

- Opening comments
 - Don’t Forget To Pray To Open Up The Time!
 - Thank you for coming tonight. Last week we very quickly covered the central beliefs that JWs have about God, Jesus, Salvation, Spiritual Authority, and the Bible. Today we are going to compare their claims with the Bible and learn some good, solid theological truth along the way
 - I am also going to give you tips along the way on how to use this information in the most effective way
 - I hope today encourages your faith and prepares you for your certain encounters with JWs going forward.
 - Let’s get straight into it then about God:
 - We already covered the issue surrounding the name Jehovah
 - Reminder: Jehovah is a man-made name for God. It is not Biblical.
 - It’s also not worth criticizing them over it due to its common use in the English language outside of their organization
 - The NT uplifts the name of Jesus, not Jehovah
 - Remember those questions from last time?
 - In whose name should we meet together? (Matt 18:20, 1 Cor 5:4)
 - Demons are subject to whose name? (Luke 10:17, Acts 16:18)
 - Repentance and forgiveness should be preached in whose name? (Luke 24:47)
 - In whose name are you to believe and receive the forgiveness of sins? (John 1:12, 3:16; Acts 10:43; 1 John 3:23, 5:13)
 - Whose name should be invoked as we bring our petitions to God in prayer? (John 14:13-14)
 - In whose name is the Holy Spirit sent? (John 14:26)
 - Whose name is above every name? (Eph 1:20-21, Phil 2:9-11)
 - The answer to every single one of these is JESUS!
 - You can use their own translation for all of these verses and get the same answer.
 - This is just a smattering of the examples of how the NT exalts Jesus
 - TIP: Ask your JW friend, after reading these verses, by which name should God’s people be identified? Jehovah or Jesus Christ?
 - Caveat: It’s not wrong to call God Yahweh by any means. Feel free to pray to him by this name. I’m just pointing out that the NT emphasizes the name of Jesus Christ.

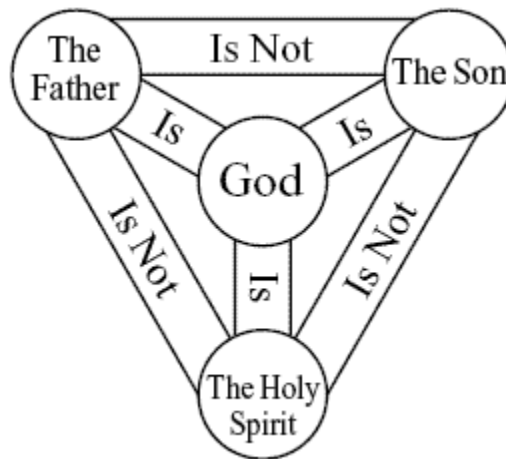
- The NT never uses the name Yahweh and translates it as LORD when quoting the OT.
- Jesus called God either Father or Lord, never Yahweh
- The Trinity
 - The JW’s deny that the Trinity is Biblical.
 - The JW’s argue that Scripture teaches that God is one, and they are correct
 - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” Deut 6:4 (ESV)
 - (Remember that when modern English Bibles use LORD that they are doing in in place of God’s name)
 - “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.’” Isaiah 44:6 (ESV)
 - “there is no God but one.” 1 Cor 8:4b (ESV)
 - They follow this up with arguments that Jesus denied being equal with God
 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” John 6:38 (ESV)
 - If Jesus is God, then who sent him down from heaven? They’ll probably ask you this exact question
 - “So Jesus answered them, ‘My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.’” John 7:16 (ESV)
 - Jesus said his teachings belong to the one who sent them
 - Who sent Jesus and who gave him his teachings? Wouldn’t that person be greater than Jesus? Isn’t the sender greater than the one who is sent?
 - “You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.” John 14:28 (ESV)
 - Jesus did in fact view God as being greater than himself
 - Therefore, based on all this evidence, Jesus was not God Almighty
 - They also argue that the Holy Spirit is not even a person, much less God
 - They argue that the Holy Spirit is God’s power in action, his active force

- “But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might”
Micah 3:8
- Furthermore, they argue that because the word Trinity is never used in the Bible, it is not a Biblical concept and should be discarded
- Are they right about this? Let’s take a look at what the Bible says
- About God being One:
 - Scripture definitely teaches that there is only ONE God from in both the old and new testaments. I could quote a dozen more verses to demonstrate this.
- However, three different *persons* are all clearly God in the Bible
 - *The Father is GOD*
 - “According to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**” 1 Peter 1:2a (ESV)
 - *Jesus is GOD*
 - Jesus appeared to the disciples, post-resurrection, and Thomas called him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28)
 - Jesus is subtly said to be God in the first verses of Mark
 - Remember when we talked about Romans 8 in relation to calling on the name of the Lord to be saved? The Lord was clearly referring to the name of Jesus. Yet Paul was quoting from Joel 2 where the original Hebrew does not say Lord but rather Yahweh. This clearly demonstrates that Paul believed Jesus was God Almighty.
 - Lest you think that this was something Paul believed and no other NT authors, let’s take a look at Mark, the earliest written Gospel (written down only about two decades after the death of Jesus), who did the same thing as Paul.
 - “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’” Mark 1:1-3
 - Mark is saying that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness as the messenger of God preparing ‘the way of the Lord’
 - This is a quote from Isaiah 40:3, “A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” (ESV)
 - Mark definitely declares Jesus to be God Almighty right in the first verses of his gospel.

- Furthermore, God the Father himself called Jesus God: “But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.’” Hebrews 1:8 (ESV)
- The Holy Spirit is God
 - In Acts 5 there is a story about a man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira. They sold a piece of their property to give money to the Apostles for the poor but lied about how much they were giving. Peter responded by saying “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ... You have not lied to man but to God.” (Acts 5:3,4).
 - Lying to the Holy Spirit is the same as lying to God
 - This also demonstrates that He is a person. Can you tell a lie to something that isn’t a person? Can you lie to your car? “I promise I’ll take you to the car wash later today, okay” but have no intention of doing so. Of course not... it’s silly. Lying requires a person to be lied to.
 - The Holy Spirit teaches and brings things to remembrance for the apostles (John 14:25-26)
 - The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (John 16:7-15)
 - The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Eph 4:30)
 - The Holy Spirit has a will (1 Cor 12:4-7)
 - The Holy Spirit uses His mind to search the depths of God (1 Cor 2:10)
 - All of these Scriptures reveal that the Holy Spirit is not a force but rather a person. He is also revealed to be God and that He is distinct from both the Father who sends him and the Son whom he proclaims (John 15:26-27)
- Furthermore, all three of these persons who are called God in the Bible all are seen to possess attributes that only belong to God such as:¹
 - Omnipresence: Father – Jeremiah 22:23-24, the Son – Matthew 28:18, and the Holy Spirit – Psalm 139:7
 - Omniscience: Father – Romans 11:33, the Son – Matthew 9:4, and the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor 2:10
 - Omnipotence: Father – 1 Peter 1:5, the Son – Matthew 28:18, and the Holy Spirit – Romans 15:19
 - Holiness: Father – Revelation 15:4, the Son – Acts 3:14, and the Holy Spirit – Romans 1:4
 - Eternality – the Father – Psalm 90:2, the Son – Micah 5:2; John 1:2; Revelation 1:8,17, the Holy Spirit – Hebrews 9:14

¹ This list was taken from *10 Most Important Things You Can Say to a Jehovah’s Witness* by Ron Rhodes, page 67

- Here we have a conundrum don’t we? It is undeniable that the Bible teaches that there is only ONE God yet there are three distinct persons that the Bible specifically calls God and ascribes attributes to these persons that can only apply to God
- Let’s keep it going: Jesus commands us to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19 – ESV)
 - Note that **name** is singular, yet it applies to **three** distinct persons
 - Note also that each name is given an article, making it distinct from the others. This is not merely three designations of a single person.
 - So we have three persons all unified under one name, a Tri-unity, or a Trinity if you will
 - Here is a diagram to help you wrap your mind around this:



- TIP: Ask your JW friend if they will agree that the Bible reveals that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called God. If they respond no, then have them read those verses out loud to you. Then ask if they will agree that the Bible reveals that all three of them have attributes that can only apply to God. If they respond no, then ask them to read those verses out loud to you. This absolutely flips the table on them and puts you in the driver’s seat. They are used to doing this exact same thing to others. It will be effective in most cases!
- Possible Objection: The Trinity was developed over time and was officially invented at the council of Nicaea in 325 under Emperor Constantine
 - We talked about this church council in the first lesson. It is indeed where this doctrine was officially laid out and other positions were declared heresy. That does not mean that this doctrine was invented at this council or even that it developed over time. As we already witnessed, the Bible clearly teaches this truth. The reason why it had to be hammered out specifically at this time was due to the new presence of Bishops that were teaching contrary doctrine! It wasn’t because it had just been invented but rather because false

teachers were attacking this area at this time and it needed to be addressed.

- An analogy: Let’s say that my favorite color is red. I’ve told people several times over the years that red is indeed my favorite color. Then some new people show up and start telling everybody that my favorite color is yellow. So I decide to address the great color controversy before it splits the church and inform everybody that my favorite color actually is indeed red and it has always been red. Well, some people now want to know what shade of red, so I clarify that I’m not a fan of red-orange or light-red (aka pink) or any pastel red. I like a nice bright plain old red. Years later, somebody has the misfortune of reading through the meeting notes of this tense moment in our churches history and they declare that my favoritism of the color read clearly evolved over time. He liked yellow, moved to orange, then added a dash of red to it, and finally landed on bright red. Is this true? Nope! I just never felt the need to clarify the exact shade of red I liked until it threatened the unity of our church because I didn’t need to. Hopefully that wasn’t too convoluted for you to follow, haha
- The church has taught that there is only one God but there are three distinct persons
- I think it would be valuable to take the time to read the Nicene Creed together as a class. It really is a great summary of our beliefs about who God is.
 - Insert slide containing Nicene Creed here
- Addressing a specific claim the JW’s make and some changes they made to the NWT
 - Last week, I read to you two verses about Jesus from the NWT. John 1:1 and Colossians 1:15
 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **A** god. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.” John 1:1-3 (NWT emphasis added)
 - “He is the image of the invisible God the first-born of all creation; because **by means of him** all **other** things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, 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.” Colossians 1:15-17 (NWT emphasis added)
 - John 1:1-3 Jesus was “a” God
 - This is an area today that’s going to get a little technical, unfortunately. We’re going to look at the Greek text of John 1:1, or even more specifically,

look at how he uses articles (or lack thereof). Articles=the (definite) and a (indefinite). In Greek, it’s “ho”

- This is something that is very unlikely to ever convince a JW that they’re wrong about the deity of Jesus and it’s also something that you’re almost certainly not going to remember enough details about to make the argument anyways. So why am I spending time on it?
 - The point of teaching you this is not so that you can use it as an argument against them (which you could do if you wanted) but because this is one of their go-to verses when you push back against their false views on Jesus
 - Therefore, I don’t want you to be surprised when they bring this up. After this, even though you’ll probably be unable to remember all the details, they won’t be able to “pull the Greek over your eyes” so to speak. It’s more of a protection for you.
- SO, let’s take a look at the Greek:
 - Before I read this and start explaining it, I want to ask a question. How many of you here have learned any Spanish at all?
 - If you remember, words in Spanish will have different endings depending on whether the word is male or female, singular or plural, etc.
 - Greek is the same way, except even more complicated. Each word will have a different ending based on male/female, the number, tense, and word type (subject, object, indirect object, etc.)
 - This allowed for a great variation of word order within the Greek language. In English, the word order matters greatly but in Greek it can vary wildly. You only know which words are the subject and which are in the predicate based on the ending of the words. This, along with the use of the article, will help you to understand why John 1:1 must be translated as “was God” and not “was a God.” I’ll explain the use of the article as we go through the verse.
 - Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. Πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν.
 - Notice that we have an article (“the”) in front of the word for “word” but not one in front of the word for “beginning.” The presence of the Greek article, or lack thereof, does not automatically mean we put “the” in when translating. The JWs tacitly acknowledge this by translating the first few words as “in **THE** beginning” even though there is no article in the Greek.
 - In English we have two articles, definite and indefinite: “The” and “a” but Greek doesn’t really have an indefinite article

- The article in Greek is meant to point to something in a grammatical sense. It can be used three ways, definite, indefinite, and qualitatively. It can be used to ascribe the qualities of one noun to another noun. This is what we have going on here. This grammatical construction is called the Predicate Nominative.
- Predicate Nominative
 - We have this in English too but it is rarely used.
 - The teacher is I is an example of this. It is a way of ascribing the qualities of a teacher to yourself. The pronoun “I” is not receiving the action of the verb. Rather, it is telling you something about the subject. It is predicating about the subject. You cannot say, “The teacher is me” because “me” indicates that you are receiving an action, which you are not. Therefore, “I” is used, which is subjective (i.e. it is the subject). “Me” is objective, “I” is subjective.
 - Now, back to the Greek
 - The word logos and theos in verse one are both in the ‘nominative’ case, which indicates the subject of the sentence. Remember how word order in Greek does not matter? They use case-endings to inform you which words are the subject and which are the predicate. Well, look at the end of verse one and notice that we have two nominative words “theos” and “logos.” This is clearly meant to be a predicate nominative situation where one noun is being ascribed qualities from the other noun. How would you know which one is meant to be the subject and which the predicate?
 - The use of the article. The article is in front of logos, meaning that it is the subject while the qualities of theos are being ascribed to ‘the word.’
 - This isn’t advanced Greek either.... I looked it up in my Greek textbook from seminary. It’s taught in chapter 8.
 - I didn’t have time to mention it last week, but Charles Russell, who taught that Jesus was “a” god as opposed to “the” God, did not know any Greek at all. A Canadian pastor called him out for this in a pamphlet and Russell sued him for defamation. Well, the attorney asked Russell to read from the Greek NT while on the stand. Guess what happened? He couldn’t read it. He was then asked if he could identify even a single letter on the page. Guess what? He couldn’t name even one. If you’ve ever heard of a Greek fraternity on a college campus, congratulations, you know more Greek than Charles Taze Russell knew.

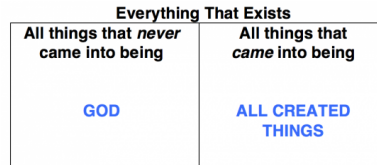
- Now, Russell didn’t translate their version of the Bible, the Governing Body did. I’m totally convince that they know this about Greek grammar but simply chose to ignore it so they could have a verse to prove their aberrant theology. There is a reason why they are literally the only ones ever in history to translate this verse the way they do. It’s basic Greek grammar that you learn in the first semester.
- How do I know that they know this? It’s not just because it’s basic Greek grammar. It’s because they literally published an interlinear version of the Bible with their bad translation next to it. It is available completely for free on their website or on their app. Look at this (Show screenshot of their Interlinear). They literally are showing that the word “a” isn’t part of the originally Greek. It’s totally left out. Yet, they insert it into their translation.
- There is actually more to be said about this verse.
 - Contrary to the JW’s claims about Jesus and their bad attempt to use this verse in their defense, this verse actually demonstrates that Jesus is God and yet distinct from God. It is both a divinity of Christ verse and a Trinity verse.
 - The word is being distinguished from God yet it said to be God. This is without doubt an allusion to Jesus being called God, yet being a distinct person. Another proof text for the Trinity and Christ’s divinity at the same time.
 - If you ever do decide to go into this with a JW and they really want to push back on you about the use of the article, just take them to John 20:28 where the article is used in reference to Jesus being called God (ὁ θεός).
 - That was a very technical part of today’s lesson... I hope it was helpful for all of you. I know that a lot of it may have gone over your heads but that is okay. The main point was just to demonstrate to you that your translation of the Bible is correct and theirs is wrong. As I said before, it’s probably not worth taking the time to dig into it with a JW, at least until they’re in a place where they are really questioning the Governing Body. Early on in the process is a bad time to cover this. And if you want to understand it better, this is being recorded. You can go onto the church website and listen to it again. Alternatively, there is a video on YouTube that covers this in about 10 minutes. It’s done by “Master Biblical Languages.” It’s a great channel to subscribe to if you want to learn more about the biblical languages. They even offer a free course to help you learn them.
- Colossians 1:15-17
 - I’m going to cover this one much quicker. We’re not going to dig into the Greek again. I’m just going to show you a screenshot of their interlinear version of these verses. This is all you’re really going to need when talking with them anyways.

- Notice that in their translation they have inserted the word “other” a bunch of times. But if you look at the Greek, which they lay out for you, “other” is nowhere to be found. I still can’t believe that they published this book. It is such a refutation of their whole version of the Bible.
 - I think they’re completely relying on its mere existence as being validation to their members that they’re a legitimate operation and that nobody is actually going to look at it. Unfortunately for them, I did look at it and now I’m sharing it with you and I hope that you will share it with their followers when you get the chance.
 - They really want to make the point that all “other” things were created by Jesus. But does the Bible actually say this? No it doesn’t. You can even show this using their own translation. Let’s go back to John 1:3 for a minute.
- “All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.” John 1:3 (NWT)
 - Let’s do a little exercise.² If you have pen and paper, please take them out and draw two boxes side by side. Leave some room around the edges to make notes. Write “Everything That Exists” across the top.



- In the left box, write “all things that *never* came into being” and in the right box write “All things that *came* into being”
- What belongs in the left-hand box? By-the-way, I’m having you do this not just for your own benefit, but so that you can do this with a JW
 - If you said “God” then you got the right answer. Right it in the left-hand box
- What belongs in the right-hand box? “All Created Things” Since all created things by definition came into being, they must go in this box
- According to the Bible, everything in the right-hand box was created through Jesus. So write “created through Jesus” outside the box with an arrow pointing to the right box

² This exercise comes from The Gospel Coalition. It can be found at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/how-to-use-the-back-of-a-napkin-to-prove-to-a-jehovahs-witness-that-jesus-is-god/>

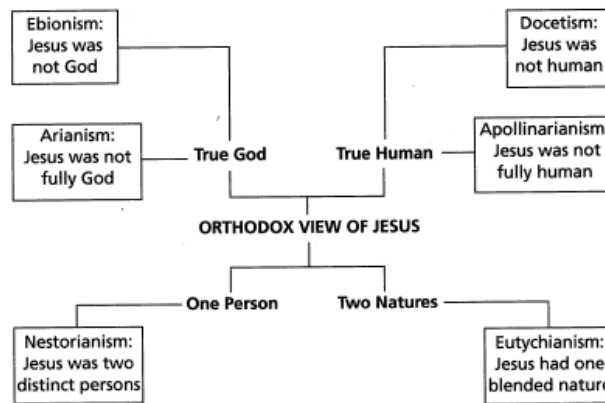


All these things were created through Jesus (John 1:3)

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- The larger box contains everything that exists falling into two categories. There is no middle option. Either something was created or it always existed.
- Now, if you have a coin or something take it out. This will represent Jesus. I want you to place Jesus in the category you believe he belongs in. If you don’t have an object, just write his name on one side or the other.
- Now, I expect that most if you, if not all (hopefully all!) will place Jesus in the left-hand box. You are correct to do so. However, a JW will place Jesus in the right-hand box.
- If your JW friend does this, then ask them to read John 1:3 aloud again (even from NWT)
 - “All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.” John 1:3 (NWT)
 - ALL THINGS came into existence *through* him! If Jesus caused all created things to come into existence, then he must have existed before all created things came into existence. Make sense??
 - If Jesus created everything all created things, as they claim, then Jesus created himself. Do you see the absurdity of their claim? Therefore, Jesus must be placed in the left-hand box and was not a created being. Therefore, Jesus is God.
 - A few of you might already see the rebuttal that your JW friend will bring up. I neglected the part where it says “apart from him”
 - If I said, “Apart from myself, my family went to the beach” you wouldn’t include me as having gone to the beach with my family. Therefore, everything except Jesus was created by Jesus.
 - This is making the claim that the phrase “apart from him” can be replaced with “excluding Jesus.” You absolutely could do that with the example I gave about my family going to the beach but let’s insert it into the verse and see what happens.

- “...excluding Jesus, not even one thing came into existence.”
John 1:3b (NWT)
- If you’re like me, you’re probably having to work your brain a little bit to understand this. It basically means that Jesus is the only created thing that exists.
- Obviously, this indicates that the phrase “apart from him” does not mean “excluding Jesus”
- What it actually means is “apart from his agency.” Let’s go back to my family’s beach vacation. It’d be like me saying, “Apart from me, my family can’t get to the beach.” My stranglehold over the family car limits their ability to go somewhere. Likewise, nothing can exist without Jesus’ having created it himself.
- This is also irrefutable proof that Jesus is not merely “a god” but rather IS God.
- Let’s keep going on refuting their beliefs about Jesus
 - We’ve already seen Biblically that Jesus is definitively God Almighty. But is he also Michael the Archangel? Let’s take a look again at the verses they use to proof this.
 - “But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgement, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you.’” Jude 9 (ESV)
 - They want to say that Michael is the “chief of the angels” by translation of the word into English
 - That’s true, this isn’t a title. It is a description of the type of being he is. He is part of a group of archangels. Don’t ask me what they are exactly because I don’t know. But we know for sure that there is more than one.
 - “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia” Daniel 10:13 (ESV).
 - Michael is “one of the chief princes.” Notice that there are more than one type of “chief” angels and Michael is one of them.
 - By the way, you can use the NWT Bible to show this to them. It’s right there in their own version as well.
 - Also, if Jesus is Michael, who is the “chief of the angels” why does he need to invoke God’s name to rebuke Satan? What is Satan? A type of angel. And not just another angel, but a being created by Jesus himself. If Michael is his chief, we can’t he rebuke him himself? Is Jesus not greater than the being that he created? This is all just nonsense.
 - “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, and with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the Trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1 Thes 4:16

- They want to say that Jesus has the voice of an archangel because he is an archangel
- Read the rest of the verse, his voice is also like a Trumpet.
- If Jesus is an archangel, he is also a trumpet
- The Bible CLEARLY teaches that Jesus is not an Angel
 - Hebrews 1:3a
 - “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature”
 - Jesus is one in essence with God the Father!
 - Hebrews 1:5
 - “For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you?’ or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son?’”
 - Jesus is specifically said to not be an angel
 - Verse 7a, “Of the angels he says...”
 - Verse 8a, “But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever”
 - God says one thing about angels but says something else about the Son, whom he himself calls GOD.
 - I highly recommend that you read the full book of Hebrews or even just chapter 1. The book was literally written to refute the idea that Jesus was an angel and to demonstrate that he was God.
- Here is the Orthodox views on Jesus chart again as a reminder. This chart is meant to be simple so that you can easily remember and even write it down on a napkin or something if needed while witnessing to somebody



- Side Note: Don’t ever say that Jesus was Fully human and Fully God. Say “Truly God and Truly Man” This is much more accurate and makes more sense.
- Jesus’ resurrection was physical
 - JWs posit that Jesus died physically but then shed his human body and became an archangel again. Studies in the Scriptures, vol 5, page 454 “the man Jesus is dead, forever dead.” But what does the Bible say?

- “So the Jews said to him, ‘What sign do you show us for doing these things?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking about the *temple of his body*.” John 2:18-21 (ESV – emphasis added)
 - Jesus specifically said that his body would be resurrected three days after he was killed
- The empty tomb is proof of this. There is absolutely no need whatsoever for the tomb to be empty if Jesus was resurrected spiritually.
 - JW’s claim that God dissolved Jesus’ body but there is absolutely no scriptural basis for this at all. They don’t offer any, even an out of context or misunderstood verse for this. Furthermore, what would be the point? There isn’t any.
- “And he said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. *For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*’ And when he had said this, he *showed them his hands and his feet.*” Luke 24:38-40 (ESV – emphasis added)
 - Jesus explicitly made the point that his post-resurrection body was physical and not immaterial spirit. He even offers proofs to them that this is true.
- 1 Corinthians 15 is one long proof of the physical resurrection as well. We’re just going to cover the main points but I highly recommend that you read it entirely on your own
 - “So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.” 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
 - JW’s use this verse to prove that Jesus’ body is spiritual, not physical but they are horribly misunderstanding what Paul is saying here
 - They are equating natural and spiritual to mean physical and nonphysical, respectively
 - What does Paul actually mean when he uses natural and spiritual?
 - Let’s take a look earlier in the letter
 - “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.” 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
 - Paul does not mean physical when he uses the word natural. He means a person who is worldly and sinful. Likewise, Paul does not mean nonphysical when he uses the word spiritual. He means a person who understands the mind of God and seeks the things of God.

- In 15:42-44 Paul is describing our future resurrected bodies that will be completely free of weakness, dishonor, and sin and will instead be powerful, glorious, and righteous.
 - “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.” 1 Corinthians 15:49
 - If you are in Christ, you are promised to have a body that is just like Jesus’ resurrected body. We have already seen that Jesus’ body is physical and now we understand even more what that means! It is a great and wonderful thing that we as believers get to look forward to!
 - This has obvious ramifications for the return of Christ as well.
- The PHYSICAL return of Jesus Christ
 - I want to state this upfront. I put eschatology down in the Blue Tag category. However, there are aspects of it that definitely belong in the Red Tag category. The physical return of Jesus is one. On that note, I want to encourage you to not bother talking eschatology very much with the JW’s even though it is a very important topic with them. I suggest you keep it refined down to these categories, all of which are red tag issues, and all of which all Christians believe in. Don’t waste time trying to convince a JW on your views of the millennium or the rapture or who the Antichrist will be/was. The point is not to make them a premillennialist. The point is to make them a Christian. If you want to talk eschatology with them, do it AFTER they have come to Christ!
 - The PHYSICAL return of Christ
 - The PHYSICAL resurrection of the dead (already covered)
 - There is only one People of God, not two (with different eternal destinies)
 - “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, and with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the Trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1 Thes 4:16 (ESV)
 - Ironically, the JW’s use a verse to demonstrate that Jesus is an archangel while completely missing the actual point of the verse itself. Jesus will physically descend from heaven to the earth
 - “so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)
 - Jesus will physically appear a second time
 - “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.” Matthew 24:23-28 (ESV)

- The JW’s claim that Jesus speaks through eight men in a room in New York City. Jesus, quite specifically, said not to believe somebody who said that he was to be found in an “inner room.”
- The return of Christ will be obvious to everybody just like how lightning is visible to everybody or how vultures are visible to everybody as they circle dead things.
- People of God and their eternal destinies
 - JW’s divide God’s people into two classes:
 - The anointed class (144,000 people who get to rule with Jesus in heaven)
 - The other sheep (people who get to live on paradise earth after Armageddon)
 - There is a third group that are annihilated but aren’t part of God’s people
 - What the Bible says:
 - “And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel” Revelation 7:4
 - JW’s take this to be a literal number of people but then take the 12 tribes of Israel to be figurative. This is switching the interpretive method halfway through a single sentence, much less between two verses!
 - I take this verse to be a literal 144,000 Jews who will be saved during the Tribulation. However, there are other views on this that fall within orthodoxy. Amillennialism, for example, takes both the number and the tribes to be figurative. I take them both literally. Be consistent. Don’t switch methods halfway through.
 - JW’s teach that only those of the 144,000 are born again
 - “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.” 1 John 5:1
 - The Apostle John disagrees
 - All who believe in Christ, not just a select group, will go to heaven
 - “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” Philippians 3:20
 - See also: Col 3:1-4, Hebrews 3:1, 12:22, 2 Peter 1:10-11
 - All who believe in Christ are heirs of the eternal kingdom
 - “Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?” James 2:5
 - See also: Gal 3:29, 4:28-31, Titus 3:7
 - The righteousness of God is given to all who believe without distinction
 - “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction.” Romans 3:22
 - Jesus said there is only ONE flock

- “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” John 10:16
- On that note... let’s dig into our last topic for the evening. Does the Watchtower Organization speak for God?
 - As a reminder:
 - JW’s hold that the Watchtower Society is God’s voice on earth as his visible representative
 - JW’s are expected to obey the Watchtower
 - JW’s are told they must depend on Watchtower literature to aid them in studying the Bible
 - Reading the Bible alone will lead you astray
 - Failure to obey means you will be disfellowshipped
 - “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.” Matthew 24:45-47 (ESV)
 - The Watchtower organization uses this verse to justify their authority
 - They are reading meaning into the text, not taking meaning out of the text
 - The wise servant is any believer who is faithful and the unwise servant is any “believer” who is unfaithful
 - Jesus is encouraging every Christian to be faithful to him and warning against being unfaithful to him
 - If only the Watchtower organization is the faithful servant, then did God not care whether people understood the Bible from the apostles until their founding in the late nineteenth century? Feel free to ask your JW friend this question.
 - “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - The Watchtower organization uses this verse to say that individuals can’t interpret Scripture. Only they can, as God’s faithful servant.
 - Once again, they are misrepresenting these verses. These verses do not have anything to do with individuals interpreting Scripture.
 - Peter is saying that the words of Scripture were not words from those individual men who wrote them but rather were from God
 - Interpretation is actually a bad translation of the Greek word, *epiluseos*, which means “unloose”
 - No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own “unloosing” – meaning that the words of Scripture are not tied to the men who wrote them. They are independent of him. This is just very difficult to put into English because we don’t have a word for it.
 - It is a matter of origin, not interpretation

- “So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.” Acts 8:30-31
 - Undoubtedly, this passage does indeed indicate that teachers are sometimes necessary to help you understand Scripture
 - This does not, however, mean that one group of people have infallible views that must be adopted by all of God’s followers
 - God gives the church teachers (Eph 4:11) and also sends the Holy Spirit to help us understand Scripture (John 16:12-15).
 - Ironically, these verses show one man teaching another man directly from the Bible without the aid of any organization which is contrary to what they say it means
 - Furthermore, we are to test truth claims by Scripture, not an external organization (Acts 17:11, 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- The organization cannot be the one group speaking for God on earth because they’ve made quite a few false prophesies
 - They predicted that in 1925 Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would rise from the dead and live in San Diego
 - They predicted in 1975 that human history would end and the 1,000 year reign of Christ would begin
- Hell
 - I don’t think we have enough time to cover Hell in today’s lesson. While they believe differently about it, we’ll cover what the Bible says about Hell when we cover The Mormons in the next two weeks.
 - For now, know that it is real and it is terrible and it is where people go who do not accept God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.