



**WHAT
DO**

Jehovah's Witnesses BELIEVE?

Would you ask prejudiced scribes and
Pharisees what Jesus believed?
Then why listen to prejudiced sources
on what the witnesses believe?
Let the witnesses themselves tell you!

WHAT DO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BELIEVE?

From time to time a religious writer discusses the beliefs of Jehovah's witnesses. However, in view of the unfriendly and critical tone of these discussions, it would be a mistake to expect to obtain from such discussions an accurate picture of what Jehovah's witnesses really do believe. We would not expect to obtain from the scribes and Pharisees a correct picture of what Jesus believed, would we?

Jehovah God and Christ Jesus

Since "there are many 'gods' and many 'lords' ", the true God has a personal name to distinguish him from all other gods: "Thou alone, whose name is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth." And referring to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God said to Moses: "But by my name Jehovah I was not known to them." Jesus made this name known to his followers: "I have made your name manifest to the men you gave me." Jehovah's witnesses today likewise make known Jehovah's name: "Ye are my witnesses, saith Jehovah, and I am God."—Exodus 6:3; Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 43:10-12; John 17:6; 1 Corinthians 8:5.

Jehovah's first creation was his Son: "the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God," "the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14) Before coming to earth he was known as the Word or *Logos*, and "apart from him not even one thing came into existence". (John 1:1, 3) Far from claiming to be equal with his Father, he said: "I cannot do a single thing of my own in-



tiative" and "the Father is greater than I am". (John 5:30; 14:28) In view of the foregoing, Jehovah's witnesses have no alternative but to reject the doctrine of the trinity as being unscriptural.

Adam and His Penalty

After preparing the earth for man's habitation, "Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Note, man did not receive an immortal soul, he *became*, he then was, a living soul. God commanded man to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it"; also to take care of the garden and not to eat of the fruit of a certain tree.—Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 15-17.

Adam's life depended upon his obedience. If he disobeyed, "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Adam and Eve disobeyed and so they were sentenced. Sentenced to what?



To eternal torment? No, to death: "for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." "The wages sin pays is death." Death is the absence of life. In *sheol* or the grave "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom".—Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Romans 6:23.

Adam was a soul; Adam died. Adam the "living soul" died? Yes, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "He poured out his soul unto death," foretold the prophet of Jesus. (Isaiah 53:12; Ezekiel 18:4, 20) According to the Scriptures the lower animals also are souls, and so we read: "That which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befall-

eth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath." There is no misunderstanding these plain statements. (Genesis 1:30, *margin*; Numbers 31:28; Ecclesiastes 3:19) Therefore Jehovah's witnesses do not believe in the doctrines of eternal torment and immortality of the human soul.

The Issue of Supremacy

To guide and protect man God provided an "anointed cherub that covereth", a guardian angel. This cherub became ambitious to be worshiped like Jehovah God and so turned traitor and caused man to disobey God. (Genesis 3:1-6; Ezekiel 28:13-19; Matthew 4:9) This immediately raised the question: Whose fault was it that man sinned? Had Jehovah God made man weak and yet required of him perfect obedience if he would live? So the Devil contended, boasting that he could turn all men away from God. See Job, chapters 1 and 2.

Jehovah's name and supremacy thus became involved. To prove his supremacy, to prove the Devil a liar, to prove that he could put men on earth that would remain faithful to him in spite of all that the Devil could do, Jehovah permitted the first human pair and the Devil to live. He knew that some of their offspring would remain faithful to him and thus witness to his supremacy. From Abel on Jehovah has had witnesses on earth.—Proverbs 27:11; Hebrews 11.

Christ's Ransom Sacrifice

That his name might be vindicated, that his purpose regarding the earth might be realized, and that men who kept integrity might get life, Jehovah sent his Son into the world: "to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many," and to "bear witness to the truth". (Matthew 20:28; John 17:4; 18:37) Conceived by a virgin, "the Word became flesh," being "produced out of a woman"; thus he was an actual flesh-and-blood creature. (John 1:14; Galatians 4:4) Be-

cause of his demonstrating that a perfect man can keep integrity in spite of the Devil, God raised Jesus from the dead, "exalted him to a superior position." —1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Philippians 2:5-11.

Since Pentecost God has been calling and preparing a "bride", a "little flock", a body of 144,000 "purchased from the earth" to share heavenly life and rulership "as kings with [Christ] for the thousand years". These, Christ and his bride, constitute the "kingdom of the heavens".—Matthew 5:10; Luke 12:32; Acts 2; Revelation 14:1-3; 20:5, 6; 21:9.

However, Jesus also died for his "other sheep", of which there will be many. (Matthew 20:28; John 10:16) To such sheeplike ones the call now goes forth: "Seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye will be hid in the day of Jehovah's anger," the day when "all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of [God's] jealousy", known as "Armageddon". Not the literal earth, of course, for it "abideth for ever", but this wicked system of things or world of which Satan is the god. (Ecclesiastes 1:4; Zephaniah 2:3; 3:8; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 16:16) Concerning it, Jesus said: "My kingdom is no part of this world," and the disciple James warned: "Friendship with the world is enmity with God." (John 18:36; James 4:4) Therefore Jehovah's witnesses shun it.



Christ's Second Presence and the New World

The present generation is seeing the sign marking Christ's second presence: "Nation will rise against nation . . . there will be food shortages and earthquakes . . . you will be hated by all the nations . . . And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth." (Matthew 24) After de-

stroying this old world like a potter's vessel, Christ will usher in the new world wherein "righteousness is to dwell".—Psalm 2:9; 2 Peter 3:13.

Then no more war, fear or want. (Isaiah 65:21; Micah 4:3, 4) Even the dead will be remembered, for "there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous". All pain, sorrow and crying will be wiped out, and even the enemy death will be destroyed. The earth will be made one vast paradise. Thus Jehovah will be vindicated as his purpose regarding the earth is fully realized.—Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 21:4.

This, in brief, is what Jehovah's witnesses understand the Bible to teach and what they believe.

Scriptures quoted herein are from the "American Standard Version" or the "New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures".

"Let God Be True"

"Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar." (Romans 3:4) So wrote the apostle Paul, and Jehovah's witnesses today adhere strictly to that principle, even as evinced by the foregoing. For further proof see the Bible study aid *"Let God Be True"*, which discusses such subjects as Jehovah, the Messiah, Satan the Devil, man, the soul, prayer, the sabbath, baptism, salutes and politics, images, etc. Contains 320 pages, with scripture and subject indexes. Bound in beautiful green cover, gold-leaf stamped. Available on a contribution of 50 cents. Write to address given below.

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