

Review: F. W. Thomas, *Masters of Deception: An Expose of the Jehovah's Witnesses, With Clear-Cut Suggestions for Refuting Their Teachings*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, February 1972 (September 1974 edn.)

Pages: 162

Powerful Watchtower Refutation

A savage take-down of the Watchtower's false teachings verse-by-verse: the divinity of Christ; Trinity; Soul Sleep; and Charles Russell and Judge Rutherford's false prophecies.

The author details psychology of the JW from experience, that mere logical argumentation is unlikely to be effective. However, this takes nothing away from the necessity of making a defence against false teachings, and whether a JW is receptive or not is his own choice to make.

While Mr Thomas uses the powerful Authorized Version, unfortunately at times he defers to modern corrupt bibles which only weakens his points. He also fails to mention the strongest verse proving the Trinity, I John 5.7, which the modern versions have removed.

Overall, worthy of serious study to understand one is dealing with a completely different and anti-Christ religion.

Introduction (pp. xi-xiv)

The JW's employ a "Theocratic War Strategy", meaning they can cheat and lie in order to protect the Watchtower Society (WTS).

"The majority of JW's are so fanatically dedicated ... no amount of scriptural evidence will ever convince them they are wrong ... they would prefer to go to Hell rather than admit they had been deceived ...

Jehovah's Witnesses do not love the truth. They are only interested in that which might benefit ...the Watchtower ..." [pxiii]

I) Clearing the Decks (pp. 1-3)

II) The Holy Trinity (pp. 4-19)

III) The Deity of Christ (pp. 20-28)

The JW Bible deliberately adds "other" into Col. 1.15-17. "First born" in v15 refers to primacy, or position and rank.

Re: Prov. 8, surely God's wisdom must be as eternal as Himself?

As a naval captain only opens his sealed orders after setting sail, so Christ only knows the hour once the Father chooses to reveal it to him.

Since JW's believe the dead are unconscious, they hold that Jesus was unconscious for three days and nights.

Sin is linked with suffering as a deterrent.

IV) Christ Is Worshipped (pp. 29-37)

Watchtower, 1/1/1954, p30: "Should we worship Jesus? .. The answer to the above question must be that no distinct worship is to be rendered to Jesus Christ now glorified in heaven."

For the JW, προσκυνεω always means "reverence" or "homage" when" directed to Christ.

"As one JW so aptly expressed ... 'If the Society is wrong, then we will go down with the Society.'" [p37]

V) The Word – Who Is He? (pp. 38-64)

The WTS teaches Christ is *not* the Creators.

In John 10 the JW's are really asserting the same oneness must exist between Christians and Christ as between Christ and the Father, which is false.

Importantly, if Christ is a creature, it means a mere creature can forgive sins in WTS soteriology.

If Christ has been given all power in Mt 28.18, the JW says this is because he had never possessed it before and so could be Jehovah.

VI) The Resurrection of Christ (pp. 65-77)

JW's deny this: "He merely Materialised Flesh and Blood." (*Make Sure Of All Things*, 1953, p314).

The JWs quote I Cr 15.50 that Christ could not have been raised since flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom of God. Also, if he did, it would nullify the ransom of his body already given on the cross.

VII) The Great Farce (pp. 78-83)

Suffering can promote spiritual growth.

VIII) Did Christ Return in 1914? (pp. 84-93)

Early Russellites held Christ returned *invisibly* in 1874, and in 1914 the Kingdom of Heaven began invisibly, or seen only by those with the eye of understanding [!].

WTS: "No man knows the day and hour of Christ's Return. However, we can know the Year of His Return."

Christ 'returns' to Earth according to JWs by "turning his attention to it".

IX) Justified Living (pp. 94-98)

God spared Rahab because of her hiding the spies, and in spite of her lie, not because of it.

X) The Soul (pp. 99-104)

XI) So-Called Evidence Against Hell (pp. 105-117)

XII) The Dead Are Conscious (pp. 118-124)

The Witch at Endor would have cried out because she saw the real Samuel and not simply an impostor devil.

XIII) The Doctrine of Hell Torment (pp. 125-132)

If Luke 16 were a parable, then Christ should have explained its meaning which he didn't. The JW's interpret the rich man as the clergy of Christendom, and Lazarus as the faithful JWs, delivered since 1919.

WTS: "Christ only ever spoke of hell figuratively."

God could never cast a real devil into a symbolic lake of fire.

XIV) Another Gospel (pp. 133-141)

According to the WTS, none of the OT prophets are qualified to enter heaven, being outside the 144,000

XV) Jehovah's Witnesses and the Bible (pp. 142-151)

XVI) The One Channel (pp. 152-158)

The JW's believe salvation is via "taking in knowledge" (Jn 17.3, NWT), and that no one can be saved instantaneously.