

# What is God's Kingdom?

By Rich Woodrow

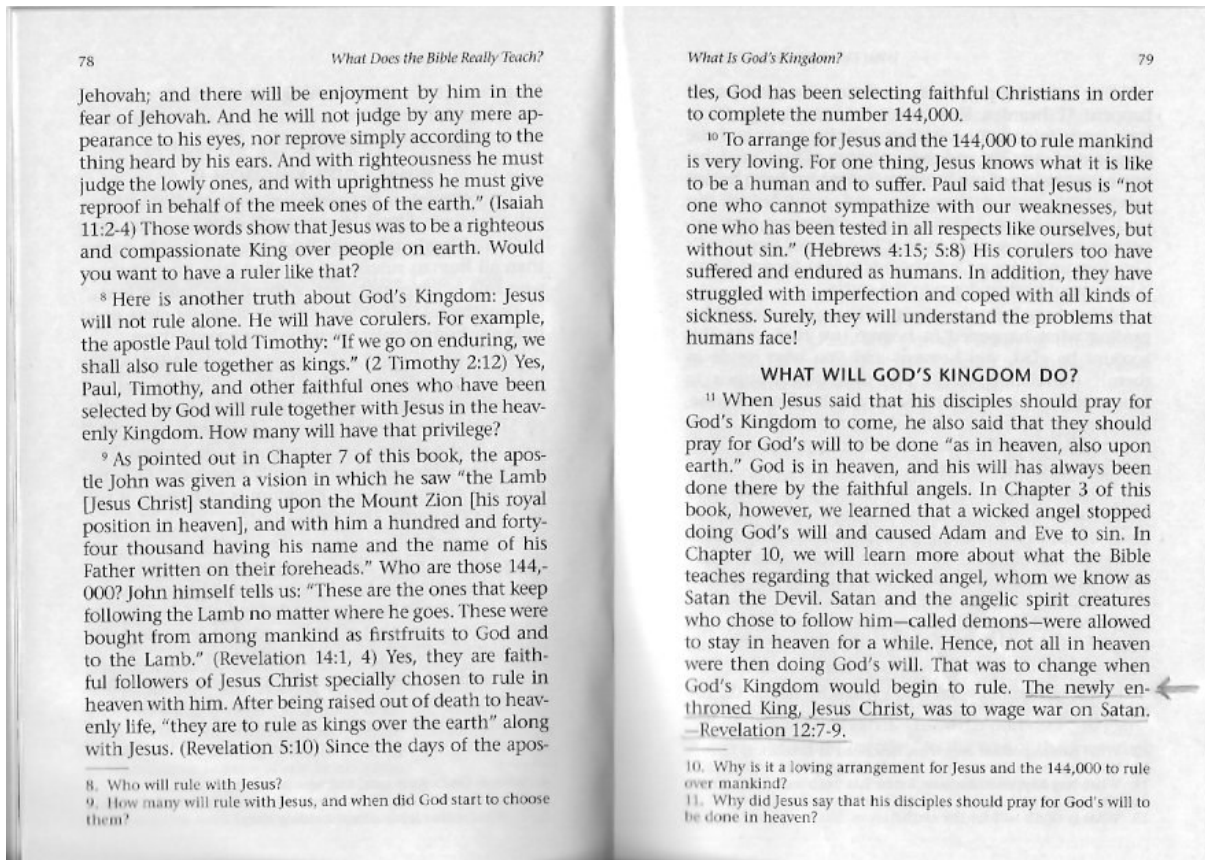
This is a snippet study from **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE *Really* TEACH?** A publication from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Only a few points from this book are examined. There are many other errors, or more properly - false doctrines, within the pages which reflect the Watchtower's false teaching.

Chapter eight is entitled - **What Is God's Kingdom?**

On page 79 of the book and under chapter eight is the following text:

**The newly enthroned King, Jesus Christ was to wage war on Satan. - Revelation 12:7-9.**



This is a blatant LIE. The Bible does not say this at all. What Revelation 12:7-9 actually says is:

7And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,  
8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.  
9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

*King James Version*

The Jehovah's Witnesses bible says the same:

7 And war broke out in heaven: Mi´cha·el and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled 8 but it did not prevail, neither was a place found for them any longer in heaven. 9 So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

*New World Translation*

As you can see it is Michael and his angels who fought against the dragon. So why then does the Watchtower teach it was Jesus? Especially in a book called **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE *Really* TEACH?**

Well, ultimately it is an attempt to destroy the truth of Jesus' deity. It is well known that Jehovah Witnesses teach that Jesus was a created being and that He isn't God. But it isn't well known that JW's teach that Jesus and the Archangel Michael are the same person. It is interesting that JW's don't believe God is three persons i.e. God the father, God the Son and God The Holy Spirit, yet they believe Jesus is 'a' god and also an angel..!

**Watchtower's Justification for calling Jesus the archangel Michael**

In the appendix of this book on pages 218 and 219 we see the Watchtower's justification for determining Jesus and Michael are one and the same.

On page 218 in the last paragraph the book calls your attention to:

**“Notice that Michael is called *the* archangel. This suggests that there is only one such angel”**

Just as Jesus predicted, his "presence" as heavenly King has been marked by dramatic world developments—war, famine, earthquakes, pestilences. (Matthew 24:3-8; Luke 21:11) Such developments bear powerful testimony to the fact that 1914 indeed marked the birth of God's heavenly Kingdom and the beginning of "the last days" of this present wicked system of things.—2 Timothy 3:1-5.

### Who Is Michael the Archangel?

THE spirit creature called Michael is not mentioned often in the Bible. However, when he is referred to, he is in action. In the book of Daniel, Michael is battling wicked angels; in the letter of Jude, he is disputing with Satan; and in Revelation, he is waging war with the Devil and his demons. By defending Jehovah's rulership and fighting God's enemies, Michael lives up to the meaning of his name—"Who Is Like God?" But who is Michael?

At times, individuals are known by more than one name. For example, the patriarch Jacob is also known as Israel, and the apostle Peter, as Simon. (Genesis 49:1, 2; Matthew 10:2) Likewise, the Bible indicates that Michael is another name for Jesus Christ, before and after his life on earth. Let us consider Scriptural reasons for drawing that conclusion.

**Archangel.** God's Word refers to Michael "the archangel." (Jude 9) This term means "chief angel." **Notice that Michael is called the archangel.** This suggests that there is only one such angel. In fact, the term "archangel" occurs in the Bible only in the singular, never in the plural. Moreover, Jesus is linked with the office of archangel. Regarding the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thessalonians 4:16 states: "The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice." Thus the voice of Jesus is described as

being that of an archangel. This scripture therefore suggests that Jesus himself is the archangel Michael.

**Army Leader.** The Bible states that "Michael and his angels battled with the dragon . . . and its angels." (Revelation 12:7) Thus, Michael is the Leader of an army of faithful angels. Revelation also describes Jesus as the Leader of an army of faithful angels. (Revelation 19:14-16) And the apostle Paul specifically mentions "the Lord Jesus" and "his powerful angels." (2 Thessalonians 1:7; Matthew 16:27; 24:31; 1 Peter 3:22) So the Bible speaks of both Michael and "his angels" and Jesus and "his angels." (Matthew 13:41) Since God's Word nowhere indicates that there are two armies of faithful angels in heaven—one headed by Michael and one headed by Jesus—it is logical to conclude that Michael is none other than Jesus Christ in his heavenly role.\*

\* More information showing that the name Michael applies to God's Son is found in Volume 2, pages 393-4, of *Insight on the Scriptures*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

### Identifying "Babylon the Great"

THE book of Revelation contains expressions that are not to be understood literally. (Revelation 1:1) For example, it mentions a woman with the name "Babylon the Great" written on her forehead. This woman is said to be sitting on "crowds and nations." (Revelation 17:1, 5, 15) Since no literal woman could do this, Babylon the Great must be symbolic. So, what does this symbolic harlot represent?

At Revelation 17:18, the same figurative woman is described as "the great city that has a kingdom over the kings of the earth." The term "city" indicates an organized group of people. Since this "great city" has control over "the kings

Yet the last sentence beginning on the same page 218 says:  
**"Thus the voice of Jesus is described as being that of an archangel"**  
*underline added*

First the Watchtower teaches that the bible *suggests* there is only one such angel. Then four sentences later they say that the voice is of an archangel, which suggests that angel is one of many such angels.

Then on the next page they try to argue because Michael calls the angels his, and so does Jesus then that means "...- **it is logical to conclude that Michael in none other than Jesus Christ in his heavenly role**"

This is such weak reasoning that it is hardly worth defending.

The Jehovah Witnesses have translated the bible into what they call the ***New World Translation***. This version was translated to reflect their false doctrines. Even in their own translation they contradict themselves. In John 1:1-3 of their translation it says:

- 1.) In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.
- 2.) This one was in [the] beginning with God.

- 3.) All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.

### ***New World Translation***

The proper translation is:

- 1.) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2.) The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3.) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

### ***King James Version***

In verse 1 of the ***New World Translation*** text from John they are falsely saying Christ (the Word) was 'a' god, implying Jesus Christ is not God. Yet in verse 3 they say, "All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence"

Even unbelievers know that the bible says God created everything, not an angel. So how can the JW's say the Word - Christ, is Michael, an angel? Angels are creations..!

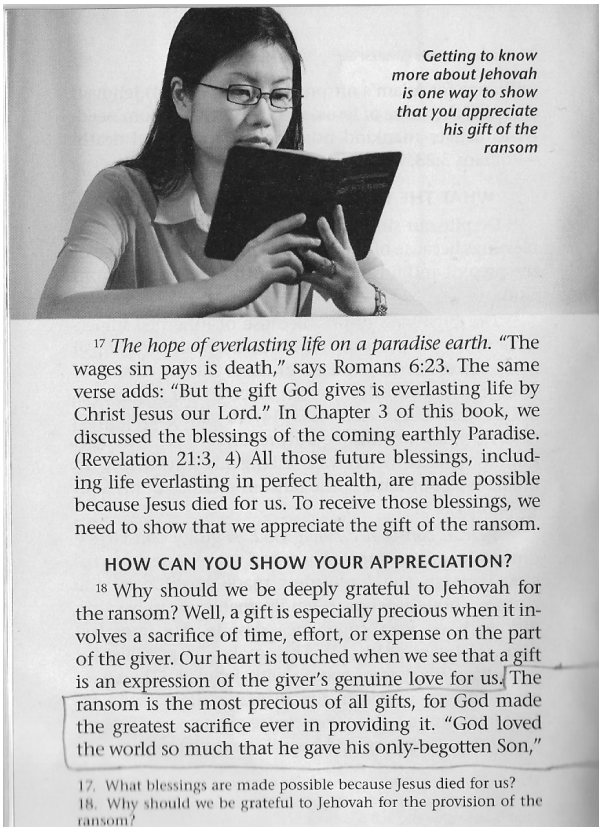
The JW's do declare that God created all things and also that all things came into existence through Christ. Yet they deny that Jesus is God.

Chapter five is entitled – **The Ransom -God's Greatest Gift**

On page 54 there is the sub-heading **HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION?**

Under this heading is a piece of text including a scripture-quote and reference:

**The ransom is the most precious of all gifts, for God made the greatest sacrifice ever in providing it. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son," says John 3:16.**



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says John 3:16. The ransom is the most outstanding evidence of Jehovah's love for us. It is also proof of Jesus' love, for he willingly gave his life in our behalf. (John 15:13) The gift of the ransom should therefore convince us that Jehovah and his Son love us as individuals.—Galatians 2:20.

<sup>19</sup> How, then, can you demonstrate that you appreciate God's gift of the ransom? To begin with, *get to know more about the Great Giver, Jehovah.* (John 17:3) A study of the Bible with the aid of this publication will help you to do that. As you grow in knowledge of Jehovah, your love for him will deepen. In turn, that love will make you want to please him.—1 John 5:3.

<sup>20</sup> *Exercise faith in Jesus' ransom sacrifice.* Jesus himself said: "He that exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life." (John 3:36) How can we exercise faith in Jesus? Such faith is not shown by words alone. "Faith without works is dead," says James 2:26. Yes, true faith is proved by "works," that is, by our actions. One way to show that we have faith in Jesus is by doing our best to imitate him not just in what we say but also in what we do.—John 13:15.

<sup>21</sup> *Attend the annual observance of the Lord's Evening Meal.* On the evening of Nisan 14, 33 C.E., Jesus introduced a special observance that the Bible calls "the Lord's evening meal." (1 Corinthians 11:20; Matthew 26:26-28) This observance is also called the Memorial of Christ's death. Jesus instituted it to help his apostles and

19, 20. In what ways can you show that you appreciate God's gift of the ransom?

21, 22. (a) Why should we attend the annual observance of the Lord's Evening Meal? (b) What will be explained in Chapters 6 and 7?

There are two things wrong with this text. First is the Watchtower has only given half of the scripture John 3:16. They have even put quotes ("") tight around the half of the scripture that is nothing short of modifying scripture. The full scripture of John 3:16 is of course:

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
***New King James Version***

As you can see by comparing the Watchtower's quote of John 3:16 and the full quote, they have hacked off the message of salvation, i.e. "That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The Watchtower teaches that you should show appreciation for God's gift, which is a very weak substitute from the truth. The bible clearly says that. "Whoever believes in Him." ***John 3:16***

An unbeliever can hear the truth that Christ died for us, and appreciate the fact. But if he doesn't ***believe in Him*** then there is no salvation for that unbeliever. So here you can see how dangerous it is to modify, hack and take scripture out of context. Something the Watchtower does with vigour.

Jehovah Witnesses rarely read from the bible, but rather from their own publications; which paraphrase the bible, at best!

Just with these two observations in this one publication it is evident that anyone following the Watchtower will not find salvation or even have a personal relationship with Jesus.

What should be understood is that many Jehovah Witnesses don't realize the Watchtower is lying them to. A new convert to the Watchtower isn't taught from the bible, but rather a home study, is set up and usually from above mentioned book or one like it. So the bible applied as the main source of study, but rather as a supplement to back up their false doctrines, built on scriptures skillfully manipulated and taken out of context, for the purpose of deliberate and willful deception on the part of The Watch Tower Society. Just one of many false teachings inspired by Satan to lead men and women away from the truth of the genuine gospel so that in the course of time these unsuspecting Watch Tower members may become permanent citizens and inmates of Gods eternal prison, consumed in the lake of fire because they DID NOT receive the love of the TRUTH, found ONLY in Jesus Christ!