THE BEACON

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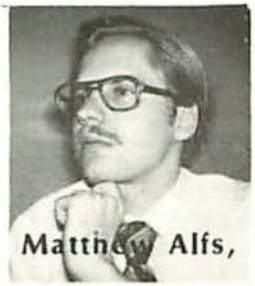
Was "The Word" Created Or Has He Always Existed?



Matthew Alfs, Jehovah's Christian Witness

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth." - John 1:14; *American Standard Verse.*

Who is this one called "the Word"? He is the one who became the man Jesus Christ in the first century of our Common Era. But, why is he referred to by such a title? Because he communicates the messages and decrees of Jehovah God to all other intelligent creatures. (John 8:28, 47; 15:15; 17:8). I say "all *other* intelligent creatures" because "the Word" is himself in fact a creature. The Scriptures reveal that, at some unspecified period of time, he came into existence, was created.

On one occasion during his earthly ministry, Jesus stated concisely: "I live because of the Father." (John 6:57; ASV). Note here that he expressly attributed his existence, not to himself, but to

Ray Hawk, Christian

1N1. Is Jesus, the Word a created god or eternal with JHVH as the Almighty God? The Jehovah's Witnesses teach Jesus is a created, inferior god to JHVH who is the superior Almighty Creating God.

1N2. In the next 3 issues, Mr. Alfs and I will be discussing this important theme.

1N3. Mr. Alfs introduces John 8:28, 47; 15:15; and 17:8, yet not one of these says Jesus is a "created creature." Next he gives John 6:57, but this verse must say, *I live because the Father CREATED me*, in order to teach Witness doctrine, but it does not. The Word occupied the flesh because the Father sent the Word to become flesh (John 1:14). No creation of a creature in that text. I see nothing in 1 Tim.1:17 that says the Word was created. Jesus is the Word become flesh and he is King of kings, and Lord of lords (1 Tim.6:15). Job 36:26 does not teach the

his Heavenly Father. That Father, as the "King of eternity" (1 Timothy 1:17; Moffatt's trans.), has always existed, and, truly, "the number of his years is unsearchable." (Job 36:26; ASV). Yet, the time came when he willed to become a Creator. The individual called "the Word" was his first creation, which fact is confirmed at Proverbs 8:22, where "the Word" himself declared: "The LORD ("Jehovah," ASV) created me the beginning of his works, before all else that he made, long ago." (*New English Bible*). Verse 30 and 31 of that selfsame eighth chapter tell of how this individual ably assisted Jehovah God in his creative acts, in the capacity of a "master workman" (ASV) joyfully serving under the Almighty Architect. Such things were later to be said of God's beloved Son, in first-century times. - John 1:3; Col.1:15-17.

Some, however, object to the identification of the Son of God with the subject of Proverbs chapter eight. Why is that? Well, arguments are presented to the effect that the subject of this chapter is naught but the literal quality of wisdom, since in verse 13 the subject is called "wisdom." Yet, we might ask, was the literal quality of wisdom ever "created," as the subject of this chapter claims to be? (Proverbs 8:22) Hardly so, since that quality has always existed in the Person of Jehovah God, who always was and always will be. Might it not be instead that the subject is herein deemed "wisdom" because it is in actuality a person, one so wise as to be called by the name of the quality saturating his very essence? This we must of necessity conclude, for in other spots God's Son is deemed "wisdom of God" and "wisdom from God." (1 Cor.1:24,30; ASV). Why is he called that? The Bible writer answers: "Carefully concealed in him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." - Colossians 2:3; *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

Word is a created god.

Proverbs 8:22

1N4. Mr. Alfs must go to the *New English Bible* to get his rendering of Prov.8:22, "The LORD created me the beginning of his works, before all else that he made, long ago." I am made to wonder if Mr. Alfs accepts, hook, line, and sinker, the *New English Bible* as a reliable and accurate translation of the Hebrew and Greek text throughout? Is this the *official Bible* of the Watchtower organization?

1N5. Keil and Delitzsch, *Old Testament Commentaries, Psalm LXXVIII to Isaiah XIV*, pp. 514,15, states the Hebrew word here is not "created" but "revealing." Mr. Alfs, in a private letter, admitted that Wisdom was not created. We agree. If JHVH created Wisdom, then before that creation, JHVH did not have Wisdom! Who can believe that? JHVH revealed His wisdom in creation. Since the Word was with JHVH and was God, He also shared in that wisdom (John 1:1-3; Rev.3:14). Neither wisdom nor the Word were created! Prov.8:22 is not a Jehovah's Witness passage, but one that teaches that God (JHVH and the Word) possessed/revealed Wisdom in the creation.

1N6. Mr. Alfs introduces Col.2:3 but it does not prove Jesus the Word was a created god. "Carefully concealed in him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Is wisdom and knowledge not concealed in JHVH? If not, then JHVH must not have either of these. If JHVH had both, then according to Mr. Alfs' reasoning, JHVH is a created creature god too!

Revelation 3:14

1N7. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*, p.77 gives the Greek word *arche*, (αρχή) for the word "beginning" in Rev.3:14. He shows that for that verse the word means "the active cause." Jesus the Word was the active cause of the creation of God. That is a far cry to Mr. Alfs sug-

The apostle John, under inspiration, further verifies that the subject of Proverbs 8:22-31 was indeed the Son of God. This we can say because John quotes from verse 22 of that chapter and applies the things said therein to Christ Jesus at Revelation 3:14. The phrase at Rev.3:14, "the beginning of the creation of God" (ASV), is indeed a quote from Proverbs 8:22, according to such eminent textual scholars as Westcott & Hort (*Student's Edition of The New Testament in Greek*, p. 613), Nestle (*Novum Testamentum Graece*, p. 665) and Bover (*Novi Testamenti Biblia Graeca et Latina*, p.725, footnote 14). Bible translations such as *The Amplified Bible*, *The Twentieth Century New Testament*, *The New Testament In The Language of Today* (by W. Beck) and others listing quotation sources for passages in the Christian Scriptures also serve to corroborate the fact that the words at Revelation 3:14 are a borrow from Pro. 8:22. So Proverbs 8:22 speaks of God's Son, and that as having been created!

Interestingly, only in our present day and age have some Trinitarians come forward voicing a denial of the fact that Proverbs chapter 8 speaks of the Son of God. When, in the fourth century of our Common Era, differences arose as to the identity of God's Son, both parties, Trinitarian and anti-Trinitarian, still agreed on one thing as regards Proverbs chapter eight, as made mention of in the popular *Cambridge History of the Bible*, on p. 441 of Volume 1: "The subject of this passage was the Word. Nobody of any party denied this." How could they? The plain force of Scripture confirmed it.

Now, earlier in our discussion, we mentioned the passage at Revelation 3:14. This, too, is a prooftext that can be used to demonstrate the creatureliness of God's Son. The implementation of this passage will be a major theme of next week's presentation.

gestions that Jesus was the first thing God created! Mr. Alfs gave several Greek texts which tie Prov. 8:22 and Rev.3:14 together. I have already shown that both passages show that JHVH and The Word used wisdom in creating all things. Rev. 3:14 shows that Jesus is the *active cause* of the creation of God. Did Jesus the Word use wisdom (Prov.8:22) in creation or not? Both passages show He used wisdom. Neither place indicates The Word was created as an inferior, creature god. I appreciate Mr. Alfs introducing Nestle's Greek text. In Nestle's *Interlinear*, p. 966 under the Greek ἡ ἀρχη τῆς κτίσεως τοῦ θεοῦ., Nestle has this translation, "the *chief of the creation of God.*" I never would have looked at that text in Nestle if it had not been for Mr. Alfs!

NWT Adds To God's Word

1N8. The *New World Translation* of the Jehovah's Witnesses must *change* God's word and *add* to it to get the idea of Jesus a created god! In Rev.3:14 the correct translation, in the Witness' *own Interlinear*, p. 1085 is, "the beginning of the creation *of* the God." But, in their English translation it is, "the beginning of the creation *by* God." It is a small change and addition, but prominent in their doctrine to change God's word to teach Jesus is a created god! The *NWT* also *adds* to Col.1:15-20! In their English translation they add the word "other" to verses 16,17, and 20. Why add the word "other"? To imply that Jesus is one created creature among others! Yet, in the Providence of God, they expose their addition when their *Interlinear*, p.896 *does not have their addition!* It shows us what the Greek text actually says. So, down goes another text Mr. Alfs has introduced to prove that Jesus the Word is a created, inferior, creature god.

1N9. Next week I will continue to show Jesus is eternal.

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Our Record

Bible classes: 171; Worship: 186; Evening: 172; Wednesday: 200+; Contribution: $1,511.

Congratulations

Our congratulations to Julie Johnson. She and Steve Bray were married on April 23rd. They are now living in Houston, Texas. We wish them well in their life together.

Sympathy

Our sympathies to Neil Nicholson. Sister Isabelle Nicholson passed away in her sleep early Monday morning. At this writing the funeral arrangements are unknown. We shall all miss her deeply. She was a fine Christian woman.

This Week

The 4th annual lectureship of the Bellview Preacher Training School is now history. We continue to see more and more interest develop each year for our lectureship. Our day and night time lectures drew record crowds. In all, 33 lectures were given. They were all scriptural, informative, and rewarding to those who attended. Next year we will have a lectureship on evidences and doctrine. We hope that our readers will make plans now to attend. This year we had folks from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas.

Disfellowship

We regret to inform the congregation of withdrawal of fellowship of Mary Hughes on April 23, 1978. We pray that she and David will be restored in the future.

TAIWAN

Last week I said the language school charged $300 enrollment fee and $60 an hour per class for a man and his wife. I later found that this is Taiwan dollars. $100 Taiwan dollars equals $2.60 of our money! To those individuals and congregations who helped us go, I will be sending out a report in a week or so.

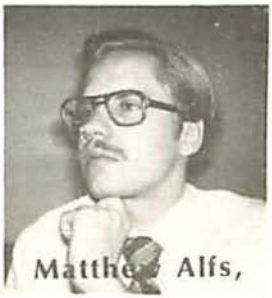
Alf-Hawk Discussion

With this issue we begin the discussion between this writer and a Jehovah's Witness. In akcordance with our agreement, if anyone seeks to know more about the Witnesses, they may contact Mr. Matthew Alfs, at 6316 Boone Avenue, North; Apt. 111; Brooklyn Park, MN. 55428. I suggest that you read the entire discussion in the next 4 issues and then contact Mr. Alfs and ask him questions concerning this question.

THE BEACON

Vol.7 June 1. 1978 No.22

Was "The Word" Created Or Has He Always Existed?



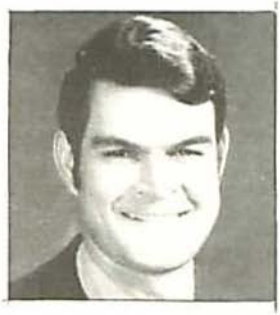
Matthew Alfs,
Jehovah's
Christian Witness

Last week we discussed the implications of the passage at Proverbs 8:22 in relation to the subject under discussion. We found this to be a proof-text in support of the idea that God's Son was created.

Though some Trinitarians may come to admit that the passage speaks of God's Son, in view of the evidence from last week's discussion, they will often object to the rendering "created" as found in *The New English Bible*. In doing so, they also are forced into rejecting the renderings of *The Revised Standard Version*, *Today's English Version* (The "Good News Bible"), *The Jerusalem Bible* and George Lamsa's translation. Yet, all the aforementioned versions (including NEB) were produced by fellow trinitarians! These trinitarian scholars were apparently honest enough to admit to the true sense of the word.

In Hebrew that word is "qa.nah." Its meanings vary in different passages, but one of its chief meanings is "to create." (See Deut.32: 6; Psalm 139:13) How do we know

It gives me great pleasure to again enter into this discussion on the eternality of The Word which is Jesus Christ. I am happy to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3).



Ray Hawk, Christian

Jehovah's Witnesses believe The Word (Jesus) is an inferior created god. In their *New World Translation* of the scriptures they deliberately pervert passage after passage to prove Jesus is a god and JHVH is the Almighty God. However, in 1969 they published *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*. Although the English translation in it continues to follow the perverted route they have chartered for themselves, the English translation beneath the Greek scriptures gives us the *correct* rendering! This is devastating to their false doctrine concerning Jesus being a created creature.

Jesus Christ: The Eternal God

In proving Jesus was not created, but is eternal with JHVH, I will use the Jehovah's Witnesses Bible and prove the eternality of Jesus!

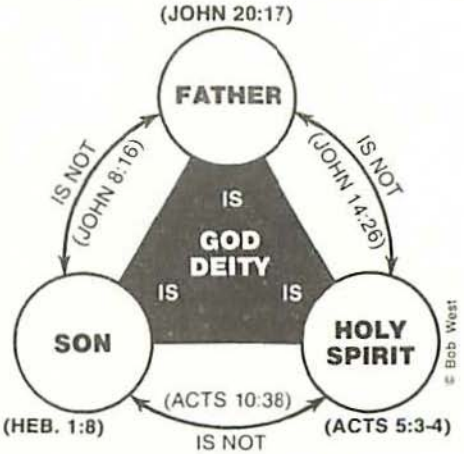
that that is the sense of the word at Proverbs 8:22? For one thing, *The Septuagint Version* translates the word into Greek as "ektisen," which is from the verb "kti.zo," and which means "to produce, create." (*Liddell & Scott's Greek-English Lexicon*, 1935 ed.) This is the word accepted by the apostle John as correctly translating "qa.-nah," when that apostle quotes from Proverbs 8:22 at Revelation 3:14 and employs the noun-form of "kti.-zo" ("creation"). With this the rendering of the Targums agrees.

Yet, what about that passage at Revelation 3:14? Does it not declare the Son of God, the Word, to be "the beginning of the creation of God" (ASV)? Yes, it does, and clearly such a rendering reveals the Word to be a creature. However, some maintain vigorously that the Greek word used there, "ar.-khe," should be translated into our language by a term such as "active cause," "chief," or "beginner." Nevertheless, Alexander Campbell's Bible translation of 1839 renders this as "the Beginning of the creation of God." Even the ardent Trinitarian Bible commentator Albert Barnes admitted with regard to the usage of "ar.khe" here at Revelation 3:14: "The word properly refers to the *commencement* of a thing, not its *authorship*, and denotes properly primacy in time, and primacy in rank, but not primacy in the sense of causing anything to exist." (*Barnes' Notes to the New Testament*, p. 1569) That is why the majority of English Bible translations (most of them produced by Trinitarians) read "beginning" here and not something else. Obviously, it would read as it does in the quotation-source, Proverbs 8:22, where "beginning" is used.

Colossians 1:15 is a passage also meriting our consideration. It calls the Word "the firstborn of all creation." (ASV) He is "of the creation," a creature. Of the many "sons of God," he was the "first-born," the first to be brought into

"Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none. I-I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior" NWT, Isa.43:10,11.

Tit.1:4NWT tells us Jesus is THE savior! Isa.43:11 says JHVH is the savior and there is none besided him. A contradiction? No. Jesus and JHVH are the Almighty God who is THE savior. Isa.43:10 says there was no God formed before or after JHVH. Witnesses say JHVH formed Jesus and give Prov.8:22 and Rev.3:14 to prove it. As I pointed out in my first article, those passages do not teach that or we have the Bible contradicting itself. God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor.14:33). Isa.43:10 says he did not form (Hebrew: *yatsar - to form or create*) a god before or after himself. Down goes the Jehovah's Witness' doctrine.



In the above chart we may see that Jesus the Son is THE God, but he is not the Father. The Father is THE God, but he is not the Son. All three are THE God, but not the same person. THE God is Savior. THE God is the I AM. THE God is the first and the last. Therefore, Jesus and JHVH are the savior and there is no savior beside THE God. Since Jesus and JHVH are THE God, there was no god formed before or after THE God.

"This is what Jehovah has said. . .

existence by God the Father. (See Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:1,4,7; Ps. 89:6,7) He was thus "the height of rank and might," as was Reuben, the firstborn son of Jacob. (Gen. 49:3; Moffatt's translation) This we could say *because* he was the first to be brought into existence, as it could be said of Reuben. It was a *consequence* of his being the firstborn.

With this proper background on the situation, we can see that it would be incorrect to assume that the Greek word translated "firstborn" here at Colossians 1:15 in the ASV simply means "chief," or "prime," as some Trinitarians suggest. As was the case with Reuben, who was the first son *produced* by his father (compare Gen. 4:1), and who, as a *result* of this, was "the height of rank and might," so it was with the Son of God. He, too, was the first son *produced* by his Father.

Another key to the correct understanding of the Greek word used here at Colossians 1:15 is the way that same Greek word is used in the parallel passage at Colossians 1:18. There the word is obviously used to mean that Christ was the "firstborn from the dead," not the "chief from the dead." (See a number of Christendom's commentaries on this verse, including those found in *The Abingdon Bible Commentary, Tyndale New Testament Commentary*, etc.) This language infers that Christ was the first one resurrected (permanently), or, as Acts 26:23 states, "the first to rise from the dead." (RSV) Thus, just as he was the first to rise from the dead (Col. 1:18), so he was the first to be created. We now have a fourth proof-text to show that the Word was created (the previous three being Pro. 8:22; John 6:57 and Revelation 3:14).

Next week we will discuss whether or not the Word is an angel. That, I'm sure, will prove to be most interesting. In the 4th (and last) article, we will observe various Trinitarian "proofs" refuted.

I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God" NWT, Isa.44:6.

Did you see that? *And besides me there is no God!* Now, if Jesus is a created god, there would be another god besides THE God. But this passage says there is no God besides THE one and only God. JHVH and Jesus are THE God.

"For my own sake, for my own sake I shall act, for how could one let oneself be profaned? And to no one else shall I give my own glory" NWT, Isa.48:11.

THE God will not give (share) his glory with another god. Yet, in John 17:5 NWT, "So now you, Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory that I had alongside you before the world was." Isa.48:11 said THE God would not give (share) his glory with another god. Yet, in John 17:5 JHVH and Jesus share the same glory! How? Both are THE God that shares his glory with no other god. Witness doctrine does not fit the Bible. Not even their own translation of the Bible!!

"In beginning was the Word, and the Word was toward the God, and God was the Word" NWT *Interlinear*, John 1:1.

Jesus The Word was with JHVH. The chart on the opposite page shows how one was with the other and yet The Word was God. Not "a god" as the NWT English version translates it. I'll have more to say about the perversion of John 1:1 by the Witnesses if Mr. Alfs introduces it.

"Answered Thomas and he said to him The Lord of me and the God of me!" NWT *Interlinear*, John 20:28.

THE GOD OF ME! Did Jesus tell Thomas he had made a mistake that he (Jesus) was only "a god"? No, "Because you have seen me have you believed" (John 20:29). What did Thomas believe? Jesus is THE God!!!

More next week.

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Our Record

Bible classes: 167; Worship: 186; Evening: 146; Wednesday: 169. Contribution: $1,225 *Extremely Low!*

Please Notice!

Due to the high cost of postage, paper, and printing, we must limit the mailing of *The Beacon* to those individuals who appreciate receiving it. Therefore, if you do not have a dating code on your address label, we are asking you to write and tell us you desire *The Beacon* to continue being sent to you. *If we have not heard from you by June 24th, your name will be dropped from our mailing list.* This notice does not apply to members at Bellview.

We are now mailing in excess of 1500 bulletins each week. The cost and time of changing address notices is beyond belief. Now that second class mailing has increased, the expense of putting out a bulletin has increased again. The costs that we have to pay for those who move and fail to contact us BEFORE the Post Office does is astronomical. This is the reason for the revision of our mailing list.

Mission Work In Cantonment

Last Lord's day Mrs. Sally Jones was immersed into Jesus Christ. She is the second person to obey the gospel since the work was begun in Cantonment in February in the Black community. Brother Jim Hull was the first person baptized in that work.

New Address

Steve and Julie Bray's new address is 9501 Beechnut, Apt. 207; Houston, Texas 77036.

Congratulations

Our congratulations to Tony Dodd and Steve Orr who graduated from high school.

Gospel Meeting

Gordon Hogan, missionary to Singapore, will be in a gospel meeting at Fort Walton on June 11-13th at 7:30 P.M. Nightly. The public is invited to attend.

Please Keep Us Informed of

Mailing Address Changes

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 19 - 23

THE BEACON

Vol. 7 June 8. 1978 No. 23

Was "The Word" Created Or Has He Always Existed?

Matthew Alfs, Jehovah's Christian Witness

Here we are already in the third installment of our presentation revolving around the above-stated theme! In the last two installments we investigated in depth four passages from the Bible and found them to be proof-texts to support the understanding that the spirit personage known as "the Word" was created by Jehovah God. These were: Proverbs 8:22; John 6:57; Colossians 1:15 and Revelation 3:14. We also posed an interesting thought at the end of the last presentation, namely, Could "the Word" be an angel in the service of Jehovah?

We take note of the fact that angels are presented in the Scriptures as "spirits" *created* by God. (Psalms 104:4; 148:2,5) But, they are also "sons of God." (Job 1:6; 38:7; Ps. 89:6,7) Is "the Word" one of these glorious heavenly creatures? If so, he surely must be pre-eminent among them! The title "the Word" would indicate that, if he is an angel (meaning "messenger"), he is certainly the "Chief Messenger" employed by Jehovah. He would have to be the "arch" ("chief")"angel"("mes-

Ray Hawk, Christian

I am happy to enter into this third speech on the eternality of Jesus. Remember, the Witnesses believe Jesus is an inferior, created creature god.

The problem with Witnesses is their failure to recognize that some passages refer to the Word in the body prepared for him, making both body and Spirit - Jesus! The body is that of the creature (man), but the Spirit occupying that body is the eternal Word which is God. Efforts to make Rev.3:14; Prov.8:22; Col.1:15; and John 6:57 speak of the Word as a created creature is absurb. If the reader had access to many of the works cited by the Witnesses, he would be able to see how many of them come up short of actually saying what Witnesses want said!

Witnesses strive to prove Jesus is nothing but a chief angel. Notice our friend's statement from 1 Thess.4:16, "Thus Christ possesses an 'archangelic voice,' indicative of the fact that he is either an 'archangel' or a *clever imposter.*" The passage doesn't say Jesus had the voice but that he will come *with*

senger"). But, is he?

That he was a son of God in his pre-human existence is made clear in such passages as John 3:17, Galatians 4:4; 1 John 5:20, etc. The inevitable conclusion is that he was then one of the "sons of God," or angels, made mention of by God at Job 38:1-7 as existing before the creation of the earth and then rejoicing at its creation in God's due time.

This is enunciated further in numerous other texts of Scripture. For instance, at Isaiah 9:6 we read concerning the Promised Savior that he would be called "Wonderful, Counsellor." (ASV) Yet, "wonderful" is what an *angel* said his "name" was at Judges 13:18 (ASV). How easily we can see why *The Septuagint Version*, which the first-century Christians preferred when quoting from the pre-Christian Scriptures, calls the Messiah "The *Angel* of Great Counsel" at Isaiah 9:6! And, at Malachi 3:1, he is called "the Angel of the covenant." - *The Septuagint Version;* also Beck; Darby; *Douay Version;* etc.

Job 33:23-26 is an excellent prophetic passage which speaks of an "angel" who would 'find a ransom' for mankind and "Deliver him from going down into the pit." (ASV) He is outstanding among the angels, "one among a thousand," and he "prayeth unto God" in behalf of man, succeeding also in 'restoring unto man his righteousness.' (ASV) This prophecy found fulfillment with the Son of God's efforts in behalf of men. - Isaiah 53:11; Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5,6; Hebrews 7:25.

Revelation 10:1-5 speaks of a "strong angel coming down out of heaven, arrayed with a cloud;... and he cried with a loud voice, as a lion roareth." (ASV) This is the Son of God. (Compare Luke 21:27; Revelation 5:5; Proverbs 19:12; 20:2.) *The Abingdon Bible Commentary* admits that this angel "is described in terms which recall (Revelation) 1(:) 15," and that passage describes the the voice. It will accompany his coming. Witness' logic is geared to deceive the innocent. No one wants to call Jesus an imposter, so the reader is left with the other choice of saying Jesus is the archangel! He is neither the archangel nor is he an imposter. He is God.

Witnesses assume that *Michael* is the heavenly name for the Son of God. Strange, Phil.2:9-11 shows *Jesus* is the name above every name! Witnesses think that because Rev.12:7-10 mentions Michael fighting for the kingdom that this is Jesus. Assumptions prove nothing! If Jesus as an angel means he is created, then any passage mentioning JHVH as an angel would prove JHVH was created!! We see JHVH as an angel in Gen.31:11-13; Gen.32:24-30; Ex.3:1-14. The word *angel* simply means "messenger." Witnesses think it means a created god. If so, then all angels must be created gods! John the Baptist was a messenger (angel). According to Witness logic he was a created god! Who can believe it? No, the word angel (messenger) does not mean a created god, so that takes away Job 33:23-26 from the Witnesses.

I find the connection between Isa.9:6 and Judges 13:18 ASV very, very interesting. Wonderful is not the *name* of the angel in Judges. The expression "Wonderful" in Isa.9:6 is connected with "counselor" whereas in Judges 13:18 the footnote shows the name of the angel was *secret*. Quite a difference, wouldn't you say?

Rev.20:1 could just as easily be JHVH as it could be Jesus. Notice Isa.19:1! I suppose if this proves Jesus is a created god, it would prove JHVH is a created god! Both are spoken of as angels and both ride on a cloud! If the angel roaring like a lion means Jesus is a created god, it would prove JHVH a created god too, for he roars as a lion (Hos.11:10)! Actually, there isn't a passage in the entire Bible that proves Jesus (The Word) is a

glorified Son of God! - p.1383; see also *Expository Outlines On the Whole Bible*, Vol. 21, p. 161, by Charles Simeon.

The apostle Paul is quite explicit on this matter when he states, as recorded at 1 Thess.4:16: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel." (ASV) Thus, Christ possesses an 'archangelic voice,' indicative of the fact that he is either an "archangel" or a clever impostor! - obviously the former. Interesting, for at Jude 9 we read of "*Michael* the archangel." (ASV) "Let it be observed," stated commentator Adam Clarke, "that the word *archangel* is never found in the *plural* number in the sacred writings. There can be properly only one *archangel*, one chief or head of all the angelic host." (*Clarke's Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 952) This necessitates that "Michael" (meaning "Who Is Like God?") is the heavenly name for the Son of God!

This is why we read of "Michael" spearheading the angelic hosts against the demonic hordes at Revelation 12:7, with no mention made of the Son of God, even though, as brought out in Rev.12:10, it was *his* kingdom that was being fought for! The noted Bible commentator J. P. Lange admits that this one called "Michael" here is "the warlike form of Christ." (*Commentary On the Holy Scriptures*, p. 248, trans. by P. Schaff) Clarke also admits that "many understand the Lord Jesus" here. (*Comm.*, Vol. 6, p. 952) This is also obviously the case because the passage speaks, not of "Michael and *the* angels," but of "Michael and *his* angels," bearing out that Michael *owns* the angels, a privilege given exclusively to Christ. - Mt. 25:31; 2 Thess.1:7.

Now, Daniel 12:1 states: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy (Daniel's) people." (ASV) "Stand up," said also of the Messiah at Isaiah 11:10, signifies something crucial. Watch!

created god. The whole doctrine of the Witnesses to prove Jesus is created is due to their false ideas of *restoring and vindicating the name of JHVH.*

The Witnesses have a rule for translating *Lord* into JHVH in the New Testament. If the passage refers to JHVH in the Old Testament, it should be translated as JHVH in the New Testament (Foreward, pp.18-20; *New World Translation*, 1950). Let's use their rule and show that Jesus is JHVH! Isa.40:3 connected with Matt.3:3 shows John was preparing the way for JHVH! Be sure to read these passages in the *NWT*. It makes interesting reading! Now look at Heb.1:8 *NWT*. "But with reference to the Son: 'God is your throne forever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of straight principles." In the Witnesses' *Interlinear*, p.965 on Heb.1:8 it says, ὁ θεός (THE God!). The passage is taken from Ps.45:6,7 referring to JHVH! So, Jesus and JHVH are the one God according to Witness materials! Thank you Witnesses. The rest of Heb.1:10-12 is taken from Ps.102:25,26 which speaks of JHVH. *But, the Witnesses failed to translate "Lord" in Heb.1:10 to JHVH. We wonder why?* Why didn't you continue following your rule? Why? It would make Jesus JHVH wouldn't it and you saw the light and covered it up!

Tit.2:13 is a great passage. The Witness' *Interlinear* pp.957, 958 is very helpful here. "Awaiting the happy hope and manifestation of the glory of *the* great God and of Saviour of us of Christ Jesus." That's the Greek way of saying "*the* great God and our Saviour Christ Jesus."

Rom.1:20NWT, "his (Jesus') *eternal power and Godship.*" The word Godship is actually "divinity" or "Godhead." Jesus has ETERNAL divinity. No beginning; no end!

Isa.9:6 says Jesus is "Mighty God, Eternal Father,*NWT.*" Jer.32:18 calls JHVH Mighty God. Jesus and JHVH are THE one Mighty God. More next week!

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Bible classes: 172; Worship: 200; Evening: 182; Wednesday: 165; Contribution: $2,335! *Excellent!*

Please Notice!

Due to the high cost of postage, paper, and printing, we must limit the mailing of *The Beacon* to those individuals who appreciate receiving it. Therefore, if you do not have a dating code on your address label, we are asking you to write and tell us you desire *The Beacon* to continue being sent to you. *If we have not heard from you by June 24th, your name will be dropped from our mailing list.* This notice does not apply to members at Bellview.

We are now mailing in excess of 1500 bulletins each week. The cost and time of changing address notices is beyond belief. Now that second class mailing has increased, the expense of putting out a bulletin has increased again. The costs that we have to pay for those who move and fail to contact us BEFORE the Post Office does is astronomical. This is the reason for the revision of our mailing list.

Mission Work In Cantonment

Last Lord's day we rejoiced to have another baptism in Cantonment in the Carver Street church. Sharon Sherrill Jones was immersed into Christ.

This Week

We wish to thank *Bennie* and *Louise Vickers*, *Dale* and *Cheryl Carter*, and *Roiki Phillips* for working with the young people. 30 attended a cookout Sunday afternoon after morning services.

There will be a *deacon's meeting* at 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Vacation Bible School begins at Bellview on June 19-23 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day.

Dale McCaleb and *Linnie Roberts* continue to improve at home from their recent surgeries.

The *Family Outing* will be at the Garden Center on June 30th. We have 57 signed up to attend at this time. We would like to have 100 or more. Please see *Betty Weekley* this week!

We want to thank the eight people from Bellview who attended the services Sunday afternoon at the Carver Street church in Cantonment.

GOSPEL MEETING at Pace church with Charles Tharp. June 18-23 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. The public is invited to attend.

THE BEACON

Vol.7 June 15. 1978 No.24

Was "The Word" Created Or Has He Always Existed?

Matthew Alfs, Jehovah's Christian Witness

Last week we quoted Dn. 12:1, where it is said that the "*great prince*," the angel "Michael," would "stand up" for God-fearing people. At Isa. 11:10, we read of *the Messiah*: "And it shall come to pass ... that the root of Jesse, that standeth (Heb., "aw.mad" - the same as at Dn. 12:1) for an ensign to the peoples, unto him shall nations seek." - ASV

What is the significance of this? Well, Paul, in quoting from Isa. 11: 10 at Ro. 15:12, helps us to define the term "stand (up)" when he renders the verse, in harmony with *The Septuagint Version*, as "ariseth to *rule*." (ASV) "Stand (up)" also signifies *an exertion of kingly power* at such spots as Dn. 8:22,23; 11:2, 3,7,20,21 and others where the term is used *in a prophetic sense*. Now, since both Messiah and Michael are to exert this royal influence, and yet there is to be only *one* such heaven-born ruler over God-fearing people (Ps. 2:6; Luke 1:33; Rev. 12: 10), it becomes evident that the two figures are really one and the same!

Jesus Christ instituted kingly

Ray Hawk, Christian

This is the last issue on this discussion. Mr. Alfs finally saw fit to reply to my arguments. He complains at the last about not having the "space to deal with *all* the arguments." But he had just as much space as I did! I have both defended the truth on Jesus' eternality and replied to *all* of Mr. Alfs false statements concerning Jesus. One wonders why Mr. Alfs did not reply to the arguments and counter-arguments presented by this writer?

Mr. Alfs treats us to Dan.12:1; 8:22,23; 11:2,3,7,20,21; Isa.11:20; Ps.2:6; Luke 1:33; and Rev.12:10 in an effort to prove Michael and Jesus are one and the same. But, Mr. Alfs have you not read Dan.10:13 which says Michael is "*one of the chief princes*"? He is not THE chief, but only one of the chief. That doesn't sound like Jesus, does it? Also, we find Michael mentioned in Rev.12:7. But, Jesus is mentioned in Rev.19: 11-16 and behold the difference between the description of the two! Jesus has a name above every name, Phil.2:9,10 (Cf. Isa.45:23), even the name JHVH! Both Michael and Je-

rule over his Congregation from Pentecost of 33 C.E. onward. (Col. 1:13). However, at a time-period future from the writing of The Revelation, John foretold that 'the kingdom of the *world* would become the kingdom of ... Christ.' (Rev. 1:1; 11:15) With reference to that event and the times following it, Jesus quoted from the prophecy at Dan.12:1 and applied things said therein concerning Michael's prophesied rulership to his own, which would commence with his 2nd presence. (Mt. 24:3; Luke 19:11-15). Note this by comparing Dan.12:1b with Mtt.24:3, 21; Dan.12:1c with Mtt.24:3,13,22 and Luke 21:28. Yes, Jesus viewed himself as the Royal Angel spoken of at Dan.12:1!

Examining Eternality Arguments

Some, though, deny "the Word's" angelic identity, citing Hebrews 1:4 through 2:5 as "proof." It is true that therein Christ is contrasted to a group of angels and is said to excel them. (Heb.1:4). But, Michael could not be part of that group of angels contrasted to Christ. Why not? Because he, as the promised *"prince"* over God-fearing people, was to *rule* over them, as we discovered upon examining Dan.12:1. Yet, according to Heb.2:5, the angelic group contrasted to Christ is *not* to contribute toward rulership over God's people! Thus, these verses in Hebrews do not contrast Christ to Michael and the other angels but merely contrast Christ to the non-ruling, non-inheriting angels - of which Michael is neither!

What, though, about such passages as Isa.9:6 and Jo.1:1, where "the Word" is deemed "G(g)od"? Does such a designation imply that he always existed? No, for Hebrew lexicons connect the word "el" (from Isa. 9:6) and the word "elohim" (corresponding to the Greek word used at Jo. 1:1) with a root signifying "might," not "eternality." Hence, even the *angels* are referred to in the Bible as "gods" (Heb., "elohim"). (Ps. 8:5; *Anchor Bible; Basic English; ASV* sus are mentioned in the New Testament and Mr. Alfs wants us to believe that Jesus changes names every now and then and takes the name Michael. Absurb!

Alfs' Arguments Ineffectual

Dan.10:13 shows Michael was only one among other chief angels. Heb. 1:5 shows that an angel, not even one of the chief angels, was ever told by JHVH "Thou art my Son." So, that eliminates Michael being Jesus. If Jesus had been just another angel, even a ruling angel, JHVH would never said "Thou art my Son" for this was not said to any angel at any time! Witnesses might check out their *Interlinear*, p.965 where JHVH says to and of Jesus, ὁ θεός (THE God). Did you notice that JHVH called Jesus THE God not "a" god?

Mr. Alfs tries to prove that the word "elohim" only means "might" and not "eternality." If this proves Jesus is not eternal, it would with equal force prove JHVH is not eternal for the expression "elohim" is used more to refer to JHVH than to Jesus! I wonder if Mr. Alfs will accept that conclusion to his argumentation?

Mr. Alfs tries to set aside what I said on Isa.43:10 by giving us Ps. 8:5. I recognize that some translators rendered "elohim" here as angels. But, that does not negate what I said on Isa.43:10. God did not create the angels to be gods anymore than he created Jesus as a god. The passage still stands that JHVH did not form (create) any god before nor after him. What did Mr. Alfs say about Isa.43:11; 44:6; or 48:11? Cf. Isa.40:3; 41:4; 42:8; and 45:23. These passages show JHVH and Jesus are the one true God which all must bow before. These two persons share together in the glory of the Godhead.

Mr. Alfs, where does Ex.33:20; 1 Kings 8:27; or 1 John 4:12 say JHVH would never walk the earth? I failed to see what you assume. I

footnote; NAB footnote; compare Hebrews 2:7) This inspired designation of the angels as "gods" necessitates God's words at Isa.43:10, concerning the 'no forming of gods after him,' as applicable solely to pagan gods, not to "the Word" or other angels, as the context of the passage (vs.9-13) bears out.

We know that Jehovah is nobody's "Angel," or "Messenger," but is the Sender of all good messages. (Acts 12:11; Jas. 1:17) The angels mentioned at Gen. 31:11-13; 32:24-30 and Ex. 3:1-14 (compare Ac. 7:30) were created spirits representing Jehovah and not the True God Himself. They were seen and walked the earth whereas Jehovah was to do neither. (Ex. 33:20; 1 Ki. 8:27; 1 Jn. 4:12) Moses, when directly representing God, was deemed "God." (See Ex. 7:1; 6:13; RSV) Thus, we can also appreciate Thomas' words at Jn. 20:28 to be an acknowledgement of Jesus' role as God's Chief Representative, which Thomas had previously failed to understand. - John 14:5,6.

But, what of the term "Everlasting Father," as applied to "the Word" at Isa.9:6 (ASV)? Does not this imply that he always existed? No, for he could not always have been a "Father," seeing that he did not always have "sons." The phrase simply means that as long as earthly sons exist for him, Jesus will be their "Father," and that will be forever, according to Ps. 37:29. We note that the same Hebrew word rendered "Everlasting" at Isa.9:6 is also used with reference to the mountains at Hab.3:6, and certainly they did not always exist!

In closing, I would like to inform the readers that I did not have the space to deal with *all* the arguments of Trinitarianism, but dealt chiefly with those revolving around the discussion-theme. The readers may write to me at 6316 Boone Ave. No., Apt. 111, Brooklyn Park, MN., 55428 for comments on any additional matters or points. I wish to thank Mr. Hawk for granting me this space.

find in Ex.33:23 where Moses saw the back of God. Did he see the back of an angel? Mr. Alfs is just as guilty of perverting the word of God as is the *Watchtower Bible & Tract Society*. If he had his way, he would change John 20:28 to read, "My Lord and my God's Chief Representative." But, look, Witnesses, at your own *Interlinear*, p.529. "The Lord of me and the God of me! Ο κύριός μου και ο θεός μου. THE God of me! Why do Witnesses take liberties with the text and pervert it as Mr. Alfs did?

Mr. Alfs overlooked my argument on Isa.9:6 and dealt with something I never made a comment on - *everlasting* Father. Mr. Alfs, my argument was that BOTH Jesus and JHVH are referred to as *Mighty God*. Both are the one Mighty God. Why didn't you deal with that rather than make up an argument that I didn't make? In fact, if the careful reader will go back over the past 3 issues, he will see that Mr. Alfs actually did not touch any of my arguments!

We have seen that (1) The Word is eternal, John 1:1. (2) The Word entered human flesh (the flesh was mortal, not the Divine Spirit), John 1:14; Heb.10:5. (3) The Word as Jesus was worshipped, Matt.8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 18:26; 28:9,17. This is the same word used in John 4:24. (4) Thomas called him THE God, John 20:28. (5) Paul called him THE great God, Tit.2:13. (6) Isa.9:6 refers to him as Mighty God. (7) Isa.40:3 and Matt.3:3 tie JHVH and Jesus together as THE God that the way is prepared for.

Mr. Alfs failed to notice: (1) *Nestle's Interlinear*, p.966 on Rev. 3:14 and explain. (2) What I said about the *NWT* perverting the texts of Rev.3:14 and Col.1:15-20. (3) What I said about their *Interlinear* destroying their perversions in the English text by giving the correct text in the Greek. (4) He failed to explain Isa.43:10,11; 44:6; 48:11. (5) He failed to refer to my chart on p.86 and answer it. (6) He failed on so many, many accounts!

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Our Record

Bible classes: 190; Worship: 198; Evening: 166; Wednesday: 165; Contribution: $1,392. *Low!*

Our Sympathies

Our sympathies to sister Mary Boatwright. Her brother had a heart attack Friday. The funeral was at Atmore, Alabama Sunday.

Congratulations

Our congratulations to Ernest and Catherine Jones who were married last Saturday at 2 P.M. Our congratulations to Daniel Denham and Barbara Stancliff who will be married Thursday night at 7 P.M.

This Week

Don't forget, our Vacation Bible School begins Monday at 9:30 A.M.!

It was good to see Dale McCaleb back in services Sunday after being out for awhile undergoing open heart surgery. Welcome back, Dale! Linnie Roberts is still at home after her operation. Get well soon, Linnie! Good news on Mildred Faison's mother. She is now home after her operation. We are grateful that the doctors did not find cancer. We are sorry that Floy Dell Lindesmith's mother is in the hospital in Jackson, Mississippi after suffering a stroke. Our prayers go out in her behalf. Claudine Walp was not able to be with us Sunday due to sickness. We hope you are feeling better, Claudine.

Gospel Meeting

Ft. Walton is in a meeting this week with Gordon Hogan, missionary to Singapore. 7:30 P.M. nightly.

Pace church will be in a meeting next week with Charles Tharpe. 7:30 Nightly. June 18-23.

The Savannah Heights church in Ft. Walton is in its second week of a gospel meeting with Henry Clay of Pasadena, California. Services are at 7:30 nightly.

T.V. Program

Robert Camp of Atlanta, Georgia is trying to raise the necessary money to air a primetime TV show on evolution and its errors. Churches who are interested should contact brother Camp at P. O. Box 27193; Atlanta, Georgia 30317.

New Address

Moving? Be sure to send us your forwarding address BEFORE you move! Don't forget!