society, but taught that all people should seek the kingdom, and those who seek it shall find it (Matt. 6:33; Luke 11:9, 12:31). ALL who believe in Christ are heirs of the eternal kingdom of heaven, not just a select group of 144,000 (Rom. 3:22; Eph. 2:19; Gal. 3:29, 4:28-31; James 2:5; 2 Pet 1:11)

The Bible teaches that there is coming a brief period of tribulation upon this world during which time Satan will attempt to rule the world for 3½ years through his false messiah antichrist (2 Thes. 2:1-12, Rev. 13-14). This time will be ended when Christ returns triumphantly to defeat and judge antichrist (Rev. 19:11-21), and to bind Satan so He can rule and reign literally on this earth and us with him for one thousand years (Rev. 20:1-6, Rev. 5:10, 11:15-18, 1 Cor. 6:2).

AFTER the thousand-year reign of Christ on this earth, all creation will enter the eternal state of dwelling with Christ **in heaven**, in the place He promised in John 14:1-3 to go prepare for us (Matt. 5:12, 6:20, 19:21, 24:35; Luke 6:23, 10:20; **Phillip. 3:20, Col. 1:5, 3:1-4; Heb. 10:34, 1 Pet. 1:4, Rev. 7:9-17, Rev. 21-22).**