

Rise Up And Build

"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18

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Jehovah Witnesses And Their Blasphemy of Jesus

The "Jehovah Witnesses" movement is one of the fastest growing religions in the world. You will please note that "Jehovah Witnesses" (hereinafter designated **JW's**) is surrounded by quotation marks. This is the name they adopted for themselves during a convention held in Columbus, Ohio in 1931. After choosing this name, they conveniently selected a couple of Scriptures (taken out of context), and "proved" by these Scriptures that they are "*called by the name* which the mouth of the Lord has named." These Scriptures are Isaiah 43:10 and Isaiah 44:8. In both of these references "*the Lord*" told the **Jews** (who were contemporary with Isaiah) that "*you are my witnesses.*" Hence, inasmuch as "*the Lord*" refers to "Jehovah," and inasmuch as these verses use the word "*witnesses,*" then Presto! "Jehovah Witnesses" is the name which God wants His followers today to wear. One wonders why no one discovered this amazing truth (?) before 1931. In fact, one wonders why it took even the JW's over 50 years after their movement began to discover the name they should wear. Actually, JW's are not witnesses of Jehovah; instead they are witnesses of the **Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society**, whose materials they slavishly distribute, and whose teachings they gullibly accept.

Incidentally, the people to whom the Lord said "*you are My witnesses*" (Isa. 43:10; 44:8) were the people whom He also called "*Jacob*" (Isa. 43:1) or "*Israel*" (Isa. 44:1). These were a people whom God would "*send to Babylon*" (Isa.43:14) because of their iniquities. Contextually, they could serve as "*witnesses*" of what God had done **for** them in the past, and of what He would do **to** them in the future. But to say "*you are*" something is not the same as saying "this is the **name** which you will wear." For example, I (Bobby Witherington) could say to a person, "you are my mechanic." Would that statement authorize that person to thereafter wear the **name** "Bobby's Mechanic?" But their misuse of Isaiah 43:10 and Isaiah 44:8, which, in context, refers to **Jews** who lived under the law of Moses, and applying these verses to a group consisting predominantly of **Gentiles** over 1900 years after Moses' Law ended, is simply an illustration of the way JW's commonly pervert the Scriptures.

Yes there is much that could be said about the religious name they gave themselves. But this article primarily has to do with “**Jehovah Witnesses and Their Blasphemy of Jesus.**”

JW’s try to convince multitudes that they honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Even as they try to convince the world that they are the true witnesses of Jehovah. But don’t be misled by their rhetoric! Please note what they say about the **Person** of Christ: “*He was the first of God’s creation.*” “*...He is ranked with God’s creation, being first among them and also most beloved and most favored among them*” (**Let God Be True**, pages 32,33).

Note also what their founder (Charles Taze Russell) had to say about the resurrection of Christ: “*Our Lord’s human body was, however, supernaturally removed from the tomb...*” “*We know nothing about what became of it..*” “*Whether it was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere as the grand memorial of God’s love,... no one knows..*” “*If his body after his resurrection were flesh and bones, and the same body that was crucified..., why did he perform miracles which not only did not establish that fact, but which were very likely, we see, to teach the opposite?*” (**Studies in the Scriptures**, Vol. 2., pp. 129,130).

The two preceding paragraphs reveal that JW’s do not believe that Jesus Christ is Deity, Co-Equal and Co-Eternal with God the Father. According to JW’s, like you and me, Jesus Christ is a part of “*God’s creation.*” Moreover, the body in which Jesus appeared after the resurrection (according to JW’s) is **not** “*the same body that was crucified.*” In plain language JW’s deny what Jehovah’s word reveals about the Person of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Yet they have the gall to call themselves “*Jehovah Witnesses!*” And in order to give substance to these errors they published their own translation of the Bible, called “**The New World Translation.**” This translation (“*mutilation*” is a more correct word!) shows every evidence of having been “*doctored*” in order to make it appear that the Bible actually teaches the doctrines which are peculiar to JW’s

But what about Jesus? Is He really a “*created being?*” Is he really Michael (as JW’s teach?) Or is he God — not God the Father, but God the Son? Jesus is called “*God*” in such Scriptures as John 1:1; John 20:28; Heb. 1:8, etc. According to such Scriptures as John 1:1; Heb. 1:3; Matt. 28:20; Col. 2:3 and I Pet. 1:19 Jesus possesses the qualities of eternity, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, and sinlessness. On different occasions He accepted the worship of others (Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 14:33, etc.), worship which angels refused to accept (Rev.22:8,9).

The point is this: the Jesus Who came to this earth was called “**God.**” He accepted the worship which is reserved for Deity, and performed the works which can only be performed by Deity. In fact, His very name (“*Emmanuel*”) means “**God with us**” (Matt. 1:23). Inasmuch as Heb. 1:5-14 describes the superiority of Christ over the angels, then we know that Jesus is not Michael, the Archangel (as JW’s allege). To certain Pharisees, who denied His Deity and Divinity, Jesus said “*If you do not believe that I am*

He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). Tragically, this verse reveals the ultimate fate of JW’s who refuse to give up their anti-Christ doctrine!

And what about the resurrection of Jesus? Is it really true that the body in which He appeared after the resurrection was a different body than that which was crucified? No! This is simply another example wherein JW’s deny the obvious in order to affirm the speculative. After the resurrection Jesus appeared unto the disciples and said, “*Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as ye see me have*” (Luke 24:39). Thomas was permitted to see the print of the nails, and put his fingers in the print of the nails, after which he exclaimed, saying “*My Lord and my **God***” (John 20:28)! After the resurrection Jesus even ate breakfast with His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-14, something He would not have done if His post-resurrection body had not been a real flesh and blood body. By His resurrection Jesus was “*declared to be the **Son of God** with power...*” (Rom. 1:4).

The doctrine of the JW’s regarding Jesus Christ is tantamount to blasphemy. The tragedy of it is that most JW’s who come to your door actually think they are true witnesses of Jehovah. Such reveals the extent of their delusion. They need our prayers. They need our help (though most of them neither want nor recognize their need). But some of them are teachable. We do not know who are (and who are not) teachable until we try. If we slam the door in their face, they, in keeping with their training, will leave believing that they are being “*persecuted for righteousness’ sake*” (Matt. 5:10), and thus feel even more confident that their religion is true. If you feel unprepared (or too busy) when they knock on your door, then courteously schedule a study appointment for another time. Don’t hesitate to ask for help if you need it. They need help — that’s one reason why they usually go in pairs. Surely we ought to be as dedicated to teaching **the truth** to them as they are to teaching **error** to us!

*** —B. Witherington