

“...the word was a god?”

The deceptive lie of the Watchtower Bible Tract Society otherwise known as the Jehovah Witness Organization

by
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The Watchtower and Bible Tract Society otherwise known as the Jehovah Witness Organization which started in the 1870's by Charles Taze Russel from a small Bible study group, now has over 8 million adherents world wide. (1)

The Watchtower and Bible Tract Society rejects, and blatantly attacks fundamental and sound Biblical Christian doctrines such as, the **Trinity**, One God in three persons (Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3:22; Genesis 11:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7), the **physical bodily resurrection** of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 2:19-21; Luke 24:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Revelation 1:18), the **reality of a literal hell** for all who die in their sins without salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the everlasting punishment and damnation of the wicked or unsaved **in the Lake of Fire** (Matthew 10:28; Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-50; Luke 13:3; Luke 16:19-31; John 3:16-21, 36; Revelation 14:-9-11; Revelation 20:11-15), among others. (2)

These and many other important and serious Biblical doctrines are erroneously rejected, and attacked by Jehovah Witnesses on their website and in their publications.

However, it seems that the main Bible doctrine the organization seeks to destroy more than an other, is concerning the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, and their clear denial of the Saviour's eternal essence as Almighty God, “...whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).

They not only attack this doctrine in their publications, but also in their Bible translation (3)(4).

New World Translation of John 1:1

The Jehovah Witnesses released their New English Translation of Holy Scriptures in 1961 called the, “*New World Translation of The Holy Scriptures.*”

From their first edition, to their most recent 2013 copy of their New World Translation, they continue to translate John 1:1, as follows, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.*” (5)

KJV Reading of John 1:1

The King James Version translates John 1:1, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**”

While most modern English and foreign language versions are based primarily on the same corrupt Greek text as the NWT of the Jehovah Witnesses, and as result have serious textual errors, the vast majority do however, properly and accurately translate John 1:1 with the correct rendering “...was God” instead of the blasphemous, “...a god.” (6)

The Jehovah Witness Argument for the reading “...a god”

The words, “..a god” in the New World Translation clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ was a created being, and that he was not God Almighty from all eternity.

The Watchtower Bible Tract Society states their reason for translating John 1:1 “...a god” instead of the correct rendering “...was God” on their official website,

Greek grammar and the context strongly indicate that the New World Translation rendering is correct and that “the Word” should not be identified as the “God” referred to earlier in the verse. Nevertheless, the fact that the Greek language of the first century did not have an indefinite article (“a” or “an”) leaves the matter open to question in some minds. It is for this reason that a Bible translation in a language that was spoken in the earliest centuries of our Common Era is very interesting. (7)

The Watchtower continues to justify their position of John1:1, by quoting various Greek scholars,

Many Greek scholars and Bible translators acknowledge that [John 1:1](#) highlights, not the identity, but a quality of “the Word.” Says Bible translator William Barclay: “Because [the apostle John] has no definite article in front of theos it becomes a description ... John is not here identifying the Word with God. To put it very simply, he does not say that Jesus was God.” Scholar Jason David BeDuhn likewise says: “In Greek, if you leave off the article from theos in a sentence like the one in [John 1:1c](#), then your readers will assume you mean ‘a god.’ ... Its absence makes theos quite different than the definite ho theos, as different as ‘a god’ is from ‘God’ in English.” BeDuhn adds: “In [John 1:1](#), the Word is not the one-and-only God, but is a god, or divine being.” Or to put it in the words of Joseph Henry Thayer, a scholar who worked on the American Standard Version: “The Logos [or, Word] was divine, not the divine Being himself. (8)

The Jehovah Witnesses attempt to justify their position by quoting a few scholars who state that since no Greek definite article is before the Greek word, “Theos”, meaning God, at the last part of John 1:1 describing “...the Word...”, it should be rendered, “...a god.”

The Hypocrisy and Deception of the Watchtower Argument

While we could also quote a greater number of Bible scholars who believe the only correct reading of John 1:1 must be translated “...was God” instead of “...a god”, we will not be persuaded by the opinions of men, but exclusively by the authority of the Word of God (Matthew 4:4).

The definite article in Greek points to something specific, and is in some manner very similar to our definite article in English, such as the word, “The” before a word. However, with New Testament Greek there are 24 forms of the definite article. An example of the definite article as pointing to someone specific and definite are the words, “The Christ” as opposed to “a christ.”

However, the Watchtower argument is completely inconsistent with the passage of John chapter one, and many other passages throughout the New Testament. For example there is no definite article before the Greek words, “Theou” in John 1:6,12,13, and “Theon” in verse 18 which clearly refer to the only True God of Israel.

According to their argument, they would have to translate the aforementioned verses which contain no definite article before the Greek words, “Theou” and “Theon” as follows.

“There was a man sent from a god(Theou), whose name was John” (John 1:6) KJV.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of a god(Theou), even to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:12) KJV.

“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of a god(Theou)” (John 1:13) KJV.

“No man hath seen a god(Theon) at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18) KJV.

Why does the Watchtower not translate these verses “...a god” which have no definite Greek article in front of the Greek words, “Theou”, and “Theon” respectively?

It is simple. The context of the passage demands that the Greek Words, “Theou” “Theon” be translated “**God**” clearly and specifically pointing to the only true God, The God of the Holy Bible, The God of Israel (Deuteronomy 6:4), and not “...a god” which could refer to any of the false gods worshipped by the heathen or pagan nations.

The context of John 1:1 must be translated “...God” and not “...a god”

In the same way the context of the Greek word, “Theos” in the last portion of the passage of John 1:1 in reference to the, “Logos” or “Word” must, and I repeat must be translated “...**God**”, and not “...a god.”

Notice the context of John 1:1 begins in the same manner as Genesis 1:1. “**In the beginning...**” After the first verse of Genesis chapter one, the Bible describes how God made all things from day one to six (Genesis 1:1-31).

In similar manner, the first verse of John chapter one, clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ was there in the beginning before all things were created. “**In the beginning was the Word...**” Thus, the Saviour could not have been created, if he was there before the creation of all things (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20).

The verse continues to teach that, “...**the Word, was with God...**” (John 1:1). The word, “**with**” is the Greek word “pros.” This word is a preposition that indicates location and relationship. It literally means that, “...**the Word, was (face to face) with(pros) God...**” “**No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him**” (John 1:18).

This also indicates that the Word, and God are distinct one from the other. However, the next part of the verse which is the main subject of this important article, clarifies any confusion who this Word is, after being introduced by the Holy Ghost through the Apostle John, “...**and the Word was God.**”

This means that the, “Word” who became flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:14) and “God”(the Father) while distinct, are One God. “**I and my Father are one**” (John 10:30).

The Bible teaches only One True God, Who is the Creator of all things

It would make absolutely no sense to for the Word to be “*a god*” which is contrary to the clear presentation of the opening of the passage. If one were to translate John 1:1 “...*a god*” or even “*divine*” then the question must be asked, who is this god?

The word “a” or “an” before a word is called an indefinite article. The indefinite article points to something in general, rather than something definite and specific. The indefinite article is the opposite to the definite article. An example of the indefinite article are the words, “a christ” as opposed to “The Christ.”

There is no indefinite article in New Testament Greek. Thus, the Watchtower is clearly and intentionally perverting the Word of God by placing the indefinite article before the Greek Word, “Theos” giving the reader of Holy Scripture ambiguity as to who this god is.

This teaching from the Jehovah Witness organization teaches polytheism, for it teaches that there was more than one God at the beginning of creation. This is not only blasphemous, and contrary to fundamental Bible teaching, but clearly pagan in its entirety.

However, “...**holy men of God...**” who “...**spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**” (2 Peter 2:21) have clearly revealed the specific identity of the Word mentioned in John 1:1.

The Bible says, “**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth**” (Genesis 1:1). The first chapter of Genesis clearly teaches that the God of Israel alone created the heaven and the earth.

According to Him, He was the one and only God that existed at the beginning, and the only Creator. There was no other “*god*” with him. For no other “*god*” exists, or has ever existed, but Him alone (Isaiah 4:6,8; Isaiah 45:5,6).

“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 44:6).

“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me...” (Deuteronomy 32:39).

God Almighty clearly says, that, **“...there is no god with me...”** (Deuteronomy 32:39). Then who is this **“...Word...”** that was **“...with God...”** according to John 1:1?

John chapter one verse two and three dissolves any doubts as to whether the Word, **“...was God...”** or *“a god,”* and reveals the identity of the Word, by attributing to Him the action performed only by the God of Israel, who alone has claimed to be the Creator of all things.

“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” (John 1:2-3).

The words. **“All things were made by him...”** clearly gives the title of Creator to **“..the Word...”**, and thus the identity of the Word can only be the God of Israel, who alone has claimed to be the only creator of all things (Isaiah 45:18).

“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” (Nehemiah 9:6).

The Doctrine of the Trinity begins to be revealed in John 1:1

Therefore the Word which is clearly distinct from God the Father, is also God (John 1:1).

Thus, the New Testament reveals what was concealed in the Old Testament. When the Bible says, **“And God said, Let us make man in our image...”** (Genesis 1:26), it is clearly referring to both the Word and the Father, and later as clearly revealed by the Word of God, also the Holy Ghost (Genesis 1:2; 1 John 5:7). One God revealed in three persons (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 John 5:7).

At the same time the Bible also teaches that there are not three Gods, or two Gods, but only one God, **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:”** (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Therefore the doctrine of the Trinity is revealed in John 1:1. While it does not mention the Holy Ghost, it opens the clear Bible teaching of one God revealed in three distinct persons, the Father, the Word (who became the flesh, the only begotten Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ), and the Holy Ghost (John 1:1,14, Matthew 28:19-20; 1 John 5:7).

Therefore it is explicitly clear that the context of the passage of John 1:1 teaches only in favour of the word, **“Theos”** being translated, **“...God”**, and not the blasphemous teaching that reduces the eternal Word, who is God manifested in the flesh (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16), the Lord Jesus Christ into *“...a god.”*

Heretical Doctrines of the Past into the Present

We would like to address one final argument contended by the Watchtower, in which they demand that John 1:1 should be translated “...a god” based upon the fact that the reading is found in a very early Sahidic translation of around the 3rd or 4th century AD, which is a dialect of the Egyptian Coptic language, dated around the third century AD. **(8)**

A contemporary of the aforementioned Sahidic translation, was a priest in Alexandria Egypt by the name of Arius, who lived during the 3rd and 4th century AD. He denied the Trinity, and also rejected the eternal God nature of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is clearly, God manifested in the flesh (John 1:1,14;1 Timothy 3:16). **(9)**

The Arian doctrine concerning the person and nature of the Lord Jesus Christ has clearly been adopted by the Jehovah Witnesses. Arius also has clearly influenced many in Egypt during his life time concerning his heretical teaching, which points to serious, and justifiable allegations that the Egyptian Sahidic translation was intentionally corrupted by Arius sympathizers to promote Arian doctrine, with regards to the reading “...a god” found in John1:1.

19th Century scholar Dean Burgon, explains the false doctrines that existed in the first three centuries of Christianity in relation to the Lord Jesus Christ being God Almighty in human flesh, and how the denial of His eternal Godhead possibly found its way into the texts of manuscripts and ancient version of Holy Scripture.

Numerous as were the heresies of the first two or three centuries of the Christian era, they almost all agreed in this:--that they involved a denial of the eternal Godhead of the SON of Man; denied that He is essentially very and eternal GOD. This fundamental heresy found itself haplessly confuted by the whole tenor of the Gospel, which nevertheless it assailed with restless ingenuity: and many are the traces alike of its impotence and of its malice which have survived to our own times. It is a memorable circumstance that it is precisely those very texts which relate either to the eternal generation of the SON,--to His Incarnation, --or to the circumstances of His Nativity,--which have suffered most severely, and retain to this hour traces of having been in various ways tampered with. **(10)**

While there is serious evidence that would convict the Sahidic translation of the 3rd or 4th century with being influenced, and corrupted by the teachings of Arianism, it is of no consequence if it were not, because the vast majority of all ancient versions, reject the reading “...a god” and speaks in favour of “...**the Word was God**” (John 1:1), such as the Latin Vulgate, the Syriac Peshitta and others. **(11)**

As was mentioned earlier, most importantly, the context of John 1:1 rejects the reading “...a god” by the very fact that it describes the Word, as the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3).

This is why many Early Church Fathers also clearly understood that the Holy Ghost through the Apostle John wrote that “...**the Word was God**” and not the blasphemous “...a

god.”

While we do not support, or endorse the teaching of the Early Church Fathers that speak contrary to the Authority of the Holy Scriptures, a quotation from Irenaeus of John 1:1 from the 2nd Century AD, approximately 100 years before the Sahidic translation, reveals that they understood John 1:1 to be translated, “**...was God**” and not the blasphemous “*...a god.*”

Irenaeus of the 2nd Century AD accurately quotes that the Word of John 1:1 “**...was God**”, “*Very properly, then, did he say, ‘In the beginning was the Word,’ for He was in the Son; ‘and the Word was with God,’ for He was the beginning; ‘and the Word was God,’ of course, for that which is begotten of God is God.*” (12)

Irenaeus from the second century, understood the passage of John 1:1 to be translated, “**was God.**” He recognized that the Holy Ghost revealed that the Word in John 1:1 was not be “*a god*” at all, but only to be “**God.**”

Again the quotation of Irenaeus of John 1:1 is at least 100 years or more before the previous mentioned Sahidic translation came into print. It is very possible that Irenaeus was quoting from some of the earliest translations of the New Testament.

Conclusion: “...the Word was God” and not “..a god”

In conclusion, the Watchtower and Bible Tract Society by the evidence of the context of the passage of John 1:1, the testimony of the complete Word of God (that proclaims that the God of Israel is the only Creator (Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6) and never had another “**god**” (Deuteronomy 32:39) with Him at the beginning or at anytime), and by the testimony of history through Irenaeus, etc, proves without a shadow of a doubt that the Word revealed in John 1:1 must be understood as “**...God**” and not the blasphemous “*...a god.*”

The Watchtower has intentionally perverted and corrupted the Word of God by attempting to reduce the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16) and who was never created, but existed for all eternity (Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2), into a created being that is less than the Father, rather than being equal to God the Father (Philippians 2:6), for he was “with God” and is “God” (John 1:1).

The Jehovah Witnesses have used a corrupt ancient version such as the Sahidic translation, and a corrupt Greek text in other areas, such as replacing the Word “Son” for “God” in John 1:18, to justify their blasphemous, and perverse teachings that are clearly produced by the ancient enemies of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ such as the Arians, or by translators who were not careful in the transmission of the Sacred Text. (13)

As a result they do not preach the Lord Jesus Christ of the Holy Bible, but another jesus, that is a false christ that cannot save, but damns precious souls, and are leading multitudes to an eternity in hell (2 Corinthians 11:1-4).

The reason for this is because they are not trusting in the true Saviour of all mankind, in order for their sins to be forgiven “**...who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen**” (Romans 9:5).

The Jehovah Witness Jesus is “...a god” that is no different than the false gods worshipped by Hinduism, and other pagan false gods such as Molech, that have never existed, and in fact is actually the worship of demon spirits (Deuteronomy 32:17; 1 Corinthians 10:20-12; Revelation 9:20).

The false Jesus of the Jehovah Witnesses is really an angel who they believe is Michael the Archangel. However, the true Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible completely rejects the idea of the Saviour's identity being that of Michael the Archangel or any angelic, or created being in Hebrews 1:5-8,

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 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. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

The Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ was never an angel, for the angels were commanded to, “worship him.” This fact alone proves that He is God, for the Father commands the Son to be worshipped. The Bible says, “**...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve**” (Matthew 4:10). Therefore it is clear that the Son, is God.

This worship of the Son, clearly happened at the time when the Word was made flesh, at the incarnation, when the Saviour of the Word the Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem in Luke 2:1-19. The words, “**...when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world..**” (Hebrews 1:6) speaks specifically in reference to the beginning of the Lord Jesus Christ's human nature, not his Divine nature which never had a beginning for He, “**the Word**”(John 1:1) was, “**...from of old, from everlasting**” (Micah 5:2).

Friend do not be deceived by the false teaching of false religious systems such as the Watchtower and Bible Tract Society.

Multitudes of precious souls have been seduced by the demonic influence and false teaching that they and other cults have propagated. They have tragically contributed to the ultimate damnation of souls to an eternity in hell, by encouraging souls to reject the true Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God Almighty in human flesh, for a false Jesus who is really a demonic idol, leading precious souls to eternal perdition (John 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4; 2 Peter 3:1-3).

The “**...Word was God**” and not “**...a god.**” A fact that can be rejected by the Watchtower and others, but cannot be denied by the clear evidence of the Holy Scriptures themselves (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; John 1:1-18; Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-14; etc).

The Watchtower and Bible Tract Society or the Jehovah Witnesses have been weighed in the balance of God's Word and is found wanting (Matthew 4:4).

The Bible clearly warns us of trusting in a false Jesus, and points to the only true Lord Jesus Christ where eternal life can only be attained by repentance and faith in Him alone for salvation (Luke 13:3; John 3:16).

The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ is specifically and definitely the “...**true God**” and not an ambiguous “...*a god.*”

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” 1 John 5:20

Therefore the Holy Ghost warns, “**Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen**” (1 John 5:21).

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- (13) The New World Translation, along with many other modern English and foreign language translations, use a corrupt Greek text that is based on corrupt Greek manuscripts which replace the word, “**Son**” with the word, “*God*” in John 1:18. These false Greek manuscripts teach that “*God*” was begotten, or in the case of the NWT “*a god*”. Thus rejecting the eternal nature of the Lord Jesus Christ as God Almighty, and teaching the heretical doctrine of Him being a created being. The correct reading is “**Son**” clearly speaking in reference to the beginning of the incarnation of the Word (John 1:14) who “**...was God**” (John 1:1) and is God “**...manifest in the flesh...**” (1 Timothy 3:16). It is clear that while the “**Son**” was begotten (speaking in reference to the Human nature of the Lord Jesus Christ)(Micah 5:2; John 1:14;1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:5-9), the “**Word**” or the Saviour’s God nature, was never begotten or made, for He “**...was with God...**” the Father in the beginning, and He, the Word “**...was God**” from all eternity (Isaiah 9:6,7; Micah 5:2;John 1:1), the second person of the One and only Triune God (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 20:19-20; John 1:1; 1 John 5:7). *See Dean Burgon’s Book, *The Causes of Corruption of the Traditional Text Volume II*, George Bell and Sons. London 1896 pgs. 164-165; 215-218.