

Are the Jehovah's Witnesses Right?

You have probably seen the Jehovah's Witnesses in a booth at the library, or on your way to the beach, or in the parking lot at Walmart. They take their mission to spread God's—Jehovah's—word very seriously. You see them handing out their brochures everywhere.

Do not be fooled. The Jehovah's Witnesses enthusiasm is laudable, but their message is not. We need to be like the Bereans Paul mentioned in Acts 17:11, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." We will look at the Jehovah's Witnesses' material, and search the Bible to see if what they say is so.

The question on the front of one brochure is, "What is the Kingdom of God?" There are 3 choices listed: something within your heart, a figure of speech, or a government in heaven.

The answer that is supposed to be the "right" answer is "a government in heaven." They cite 2

Bible verses, both in the Old Testament, both written to Jews, by Jews.

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

So let's look at what the Bible says. Jesus talked many times about the Kingdom of God during His life on earth.

Mark 10:23

And Jesus looked round about, **and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**

Luke 6:20

And he lifted up **his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.**

Luke 8:1

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, **preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,**

Acts 1:6-7

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, **Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?** And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

The disciples' question in Acts says it all, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom *to Israel?*" The kingdom Jesus spoke about, and the disciples asked about, is not a kingdom for us today. The kingdom has been promised by God, to Israel, from the time of King David. Jesus will

rule that kingdom and be the prince of kings, of the earth.

Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and **the prince of the kings of the earth**. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Paul tells us to rightly divide scripture.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.

When we rightly divide scripture, we follow only those things that apply to us. We can use Noah's ark for an example. Why is no one today building an ark? It's because everyone knows that God told Noah, not anyone else, to build an ark for a specific purpose.

Without right division, Jehovah's Witnesses are telling people that the earthly kingdom promised to the Jews is really a heavenly kingdom

promised to us! Could there be anything more wrong than that?

Believers today, who use right division, study the Bible books from Romans through Philemon. Jesus Christ, through our apostle Paul, told us that we are promised a heavenly kingdom.

2 Timothy 4:18

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and **will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom:** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

But our relationship with Jesus is much different than Israel's. We will actually be sitting with Christ, as part of His body.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And **hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:** That in the ages to come

he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We are part of His body, the Church, the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 5:30

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

He is our Head.

Colossians 1:18

And **he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Our eternal home is in heaven, but not in the kingdom promised to Israel in the Old Testament verses of Daniel and Isaiah. Those verses describe the kingdom that will be on earth, with Jesus as its king. We will not be part of that kingdom. We will forever be with our Lord in heaven as part of His body.

The Jehovah's Witnesses material continues...

“A righteous government that can benefit you personally.” Below is the verse it uses.

Isaiah 48:17

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, **the Holy One of Israel**; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

We should not consider this information for us. Notice, “the Holy One of *Israel*;” which is not us.

The brochure goes on, *“In a coming new world, life in perfect health and happiness.”*

Revelation 21:2-3

And I John saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

When you read the verses cited in the material, words like “Israel” and “new Jerusalem” leave

little doubt to the careful Bible student, that these passages were written to Israel, to the Jews, not to us.

The brochure continues: *“World conditions confirm that God’s Kingdom will soon come.”*

Matthew 24:6-7

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.**

“We see those very conditions today. So we can be confident that God’s Kingdom will soon bring an end to all such problems.”

We do see these conditions today. But God has promised that we will not see His wrath. Jesus endured God’s wrath for our sin. Because of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, we are completely freed from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, **which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

Here is how we will be delivered from the wrath to come. It is known as the Rapture, or the Adoption.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

One of the questions in the literature is “Can we really believe what the Bible says?” The answer

is “absolutely,” but only when we rightly divide it. It is vital that you know what is for us and what is for others in the past or into the future.