

THE BIBLE

VS

THE WATCHTOWER
(The Jehovah's Witnesses' Authority)

You Decide ...

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INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this book is to bring transparency to the Watchtower Organization's influence over people across the world. How has the Organization been able to influence so many people from all walks of life? Why are people drawn to their teachings? What causes some to leave their churches and join the Watchtower's membership?

One explanation is the extremely effective proselytizing methods used by the Watchtower. Their message is uniform throughout the Organization, so much so that every congregation (church) of Jehovah's Witnesses across the globe receives the same weekly message, including instructions regarding their house-to-house ministry, so that when they knock on your door they are well-rehearsed, arriving in respectable attire, often with children at their side, to deliver a message that is simple and direct.

Another very powerful reason is the Watchtower's uncanny ability to convince people that they act on God's authority and are His sole instrument on earth.

Therefore, our approach will not focus on Watchtower *interpretation* of scripture; rather, we will concentrate on the *foundation* of Watchtower eschatology (doctrine). In doing so, we will not only consider the reasons set forth above in more depth, we will also examine some foundational Watchtower teachings that the average Jehovah's Witness has never known and will undoubtedly be shocked to learn. Then, as the title indicates, we will analyze several of those teachings in conjunction with biblical authority, and you can decide for yourself whether God's Word supports or refutes each such claim.

THE WATCHTOWER'S AUTHORITY

Jehovah's Witnesses are drawn to and rely upon four major claims of divine authority by the Watchtower Organization. These claims are profound and compelling in that they establish the Watchtower as God's sole instrument on earth, thereby requiring that their followers accept and obey the Organization's teachings unconditionally. In fact, these four sources of Watchtower authority will form the backdrop for our analysis of whether key doctrinal positions introduced by the Organization are supported by the Bible.

1. The *Watchtower* magazine is God's Word

First, the Organization represents that the *Watchtower* magazine is God's Word. During a 1943 New York Supreme Court case entitled *Moyle vs. Franz, et al.*, in which Olin Moyle sued the Watchtower Organization and several of its officers for defamation, Nathan Homer Knorr, then-President of the Watchtower, testified on this subject as follows (at Section 4421, page 1474 of the trial transcript):

Question: But you don't make any such statement, that you are subject to correction, in your Watch Tower papers, do you?

Answer: Not that I recall.

Question: In fact, it is set forth directly as God's Word, isn't it?

Answer: Yes, as His word.

Question: Without any qualification whatsoever?

Answer: That is right.

This sworn testimony is clear – the *Watchtower* magazine (here referred to as “papers”) is God’s Word. Moreover, the content of the magazine is not subject to correction. In essence, since God’s Word is infallible, any statements made in the *Watchtower* magazine are also infallible.

2. God is the Editor of the *Watchtower* Magazine