**What did the disciples claim about Jesus**?

It is one thing for someone to claim to be God, but it is another thing for monotheistic Jews to claim that ***someone else*** is God.

**The Apostles called Jesus**:

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| “The First and the Last” (Revelation 1:17-18). | “The True Light" (John 1:9). |
| “The Savior of the World” (John 4:42). | “The Chief Shepherd”  (1 Peter 5:4).  |
| “The Great Shepherd” (Hebrews 13:20). | “The Forgiver of sins”(Acts 5:31; Jeremiah 31:34). |

**All of these titles are given to Yahweh in the Old Testament and to Jesus in the New Testament.**

**The Apostles of Christ attributed**

**the powers of God to Jesus**:

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| He raised the dead (John 11) | He forgives sins (Mark 2; Acts 5:31; 13:38) |
| He created the universe(John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16) | He sustains the existence of all things (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3) |

**These are all things only God can do**.

**The Disciples called Jesus “God” directly**.

Thomas calls Jesus God in John 20:28. If this were not the case, Jesus would have sharply rebuked Thomas. This verse is in their New World Translation as well.

Source: *When Skeptics Ask*, by Geisler and Brooks.

**The B.I.T.E. Model**:

Behavior Control: Cults across the board require that their members are under controlled behavior. They are told that they are to act, dress, and behave in a certain way. Even their language is controlled: “*Jehovah*.” They promote dependence on the Watchtower Society.

Intellect Control: J.Ws. are told to “avoid independent thinking” from the Watchtower Society. They are told that they should not attend college, and read only materials from the Watchtower Society, because only the Watchtower Society has the truth. Cults make the claim that they are the only truth. Christianity is not like this. Anyone who is either Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, or Pentecostal can be saved through Jesus.

Thought Control: Jehovah’s Witnesses must do a certain number of hours of “Bible” study a week. They are pushed to study only with other members and not with anyone else. They are told to read material only from their own sources because they are told that only the Watchtower Society is capable of knowing the truth.

Emotion Control: There is no hope for you beyond their organization. They will help you a lot when trying to convert you (love bombing), but when you threaten to leave because it is wrong or strange, they will tell you that you will no longer receive help and you will die. They control you by your fear that they seek to create.

Source: freedomofmind.com/bite-model

**There is one God, but He exists in three persons, even in their own bible, the *New World Translation* (NWT)**:

Matthew 28:19—“Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” (NWT; see also 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Acts 5:1-4—“You have lied to God,” who *is* the Holy Spirit (see verse 3; NWT).

John 10:30—Jesus says, “I and the Father are one” (NWT). The Jews then tried to kill Jesus for blasphemy (10:31)!

**John 1:3** “**All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence**” (NWT).

1. If Jesus created everything, then He is not a created being.

2. If Jesus is not a created being, then He is God.

3. Therefore, if Jesus created everything, then Jesus is God.

Ask, according to this verse, where does Jesus belong in the **chart below**? If they say that He was created, ask them how He created Himself according to **John 1:3** above. Try to stick to this one verse in context. **What does it mean in context**? It means that Jesus is God.

**Created Beings Non-created Beings**

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In order to explain the context of **John 1:3**, they will definitely try to take you to *Colossians 1:15*. It calls Jesus the “*Firstborn* of creation.” This is a title of ***Rank***, as we can see from Psalm 89:27, where God calls King David His “*Firstborn*.”

Their explanation is that Jesus was created, and not in existence as long as the Father. But going to this verse would be like trying to explain the context of a math book with a spelling book. These are two different books, and they have two different contexts. The text of the Gospel of John can be understood in its own context.

 **Comparisons**:

Have them read Isaiah 43:11, after they have finished, ask them who it is talking about. Then have them read Acts 4:12 and then ask them the same thing.

Have them read Isaiah 45:22-23 the subject matter is clear in this verse as it also is in Philippians 2:10-11, which is the next passage to be read: the implications are clear.

Have them read Revelation 1:8, then Revelation 21:6, then 22:13. Then ask them “Who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End and the First and the last?” They will say “Jehovah.” Then you have them read Revelation 1:17-18. Then ask, “Did God die?” It is clearly talking about Jesus.

**Notes**:

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**Quick Facts:**
J.Ws. Believe that Jesus was hung on a torture stake and not on a cross. This is refuted even in their own religion because the founder (Russell) and the leader that followed him (Rutherford) both wore crosses on their clothes. Not only that, but J.Ws. do not consider the crosses found in archaeological digs, such as in Pompeii—an ancient city frozen in time.

J.Ws. believe that the Watchtower Society is God’s prophet on earth. They believe that the Bible is not sufficient for a salvific message.

J.Ws. target people who have just had some kind of life trauma such as divorce or a death in the family or excommunication from family or church in order to “love bomb” them.

**For Further Study**:

*Kingdom of the Cults*, by Walter Martin.

*Fast Facts on False Teachings*, by Carlson and Decker.

**For more information and material, visit**:

https://apologeticsandevidence.blogspot.com/

www.facebook.com/ApologeticsAndEvidence/

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**Defending Christianity Against Jehovah’s Witnesses**

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*“****Contend*** *for the faith that was once*

*for all delivered to the saints.”*

~Jude 3