

# JOHN

## John: The Gospel of Gospels

© 2020 Moses C. Onwubiko

Edited Sermon—8/2/20

### John 1:1

#### Lesson 1b: A Distortion of Who Jesus Is

Last time we looked at the implication of making Jesus a created being or a lesser god. Now we take a close look at the inconsistency in the Jehovah's Witnesses *New World Translation* of the Bible. In it they translate "the Word was God" in John 1:1 with a lowercase letter "g", "the Word was a god" (NWT). Their reason is that there was no definite article "the" before God in the Greek. But in other passages where there was no definite article, they translated the word "God" with a capital "G."

If you have a copy of the *New World Translation*, open it to John 1:1. Jehovah's Witnesses were correct. There is no definite article in the last sentence which states "the Word was God." Therefore they translated it with a lower-case letter, "god." However when we look at verses 6, 12, and 13, there is no definite article "the" preceding the word "God," yet they translated them with upper-case letter "G." One wonders why the inconsistency.

Reading from the *New World Translation*, John 1:6, 12 and 13, "There came a man who was sent as a representative **of God**; his name was John...However, to all who did receive him, he gave authority to become **God's** children. And they were born, not from blood or from a fleshly will or from man's will, but **from God.**" Here, the Jehovah's Witnesses capitalized the word "God" in all three verses, although they do not have a definite article.

Even more striking is their translation in John 13:3, where the word "God" appeared twice, once with a definite article and the other without, "So Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he came from

God [no definite article] and was going to God [has a definite article]” (NWT emphasis added).

By translating all these passages 1:6, 12, 13; 13:3 with upper case letter G even though the word God has no definite article, they violated their own rule. One wonders why? By making John 1:1 the exception of their rule, they failed the test of hermeneutics (the rules of consistency and proper interpretation of Scripture).

Their serious error leads their congregation to reject the deity of Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our so great salvation. Jesus Christ warns in John 8:24, “I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins” (NLT).

### **Jesus Christ Was Neither Created Nor is He a Lesser God.**

Armed with love on one hand, and truth on the other, I wish to counter the Jehovah Witnesses’ claim that God the Father created Jesus Christ.

The truth is sobering. Jesus Christ is no other than God Himself. That was exactly what John intended to prove in his Gospel. Let us consider some passages which show that Jesus Christ is the very God of the very God.

#### **1. Deut. 32:29**

“See now that I, **I am He**, and there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.” “I am He” was the same claim Jesus made in John 8:24: “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins.”

Elsewhere in Deut. 6:4 we read, “God is one.” Moses makes that apparent in 32:39: there is no god besides the One and only true God. If Jesus were created, that would make him a small god besides the Sovereign God. But the Bible rejects that notion, “there is no god besides Me.”

#### **2. Isaiah 43:10c**

“Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me.”

The passage contradicts Jehovah Witnesses’ claim that Jesus was created. The Bible says otherwise—God never formed or created any other god.

### 3. Isaiah 44:6

“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.’”

Watch the titles: “The Lord,” “King of Israel,” “Israel’s Redeemer,” and the Lord of Hosts.” Guess who has these titles. Jesus Christ! He is called the Lord in John 20:28; He is called “king of Israel” in John 1:49; He is called “the Lord of hosts” in 1 Sam 17:45. Guess who else claims to be the first and the last. Yes, Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ declares in Rev. 22:13, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Conversely, He is the LORD in Isaiah 44:6. There could be no other god besides Him. There can only be one *first* and one *last*

### 4. Isaiah 45:5a

“I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God.” That is the truth and revelation of the Bible

### Distortion of Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (BSB).

**Observe Isaiah 9:6:** It says, “a child is born.” Jesus Christ, in His incarnation, experienced a normal birth—a holy conception and a natural birth—flesh and blood. But when Isaiah described “a son,” he selected another word, “*given*”—“a son is given.” God’s Son is eternal; He has no beginning. He can only be given as a gift. Simply stated, Christmas is God’s Son wrapped in human flesh as a present to the world. That is why the apostle Paul exclaimed in 2 Cor. 9:15 “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” No one can describe the indescribable—God’s Son.

Jehovah’s Witnesses dogmatically teach that Jesus was called Mighty God in Isaiah 9:6 and not Almighty God, which they claim makes Jesus a lesser god. In their publication, *Let God Be True* (p. 33), Jesus is “a mighty one, although not almighty as Jehovah is.” They maintained that “Christ and God are not coequal.”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Watchtower, 15 April 1957)

The problem with this claim is that Jehovah is called mighty One in Jer. 32:17-18, “Ah, **Sovereign LORD [Jehovah—Jesus Christ, the Creator]** you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the parents' sins into the laps of their children after them. Great and *mighty* God, whose name is the LORD *Almighty*” (NIV emphasis added). You see, He is called both *mighty* and *Almighty* in the passage. That is not all; Jesus Christ is called the almighty God in Ex. 6:3.

“I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by My name the LORD I did not make Myself known to them.”

- a. X appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty.
- b. X conceals His name.
- c. My brothers and sisters, who is X?

**Examine Exodus 3: 2, 6, 13-14 carefully,**

“<sup>2</sup>The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.... <sup>6</sup>He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.... <sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

“What is your name? Who can I tell them is X?” Moses asks. In verse 14, the Lord revealed His name which He withheld from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. “God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'”

Who claims, “I am” as His name in the New Testament? You are right, Jesus Christ. “Before Abraham was born, I AM” (John 8:58).

Celebrate the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whose name is I AM, Jesus Christ, King of kings, Lord of Lords, Mighty God, Almighty God, King of Israel, Lord of hosts, the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, He who was, who is and who is to come, the Almighty God!

Do not let anyone deceive you to believe that Jesus Christ is not coequal with the Father. He is equally God for in Him according to Col. 2:9 “dwells all the fulness of God.” There is not one shred of evidence to prove that He was a lesser god or, even a created being. He is the God of Abraham, just as the Father was.

## **With God There is Hope**

My entire family grew up in a cult. I was saved as a youth on the crusade ground in my village in Nigeria. One by one my parents and eleven of my twelve brothers and sister came to the Lord. All but one, a sister who went a different path. She was a devout Jehovah’s Witness for years and years. I dedicate this message to her.

She came to me every time I visited home and we argued on God’s Word — for more than 20 years. It was obvious that she was in search of the truth, for she had read almost all my publications and always asked for more.

Despite her rejection of the truth about who Jesus Christ is, I still loved her with Christ’s love and gave her gifts as I did the others without discrimination. One day I got a phone call that I had prayed for all my life. She told me that all the things I had been telling her about Jesus were *true*. She finally realized that Jesus is indeed fully God Himself and was not created. She had placed her faith in Him to forgive her sins and grant her eternal life.

Joy beyond words overflowed within me. Here was a woman, who for more than 30 years, was trapped in falsehood. Thank God she was set free. So never give up on those you love who do not turn to God despite your witness and testimony. Continue to love them and pray that God will open their eyes. He is pursuing them and loves them even more than you, for He has died for them that they might be with him in heaven ... if they will only trust in Him.

- **Who do YOU say that Jesus Is?**

I do not know if you have been set free. Jesus Christ said, “If the Son of Man can set you free, you will be free indeed.” He is ever willing and ready to set you free. He said, “Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” He was God, who took upon Himself a human body, that through that body, He would be a sacrificial offering for my sins and your sins. Two Thousand years ago, Jesus made that payment on the cross. There God the Father judged Him for our sins. He died, was buried and on the third day was resurrected.

If you believe wholeheartedly that Jesus is truly God's Son, who paid for your sins, He will grant you eternal life right now. It is a matter of faith alone in Christ alone. It has nothing to do with good works (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Your salvation is based on the integrity of God, who promised eternal life to you and on Jesus Christ who paid for your sins. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

"But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31).

Right this moment, you can tell God that you are placing your trust in His Son, Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and grant you eternal life. The moment you make that declaration from the bottom of your heart, God will wipe out your sins and will grant you forgiveness and eternal life. Do it now!

