

A DIFFERENT JESUS

The Watch Tower Society says that the Son of God is a mighty god, but not Jehovah, who is the only Almighty God. Jesus is a created being — also known as Michael the Archangel. They say their Jesus should not be worshipped. They also say that Jesus was raised spiritually from the dead (not bodily). These beliefs are broken down into 5 categories. First these categories are presented in Watchtower publications. Then there will be a Christian response to these 5 categories. These claims can be verified in their books, in the following locations:

1. Jesus is a created being.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 209 (JW) (PDF pg. 208)

“Jesus Christ - Definition: The only-begotten Son of God, the only Son produced by Jehovah alone. This Son is the firstborn of all creation. By means of him all **other** things in heaven and on earth were created. He is the second-greatest personage in the universe.”

Aid to Bible Understanding, pg. 918 (JW) (PDF pg.918)

“Thus the Scriptures identify the Word (Jesus in his prehuman existence) as **God's first creation**, his firstborn Son. That Jehovah was truly the Father or Life-giver to this firstborn Son, was actually a creature of God, is evident from Jesus' own statements.”

Knowledge pg. 39 (JW) (PDF pg.40)

“Jesus was called God's ‘only-begotten Son’ because Jehovah created him directly (John 3:16). As ‘the firstborn of all creation, Jesus was then used by God to create all other things (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14). John 1:1 says that ‘the Word’ (Jesus in his prehuman existence) was with God ‘in the beginning.’ So the Word was with Jehovah when ‘the heavens and the earth’ were created. God was addressing the Word when He said: ‘Let us make man in our image’ (Genesis 1:1, 26). Likewise, the Word must have been God's beloved ‘master worker,’ described at Proverbs 8:22-31 as wisdom personified, laboring at Jehovah's side in the making of all things. After Jehovah brought him into existence, the Word spent ages with God in heaven before becoming a man on earth.”

“What Do Jehovah’s Witnesses Believe?”

(1987 tract under publication symbols pg. 2, Watchtower Library 95)

“However, since Jesus said that he is ‘God’s Son’ and that the ‘Father sent me forth’, Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that God is greater than Jesus (John 10:36; 6:57). Jesus himself acknowledged: ‘The Father is greater than I am’ (John 14:28; 8:28). Thus we do not believe that Jesus is equal with the Father, as the Trinity doctrine says. Rather, we believe that he was created by God and that he is subordinate to Him.”

2. Jesus is a god, but not the Almighty God.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 417 (JW) (PDF pg.416)

“Referring to the Word (who became Jesus Christ) as ‘a god’ is consistent with the use of that term in the rest of the Scriptures. For example, at Psalm 82:1-6 human judges in Israel were referred to as ‘gods’ (Hebrew, 'elo·him'; Greek, the·oi', at John 10:34) because they were representatives of Jehovah and were to speak his law.”

Aid to Bible Understanding, pg. 920 (JW) (PDF pg.920)

“So, Thomas may have addressed Jesus as ‘my God’ in the sense of Jesus' being ‘a god’ though not the Almighty God, not ‘the only true God,’ to whom Thomas had often heard Jesus pray(John 17:1-3).”

Reasoning from the Scriptures, pg. 213 (JW) (PDF pg.212)

“Does Thomas' exclamation at John 20:28 prove that Jesus is truly God? John 20:28 (RS) reads: "Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' There is no objection to referring to Jesus as ‘God,’ if this is what Thomas had in mind. Such would be in harmony with Jesus' own quotation from the Psalms in which powerful men, judges, were addressed as ‘gods’ (John 10:34, 35, RS; Psalm. 82:1-6). Of course, Christ occupies a position far higher than such men. Because of the uniqueness of his position in relation to Jehovah, at John 1:18 (NW) Jesus is referred to as ‘the only-begotten god’ (see also Ro, By). Isaiah 9:6 (RS) also prophetically describes Jesus as ‘Mighty God,’ but not as the Almighty God. All of this is in harmony with Jesus' being described as ‘a god’, or ‘divine’ at John 1:1 (NW, AT).” A19

3. Jesus is Michael the Archangel.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985 pg. 218 (JW)(PDF pg. 217)

“Reasonably, then, the archangel Michael is Jesus Christ. (Interestingly, the expression ‘archangel’ is never found in the plural in the Scriptures, thus implying that there is only one.) . . . “So the evidence indicates that the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth and is known also by that name since his return to heaven where he resides as the glorified spirit Son of God.”

Revelation Climax, 1988, page 180 (JW) (PDF pg. 187)

“Who accomplishes this great victory in Jehovah's name? The Bible says it is Michael and his angels. But who is Michael? The name ‘Michael’ means ‘Who Is Like God?’ So Michael must be interested in vindicating Jehovah's sovereignty by proving that no one is to be compared to Him. In Jude verse 9, he is called ‘Michael the archangel.’ Interestingly, the title ‘archangel’ is used elsewhere in the Bible with reference to only one person: Jesus Christ. “These and other scriptures lead us to the inescapable conclusion that Michael is no one else but the Lord Jesus Christ in his heavenly position.”

Aid to Bible Understanding, page 1152 (JW) (PDF pg. 1152)

“Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael applied to God's Son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ and also after his return. Michael is the only one said to be ‘archangel’, meaning ‘chief angel’ or ‘principle angel’.”

4. Jesus should not be worshipped.

The Watchtower used to teach the opposite. They claim it is clearer understanding. When it is the opposite of what they used to teach they were either wrong then or wrong now. The references below are where you can find they taught Jesus should be worshiped. I believe they changed it because they deny Jesus is God and worship is for God alone, Mt.4:10

Watch Tower 1880 (PDF pg. 321-322)

Watch Tower 1892 (PDF pg. 297)

Watch Tower 1898 (PDF pg. 410)

Watch Tower 1906 (PDF pg.31)

Aid to Bible Understanding, pg. 1242 (JW) (PDF pg. 1242)

“Obeisance to a human king is found in Jesus' illustration at Matthew 18:26. It is also evident that this was the kind of obeisance the astrologers rendered to the child Jesus If the rendering ‘worship’ is preferred, then it must be understood that such ‘worship’ is only a relative kind, for Jesus himself emphatically stated to Satan that ‘it is Jehovah your God you must worship (form of pro-sky-ne'o) and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.’”

Watch Tower 1954 1/1, pg. 30 (JW) “Questions from Readers” (PDF pg. 30-31)

“Should we worship Jesus? The clergy of Christendom that believe in a trinity as the main doctrine of Christianity will answer with a positive Yes to this question. Quite to be expected, for they believe that worshipping Jesus is at the same time worshipping God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, for these three they believe to be Three Persons mysteriously making up one God. The King James Version of the English Bible was rendered by trinitarian translators, and doubtless for this reason the translators rendered the Greek word proskyne"o by the word ‘worship’, when applying to Jesus. In fact, in every case of its occurrence in the Christian Greek Scriptures they consistently rendered this Greek verb by ‘worship’. So we read of the magi's ‘worshipping’ the babe Jesus, and of persons who approached Jesus or received healing from him or asked favors of him ‘worshipping’ Jesus on earth. “Consequently, since the Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ is not a trinitarian co-person with God the Father, but is a distinct person, the Son of God, the answer to the above question must be that **no distinct worship is to be rendered to Jesus Christ** now glorified in heaven. Our worship is to go to Jehovah God. However, we show the proper regard for God's only-begotten Son by rendering our worship to God through and in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Watch Tower 1954 5/15, pgs. 317-319 (JW) "Questions from Readers" (PDF pg. 317)
"In the January 1 issue of The Watch Tower the question from Ethiopia, 'Should we worship Jesus?' is answered. In paragraph five Hebrews 1:6 is quoted with regard to the angels of God worshipping Jesus, but in the final paragraph it says: 'The answer to the above question must be that no distinct worship is to be rendered to Jesus Christ now glorified in heaven. **Our worship is to go to Jehovah.**'"
(Note the Watchtower used to teach that one should worship Jesus before 1954)

I find it interesting that in my (Green Cover) copy of the **New World Translation**, Revised in **1970, Hebrews 1:5-6** reads as follows: (JW)

"For example, to which one of the angels did he ever say: 'You are my son; I, today, I have become your father'? And again: 'I myself shall become his father, and he himself will become my son'? But when he again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says: '**And let all of God's angels worship him.**'"

In the newer New World Translation, the word "worship" has been changed to "obeisance". The fact remains that the Watch Tower Society themselves have in the past translated this Greek word as "worship".

5. Jesus did not bodily rise from the dead.

Aid to Bible Understanding 1971, pg.1395 (JW)(PDF pg. 1395)

"Jesus appeared to his disciples on different occasions in various fleshly bodies, just as angels had appeared to men at ancient times. Like those angels, he had the power to construct and disintegrate those fleshly bodies at will, for the purpose of proving visibly that he had been resurrected."

Reasoning from the Scriptures 1985, pg.334 (JW) (PDF pg. 333)

"At his resurrection from the dead, Jesus was brought forth with a spirit body." "Why did not others see him too? Because he was a spirit creature and when, as the angels had done in the past, he materialized fleshly bodies to make himself visible, he did so only in the presence of his disciples."

Let God be True 1946, pg.122 (JW) (PDF pg. 137)

"So the King Christ Jesus was put to death in the flesh and was resurrected an invisible spirit creature."

Greatest Man 1991, pg. 116 (JW) (PDF pg. 389)

"Jesus will be a spirit creature that no human can see. But again Jesus promises his faithful apostles: "You will behold me, because I live and you will live." Yes, not only will Jesus appear to them in human form after his resurrection but in due time he will resurrect them to life with him in heaven as spirit creatures."

CHRISTIAN REBUTTAL TO WATCH TOWER POINTS 1-5

1. Jesus is not a created being; He is the creator.

Colossians 1:15-18:“(15) And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17)And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.”
(See also John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2, Isaiah 44:24.)

One can hardly look at this list of what Jesus created and not acknowledge that this includes angels. Jesus created angels. Think about that for a minute. How can Jesus be the creator of ALL angels and yet still be an angel? Jesus did not create Himself. Keep in mind that only God the creator was involved with creation (Isaiah 44:24). The Watch Tower refers to the word "firstborn" in verse 15 and tells us that this means Jesus was created. Does "firstborn" mean created? Does "firstborn" always establish a literal birth-order in the Bible? The answer to both questions is “NO”.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

“FIRSTBORN

prototokos ^4416^, ‘firstborn’ (from protos, ‘first,’ and tikto, ‘to beget’), is used of Christ as born of the Virgin Mary, <Luke 2:7>; further, in His relationship to the Father, expressing His priority to, and preeminence over, creation, not in the sense of being the ‘first’ to be born. It is used occasionally of superiority of position in the OT, see <Exod. 4:22; Deut. 21:16,17>,”

This same Greek word is used in verse 18, where we are told that Jesus is "**firstborn from the dead.**" If the word "firstborn" literally meant "created", then Jesus would be created from the dead in this passage. Even the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that. As the Vine's Expository dictionary shows, this means that Jesus is preeminent over all creation and he is also preeminent in the resurrection. The text tells us that this is "so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."

2. Jesus is not just a god; He is God, and there is only one God.

In the next three references we see that God became a man.

John 1:1:“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**”

John 1:14: “And the **Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Philippians 2:5-8: "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although **He existed in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Jesus' enemies understood His claim to be God.

John 10:30-33: "'I and the Father are one.' The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?' The Jews answered Him, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because **You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.**'"

Here is Jesus' response in verses 36-39 of that same chapter:

John 10:36-39: "do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.' Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp."

Jesus declared that He and the Father are one. The Jews understood this as a claim to be God. Jesus then calls himself the "Son of God", and then reaffirms His statement "I and the father are one". Did the Jews correctly understand what he meant? He called Himself the "Son of God", but did He also claim to be God? I believe the answer is "yes", He did claim to be God. This is shown clearly in John 20:28-29.

John 20:28-29: "Thomas answered and said to Him, '**My Lord and my God!**' Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.'"

Thomas called Jesus his "Lord and God". Jesus being the teacher that He was would have rebuked or at least corrected Thomas, if Thomas had been incorrect. Certainly, Jesus would not let this error, this "using the Lord's name in vain" (as some have interpreted), go by without some correction. Jesus' answer to Thomas shows that Thomas was correct to call him his God and Lord.

How important is it to accept Jesus' claims of who He is? According to Jesus it is very important.

John 8:24-25: "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {He} you shall die in your sins. And so they were saying to Him, 'Who are You?' Jesus said to them, 'What have I been saying to you from the beginning?'"

The Bible calls Jesus God.

Isaiah 9:6: “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Acts 20:28: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the **church of God** which He purchased with His own blood.”(According to this verse the church was purchased with whose blood?)

Colossians 2:8-9: “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

1 John 5:20: “And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”

2 Peter 1:1: “Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ...”

Hebrews 1:8: “But of the Son He says ‘Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.”

Titus 2:13: “Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.**”

Does Jesus possess the attributes of God?

We would expect God to be seen as Creator, Judge, Savior (being able to forgive sins), omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (having the ability to be everywhere at once), eternal (having always existed), and worshipped. As I will show, all of these attributes can be found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is Creator.

Colossians 1:13-16: “For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.”
(See also John.1:3, Hebrews 1:8-10, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Isaiah 44:24.)

Jesus is Judge.

John 5:22: "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son." (See also 2 Timothy 4:1, Romans 14:10.)

Jesus is Savior; He can forgive sins.

Mark 2:5: "And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, 'My son, your sins are forgiven.'" (See also Mark 2:10, Colossians 2:13.)

We can forgive someone for sinning against us, but we cannot forgive someone for sinning against God, as Jesus did here.

Acts 5:30-31: "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

Jesus is Omniscient (all knowing or all wise).

1 Corinthians 1:24: "to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Jesus is shown in the New Testament to have knowledge far beyond our human understanding. We do not know the heart of every man, but in John 2:24-25 it says that Jesus "knew all men" and what was "in man". In John 6:64, we are told that Jesus knew from the beginning who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. Then in John 13:1, we find that Jesus knew His hour had come to die and go to the Father. In John 16:30 the disciples said, "Now we know that You know all things" Again in John 18:4 it says that Jesus knew all the things that were about to happen to Him. While Jesus was on the cross, we are told He knew the Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself and our redemption had been fulfilled.

Nobody else knew that at that time, yet, He did (John 19:28). Peter declared that Jesus knew his heart and all things (John 21:17). What man has ever had this kind of knowledge? This knowledge is far beyond that of even the prophets in the Bible. Prophets may have foretold future events, but none of them knew the heart and thoughts of every man

Jesus is Omnipotent (all powerful, unlimited authority).

Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"

In the following references we find that Jesus will return with power. Power flowed through Him to heal people who merely touched Him. Jesus had power over demons. He was able to give power to His disciples to heal others. Peter declared there was power in Jesus' name. Jesus is the power of God. It was through Jesus that Paul received power. Jesus has the power to subject everything unto Himself. It is by His power that we will be raised from the dead. He upholds all things by the word of His power. Jesus has the keys, i.e., the power over death and Hades. The time will come when Jesus will abolish all other rule, authority and power. (See Mark 13:26, 5:30; Luke 4:36, 6:19, 9:1; Acts 4:7-10; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 1:24, 15:23-25; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 1:16; and Revelation 1:17-18.)

Jesus is Omnipresent (present at all places at all times).

Matthew 18:20, 28:20: "Jesus said 'For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.' He also told his disciples 'and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Paul declared that Jesus dwells in the hearts of believers. Paul further stated if this is not true of an individual they do not belong to him (Romans 8:9). (See also 2 Corinthians 13:5, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 3:17, Colossians 1:27, Revelation 3:20.)

Jesus is eternal (He has always existed).

Micah 5:2: "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." (See also John 1:1-2, 17:5, 8:58; and Revelation 1:17, 2:8, 22:13.)

Jesus is worshipped.

Hebrews 1:7 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." (See Also: John 9:38, Matthew 2:11, 14:33, 28:9. 28:17)

There is only one God.

Isaiah 43:10: " 'You are My witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am He. Before me there was no God formed, and there will be none after me.'"

If Jesus is not Almighty God, as the Watch Tower would have us believe, then He cannot be a god in anything other than a title of respect because before Him there was no God formed, and there will be none after Him.

Isaiah 44:8: "Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. **Is there any God besides me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.**"

If God is unaware of the existence of another God, then I would say that there is no other God. After reading the numerous references that show Jesus is God, how can we then come to the conclusion that He is not God? The context of all of the passages that are mentioned does not allow for the interpretation that Jesus only had a title of respect.

3. Jesus is not Michael the Archangel.

Hebrews 1:5-8: “5) **For to which of the angels did He ever say**, ‘Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee’? And again, ‘I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me’? 6) And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, ‘And let all the angels of God worship Him.’ 7) And of the angels He says, ‘Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.’ 8) But of the Son He says ‘Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.’”

This text makes a distinction between angels and Jesus. The question that is asked starts with "to which of his angels did He ever say." This is our indication that what follows was never said to an angel. Next, we see that all of the angels were to worship Jesus. The text does not say "all of the other angels were to give obeisance to Jesus." Next, we see a contrast between angels and Jesus. Verses 7 and 8 are in contrast to each other — "And of the angels He says". . . "But of the Son He says". . . "Thy throne, O God is forever." As this text shows a distinction between all angels and Jesus, then Jesus is not an angel. If Jesus is not an angel, then he is not Michael the Archangel.

4. Jesus is worshiped in the Bible.

Hebrews 1:6; “And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, ‘And let all the angels of God worship Him.’”

Matthew 2:11: “And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (See also Matthew 2:2 and 8.)

Matthew 14:33: “And those who were in the boat worshipped Him, saying, ‘You are certainly God’s Son!’”

Matthew 28:9: “And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.”

John 9:37-38: “Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.’ And he said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshiped Him.”

Revelation 4:10: "...the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying..." (Revelation 7:17 shows the lamb is on the throne. John 1:29-36 shows Jesus is the lamb.)

Worship belongs only to God. Matthew 4:10: "Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

5. Was Jesus resurrected bodily from the grave and is it important?

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Old Testament prophecy would not be fulfilled.

Psalms 16:10: "For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay."

Next, we will see the fulfillment of this prophecy in the New Testament.

Acts 13:33-37: "God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.' And as for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' Therefore, He also says in another Psalm, 'Thou wilt not allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.' "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; but He whom God raised did not undergo decay."

(The Apostle Paul is the one speaking in the passage above. Peter refers to this Psalm in the same way in Acts 2:27-32.)

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, we would have no forgiveness of our sins. The next thing we read in **verse 38** of this same passage (**Acts 13**) is: "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. "Note the use of the word "Therefore"; Paul is saying that because Jesus rose from the dead, we have forgiveness of sins! This is also confirmed in the next passage.

1 Corinthians 15:14-17: "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."

When the Jews asked for a sign Jesus predicted He would rise from the dead. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, He would be a false prophet.

John 2:18-22: "The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, 'What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews therefore said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body. When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken."

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society claimed that Jesus "materialized fleshly bodies to make himself visible, he did so only in the presence of his disciples. "Furthermore, they stated that "Jesus was put to death in the flesh and was resurrected an invisible spirit creature." These statements are not Biblical. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ arose in the same exact body of flesh and bones in which He had lived and died. It is this same body in which He ascended into heaven. This is not only what the Bible teaches; it is also the historical teaching of the church.

We will address the quotes from the Watch Tower Society as follows:

Jesus did not appear *"only in the presence of his disciples."* He also appeared to unbelievers.

Paul was a hostile unbeliever before Jesus appeared to him.

This can be seen in Acts 9:1-30. He is called Saul in Acts 9, but we learn in Acts 13:9 and Acts 22:1-21 that "Saul" is indeed the same person who comes to be known as the "Apostle Paul". This is after the 40-day period during which Jesus appeared to the disciples.

In John 7:5 we are told that not even the brothers of Jesus were believing in Him. James and Jude were sons of Mary and Joseph, and were half- brothers of Jesus, since they had the same mother. Later both become believers. Although it cannot be shown exactly when they became believers, it seems likely that it was after the resurrection. We have no reference to them being believers until after His resurrection. We see in 1 Corinthians 15:7 that Jesus appeared to James after He arose from the dead. References that show James and Jude were the brothers of Jesus include Jude 1:1 and Mark 6:3. (Strong's entry #2455 reveals that in the Greek language, "Jude" was a form of the name "Judas".)

The Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the dead in the same physical body in which He died.

John 2:18-22: "The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, 'What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews therefore said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body. When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken."

When Jesus made this statement, He had a physical body of flesh and bones. This is the temple or body that He said He would raise in three days. Since Jesus said He would raise this physical body, reason and logic tells us it was a physical body, not a spiritual body that was to be resurrected. We have already seen in Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27-32 and 13:34-38 that this body would never undergo decay. What is the purpose of preserving the body if it is not to be raised from the dead and used? Some Jehovah's Witnesses have told me that Jesus' body did not decay, but God destroyed it with gases. It's interesting to me that these same Jehovah's Witnesses could offer no Biblical reference for such a view. Jesus took great pains to show that it was He himself who rose from the dead, and not a spirit. Let us consider the following Scripture.

Luke 24:39-43:“ ‘See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them.”

Everything Jesus offered them for evidence of His resurrection was of the physical nature. He spoke to them so they could hear and recognize His voice. Jesus showed His wounds from the crucifixion, inviting them to touch Him. In John 20:27, Jesus told Thomas to put his finger into the wounds in His hands, and to put his hand into His side. Jesus purposely asked them for something to eat and ate fish in front of them. **Jesus declared that a spirit did not have a body of flesh and bones as He had.** He did things like this on several occasions, over a period of 40 days. They watched Him bodily ascend into heaven (Acts 1:9). Jesus never said anything to them that would indicate that these "*convincing proofs*"; as we are told in Acts 1:3, should be interpreted as a spiritual body. If this was merely one of several fleshly materialized bodies to make Himself visible, as the Watch Tower claims, then Jesus purposely deceived His disciples. The moral implications of this are absolutely contrary to the Jesus we read of in the Bible.