

Answers to the Cults' Attacks on Jesus' Deity

<http://alwaybeready.com/deity-of-christ?id=244#firstborn>

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Open with me to Matthew 16. I'd like to draw your attention to v. 13 and following...

Matthew 16:13-17: ¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

As you can see, there were a variety of opinions in Jesus' day as to who He really was. His disciples (Peter in particular) knew who He really was: Jesus was the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God. But those on the fringes, who didn't know Jesus intimately, thought He was actually John the Baptist, Elijah, or some other prophet who had perhaps risen from the dead.

Two thousand years later, not much has changed. Today there are still a variety of views regarding who Jesus was and is.

A VARIETY OF VIEWS AS TO WHO JESUS IS

- **Muslims**

believe Jesus was one of Islam's many prophets, a good and holy man, but certainly not the Son of God.

- **Mormons**

believe God created Jesus through a relationship with one of His celestial wives. In fact, according to the Mormon publication, *Pearl of Great Price* and the LDS website, even Satan was a son of God and a brother of Jesus, equal with Jesus in nature. [*Book of Moses*, Chapter 4, Verses 1-4]

- **Jehovah's Witnesses**

believe Jesus was and is merely an angel who is just one of many "gods" they say exist. To underscore their belief that Jesus is not Almighty God, they give Jesus the title "god" but with a small "g" in their self-published New World Translation of the Bible (**John 1:1**).

- **New Age Adherents**

believe Jesus was a great enlightened teacher who realized He was God, just like we *all* can realize we are God.

- **Hindus**

believe Jesus was one of many great and holy men. Many Hindus believe Jesus was a good teacher and perhaps one of their 330 million incarnations of Brahman (Hinduism's impersonal, pantheistic deity).

- **Buddhists**

believe Jesus was an enlightened man. God in the flesh? No.

So, there exists today a wide variety of opinions as to who Jesus was and is. Some say He was a great man, others a prophet, an angel, or one of many gods.

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

If you believe what Christians down through the centuries have believed, you hold to a much higher view of Jesus. Christians believe Jesus *was* and *is* God Almighty, absolutely equal in nature with the Father and the Holy Spirit (the other two persons in the Trinity). Why do we believe that? Plain and simple, that's what the Bible teaches and we believe there are **good reasons to trust the Bible**.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS

Where does the Bible teach that Jesus is God? Lots of places. Here are a few examples:

- **PAUL** called Jesus “our great God and Savior” (**Titus 2:13**)
- **JOHN** called Jesus “God” in the very first verse of his Gospel when he said that “the Word was God” (**John 1:1**).
- **JESUS** took the name of God revealed to Moses in the burning bush at **Exodus 3:14** (“I AM”) and applied it to Himself in **John 8:58**.
In **John 5:18**, Jesus claimed to be “equal with God.” In **John 10:33**, He made Himself “out to be God.”
- **THOMAS**, one of the twelve disciples, called Jesus: “My Lord and my God!” (**John 20:28**)
- **ISAIAH**, the Old Testament prophet, said that the coming Messiah would be God. **Isaiah 9:6** says, “For unto us a Child [a reference to His humanity] is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God [a reference to His deity], Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- **GOD** the Father called Jesus “God.” **Hebrews 1:8** says, “But to the Son He [God the Father] says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.’” [Quoting **Psalms 45:6-7**]

[In addition to a wealth of Scripture references that affirm the deity of Christ, the early church fathers—Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and other Christian leaders in the second century—referred to Jesus as God. [Click here](#) for more on this.]

So this is what the Bible teaches. And as I mentioned a moment ago, we believe there are very **good reasons to trust the Bible**. But, rather than continue to build a case for Jesus’ deity by looking at the verses that make this clear, I’d like to do something different.

I want to examine the verses the cults and adherents to false religions use to try and support their erroneous views of Christ. Not only do they deny Jesus is God, they try to quote the Bible to prove they are right. And whether they are Jehovah Witnesses, Muslims, Mormons, or New Agers, they can be pretty persuasive, especially with non-Christians and younger believers who may have not studied the Bible very long. Those are the verses I’d like for us to consider. The first verse I want us to look at is found in...

THE VERSES THE CULTS USE TO DISPROVE JESUS' DEITY

COLOSSIANS 1:15 ~ JESUS, THE FIRSTBORN

Why don’t you turn over there with me. Notice what Paul writes about Jesus...

Colossians 1:15: “He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

The firstborn! Ahh, so the Jehovah’s Witness on your porch will typically say something like:

Jehovah Witness: “Look at that. Paul says Jesus is the “firstborn” of all “creation.” Paul is saying that Jesus was the very first of all of God’s creations. He was brought into being some-time in eternity past (before the creation of the world). So, because that is the case, obviously Jesus can’t be the eternal, Almighty God.”

Well, that might sound pretty persuasive to people who haven’t studied this. So, how might we respond to that? Is that what this verse is teaching? (That Jesus was the first being God created?) No.

That word “firstborn,” there in **Colossians 1:15**, is the Greek word “prototokos.” It does not mean “first created” as the cults say. There’s another Greek word for ‘first created’ (protoktistos) and Paul did not use that word.

Greek scholars agree that the word Paul uses here in **Colossians 1:15** (prototokos) means:

1. Superior
2. Preeminent in rank
3. Above

That's what Paul, who wrote this epistle, was saying about Jesus (that He is preeminent in rank, superior to, and above all creation).

Why is Jesus superior over all creation? Well, the very next verse explains. Notice the flow. Paul says:

Colossians 1:16-17: 16 "For by Him [Jesus] all things [How many things? ALL THINGS] were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

That's why Jesus is superior to everything. He is the One who *made* everything!

To deal with the implications of these two verses (**Col. 1:16-17**) the Jehovah Witnesses added four words into their Bible translation that are not in the original Greek to give people the impression that Jesus only made *some* things—not ALL things.

Well, this is a deplorable way to handle the Scriptures. We're not to tamper with them to conform them to our theology. We're to form our theology (our beliefs) around what the Bible says! And this passage (**Col. 1:16-17**) clearly portrays Jesus as the Creator of all things.

It even tells us in v. 17 that He existed *before* all things came into existence.

Brothers and sisters, He *is* the eternal God!

So, if a Jehovah's Witness or someone else tries to tell you the term "firstborn" means Jesus was the first being God created, gently tell them that they're mistaken and that the passage is actually teaching that Jesus is superior or above creation.

All right, moving along...let's look at another verse the cults like to bring up found in John chapter 3.

JOHN 3:16 ~ JESUS, DOES "BEGOTTEN" MEAN CREATED?

Jesus, speaking to a Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus, says:

John 3:16: "For God [speaking of the Father] so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jehovah Witness: "Ahh! Look at that! Jesus says he was begotten! So, even if the word "firstborn" (**Col. 1:15**) doesn't mean "first created," this verse surely indicates that he was created and therefore not the eternal God."

The Jehovah Witness organization has taught its members that this phrase "only begotten" (*monogenes* in the Greek) means "created." Well, they're wrong again. The word does not mean that. And a wealth of Greek scholars and lexicons back me up on this.

The Greek word *monogenes* comes from two Greek terms: *monos* meaning "one" and the noun *genes* which means "kind" or "type." So, you put these two words together and you have *monogenes* which means: "unique," "only," or "one of its kind."

That's what Jesus is talking about in **John 3:16**. He is not saying that God the Father created Him. He's saying that He is God's only, unique, one of a kind Savior! This is why Peter could boldly pronounce to the Sanhedrin in...

Acts 4:12: "...there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

Jesus is the "monogenes," the only, one of a kind Savior! There is salvation in no one else. That's what **John 3:16** is saying.

All right, let's consider another verse the cults like to cite to disprove Jesus' deity...

REVELATION 3:14 ~ JESUS, THE "BEGINNING" OF CREATION?

Here in **Revelation 3:14**, Jesus refers to Himself with a few different titles, but there's one in particular the cults focus on. Let's read what Jesus said...

Revelation 3:14: "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God..."

Jehovah Witness: "Well, here we have another reference to the fact that Jesus had a beginning. Jesus calls himself the "Beginning of the creation of God." Notice that! He says very plainly here that he is part of the creation of God. If Jesus had a beginning or if he is any part of the creation of God, he surely cannot be Almighty God."

Well, how might we respond to this interpretation? Was Jesus saying that He had a beginning, confirming that He was a created creature? No.

The Greek word here for "Beginning" (**Rev. 3:14**) is the word "arche." It's the word from which we get our English word *architect*. It doesn't imply in the slightest that Jesus had a beginning (as the cults often teach).

Greek scholars say that this word ("arche") can be properly interpreted as: Origin, Source, Designer, Supervisor, First Cause, Ruler. This is why God the Father can also refer to Himself with the very same word in **Revelation 21:6**! In fact, **Revelation 21:6** is a great cross-reference to write in the margin of your Bible at **Revelation 3:14**. Notice what **Revelation 21:6** says. I'll start in v. 5 for context:

Revelation 21:5-6: 5 "Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning [arche] and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

So, notice that, God the Father refers to Himself with the very same title, the *arche*, the Beginning.

So, back to the verse in question (**Rev. 3:14**); Jesus is not saying that He *had* a beginning or that He is the first thing that God *made*. He is saying that He is the One who *began* all of creation, that He is the designer, origin, the first cause, or ruler of all creation!

And this is exactly what other passages in the Bible teach about Jesus. For example, John writes in...

John 1:3: "All things came into being [How?] through *Him*."
Through Jesus. He's the designer. He's the architect.

Speaking of all things coming into being through Jesus, a good question to ask Jehovah's Witnesses is this: Is Jesus the creator?

Jehovah Witness: "Well, we believe Jesus is a creator *in a sense*. After God created Jesus, Jesus helped God create the other things."

When a Jehovah's Witness tells you this, you might tell them to **Isaiah 44:24**. Notice what it says:

Isaiah 44:24: "Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD [YHWH], am the maker of *all* things, stretching out the heavens [How? With someone else's help? No.] by Myself, and spreading out the earth [with help? No.] all alone."

This verse can have a powerful impact on a Jehovah's Witness. I have seen Jehovah's Witnesses completely baffled, utterly stunned, after reading this verse. Here's why: If God created everything "all alone" as this passage (**Isaiah 44:24**) says and Jesus created "all things" (**John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17**) you have to conclude that Jesus must be that God, the God of the Old Testament—Yahweh!

JOHN 5:25 ~ JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

Jehovah Witness: “All right Charlie, but what about all the verses in the Bible, where Jesus is called the “Son” of God? If you’re the *Son* of God, surely you can’t be the eternal Almighty God.”

This is another common objection the cults bring up. They believe Jesus' title (“Son of God”) somehow means Jesus is inferior to God. Well, they’re mistaken. Let’s turn over to **John 5:25**. Jesus is speaking here to some of His critics. He says:

John 5:25: “Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”

Here in this verse, as you can see, Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of God. This is one of many places in the Gospels where Jesus is referred to with this title.

What *did* Jesus mean when He said He was “the *Son* of God”?

Was this a way of saying that He was *less* than God, as Jehovah’s Witnesses contend? Not at all. In fact it was actually a claim to deity (equality with God).

Let’s examine the context by backing up a few verses and looking at verse 18. We’ll see that Jesus’ original listeners knew *exactly* what Jesus was saying. In **John 5:18**, John writes:

John 5:18: “Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, [Why?] because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His *Father* [implying that He was the *Son* of God], making Himself [What?] equal with God.”

Referring to God as His Father and Himself as the Son of God, as He did here in **John 5:25** and elsewhere [e.g., **John 3:16**], was the equivalent of making Himself what? “Equal with God” the apostle John says.

Referring to God as His Father, referring to Himself as the Son of God, was the equivalent of making Himself “*equal with God*.”

Those listening to Him understood that a son is of the same nature, the same species, the same essence, as his father. And so they immediately understood what Jesus meant by referring to Himself as the Son of God. *‘He’s claiming to be equal with God!’* And they sought to kill Him. So this title “Son of God” actually helps to *verify* Jesus’ deity rather than *undermine* it.

JOHN 14:28 ~ JESUS SAYS THE FATHER IS "GREATER"

Jesus here is speaking to His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion...

John 14:28: “You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.”

Jehovah Witness: “Look at that Charlie! Jesus says right here that his Father is “greater” than him (**Jn. 14:28**). You keep saying that Jesus is equal in nature with the Father; but that contradicts what Jesus himself said!”

Well, once again we need to look a bit more closely at the word in question in the original Greek. The Greek word for “greater” in **John 14:28** is the word *meizon*. This word is a *quantitative* term, not a *qualitative* term. Let me explain.

- A quantitative term describes quantities, levels, positions, etc.
- A qualitative term describes qualities, character, nature.

When I say, “The amount of water in this glass is greater than the water in that glass,” I’m speaking quantitatively. I’m not saying that the water in this glass is *better* than the water in that glass.

When Jesus spoke of His Father being “greater” than Him (**John 14:28**), He was speaking *quantitatively* (as the word *meizon* implies). Jesus was referring to His Father’s position, *not* His nature. He was not saying His Father was *better* than Him or more worthy of worship. That would contradict what the Bible says elsewhere.

For instance, notice what **Hebrews 1:3** says. Speaking of Jesus, it says:

Hebrews 1:3: “He [Jesus] is the radiance of His glory [God the Father’s] and the exact representation of His nature.”

Jesus is absolutely equal in nature to God the Father. But in **John 14:28**, while Jesus was here on the Earth having “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant” (**Phil. 2:7**), having been made for “a little while lower than the angels” (**Heb. 2:9**), it was completely appropriate to speak of His Father being greater than Him (positionally). He was not saying that the Father was better than Him in character or in nature.

Here’s an analogy that might help. The President is greater than us in *position of authority*. But in *nature* he is absolutely equal with us, isn’t he? We are all 100% homosapien.

Here’s another analogy. Children are absolutely equal in nature with their parents (we’re all humans). But children can rightly speak of their parents holding a higher office. The fact that the parents are greater in their position of authority does nothing to negate the fact that their children are perfectly equal to them in nature.

And the same is true with Jesus’ statement there in **John 14:28**. When it comes to Jesus and the Father’s nature, Jesus said...

John 10:30: “I and the Father are one.”

They are so identical in nature, Jesus told Philip in **John 14:9**...

John 14:9: “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

MATTHEW 19:16-17 ~ JESUS IS NOT GOOD?

Matthew 19:16–17: 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” 17 So He said to him, “Why do you call *Me* good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

Jehovah Witness: “So look at that Charlie. Jesus says, no one is good but God! Jesus was saying, in effect: ‘*Whoa! Watch who you call good. Don’t call me good!*’ Jesus was clearly denying equality with God.”

Well, hold on a second here. Was that what Jesus was saying to this man? Not at all. I like to ask people two questions when they bring up this verse thinking it disproves the deity of Christ.

Two Key Questions:

1. Is it true, according to the Scriptures, that God alone truly is good?

Now, brothers and sisters, what do *you* think the answer is to that question? *Is it true, according to the Scriptures, that God alone truly is good?* The answer is Yes.

The Bible makes it clear that the hearts of men are desperately wicked (**Jeremiah 17:9**), all of mankind like sheep have gone astray (**Isaiah 53:6**), there is “none righteous; no not one” (**Romans 3:10**) and Jesus even called His own disciples evil: “If you then, being *evil*...” (**Luke 11:13**).

And Jesus Himself just said, “No one is good but One, that is, God,” here in the verse we’re examining (**Matt. 19:17**). So, ask the person that cites **Matthew 19:17** this question: Is it true that God alone is good? They should have no qualms about answering YES. Then ask the second question...

2. Was Jesus good?

What's the answer to this one? YES. Uh-oh. The person who thinks **Matthew 19:17** disproves the deity of Christ is trapped! Why?

If God alone is good (as Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 19:17**) and Jesus is good, that means: JESUS IS GOD.

But, rather than concede that their beliefs about Jesus don't correspond with the Bible, some people say something like...

Jehovah Witness: "Well then, maybe Jesus wasn't good!!"

If they say something like this, you'll want to have two verse references handy. I encourage you to write these down in the margin of your Bible sometime right there at **Matthew 19:17**...

Notice **Hebrews 7:26**, speaking of Jesus, it says:

Hebrews 7:26: "For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, *holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners* and exalted above the heavens."

Jesus was holy? Innocent? Undefiled? That's pretty good! That's better than good. Jesus was perfect! And next, notice this in **John 10:11**, Jesus even calls Himself good:

John 10:11: "I am the *good* shepherd. The *good* shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

So again, if God *alone* is good and *Jesus* is good, that means: Jesus is God. See how that works?

So then, why would Jesus challenge this man (in **Matthew 19:17**) with the question: "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."

I, along with numerous Bible commentators, believe it was because Jesus wanted the man to examine the implications of what he said when he called Jesus "good."

Jesus was, in effect, asking him, "*Do you realize who you are saying I am when you call Me good? Are you saying I'm God?*" So, **Matthew 19:17** in no way diminishes the goodness or the deity of Christ. In fact, it actually helps to affirm those attributes.

JOHN 17 ~ WAS JESUS PRAYING TO HIMSELF?

Here in this passage Jesus prays to the Father. Let's read the first couple of verses to get a sense of what happens here...

John 17:1-2: 1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him."

...and of course Jesus continues. I think most of you are familiar with this passage. The cults and other critics of the deity of Christ point to this passage (Jesus' prayer) and say...

Jehovah Witness: "How can you say Jesus is Almighty God? Why would he pray if he was God? Was he talking to himself?"

Well, the answer of course is No; He was not talking to Himself. Once again, the critics of Jesus' deity fail to understand the traditional orthodox Christian doctrine relating to the nature of God.

The Bible teaches that there is one God (**Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4**), who coexists in three eternal, coequal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine of the Trinity. And so there's no dilemma here for us in John 17. Jesus wasn't talking to Himself; He was talking to God the Father in Heaven.

Jehovah Witness: "But if Jesus was God he wouldn't have had to pray! God doesn't need to pray!"

He's right. God doesn't have to pray. But apparently Jesus wanted to pray. Having a relationship with God is not about "HAVING to pray." It's a joy to talk to God. We love God. And we want to talk to Him. Amen?

And the same was true with Jesus. So, Jesus talked to the Father. They had fellowship. We have no problem with that. And not only do we not have a problem with this. We're blessed by this! Because Jesus (here in John 17) was praying for us!

Jehovah Witness: "All right Charlie, I hear what you're saying, but this whole doctrine of the Trinity, this idea that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all God, is just confusing. And the Bible says "God is not the author of confusion" (**1 Corinthians 14:33**). So, I still have a hard time believing this is really what the Bible teaches!"

The cults love to cite this verse whenever talk about the Trinity comes up. They think the doctrine of the Trinity is confusing. So, they cite this verse and think it proves that the doctrine must not be Biblical. Well, in response, it's important to point out that Paul was not encouraging the Corinthians here to abandon a teaching of Scripture if it sounded confusing or was hard to understand.

If you examine the context of 1 Corinthians 14, Paul was talking about the confusion and disarray that was occurring in the church at Corinth. The people were exercising spiritual gifts in a confusing, disorderly way. Paul was saying God's not the author of that kind of behavior.

The Bible does teach that there are things in the Scriptures that are hard to understand. Peter says in **2 Peter 3:16** that Paul, in his letters, wrote about...

2 Peter 3:16: "...some things *hard to understand*, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction..."

In Isaiah 55, verses 8 and 9, God says...

Isaiah 55:8-9: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Our three and a half pound brains are incapable of fully understanding everything about God and His ways. This leads Paul to declare in **Romans 11:33**...

Romans 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"

Certain things about God are "past [our] finding out," Paul says here. So, it would be unwise to abandon what the Bible teaches regarding the nature of God, just because we may find something about it confusing or difficult to understand.

Peter says that those who take those "hard to understand" things and twist them, do so to their own destruction!

2 Peter 3:16: "...some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures."

That, unfortunately, is what false teachers do. They twist the Scriptures and create man made religions and gods that cannot save and will not be able to offer any help to anyone on the Day of Judgment. All right, there is another verse people commonly point out as they seek to disprove Jesus' deity. It's found in Mark 13.

MARK 13:31-32 ~ JESUS DOESN'T KNOW THE DAY OR HOUR?

In this passage, Jesus is speaking on the Mount of Olives about end time events and His Second Coming to the Earth and He says:

Mark 13:31-32: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

Jehovah Witness: "Well, look at that Charlie! Do you believe Almighty God knows all things? [Yes.] Well, then Jesus certainly cannot be God, for he plainly stated here (**Mark 13:32**) that there are certain things he doesn't know!"

Hmm. What might be said to that?

Well, although Jesus was God and is God, at the incarnation Jesus took on a human nature. He had two natures. He was both God and man.

As a man, Jesus cooperated with the limitations of being a man; He often chose to experience the normal limitations of human knowledge (**Mark 13:32**); He experienced hunger (**Luke 4:2**), weariness (**John 4:6**), and the need for sleep (**Luke 8:23**). We even read in Luke's Gospel that He grew in wisdom (2:40, 52) and that He "learned obedience" through His sufferings in **Hebrews 5:8**.

So, we have no problem here in Mark 13 with Jesus speaking from the vantage point of His humanity, saying He knew not the day of His Second Coming.

His statement in **Mark 13:32** is not a denial of Him being God, but a confirmation of Him being man.

Jehovah Witness: "All right Charlie, I have one more question about Proverbs 8. We've been told by the Watchtower that this is about Jesus, and it clearly seems to indicate that He was created." Let's look at it.

PROVERBS 8:22-30 ~ JESUS WAS BROUGHT FORTH?

Proverbs 8:22-30

22 "The LORD possessed me [Jehovah Witness: Jesus] at the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

23 I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an Earth.

24 When there were no depths I was brought forth [JW: Created!], when there were no fountains abounding with water.

[Skip down to v.29]

29 "When He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth,

30 then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." NKJV

Jehovah Witness: "So Charlie, here in Proverbs 8 we have an Old Testament text wherein the Messiah who was to come (Jesus) tells us that He was brought forth (v. 24) or created by God."

Sadly, the Watchtower has taught its members that Jesus is the one speaking here in Proverbs 8.

Well, there's a huge problem with that. Let's back up and look at verse 12. (It's always good to examine the context!) Solomon, the author of this Proverb, *tells* us here who's speaking:

Proverbs 8:12: "I, [Jesus? No. Messiah? No.] wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion." NKJV

Solomon was using a common literary device called *personification*. To *personify* means to give human-like characteristics to an inanimate object..In this passage (**Prov. 8**), Solomon was not personifying Jesus; he was personifying the inanimate virtue of "wisdom" (v. 1).

Solomon was making wisdom to come alive, as if it were a person, and show us how wise God is.

To further prove Solomon was *not* talking about Jesus (the Messiah who would come), notice in verses 1-3 that the word "wisdom" is personified as being a *female*! This is not applicable to a male Messiah!

Proverbs 8:1-3: 1 "Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? 2 *She* takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. 3 *She* cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors." NKJV

You can be absolutely confident that this is not about Jesus as the Watchtower would like us to believe.

CONCLUSION

Every attempt to use the Bible to deny the deity of Christ crashes to the ground with a careful examination of the passage. And as we carefully consider these verses, we see more clearly why Christians for 2,000 years have arrived at the same conclusion we have, that...

JESUS IS GOD.

And because this is the case, how important it is that we heed what He had to say. His words were not the words of an angel, or the speculation of some philosopher, good teacher, or self-proclaimed prophet. His words are the very words of your Creator.

This also means that God did not send one of the angels or some other created creature to die there on that cruel wooden Roman cross for your sins (as Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons teach).

He Himself came. Ponder that! God Himself, Jesus, Your maker, left the comfort and glory of Heaven so YOU could be saved and enjoy everlasting life with Him.

It was *God* who endured the arrests, scourgings, the mocking, the spitting, the punches, the lies, the trials, and the agonies of the Roman crucifixion. He endured all that for you! **Romans 5:8** says...

Romans 5:8: "God [not an angel or mere man] demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Because of His great love for you, Jesus died on the cross, taking the judgment you deserved for your sins, so that you could be forgiven, so that you could be reconciled back to God. He rose from the grave three days later and today He's offering all humanity the free gift of everlasting life and the forgiveness of sins to all who will place their faith in Him.

What awesome love God has shown you and me!

- How could you possibly not want to love Him back?
- How could you not want to know Him better?
- How could you not want to serve Him?

Oh my friends, I exhort you to love the Lord! Get to know Him better. Live for Jesus. Serve Him! Worship Him! He is so worthy! Amen?