

Comparison of Biblical Doctrine and Jehovah's Witness' Doctrines

Doctrine	Biblical Doctrine		Jehovah's Witness' Doctrines	
	Details	Bible Reference	Details	Watchtower Society Reference (examples)
God	Three distinct, equal persons (Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit), yet one God. Omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and Holy. God is from everlasting, is eternal and never changing.	Is 48:16-17, John 1:1, 18 Exodus 6:3, Deut 6:4 1 John 4:5	Teach that God the Father is “God Almighty”, that Jesus is a lesser god, and that the Holy Spirit is only an energy emanating from God. Jesus is a created being, not from everlasting.	<p>“So John 1:1 highlights the quality of the Word, that he was “divine,” “godlike,” “a god,” but not Almighty God. This harmonizes with the rest of the Bible, which shows that Jesus, here called “the Word” in his role as God’s Spokesman, was an obedient subordinate sent to earth by his Superior, Almighty God.” <i>Should You Believe in the Trinity?, P.27, WTBS 1989</i></p> <p>“THE Bible’s use of “holy spirit” indicates that it is a controlled force that Jehovah God uses to accomplish a variety of his purposes. To a certain extent, it can be likened to electricity, a force that can be adapted to perform a great variety of operations.” <i>The Holy Spirit—God’s Active Force, P.20, WTBS 1989</i></p>
God the Father	First person of the trinity. Spirit. Omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and Holy.	Matt 6:9 Psalm 139	Resides in a fixed location, using his energy (Holy Spirit) to extend his influence	<p>“Some have been confused by such references and may conclude that God is omnipresent. Yet, when considering the context of this and other texts, it becomes clear that Jehovah’s holy spirit—or power in action—can be extended from his fixed location to any place in the material universe.” http://watchtower.org</p>
Jesus	Second person of the trinity, not created, but in existence from everlasting as God. Jesus is not an angel.	Acts 1:17 Matt 14:33 Micah 5:2 John 17:5 1 Pet 1:3	Only “a god” like Satan. (Note – this makes for 3 gods minimum, The Father, Jesus and Satan). Jesus is a created being, not from	<p>“But isn’t Jesus called a god in the Bible? Someone may ask. This is true. Yet Satan is also called a god.” <i>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, P. 40, WTBS 1982</i></p>

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	Jesus was resurrected from the dead bodily.		<p>everlasting.</p> <p>Jesus is the Archangel Michael.</p> <p>Jesus body stayed dead. Only his spirit rose (as angel)</p>	<p>“So John 1:1 highlights the quality of the Word, that he was “divine,” “godlike,” “a god,” but not Almighty God.” <i>Should You Believe in the Trinity?, P.27, WTBS 1989</i></p> <p>“There is Scriptural evidence for concluding that Michael was the name of Jesus Christ before he left heaven and after his return.” <i>Watchtower Magazine, May 15/69, P.307</i></p> <p>“Having given up his flesh for the life of the world, Christ could never take it again and become a man once more. “ “Well, then, what happened to Jesus’ fleshly body? Did not the disciples find his tomb empty? They did, because God removed Jesus’ body.” <i>Christ's Return – How Seen, WTBS 1989</i></p>
Holy Spirit	Fully God with all the attributes of God (see above)	<p>Omnipresent Ps. 139:7-12</p> <p>Omniscient 1 Cor 2:10</p> <p>Omnipotent Job 26:13</p> <p>Will 1 Cor 12:11</p> <p>Mind Rom 8:27</p> <p>Speaks Acts 28:25</p> <p>Grieves Eph 4:30</p> <p>Intercedes</p>	Only an energy source from God	<p>“As for the “Holy Spirit,” the so-called third Person of the Trinity, we have already seen that this is not a person but God’s active force.” <i>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, P. 40, WTBS 1982</i></p>

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		Rom 8:26 Restrain Gen 6:3 Loves Rom 15:30 God Acts 5:3-4		
Creation	Jesus created everything that exists.	Col 1:15-16 Heb 1:1-2	Jesus did not create anything. He was merely an agent through whom God worked to create everything other than himself.	<p>“Jehovah’s first creation was his “only-begotten Son” (Joh 3:16), “the beginning of the creation by God.” (Re 3:14) This one, “the firstborn of all creation,” was used by Jehovah in creating all other things, those in the heavens and those upon the earth, “the things visible and the things invisible.” (Col 1:15-17) “ (emphasis mine) New World Translation, WTBS</p> <p>“The Son’s share in the creative works, however, did not make him a co-Creator with his Father. The power for creation came from God through his holy spirit, or active force” “Jesus Christ, WTBS, 1998</p>
Scripture	The Bible Don’t add or subtract – God’s word remains true. Sole source for doctrine/testing Scripture suitable for teaching, doctrine, correction, rebuke.	2Tim 3:16 1Cor 4:6 Rev 22:18 Prov 30:5-6 2 Pet 1:3	<p>Believe that the Bible translations are corrupt. Re-wrote the Bible, in part to remove the “trinitarian bias” and published it as the New World Translation (NWT)</p> <p>The Bible is not sufficient</p>	<p>“Among the various other ways in which the <i>New World Translation</i> honors God is by keeping clear from trinitarian bias.” Bible Translation that Honors God, WTBS, 1963 (See also section on Creation above)</p> <p>"...people cannot see the Divine Plan in studying the Bible by itself...if he then lays them [Scripture Studies] aside and ignores them and goes to the bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes</p>

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				into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the Scripture Studies with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures." <i>Watchtower Magazine, Sept. 15, 1910, p. 298.</i>
Deification of Man	There is only one true God.	John 3:3, 1Pet 1:22	The anointed class (144,000) are gods like Jesus. The addition of Jesus as "a god" and Satan as "a god", along with the God the father makes for a total of at least 144,003 gods.	"When we claim on the scriptural warrant, that we are begotten of a divine nature and that Jehovah is thus our father, it is claiming that we are divine beings – hence all such are Gods." <i>Watchtower Magazine, Dec 1881, P.3</i>
Worship	Exalting God in prayer and praise.	Ex 4:13, 12:27 Josh 5:14	Only for God the Father. It is blasphemy to worship Jesus.	"Is It Proper to Worship Jesus", WTBS, 2000
Israel and the Jews	God promises to restore both as a nation, and to knowledge of the true God and their Saviour	Romans 11 and many others.	Deny that there is any future for the Jews as individuals or the nation of Israel	"It was obvious that Jewry, as a people and as a nation, was not the Israel described in Revelation 7:4-8 or other Bible prophecies related to the Lord's day." "The new covenant has nothing to do with the natural descendants of Israel..." "The Bible's restoration prophecies relate neither to the natural Jews nor to political Israel..." <i>Revelation: Its Grand Climax at Hand, WTBS, 1988</i>
Salvation	Salvation is only through the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross		Works are necessary for salvation. Salvation only through the Watchtower	"However, more than faith is needed. There must also be works to demonstrate what your true feelings are about Jehovah."

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			Organization	<p>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, P.250, WTBS 1982</p> <p>“Jesus also showed how to identify one who is part of God’s organization. He said: “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will.”—Matthew 7:21.”</p> <p><i>Keep Safe as Part of God's Organization, WTBS, 1998</i></p>
False Prophecy	Condemned.	Jer 29:9 and many others	Must Accept if given by the Watchtower Organization (Anointed Class), which is said to be collectively “a prophet”	<p>“Q. Unity at all costs? A. Unity at all costs, because we believe and are sure that Jehovah God is using our organisation, the governing body of our organisation, to direct it, even though mistakes are made from time to time. Q. A unity based on an enforced acceptance of false prophecy? A. That is conceded to be true. Q. And the person who expresses his view, as you say, that it was wrong, and was disfellowshipped, would be in breach of the covenant, if he was baptised? A. That is correct. Q. And as you said yesterday expressly, would be worthy of death? A. I think.... Q. Would you say yes or no? A. I will answer yes, unhesitatingly.”</p> <p><i>Transcript of Douglas Walsh Trial, Hayden C. Covington. PP.345-8</i></p>

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Second Coming	Prophecied to come in the future so prominently that everyone will see His return	Rev 1:7 Luke 17:24	Jesus came invisibly in 1914	<p>“Christ’s return does not mean that he literally comes back to this earth.” <i>Christ's Return – How Seen, WTBS 1989</i></p> <p>“In what sense will ‘every eye see him’? They will discern from events on earth that he is invisibly present.” <i>Return of Christ, WTBS 1989</i></p> <p>“Can there be any question that the heavenly kingdom of God by means of his anointed one or Messiah, Christ, was born and came to power at the end of the Gentile Times in early autumn of 1914? No! It is true that we who were then living on earth did not hear the announcement resounding throughout the heavens: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever.” <i>Return of Christ, WTBS 1989</i></p>
Eternal Torment of the Unsavd	Those who die unsaved will spend eternity in the lake of fire.	Rev 20:10,15 and others	There is no punishment. Those who die unsaved simply cease to exist (soul sleep)	<p>“Clearly, this “hell” is simply the grave, and Job desired to go there so that his sufferings might end. Good people as well as bad people go to the Bible “hell,” the common grave of all mankind.” <i>Where are the Dead?, WTBS 1981</i></p> <p>“Where was Adam before God formed him from the dust and gave him life? Why, he simply did not exist. At his death Adam returned to the same lifeless, unconscious state. He went neither to a fiery hell nor to heavenly bliss, but died—as</p>

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				God said he would.—Genesis 2:17.” <i>Where are the Dead?, WTBTS 1981</i>
Heaven	Promised to all believers. We are to set our sites on heaven.	Phil 3:18-19	Focus is on building paradise on earth.	“God’s purpose for obedient humans to live forever in an earthly Paradise.” <i>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, P. 250, WTBTS 1983</i>