

## WORLD RELIGIONS

### Jehovah's Witness' History And The Deity of Jesus Christ

#### Lesson #15

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For this lesson and the next we will take a look at the Jehovah's Witness cult. Like Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses are diligent proselytizers. They come to your door, usually an older person training one or two younger persons, and they often want to speak to you about the kingdom of God. They are dressed nicely, have interesting and well printed literature, but they are false teachers who teach damning doctrines. Like other cults people get caught up in, fear of hell, pride, money, and time invested, make them fearful of leaving or hearing the truth. I talked with one man who said that he had heard the gospel many times from people as he went door to door as a Jehovah's Witness evangelist, but could not bring himself to consider the truth he heard from so many Christians was true. He sacrificed too much and had become so entrenched in the Watchtower religion that he didn't want to know the truth. Yet finally, by the grace of God, his heart was softened, his eyes opened, and he came to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ – the real Jesus Christ, the Lord God Almighty. In this lesson we will survey the historical roots of the Jehovah's Witnesses and their beliefs concerning the deity of Jesus Christ.

#### I. NUMERICAL GROWTH AND METHODS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Before we look at the history and Jehovah's Witnesses' views denying the deity of Christ, it will be helpful to look at the growth of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the methods they employ to win converts to their demonic religion.

- A. H. Wayne House discusses the history of the Jehovah's Witnesses: "The Jehovah's Witnesses sprang from a Bible study in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, that was organized in 1870 by Russell and others interested primarily in studying about Christ's return. In 1876 the Bible class elected Russell their "pastor." In 1879, after leaving his job as assistant editor of a small monthly magazine, Russell founded his own periodical: *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*. It evolved into what is now known as *The Watchtower – Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>H. Wayne House, *Charts of Cults, Sects, & Religious Movements*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000) 150.

- B. The printed teachings and advertisements of Russell and the Watch Tower organization became the primary means in the early days of the movement to seduce people into the Jehovah's Witness cult. As a young man growing up in the Congregational Church, Russell had a strong fear of hell. After establishing himself as the leader of the Jehovah's Witness movement, he denied the doctrine of hell, promoting a form of soul sleep and annihilation for unbelievers, saying that after death, unbelievers merely cease to exist. There is no conscious torment in hell for anyone, Russell taught. He has since changed his view. Russell, after leaving the Congregational Church, was also involved in the Millerite movement, later to be known as Seventh Day Adventism. The Millerites believed they had figured out the day of Christ's return. Many sold their possessions, gave everything away to the poor, and waited on a hilltop for Jesus to return. He did not, and this became known as the "Great Disappointment."

Though William Miller predicted the date of the second coming of Christ as happening between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844, it came and went, but surprisingly, most of his followers stuck with him! Though the Scriptures are clear in Deut. 18:20, '*But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.*' Miller had great power over his followers. N. H. Barbour of Seventh Day Adventism would make the same mistake as Miller, claiming that Christ would return in 1874. He did not, and Barbour explained that he had made a mistake and that Jesus did return, but only "invisibly." Again, another remarkable claim since the Word of God says, "all eyes shall see Him," even unbelievers! (**Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7**) Russell helped Barbour financially in exchange for a staff position at the Adventist magazine, *The Herald of the Morning*.

Russell, though greatly influenced by Seventh Day Adventism, would eventually make the same mistake as Miller. Russell parted with Barbour to establish his own religious magazine, *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*. It was claimed that God had called Russell to take the place of Barbour as it was clear that Barbour was a foolish and unfaithful shepherd.<sup>2</sup> Russell successfully highjacked many of Barbour's followers. He proclaimed his own unique views of the Scriptures, departing from orthodox Christianity.

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<sup>2</sup>*Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 7, The Finished Mystery, 1917.

- C. Russell himself predicted the end of the world by 1914 on multiple occasions, saying, “By 1914 the Lord will have full control. Gentile governments will be overthrown; body of Christ will be glorified; Jerusalem will no longer be trodden; Israel’s blindness will be turned away; there will be world-wide anarchy; and God’s kingdom will take the place of man’s governments.”<sup>3</sup>
- D. David Reed notes why Russell was so successful at building his cult: “Not merely a writer and preacher, however, Russell was also an apt organizer and administrator. During 1879 and 1880 he organized “some thirty congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, Ohio and Michigan,” personally visiting each group of *Watch Tower* subscribers (1975 Yearbook of Jehovah’s Witnesses, p. 39). His aim was to gather not passive audiences but active preachers and distributors of his materials. . . . “We believe that none will be of the little flock except preachers,” was the motivating follow-up to the question. Thus in 1881, when his committed followers numbered only around one hundred, Russell was able to distribute 1,400,000 copies of his tract “Food for Thinking Christians” at the doors of Protestant churches across the United States, Canada, and Britain.”<sup>4</sup>
- E. Russell himself wrote in the *Watch Tower*: “. . . having been a . . . member of the Congregational Church and of the Y.M.C.A., began to be shaken in faith regarding many long accepted doctrines. Brought up a Presbyterian, indoctrinated from the catechism, and being naturally of an inquiring mind, I fell a ready prey to the logic of infidelity, as soon as I began to think for myself. But that which at first threatened to be the utter shipwreck of faith in God and the Bible, was, under God’s providence, overruled for good, and merely wrecked my confidence in human creeds and systems of Bible interpretations. . . . for the first time, I heard something of the views of Second Adventism, by Jonas Wendell, long since deceased. Thus I confess indebtedness to Adventists as well as to other Bible students.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, “The Time Is At Hand,” early additions, 76-78, 98-99, 101; etc.

<sup>4</sup>David A. Reed, *Jehovah’s Witness Literature: Critical Guide to Watchtower Publication*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997), 15.

<sup>5</sup>David A. Reed, *Jehovah’s Witness Literature: Critical Guide to Watchtower Publication*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997), 13-14, quoting from *Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 7, *The Finished Mystery*, 1917.

- F. Russell was proud and egotistical, claiming his writings were to be preferred above the Scriptures. In 1913 his wife sued him for divorce on the grounds that he was an adulterer, conceited, and controlling. She won in court. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* claimed he was a fraud. This became obvious to all as Russell perjured himself in court, at first boldly claiming he knew Greek, but when asked to quote the Greek alphabet, was unable, and publically admitted to lying.<sup>6</sup>
- G. By the end of 2004 there were 97,000 Jehovah’s Witness congregations!<sup>7</sup> Look at the statements below and consider the growth of the Jehovah’s Witness cult since its beginning in the late 1800’s.

<b>Growth of the Jehovah’s Witness Cult</b>			
<b>1885</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
“Society reports 300 “colporteurs” distributing literature.” <sup>8</sup>	Walter Martin wrote in the preface to his booklet <i>Jehovah’s Witnesses</i> , “From meager beginnings in the 1800’s to a membership of over 1,000,000, world-wide, the Watchtower sends out its literature in hundreds of languages. . .” <sup>9</sup>	“The 1999 Service Year Report of Jehovah’s Witnesses Worldwide reported that a total of 5,912,492 “peak” (active, baptized) Witnesses spent 1.1 billion hours evangelizing in 234 countries.” <sup>10</sup>	“The religion reports worldwide membership of over 7 million adherents involved in evangelism, convention attendance of over 12 million, and annual Memorial attendance of over 18 million.” <sup>11</sup>
<b>6 years after forming the Watch Tower Society</b>	<b>3,333 percent growth in 72 years</b>	<b>19,708 percent growth in 115 years</b>	<b>60,000 percent growth in 125 years</b>

<sup>6</sup>Kenneth Boa, *Cults, World Religions, and You* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1977), 75.

<sup>7</sup>James A. Beverley, *Religions A-Z* (Nashville, Tenn.: T. Nelson, 2005), 110.

<sup>8</sup>David A. Reed, *Jehovah’s Witnesses: Answered Verse by Verse*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997), 111.

<sup>9</sup>Walter Martin, *Jehovah’s Witnesses* (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1957), 4.

<sup>10</sup>H. Wayne House, *Charts of Cults, Sects, & Religious Movements* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 149, quoting *Watchtower*, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000.

<sup>11</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)

- H. Charles Russell, like Joseph Smith, was a wicked man with a wild imagination, had the gift of persuasion, skills in printing, and his movement has already led and continues to lead millions to a real, conscious torment in hell. The character of Russell is clearly not one of godly humility, but deceit, immorality, and lust for power. It is for all of these reasons that his successor, J. F. Rutherford, formerly a judge, sought to distance himself from Russell and changed the Watch Tower name to Watchtower in 1931.

Rutherford added to and modified Russell's teachings, promoting a strong hostility against Christian Churches. Rutherford changed the name of Russell's movement to that of Jehovah's Witness, so that they would no longer be thought of as "Bible Students" or "Russellites." Jehovah's Witnesses today deny there is any connection between Jehovah's Witnesses and Russell, claiming that Rutherford made a clean break from Russell and that their beliefs are diametrically opposed to Russell's. It is true that Rutherford sought to distance himself from Russell, in many ways, but he held to many of Russell's false doctrines. David Reed notes:

Taking control following Russell's death in 1916, he pledged that "the policies which Brother Russell inaugurated I will attempt to carry forward" (*The Watchtower*, January 15, 1917, p. 6034, reprints). But, in fact, he steered the organization in a different direction altogether, and the literature produced prior to his own death in 1942 bears the distinct stamp of his character.<sup>12</sup>

## II. THE ANCIENT HERESY OF ARIANISM

Because Jehovah's Witnesses promote what is called the Arianism or the "Arian Heresy" we will take a moment to consider the Arian heresy before continuing.

- A. *Nelson's New Christian Dictionary*: "Arianism [is a] heresy, named after Arius, which denies the full divinity of Christ. Arius held that the Son of God was not eternal but was created before the foundation of the world by the Father. He was therefore not God by nature, but a creature. His dignity as Son of God was bestowed on him as a gift. Full divinity and the worship that goes with it belongs uniquely to the Father."<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>David A. Reed, *Jehovah's Witness Literature: Critical Guide to Watchtower Publication*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997), 18.

<sup>13</sup>George Thomas Kurian, *Nelson's New Christian Dictionary: The Authoritative Resource on the Christian World* (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Pubs., 2001).

- B. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*: “An early heretical teaching about the identity of Jesus Christ, Arianism was founded primarily on the teachings of Arius (d. 335/336). The central characteristic of Arian thought was that because God is one, Jesus could not have also been truly God. In order to deal with the scriptural testimony to the exalted status of Christ, Arius and his followers proposed that Jesus was the highest created being of God. So although Christ was fully human, he was not fully God. Arius’s teaching was condemned as heretical at the First Ecumenical Council (Nicaea) in A.D. 325.”<sup>14</sup>
- C. After the council at Nicaea and the death of Constantine, the Arians found support in the next emperor Constantius, who persecuted the orthodox believers and tried to establish Arianism. Yet too many people knew that Arius’ view of Christ was heretical and after Constantius died, another council convened at the First Council of Constantinople in 381 further clarifying the Nicene creed of 325, and promoting a biblical view of Christ. Thus the creed produced at Constantinople was really a modified version of the Nicene creed. The creed has two sections, the first relates to Jesus Christ and reads:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead. Whose kingdom shall have no end.

Though Arianism received a hard blow by the modified Nicene creed, it, along with other heresies, continued to threaten the church. Finally, the Council of Chalcedon met in 451, writing a very clear statement about the person of Christ in what is known as the *Chalcedonian Creed*. The *Chalcedonian Creed* has stood the test of time to defend the biblical view of Jesus’ full humanity and deity.

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<sup>14</sup>Stanley Grenz, David Guretzki and Cherith Fee Nordling, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 15.

### III. PRESIDENTS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES SINCE RUSSELL

- A. **Charles Taze Russell** (1884-1916) – founder of what would later become known as Jehovah's Witnesses. He was an apostate congregationalist, diligent cult group planter, adulterer, and ego maniac who was heavily influenced by Seventh Day Adventist teachings. (See information above under history.)
- B. **Joseph Franklin Rutherford** (1916-1942) – Successor of Russell, becoming president in 1917 after a three-month power struggle following the death of Russell. Some of the Russellites did not approve and left to start their own sects. Rutherford warned them that they would suffer destruction if they did not return. Rutherford continued as president until 1942 and eventually gained unquestioned authority over the movement. Unlike Russell, who was a preacher and very public figure, Rutherford did most of his work out of the public eye.<sup>15</sup> He did some radio shows, recordings, but mostly wrote books and tracts, many of them attacking orthodox Christianity. As his years progressed he became an alcoholic, having liquor smuggled in from Canada to his penthouse apartment.<sup>16</sup> He was so out of the public eye that there was an air of mystery about him. In 1931 Rutherford changed the name of Russell's movement to Jehovah's Witnesses, using **Isa. 43:10**, "you are my witnesses" as a proof text. He promoted and encouraged door-to-door preaching, and published the Jehovah's Witness periodical *The Golden Age* which later became known as *Awake!*<sup>17</sup>
- C. **Nathan H. Knorr** (1942-1977) – James Eckman, writing about Knorr, said, "under his leadership the Jehovah's Witnesses stressed intense training for their disciples. The image of the movement changed. It became more respectable and highly organized. The movement's training of its layman and its leaders took place in what are known today as Kingdom Halls."<sup>18</sup> House tells us that "Knorr founded the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead to train full-time ministers for missionary work in

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<sup>15</sup>Kenneth Boa, *Cults, World Religions, and You* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1977), 74.

<sup>16</sup>Edmond C. Gruss, *Four Presidents of the Watch Tower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)*, (United States: Xulon Press, 2003), 37.

<sup>17</sup>H. Wayne House, *Charts of Cults, Sects, & Religious Movements* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 150.

<sup>18</sup>James P. Eckman, *The Truth About Worldviews: A Biblical Understanding of Worldview Alternatives* (Wheaton Ill.: Crossway Books, 2004), 96.

foreign countries. In 1950 the Society began to release portions of *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.<sup>19</sup>

The Jehovah's Witnesses' *New World Translation* of the Bible is really not a translation at all. No Greek scholars worked on the project. *The New World Translation* is nothing more than a redaction and purposeful distortion of the Bible to conform to the false teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Though Jehovah's Witnesses claim to believe in the Bible, what they really believe in is a mutated or altered Bible, a corrupted form of the Word of God. They use this translation exclusively and when Christians try to reason with them from the Scriptures, they quickly discover that their Bible doesn't read the same as *The New World Translation*, especially relating to texts that teach the deity of Christ. Thus Knorr, being used by Satan, encouraged the production of a Bible, injected with heresy, that the Jehovah's Witnesses use and trust. Knorr, not much of a writer, established the policy that all materials produced by the *Watchtower* remain anonymous and their author's identity kept secret.<sup>20</sup>

The character of Knorr is also very questionable. Accusations were made about his relationship with Fredrick Franz (president after Knorr) as being of a sexual nature. While these were disregarded as vicious rumors to the public, those who have left *The Watchtower* and were there, agree that he would often keep workers overtime and after meals would speak in great and even sickening detail about homosexual sins. This in itself is the very tool of Satan and has often been used by Roman Catholic Priests to corrupt the minds of the innocent into first thinking about sins of immorality and eventually acting them out.

Thus, firsthand witnesses have confirmed that immorality, adultery, and pederasty (a man having relations with another man or boy who is minor), were regular occurrences among the staff and leaders of *The Watchtower* before, during, and after Knorr's reign.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>H. Wayne House, *Charts of Cults, Sects, & Religious Movements* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 151.

<sup>20</sup>David A. Reed, Steve Huntoon and John Cornell, *Index of Watchtower Errors, 1879 to 1989*, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997).

<sup>21</sup>Edmond C. Gruss, *Four Presidents of the Watch Tower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)*, (United States: Xulon Press, 2003), 35-36.



- D. **Frederick William Franz** (1977-1992) – Russell started the movement, Rutherford reorganized it, wrote many works, and promoted door-to-door evangelism, and Knorr pushed for better education of Jehovah’s Witness ministers, and *The New World Translation*. Franz was considered the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ foremost theologian<sup>22</sup> and helped finish *The New World Translation*, which is actually not a translation. Franz only had two years of Greek.

William Franz worked hard to either drive out or get committed Jehovah’s Witnesses who were not actively working for the cause of Jehovah. He even expelled his own nephew from the movement. Franz worked with Knorr for many years and adopted the same shrewd business practices Rutherford used. If anyone questioned him, they were dealt with swiftly and expelled from the organization. When *Watchtower* literature sales were down, then it was time for another major prophecy, prediction of the second coming of Christ, to boost sales. This is exactly what Franz did acting as Knorr’s “Oracle.” In 1975 Franz predicted the arrival of Armageddon and the thousand year reign of Christ. As expected, declining literature sales rebounded and increased. According to the testimony of many non and former Jehovah’s Witnesses, many who worked with Franz, he was a tyrant, a dictator, immoral, vicious, insensitive, and deceitful. In short, he was just like his father, the devil.

- E. **Milton G. Henschel** (1992-2003 ) – In his earlier years, Henschel served as the personal secretary of Knorr. He was a popular speaker and writer for *The Watchtower*. The Jehovah’s Witnesses were under great scrutiny for the absolute power and abuse of Rutherford, Knorr, and Franz. Henschel pushed to have power distributed among “the Governing Body.” This was put into place on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Henschel was after that considered merely a member of the Governing Body.
- F. **Don Alden Adams** (2003-present) – Is the figurehead president but his powers are limited since Henschel’s redistribution of power. History has not yet affirmed Adam’s influence over *The Watchtower* and Jehovah’s Witness cult.

**IV. THE JEHOVAH’S WITNESS’ VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHAT THE BIBLE ACTUALLY TEACHES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST’S DEITY**

Now we come to the primary error of the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ doctrine, their denial of Jesus’ divinity and their promotion of the Arian heresy. While many of the other doctrines of Jehovah’s Witnesses are unbiblical, this is certainly at the core of many of their false beliefs. It is ironic that they are called “Jehovah’s Witnesses” for they are neither Yahweh’s nor are they His witnesses.<sup>23</sup>

A. The Chart below gives a small sampling of examples where *The New World Translation* (NWT) purposefully distorts the meaning of the text. The New American Standard Bible is used in the comparison but any other reliable translation will suffice e.g. NKJV, NIV, RSV, ASV, ESV, etc.

<b>New World Translation</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>The Bible</b>
<b>1</b> In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.	<b>Jn. 1:1</b>	<b>1</b> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
<b>58</b> Jesus said to them: “Most truly I say to YOU, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been.”	<b>Jn. 8:58</b>	<b>58</b> Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”
<b>28</b> 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].	<b>Acts 20:28</b>	<b>28</b> “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.
<b>9</b> For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [other] name,	<b>Phil. 2:9</b>	<b>9</b> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

<sup>23</sup> Jehovah is really not an accurate translation of the memorial name of God. The Hebrew memorial name of God, usually translated in all caps in the Old Testament word, was actually written so it can’t be translated; but if it is attempted, Yahweh is to be preferred.

New World Translation	Text	The Bible
<p><b>15</b> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;  <b>16</b> because 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.  <b>17</b> Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist,  <b>18</b> and he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things;  <b>19</b> because [God] saw good for all fullness to dwell in him,  <b>20</b> and through him to reconcile again to himself all [other] things by making peace through the blood [he shed] on the torture stake, no matter whether they are the things upon the earth or the things in the heavens.</p>	<p><b>Col. 1:15-20</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  <b>16</b> For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.  <b>17</b> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.  <b>18</b> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.  <b>19</b> For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,  <b>20</b> and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.  <b>See Ex. 20:11; I Chron. 16:26; Psa. 96:5; Isa. 44:24 “Yahweh” created everything</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily.</p>	<p><b>Col. 2:9</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,</p>
<p><b>13</b> while we wait for the happy hope and glorious manifestation of the great God and of [the] Savior of us, Christ Jesus,</p>	<p><b>Tit. 2:13</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,</p>
<p><b>8</b> But with reference to the Son: “God is your throne forever and ever, and [the] scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness.</p>	<p><b>Heb. 1:8</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.</p>
<p><b>1</b> Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith, held in equal privilege with ours, by the righteousness of our God and [the] Savior Jesus Christ:</p>	<p><b>II Pet. 1:1</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:</p>

- B. For a detailed list of Scriptures affirming the deity of Christ, see Calvary Bible Church's web site, under classes, in the "Doctrine of Christ" series, and look for the lesson on *The Deity of Christ*.<sup>24</sup>
- C. **Resources for Further Research:**
1. Kenneth Boa, *Cults, World Religions, and You* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1981). An entry level, non-technical, easy-to-read book that surveys various false religions and their false doctrines.
  2. Edmond C. Gruss, *The Four Presidents of the Watch Tower Society* (United States: Xulon Press, 2003). Gruss was a Jehovah's Witness and worked in *The Watchtower* and reports as a firsthand witness what he learned and saw while working there—very well documented.
  3. John Ankerberg & John Weldon, *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2009). An excellent work, thoroughly documented, that addresses many of the false religions of the world, comparing what they teach with the Bible.
  4. Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults* (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1985). A classic on the cults, Walter Martin traces the history and beliefs of many false religions and compares their teachings to the Bible.
  5. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Jehovah's Witnesses* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2009). A newer and very comprehensive work. Rhodes not only explains what Jehovah's Witnesses believe, but dismantles their arguments step by step. Rhodes has as his goal the salvation of Jehovah's Witnesses.
  6. H. Wayne House, *Charts of Cults, Sects, and Religious Movements* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000). If you like charts that compare and organize information, this book is helpful as it lays out, in an organized and concise way, the beliefs of many false religions and how they compare to the Bible.
  7. Many helpful web sites can be found on the internet also.

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<sup>24</sup>[http://www.calvarybiblechurch.org/teaching.aspx/doctrine\\_of\\_christ\\_2007](http://www.calvarybiblechurch.org/teaching.aspx/doctrine_of_christ_2007) Scroll down to the lesson on the "Deity of Christ." Both audio and PDF forms of the lesson are available.