

THE 
WATCHTOWER

BUILT ON SAND

AN EXPOSÉ OF THE DOCTRINE OF
THE SO-CALLED “JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES”

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THE WATCHTOWER BUILT ON SAND

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Quotations of Scripture are from the American Standard Version.

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INTRODUCTION

*“Wherefore, receiving **a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God”* (Hebrews 12:28). Inspiration offers the encouragement that those who are in Christ’s church are part of an unshakeable kingdom. Christians can trust the permanence of what the Lord was establishing in the New Testament.

In contrast, Jesus preached that those who fail to rely on His words lack a foundation. He warned, *“Every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who **built his house upon the sand**: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; **and it fell**: and great was the fall thereof”* (Matthew 7:26-27). The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, which is the religious organization that so-called “Jehovah’s Witnesses” belong to, is built on sand. Consider seven of its shaky pillars.

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SHAKY PILLAR #1

FALSE PROPHECY

“But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble” (Zion's Watch Tower, July 15th 1894, page 226). Many times over the years, beginning with a prediction of 1914, the Watchtower has falsely set the date for Christ's return.

The apostle John wrote, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world”* (1st John 4:1). Scrutiny is not evidence of a lack of faith; on the contrary, a firm reliance on Scripture demands that believers test claims of prophecy. Those who proclaim sound doctrine welcome testing, but false prophets shy away from this, which is why so-called “Jehovah's Witnesses” will offer their literature to any and all, but refuse to accept written materials from others.

Within the previous Covenant, God taught Israel how to distinguish legitimate prophets from false prophets: *“But the*

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prophet, that shall speak a word presumptuously in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die. And if thou say in thy heart, How shall we know the word which Jehovah hath not spoken? when a prophet speaketh in the name of Jehovah, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which Jehovah hath not spoken: the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously, thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). This is nothing complicated. When one foretells an event, which subsequently goes unfulfilled, then that person is presumptuous and honest people must ignore him. The Watchtower is full of false prophets and always has been.

Paul the apostle anticipated the end of prophetic gifts, writing, *“whether (there be) prophecies, they shall be done away”* (1st Corinthians 13:8). Such would occur when *“that which is perfect is come”* (10), which some have misunderstood to refer to the second coming of Christ. That does not fit, however, because spiritual gifts, including prophecy, would be terminated while *“faith”* and *“hope”* would abide (13). Since both faith (Hebrews 11:1) and hope (Romans 8:24) are fixed on that which is unseen,

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when Christ is finally revealed to the whole world, then faith will be fulfilled and hope will be realized, thus ending faith and hope. Whereas the church in its infancy relied on ongoing revelation while the Scripture was incomplete, that inspired record has been written in its fulness and now *“his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”* (2nd Peter 1:3). No longer does one need to wait to see if a prophecy comes to pass. The very claim of prophetic abilities must be instinctively rejected since the completion of the written New Testament.

Watchtower disciples may deny they are attempting to prophesy when they foretell Christ’s return, but that is immaterial. God’s warning to Israel about false prophecy emphasized those who *“speak a word presumptuously.”* So, whether they call themselves prophets or not is beside the point.

Scripture addresses the timing of Christ’s return by informing readers there will be no clues, hints, or signs. *“The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night”* (1st Thessalonians 5:2). Thieves don’t make appointments. They don’t call ahead. They do all in their power to conceal their intent, acting with deliberate stealth.

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It is up to the *“strong (man) fully armed [to] guardeth his own court [so that] his goods are in peace”* (Luke 11:21). A homeowner can take precautions to guard against burglary, but cannot anticipate when the burglar would attempt to break in. Likewise, believers must prepare their hearts and souls for judgment without ever expecting to know when Jesus will come.

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SHAKY PILLAR #2

FALSE HOPE OF HEAVEN

“So rather than all good people going to heaven, the Bible reveals that only 144,000 tried and faithful persons will be taken there to rule with Christ” ([You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth](#), Copyright 1982 by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Page 124). JWs think heaven is a reward restricted to a limited few, and the rest of the saved will enjoy a different blessing.

Any doctrine from any source promoting the notion that saved souls will experience diverse blessings in eternity to come is a doctrine that rejects the biblical premise of “*one hope*.” Paul told the church at Ephesus, “*(There is) one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in **one hope** of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all*” (Ephesians 4:4-6). There are as many hopes as there are Lords and faiths, which is to say just one. To suggest heaven for some saved and something else for the rest is to present two hopes.

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To teach equality of reward hereafter, Jesus preached a parable about hired laborers working a vineyard. *“For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that was a householder, who went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the laborers for a shilling a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing in the marketplace idle; and to them he said, Go ye also into the vineyard, and **whatsoever is right I will give you.** And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh (hour) he went out, and found others standing; and he saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard. And when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and pay them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that (were hired) about the eleventh hour, they received every man a shilling. And when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received every man a shilling. And when they received it, they murmured against the householder, saying, These last have spent (but) one hour, and thou hast made*

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them equal unto us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat. But he answered and said to one of them, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a shilling? Take up that which is thine, and go thy way; it is my will to give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? or is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last” (Matthew 20:1-16). To suggest a special place in heaven for a reserved few while all other saved souls go elsewhere is to contradict the plain meaning of this parable about the heavenly kingdom. When those who have worked for the Lord receive what is right, they will receive the same as all the rest of the blessed.

If it is true that heaven is for a select minority among the faithful and not for all, then it would be wrong for Christians to place any hope there. Yet, Paul talked to brethren in Colosse about *“the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which is come unto you; even as it is also in all the world”* (Colossians 1:5-6). Not only could the Colossians correctly hope of heaven, but disciples the world over could do so, as well.

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The concept that heaven is reserved for an exclusive group of 144,000 is derived from misunderstanding two passages in the Revelation. If the number is intended literally, rather than figuratively as the overriding theme of the book would necessitate, then it is even more restrictive than the Watchtower likely intends. John recorded, *"I heard the number of them that were sealed, a hundred and forty and four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel"* (Revelation 7:4). The 144,000 under consideration are Israelites. Specifically, they are from the tribes of Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin (7:5-8). Thus, all gentiles are excluded. Furthermore, concerning *"the hundred and forty and four thousand, (even) they that had been purchased out of the earth,"* it is written that *"These are they that were not defiled with women; for they are virgins"* (Revelation 14:3-4). Not only are gentiles excluded, but so are married people and women. That is a very limited group of people.

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Immediately after saying that twelve thousand were sealed out of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, John's narration continued: *"After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of (all) tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands; and they cry with a great voice, saying, Salvation unto our God who sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb"* (Revelation 7:9-10). If a numberless multitude stands before Christ's throne proclaiming His praises, then that 144,000 must refer to something else.

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SHAKY PILLAR #3

FALSE HOPE OF EARTH

“Even persons now dead will enjoy the paradise earth” (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, Copyright 1982 by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Page 165). So-called Jehovah’s Witnesses believe the saved who don’t make it to heaven will enjoy Paradise restored on this planet.

“For in hope were we saved: but hope that is seen is not hope: for who hopeth for that which he seeth?” (Romans 8:24). Salvation is bound up in hope! And the very nature of hope, meaning a confident expectation, is that it has not yet been seen. Earth, however, is quite visible. To anticipate eternal salvation happening right here is, literally, hopeless.

There is no reason to expect Paradise on earth since the entire physical universe will cease to exist. *“The day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and **the elements shall be dissolved** with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned*

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up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in (all) holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2nd Peter 3:10-13). The elements are the building blocks of all matter; when they melt, there will be nothing left of the material realm. Everything will dissolve.

Humans bodies stand to gain nothing in the resurrection because *“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption” (1st Corinthians 15:50). The goal of true believers is to be rid of the earthly dwelling in order to obtain the heavenly, as Paul encouraged, “we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. For verily in this we groan, longing to be clothed upon with our habitation which is from heaven” (2nd Corinthians 5:1-2).*

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“The Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1st Thessalonians 4:16-18). The comfort of Scripture is that, one day, the earth will be vacated when saints meet the Lord in the air!

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SHAKY PILLAR #4

FALSE HOPE OF HELL

“Hell could not be a place of torment because such an idea never came into the mind or heart of God. Additionally, to torment a person eternally because he did wrong on earth for a few years is contrary to justice” (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, Copyright 1982 by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Page 89). They believe the unrighteous dead will simply be annihilated without ongoing pain.

God Almighty is multifaceted. To presume that His lovingkindness would preclude Him from punishing iniquity is to fail to know Him at all. *“Behold then the goodness and severity of God: toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee, God's goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off”* (Romans 11:22). None should dare to confine the great God of heaven to merely one quality of His divine character. *“God is love”* (1st John 4:8) and *“God is a consuming fire”* (Hebrews 12:29)! He is not one of those, but both of those, and much more besides!

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It is not contrary to the upright character of God to torment sinners, for *“it is righteous thing with God to recompense affliction to them that afflict you, and to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, (even) eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might”* (2nd Thessalonians 1:6-9).

Scripture warns of punishment worse than death. *“A man that hath set at nought Moses' law dieth without compassion on (the word of) two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”* (Hebrews 10:28-29).

Christ foretold of fire, wailing, and gnashing of teeth awaiting those who offend: *“The Son of man shall send forth his angels,*

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and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and them that do iniquity, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:41-42). To underscore the fact that torture is a real part of His plan for sinners, Jesus said the same thing again in a different parable a few verses later (49-50).

As if that is not emphatic enough, in another place, the Lord spoke of unquenchable fire five times in six verses! *“And if thy hand cause thee to stumble, cut it off: it is good for thee to enter into life maimed, rather than having thy two hands to go into hell, into **the unquenchable fire.** (where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched.**) And if thy foot cause thee to stumble, cut it off: it is good for thee to enter into life halt, rather than having thy two feet to be cast into hell. (where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched.**) And if thine eye cause thee to stumble, cast it out: it is good for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell; where their worm dieth not, and **the fire is not quenched’*** (Mark 9:43-48). The flames of hell will not instantaneously annihilate sinners, but will burn them unendingly.

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Comparing them to sheep and goats whom the Shepherd would separate, Jesus contrasted the unrighteous with the righteous, saying, “*These shall go away into **eternal punishment**: but the righteous into **eternal life**” (Matthew 25:46). However long eternal life will last is how long ternal punishment will be. If hell would be over with in a split second, then so, too, would heaven.*

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SHAKY PILLAR #5

DENIAL OF CHRIST'S DEITY

“Well, did Jesus ever say that he was God? No, he never did. Rather, in the Bible he is called ‘God’s Son’” (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, Copyright 1982 by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Page 39). They deny that Jesus is actually God.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Because *“the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us”* (14), it is evident that the Word is Jesus of Nazareth, so the verse plainly refers to Him. Jesus is God who was with God.

In their proprietary version of the Bible, which in and of itself is highly suspicious, the New World Translation puts it as: “In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **a** god” [emphasis added]. The word “a” is the indefinite article in English, indicating a generic or unidentified noun. There are some words in this verse which translators

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consistently skip over when bringing the Greek into the English simply because English does not require their inclusion, but “a” is not the word! Rather, it is the definite article “the!” The definite article means the noun is known to the reader. The definite article appears over 5,000 times in the Greek New Testament, and not a single reputable translation ever renders it as “a.” A word-for-word, literal and direct translation of John 1:1, would actually be: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with **the** God, and God was **the** Word” [emphasis added]. By suggesting an alternative translation, the Watchtower is counting on unquestioning acceptance, but serious students will consult the original language and see the Greek presents the opposite of what the New World Translation attempts to communicate. Jesus is not “a god;” He is “the God!”

Not only is He “the God” as opposed to merely “a god,” but, so much more, Jesus is the fullness of God! *“In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”* (Colossians 2:9). God is incomplete without Christ. The Son of God is described, not as His offspring, but as *“the effulgence of his glory, and the very image of his substance”* (Hebrews 1:3).

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In a chapter devoted to proving the superiority of Christ over angels because of what God said to His Son and did not say to angels, the Hebrew writer quoted Psalm 45, *“But to the Son (he saith,) ‘Thy throne, O **God**, is for ever and ever’”* (Hebrews 1:8). God called Him God!

Immediately after the reference to Psalm 45, the inspired penman to the Hebrews also quoted the 102nd Psalm: *“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of thy hands’”* (Hebrews 1:10) and that Psalm is addressed to Jehovah (Psalm 102:1). The people calling themselves “Jehovah’s Witnesses” should know better.

Scripture affirms Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, God Himself, the fullness of God, the express image of God – in short, Jehovah. To deny these facts about Him is to deny Him and *“Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father”* (1st John 2:23).

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SHAKY PILLAR #6

CONFUSION ABOUT BLOOD

“Jehovah’s Witnesses are well known for taking these Bible commands to heart. They reject all transfusions involving whole blood or the four primary blood components—red cells, plasma, white cells, and platelets” (The Real Value of Blood, Awake!—2006, page 10, <http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/102006283>). They would rather die than receive a blood transfusion.

At the beginning of creation, man was given a vegetarian diet (Genesis 2:16-17), but when Noah and his family emerged from the ark following the flood, God expanded the menu to include meat, telling them, *“Every moving thing that liveth shall be food for you. As the green herb have I given you all. But flesh with the life thereof, (which is) the blood thereof, shall ye not eat”* (Genesis 9:3-4). Meat qualified as food, but blood did not. This rule was renewed when the Law of Moses went into effect with all its dietary restrictions: *“Ye shall eat neither fat nor blood”* (Leviticus 3:17). And, it remains true under the present Covenant in Christ (Acts 15:19-20, 28-29; 21:25).

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God has never permitted man to eat blood, yet a transfusion is not eating. Food goes in the mouth, down the throat, into the stomach, and through the intestines; it **never** goes in the veins! To consider a blood transfusion to be eating is to totally misunderstand some very basic functions of the body.

Moreover, the Watchtower also confuses the purpose of abstaining from blood. *“Whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among them, who taketh in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten; he shall pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. For as to the life of all flesh, the blood thereof is (all one) with the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh; for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off”* (Leviticus 17:13-14). It is specifically in respect to life that the Lord ever forbade eating blood. To let a person die whose life could be saved by a transfusion is not at all respectful of life.

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SHAKY PILLAR #7

DISTRACTION OVER NAMES

“Likewise, it is proper to use God’s name, which is revealed in the Bible, whether we pronounce it ‘Yah-weh,’ ‘Jehovah,’ or in some other way common in our language. What is wrong is to fail to use that name” (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, Copyright 1982 by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Page 44).

When God commissioned Moses to deliver the Hebrews from Egyptian oppression and to lead them to the land of promise, the man had a reasonable question and God provided a revealing answer. *“Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God*

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of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (Exodus 3:13-15). The name “*Jehovah*,” derived from the Hebrew expression “*I AM*,” refers to the Lord’s self-existence. It is a name expressing eternity and power. It is certainly good to know this name and hold Him whose name it is in highest awe and deepest reverence.

Even so, many righteous men never heard that name. “*God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am Jehovah: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah I was not known to them”* (Exodus 6:2-3). When Moses took up the courage to inquire about God’s personal name, he was showing interest in information never before revealed. Moses lived more than twenty-five centuries after creation, so in all that time, no one knew the name *Jehovah*, not even the patriarchs to whom He spoke directly. For that matter, observe that the name is altogether absent from the twenty-seven books comprising the New Testament. Since the name has been revealed it should not be ignored, but considering how many godly men lived righteously before it was ever known,

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and that it never appears in the holy writ of the present covenant, neither should its importance be exaggerated.

Jehovah is an excellent name, worthy of highest esteem, but it's not His only name. *"Thou shalt worship no other god: for Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God"* (Exodus 34:14). He has many names and titles. Most people have a first name and a last name, and many, especially in America, have a middle name in between. Some might even have more than one middle name. Certain folks may have a title besides their names, like "Doctor," "Officer," "Your Honor," "Captain," or "Sensei." There are nicknames that often get used even more often than given names. It should come as no surprise, then, that the Lord God Almighty Jehovah is known by many epithets and that He has revealed these throughout Scripture. *"Jehovah"* is special, to be sure, but it is not exclusive.

What is exclusive is the name whereby salvation is obtained, and that name is not *"Jehovah."* Referring to *"the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead"* (Acts 4:10), the apostle Peter declared, *"in none other is there*

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salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved” (12). “Jehovah” is a good name, but the name that brings salvation is “Jesus Christ.” Let the focus settle here.

All that is done must be done in the name of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17). It is faith in this name that brings salvation (John 20:30-31; 1st John 3:23). It is confession of this name that saves (Romans 10:9-10) and which glorifies God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11). And it is baptism in this name (Acts 19:5) that affords remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Through Isaiah the prophet, God foretold, *“the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory, and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of Jehovah shall name”* (Isaiah 62:2). Insomuch as the name *“Jehovah”* never appears in the pages of the New Testament, *“Jehovah’s Witnesses”* cannot possibly be the name of prophecy. Rather, the people of God through the gospel are called by the name of the Savior Jesus Christ. *“The disciples were called Christians”* (Acts 11:26). This

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name, revealed plainly by inspiration, is one which honors Him who shed His blood that sinners might be saved.