JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

by Avram Yehoshua

The Seed of Abraham

My name is Avram Yehoshua. I was born on May 24, 1951. I came to believe in Jesus in October 1975 when I was 24 years old. I would like to lovingly challenge you about your Jesus. There are many different Jesus's in the world, like the Mormon Jesus and the Muslim Jesus, both of whom cannot save anyone. That's why it's important to know the biblical Jesus, for only He can save us.

The problem that I've come to see with the Watchtower Jesus is that he's not God the Son from eternity past, but Michael the angel before he was conceived in the womb of Mary. This means that your Jesus was/is a *created* being, as all angels were *created* by God. This teaching goes against the Scriptures in both the Old and the New Testaments, which speak of the Christ or the Messiah of Israel, the one who was sent by God the Father to redeem mankind, as being deity from eternity past. For instance, Micah tells us that the Ruler (Messiah) of Israel existed in eternity past:

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet, out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from *everlasting*." (Micah 5:2)

No angel can claim to have been 'from everlasting.' God also states in the Old Testament that the Messiah of Israel would be His Son, and as we know about any human son, he has the exact nature of his father, which would be human nature. In the case of Jesus being God the Son, Jesus would have the exact nature as His Father—deity:

"I will declare the decree: Yahveh has said to Me, 'You are My Son. Today I have *begotten* You." (Psalms 2:7; cf. Prov. 30:4; Mt. 16:13-17)

The term 'begotten' is typically used of a father in relation to his son, and so the son has the exact nature of his father—human. In this case, Jesus has the exact nature of His Father, which is deity. For more on this see Yeshua—His Deity and Sonship (Yeshua is the Hebrew name of Jesus, and the name all the Apostles would have known Him by.)

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that since the Old Testament calls Jesus an angel, Jesus must be an angel (e.g. Gen. 22:11, 15). This might be true in English, but the Hebrew word actually denotes 'a messenger; one who is sent.' As we might expect, most anyone sent from Heaven would seem to be an angel, but not in the case of the Old Testament's use of the term, "the Angel of the Lord." This 'Angel' (note always the capital 'A'), is not an angel, but Jesus, God the Son. This 'Angel' is first seen by Hagar (Gen. 16:7, 9, 10, 11), and after she sees Him she doesn't call Him an angel, but *God*:

"Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees;

Ludwig Koehler, Walter Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm, Authors; M. Richardson, translator, *The Hebrew-Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, vol. 2 (Boston, MA USA: Brill Academic Publishers; 2002), p. (Accordance Software). "(human) messenger; Ezk 23:40 Neh 6:3...1st Sam 23:27; 2nd Sam 11:19 (17 times)...messengers of God...prophets...Hag 1:13, pl. Is 44:26...heavenly messengers, angels...an angel: Gn 48:16...the angel of God (of Yahweh)" i.e. Jesus.

R. L. Harris, Editor; Gleason Archer, Jr. and Bruce Waltke, associate Editors, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. I, p. 30 (Accordance Bible Software). "*Messenger, representative, courier, angel*. "There were both human and supernatural; including…the Angel of the Lord)."

for she said, "Have I also here seen *Him* who sees me?" (Gen. 16:13 NKJV)

Obviously, Hagar saw Jesus and knew He was God (the Son). Just as your parents and you have the exact same human nature, so too, God the Son, Jesus, has the exact divine nature as His Father. Abraham also saw this 'Angel,' but note how the Angel speaks, as only God would speak:

"And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son, but the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (Genesis 22:10-12 NKJV)

Also note Gen. 22:15-18 where this 'Angel' not only blesses Abraham, but speaks of Abraham obeying the Angel's voice, yet vv. 1-2 it speaks of God telling Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, not an angel. Abraham obeyed the voice of God...the Son, for it was Jesus that stopped the sacrifice from taking place and Jesus who said He would bless Abraham for obeying Him.

In the New Testament it speaks of Jesus being deity, God the Son, from eternity past:

"He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him 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...For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell." (Colossians 1:15-16, 19)

If 'God' created the Heavens and the Earth in six days, then it's not possible that Michael did it, too.

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the Fathers by the Prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds, who, being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son. Today I have begotten You!'? And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son'?" (Hebrews 1:1-5)

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Jesus used to be Michael, something we would expect if Michael became Jesus. How then, could Jesus be a created being, an angel? "And the *Word* became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the *glory* as of the *only begotten of the Father*, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus was always God's Word (cf. Gen. 1:3, where God speaks and Light 'is.' Jesus is known as the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12). That Light came forth from the Father, was begotten, not created, on Day One.

If Jesus were a created being, an angel, how could He use the titles that only apply to God? In Revelation He says, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last' (Revelation 1:11; cf. 1:17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13). In the Old Testament it's written, "Thus says Jehovah (i.e. Yahveh), the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts! 'I am the First and I am the Last—besides Me there is no God!'" (Isaiah 44:6) and "Listen to Me, Oh Jacob, and Israel, My chosen ones! I am He! I am the First and I am also the Last!" (Isaiah 48:12)

Jesus said we must be Born Again, which is more than a mental belief in Jesus. Being Born Again is a spiritual experience. This is the biblical foundation for entering into the Family of God, also known as the Kingdom of God. Ask Jesus to set you free from the deception that is Jehovah's Witnesses, to forgive you of your sins and to come into your soul. When He does you will begin to *know* Jesus; not just know about Him. Contact me through my website and we'll talk.²

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See The Angel of the Lord.