

**WITNESSING OUTLINE:
EXPOSING THE 'LOGIC' OF THE
*“JEHOVAH’S WITNESS” DOCTRINE OF RESURRECTION**

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*Why the “_” around “Jehovah’s Witnesses”? They are ‘so-called’ “Jehovah’s Witnesses.” They absolutely do not believe in the biblical ‘Jehovah’ and are not ‘witnessing’ about Jehovah.

INTRODUCTION

“Jehovah’s Witnesses” do not believe in the resurrection OF THE BODY. Yet, they claim to believe in the resurrection, both of Jesus and His followers. How then, do they explain their teaching?

Confused Logic:

“Jehovah’s Witnesses” have invented a complicated doctrinal scheme which contradicts the clear teaching of the Bible’s gospel of resurrection. This “Witnessing Outline” is devoted to untangling the illogical reasoning of their belief system and exposing it as unbiblical. The honest and sincere JW will soon notice that the Watchtower Society’s doctrine is confusing, and its proponents are confused in attempting to explain it to others. As God pronounced judgement on Samaria, the twisters of His Word, He said:

For those who guide this people are leading them astray; And those who are guided by them are brought to confusion. (Isa. 9:16)

The Lord wants order with His people; He is not “a God of confusion” (1 Cor. 14:33,40). The doctrine of the resurrection has been made so confusing by the Watchtower Society, that it is rare to find a “Jehovah’s Witness” who understands the half of it. We have never met or even heard of a Witness who can adequately explain the teaching. So, if a “Jehovah’s Witness” says he is unfamiliar with much of the information herein presented, and seems CONFUSED by the Society’s doctrine, don’t be surprised! Our task is to lovingly correct him in order that he will open his eyes to see the “truth” (2 Tim. 2:24-26) --the “man” who is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

Resurrection vs. Creation

Perhaps the best way to describe the difference between orthodoxy and Society doctrine is to say that it is the difference between resurrection and creation. Personal “identity” is guaranteed in the resurrection. How? By resurrection of the body. Because resurrection is only of the body. There is no mention of a resurrected “spirit” in the Bible. Arthur W. Pink argues:

Again, do not these wounds of Christ throw light upon the character of the resurrection body? Do they not argue strongly that our personal identity will survive the great transformation? It needs to be borne in mind that the bodies of those who sleep in the dust of the earth are not going to be re-created but resurrected! And grand and glorious as will be the change from our present mortal bodies, yet it seems clear from several scriptures that our personal identity will be so preserved that recognition will not only be possible but certain. (Arthur W. Pink, John, 1945, Volume Three, p. 298.)

As we will see in this study, the “Jehovah’s Witnesses” define resurrection as the DUPLICATION of personality plus the creation of a new body. In contrast, biblical resurrection is TRANSFORMATION of the old body into the new (Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:5 1-52). The following will clarify the main differences between biblical resurrection and Watchtower creation.

A. Resurrection—Defined

Watchtower definition of resurrection:

Resurrection involves a reactivating of the life pattern of the individual, which life pattern God has retained in his memory. (Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985, p. 333.)

Biblical definition of the resurrection:

Resurrection is the transformation or “change” of the old body, from being mortal and perishable, to being immortal and imperishable (Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:51-54). It is also the redemption of the mortal body (Ro. 8:11,23).

B. Resurrection—Process

THE RESURRECTION PROCESS-- JW VIEW:

JWs believe: The life pattern (LP), or record of a person’s life (also called the “personality”) is recorded (duplicated) by God during the life of the person. At the time of death, this LP is “retained” in God’s memory.

Analysis: Since the LP information is in God’s memory, it is what God thinks about a person. There is no real “person” existing after death--only information about Him.

JWs believe: The LP is later to be “reactivated”. When the LP is reactivated, God puts it into a newly created body. This they call a “resurrection”.

Analysis: No “person” actually rises from the dead. God merely COPIES LP information from His memory and puts it into a newly created body.

NOTE: Obviously, God RETAINS the LP information in his own memory while putting the COPY of it into the new body. The new “person” is a COPY of a LP (in God’s memory) and a created, not resurrected body. The new person is a clone of the memory of God--not the original person—but another person--a newly created (a duplicate LP) in a newly created body.

THE RESURRECTION PROCESS--BIBLICAL VIEW:

The Bible does not define in any detail HOW God resurrects men. However, Paul gives us the important example of the physical transformation of a seed becoming a plant (1 Cor. 15:35-38). In other words, the decaying seed, like the decaying body=dis organization. Then the germ of life from this decaying seed produces a new plant=reorganization. The process of disorganization into reorganization is TRANSFORMATION. The new transformed body is not like the old--it is glorified in power and immortality (1 Cor. 15:42-43).

How to Use the “Witnessing Outline”

The following questions and answers will give you an overview of (1) the reasons for using the “Witnessing Outline” and (2) the strategy in using it. (For a full study of witnessing to “Jehovah’s Witnesses”, see A Problem of Communication, by Larry Blythe with Duane Magnani.

A. What is the “Witnessing Outline”?

It is a series of questions and statements based on the doctrine of “resurrection” as taught in the literature of JW’s. The process of going through the Outline will enable you to show that the doctrine is both illogical and therefore unbiblical--NOT OF GOD. The importance of the Outline is that it will be effective in showing the truth-loving JW that he is not in the right religion. Knowledge of that will open him up to the real “Truth” -- Jesus Christ. Then you can present the Gospel to someone with a listening ear to hear it.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT use the printed “Witnessing Outline” with the JW. To do so would seem like a canned or prepared approach, too formal for witnessing purposes, and quite possibly intimidating to the 3W. Instead, after studying the Outline and the Documents, copy the hand-written notes (see pages 10-11), **IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING**. This will show you have given personal study to this topic (which indeed you have done).

B. How do I control the conversation?

USE A NOTE PAD USE A NOTE PAD USE A NOTE PAD USE A NOTE PAD

“Jehovah’s Witnesses” are experts at making you chase rabbits. Those “rabbits” are every doctrine a Christian holds dear that the JW will now light on fire and utterly destroy. In a short time, you will have covered several subjects that “prove” Christianity is false. Do not let them get you off subject. Here’s how:

- 1. To aid you to keep total control of the presentation it is suggested that you make use of a large pad of paper.**
- 2. Write down your questions and statements (by copying your hand-written notes, point by point) as you share the presentation.**
- 3. You may want to use a piece of carbon paper (good luck finding some!) to make a copy of the presentation for the JW. Both of you will then have a written record of your conversation. In this way there will be no question as to what was discussed and proven. And what will the proof be? The proof will be abundant that the JW is in great error on the all-important subject of the resurrection.**

Presenting the Documents:

A. How do I begin the conversation?

- Say something like this: “I am very interested in what “Jehovah’s Witnesses” believe on the subject of their “hope”, if they die, to later be “resurrected” into Paradise earth. Will you spend a few minutes giving me your opinion about some things I have been reading from your literature?” (He will be delighted!)

B. How do I make my presentation?

- DOCUMENT #1: Tell him you have made a few notes from some things you have read in his literature. You have two sets of documents (one for him and one for you). Keep both sets in your possession in a file folder and do not show any document before you come to it in your presentation. Now begin your presentation of the documents. Start by handing him a copy of the first document which is DOCUMENT #1: What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? Tract (with a picture of a dead father coming back to life and meeting his family). Tell him that this is the subject you are interested in.

C. How do I begin writing my notes for the presentation?

- Tell him you want HIS OPINION of what the literature says for your notes. (In other words, you want to know if he AGREES with your own understanding of the documents). As you show him each document, read him your brief note of what the document means and ask him if he agrees.

D. How do I record his opinion?

- After each question is answered, simply write down what he says (in as few words as possible). Most of his answers should be “yes” or “no”. FOR EXAMPLE: Question #1 is: “Does the very person who died--rise up from death?” Your answer is “yes”. After he has looked at the Document which goes with the question, he will give his answer. The answer will also be “yes”. In the space below Question #1 write his answer: “yes”. (See pages 10-11). .

E. How do I get the JW to continue to look at all the documents if he begins to get uneasy with the things he is reading?

- Remind him that he has already obligated himself to give his opinion of what the literature says. (If he is honest, he will honor his own word).

F. How do I end the presentation?

- Ask the JW if he now understands that his religion teaches a false view on the resurrection and that his own organization says when he finds he is “on the wrong road” (in the “wrong” religion) --he should “change”--in other words--leave it to pursue TRUTH!

WITNESSING OUTLINE

Note to Christian: What is the “hope” of the JW? What drives him to work so hard?

- To live in “Paradise.”
- To see friends and relatives raised from the dead to live in Paradise on earth.

BEGIN: SHOW DOCUMENT #1: What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? tract (SHOW--picture of dead father coming back to life and meeting his family).

- COMMENT: *I'm really interested in this too. So, I'd like your opinion on some things I've researched especially "what hope is there for dead loved ones."*

1. **QUESTION 1:** *Does the VERY person who DIED--rise up FROM death? (yes)*
 - READ DOCUMENT #2: Awake!, 9/22/55, p. 6 (P-96).
2. **QUESTION 2:** *What makes up a “person”; in other words, what is an individual “soul”? Does person (soul) = body + personality?*
 - READ DOCUMENT #3: Watchtower, 12/1/73, p. 726 (P-87).
3. **QUESTION 3:** *What is “death”? In other words, what happens when the body dies? Is death = non-existence of the person?*
 - READ DOCUMENT #4: Watchtower, 12/1/73, p. 726 (P-87);
 - READ DOCUMENT #5: Good News to Make You Happy, 1976, p. 89 (P-40);
 - READ DOCUMENT #6: Awake!, 9/22/55, p. 7 (P-35);
 - READ DOCUMENT #7: Awake!, 7/22/79, p. 27 (P-54).
4. **QUESTION 4:** *What is a “life pattern”? (A “record” of a person’s life. It is also called the “personality.”)*
 - READ DOCUMENT #8: Make Sure of all Things, 1953, p. 311 (P-32).
5. **QUESTION 5:** *Is the life pattern or “personality” stored in the brain and blood? So it is physically stored there. Ok...*
 - READ DOCUMENT #9: Watchtower, 4/15/63, p. 242 (P-76).
6. **QUESTION 6:** *So, the ‘life pattern’ is part of the body, correct?*
 - READ DOCUMENT #10: Watchtower, 4/15/73, p. 249 (P-77);
7. **QUESTION 7:** *So, can the life pattern (personality) be given to another person?*
 - READ DOCUMENT #11: Watchtower, 5/15/62, p.302 (P-119).
8. **QUESTION 8:** *Based on Q5-7, is the “life pattern” (personality) physical? (usual answer “NO” – confusing? Yes. You may need to re-read 5-7, then just go on regardless of their answer.)*
9. **QUESTION 9:** *Will the same physical body that died, or a physical part of it rise up from the ground (be resurrected)? (usual Answer NO. It ceases to exist when the body dies.)*
 - READ DOCUMENT #12: Watchtower! 6/1/59, p. 346 (P-39).
10. **QUESTION 10:** *Will the physical life patter (personality) that was part of the body, rise up from the ground?*
 - READ DOCUMENT #13: Awake!, 9/22/55, p. 7 (P-35).
11. **QUESTION 11:** *Does a resurrection involve “reactivating” the life pattern (personality)?*
 - READ DOCUMENT #14: Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985, p. 333 (P-5).
12. **QUESTION 12:** *From Q3,9,10, we learned that the physical life pattern in the body goes into non-existence with the body. So, does God retain a copy or record of the life pattern?*

- READ DOCUMENT #14: Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985, p. 333 (P-5);
 - READ DOCUMENT #15: Make Sure of all Things, 1953, p. 311 (P-32).
13. **QUESTION 13:** *After the person's death, does God "preserve" (in His memory) the original life pattern (personality) or a duplicate of it? (Answer: NO. A recorded copy--a duplicate.)*
- READ DOCUMENT #16: Awake!, 9/22/55, p. 7 (P-35).
14. **QUESTION 14:** *Ok, this is a little complicated. So let me see if I understand:*
- a. *At the time of resurrection, God puts ANOTHER copy of the life pattern ("personality"; DOCUMENT #8) into a newly created body (the old body is not to be resurrected; see Question 9 above & DOC #12).*
 - b. *So, the old body is gone forever.*
 - c. *And so, this particular life pattern NEVER EXISTED BEFORE.*
 - d. *This new life pattern (personality) is COPIED FROM the "duplicate" copy of the original life pattern, which God recorded and retained (and, of course, continues to retain) in his memory.*
 - e. *In other words: 1) the original life pattern (personality) went out of existence*
 - f. *However: 2) God retained a "duplicate" of it in his memory and finally,*
 - g. *God: 3) makes a human body and DOES WHAT? (stamps a copy of the life pattern into its brain)*
- READ DOCUMENT #16: Awake! 9/22/55, p. 7 (P-35)
15. **QUESTION 15:** *So, is a resurrection the "standing up" of the very person that died?*
- READ DOCUMENT #s 17&18: Watchtower, 12/15/81, pp. 16-17 (P-78, P-79).
16. **QUESTION 16:** *Must God raise the very person who died for THAT VERY PERSON to rise FROM the dead to make it a true resurrection?*
- READ DOCUMENT #s 17&18: Watchtower, 12/15/81, pp. 16-17 (P-78, P-79).
17. **QUESTION 17:** *Does the original person (soul) = the original body + life pattern (personality)*
- READ DOCUMENT #3 – SEE QUESTION #2 ABOVE
18. **QUESTION 18:** *Will the original body & life pattern (personality) be resurrected?*
- READ DOCUMENTS #12 & #16
19. **QUESTION 19:** *Since the original body and life pattern/personality which was part of that body, equals the original person (Q2), is the original person resurrected?*
- READ DOCUMENTS #12 & #16 (Answer NO, the "person" WAS the original body and life pattern - see Q2).
20. **QUESTION 20:** *Is there any hope for the original person who dies? (DOCS 12 & 16) ("I" is gone! "I" no longer exist)*
21. **QUESTION 21:** *According to the Watchtower, is it important to expose "Lack of Logic" in doctrine?*
- READ DOCUMENT #19
22. **QUESTION 22:** *Does true religion agree with the Bible in every way?*
- READ DOCUMENT #20
23. **QUESTION 23:** *According to the Watchtower, what should an honest person do who finds the has wrong doctrine?*
- READ DOCUMENT #21 & #22
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CONCLUSION QUESTIONS

24. QUESTION 24: Since there is no real “resurrection” from the dead, what happens?

- a. Rather than a “resurrection”, there is a “re-creation” of a life pattern.
- b. ANOTHER copy of a life pattern is CREATED.
- c. This copy is duplicated from the copy in God’s memory.
 - EXAMPLE: There was manuscript written of a person’s life. It was a one of a kind work. It was valued at one million dollars. A photocopy was made--a “duplicate” of the original. The original was later destroyed in a fire, totally burned up--never to be seen again. The existing copy, this “duplicate”, served as the pattern for another copy which was made and bound as a new book. This was a copy of a copy of the original copy. Do you think it is worth one million dollars?

25. QUESTION 25: WHAT IS THE HOPE FOR A JW WHO DIES? TO BE COPIED?

26. QUESTION 26: IS THAT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES? (IF SO, PLEASE SHOW ME).

27. QUESTION 27: Has the “lack of logic” of the Watchtower Society’s doctrine of resurrection been exposed to you?

28. COMMENT 28: Since the doctrine of the resurrection of life patterns is illogical and unbiblical, it is NOT “approved by God” and neither are those who teach it.

- READ DOCUMENT #s 21&22: You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, 1982, pp. 32-33:

29. COMMENT 29: How should you feel if proof is given that what you believe is wrong? For example, say that you were in a car, traveling for the first time to a certain place. You have a road map, but you have not taken time to check it carefully. Someone has told you the road to take. You trust him, sincerely believing that the way he has directed you is correct. But suppose it is not. What if someone points out the error? What if he, by referring to your own map, shows that you are on the wrong road? Would pride or stubbornness prevent you from admitting that you are on the wrong road? Therefore, if you learn that you are doing what God says is wrong, will you be willing to change?

PERSONAL NOTE: If the JW is “willing to change”, it is time to present the Gospel with the REAL resurrection of Jesus. The book FROM KINGDOM HALL TO KINGDOM COME should be used for an effective presentation of the Gospel.

ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS

In order to escape the truth that his organization teaches false doctrine on the resurrection, the JW may attempt to dodge the obvious facts that you have presented. Here are a few possible dodges and how to answer them.

JW: Why should I care if I get copied or if I get resurrected. Since I believe that after death, I return to the dust, not knowing anything anyway--I will just be happy that God remembers me and creates me a new body in Paradise.

- **ANSWER:** *Remember, we just agreed that it is NOT “you” that would get a new body. Rather, a BRAND NEW person--a BRAND NEW life pattern and body--that NEVER EXISTED BEFORE will be created from NOTHING. “You” won’t be there to see it. “You” will be gone forever--”out of existence”! You care about that--right? So to say “I will be happy that God remember me...” Remembers who? There is no “you.”*

JW: I don’t think this is a very upbuilding conversation. I don’t really see it as important.

- **ANSWER:** *Your own organization has given you the go ahead to “examine” its teachings. They stress the NECESSITY of examining our beliefs: We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God’s Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such an examination. (See DOCUMENT #23: The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life, 1968, p. 13. (ALSO: You can refer again to DOCUMENTS #s 21&22 in the Witnessing Outline.)*

JW: Where did you obtain this information? Was it from some “apostate” group (former JWs who are speaking out against the JW organization)? If it is, I don’t want to be a partaker in their wicked ways by looking at what they have printed.

- **ANSWER:** *No, as a matter of fact, these pages came from books printed by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. In fact, if we went to your Kingdom Hall we could probably find the publications that I have photocopies from. (ONLY IF NECESSARY, YOU CAN ADD: The man who made the photocopies is a collector of religious books and has never been a “Jehovah’s Witness.” If you want to contact him I will see what I can do to get you in touch).*

JW: Anyone can make mistakes; perhaps our organization will take another look at the teaching on the resurrection and make some changes in the future. You can’t fault us for simply making a mistake.

- **ANSWER:** *Your own organization says that: “The religion that is approved by God must agree in every way” with the Bible....” (see DOCUMENT #19). Therefore, since they do not agree with the Bible on the resurrection, they are not “approved by God”. Also, we are looking at the most important doctrine of JWs, their hope for Paradise. A big “mistake’ on that teaching will cost you your very life!*

JW: These statements are taken out of context. It just seems from reading these few pages that this is the teaching of JWs. However, reading the entire articles that these pages are taken from would show something much different.

- **ANSWER:** *What do the “entire articles” teach that is “different” from what we have read? (The JW won’t know what to say; after all--he has probably never thought about it! If the JW is honest, have him secure the entire articles that he is talking about, in order to check the entire context. The evidence is clear, no matter how much he reads).*

JW: Why are you “attacking” “Jehovah’s Witnesses”?

➤ **ANSWER:** *I’m not -*

1. All the information we are reading is from your own literature. By the way, since both of us are merely reading the Society’s statements and agreeing as to the meaning of them, I am not attacking JWs any more than you are!

2. “Jehovah’s Witnesses” are told: It is not religious persecution for an informed person to expose publicly a certain religion as being false, thus allowing persons to see the difference between false religion and true religion. DOCUMENT #24: Watchtower, 11/15/63, p. 688.

3. Your organization has also said: If the message “Jehovah’s Witnesses” are bringing to the people is true, then it is of greatest importance to mankind. If it is false, then it is the duty of the clergymen and others who support them to come boldly forward and plainly tell the people wherein the message is false. DOCUMENT #25: Golden Age, 1/18/33, p. 252.

JW: I can have my personal opinion about it, a different one, and still remain a JW.

➤ **ANSWER:** *The Society counsels you to preach what they teach: We should eat and digest and assimilate what is set before us, without shying away from parts of the food because it may not suit the fancy of our mental taste. The truths we are to publish are the ones provided through the discreet slave organization, not some personal opinions contrary to what the slave has provided as timely food...Theocratic ones will appreciate the Lord’s visible organization and not be so foolish as to pit against Jehovah’s channel their own human reasoning and sentiment and personal feelings. DOCUMENT #s 26-27: Watchtower, 2/1/52, pp. 79-80.*