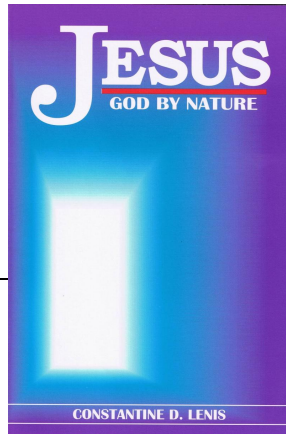


JESUS

GOD BY NATURE



CONSTANTINE D. LENIS



ABOUT THE COVER

The cover design tells the story of my life. The dark blue perimeter reflects the dark period of my life when I did not know the True Jesus of the Bible. The lighter blue shows the beginning and the progression of my understanding of His nature. The bright, white light coming through the doorway, pictures Jesus, who came in to light up my life as my God (John 20:28).

All Rights Reserved

Worldwide Copyright ©
By Constantine D. Lenis

ISBN #0-8059-3954-7

For Your Glory, Lord Jesus

Gus Lenis

“Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.”

Apostle Paul
Galatians 4:8 (NIV)

Table of Contents

Prologue	8
1. God by Nature	12
2. The Creator	52
3. Eternal	55
4. Omnipresent	62
5. Omniscient	65
6. Omnipotent	69
7. The Lord of Hosts	74
8. Unchangeable	78
9. Light	80
10. Life	82
11. The First and the Last	85
12. Savior	87

13. Lord of lords	89
14. Shepherd	91
15. Judge	93
16. Forgiver of sin	94
17. The One who receives and answers prayer	95
18. The King of kings	97
19. Stumbling Stone	99
20. Healer	100
21. To whom does the glory belong?	102
22. The One who receives worship	106
Epilogue	114
Jesus is not Michael the Archangel	119
Jesus Invites You	133
Appendix A (Why must one believe that Jesus is God?) ...	139
Appendix B (John 1:1 -- “God” or “a god”?)	161
Bibliography	168

Prologue

Dear Reader,

For many years I tried to find the truth and the meaning of this life. There were many things I thought were true which, after careful investigation, were proven useless and untrue. Although I met people in various groups who seemed to be totally satisfied, I, in my quest to find continuous joy and satisfaction, was unsuccessful. My inner self was empty because, for many years, I did not know Him who fills all things (Ephesians 4:10).

My joy started to increase from the time He was revealed to me. Since then, I have learned that nothing is more precious in life than ***“the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord.”*** (Philippians 3:8).

The apostle Peter encourages us to ***“... grow ... in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*** (2 Peter 3:18).

The Lord Jesus himself said that knowing God and Christ is eternal life (John 17:3). He also said, ***“... no one knows the Son except the Father, nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and he to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”*** (Matthew 11:27). Again, He said, ***“No one is able to come to Me unless the Father draws him;”*** and ***“... everyone who hears and learns from the Father comes to Me;”*** (John 6:44,45).

From the above words we clearly see that for someone to fully understand Jesus is not an easy thing. We see that only the Father knows the Son; that only the Son knows the Father; that the Son reveals the Father to whom He wills; that the Father draws the persons to the Son, and whoever hears and learns from the Father comes to the Son, while in another place He says, “... *No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” (John 14:6). **What a mystery!**

Then we hear Jesus saying, “*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you do know Him, and have seen Him.*” (John 14:7).

When Jesus said this, Philip, one of His disciples, said to Him, “*Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.*” Jesus said to him, “*Am I so long a time with you and you have not known me, Philip? The one seeing Me has seen the Father! And how do you say show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?*” (John 14: 8-11).

From the above, we realize that all those who saw Jesus when He was on earth, saw the “God by nature”, who had lowered Himself by becoming flesh and revealed to us His glory in the face of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Corinthians 4:6).

How is it possible for the limited and imperfect human mind to fully understand the vastness and the unlimited nature of God and of Christ? How is it possible for the Son to “*dwell*”, to be “*in the Father*” and for the Father to “*dwell*”, to be “*in the Son*” as Jesus said?

What is the nature of Jesus? In order for Him to “ *dwell* ” or to be “ *in the Father* ”, then certainly His nature must be identical to God’s.

If the substance (essence) of the Son were any lower than the substance of the Father, it would not have endured the coexistence. He, “ *the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father* ”, should be of the same substance (essence) as the Father; otherwise, if the essence of the Son were different and lower than the essence of the Father, the essence of the Father would have destroyed Him. The same is true even with our own human nature; if a foreign organism invades our body, our body will attack and try to destroy it.

If you, beloved reader, have reached the point in your life where you are searching the Scriptures trying to understand our Lord Jesus, you are doing well. I did the same. Your personal search of the Scriptures and the revelation by the Holy Spirit will help you to come to know Him. To those who were searching the Scriptures during His time on earth, Jesus said, “ *... they (the Scriptures) are the ones witnessing about Me.* ” (John 5:39)

The knowledge of the mystery of God and of Christ, I feel, is the most excellent thing in the life of a Christian. The apostle Paul encouraged all his Christian brothers to come to this vital knowledge when he wrote, “ *that their hearts may be comforted, being joined together in love, and to all riches of the full assurance of the understanding, to the full knowledge of the mystery of God, even of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of* ”

wisdom and of knowledge.” (Colossians 2:2,3; Westcott – Hort Greek New Testament reads, “*of the mystery of the God Christ*”)!

With great joy, I present to you my personal search of the Scriptures about the “Nature of Christ”, which began with a revelation by the Holy Spirit to me and which was enriched by the input of many men of God. I hope that some of the points I raise here, will help you to “*grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*” (2 Peter 3:18).

Chapter 1

God by Nature

Galatians 4:8: ***“But then, indeed not knowing God, you served as slaves to the ones not by nature being gods.”***
(From the Greek text)

Men are religious beings. From ancient times to this day, they have made and are still making countless “gods” for themselves. These “gods”, whether, they are objects or beings who imposed themselves as “gods”, whether visible or invisible, like the Olympian gods of the ancient Greeks, the gods of the ancient Egyptians, Mayas, Incas, and others, are not gods by nature, because there is only One who is the true God by nature --- the Creator of all, the fountain of life!

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 8 and verses 5 and 6, the apostle Paul wrote the following:

“For even if some are called gods, either in Heaven or on the earth; even as there are many gods, and lords; but to us is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ through whom are all things and we by Him “.

One of these so-called “gods” is Satan, “the god of this

age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). His nature is not divine but angelic; he was a cherub. When God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel about the King of Tyre, most likely He spoke to the real ruler of Tyre, Satan, to whom all the kingdoms of the earth belong (Matthew 4:8,9; Luke 4:6). In Ezekiel chapter 28, verses 11-19, God said to the King of Tyre,

“... You have been in Eden, the garden of God; ... You were the anointed cherub that covers, and I had put you ... where you were ... You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, until iniquity was found in you ... so I cast you profaned from the height (mountain) of God and I destroyed you, O covering cherub”

From the above words (verse 15), we see that this cherub was **created**. Therefore, as a creature, he is a part of the creation of God. Thus, his nature is not divine. He is not the true God --- **He is not God by nature.**

Only one is the True God by nature --- the eternal God, who has neither beginning nor end of days. Satan, on the contrary, had a beginning of days --- the day he was created by God.

Is the Lord Jesus Christ truly God? Is the Son, God by nature? Or is He one of the many so-called gods? Is He a part of God’s creation? Is He perhaps a created being? What was His nature from the beginning? What does the Bible say about Him?

In the first chapter of the gospel of John, verse one, we read the following about Him as the **“Word”** of God:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Here, we clearly see that the **“Word”** was God. In Greek, the word for God is **“Θεός”** (Theos). This word appears twice in the above verse. Certain translators of the Bible correctly translated the first appearance of the word as “God”; but incorrectly translated the second appearance as “Divine” and they have presented this verse as follows:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was DIVINE.”

The Greek word for “divine” is **“Θεῖος”** (Theios). This word refers to “a person who comes from God or comes out of God or is sent by God or is protected by God”. (Check Λεξικόν Δημητράκου “1970”, page 677, under the word “Θεῖος”)

John **DID NOT USE** the word **“Θεῖος”** to describe the “Word”, but the word **“Θεός”**. He wrote, ***“the Word was God”!***

Others, like the Jehovah’s Witnesses, have added the article **“a”** before the second word God, in their own translation of the Bible, and they present it like this:

“In [the] beginning the Word was and the Word was with God and **the Word was a god.**” (Emphasis mine)

With the expression **“a god”**, they mean that the Word was “another” --- a lesser god than God. Their explanation is

that in the Greek text the article “**o**” (the) is absent before the second word “god”; therefore, they say, since the Greek text does not read “... and the Word was ‘the’ God”, that makes the Word to be “a god” --- another god, inferior to the Father.* However, if John had written that the Word was “the God”, then not only would it have been illogical, because he would have meant that “the God” was from the beginning with “the God”, “with or near Himself”, but it would also have been unscriptural to say that the Word was God the Father, since the Word is God the Son! John shows us here **what the essence of the Word was**. He wrote, **“and the Word was God”**; and **that means what it says!** It means that from the beginning, **the “Word” did not have the essence or the form of angels, but truly the essence of God.**

In the first chapter of John, verse 18, we read:

“No one has seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He reveals Him.”

* In John 4:24, the Greek text reads, **“God is Spirit”**. Here we notice that the article “the” **is not** found before the word **“Spirit”**. It does not read, **“God is the Spirit”**. The same has been translated into English as, **“God is a Spirit”**. The article **“a”** here, does not denote that God is one of the many “lesser” created spirits with small “s”! It simply shows that **God is spirit --- not flesh**. To make a big issue about the article **“a”** is very unfair of the Jehovah’s Witnesses especially as they are not consistent. In John 1:1, the Greek text reads, **“In beginning was the Word”**. The article “the” **is not** found before the word **“beginning”**. Yet, in their Bible, (NWT), they have inserted in brackets the article [the] --- **not** the article **“a”**! For a proper understanding of the expression **“a god”** read Appendix B, page 161.

Therefore, since Jesus is the **only-begotten** Son (or the only **born** Son), and since **He came out of the Father**, He is at once God in essence, because **only God can come out of God, as a human can come out of a human, and as only light can come out of light!** (About the “light”, compare 1 John 1:5; John 1:9; 3:19). Therefore, the only begotten Son of God is Light out of Light and True God out of True God!

The apostle Paul wrote the following about the pre-human Jesus:

“... who subsisting in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, having become in the likeness of men and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself ...” (Philippians 2:5-8).

From the above, we see that the form and essence of the pre-human Jesus was not that of the created angels, but that of the uncreated God! **None of the created angels could possibly have the form of the uncreated God!** This is the reason Jesus did not think that it would constitute robbery to be equal with God. And when He emptied Himself, to take **another form**, He **did not** take the form of angels, but He skipped it and took an even lower form than theirs and became a man (Hebrews 2:7,9,16,17; John 1:14).

One of the big mistakes made by the Jehovah’s Witnesses is that they use the words which Jesus spoke **as a man**, and they degrade Him by claiming that He is a lesser god in power, age and knowledge than the Father. They say that

only the Father is the True God. Because of this claim, they are forced to present Jesus as one of the many gods, **a god of a third kind**, so to speak, because they do not have a word to describe a god who is **neither true nor false**.

To support their doctrine, they quote words which **the man Jesus** (not the pre-human “Word”) said about Himself, such as:

“... My Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28).

“I ... go to My Father and your Father, and my God, and your God.” (John 20:17).

“But concerning that day and the hour, no one knows, not the angels, those in Heaven, nor the Son, except the Father.” (Mark 13:32).

They also quote the words of the apostle Paul who said about **the Christ**:

“But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:3), and other similar expressions, which prove, as they think, a **“hierarchy”!**

By saying the above, the Jehovah’s Witnesses want to prove that Jesus is not the Father and that the Father is superior to the Son. (Check their publication: “Should You Believe in the Trinity? --- Is Jesus Christ the Almighty God?”).

In their attempt to prove the foregoing, they make a **BIG mistake** by saying that the **“Word”**, the pre-human Jesus, is not One of the True Divinity **YHWH**, fully God and God in essence, and they portray Jesus to be a creature! We Christians do not say that Jesus is the Father. Jesus is the Son. There is a distinction between the Persons, i.e., between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but when it comes to their nature, **they are of the same substance**. They are One God!

I wonder how they can believe in a God who did not have the ability to think and to express His thought from the beginning of His existence until the day He decided to “create a creature” which He named His “Word”! Their theology does not make any sense. God created **ALL** things by His **“Word”**. If the **“Word”** is a created being, how did God create the **“Word”** without having the **“Word”** in Him? Let us examine what the **“Word”** is:

THE WORD

The Greek word for “word” is **“λόγος”** (logos). Logos is the oral expression of a thought. It refers to one’s ability to **reason**, in other words, to be **logical**, and to have **wisdom** (Proverbs 8:22-30; 1 Corinthians 1:24). Also, it refers to one’s ability **to express** his/her thoughts.

The Word of God existed since the very beginning of **the intelligent God’s existence** (John 1:1). **The intelligent God always had the Word in Him** because God was never without thought, without the ability to think and to express His thought. The separation between God and His Word is an absolute impossibility, just as it is impossible

for one to separate a mind from its own thought!

God is the only uncreated Being. When God thought to create the universe, **He spoke it into existence**. For instance, when God thought to create light, He expressed His thought when He said, ***“Let there be light”*** (Genesis 1:3). **And the Almighty Word (Logos) of God created light! Therefore, nothing came into existence without God’s Word** (John 1:1,2). In view of the foregoing, the Word of God, the pre-human Jesus (John 1:14), came out of the uncreated God --- not out of the created universe because there was no created universe until the Word created it. Therefore, to suggest that the Word is part of God’s creation, would be **illogical!**

It is beyond my understanding that there are people who ignore the above reality and proclaim there was a time when God the Father was alone, without the Word, and that at a certain time, God the Father decided to create a being whom He called, ***“the Word”***. Those who preach that the Word of John 1:1 was ***“a god”***, a created being and that He was not always in (inside) God the Father, assist Satan in his attempt to ridicule his Creator and to present Him in the minds of those that he has misled, as an unintelligent being! An unintelligent god who did not have the Word in him would have been unable to decide, to reason, and, even less, to create! **In fact, he would not be God at all!**

Indeed, the Word of God is God (John 1:1; Romans 9:5). From Hebrews 4:12,13, we learn that:

1. The Word of God is a Person who is living and power-

fully working (compare with John 5:17).

2. He is able to judge the thoughts and the intentions of the heart of a person (compare with Revelation 2:18,23; Luke 9:47).

3. Nothing and no one in all creation can hide from His sight (Jeremiah 23:24).

4. It is **to Him** that we must give an account (compare with Romans 14:12).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The so-called Witnesses of Jehovah have made a similar mistake with the Spirit of God. They try to strip Him from His living and life-giving Personality, and they say that “**it is**”, simply, “**the active force**” of God, something like the electricity or the radio waves, which are without personality, will, and logic. **Therefore, they try to separate God from His living Word and Spirit** (Psalms 33:6; Hebrews 4:12,13).

I wonder how they can believe in a God whose Spirit is an impersonal force, without will and without logic! If their god does not have a living spirit, I wonder how he can be alive! Can a “god” of stone be a living god since it doesn’t have a living spirit in it?

I am astonished that they believe that the Spirit of God does not have a personality, when they read Scriptures such as the following: “*And while they were doing service to the Lord, and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ... separate both*”

Barnabas and Saul to Me, for the work to which I have called them” (Acts 13:2). The words “*to Me*” and “*I have called them*” show that the Holy Spirit has a personality, that He is a Person!

I am astounded that they believe the Holy Spirit does not have a will, when they read 1 Corinthians 12:11. There, it says, “***But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing separately as He wills.***” These words reveal that **the Holy Spirit has a will!**

I am astonished that they believe the Holy Spirit is simply an “active force” **without logic**, when the Bible contains scriptures such as the following:

“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15:28).

“but the Comforter, the Holy Spirit ... He shall teach you all things, and shall remind you of all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26).

“But when that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will guide you into all truth;” (John 16:13).

“He, (the Spirit of truth), will announce the coming things to you. He will glorify Me ...” (John 16:13,14).

“And likewise the Spirit also joins in to help our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself pleads our case for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. But the One searching

the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He intercedes for the saints according to God” (Romans 8:26,27).

“... for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God ... so also no one has known the things of God except the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

From the above Scriptures it is plain, that since Jesus called the Holy Spirit “*He*” (John 14:26 and 16:13,14; Greek “ἐκεῖνος” [ekeinos: masculine gender] = “*he*”) not “*it*” as the Jehovah’s Witnesses do; and as the Holy Spirit can “*teach*”, “*remind*”, “*guide*”, “*announce the coming things*” and “*glorifies*”, “*helps*”, “*pleads our case*”, “*searches all things*” and “*knows the deep things of God*”, the Spirit is a Person who possesses logic! After all, in 2 Corinthians 3:17, the apostle Paul said, “*And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*”

The doctrine which insults the Holy Spirit and presents Him as an energy which is impersonal and without brains, blasphemes against Him (Matthew 12:31; John 16:13,14)!

A “HIERARCHY”?

We can see, therefore, that the Jehovah’s Witnesses have not understood the Godhead at all. They are ignoring that the Word and the Spirit of God are **LIVING AND ACTIVE**, with the full personality of the One and only True God (Hebrews 4:12,13; Romans 8:2,6; 1 Peter 3:18; Job 33:4; Acts 5:3,4).

A man's word is the outer expression of his inner thinking. How foolish it would be to even suggest that the man's word is another being. How can the Word of God, which is the outer expression of God's inner thought, be another being totally unrelated to God, as the Witnesses claim?

The fact that the "**Word**" is not the person of the Godhead who is called the "**Father**", is beyond any doubt, because the "**Word**" is the "**Son**". Certainly, there are differences in the order between the "Father", the "Son" and the "Holy Spirit", observing it from a human viewpoint. For example:

- a) The Son did not send the Father to the earth.
- b) The Father did not come out of the Son.
- c) The Father does not come out of the Holy Spirit.
- d) Only the Son became flesh.
- e) The Holy Spirit did not die on the cross.

God, the Lord of hosts, created everything **by His Word and by His Spirit**. The Psalmist agrees with this fact because he wrote:

"Through Jehovah's word the heavens were made; and all their hosts by the breath of His mouth." (Psalm 33:6; please compare with Job 33:4 and John 1:1-3).

When the "**Word**" of God became flesh (John 1:14), He lived **as a man**, whose likeness He took --- **not as God**

(Philippians 2:7,8).

As a man He said: “... *My Father is greater than I.*” (John 14:28).

As a man He said, “*I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.*” (John 20:17).

As a man He did not know the day and the hour of the end (Matthew 24:36).

As a man He entrusted everything into the hands of His Heavenly Father, even His own Spirit at the time of His death on the cross (Luke 23:46).

The “**hierarchy**” which the Witnesses refer to (1 Corinthians 11:3), **does not exist in the Godhead**. The Bible does not say that such a “hierarchy” exists between the persons of the Godhead. For instance, nowhere does the Bible say that the “head” of the Holy Spirit is the “Word” and that the “head” of the “Word” is the Father. The word “hierarchy” does not even exist in the Scriptures!

Jesus, the “**Word**” who became flesh, is the builder of the spiritual temple, in which God dwells through His Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19). **This “temple”, the Church of the living God, has a “head”.**

The “**head**” and the foundation cornerstone of this temple is Jesus (1 Peter 2:5,6). **The “head” of this “temple” is not the “Word” in His divine nature, but the man Jesus Christ.**

As a man, He has God as His head.

As a man, He was subjected to all the things in which men of God ought to be subjected.

As a man, He learned obedience (Hebrews 5:8).

As a man, He became the mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).

God the Father, exalted **the man Jesus**, and He (the Father), subjects all things to Him. When all things are subjected to Jesus, and when all things are made perfect, then even the Son will be subject to the Father, so that God may be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

At that time, the position of the *“Christ”*, the *“mediator”*, will not be required anymore. The *“Word”* will have perfected the *“new creation”* which He began as *“the man Jesus”*.

His role as *“the man Jesus”* will be finished. At that time, we will not be seeing God and Christ as two different *“heads”*, two different *“authorities”*, but as One, because *“the throne (not thrones) of God and of the Lamb”* will be there, and the light of the Lord God, of the divinity YHWH, will be shed on us (Revelation 22:1-5).

The same will also happen to the human *“hierarchy”*. When the living Christian husband and wife meet the Lord in the air, the husband will no longer be the *“head”* of his wife. That hierarchy will be finished. Thus, we see that **the pre-**

sent condition of the “headship” is not eternal.

THE SCRIPTURES CALL JESUS GOD

When we study the Scriptures about Christ, we do not find anywhere, not one Scripture, which says that He, in His pre-human life, was an angel as the Jehovah’s Witnesses proclaim! On the contrary, the Scriptures state that He is God! Let us examine a few verses:

1. The prophecy in Isaiah 9:6 calls Him “*mighty God*” and “*everlasting Father*”. There it says:

“For a child is born; to us a Son is given; and His name is called ... ‘mighty God’, the everlasting Father ...”

Here, Jesus is called “*mighty God*” just as YHWH is called “*mighty God*” in Deuteronomy 10:17. There, we read,

“For Jehovah your God, He is the God of gods, and the Lord of lords; the great, the mighty, the fearful God”

(Also, please read Nehemiah 9:32; Isaiah 10:21; 30:29; 49:26; Joshua 22:22; Job 36:5; Jeremiah 32:18).

2. His name “*Emmanuel*”, from the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, means: “*God with us*”! Not “*a god*” as Jehovah’s Witnesses are saying, but as it was written by Matthew in the original Greek text with the article “o” (the) in front of the word God, “*μεθ’ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός*” — “*The God with us*” (Matthew 1:23).

3. In Romans 9:5, we read from the Greek text that Jesus is:

“ὁ ὢν ἐπὶ πάντων Θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας”

which, according to the Greek syntax, it literally says that Jesus is “**the ever-existing God who is above all and blessed forever**”.

4. Thomas, the disciple of the Lord, said to Jesus that He was his “**Lord and God**” (John 20:28). Thomas knew very well the commandment that stated: “**You shall not have any other gods beside Me.**” (Exodus 20:3). Yet, he called Jesus **his God**. Not “**a god**” as Jehovah’s Witnesses claim, but as John wrote in the original Greek text with the article “**o**” (*the*) in front of the word “God”:

“ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου”
The Lord of mine and the God of mine”

Thomas **did not** say to Jesus that He was “**a god**”, or some angel in the flesh, but “**the God of mine**”! Jesus **did not** correct Thomas when he called Him “**the God of me**”, because Thomas made a true statement. **Neither did John**, who wrote about this incident, try to correct the words of Thomas, because John had recognized and believed that Jesus was the true God. Let us read John’s personal testimony:

“And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given to us understanding that we might know the true One, and we are in the true One, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God, and the life everlasting” (1 John 5:20; 1:1-4; John 14:6).

If we are in a created angel, we cannot be in the true

God!

5. The apostle Peter also recognized Jesus as his God. He wrote,

“Simeon Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those equally precious with us, having obtained faith in the righteousness of OUR GOD and Saviour, Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1).

Some people, who belong to certain sects which do not believe that Jesus is God, say that the above verse is referring to two persons:

- a) God, and
- b) the Savior Jesus Christ.

They say that the word “*and*” separates the expression “*of our God*” from the expression “*Savior Jesus Christ*”. But, the strange thing is that the same people admit that the words of 2 Peter 3:18, which state: “*But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*”, refers to one person --- **to the Lord Jesus Christ!** If we place both sentences side by side, word for word, we see that, **according to syntax**, they are both the same:

- a) our God and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1)
- b) our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)

Let everyone judge for himself.

6. The apostle Paul said that we are “*looking for the*

“blessed hope and appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself on our behalf, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify a special people for Himself, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:13,14)

The above words agree with Acts 20:28, where it says that **God purchased His church with His own blood.**

The first century Christians believed that Jesus is God.

One of these Christians was Ignatius, who lived from 30 to 107(?) A.D. Ignatius was Bishop of Antioch. He was a Christian during most of the apostle John’s lifetime. Let us see how Ignatius expressed himself about Jesus in his letter to the **Ephesians**:

- a) In the first paragraph, he referred to Him as **“Jesus Christ our God”**.
- b) In Chapter 18, he also referred to Him as **“our God, Jesus Christ”**
- c) In Chapter 19, he said that **“God appeared in human form to bring newness of eternal life”**.
- d) In Chapter 15, from the Greek text, he referred to Him as **“Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God”**.

In his letter to the **Romans**, Ignatius wrote:

“abundant greetings of unalloyed joy in Jesus Christ our God....”

In his letter to the **Smyrnaeans** he wrote:

“I praise Jesus Christ, the God who has filled you with such wisdom. . . “!

Please consider: The apostle John did not declare Ignatius as a heretic for calling Jesus **“God”**, neither did the churches of Ephesus, Rome or Smyrna!

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, chapter 2 and verse 9, says, that in Jesus ***“dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”!*** **“ALL”** means **“ALL”**; **“fullness”** means **“in full”**. Whatever composes the Godhead YHWH of the Old Testament, **“all”, “in full”, nothing less, dwells in Jesus bodily.**

Also, check 2 Corinthians 5:19 where it says that:

“God was in Christ”; **“in”** means **IN** (inside) not **“in union with”**.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit make up the one true Godhead, which, according to the Old Testament, has the name YHWH. **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the God by nature. Each one of these three Persons is fully God.** The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have (share) **one substance, one essence.** These three have one name; this is the reason the Christians are baptized ***“in the name (NOT NAMES) of the Father and of the Son and***

of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Some of the modern sects, such as the so-called Jehovah’s Witnesses, refuse to call Jesus, **YHWH** (Yahweh). They ignore the testimony that the Holy Scriptures give on this subject. They say that the name **YHWH** (Yahweh) belongs only to the Father.

The first Christians had no problem calling Jesus by the name “YHWH” (Yahweh). Let us examine the testimony of Irenaeus.

Irenaeus lived from 130-200 A.D. He was a disciple of Polycarp; Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle John and lived from 65 - 155/6 A.D. Irenaeus became the Bishop of Lyons. His writings were against heresies and contained lists of all those who were bishops, in direct line from those appointed by the apostles. He said:

“The name of God or Lord is given only to Him who is called God and Lord of all; who said to Moses: ‘My name is I AM. And you shall say to the Israelites, HE WHO IS has sent me to you. The name of God or Lord is given also to His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord ... And the Son says to Moses: I have come down to rescue this people.’ For it is the Son who descended and ascended for the salvation of men. Thus, through the Son who is in the Father, and has the Father in Himself, HE WHO IS has been revealed.”
(Against Heresies, III, vi 2)

THE NAME JESUS

The Person of the True Godhead **YHWH** which is known as the “**Word**”, became flesh and as a man, He was sacrificed for our salvation (John 1:1,14; Matthew 1:21). This is the reason He was called “**Jesus**”, which means “the Savior YHWH” or “YHWH is salvation”.

The name “*Jesus*” is taken from the Greek “*Ἰησοῦς*” (E-e-sous), which comes from the Hebrew name “Yehowshua” (Yeh-ho-shoo-ah) which is composed of two words:

- a) from the name **YHWH** (Yahweh), and
- b) the word “**Shua**” which comes from the root word “**Yasha**” (Yaw - shah), which means “**savior**”, “**save**”, “**salvation**”.

The Godhead - More Than One Persons: The fact that there are more than one-persons within the Godhead **YHWH**, is proven from Genesis 1:26 where God said:

“Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” in the plural form. This plural form is not used here out of “respect” or to indicate “Royalty” or “Majesty” as some say, because in Genesis 3:22, God **YHWH** said, “**Behold! The man has become as ONE OF US”.**

All the Persons of the Godhead relate to the name **YHWH**. Since the Father is **YHWH**, then the only begotten Son who came out of the Father is **YHWH**, and so is the Holy Spirit which proceeds out of the Father (John 15:26; 13:3). Remember, **God is light!** Whatever comes out of light is light.

Thus, **whatever comes out of God is God by nature or God in essence!**

This concept was clearly understood by the first Christians (yet, some modern sects are trying to tell us that the idea of one God, the Father, and of one God, the Son, and of one God, the Holy Spirit, was the result of the great “apostasy” which took place in 325 A.D. in Nicaea).

Let us read a few words from the writings of Athenagoras, who wrote in 177 A.D. (**148 years prior to 325 A.D.**), defending the Christian faith at a time when the Christian Church was undergoing a great persecution. He wrote:

“I have sufficiently shown that we are not atheists since we acknowledge **one God**, who is uncreated, eternal, invisible, impassible, incomprehensible, illimitable. He is grasped only by mind and intelligence, and surrounded by light, beauty, spirit, and indescribable power. By Him the universe was created through His Word, was set in order, and is held together ... But the Son of God is the Logos (the Word) of the Father, in idea and in operation; for after the pattern of Him and by Him were all things made, the Father and the Son being one. And, the Son being in the Father and the Father in the Son, in oneness and power of the Spirit ... Since through the unity and power of the Spirit the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, **the Son of God is the thought (mind) and the Word (Logos) of the Father.** If, however, in your superior intelligence, you should wonder what is meant by the expression ‘Son’ I will give you a brief explanation. He is the First - Begotten to the Father, **but not as if He were created.** **From the beginning, God who is Eternal mind had the Word in**

Himself, because He is never without the Word. Rather, the Son came forth to be formative thought and creative power for all things material ... How can a man know his way about if he hears people decried as atheists who confess **one God, the Father, and one God, the Son, and one Holy Spirit and who prove that these have power in their oneness and yet are different in their order.**” (A Plea Regarding Christians, Chapter 10)

JESUS CLAIMS TITLES AND POSITIONS WHICH BELONG EXCLUSIVELY TO YHWH.

Since it was **YHWH the Son** (while in the flesh), who died on the cross for our salvation, He was called **YHWH THE SAVIOR**, Yeh-ho-shoo-ah or “**JOSHUA**” in Hebrew, “**Ἰησοῦς**” (E-e-sous) in Greek and “**JESUS**” in English. Thus, **the name of Jesus** became our salvation because “*there is salvation in no other One, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

In light of the above, we now understand the reason that the Old Testament says: “*For it shall be, all who shall call on the name of YHWH shall be saved*” (Joel 2:32), while the New Testament says **that whoever shall call on the name of Jesus shall be saved** (Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13). And while **YHWH** of the Old Testament says, “*to Me every knee shall bow*” (Isaiah 45:23), in the New Testament we read that every knee will bow at the Name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10,11).

In Revelation 1:7, we read:

“Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, and the ones who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him.”

Who is the One who will come with the clouds? Who is the One on whose account all the tribes of the earth will wail? Who is the One whom they pierced on the cross? When we read Matthew 24:30, we clearly see that this One is Jesus, the Son of man:

“And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in the heavens. And then, all the tribes of the land will wail. And they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and much glory”.

However, when we read from the prophecy of Zechariah, chapter 12, starting with verse one, we see that the speaker, YHWH, says:

“And they shall look on Me whom they have pierced;”
(Verse 10).

Q. Whom then did they pierce on the cross?

A. Yahweh the Savior (= Jesus)! Even from this verse we see the full and undivided unity of the One God! The Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father (John 14:10).

In the New Testament, they put the value of Jesus at thirty pieces of silver; in the Old Testament they put the value of

YHWH at thirty pieces of silver (Compare Zacharias 11:12, 13 with Matthew 27:3-10).

In Deuteronomy 10:17 we read:

“For YHWH your God, He is ... the Lord of lords.” and yet, in Revelation 17:14 and 19:11-16, we see that the *“Lord of lords”* is Jesus! Is it possible that we have two Lords of lords? --- NO, because only One is the *“Lord of lords”*. Only one can claim this position, so we can say that He is *“the LORD of lords”* in the singular case.

In Isaiah 44:6, YHWH says that He is *“the First and the Last.”* In Revelation 1:17 and 18, Jesus says: *“I am the First and the Last, and the living One; and I became dead; ...”* Is it possible that there are two *firsts* and two *lasts*? --- The answer is *“NO!”*, because **ONLY ONE** can be the First and **ONLY ONE** can be the Last!

In Isaiah 43:11, YHWH says: *“I, I am YHWH; and there is no Savior besides Me”*. And in chapter 45:21 the same YHWH says: *“...there is no God other than Me; a just God and a Savior; there is none except Me.”* However, when we read Titus 2:13,14, we hear the apostle saying that we are *“looking for the blessed hope and appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself on our behalf, that He might redeem us”*.

Surely, we do not have **two Gods** and **two Saviors**. According to the above words of Isaiah, there is no room for two. **The Godhead is One; God is One; the Savior is One!**

How is it possible that Jesus of the New Testament claims, as His own, **ALL** the above **TITLES and POSITIONS**, which **YHWH** of the Old Testament exclusively claims for Himself? **Because all these things belong to the Godhead YHWH!** The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit make up the True Godhead **YHWH**, and as we saw previously, all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus bodily (Colossians 2:9)!

Later, we will examine in greater detail more titles and positions which belong exclusively to **YHWH** of the Old Testament and which Jesus claims as **His own**.

Everything belongs to the Father, and everything belongs to the Son. ***“All things which the Father has are mine,”*** said Jesus (John 16:15) --- **nothing less than the Father!** Why is this so? Because Jesus is One of the Godhead **YHWH**. As Jesus said, ***“I and the Father are one”*** (John 10:30).

THE PRE-HUMAN JESUS IS YHWH

Humans and angels can talk about God but cannot reveal Him --- cannot show Him to others. The Son, who is God in essence, showed Him --- revealed Him (John 1:18).

In John 14:7-10, Jesus said,

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you do know Him, and have seen Him. And Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus said to him, Am I so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? The one seeing Me has seen the Father! And how do you say, Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I

am in the Father and the Father is in Me?"

In John 12:45, Jesus cried out: ***"...the one seeing Me sees the One who sent Me."*** Only He who is equal to the Father and of the Godhead YHWH can make a statement such as this. Jesus revealed God the Father because He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). Whoever saw Jesus saw the Father (John 14:7-10; 12:45). **Whoever saw Jesus, saw the invisible God manifested in the flesh** (Hebrews 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16).

In Genesis 18:1-8 we read: ***"And YHWH appeared to him (to Abraham) by the oaks of Mamre."*** And Abraham bowed to the ground; they talked together; Abraham extended his hospitality towards YHWH and prepared a meal for Him (compare with John 8:56-58). Therefore, YHWH, whom Abraham saw by the oaks of Mamre, was JESUS in one of His pre-human appearances, because the Bible assures us that ***"No one has seen God (the Father) at any time"*** (John 1:18).

In the book of Psalms, chapter 68 and verse 18, we read the following words, which I'm sure have raised many questions:

"You have gone up on high; You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men; yea, to dwell among the rebellious, O Jehovah God."

How is it possible to say that Jehovah went up high? Is He not the One who dwells in the highest? From whom did Jehovah receive the gifts?

The apostle Paul **identifies this Jehovah** who went up high; he said:

“... ‘Having gone up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men but that He went up, what is it except that He also first came down into the lower parts of the earth? He that came down is the same who also went up above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some to be apostles; some prophets,” (Ephesians 4:8-10)

Thus, we see that **Jesus is the Jehovah of Psalm 68:18**. Therefore, the Father is **YHWH** and the Son is **YHWH!**

Men of God must have faith only in God --- not in angels or anything else. But because Jesus is of the Godhead **YHWH** and equal to the Father (John 5:18), He said to his disciples, *“... **believe in God, believe also in Me**”* (John 14:1). If His essence were angelic, He would not have said, *“**believe in Me**”* because He would be in complete contradiction with the laws of God in the Old Testament!

Jesus also said, *“**Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me**”* (John 14:11). Yes, all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily (Colossians 2:9)!

Even His enemies realized that Jesus presented Himself as being equal to God, when He said that He was the Son of God (because they knew that a son is always of the same essence as His Father), and for this reason, they wanted to kill Him for blasphemy (John 5:18)!

In Revelation, chapter 1 and verse 1, we see that **Jesus Christ** sent His angel to John, in order to give him the revelation. In chapter 22 and verse 16, Jesus assures us of this again by saying: ***“I, Jesus, sent my angel to testify these things to you over the churches.”***

In verse 6 of the same chapter, we read: ***“... the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His slaves what must happen quickly.”***

According to the above verses, who sent His angel? The answer is: **Jesus --- the Lord God of the holy prophets!**

What connection did Jesus Christ have with the prophets of the Old Testament? Let us read the words of apostle Peter from 1 Peter 1:10,11. He wrote:

“About which salvation the prophets sought out and searched out, prophesying concerning the grace for you, searching for what, or what sort of time the Spirit of Christ made clear within them; testifying beforehand of the sufferings belonging to Christ, and the glories after these.”

In Isaiah chapter 40 and verse 10, we read:

“Behold, the Lord YHWH will come with strength Behold, His reward is with Him, and His wage before Him.”

However, in Revelation 22:12, we read:

“... behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me.”

The same person continues in verse 13 saying: ***“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last.”*** The identification of this speaker is revealed in verse 16, where He says: ***“I, Jesus”!*** In verse 20, the same speaker says, ***“Yes, I am coming quickly...”***, exactly the same words that He used in verse 12; and the words that follow are: ***“Amen, Yes, come, Lord Jesus”***

Based on the above scriptures, the question is: Who is coming and His reward is with Him? YHWH of Isaiah 40, or **Jesus** of Revelation 22?

Again, from the above, we see that Jesus is One of the Godhead YHWH and equal to the Father, because whatever the Father does, **the Son does also.**

And in Isaiah 61:1-8, we hear someone saying:

“The Spirit of the Lord YHWH is on Me, because YHWH has anointed Me ...”

The same Person continues to speak in verse 8 and he says, ***“For I, YHWH, love judgment”.*** These words were fulfilled by Jesus (Luke 4:14-22). **Thus, the Father is YHWH and the Son is YHWH!**

THE PRE-HUMAN JESUS --- NOT A CREATED ANGEL

If Jesus were an angel in His pre-human life (as the Jehovah’s Witnesses claim), then, the New Testament wrongly asks the question: ***“For to which of the angels did He (the Father) ever say, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten You’?”*** (Hebrews 1:5).

If Jesus were an angel, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews would not have asked such an inappropriate question, because the answer would have been: **“To the angel Jesus!”** The correct answer is: **“To none of the angels!”** All the angels are creatures, while Jesus is **the only begotten Son!** Jesus is the One who created the angels! Jesus is the Eternal God, the One who existed before time began, **the One who made the ages!** (Hebrews 1:2; from the Greek text)

If Jesus, in His pre-human nature, were an angel, then the letter to the Hebrews gives us a false testimony by telling us that **“God did not subject the coming world to angels ...”** (Hebrews 2:5). But everything is being subjected under the feet of Jesus, because **He made all things and all things were made for Him.** In Colossians 1:16,17, we read:

“for all things were created in Him (in Jesus), the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth; the visible and the invisible; whether thrones, or lordships, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and all things consist in Him.”

Therefore, since God **DID NOT** subject the coming world to some angel, but to Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:27), we realize that the pre-human essence of Jesus, as **“the Word”**, had superiority above the nature of the angels. Indeed, His essence is identical to the essence of His Father. This is the reason John correctly writes in his Gospel that: **“... the Word was God”** (John 1:1)!

The nature of every son is the same as the nature of his father. The essence of every son is the same as the essence of his parent. Likewise, Jesus, being **the only begotten Son of God**, has the same nature and essence as His Father! **NO ANGEL** can possibly boast of being anything like Jesus, because they are all **CREATED --- NOT BORN OF THE ESSENCE OF GOD!** In other words, the angels are sons of God's creative power --- not sons of His essence, like Jesus is! Thus, **to believe in GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON is to believe that He is, at once, God in essence, God by nature!** And according to John 3:16, **this belief is a requirement for and a prerequisite to receiving salvation.** Those who will not believe that Jesus is **GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON**, and therefore equal to the Father, will die in their sins (John 8:24).

Αρχή, πρωτότοκος, πρωτόκτιστος
Arche, prototokos, protoktistos

The Greek language is very precise. Every word has its exact meaning. Those who do not know the Greek language well can be misled or can make mistakes. The Greek Jehovah's Witnesses (as I once was), have been misled about the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ because they did not pay close attention to the following two words:

- a) **Αρχή** (ar-hee = beginning, Author, power); and
- b) **Πρωτότοκος** (Prototokos = firstborn);

Let us examine these two words:

- a) **Αρχή**: When the Greek word "**αρχή**" is used **to indicate place or time** of starting of an event, it means "**begin-**

ning”. However, **when it refers to a person**, it means: **Author (-ity), Government, Power, Cause, First Cause**. For example, in Luke 20:20, we read:

“... so as to deliver Him (Jesus) to the power (αρχή) and the authority of the governor.”

Here, the word “αρχή” has been translated correctly as “**power**” --- **not “beginning”!** The word “beginning” would not have made any sense in the above sentence.

In Revelation 3:14, we read:

“... These things saith the Amen ... the beginning of the creation of God.” (KJV)

In the Greek text, the above phrase appears as follows:

“η αρχή της κτίσεως του Θεού”
the “beginning”(?) of the creation of God

It is obvious that in the foregoing verse, the word “*αρχή*” **does not** refer to time or place but **to the Person Amen**. For this reason, it does not mean “beginning” but “**Author**” or “**Power**”. Therefore, the fact that a few Bible translations in English, like the KJV, have **wrongly** translated Revelation 3:14 as “*the beginning (αρχή) of the creation of God*” **does not** mean that He is the first creature which God created; instead, it means that He is **the Creator**, the Authority, the Author, the First Cause, the Chief, **the Power** or the Head **which created all things**.

The translators of the NIV, the Interlinear Bible by Jay P. Green, Sr., and others, have recognized the fact that in Revelation 3:14 the word “*αρχή*” does not mean “beginning”. Look at the following five versions:

NIV: “*the ruler of God’s creation.*”

The Interlinear Bible: “*the Head of the creation of God.*”

CEV: “*the source of God’s creation.*”

MKJV: “*the Head of the creation of God.*”

YLT: “*the chief of the creation of God;*”

The translators of the Bible who **incorrectly** used the word “*beginning*” for the Greek word “*αρχή*” in Revelation 3:14, have not prevented people like the Jehovah’s Witnesses from believing in a damnable heresy (2 Peter 2:1). Instead of believing that Jesus is the **uncreated God** in human form, they believe that He is “the first **creature** which God created”! And Jesus said that those who do not believe that He is the One He claimed to be, will die in their sins (John 8:24)!

To those who insist that the Greek text of Revelation 3:14 says that Jesus is the first creature which God created, I emphatically say that they are wrong. If the apostle John, who wrote the book of Revelation, had wanted to indicate that Jesus is the first creature which God created, he would have had to use the Greek word “*απαρχή*” (apar-hee) --- not the word “*αρχή*” (ar-hee). In this case, instead of writ-

ing in Greek that the Person Amen is:

“η αρχή της κτίσεως του Θεού”

he would have written,

“η απαρχή της κτίσεως του Θεού”

The Greek word **“απαρχή”** means: “the first and the best out of a group of people or things”. The Bible translators have translated this word as **“firstfruits”**. Therefore, if John had used the word **“απαρχή”**, this sentence would have appeared in English as:

“the firstfruits of the creation of God”.

But such is not the case.

The word **“απαρχή”** (firstfruits) appears in the following scriptures:

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits (απαρχή) of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

“But each in his own turn; Christ, the firstfruits (απαρχή); then, when He comes, those who belong to Him” (1 Corinthians 15:23).

Other scriptures where the word **“απαρχή”** appears, in the Greek text, are: Romans 8:23; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:15; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4.

From the above study, we realize that this part of Revelation 3:14 should have been translated into English as:

“the Author (or the Power) of the creation of God”.

This corresponds with John 1:3 where it says,

“through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” (NIV)

and with Colossians 1:16 where it says about Jesus,

“For all things were created in Him (in the pre-human Jesus), the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible; whether thrones, or lordships, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (LITV)

b) Πρωτότοκος (Prototokos = firstborn --- not first created).

When someone is “begotten” of his father, he is not “created” by his father. To be begotten (born) and to be created are not the same. For example, let us compare Isaac, the son of Abraham, to the altar which Abraham built. Isaac came out of Abraham --- the altar was “created” by Abraham. Isaac was Abraham’s born son, being of the same form and substance as his father; the altar was Abraham’s “creation”. The substance of the altar was not the same as the substance of Abraham. Likewise, God’s Son came out of God; He was God’s only-begotten Son; all other beings are God’s creation. Gods only born Son

is of the same substance, form, and nature as God; created beings are not!

The so-called Jehovah's Witnesses have failed to understand the above reality and they are using Colossians 1:15 in a misleading way, in an attempt to prove that Jesus is the first creature who was created by God the Father. But please pay attention to the fact that they are using only verse 15. There, it says that Jesus is the One

"who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation."

"You see?" say the Witnesses. "Here it says that Jesus is ***'the firstborn of all creation'***! Therefore, he is a creature, he is part of the creation!"

In Greek, the actual word for "first created" is "**πρωτόκτιστος**" (pro-tok'-ti-stos) -- not "**πρωτότοκος**" (pro-to'-to-kos/first born). These two Greek words are not synonymous. The Witnesses ignore the fact that when someone is a "firstborn", he cannot be "first created" and therefore be a part of the creation. The one Greek word contradicts the other! Yet, they insist that Jesus is called "Firstborn of all creation", because He is the "first creature" which God created.

However, if we could ask the apostle Paul, the writer of the letter to the Colossians, "Why did you call Jesus ***'firstborn'*** in verse 15?" Paul would have answered, "Why do you ask me? In verse 16, beginning with the word ***'because'***, I gave you my reason for calling Him ***'firstborn'***. Read my words

again carefully from verses 15 to 20, paying special attention to verses 16-19 and the word ‘because’:

“¹⁵Who (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation ¹⁶because all things were created in Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth; the visible and the invisible; whether thrones, or lordships, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and all things consist in Him. ¹⁸And He is the Head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He be pre-eminent in all things; ¹⁹because all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him making peace by the blood of His cross, to reconcile all things to Himself through Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in the Heavens.”

From the Bible, we see that the position of a “**firstborn**” was an exalted position. It was a position of special honor and rights. In the book of Psalms, we hear God saying about David:

“And I will make him My firstborn; higher than the kings of the earth” (Psalms 89:27).

Please remember that David was **the last** son of Jesse not the first (1 Samuel 16:11-13).

From the above, we realize that the apostle Paul said that Jesus is “*the Firstborn of all creation*” because,

- 1) ***“all things were created in Him and for Him”***
(verse 16),
- 2) ***“He is before all things, and all things consist in Him”*** (verse 17),
- 3) ***“He is the Head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He be pre-eminent in all things;”*** (verse 18), and
- 4) ***“because all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him”*** (verse 19)!!!

As Jesus is the One who created all things, **the primacy belongs to Him**. He is ***“pre-eminent in all things”***. As He is ***“before all things”***, He is ***“the First”***. This is reason Jesus said about Himself ***“I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead”*** (Revelation 1:17,18).

Therefore, we realize that Paul did not call Jesus ***“the Firstborn of all creation”*** because Jesus is the first creature which God created, but **because He is *“pre-eminent in all things”*** (verse 18)! **Indeed, Jesus is pre-eminent in all things because He is *“the Lord of all”*** (Acts 10:36) and ***“God over all”*** (Romans 9:5; from the Greek text). Christians accept the ***“because”*** of the apostle Paul --- not the ***“because”*** of a publishing house!

Now, let us continue our study, examining:

- a) Several titles and positions which belong exclusively to YHWH of the Old Testament, and which Our Lord, Jesus Christ, **claims for His own:**

- b)** The statements made by New Testament writers.
- c)** Some of the writings of the first and second century Christians, to learn what the disciples of the disciples of Jesus believed about Him.
- d)** We will also use the grammar of the Greek language to disprove the theory of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning the person of Jesus Christ.
- e)** We will examine several **attributes** which are proof of Deity and which **no creature** could possibly possess, but only the God by nature.
- f)** In looking at these scriptures, we will see how they apply to the Godhead, i.e., to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 2

The Creator

GENESIS 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth;”*

ISAIAH 44:24 *“I am YHWH who makes all things, stretching out the heavens; I alone,”*

ISAIAH 40:28 *“YHWH, the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth;”*

GENESIS 2:7 *“And YHWH God formed the man out of the dust from the ground.”*

JOB 33:4 *“The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”*

GENESIS 1:2,3 *“and the earth being without form and empty, and darkness on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moving gently on the face of the waters, then God said, Let light be”*

JOHN 1:1-3,14 *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one thing came into be-”*

ing that has come into being. And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us.”

HEBREWS 1:7-12 ***“but as to the Son (it says), You, Lord, at the beginning founded the earth, and the Heavens are works of Your hands ...”***

From the above scriptures we see that **God the Father created, the “Word” created, and the Spirit created.** Therefore, all the fullness of the Godhead, i.e., the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is the Creator God. Not each person separately and independently from each other, but all three united in the one Godhead or one God. For this reason, we can say that **all things were created through Jesus and for Jesus**, as we can also say that **all things were created through God and for God!** This statement is based on the following verses:

“Because of Him (God), and through Him and for Him are all things” (Romans 11:36).

“For all things were created in Him (in Jesus) all things have been created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).

Both of the above scriptures point to the same source or maker --- the Creator God who created all things for Himself.

From the foregoing verses we see that all things were created through the ***“Word”***, the pre-human Jesus, as all things

were created through God the Father. Therefore, God the Father and His “Word” is the One and Only Creator God, because there are not two Gods by nature “*through whom*” and “*for whom*” all things were created.

There is **ONE ONLY** True God --- the Creator! It is He who said,

“... I am YHWH who makes all things; stretching out the heavens; I alone” (Isaiah 44: 24).

If the “*Word*” were “*another god*” through whom and for whom all things were created, YHWH would not have used the expression “*I ALONE*”; it would not have been very considerate of God not to recognize His hard-working “Companion” who created all things **for Himself!**

Thus, we conclude that the Father, His Word, and His Spirit are the Creator God. The Psalmist agrees with this statement. He wrote: “*By the word of YHWH the heavens were made, and by the spirit of His mouth all their hosts.*” (Psalm 33:6)

Chapter 3

Eternal

In Deuteronomy 33:27, we read that God is eternal. There it says:

“The eternal God is thy refuge”

In Psalms 90:1,2, the Psalmist wrote about God:

“O Lord, You have been our dwelling-place in all generations ... even from everlasting to everlasting You are God”.

Eternal, according to the dictionary, means: everlasting, existing through all time, unchangeable.

From Hebrews 9:14, we learn that the Holy Spirit is also eternal. There we read: ***“How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God purged your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”***

The person who is eternal has no beginning or end. **What about the Son of God? Is He eternal?**

In the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 7:1-3, the writer likens Melchizedek to the Son of God, and says that he was:

“without father, without mother, without genealogy, nor beginning of days, nor having end of life, but having been like the Son of God, he remains a priest in perpetuity (evermore).”

One of the prophecies which was given for the coming of the Messiah, says:

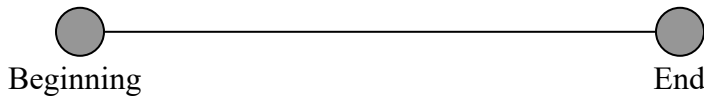
“And you, Bethlehem Ephratah, ... out of you He shall come forth to Me ... and His goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity” (Micah 5:2).

The above words clearly say that *“His goings forth have been from the days of eternity”* --- they do NOT say that someone else or something else was in existence before Him; they do NOT say that there was some “other” beginning before He came into existence; they do NOT say that He would hold the second place in time in the universe; nor do they show that someone else could be older than Him! This can also be seen from John 1:1, where it refers to Jesus as the *“Word”*. There, it says:

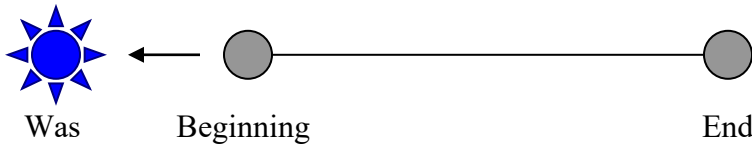
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God”

This verse **DOES NOT SAY** that in the beginning God was alone and that, later He created the *“Word”*. It states clearly that **in the beginning was the Word** and that the *“Word”* was with or near God.

To put it another way, let’s suppose that the following line represents **time**:



If we try to place a dot on this Time Line to show **the beginning of the “Word”**, we would be unable to do so because the above verse places the **“Word” before** the beginning of time; it says that in the beginning the Word already **“was”** (past tense)!



The writer of the letter to the Hebrews agrees with this reasoning because he states that Jesus indeed **“made the ages”** (Hebrews 1:2 - from the Greek text).

Thus, in order for Jesus to have created the ages, the time, He must have been in existence before them. This proves that Jesus is Eternal and as we say in the Greek language, He is Pre-eternal!

Since He was already in existence before the days began, no one can claim that He had a beginning of days (Hebrews 7:1-3); **such a statement would be illogical.**

Certain religious groups, such as the Witnesses of Jehovah, ignore the above scriptures. They say that in the beginning

there was only God the Father, who alone is eternal and who, later, decided to create the Son.

In other words, they are saying that the Father is the “**First**” and that the Son is the “**second**”. This statement clearly contradicts the words that our Lord said about Himself:

“I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead; and behold, I am living forever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 1:17,18)

Likewise, in Isaiah 44:6, the Father said that **He is the “First and the Last.”** If the Father and the Son were two different Gods, as Jehovah’s Witnesses claim, a bigger God and a lesser god, it would have been impossible for both to claim that they are the “*first*”, especially if the one created the other. **The second and lesser one could not also be the “first”.**

If Jesus had said, “I am ‘one of the First’ and ‘one of the Last’”, it would have been a different matter. **But instead, He states that He is “the First” and “the Last” with the article “the” in front of the words “First” and “Last”, which leaves no room for anyone else to be “the First” and “the Last”.**

John, the disciple of the Lord, wrote about Jesus:

“THAT which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we gazed upon and our hands handled, about the

Word of life; (and the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and we announce to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us;)" (1 John 1:1,2).

From the above words, we see that: ***“THAT which was from the beginning”***, the ***“Word of life”***, the ***“eternal life”***, which was with the Father, **was revealed to men.**

Jesus said, ***“I am ... the life”*** (John 14:6). Since Jesus is ***“the eternal life”*** which was with the Father, this proves that Jesus is Eternal like the Father; otherwise, we could say that from the beginning of God’s existence until the day He created the pre-human Jesus (the eternal life), God **did not have eternal life.** How foolish!

A similar situation arises with the ***“Wisdom”*** of God, as it is described in Proverbs, chapter 8. There, we can hear the ***“Wisdom”*** of God speaking:

“YHWH possessed Me in the beginning of His way, from then, before His works. I was set up from everlasting; from the beginning, before the earth ever was ... then I was at His side....” (Verses 22, 23, 30)

Some identify the ***“wisdom”*** of this chapter with the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:24,30). If we suppose that the ***“wisdom”*** was created by the Father and, thus, only the Father is Eternal, then we could easily *say* that from the beginning of His existence, until God created the pre-human Jesus (the Wisdom), **God had no wisdom. Ridiculous!**

Some Bible translators have used the word “*created*” in verse 22, instead of the word “*possessed*”, and they present it as:

“YHWH created Me in the beginning of His way.”

Some, like the Jehovah’s Witnesses, base their doctrine upon this word and say: “You see? The wisdom here says that *“YHWH created Me”*. Therefore, **God created Jesus!** Thus, the Father must be older than Jesus”.

We observe that they base their teaching on the first half of the sentence only. The whole sentence reads:

“YHWH possessed Me in the beginning of His way, from then, BEFORE His works.”

The “*works*” of God include everything that God brought into existence --- everything which did not exist before the day God created it. Even the first of God’s works could not have said, “*God created Me ... (that is) BEFORE His works*”; otherwise, the sentence should read: “*YHWH created Me in the beginning of His way, from then, FROM THE BEGINNING of His works*” --- NOT BEFORE!

The expression “*before His works*”, within the same sentence, contradicts the idea that this “person” or “thing” was one of the “works” of God.

This conclusion is correct, because God must have “**pos-
sessed**” or must have “**had**” wisdom for Him to know what

wisdom is in order to create it!

Let us examine the word from the original text. The word in the original text is “qanah”, (pron. kaw-naw) and it means: to erect, i.e. create; to procure, **to own**, attain, buy, get, **possess**, etc.

Some translators have used the expression “*created Me*”, others “*possessed Me*”, and others “*had Me*” (modern Greek translation from the Hebrew).

Based upon the foregoing reasoning that God was never without wisdom, I conclude that the correct translations are those that use the expressions

“YHWH possessed Me in the beginning of His way”, or

“YHWH had Me in the beginning of His way”

not “*created Me*” an hour, or a day, or a month, or a year later. The “*Wisdom*” of God is as eternal as God.

Therefore, I conclude from the above, that as the Father is Eternal, so is the Son.

Chapter 4

Omnipresent

Another attribute of God is that He is omnipresent. An angel or a man can be in only one place at the same time. However, God has no limits --- He is omnipresent! For example, if, let's say, ten thousand believers pray to Him at the same time, at different places on the planet, God will hear them all. God is so great that He is present everywhere whether it is in Heaven, on earth, or any other location in the universe. A **created being does not possess this quality.**

What does the Bible say about Jesus? Does He possess this quality? Is He omnipresent? The Jehovah's Witnesses claim that His nature is angelic because they believe that He is really Michael the archangel. If this were so, He would not be omnipresent. But if He is indeed God by nature, then He certainly must be omnipresent.

Jesus said about Himself: *"... where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst"* (Matthew 18:20). Thus, as Jesus has the capability of being present wherever two or three are gathered together in His Name, then, He is Omnipresent!

Other scriptures which prove His omnipresence are: Matthew 28:20: *"... I am with you* (with all of His believers)

all the days until the completion of the age.” Even Today!

John 14:23: “... *if anyone loves me, he will keep My word and My Father will love him. And We will come to him and make a dwelling place with him.*”

From the above verses we realize that the Lord Jesus has all the capabilities that God the Father has.

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit is also omnipresent. In John 14:17 we read:

“the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot receive because it does not see it nor know it. But you know it, for it abides with you, and shall be in you.”

In the Greek language, the Spirit is referred to as “it”, because the word “spirit” has a neuter gender. In English, this word has been translated as “he” because the Holy Spirit is a Person; this is also true of God who is “a Spirit” (John 4:24); we refer to Him as “He” --- not “it”. The fact that God is “a Spirit” does not denote that He is not a Person.

Another scripture which tells us that the Holy Spirit is omnipresent because like the Father and the Son He also dwells in the believers is 1 Corinthians 3:16. There, the apostle Paul wrote:

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Likewise, King David asked God about His Spirit:

“Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your face? If I go up to Heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there!” (Psalms 139:7-10).

From the above scriptures, we conclude that all the Persons of the Godhead YHWH are omnipresent! Therefore, since Jesus is omnipresent, He is truly God by nature.

Chapter 5

Omniscient

Another quality which belongs exclusively to God is that He is omniscient. According to the dictionary, the word “**omniscient**” means: “Having infinite knowledge; knowing all things”.

God is the One who knows all things. He sees into the hearts and kidneys of men, which means that He can read their innermost thoughts and intentions. No creature in the whole universe possesses this capability.

Satan and his demons trick the world through men who appear before people as if they know everything. Based on the following scriptures and upon the testimonies of former members of the occult who became Christians, I believe that demons can put an idea into the mind of a person, as a doctor can inject a drug into the blood (Matthew 16:23; 1 Samuel 28:7; Acts 16:16,17; Mark 1:24; 5:7). In other words, I believe that when a demon introduces an idea into the mind of a man, the demon repeats it immediately to the medium who in turn repeats it aloud. **Therefore, neither the demons nor the medium are omniscient.** No one can read the hearts and kidneys of man, except the Godhead **YHWH**.

Jeremiah, the prophet, wrote about God YHWH:

“But, o YHWH of hosts who judges with righteousness, who tries the reins (kidneys) and the heart.” (Jeremiah 11:20)

Also, YHWH Himself says: ***“I YHWH search the heart, I try the reins (kidneys), even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings”*** (Jeremiah 17:10).

Now then, since we saw that the omniscient YHWH is the One who tries the kidneys and the hearts, let us read from Revelation 2:18-23 where it says:

“... These things says the Son of God all the churches will know that I am the One searching the kidneys and hearts. And I will give to each of you according to your works.”

Here, we hear Jesus claiming that He is the One who searches kidneys and hearts, and that He will give to each one according to his works. He uses exactly the same words as God YHWH does in Jeremiah 17:10.

Who then is Jesus? The answer is, **the Omniscient God!** The disciples of the Lord and others, such as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, wrote that Jesus knew all things; let us read some of their words:

“Now we know ... You know all things” (John 16:30).

“... Lord, You perceive all things” (John 21:17);

“But Jesus Himself did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all ... He knew what was in man.” (John 2:24).

“And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart ...” (Luke 9:47)

“But He knew their thoughts ...” (Luke 6:8)

“And immediately when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they so reasoned within themselves ...” (Mark 2:8).

“And Jesus knew their thoughts” (Matthew 12:25).

“And Jesus knowing their thoughts, ...” (Matthew 9:4).

The apostle Paul wrote:

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise from God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

From the above testimonies of those who lived with the Lord Jesus in the humble days of His flesh, we are assured that Jesus Christ is indeed omniscient!

Now, let us read from 1 Corinthians 2:10 to find out what it says about the Holy Spirit:

*“But God revealed them to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”
Thus, we see that the Holy Spirit is also omniscient” (Also check Romans 8:26).*

So then, we conclude that:

Since Jesus is Omniscient, and since being omniscient belongs only to God by nature, then Jesus is God by nature!

Chapter 6

Omnipotent

“Omnipotent”, means: almighty, all-powerful, having unlimited power or authority.

The Greek word for “Almighty” is **“Παντοκράτωρ”** (Panto-kra'-tor). In the Scriptures, we find this word in Revelation 1:8 in the Greek text. “Pantokrator” literally means: **The One who holds up all things.**

“Omnipotence” means: The state or quality of being omnipotent; having absolute authority, to be able to do all things.

“Absolute authority”, is the authority which is unbound, independent, unlimited, total, full, complete. Only the One who is God by nature is Almighty --- **“Pantokrator”** in Greek (Genesis 17:1; 35:11). Only He has the power to **“hold all things”**. No creature has the power that can be compared with the omnipotence of God.

Satan can imitate the powers of God, but only up to a point and according to the permissive will of God, (as we know

from the cases of Job and of Moses who fought the sorcerers of Pharaoh), because he **is not** God by nature. Therefore, **he is not almighty** (Exodus 7:10-22).

Is our Lord, Jesus Christ, almighty? The Jehovah's Witnesses are trying, with persistence and zeal, to prove that the Son is **another god**, less powerful than God the Father. They say that only the Father is almighty, while the Son is just a **"mighty god"** with small **"g"**. In their attempt to prove this, they refer to Isaiah 9:6, where it says about Jesus:

"For a child is born; to us a son is given; and the government is on His shoulder; and His name is called ... mighty God...."

"You see?" say the Witnesses, "The prophecy here says that Jesus is a 'mighty god' --- not almighty. Only the Father is almighty."

As they have failed to see **the gospel of the glory of Jesus** (2 Corinthians 4:4), they have failed to notice that **the Bible also uses exactly the same expression for God the Father**. The word which has been used in the above prophecy (in the original text) for **"mighty"** is "gibbowr" or "gibbor". The same word is found in Nehemiah 9:32, where it says about God:

"And now our God ... the mighty (gibbowr)"

The same word also appears in Jeremiah 32:17 and 18, where it says:

“Ah, Lord YHWH! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power ... not any thing is too difficult for You ... the mighty (gibbowr) God, YHWH of hosts is His name, ...”

Jeremiah here calls God, “*mighty*” --- **not almighty**, and he says that “*not any thing is too difficult*” for Him (Also read Deuteronomy 10:17).

Let Jehovah’s Witnesses ask themselves:

- 1. Is there anything that is too difficult for Jesus, just because the prophecy of Isaiah calls Him “mighty God” and not almighty?**
- 2. Does the fact that Nehemiah, Jeremiah, and others who call God YHWH “mighty”, belittle Him?**

The answer to both questions is, “**No!**” Therefore, this doctrine of theirs is unreasonable and inconsistent. The Son is **as mighty as the Father; as almighty as the Father!** The Son Himself said: “... whatever that One (the Father) does, these things also the Son likewise does.” **Nothing less!** (John 5:19 --- from the Greek text)

As we discussed earlier, “**omnipotence**” means having unlimited power, full or absolute authority. The resurrected man Jesus said: “**All authority in Heaven and on earth was given to Me**” (Matthew 28:18). “**All**” means “**All**” --- **unlimited**; it does NOT mean “**some**”!

Jehovah’s Witnesses will argue that Jesus did not always have “**all authority**”, because in the above words He said

that this “*was given*” to Him. In this case, they forget that the “*Word*” humbled Himself, veiling His Godly glory and power, in becoming flesh (John 1:1-4,14; Philippians 2:6-11). In Matthew 28:18, God did not give “*all authority*” to the “*Word*”, but to the humbled, resurrected and glorified man Jesus. Jesus was not glorified with more glory than that which He had in His pre-human Godly existence. It was not the “*Word*”, but the man Jesus who said to His Father:

“And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the existence of the world” (John 17:5).

In the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6, it says:

“... and the dominion is upon His shoulder”

“**Dominion**” means: sovereign authority. The above prophecy does not say that “*some dominion*” or authority is upon His shoulder, but “*the dominion*”. He bears upon Himself **the absolute authority**. The size of His authority or His omnipotence was also made manifest in the case of His resurrection. He said:

“... Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19-22).

From His words, we are made aware that He had the omnipotence, the absolute authority, to raise Himself from the dead!

The omnipotence in the case of the resurrection belongs to all the fullness of the Godhead because not only did Jesus resurrect Himself, but the Father also resurrected Him through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:24; 4:10). And the omnipotence belongs also to the Holy Spirit, since the Bible associates or identifies the power of God with the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35; Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13,19).

The Son is as Omnipotent or Almighty as is the Father.

In John 17:10, Jesus said to His Father:

“And ALL my possessions are thine and thy possessions mine and I have been glorified in them.”

In John 16:15, Jesus also said:

“ALL things whatsoever the Father hath are My own.”

“ALL” said Jesus; nothing less than the Father. One of the things which is included in the word **“ALL”** is **“the might”** (*the power*), which belongs **“To Him sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever”** (Revelation 5:13).

Speaking of Jesus, the following words indicate that He is as almighty as the Father:

“Who (Jesus) being the shining splendor of His (God’s) glory and the express image of His (God’s) essence, and bearing (holding) up all things by the word of His power,”
(Hebrews 1:3).

Chapter 7

The Lord of Hosts

The expression, “**The Lord of hosts**”, is used exclusively for YHWH, the God of Israel, as it is found in Jeremiah 16:9, where it says:

“For so says Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel;” (Also read Jeremiah 27:21)

“The Lord of hosts”, is the translation of the YHWH-tsaba (tsaw-baw), from the original text of the Old Testament, and it means: *“YHWH of the angelic armies (hosts).”*

No creature can boast that he is the Lord (YHWH) of hosts. Is Jesus, the Word, *“the Lord (YHWH) of hosts”*? If He is part of the creation, the answer is, NO! But if He is God by nature, and One of the true Godhead YHWH, the answer is: YES! Let us examine this point from the Holy Scriptures. The prophet Isaiah describes to us the wonderful experience he had when he saw the Lord of hosts:

“... I saw”, he said, “the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. And His train filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphs ... And one cried to the other and said, Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah (YHWH) of hosts; all the earth is full of His glory! ... Then I said, Woe is me! For I am cut off; ... for my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah

(YHWH) of hosts ... And I heard the voice of YHWH saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, I am here. Send me! And He said, Go and tell the people, Hearing you hear, but do not understand; and seeing you see, but do not know ... that he (this people) not see with his eyes, and hear with his ears, and understand with his heart and turns and one heals him” (Isaiah 6:1-10).

Who is this “*YHWH of hosts*” that Isaiah saw? Whose glory did Isaiah see? Who was the One that Isaiah called, “*The Lord of Hosts*”?

Some will say, “God the Father”. But how is it possible for this to be true, while the Scriptures assure us that “*No one has seen God at anytime*” (1 John 4:12)? The Scriptures cannot lie; therefore, whose glory did Isaiah see?

John, the disciple of our Lord Jesus, referring to the above words of Isaiah, in his Gospel (chapter 12, verses 37-41), talks about Jesus saying:

“But though He had done so many miracles before them, they did not believe in Him ... Because Isaiah said again, ‘He has blinded their eyes and has hardened their heart, that they might not see with the eyes, and understand with the heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.’ Isaiah said these things when he saw His glory and spoke about Him.”

Therefore, the Lord of hosts whom Isaiah saw was the “*Word*” of God, Jesus, in one of His pre-human appearances.

We conclude then that the Son is the Lord of hosts, as the Father is also the Lord of hosts! The Son is truly God and God by nature, as the Father is also truly God and God by nature.

Jesus shares ALL things with the Father! **The Son, the man Jesus, is, one could say, the “partner” or “associate” of His Father.** This is exactly how YHWH calls Jesus, His Shepherd, in the prophecy which He gave about Him in Zechariah, chapter 13 and verse 7:

“0 sword, awake against My Shepherd, even against the man that is my associate, says YHWH of hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered” (Also read Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:27).

As partners, they share:

The Throne! *“And he showed me a pure river of water of life . . . coming forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb”* (Revelation 22:1-4). Here, it does not refer to **“thrones” in the plural**, but to the **“throne”** which belongs to God and to the Lamb!

The Name! *“... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19); Here, it does not refer to names in the plural, but to the **“name”** which belongs to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.”

The Kingdom! *“... The Kingdoms of the world became our Lord’s and of His Christ ...”* (Revelation 11:15).

The Worship! “... *they will be priests of God and of Christ ...*” (Revelation 20:6). The duty of the priests is to worship God. Also read Daniel 7:13,14, where it says that all the peoples, the nations, and the languages will worship (serve) the Son of man.

From Revelation 5:15, we learn that They also share **the Blessing, the Honor, the Glory and the Might**. There we read:

“And every creature which is in Heaven, and in the earth, and underneath the earth, and the things that are on the sea, and the things in all of them, I heard saying: To Him sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor, and the glory and the might for ever and ever.”
(Revelation 5:15).

Finally, in John 5:23, Jesus said that all men should:

“... honor the Son, even as they honor the Father...”

--- **not less** than the Father, but **exactly the same**, because He said: *“... as they honor the Father”*

Why as they honor the Father? Because Jesus is equal to the Father, One of the True Godhead, Truly God and God in essence!

Chapter 8

Unchangeable

Unchangeable means: immutable; **the one who does not change.**

In Malachi 3:6, we hear God saying about Himself:

“... I am YHWH, I change not.”

The Psalmist revealed that God is unchangeable. In Psalms 102:24-27, he wrote:

“O my God ... Your years are through the generation of generations. You have laid the foundation of the earth of old; and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They shall perish, but You shall endure; they shall be changed. But You are He (the same).”

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews, in the first chapter, and verses 7-12, says that the above words of the Psalm 102 were written about Jesus! Let us follow his words, starting with verse 7:

“And as to the angels, He said, “Who makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire; but as to the

Son, “Your throne O God, is forever and ever”, and, “You, Lord, at the beginning founded the earth, and the heavens are works of Your hands. They shall vanish away, but you will continue; and they will all become old, like a garment ... and they shall be changed. But You are the same ...”

Finally, as we read Hebrews 13:8 we see once again that:

“Jesus Christ (is) the same yesterday and today and forever.”

From the above scriptures, we realize that the Son is unchangeable, as the Father is unchangeable. Therefore, Jesus is God by nature.

Chapter 9

Light

The Psalmist said:

“YHWH” is my light and my salvation” (Psalms 27:1).

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

“... YHWH shall become thine age-abiding light.” (Isaiah 60:19)

In 1 John 1:5, John, the disciple of Christ, said:

“... God is light, and no darkness is in Him --- none” and in John 3:19, he stated that:

“... the light has come into the world”.

He did not say that *“a lesser”* light than the light of the Father has come into the world; he said that *“the light has come into the world.”*

In John 8:12, Jesus said the following about Himself:

“... I am the Light of the world.”

And, in John 12:35 He said, “... *Yet a little while the Light is with you. Walk while you have the Light, that darkness not overtake you*”.

John did not say that Jesus was a reflection of God’s light, neither did he say that He was an imitation; he said that **Jesus Himself was “the true light”**. Let us read his words from John 1:4,5,9 and 10:

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it ... He was the true Light, which enlightens every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him.”

What grandeur! What glory! The Father is Light and the Son is Light! The “true Light” came into the world, and the world was made through Him! Thank You Jesus!

None of the angels, none of the creatures, can be the True Light. None can have this glory! None but God alone!

The light of an angel or any other creature is not enough to enlighten every man coming into the world. The God by nature alone is so great, so fearful and so wonderful (Revelation 21:23).

Chapter 10

Life

God is life. God is the source or fountain of life. In Psalm 36:7-9, we read:

“... O God! ... with You is the fountain of life; in your light, we see light.”

In John 1:4 we read about Jesus:

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

From 1 John 1:1-4, we learn that

“... the life was revealed, and we have seen ... and we announce to you the everlasting life which was with the Father, and was revealed to us.”

None of the angels, none of the creatures could be “*the everlasting Life which was with the Father*”. All the angels and the rest of the creatures needed “*the everlasting Life*” to bring them into being. Only the God by nature is “*the Life*”! Thus, Jesus, “*the everlasting life*”, is God by nature.

The apostle John said again:

“we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding that we might know the true one, and we are in the true one, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and the life everlasting.” (1 John 5:20).

None of the angels or any other creature can say, “*I am the Life.*” --- Jesus is! (John 14:6; Colossians 3:4).

Jesus does not have “*life in Himself*” only for Himself, but He also is the “*resurrection and the Life*” for others (John 5:26; 11:25).

Jesus said, “*I am the Bread of life*”. He also said, “*I am the living Bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever*”! He also said, “*The one partaking of My flesh and drinking of My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day*” (John 6:48, 51, 54).

What wonderful claims! “*I am the Bread of life... if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever*”. **From this we see that Jesus is the source and the sustainer of life!**

In Romans 8:11, we read:

“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

From these words of the apostle Paul, we learn that it is al-

so the Father and the Holy Spirit that give life.

In Revelation 22:1, we read:

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life bright as crystal, coming forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

In the above verse, we see that the river of the water of life springs out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus). Therefore, the Son is as much the fountain of life as is the Father!

The Holy Spirit is also identified with the river of life. Jesus said: “... if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. The one believing in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘Out of his belly will flow rivers of living water.’ But He said this concerning the Spirit, whom the ones believing in Him were about to receive” (John 7:37-39).

From the foregoing we see that all the Godhead, (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit), is the fountain of life. Therefore, since the Lord Jesus Christ is the Fountain of Life, He is God by Nature!

Chapter 11

The First & the Last

He who is the fountain of life, is also “*the first*” in the whole universe.

In Isaiah 41:4, we hear God saying:

“I YHWH am the first and the last; I am He.”

In Isaiah 48:12, He repeats:

“... I am the first ... I am the last.”

In Isaiah 44:6, we read:

“So says YHWH, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, YHWH of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; and there is no God except Me.”

According to the above only one is “*the first*” and “*the last*”: The Lord, YHWH of hosts. There is no room for another God.

Only He who is the fountain of life, the Creator of all, is the “*First*”. Even the first creature that God created holds the second place. That creature can not claim that he is “*the*

first". But Jesus, who is the fountain of life, the Creator of all, One of the Godhead YHWH, and, of course, truly God and equal to the Father, claims for Himself this position which belongs only to the One who is God by nature.

In Revelation 1:17,18, we hear Jesus saying:

"... I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead; and, behold, I am living forever and ever"

In chapter 2 and verse 8, He repeats:

"These things says the First and the Last, who became dead, and lived;"

Indeed, Jesus claims for His own, this unique position. He said that He is "*the First and the Last*" -- NOT "*the second*" and "*the one before the last*" as Jehovah's Witnesses portray Him with their theory.

Therefore, whatever the Father is, the Son is also. Whichever person of the Godhead speaks has the right to say that He is the First and the Last, and the only True God.

Chapter 12

Savior

In the Old Testament we hear God YHWH saying:

“I, I am YHWH; and there is no Savior besides Me (Isaiah 43:11).

In chapter 45 of the same book, and verse 15, we read:

“Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, the Savior.”

Also, in verse 21, God repeats that

“... there is no God other than Me; a just God and a Savior.”

In Hosea 13:4, God repeats:

“I am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no savior beside me.”

However, while we hear God YHWH saying: “... *there is no Savior besides Me*”, the apostle Paul said to the Philipian Christians, “... *our citizenship is in Heaven, from*

where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord, Jesus Christ.”
(Philippians 3:20).

In his epistle, the apostle Peter wrote: *“But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity ...”*
(2 Peter 3:18).

Again, while God YHWH says:

“... there is no God other than Me; a just God and a Savior”,

the apostle Peter talks to us about *“the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 1:1; Greek Text).

Also, the apostle Paul wrote that we are

“looking for the blessed hope and appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself on our behalf ...” (Titus 2:13,14; Greek text)!

Thus, we see again that whatever the Father is, so is the Son!

Chapter 13

The Lord of Lords

The title, “*The Lord of lords*”, shows that there is only One who can be “*The Lord*” above **all the other lords**. It excludes the existence of a second person who can hold this position, because, it does not say “*the Lords*” in the plural form, but “*the Lord*” in the singular form.

According to the Old Testament, only God YHWH is the Lord of lords. In Deuteronomy 10:17 we read:

“For YHWH your God, He is the God of gods, and the Lord of lords”

In the book of Psalms, chapter 136 and verses 1- 3, we read:

“O give thanks to YHWH, for He is good o give thanks to the God of gods o give thanks to the Lord of lords ...”

However, the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, chapter 17 and verse 14, tells us that Jesus is the One who holds this position. There, we read: “... the Lamb (Jesus) *will overcome them because He is the Lord of lords and King of kings ...”*

And in Revelation 19:11-16, it says:

“And He (Jesus) has ... a name ... written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”

The Son, who is not a creature, but God in essence, is whatever the Father is. And yet, we do not have two ***“Lords of lords”***, but One --- **the true Godhead YHWH!**

No creature can possess so unmistakably all the positions and titles which exclusively belong to the One True God!

Chapter 14

The Shepherd

In the Old Testament, God YHWH is *“the Shepherd”*. In Psalms 23:1, it says:

“YHWH is my shepherd I shall not want.”

And in Isaiah 40:10,11, we read:

“Behold, the Lord YHWH will come with strength, His reward is with Him ... He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather lambs ... in His bosom carry them; those with young He will lead.”

However, in John 10:7-16, we hear **Jesus** saying:

“I am the good Shepherd.”

Again, in John 10:7-16, Jesus says:

“... I lay down My Soul for the sheep. And I have other sheep ... I must also lead those ... and there will be one flock, one Shepherd.”

In John 16:13, we read about the Holy Spirit:

“... the Spirit of the truth ... He will guide you into all truth.”

From the above, we realize that we do not have two or three Shepherds who lead us, but One. We do not have three Leaders but One. Who leads us like a Shepherd? The true Godhead YHWH does!

Chapter 15

The Judge

In Genesis 18:25,26, we read:

“... The judge of all the earth, shall He not do right? And YHWH said, if I find fifty righteous within the city, in Sodom, then I will spare all the place because of them.”

In Acts 10:40-42, we read about Jesus:

“God raised up this One the third day, and ... it is He who has been marked out by God to be judge of the living and the dead.”

Once more we see that whatever the Father is, so is the Son! Other Scriptures that speak about the “**Judge**” are:

Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:31; Revelation 20:12,13; Romans 2:16; 3:6; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 18:8,20; John 5:19-27. Meditate especially on Hebrews 4:12,13, where it states that everyone will give an account of his/her actions **to the “Word”** of God --- **to Jesus** because **He is God by nature!**

Chapter 16

The Forgiver of Sins

God YHWH emphatically says:

“I am He who blots out your trespasses for My sake ...”
(Isaiah 43:16-25).

In the Gospel of Mark, we read:

“And ... Jesus said to the paralytic, Child, your sins are forgiven to you. But some of the scribes were sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Who is able to forgive sins, except One, God?” (Mark 2:5-12).

**Whatever authority the Father has, the Son has also
--- NOTHING LESS THAN THE FATHER!**

Chapter 17

The One Who Receives and Answers Prayer

From ancient times, faithful men of the true God were praying to Him. Even Jesus, when He was on the earth as a man, prayed to the heavenly Father.

However, in Acts 7:59, we read something new:

“And they stoned Stephen, invoking (praying) and saying, Lord Jesus receive my spirit”.

These words clearly state that **Stephen prayed to Jesus** and asked Him to receive his spirit. If Jesus were an “angel” (as the Jehovah’s Witnesses are trying to prove), **Stephen would not have prayed to Him**. Therefore, Stephen had believed that Jesus is God.

Stephen would not entrust his spirit into the hands of an “exalted angel”, because he knew that at death, the spirit of man returns to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

Stephen was not the only believer who prayed to Jesus. **All the first Christians prayed to Him**. Let us read from 1 Corinthians 1:1,2:

“Paul, a called apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, and Sosthenes the brother, to the assembly of God which is in Corinth, those having been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called-out saints, with all those calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours:”

All those today who call themselves “Christians” but who cannot pray to Jesus, believe in “*another Jesus*” (2 Corinthians 11:4), in a different Jesus than the One believed by the first century Christians; therefore, they have been misled! They have not recognized the fact that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Jesus said:

“And whatever you may ask in My Name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My Name, I will do it” (John 14:13,14).

From all the above we realize that since Jesus receives and answers prayers, because He said, “*this I will do*”, **He is God.**

None of the created beings has the capacity to listen to all the prayers of all the faithful at once and to answer them all. Jesus can because He is **God by nature!**

Chapter 18

The King of kings

According to the Old Testament, God YHWH is the King of Israel. He is the “**eternal King**”, the “**King of glory**”, and the “**King of kings**”. Let us read the following scriptures:

“for our help is of the Lord; and the Holy One of Israel, our king.” (Psalms 89:18 --- Septuagint).

“The Lord (YHWH) is King for ever and ever...” (Psalms 10:16).

“Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord (YHWH) Almighty - he is the King of glory.” (Psalms 24:7-10)

From 1 Timothy 6:15,16, we see that **God is the “King of kings”**. There we read:

“which God will bring about in His own time God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.” (NIV)

However, in the New Testament we read that the “**King of**

Israel”, the “*Lord of glory*” and the “*King of kings*” is the Lord Jesus Christ:

“... the great crowd ... shouting, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord ... the King of Israel!”
(John 12:12,13).

“None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
(1 Corinthians 2:8).

“On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:16).

Also read Psalms 95:3; Matthew 25:24; 27:1,2, 29,37; 2:2; Luke 19:38; John 1:50; 12:15; Acts 17:7; 1 Timothy 1:17.

From the above study, we learn, once more, that the Son holds all the titles and all the positions that belong to God the Father; therefore, Jesus is God by nature.

Chapter 19

Stumbling Stone

In Isaiah 8:13,14, we read that YHWH will be a stone of stumbling. There we read:

“Sanctify YHWH of hosts Himself, and let Him be your fear; and let Him be your dread. And He shall be for a sanctuary, and for a stone of stumbling, and for a rock of falling to the two houses of Israel;”

PLEASE CONSIDER: How was it possible for YHWH Himself to become a stumbling stone to Israel? Was He not their God? How could the true God of Israel be a stumbling stone to those that loved Him and worshipped Him? The apostle Paul preached that the above prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus:

“For they stumbled at the stone - of - stumbling, (Jesus) as it has been written, ‘Behold, I place in Zion a Stone - of- stumbling, and a Rock - of - offense; and everyone believing on Him will not be put to shame.” (Romans 9:31-33 10:9-11).

Therefore, we see that the Father is a stone-of-stumbling, and so is the Son! Whatever the Father is, so is the Son, for the Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father (John 14:7-10).

Chapter 20

The Healer

In Psalms 103:2,3, we see that He who has the power to heal every sickness is God YHWH. Let's read it:

"Bless YHWH, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards; who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases;"

However, when the apostle Peter spoke to Aeneas, he said to him:

"... Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you; rise up and spread (make thy bed) for yourself" (Acts 9:34).

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 6 and verses 8-10, **we hear God YHWH saying:**

"... Go and tell this people, Hearing you hear but do not understand; and seeing you see, but do not know. Make the heart of this people fat, and make his ears heavy, and shut his eyes, that he not see with his eyes, and hear with his ears, and understand with his heart, and turn and one heals him."

The above prophecy was fulfilled **by the Lord Jesus**, and it is recorded in Matthew 13:13-15. There, the words of the above prophecy are repeated in the same way exactly, except for the last sentence. That sentence now reads:

“... and I heal them.”

Now, if we read Acts 28:25-27, we will see that the same prophecy is repeated with exactly the same words; in the last sentence, it says again:

“... and I heal them”,

except that this time, **the speaker is the Holy Spirit** (verse 25).

From the above, we see that all the fullness of the Godhead, i.e., the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is the Healer!

Chapter 21

To Whom Does the Glory Belong?

“Glory” means: honor, value, praise, splendor.

The degree of glory varies from man to man or from angel to angel; it depends on one’s social position.

The glory of God is Unique. None of the created beings can possess or even share God’s glory. God YHWH is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14). **He does not share the glory which belongs to Him alone.** Let us examine what He says about this in Isaiah 42:8:

“I am YHWH; that is My name, and I will not give My glory to another ...”

And in Isaiah 48:11, He repeats:

“... I will not give My glory to another.”

When we read the Old Testament, we see that God YHWH is called: **“the King of glory.”** Let us read from Psalms 24:7-10:

“Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? YHWH strong and mighty. YHWH mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates; even lift up, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? YHWH of hosts, He is the King of glory.”

In Psalm 29:3, we read:

“The voice of Jehovah is on the waters; the God of glory thunders;”

But reading from the New Testament, we see that **Jesus is called: “the Lord of glory”** and **the Holy Spirit is called: “the Spirit of glory.”**

The apostle Paul wrote the following to the Corinthian Christians:

“... we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery ... which not one of the rulers of this age has known. For if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
(1 Corinthians 2:7,8).

The apostle Peter said:

“... you are blessed, because the Spirit of God and of the glory rests on you.” (1 Peter 4:14 --- from the Greek text)

The same apostle, who knew very well how jealous God YHWH is, as far as ***“the glory”*** is concerned, wrote the following:

“... grow in ... knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity” (2 Peter 3:18).

To whom, then, does the glory belong? To the Father or to the Son? In Revelation 5:13, we read:

“... every creature which is in Heaven and in the earth, and underneath the earth, and the things that are on the sea, and the things in all of them, I heard saying: To Him sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb be ... the glory ... forever and ever.”

Please consider: If Jesus were a being created by God (as the Jehovah’s Witnesses claim), then, should He not be included in the phrase,

“... every creature which is in heaven ... I heard saying ... to the Lamb be ... the glory ... forever and ever”?

(In the following chapter, we will examine Revelation chapter 5 in more detail.)

If Jesus were a creature of God, outside the only True and uncreated Godhead YHWH, then, **God YHWH would not have shared His glory with Him** (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11). From the above, we see that the glory belongs to all the fullness of the Godhead:

- a) To the Father, **the “King of glory”**,
- b) To the Son, **the “Lord of glory”**, and

c) To the Holy Spirit, the "*Spirit of glory* "!

Once again, we have very compelling proof that Jesus is equal to the Father, sharing all things with Him, because He is One of the True Godhead YHWH.

Chapter 22

The One Who Receives Worship

Now, we have come to the most crucial topic in our study of the person of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Should Jesus be worshipped?

If Jesus were a created being, a “creature” of God, and, of course, a part of the creation, the answer is: **NO!** If Jesus were “another” god, “lesser” than the Father, and outside the Godhead YHWH, the answer is: **NO!** God is and always was against those *“who ... worshipped and served the created thing rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever”* (Romans 1:25 --- from the Greek text).

If Jesus were created by God, and if He were a part of the creation, then, the worship of His person would constitute idolatry --- **creature worship!**

If Jesus is not God in essence and One of the Godhead YHWH, then the worship of His person, as “another god”, would constitute an act of disobedience of the first two Commandments, which God YHWH gave to Moses:

“You shall not have any other gods beside Me. You shall

not make a graven image for yourself, of any likeness which is in the heavens above, or which is in the earth beneath, or which is in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow to them, and you shall not serve them; for I am YHWH your God, a jealous God ...” (Exodus 20:3-5).

“**To bow**” means: to bend the head or body in respect or recognition; **to express religious respect.**

“**To worship**” means “**to serve** “. (The verb for “Worship” in Greek is “*Λατρεύω*” (Latrevo), from the noun “*Λάτρις*” (Latris), which means “a hired menial”). Check Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Greek Dictionary, page 44, and word number 3000.

When someone “**bows**” before a person or thing **in religious devotion**, he expresses **religious worship** and respect toward that person or thing. When someone “worships” a person or thing, it means that “**he serves**” that person or thing --- that he is a “servant” of that person or thing.

According to the above, God YHWH does not allow His people to “*bend the knee*” or to “*bow out of religious devotion*”, to “*worship*”, or “*to serve*”, any other god except Him alone; He is a jealous God and **He exacts this exclusive devotion.**

When Daniel, the prophet, had a vision regarding “*the Son of man*”, Jesus in the flesh, he wrote:

“... And behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of the heavens. And He came to the Ancient of

Days. And they brought Him near before Him. And dominion was given to Him, and glory, and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him (Daniel 7:13,14).

From the above verse, we see that while God had forbidden the worship of others, this passage states that all the nations and the peoples and the languages, will worship (serve) Jesus.

Although in Isaiah 45:22,23, God says: *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear”*, in the letter to Philippians, chapter 2:10,11, Paul says:

“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those of Heaven, and those of earth, and those under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, (“LORD”/YHWH: --- Romans 10:9,12-14) *to the glory of God the Father.”*

In other words, while in the Old Testament, God says that *“there is no other God beside Me”*, and He swears by Himself that **every knee will bow to Him**, in the New Testament we read that **every knee will bow to Jesus**.

In the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 1:6, we read **about Jesus**:

“And let all the angels of God worship (Grk “προσκυνώ” [pro-sky-no]) Him.”

PLEASE NOTE: The Greek word for “*worship*” (προσκυνώ) found in the above verse is the same word for “*worship*” found in Revelation 22:9.

In Matthew 14:33, we read that the disciples of Jesus who were “... *with Him in the boat, fell before Him and worshipped Him.*”

If Jesus were not Truly God and God by nature, equal to the Father and One of the True Godhead YHWH, then YHWH Himself would not have allowed others to worship Him.

The priests of the True God YHWH worship or serve only Him. **They are forbidden to be priests of angels or of other gods.** But when we read **Revelation 20:6**, we see that **those who will take part in the first resurrection will be priests of God and of Christ.**

Therefore, since God YHWH allows His priests to also be priests of Christ, since YHWH allows His priests to worship Jesus, then, beyond any doubt, Jesus is God by nature and worthy to receive worship.

From John 1:29, we learn that Jesus, the True Savior, is the “**Lamb of God**” that takes away the sins of the world.

In Revelation chapter 5, we read about the Lamb that was slain. In verse 8, we see the four beasts and the twenty-four elders **falling down before the Lamb** --- a classic form of worship that belongs to God; and unlike the angel of Revelation 22:8;9, **the Lamb accepts it because He is God.**

In Revelation 5:12,13, we read

*“... **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain ... And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth heard I saying, Blessing, and Honor, and Glory, and Power, be unto Him that sits on the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever**”*

In the above verses, we see that every creature worships the Lamb with exactly the same words that belong to God, the Father, the One who sits on the throne! This action does not insult God the Father because it is His will for everyone to honor the Son exactly the same as they honor Him (John 5:22).

Now, let us consider this:

If the Lamb were a creature, wouldn't every other creature in heaven and on the earth be guilty of creature worship with God's approval?

Therefore, we conclude that the True Savior, the True Lamb, **is not a creature**, as some believe, but He is One of the True Godhead YHWH and deserves to be worshipped!

The reason they (the creatures in Revelation 5) say to the Lamb that He is worthy, is because He is the One who is the Savior. In verse 9, we hear them saying,

“Thou art worthy ... for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”

Therefore, all the creatures bless, honor, and glorify the Lamb because He was slain for the salvation of men, and they say to Him that **the power is His because He truly had the power to save men.** In other words, they recognized Him as God, because there is **only One Savior --- God!** (Isaiah 43:11) **I am sure they knew that a created being does not have the power to save anyone; they knew that a false savior can only offer a false salvation!**

The first Christians, who believed that Jesus is God, and God’s Son, were happy to worship Him. Let us examine the writings of Polycarp and Justin.

Polycarp lived from 65 to 155/6 A.D. He became a Christian at an early age, and later a disciple of the apostle John. He was appointed by John to the position of Bishop over the church in Asia. The following words are taken from a letter written to the churches about his death:

“And Polycarp answered: *Eighty-six years have I served Him, and He has never done me any harm. How could I blaspheme my King and my Savior?*”

He also said, “... *Him we worship because He is the Son*

of God.” (Martyrdom of Polycarp, Chapter 17, Verse 10, from the Greek text)

Justin lived from 95 to 165 A.D. He was a Gentile and became a Christian in his mature years. He became one of the greatest defenders of the Christian faith. He died as a martyr.

In Justin’s writings, Jesus is repeatedly called God and said to be the object of worship. Speaking about those who are Christians by name only, Justin, in his “Dialogue with Trypho” said that they are “atheists, impious, unrighteous, and sinful, and confessors of Jesus in name only, **instead of worshipers of Him.**” (Chapter 35)

In the above book, he also wrote regarding Christ that ***“He deserves to be worshipped as God and as Christ.”***

In his “Apology”, ii, page 51c, he wrote:

“Him ... the word of God together with God we worship and love.” (From the Greek text)

Therefore, we see that the first Christians acknowledged that Jesus is One of the true Godhead YHWH, and they worshipped Him even if it would lead to death.

The prophecy recorded in Isaiah 40:3 states:

“The voice of him who cries in the wilderness: *Prepare the way of Jehovah; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*”

And in the prophecy of Malachi 3:1, we hear the Lord (YHWH) of Hosts saying:

“Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me.”

According to the above prophecies, who came to the earth? The answer is: **Our God did --- the Lord (YHWH) of Hosts!**

And who was the messenger who prepared or cleared the way **before our God, the Lord of Hosts?**

According to Luke 1:76; Matthew 3:3 and 11:7-11, **this messenger was John the Baptist!**

Whose way did John the Baptist prepare? **John prepared the way of Jesus, the Lord of Hosts!**

Beyond any doubt then, our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, is God by Nature and should be worshipped.

Epilogue

I have been moved to write this book by the sense of responsibility which I felt I had before God and my fellow man.

In the 25th Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord Jesus told us the parable of the *“talents”*. From this parable, we learn that our Lord is happy, when we use the *“talents”* He gave us for His glory.

In verse 15 it says that *“... to one indeed he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another, one --- to each according to his ability ...”*

As the story unfolds, we see that the slave who received the five talents from the lord, used them, and gained for the lord, five more.

The second slave, who received the two talents, used them and gained two more for his lord. Both the first and second slaves made their lord happy.

The third slave received only one talent; instead of using it so he could make some profit for the lord, he hid it in the earth. When his lord came back, the third slave returned to his lord the One talent that he had given him.

In verses 26 and 27, we hear the lord saying to the third

slave: “... *Evil and slothful slave! ... you ought to have put my silver to the bankers; and coming, I would have received my own with interest.*”

When I saw the grandeur of the glory of Jesus Christ, my Lord, I considered this knowledge to be like a “talent” which He gave to me. Not wanting to be like the third slave, and to hide it in me, that is, in this earthly vessel in which I dwell, I considered it to be my responsibility to present this subject, to the best of my ability. I did this hoping that some day, someone will benefit, and in the joy that the knowledge of the Lord brings, he will give glory to Him who gives the talents. I am referring to the joy which is born in a man, when he understands the glory of his Savior God.

I did not always have this joy. I was born a Witness of Jehovah, and the organization to which I belonged had deprived me of this joy. I was taught that Jesus is some “other god”, less than the Father. They turned me, without my becoming aware of it, into a Polytheist, believing in two Gods:

- a) In the “**Almighty**” Father, and
- b) in the “**mighty**” but **not** Almighty Son -- as if there is something that the Lord Jesus is unable to do. **WHAT A SHAME!**

They never Considered the fact that when Jesus said certain words which showed that He was lower than the Father, it was during the short period of time in which **He had humbled Himself and had taken on Himself the form of men**

(Philippians 2:6-8). During that time, **He had taken upon Himself a form lower than even the angels** (Hebrews 2:7).

When Jesus said: *“All authority in Heaven and on earth was given to Me”* (Matthew 28:18), it did not mean that He never had this authority **before** He became a man. It meant that the Father God gave *“all authority”* to the *“man Jesus Christ”*, who now holds the position of the mediator between God and men.

“The man Jesus” asked His heavenly Father to give Him the glory which He (the *“Word”*) had in Heaven, **before** the world was made (John 17:5).

Not having the Bible as the basis of their teaching, they brought me to the point of believing that the *“Word”*, the Creator God, without whom nothing was created, is Himself a creature. What darkness!

They used the words of Colossians 1:16, where (according to their NWT Bible), it says about Jesus:

“... all [other] things have been created through Him and for Him”,

and they said: “You see? Here it says **‘through Him’** all **‘other’** things have been created. These words mean that **God** created all things **‘through’** Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is not God.”

PLEASE NOTE: The word *[other]* does not exist in the original Greek text. The Jehovah’s Witnesses **have added** this

word to their Bible translation to help support their theory that God created Jesus first and then, “**through Him**”, God created all *[other]* things. **God is against those who add to His word** (Revelation 22:18)!

Based on the above reasoning, they present Jesus as a mere creature and as only the “**medium**”, “**through**” whom God created. Can they be correct? Is the Greek grammar able to help us determine whether Colossians 1:16 says that Jesus is the “**medium**” only “**through**” whom someone else created or whether He is **the cause** and **the medium** of creation? Let us study this part of the verse directly from the original Greek text. The exact wording appears as follows:

ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα ... τὰ πάντα **δι’ αὐτοῦ** ... ἔκτισται

In Him were created all things ... all things **by Him** ... were created

The Greek word “**διά**” ([dia] or “**δι**” for short) in the above text is a preposition. It has many different meanings depending on whether it is used for a place, for distance, for time, for a person, etc. Some of the meanings are: for, by, with, about, through, etc., e.g. “**διά να**” ([dia na]: in order to). “**δια βίου**” ([dia viou]: for life). “**διά τούτο**” (for this reason). “**διά πλοίου**” ([dia ploiou]: by boat). “**διά μέσου της πόλεως**” ([dia mesou tis poleos]: through the city). Check Divrys Greek-English Dictionary, 1971, page 471, under the word “**διά**”.

According to Εκσυγχρονισμένον “1970”, Νέον Λεξικόν (Δημητράκου [Dimitrakou]), page 397, under the word “**διά**”, no. 7, the grammar of the Greek language dictates that:

When the word “διά” (dia) is used in regards to an act of a person, followed by the genitive case, it means that the person is the cause of this act not just the medium.

When the word “διά” is followed by the word “μέσου” (mesou), it means “through” and shows that the person is **only the medium**. The combination of both words makes the person to be “διάμεσος” (diamesos): **intermediate or medium**. (Check the above Lexicon Dimitrakou, page 409, under the word “διάμεσος” [diamesos]).

In Colossians 1:16 we **do not** find the word “μέσου” after the word “διά”; it **does not** say “διά μέσου αυτού”. Instead, we see that the word “διά” or “δι” is followed by the word “αὐτοῦ” (Him) **which is in the genitive case!** When a Greek word is in the genitive case and is translated into English, it should receive in front of it the words “of the” or “of”. Therefore, the expression “δι’ αὐτοῦ”, should literally be translated as “by of the Him” or “by of Him”. Although “**all things were created by of the Him**” sounds strange in English, in Greek, the expression,

“...τὰ πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ ... ἔκτισται”
 “... all things by Him ... were created”

makes an irrefutable statement: **it makes the Person (Him) to be the Cause or the Author of creation. It means that He created all things --- that He is the Creator!**

And the first part of the same verse, i.e.,

“ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα ...”
“in Him were created all things ...”

tells us that **Jesus is the One who conceived in His wisdom the pattern of all things which “... were created by Him and for Him”** (verse 16c). That makes Jesus **the Designer and the Builder who created all things for Himself!** In other words, that makes Jesus One of the True Godhead YHWH or the Creator God!

Please note that the apostle Paul, in Romans 11:36, used exactly the same words to state that God is the Creator of all things --- not just the Medium. He wrote,

“ὅτι ἐξ αὐτοῦ, καὶ δι’ αὐτοῦ, καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν τὰ πάντα ...”

“Because of Him, and **through Him**, and to Him *are* all things...”

JESUS IS NOT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

The Jehovah’s Witnesses make another mistake by saying that Jesus, in His pre-human nature, was a created angel, Michael the archangel, the brother of Satan (Watchtower 3/1/1932, page 76, paragraph 2,3).

Who is Michael? What is his essence? Does the Bible say anywhere that Michael is God?

The answer is, “**NO!**” The Bible does not mention anywhere that Michael is God. There is not one verse which says that **the form or the essence** of Michael was the same as God’s as it does about the Word, the pre-human Jesus (John 1:1).

The **authority** of Michael is not like the authority of the Lord Jesus either. In Jude verse 9, we read that **Michael did not dare** bring a judgment of blasphemy, but said to the Devil, ***“Let the Lord rebuke you!”***

From the above words we realize that Michael referred to **another Lord: To the one and only Lord who has the power to rebuke Satan.** And Jesus proved to be that Lord!

Jesus showed on many occasions that He had the power to rebuke Satan and his demons; **He even gave this authority to His disciples, to have authority in His Name over all the power of the Enemy** (Luke 9:1; 4:36; 10:17-20).

In addition, Jesus is the **only** begotten Son of God. Therefore, Jesus is **unique** in the whole universe. There is no one else like Him. On the other hand, **Michael is not unique.** He is one of many like him. This is stated in Daniel 10:13. There it says:

“... But, lo, Michael, one of the first rulers, came to help me”

The words, ***“one of”*** show that **Michael is not unique**, and that there are more like him.

All we know about Michael is that he has been appointed to look after the righteous people of God, he stands for the sons of Israel, he is a leader of a group of angels, and he is the one whom God used to make war with Satan and his angels and to cast them down to the earth (Daniel 12:1; Revelation 12:7-9).

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. Nowhere do we find Michael holding a “**position**”, a “**title**”, an “**office**”, or anything that belongs to God and to Jesus (John 16:15; 17:10). For this reason, it is clear, that Jesus is not and never was Michael.

2. Every knee will not bow in the name of Michael, but in the name of Jesus, because Jesus is God by nature --- not a created angel (Philippians 2:6,10).

3. God did not subject the coming world to angels (Hebrews 2:5) but placed all things under the feet of Jesus who created them, because “**by Him**” and “**for Him**” all things were made (Colossians 1:16; Romans 11:33-36; Hebrews 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:25,27).

Now, how was it possible that I did not understand all these points and the glory of Jesus, all the years I was a Witness of Jehovah? The answer is simple. Jesus said,

“Ask and it will be given to you;” (Matthew 7:7).

I had not asked God to reveal His Son to me, because I believed, like every other Witness of Jehovah, that only our organization had the full truth about the person of our Lord.

The apostle Paul said that God **revealed** His Son to him. He wrote:

“But when God was pleased, He having separated me from my mother’s womb, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the nations;” (Galatians 1:15, 16).

Why is it necessary for God **to reveal** Jesus to us?

First, because Jesus said that “... *no one knows the Son except the Father*” (Matthew 11:27), and “*No one is able to come to Me unless the Father draws him;*” (John 6:44).

Second, because in 2 Corinthians 4:4, the apostle Paul has explained to us that Satan’s purpose is to blind “*the thoughts of the unbelieving, so that the brightness of the gospel of the glory of Christ^{*}, who is the image of God, should not dawn on them.*”

From the above, we learn that:

1. The glory of the Lord Jesus, i.e., who He is, **His Deity, must be preached.**
2. Paul calls this preaching “*gospel*”: **The good news!**
3. **Satan does not wish any man to understand the good news of the glory of Jesus**, that it was God the Word (John 1:1) who became flesh (John 1:14) to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) and that He accomplished this task through His

* **PLEASE NOTE**: Since the apostle Paul preached one gospel only, not two, it is worth noting that in 2 Corinthians 4:4, he called the gospel, “*the gospel of the glory of Christ*”, while in 1 Timothy 1:11, he called it, “*the gospel of the glory of the blessed God*”!!

death, burial and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), **and for this reason, he blinds their minds** (2 Corinthians 4:4).

This is the reason we must ask:

Why is Satan trying to prevent people from understanding the gospel, that is, **the good news of the glory of Christ?** Why is it so important to him to be engaged in such an activity? Why is it so necessary for the one who deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9) to prevent them from understanding **who Jesus really is?** Being one of those who are not ignorant of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11), my answer to these questions is:

Because, if Satan succeeds in his quest to prevent people from seeing (“recognizing” [John 6:40]) **the True Jesus of the Bible, who is God in the flesh** (John 1:1,14), **they will die in their sins** (John 8:24).

Satan knows that the Scriptures say that whosoever “*sees*” the **only begotten Son of God** (i.e., the only Son of God’s essence) **and believes in Him**, will not perish but he/she will have **eternal life** (John 3: 16; 6:40).

One of the methods Satan uses to prevent people from having eternal life, is to present to them many false christos who **are not God’s only begotten Son!** Those who believe in and follow “*another Jesus*” --- like the Jesus of the Watchtower Society who is **God’s only created son**, are following a false christos and, therefore, have been misled (Matthew 24:4,5). The false “*way*” they follow does not lead them to the Father and to the True Son **for salvation**.

All those who follow a false christ who **is not God in essence** have been blinded by Satan and they need the help of those who follow the True Jesus of the Bible **so they can recognize Him as the “Lord” (YHWH) of Romans 10:9, 12-14 in order to call upon His name, in order to be saved.**

The above preaching of **the true gospel of the glory of Jesus for the salvation of men**, is a wonderful work which even the angels wanted to be involved with (1 Peter 1:10-12).

Another point the Witnesses use in their attempt to prove that Jesus is not God by nature (because according to them only the Father is God by nature), is that Satan tested Jesus in the desert, at the beginning of His earthly ministry.

Because Satan said **to the man Jesus, “All these things I will give you if you fall down and do an act of worship to me”** (NWT), the Witnesses maintain that Satan was trying to cause Jesus to be disloyal to God. They say, “If Jesus were God, could God rebel against himself? The temptation of Jesus would make sense only if he was, not God, but a separate individual who had his own free will, one who could be disloyal to God.”

They use Deuteronomy 32:4, where it says of God, **“Perfect is his activity ... A God of faithfulness ... righteous and upright is he.”**, and they say that it is unimaginable that God could sin and be disloyal to himself. So, they say, if Jesus had been God, he could not have been tempted. (From their magazine, “Should you believe in the Trinity?”, page 14, subtitle “Could God be Tempted?”)

Their logic shows that they have failed to understand the godhead. Christians do not believe that Jesus is the Father. Christians believe what the Bible says about Jesus, that He is the Son --- not the Father. Also, the Witnesses have failed to see **the reason** Jesus came to the earth, in **what form** He came, and **who** wanted to test Him --- God or Satan?

THE NEW CREATION

The Bible says that Jesus came to the earth to be sacrificed for the sins of the world, that **whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life**. This is not all Christ did for us. He also gave us **freedom from religious bondage** and from the **works** which “**Religion**” imposed upon humanity giving the false hope that man could please God and receive eternal life **through works!** Also, Christ made it possible for believers to become sons of God (John 1:12) and **a new creation** (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24). When the Word became flesh, He became the “**firstborn**” or the “**head**” of this new creation (Revelation 3:14; Colossians 1:9-20).

The **old creation** with the first Adam brought sin and death to humanity. The **new creation**, of the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45), brought **freedom from sin and death** (1 Corinthians 15:26).

When God made the old creation, it was **His purpose to test Adam**. He allowed Satan to test Adam and **Adam fell**. With the first coming of our Lord Jesus, **we saw the beginning of a new creation**. The “**Word**”, the Creator Himself, became flesh **to start this new creation**, because all things came into being through Him and without Him not

even one thing came into being that has come into being (John 1:1-3).

Is this new creation superior to the old? Would the new creation prove to be stronger than the old? Could it stand steadfast under the temptations of Satan?

When the **“Word”** became flesh, He **did not** come to the earth to live as God, but **as a man**. **It was God’s purpose**, not Satan’s, to test **the man Jesus**. It was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus to the desert to be tested by Satan (Matthew 4:1).

As a man, He became hungry and the essence of God, which is in Him (John 14:10,11), could have easily turned the stones into bread so He could eat; but He did not do that because He had to suffer the pains of hunger **as a man trusting God**.

As a man, He subjected Himself to the law.

As a man, not as God, **He learned** (experienced) **obedience** (Hebrews 5:8).

Please consider: If in His pre-human life He were a created angel, He would have experienced obedience because all created beings ought to obey their Creator!

As a man --- not as God, Satan tried to tempt Him in all things.

As a man --- not as God, He **died** on the cross.

As a man, He was buried.

As a man, He was raised and glorified.

As a man, He became the mediator between God and men, and as the mediator, He sits at the right hand of the Father until all things are made new.

Therefore, the reasoning of the Jehovah's Witnesses is not correct because **Satan did not tempt God the Word** in the desert, **but the man Jesus, the "beginning" i.e., the Author or the "head" of the new creation**. And Jesus proved that this new creation, unlike the old, has the power to say "NO!" to Satan and to sin (John 14:30)! Praise God, because all of us who make up this new creation also have the power to say "NO!" to Satan and to sin, because greater is He who is in us, than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Dear Reader, if at the present time, you are in the position where I once was, and you do not know the glory of Jesus, ask God the Father to **reveal** God the Son to you, and He will. He answered my prayer; He will also answer yours.

The Lord Jesus said, "... *Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone asking, receives, and the one seeking finds; and to the one knocking, it will be opened*" (Luke 11:9-13).

Please consider: When you look at yourself in the mirror you are looking at your image --- not someone else's. When you look at your image, you are looking at yourself! Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Thus, those who saw Jesus, when He was on the earth, saw the Father! (John 14:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15; 1 Corinthians 13:12).

I pray that God will give you the joy of the understanding which He gave me.

At this point, I feel that this book would be incomplete if I do not include my experience as to how God revealed to me the deity of the Lord Jesus.

One day, as I was meditating on the close relationship that exists between the Father and the Son, the day of the creation came to my mind.

In Genesis 1:3, God said, ***“Let light be --- and there was light.”*** The main point of this verse is that God SAID, ***“Let light be”!*** For all the things which God created, He created them **by the Word He spoke**. All things were made **by the WORD of God**. His **WORD** made all things; and the **WORD** of God, **who is a Person because He is living and active** (Hebrews 4:12,13), became flesh and tabernacled among us, and we beheld His glory.

Instantly, the simple words of John 1:14 began to echo in my mind:

“and the WORD became flesh “,

“and the WORD became flesh “,

“and the WORD became flesh”!

And we saw the “Word”, God’s creating power and authority, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Suddenly, my soul and spirit were filled with satisfaction:

THE “WORD” OF GOD (John 1:1),

the absolute creative power of God (John 1:3),

the absolute wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24,30),

the absolute image of God (Colossians 1:15),

the expression of God’s love (John 3:16),

the absolute Light of God (John 1:9),

the Creator of the ages (Hebrews 1:2),

the radiance, the shining splendor of God’s glory (Hebrews 1:3),

the express image of God’s essence (Hebrews 1:3),

the One who holds all things with the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3),

BECAME FLESH! Thus, we came to know God and His glory, in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6; John 14:7-9)!

How could I have believed for all those years that:

The “Word” of God was a created angel?

The absolute creative power of God, the One who created all things for Himself (Colossians 1:16), **was a created angel?**

The absolute Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24; Proverbs 8:12,30) who designed the shapes of all things within Himself (Colossians 1:16) was a created angel?

The absolute image of God was a created angel?

The expression of God's love was a created angel?

The absolute light of God was a created angel?

The Creator of Time, the Creator of the Ages, who was in existence before them, was a created angel?

The radiance, the shining splendor of God's glory, was a created angel?

The express image of God's essence was a created angel?

The Pantokrator (Grk), the Omnipotent God, the One "who holds all things with the word of His power", was a created angel?

Jesus, my Lord and my God, please, forgive me for my ignorance.

On another morning, I was home alone, sitting in the living-room, praying and magnifying God. It was about eleven o'clock. Suddenly, I saw in front of me a wonderful vision:

"I saw a great white fire. This fire was nothing like the fires I had seen in my life. It was not burning anything! It did not

have the red and orange colors of an earthly fire; neither did it have any smoke. It was a white fire; it had the height of a tall person, and it was radiating a pure, white light! This super-natural fire consisted of many white and living flames. The flames were intertwining, one flame embracing the other in an upward spiral. This white, bright and living fire was slowly and gracefully rotating around itself. On the upper part of this fire, I saw the face of Jesus! It was the face of the man Jesus, the man who had suffered pain. As the fire rotated, the face of the Lord Jesus disappeared at the rear of the fire. I could not see any other face, until the face of the Lord Jesus slowly appeared again at the other side of the fire.”

What a beautiful vision of God’s glory! What a beautiful understanding of the mystery of God and of Christ, of the mystery of the Godhead (Colossians 2:2,3)!

The apostle Paul wrote that God dwells in unapproachable light, whom not one man has seen or can see (1 Timothy 6: 16). Again, Paul wrote, *“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 4:6).

On another night, the Lord Jesus appeared again in my dream. I dreamt I was sitting in a chair. Jesus came close to me; He also sat in a chair, and looked at me, smiling.

“Lord’, I said, “as I understand You now, You represented the Father in full when You were on earth. In other words, those who saw You, saw the Father”!

“Yes”, He answered smiling, “this is what We want you to understand.”

My soul glorifies the Lord my God for the mercy He showed me, an imperfect man. There is nothing in this world of greater value, than for a man to experience and to know his Creator.

This is my treasure: That I came to know Him, because He was known to me (as in a mirror), and because I was known by Him, the good and humble God. Glory belongs to Him, now and forever (1 Peter 4:11; 2 Peter 3:18).

Jesus Invites You

Dear Reader,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this book in which I presented to you **the True Jesus of the Bible**. If you are one of those who have not yet accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal God and Savior, now that you have received a considerable knowledge through this book, I would like you to consider the following:

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invites the people to come to Him. There, we read:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Jesus, who is the True God and Savior, (2 Peter 1:1), said, ***“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him”***

From the above words, we realize that Jesus is good, polite, and meek. He does not try to force anyone to open the **“door”** and to receive Him as his/her God and Savior. However, if one, out of his/her own free will, opens the

“door” of his/her heart and invites Him to come in, Jesus, the One who is the Omnipresent God (John 1:51), will come in and He will dwell inside him/her.

Because Jesus is not a created being, but One of the True Godhead YHWH, He does not come into one’s heart alone. The Father, who is in the Son (John 14:8-11), comes in also. The Lord Jesus said,

“...If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come into him, and make our abode with him.” (John 14:23).

The Father and the Son dwell inside those who believe in the True Jesus of the bible through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11). Therefore, **the believer becomes God’s dwelling place, the temple of God**. This is the reason the apostle Paul said to the Christians in Corinth,

“Do you not know that you are God’s temple, and the Spirit of God dwells in you? ... the temple of God is holy, which temple, you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16,17).

Also, the moment one believes in the True Jesus of the Bible and the Spirit of God dwells in him/her, that person,

- a) **Is saved from the penalty of his/her sin and he/she has everlasting life** (Matthew 1:21; John 3:16). **What a sweet freedom!**

- b) **Is born-again --- is born from above** (John 3:3-8).

- c) **Has direct access to God** through the Holy Spirit who prays on his/her behalf (Romans 8:26,27) and through Jesus Christ, our High Priest, the One who gave His body in order to make holy **all those who will believe in Him** (Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:10-14).
- d) **Becomes a child of God --- what a relationship!** (John 3:3-5; 1:12,13; Romans 8:14-16).
- e) Becomes a **“new creation”** (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- f) Becomes part of the **“body of Christ”**, of the body which recognizes Jesus as the only **“Head”** (Romans 12:4,5; 1 Corinthians 10:17; 12:12-17; Ephesians 1:22; 5:23).
- g) Becomes one of those who comprise the **“Bride”** of Christ who is the **“Bridegroom”** (2 Corinthians 11:1; Revelation 19:7).
- h) Becomes a **holy priest**, one of those who comprise a **Holy Priesthood**, a **“royal priesthood”**, an **“elect race”**, a **“holy nation”**, a **“people for possession”** (1 Peter 2:4,5,9). As a royal priesthood, they have the right, the “authority”, to preach, to teach, to baptize (Matthew 28:18-20), to distribute the bread and the wine, and to do whatever is part of the worship they offer **as priests of God and of Christ** (Revelation 20:6).
- i) Becomes a **king** who will rule with Christ (Revelation 20:6).

- j) Becomes a member of **the Church** of Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus loves His Church and *“gave Himself up on its behalf, that He might sanctify it ... that He might present it to Himself as the glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such things, but that it be holy and without blemish.”* (Ephesians 5:25-27).

From the above, we realize that it is impossible for those who do not know Jesus to even imagine the glory that awaits those who believe in Him. The apostle Paul said, *“according as it has been written, “Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,” nor has it risen up into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love Him. But God revealed them to us by His Spirit”* (1 Corinthians 2:9.10a).

Therefore, Dear Reader, I would like you to pay close attention to the following questions:

- a) Would you like to be part of this glory?
- b) Would you like to have your sins forgiven?
- c) Would you like to be saved?
- d) Would you like to have everlasting life?
- e) Would you like to have an interactive relationship with your Creator?

If your answer to the above questions is “Yes!” please pay attention to the following. In Romans 10:9 and 13, the apostle Paul preaches that:

- a) **If you will confess with your mouth** that Jesus is the “**Lord**” (in other words, the “Lord” or “YHWH” of verse 13, whose name you must call upon to be saved),
- b) **If you will believe in your heart** that God the Father **raised Him bodily** from the dead, and
- c) **If you will call upon the Name of Jesus**, in other words, if you pray to Jesus, **you will be saved at that moment!**

The above **requirements for salvation** are the very core, the foundation of the good news that the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ preached (Romans 10:8). For this reason, Dear Reader,

- a) If you personally have seen the glory of the Lord Jesus and if you, out of your own free will, confess with your mouth that Jesus is the “Lord” (the YHWH) of verse 13, and
- b) If you have believed in your heart that although He died on the cross and was buried God the Father raised Him on the third day from the dead according to the Scriptures (Isaiah chapter 53),

call on His name, in other words, pray to Jesus at this very moment (Romans 10:13). Pray to Him in order to

start having a personal relationship with Him and ask Him to become your God and Savior! Now, at this very moment, make the greatest decision of your life because your everlasting life or your everlasting condemnation depends on it!

This invitation is also extended to all those who may have been going to a church for many years, but who have not yet fulfilled God's requirements for salvation.

If you have accepted this invitation, if you have prayed to the Lord Jesus and asked Him to be your God and Savior, the following words of the apostle Paul are directed to you also:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” (2 Corinthians 13:13).

Appendix A

Why Must One Believe that Jesus is God by Nature?

The answer to the above question is very important because one's eternal life or eternal condemnation depends on this very faith. In John 8:24, Jesus made the following shocking statement. He said:

“For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.” (From the Greek text)

We all know what it means for one to die in his/her sins. From the expression, *“For if you do not believe ...”* we observe that salvation is not given automatically to all people. Salvation is based on **strict conditions which God has set**. These cannot be overlooked or changed. Two of these conditions are found in John 6:39,40. There, Jesus declared:

“For my Father’s will is ... that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life.”

From the foregoing verses we observe that it is the Father’s will that all those who:

- a) See the Son, and

- b) Believe in Him, will have eternal life.

What does the expression to “*see the Son*” mean? Does the verb “*to see*”, in this case, refer to the function of the physical eyes? The obvious answer is “NO!” Jesus has not appeared to all the believers.

Therefore, the expression “*to see the Son*” refers to our **recognizing Jesus as the Son of the True God**. The above goes hand in hand with John 3:16, where Jesus proclaimed the gospel of salvation. He said:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

From this proclamation, we learn that those who do not believe in God’s **only begotten** Son will perish. It is worth noting in the foregoing text that Jesus placed the words “*only begotten*” before the word “*Son*”. This is extremely important, because God has two kinds of sons:

- a) Jesus --- God’s **only begotten Son**, and
- b) All those on earth and in heaven who are **sons of God’s creative power**.

As I have explained on page 48, the Greek word for “*only begotten*” is “*Μονογενής*” (monogenes). The word “*Μονογενής*” is not synonymous with the words “*Πρωτόκτιστος*” (protoktistos --- first created) or “*Μονόκτιστος*” (monoktistos --- only created). The expression “*only begotten*” (monogenes) denotes that Jesus is not a created being.

In John 3:16, the expression “**μονογενή Υιόν**” (monogene ion --- only begotten Son) tells us that **the prehuman Jesus was the only Son of God’s essence**. Thus, to believe in God’s **only begotten Son** is to believe that He is at once God in essence God by nature; and according to John 3:16, **this belief is a requirement for and a prerequisite to receiving salvation.**

The foregoing truth is unshakeable! Those who preach that people can be saved **before** they “*see*” (recognize) **God’s only begotten Son** who is God in essence and **before** they **believe in Him**, preach a different gospel that is directly opposed to the one preached by Jesus in John 3:16. According to Galatians 1:8,9 and 2 Corinthians 11:4, those who preach a different gospel are cursed.

Jesus knew that others would come and say, “*I am the Christ*” and that they would mislead many (Matthew 24:5). For this reason, **He warned His disciples against these false christs.**

What makes false christs false? **Their created nature!** For this reason, in John 3:16, Jesus used that precious Greek word, “μονογενή” (monogene/only begotten) to first, point to His Godly nature and second, **to exclude all others.**

Because of their created nature, (whether these false christs were real beings or imaginary), **they are not God in essence manifest in the flesh; the real Jesus of the Bible Is** (John 1:1,14). Their origins, their goings forth have not been from of old, from the days of eternity (Micah 5:2). Neither can they remain forever (John 12:34). They might be named “*Jesus*” but **they are not what the name “Je-**

sus” means. **They are not** “YHWH THE SAVIOR”. A mere creature named “Joshua” (Hebrew for “Jesus”) does not have the power to save anyone because he is not one of the Almighty Godhead YHWH who became flesh to save **His people** from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Therefore, those who believe in a false christ like the false Jesus of the Watchtower Society, who is not God but “a god”, with a small “g”, a created being, Michael the Archangel, the brother of Lucifer (Watchtower 3/1/1932, page 76, paragraphs 2,3), are not saved. Unless they recognize that the True Jesus of the Bible is God’s only begotten --- not only created --- Son and therefore God by nature, unless they believe in Him and call on His name (unless they pray to Him), they will perish --- they will not have everlasting life!

I am amazed by the fact that people who say they love the truth have allowed the religious organizations they follow to mislead them on such a vital subject that denies them salvation!

Instead of blindly accepting the opinions of their religious leaders, who tell them that Jesus is not God in essence, they need only study carefully John chapter one. In that chapter, John presents 12 facts which show that Jesus is God. Let us examine those twelve facts:

1. In verse 1, John declares that **the Word**, the pre-human Jesus, **was God**.
2. In verse 3, John states that **Jesus is the Creator God** because nothing came into being without Him.

Please note: Some of those who do not believe that Jesus is God have a real problem with this verse. For this reason, they have come up with **a strange theory that cannot be supported by scripture**. Their theory is an attempt to obscure the Biblical teaching that Jesus is the Creator God in the flesh. Their theory states that God first created Michael the Archangel (who, as they think, is the pre-human Jesus). Then, they say that God gave Michael the blueprints of creation and that Michael created all [other] things by following those blueprints. **The above theory is not Biblical truth.** There is not one scripture that supports such a fable.

On the contrary, the Bible tells us that the heavens and the earth and the trees and the fish and the beasts and the birds etc., **came into existence by the Word of God. God spoke everything into existence;** He said, *“Let there be ...”*, and **everything came to be!**

I wonder, could those who believe in the false theory of Michael the Archangel reveal to us at least one of the things that Michael created by following those imaginary blueprints? How foolish!

What an insult to God’s power! What an insult to His Word who created all things **for Himself** and who became flesh for our salvation (John 1:3,14; Colossians 1:16; Matthew 1:21). I hope that one day they will accept the Biblical truth of John 1:3 and see the True Jesus of the Bible who is the Creator God, One of the True Godhead **YHWH**.

3. In verses 4 and 9, John informs us that Jesus is **the Life and the True Light**; and in John 3:19, the

apostle says that “*The Light has come into the world.*” Only God YHWH is the Life and the True Light (Psalms 27:1; Isaiah 60:19; 1 John 1:5).

4. In verse 10, John repeats the fact that **Jesus is the Creator** by saying that the world came into being by Him.
5. In verse 14, John tells us that God the Word became flesh. Therefore, **Jesus is God incarnate.**
6. In verses 14 and 18, he tells us that Jesus is God’s **only begotten** Son --- a description which excludes all the created sons of God and clearly states that **Jesus is God in essence.**
7. In verse 23, John points to the fact that **Jesus was the YHWH whose way John the Baptist had come to prepare** (compare with Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3).
8. In verse 29, John states that Jesus was the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. **Only God had the power to accomplish that. A mere human being could not achieve such a task.**
9. In verse 34, John preaches that **Jesus is the Son of God** --- a title which (according to John 5:18,23) **implies Deity** (Read Appendix B, page 164).
10. In verse 47, John shows us that **Jesus was All Knowing** --- that **He is Omniscient.** Jesus knew what was in a man. **Only God has this power** (Jeremiah 17:10; compare with Revelation 2:18-23).

11. In verse 48, John tells us that **Jesus is All Seeing or Omnipresent. Only God has this capability.** King David asked God: *“Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your face? If I go up on Heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there!”* (Psalms 139:7-10; Compare with John 1:51 below).

12. In verse 51, **Jesus Himself declares that He is the Omnipresent God the Son** by saying that whether the angels of God are ascending into heaven or descending to the earth, **they are ascending and descending on Him.** **That can not possibly happen unless He is Omnipresent.**

From the above twelve statements of John, we have established that the One who came down from Heaven was the Eternal Son of God or God the Son, One of the True Godhead YHWH who became flesh in order to sacrifice Himself on the cross for our sins. **Those who believe in this Jesus have eternal life.** Those who believe in a false christ like the Jesus of the Watchtower, will perish (John 3:16).

As one’s eternal life depends upon his/her recognizing the True Jesus of the Bible and believing in Him, one can never over emphasize this subject. Even the Lord Jesus Himself gave more than one example to help us see the need of recognizing the True Source of life. Here is one of them:

In John 15:1-6, the True Jesus said,

“I am the TRUE VINE and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me not bearing fruit, He takes

away; and everyone bearing fruit He prunes it that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean through the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, if it abides not in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; because severed from me you can do nothing. If anyone abide not in Me, he is cast out like the branch and is withered; and such are gathered, and cast into a fire, and are burned.”

The message of the above words is clear: **Away from the True Vine, away from the True Jesus of the Bible, who is God incarnate, there is no life.**

As I said earlier, Jesus knew that many false christs would come to mislead mankind; and it was for this reason that He made a distinction between Himself as **the True Vine** and false vines. Thus, he used the word **“True”** before the word **“Vine”**. He said, **“I am the True Vine”**; that expression excludes all others! Anyone **who has not** recognized Jesus as God **incarnate and believes in another “Jesus” does not abide in the True Vine and, therefore, does not have life in him/her.**

You see, the sap, **the life force**, which passes through the vine, also passes through the branches which are attached to it. This source of life that flows through the branches comes from the vine and keeps the branches alive; and in John 1:4 we read that **“In Him** (in the Real Jesus who was God and who became flesh) **was Life”**. Therefore, the bottom line is:

Those who abide in the True Jesus, the True Vine, have eternal life. Those who attach themselves to a false vine, to a false Jesus who is not God incarnate, do not have eternal life. Only God, the Fountain of life, has the power to give life to others.

Dear Reader, if you have not recognized Jesus as God's **only begotten** --- not only created --- Son, if you have not "*seen*" (John 6:40) that He is God in essence, and **if you have not believed in Him**, you are not saved --- you will die in your sins (John 3:16; 8:24).

Do not allow anyone to mislead you on this serious subject which is a matter of life or death. Be alert because there are many false teachers in the world who, in order to be liked by their listeners, preach only half truths. **They say that one can be saved by God's grace without believing that Jesus is God in essence.** They preach that a person can be saved **first** and understand that Jesus is God **later**. Those false teachers tickle the ears of their listeners and deprive them from receiving salvation (2 Timothy 4:3,4).

The Bible does not tell us that God saves people by an indiscriminate grace. In Ephesians 2:8 and 9, we read:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast."

From the above words of the apostle Paul it is obvious that when a preacher tells you that people are saved by grace

and he/she stops there, this preacher has just told you a half truth. He/she has left out two important words that Paul used: **“through faith”!**

From the words ***“through faith”*** and from the words of the Lord Jesus in John 3:16, it is obvious that **a person must first believe in God’s only begotten Son in order to receive God’s saving grace.**

You might say,

“I still find it hard to believe that Jesus is God by nature! I find it hard to accept the idea that the Creator of the universe, the Almighty YHWH who created all things for Himself (Romans 11:36), would come down from Heaven to walk among us. Would YHWH, the God of Israel, who said that there is no Savior besides Him, come down personally to save His people? Is there a prophecy or other writing in the Old Testament which might give that idea?”

Yes, there is! Please consider the following:

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 59, beginning with verse 15, we see that YHWH looked down and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one to intervene. **So, His own arm worked salvation.** He put on righteousness as His breastplate; He put on His head the helmet of salvation; He put on garments of vengeance; He wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak, and in verse 20, **He comes to Zion as Her Redeemer.**

Who is the Redeemer of Zion? In the following chapter, Isaiah 60, YHWH continues to talk to Zion and in verse 16, He says to her,

“You will know that I, YHWH, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Yes, YHWH was the One who came down to liberate and to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). In the above chapters of Isaiah 59 and 60 **He said that He would**, and I have no reason to doubt His Word. Yes, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself by the blood of His cross (2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1:19,20; 2:9). However, He revealed to His servants, the prophets, that before He came down He would send His messenger to prepare the way before **Himself**. In Isaiah 40:3, we read that ***“The voice of him who cries in the wilderness”*** would prepare the way of YHWH and in Malachi 3:1, we hear the YHWH of hosts saying:

“Behold, I am sending My messenger and he will clear the way before Me.”

Who was the voice that cried in the wilderness? Who was the messenger that cleared or prepared the way before YHWH? According to John 1:23 this “voice” was John the Baptist.

Whose way did John the Baptist prepare? John prepared the way for Jesus. **Who, then, is the man Jesus?** The New Testament points out that the man Jesus was God YHWH the Son who became flesh to save **His people** from their Sins.

Can the above statements be further supported from the Bible? Yes, they can.

In Matthew 23:37, we hear Jesus saying to Jerusalem:

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets, and stoning those sent to her! How often I desired to gather your children in the way a bird gathers her chicks from under her wings. And you did not desire it.”

Please consider: Whose people were Israel? Not YHWH’s? Was it not YHWH who promised to gather Israel to Himself? (Isaiah 54:5-7) How could Jesus, a man in His early thirties, say that it was He who had desired to gather them under His wings? What is Jesus actually saying here? Who is He? **Only He who is One of the True Godhead YHWH could make such a statement!** I pray that God the Father will reveal His **only begotten** Son to you so that you can believe in Him and be saved.

Another example which shows that Jesus is God and that it is necessary to believe in Him in order to be saved is found in John 3:13-15. There, Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“¹³And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, the Son of man which is in heaven. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; ¹⁵that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Let us meditate on the above words:

First, look at verse 13. There, we observe that Jesus reveals His Deity to Nicodemus by saying to him that the One who came down from heaven is the Son of man (Jesus) who **is** in heaven. Jesus did not say that the Son of man “*used to be*” or “*was*” in heaven, but “**is**” in heaven. **Only God is omnipresent.** Only God could be here on earth talking to Nicodemus in the flesh and be in heaven at the same time. **The expression “is in heaven” points to His Deity.**

Second, in verses 14,15, the Lord Jesus likens Himself to the copper serpent which Moses lifted in the desert. All those who were bitten by the snakes were **to look upon it in order to be saved** from death. Let us read about this story from the book of Numbers, chapter 21 and verses 6-9:

“And Jehovah sent fiery serpents among the people; and they bit the people, and many people of Israel died; and the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against Jehovah, and against you; pray to Jehovah, and He shall turn the serpents away from us; and Moses prayed on behalf of the people. And Jehovah spoke to Moses. Make yourself a fiery (reddish color) serpent, and set it on a pole: and it shall be when anyone is bitten, when he sees it, he shall live. And Moses made a serpent of copper, and put it on a pole; and it came to pass that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked to the serpent of copper, he lived.”

In the above story, Moses, in obedience to God, made a serpent of copper and lifted it up on a pole for the salvation of those who had been bitten by a snake. To me, this is a very powerful story. Just imagine: You have just been bit-

ten by a poisonous snake. You suffer pain and go through agony and fear of death. You see others around you who have already died. And yet, you have to believe with your heart that **if you look upon that copper snake you will live!**

It has been estimated that those who came out of Egypt numbered from two to five million people. These people would have required a large area in the desert. Now, let me ask you this: **IF** someone from the assembly had said,

“Too many people have died, and Moses has lifted up only one copper snake for salvation. Some people find it very difficult to see the copper serpent from this distance. Hurry up! Let us make one or two more serpents to make it easy for the wounded. But, because it takes longer to make the snakes from copper, let us make them from wood, and lift them up on poles. And let us preach that those who will look upon our wooden serpents will also be saved like those who look upon the copper snake, as long as they look upon them with faith and sincere hearts; and God, who reads the hearts of men, **in His love**, will extend **His grace** upon them and He will save them. And, after **they are saved, we can lead them to the place where Moses lifted the copper serpent so they can look upon it and appreciate its metallic nature”**.

Do you, Dear Friend, honestly believe that those who would look upon the wooden serpents, which were **an imitation** of the real copper serpent, and which were not what God had provided for their salvation, would be saved? The answer is **“Definitely not!”** Likewise, do you think that a person can be saved first by looking upon and by following

a false Jesus (who is an imitation of the Real Jesus) and that **later** he/she can be brought to the place of understanding who the Real Jesus is so that he/she can just appreciate His Godly nature? Again, the answer is “**Absolutely not!**”

People have told me,

“But, when I was saved, I did not know, I did not believe that Jesus was God in essence. It wasn’t until months (for some, years) later that I recognized that Jesus is God. How can you say that I wasn’t saved all that time?”

The above testimony does not agree with the Scriptures.
Please consider the following Biblical truth:

God has set a standard, a requirement, which a person **must fulfill to receive salvation**. The Spirit of God moved the prophet Joel to reveal this requirement to us. In his book, chapter 2 and verse 32, he wrote:

“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God moved the apostle Peter to remind his Jewish audience of the same requirement for salvation. In Acts 2:21, Peter repeated the words of Joel:

“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Later, the Spirit of God moved the apostle Paul to write in Romans 10:13:

“Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

What does the expression *“call upon”* mean?

“To call upon” means *“to pray to”* --- and praying is worship. We can easily verify this from Acts 7:59 where we read that Stephen *“called upon”* Jesus saying, *“Lord Jesus receive my spirit.”* When Stephen *“called upon”* Jesus, he *“prayed to”* Him.

What is the name of the Lord that a person must *“call upon”* or *“pray to”* to be saved? Is it the name **“YHWH”** or the name **“Jesus”**? (**“Jesus”** is the name of **YHWH** the Son having come in the flesh to accomplish salvation for mankind). The apostle Peter has revealed to us that the name is **“JESUS”**. He said that **there is no other name by which we can be saved** (Acts 4:10-12).

How, though, can a person pray to Jesus to be saved if he/she does not believe that Jesus is God? For instance, the Jehovah’s Witnesses do not call upon the name of Jesus (they do not pray to Jesus) because they do not believe that He is God. How, then, can they be saved? The Bible does not provide us with another option!

Likewise, how can we accept as **biblical truth** the testimony of those who say they were saved at a time when they did not believe that Jesus is God?

Others have told me,

“But many years ago, I’ve had a spiritual experience that helped me realize that God exists. At that time, I felt God’s love and peace in my heart. I believe that I was saved back then.”

My dear one, the Bible states that no one comes to the Son until **the Father draws him** (John 6:44). Therefore, **your experience was part of God’s drawing you to His only begotten Son who is God in essence in order to be saved.** **Have you responded to His drawing yet? Have you recognized Jesus as your God in order to pray to Him to be saved?**

Furthermore, others might say: “But I believe in God! I pray to God! I even go to church (or to the synagogue) every week! **I just cannot relate to Jesus!** How can you say that I am not saved?”

Please allow me to present to you the most fundamental message for salvation as it appears in Romans, chapter 10. Let us examine a few verses carefully:

In verse 1, the apostle Paul says that his heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is **that they be saved.**

Now, please consider: Did the Israelites believe in the True God? Yes, they did! Did they pray to Him? Did they **“call upon His Name?”** Yes, they did! However, the apostle Paul said that **they were not saved!** His prayer to God was that **they may be saved.**

In verse 2, he testifies about them that they are zealous for God; **but their zeal is not according to knowledge.** (Not

according to what knowledge? Is it possible that they did not know their God YHWH, or was it **Jesus** that they were ignorant about?)

In verse 3, Paul says that they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and they sought to establish their own, therefore **they did not subject themselves to God's righteousness**. Who is the Righteousness for those who believe?

In verse 4, he says that Christ is the end of the law and that **He (Jesus) is the righteousness to all who believe**. (To those who believe in YHWH or to those who believe in **Jesus**?)

In verses 5-8, He describes what Moses wrote about the righteousness which comes from keeping the law and compares it with the righteousness which comes **by faith**. "By faith" in God YHWH, their "LORD", or "by faith" in the "LORD" Jesus? At the end of verse 8 he wrote, ***"that is the word of faith which we preach."*** In other words, **"Here is the gospel which we preach:"**

In verse 9, he tells us **what they preached**: [I quote and emphasize from the Greek text]:

"That if you shall agree/acknowledge (ὁμολογήσης) in your mouth (that) Jesus (is the) Lord (accusative case - Κύριον Ἰησοῦν), and if you shall believe in your heart that the God raised him from (among) the dead, you shall be saved."

The accusative case “*Κύριον Ἰησοῦν*” (Lord Jesus), brings the word “*Κύριον*” (Lord) to its maximum extent. Jesus is not presented here as “*a lord*”. As there are many lords, it wouldn’t be difficult for an Israelite to say with his/her mouth that Jesus is “*a lord*”. Even today’s false prophets have no problem calling Jesus “*lord*” with the idea that “*lord*” means “*master*” or “*sir*”. How, then, did the first century Christians use the word “*Lord*”?

When the Hebrews found it necessary to translate the Old Testament from the old Hebrew language into the Greek language (for the benefit of their own people who spoke Greek), they decided, (for valid reasons) to replace the Hebrew Tetragrammaton “YHWH” with the Greek word “*Κύριος*” (Ky’-ri-os). Therefore, in their translation which is known as “Septuagint”, **the God of the Hebrews became known as “*Κύριος*” (Ky’-ri-os: Lord)**. When the Hebrews of the first century were talking about the “*Lord*”, they were referring to their God. Thus, the word “*Lord*” had become synonymous with the word “*God*”.

The New Testament writers continued to use the name “*Κύριος*” (Lord) in their writings and they used it freely in naming God’s only begotten Son. They named Him “*Lord Jesus*” (Acts 8:16), “*Lord Christ*” (Colossians 3:24) and “*the Lord Jesus Christ*” (Acts 11:17).

An important point to remember here is that even the Pagans were using the word “*Κύριος*” (Lord) before the names of their gods and the names of their emperors whom they worshipped as gods (for instance, Lord Serapes, Lord Nero, etc.). For this reason, **the early Christians preferred to die rather than to say, “*Lord Caesar*”**.

From the foregoing information, we conclude that when Paul said that a person must confess that Jesus is “**Lord**” to be saved, he meant that **a person must confess that Jesus is God to be saved.**

Also, in verse 9, we observe that the three verbs, i.e., a) acknowledge/confess; b) believe; and c) saved, are found **in the future tense** and that the first two refer to conditions:

1. *“if you shall acknowledge/confess;*
2. *“if you shall believe”;*
3. *“you shall be saved”.*

From the above, it is obvious that Paul’s word of faith was not preached to already saved persons but to those Israelites who worshipped **YHWH**, who had zeal for God, but, who had not acknowledged Jesus as **YHWH** in the flesh and had not believed in their hearts that God the Father had raised Him from the dead and who, **because of this unbelief**, were not saved. Thus, **their salvation depended on whether they would acknowledge or confess the fact that Jesus is God in essence, the “LORD” and if they would believe in their hearts that God the Father had raised Him from the dead.**

In verse 10, we hear that when one believes with the heart, it results in righteousness, and when one acknowledges/confesses with the mouth, the result is salvation. **Thus, until one believes with his/her heart that Jesus is YHVH (Lord) and confesses this fact with his/her mouth, that person is not saved.**

In verse 11, Paul brings to the attention of those Israelites who were seeking their own righteousness, by keeping the Law of Moses that the Scriptures say that *“Whosoever believes in Him shall not be ashamed.”* (Isaiah 28:6; 49:23).

In verse 12, Paul said to those Israelites that there is no difference between a Jew and a Greek because **the same Lord is over all** and He is rich to all who call upon Him (to all those who pray to Him). Therefore, we see that Paul said that **the Lord of the Jews (YHWH) and the Lord he had presented to the Greeks (JESUS), is One and the same Lord.**

In verses 13-15, Paul’s teaching about salvation and about the need to know the right Savior to be saved reaches its climax. He said:

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Therefore, a person must believe that Jesus is God in essence **before** he or she calls upon (prays to) Him in faith to be saved! It is for this reason that Paul asks the following question about those unbelieving (in Jesus) Israelites:

“How then shall they call on (pray to) Him in whom they have not believed?”

If the above question of the written word of God applied to those Israelites who believed in the God of Abraham, but, who had not yet believed that Jesus was the **YHWH** of verse 13 whose name one must call upon in order to be

saved, how is it that it cannot be applied to all those who are in the same condition today?

Have you, Dear Reader, come by this time to the point of believing that Jesus is the **“Lord”** of Romans 10:13 whose name you must call upon to be saved? If you have, and if you have not yet received Him as your personal God and Savior, do not delay another moment. Pray to Jesus and tell Him that you have acknowledged the fact that because He is God’s only begotten --- not only created --- Son, He is God by nature. Tell Him you have acknowledged that He is the only Savior and that **“*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved*”** (Acts 4:12), **and ask Him to save you.** The very moment you pray to Him in faith, you will receive God’s gift --- His saving grace (Ephesians 2:8,9).

May the Lord bless you!

Appendix B

John 1:1 and the Greek Article “the” --- “a god” or “God”?

In the Greek language all nouns have a gender; they appear as masculine, feminine, or neuter; e.g. “**the word**” (ο λόγος [o logos]) is masculine, “**the door**” (η θύρα [ee theera]) is feminine, and “**the water**” (το ύδωρ [to hydor]) is neuter.

In Greek, the definite article “**the**” also has different genders in order to co-ordinate with the gender of the noun to which it refers. The article “**the**” appears in its three genders as O, H, TO: “**O**” for masculine; “**H**” for feminine; and “**TO**” for neuter. The form of the article “**the**” (O, H, TO) also changes depending on whether the noun to which it refers is found in the singular or plural form, and whether it is in the nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, or the vocative case. Here, I list all its different forms:

Case	Singular			Plural		
	Masc.	Fem.	Neuter	Masc.	Fem.	Neuter
Nom.	ὁ	ἡ	τὸ	οἱ	αἱ	τὰ
Gen.	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν
Dat.	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς
Acc.	τὸν	τὴν	τὸ	τοὺς	τάς	τὰ
Voc.	ὦ	ὦ	ὦ	ὦ	ὦ	ὦ

In a sentence, we may have the subject, the linking verb, and a subjective complement or predicate. The subject is a word or a group of words about which something is said, while the predicate makes a statement about the subject.

When one constructs a sentence in English or Greek, one usually places the subject before the linking verb while the predicate is placed after it. In Greek, the predicate may appear in the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence. Usually, when the predicate appears **after** the linking verb, the predicate noun takes the article, and when it appears **before** the linking verb, it does not. The reason for this is that the predicate will not be confused with the subject.

The above rule was explained by E. C. Colwell and was published in the Journal of Biblical Literature in 1933, with the title, "A Definite Rule for the Use of the Article in the Greek New Testament." He wrote: "**A definite predicate nominative has the article when it follows the verb; it does not have the article when it precedes the verb.**"

Towards the end of his essay, he concluded:

"The following rules may be tentatively formulated to describe the use of the article with definite predicate nouns in sentences in which the verb occurs.

1. Definite predicate nouns here regularly take the article.
2. The exceptions are for the most part due to a

change in word-order:

- a) Definite predicate nouns which follow the verb (this is the usual order) usually take the article;
- **b) Definite predicate nouns which precede the verb usually lack the article;**
- c) Proper names regularly lack the article in the predicate;
- d) Predicate nominatives in relative clauses regularly follow the verb whether or not they have the article.”

Colwell’s study has been accepted as a genuine contribution to the field of Greek biblical scholarship. The following is the statement of L.C. McGaughey from his 1970 doctoral dissertation (completed under Robert W. Funk, one of America’s foremost Greek grammarians, whose dissertation was on the Greek article):

“In a pioneer study of 1933, E.C. Colwell has conclusively demonstrated that such speculative statements [as that nouns with the article are definite while those without the article are indefinite, or that the use or nonuse of the article indicates various theological nuances, or that the fluctuation is merely stylistic], which are mainly based on private hunches, need not serve as the basis for a grammar of the article with predicates of S-II sentences [i.e., sentences with a subject noun, a linking verb, and a “subjective com-

plement” or predicate nominative] stands as a model of descriptive analysis for New Testament Greek studies.” (For more details, read the book, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of John, by Robert M. Bowman, Jr.)

Now, let us study John 1:1 in the light of the foregoing rules. In that verse, there are three small sentences or clauses:

a) Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος
In beginning was the Word

b) καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν
and the Word was with the God

c) καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος
and God was the Word

Now, let us examine clauses **b)** and **c)**:

Clause (b):

καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν
and the Word was with the God

The word-order here follows the usual sentence construction. The subject “ὁ Λόγος” (the Word) holds the first position, followed by the linking verb “ἦν” (was), which is followed by the predicate “πρὸς τὸν Θεόν” (with the God). Therefore, the predicate noun “Θεόν” (God) has retained its article “τὸν” (the).

Clause (c):

και Θεός ἦν ὁ Λόγος
and God was the Word

In this clause, the subject is again “ὁ Λόγος” (the Word), the linking verb is the word “ἦν” (was), and the predicate is the noun “Θεός” (God). What we notice here is that the predicate noun “Θεός” (God) is placed **before** the linking verb “ἦν” (was) **and therefore, it does not retain its article.**

To add the article “a” in front of the predicate noun “Θεός” (God) **is incorrect**. To translate clause (c) as “*and the Word was a god*”, as the Witnesses have done, **is misleading, is an error, and constitutes a heresy.**

If John had wanted to state that the Word was “*a god*”, another god, as the Witnesses teach, **he would have written clause (c) as follows:**

καὶ Θεός τις* ἦν ὁ Λόγος
and God a was the Word

But this is not the case. John **did not** write it that way.

* “τις” = “a”, “certain”, etc. (Strong’s Hebrew Greek Dictionaries, word # G5100. Check Matthew 21:33; Mark 5:25; 14:47,51; Luke 1:5)

Instead, he wrote:

και Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος
and God was the Word

The perfect translation of the above is:

“and the Word was God”!

This sentence does not mean that the Word was ***“the God”*** (the Father) with whom the Word was from the beginning as stated in John 1:1,2. **Clause (c) states one thing only:** That the Word, the pre-human Jesus, was God by nature! To put it another way, **it means that the essence of the “Word” is exactly the same as the Father’s.**

The absence of the article “the” from before a predicate noun (whether that noun is qualitative, adjectival, definite or indefinite) **does not change or weaken the basic meaning of that noun.** Thus, the Jehovah’s Witnesses **do not** have any valid grammatical rule on which to base their decision to add the article “a” in front of the word “**God**” --- **none at all!**

If their only excuse for adding the article “a” is **the absence** of the Greek article “ὁ” (the) before the word “Θεὸς” (God), then I challenge them to be consistent and do the same in the following verses where the article “ὁ” (the) is not found before the word “**God**” in the original Greek text: Matthew 5:9; 6:24; Luke 1:35; 2:40; John 1:6; Philippians 1:11. Then, according to their NWT, these scriptures would read:

Matthew 5:9 “Happy are the peaceable, for they will be called ‘Sons of **a god**’.”

Luke 1:35 “In answer the angel said to her: “Holy spirit will come upon you, and power of the Most High will overshadow you. For that reason also what is born will be called holy, **a god’s Son**.”

Luke 2:40 “And the young child continued growing and getting strong, being filled with wisdom, and **a god’s favor continued upon him**.”

John 1:6 “There arose a man that was sent forth as a representative of **a god**; his name was John.”

Philippians 1:11 “and may be filled with righteous fruit, which is through Jesus Christ, to **a god’s glory and praise**.”

Such statements would be very misleading.

Bibliography

In the Bible quotations used, I took the liberty to place words in parenthesis and to use different fonts, in an attempt to emphasize --- not to alter --- the Scriptures.

Being Greek, I chose to do my research from the original Greek text. My quotations came from:

**THE INTERLINEAR BIBLE (HEBREW, GREEK, ENGLISH)
BY JAY P. GREEN, SR.**

**ZONDERVAN'S INTERLINEAR (GREEK --- ENGLISH) NEW
TESTAMENT**

ROTRERHAM EMPHASIZED BIBLE

THE KING JAMES BIBLE

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION (NWT) OF JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES

Other books I used were:

IGNATIUS' LETTERS TO EPHESIANS, ROMANS, SMYRNAEANS

IRENAEUS -- AGAINST HERESIES

ATHENAGORAS --- A PLEA REGARDING CHRISTIANS

POLYCARP -- - MARTYRDOM OF POLYCARP

JUSTIN --- DIALOGUE WITH TRYPRO THE JEW

DIVRYS GREEK I ENGLISH DICTIONARY, 1971

**ORTHOGRAPHICON ERMINEYTIKON "1970" NEON LEXI-
CON (DIMITRAKOY)**

STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE OF THE BIBLE

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY "1966"

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES' PUBLICATION "SHOULD YOU
BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY? --- Is Jesus Christ the
Almighty God?"**

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, JESUS CHRIST,
AND THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
ROBERT M. BOWMAN, JR.**