

*Sermon*  SNAPSHOTS



# THE BOTTOM LINE

**Part 5: Adventism, Premillennialism,  
& The Jehovah's Witnesses**

This is the last in a series of five lessons on “denominationalism.” Our opposition to denominationalism it is no secret, yet many don’t understand “*why*.” This series gives some reasons for our opposition. Our previous was on “Mormonism & Pentecostalism.” But this one: “Adventism & the Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

## ADVENTISM AND PREMILLENNIALISM

The most obvious example of an Adventist sect is the Seventh-Day Adventists. But there’s also Jehovah’s Witnesses, Worldwide Church of God, and many other premillennial groups. The focus, and therefore the “bottom line” of Adventism, is “a premillennial perspective” of the second coming (*i.e.*, *advent*) of Christ.

### Premillennialism Defined

- Basically, it says that “the kingdom of God” has **NOT YET** been set up (Dn.2:44)
- It also sees the kingdom as a **literal, earthly kingdom**, ruled by Jesus, **from Jerusalem**
- There are also various other “details,” depending upon who’s teaching this doctrine
- E.g., the church age; rapture; Great Tribulation; the kingdom age; then, the end of time

### Premillennialism Refuted

- *Daniel clearly says that God’s kingdom would come during the Roman empire* (Dn.2:36-45)
- And Jesus said that it would come in the days of those who heard Him (Mt.4:17; Mk.9:1)
- Paul said that the Colossian brethren, *and all the redeemed*, were in it (Col.1:13-14)
- And the apostle John said that he, and the seven churches of Asia, were in it (Rv.1:9-11)



### Therefore, Christ is NOT coming to set up a kingdom!

- This is clearly seen in one passage of Scripture (1Cor.15:22-26)
- First of all, when Christ comes, it will be “**the end**” (vv.23-24)
- Second, when He comes, He’ll **deliver** the kingdom *to God* (v.24)
- *This one verse refutes the main claim of Premillennialism/Adventism!*

### Here is what really happens at Christ’s coming:

*First*, that ALL of the dead will be raised (Jn.5:28-29)

*Second*, that Christ will judge all men (Jn.12:48)

*Third*, that this creation will be destroyed (2Pt.3:1-13)

*Fourth*, that “the time” is UNKNOWN (1Th.5:1-3)

Beware of anyone, or any group, who tries to teach a future kingdom on earth; and beware of “*date-setters*,” who attempt to speculate about when Christ will come. Such are false teachers! (Rm.16:17-18)

# THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

The Bible says: Jesus Christ is God (Jn.1:1; 20:28; Ac.20:28; Col.2:9-10; Hb.1:8)! But Jehovah's Witnesses deny this fundamental truth. In this final lesson, we will examine some of their arguments against this...

## There is no definite article (“the”) in the Greek of Jn.1:1

- Thus, they say “the word was *a god*” (New Word Translation of the J.W.)
- This puts them in the position of being polytheists! (many, multi-level gods)
- But the article is also *not* used of *the Father* in Jn.1:6, 12, 13, 18; 3:2, 21; 9:16, 33
- And, the article *is* used of *Christ* in 20:28 (literally, “the Lord of me & *the God of me*”)

## Jesus is called “the *Beginning* of the creation of God” (Rev.3:14)

- The Greek, “*arche*,” = “beginning, *origin*” (New Englishman’s Greek Concordance & Lexicon)
- This means that He is the *originator* of creation;
- He is “the Creator” (Jn.1:3; Col.1:16)

## Jesus is called “the *firstborn* over all creation” (Col.1:15)

- “Firstborn” does *not* mean “the first one born”! (If so, who was Christ’s *mother*?)
- Rather, it is a statement of his “*preeminence*” (Col.1:16-18; “first-lady”)
- The nation of Israel was also God’s “firstborn” (Ex.4:22); but *not* the first nation born!
- Jesus is the “firstborn from the dead” (Col.1:18) – But *not* the first to rise! (Lazarus)



## Jesus did not consider a “*seizure*” (robbery, KJV) of equality with God (Ph.2:6)

- The context is *humility*, and Christ is set forth as the perfect example of thereof (v.3-5)
- Christ has *equality* and the “*form*” of God – but He willingly *emptied Himself!* (v.6-8)
- In other words, He did not exploit His Deity, but to denied Himself to help others!
- Their perversion destroys Paul’s whole argument: *willing humility among equals* (v.3)!

## Jesus is the “*Son*” of “the Father (God)”

- This is a *Hebraist* expression (“Son of the Devil,” Ac.13:10) – It refers to *character*, not parentage
- Likewise, “the Son of God” denotes His “Divine character” (Jn.5:17-18; 10:30-36; 14:9; Hb.1:3)



## Jesus is the “*only begotten*” Son of the Father (Jn.1:18; 3:16)

- This word actually means “*unique, special*” (note the usage of this word in Hb.11:17)
- Was Isaac the *only begotten* son of Abraham, or the *unique son*? (Hint: who was Ishmael?)

Hopefully, we can see that the Jehovah’s Witness doctrine of Christ is false to the core! Let us accept the truth; for if we do not believe in the Deity of Christ, we simply cannot be saved (Jn.8:24)!

–Lanny Smith

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## Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am  
Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm

## Elders

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