

Interlinear Bible vs. Kingdom Interlinear of the Jehovah's Witnesses

The Interlinear Bible is a Bible that has accompanying Greek and Hebrew text from the Strong's Concordance. This is a nice tool for those that want references immediately at hand. However, we know that other world religions will alter the Greek, Hebrew, and English in order to bring about a reading that adjusts to their preferred doctrine. This is known as heresy: to move away from, depart, or decent from original doctrine. This essay aims to show how alterations to Scripture can be subtle but dangerous, and to demonstrate this point, I'll put two texts up against one another; the Christian Interlinear Bible versus the Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) Kingdom Interlinear. In this essay I'll be using screen shots of the Interlinear Bible found on biblehub.com and the Kingdom Interlinear found on the official Jehovah's Witnesses website, jw.org.

As is often the case, JW's will pull out a Kingdom Interlinear when attempting to show their audience how their New World Translation (NWT) version of the Bible is the correct version. The problem is that their Kingdom Interlinear is as altered as their NWT. The following are examples of changes made in the JW Kingdom Interlinear. In each example, the first piece of Scripture will be from the Christian Interlinear Bible and the second piece by the JW Kingdom Interlinear.

JOHN 1:1 – Christian Interlinear Bible

1722 [e]	746 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	1510 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2532 [e]	
En	archē	ēn	ho	Logos	kai	ho	Logos	ēn	pros	ton	Theon	kai	
1	Ἐν	ἀρχῇ	ἦν	ὁ	Λόγος	, καὶ	ὁ	Λόγος	ἦν	πρὸς	τὸν	Θεόν	, καὶ
In [the]	beginning	was	the	Word	and	the	Word	was	with	-	God	and	
Prep	N-DFS	V-IIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-IIA-3S	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj	
2316 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]										
Theos	ēn	ho	Logos										
Θεὸς	ἦν	ὁ	Λόγος	.									
God	was	the	Word										
N-NMS	V-IIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS										

JOHN 1:1 – Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Interlinear

1 In beginning was the Word, and the Word was toward the God, and god was the Word.
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.

In John 1:1, the Apostle John is writing about the person of Jesus. When comparing these versions, the differences may be subtle, but they change the doctrine of Jesus' identity. In the Christian version, Jesus is proclaimed to be God, stating that Jesus ***"was with God and God was the Word,"*** giving the proper capital "G" in "God" which denotes Jesus' divine nature and equality to the Godhead; the Godhead of course also being represented in John 1:1 with a capital "G."

However, the JW Kingdom Interlinear suggests Jesus ***"was toward the God, and god was the Word."*** When the JW's make alterations like this, Jesus' divine eternal nature are denied. This is why in the NWT, John 1:1 reads, "and the Word was with God, and the Word was **a god**." Just subtly inserting the word "a" and also putting a lower case "g" for the word "god", changes the doctrine of Jesus.

Let's look at an example from the book of Titus; another Scripture about the identity of Jesus.

	4327 [e]	3588 [e]	3107 [e]	1680 [e]	2532 [e]	2015 [e]	3588 [e]	1391 [e]	3588 [e]	3173 [e]
	prosdechomenoi	tēn	makarian	elpida	kai	epiphaneian	tēs	doxēs	tou	megalou
13	προσδεχόμενοι	τὴν	μακαρίαν	ἐλπίδα	καὶ	ἐπιφάνειαν	τῆς	δόξης	τοῦ	μεγάλου
	awaiting	the	blessed	hope	and	[the] appearing	of the	glory	of the	great
	V-PPM/P-NMP	Art-AFS	Adj-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	N-AFS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	Art-GMS	Adj-GMS

TITUS 2:13 – Jehovah’s Witnesses Kingdom Interlinear

Here again, the change is subtle but nonetheless creates a different doctrine about the eternal divine nature of Jesus. In the Christian version, Jesus is spoken of as our “**God and Savior.**” His identity as Savior is necessarily joined to His identity as God! Titus is making this proclamation clear. However, the JW version obscures this proclamation and creates the appearance of two beings, “*the great God and of Savior of us.*” Just subtly inserting that word “of” creates a distinction that there are two beings being represented. When a JW pulls out his Kingdom Interlinear, he’ll show you this verse and say, “*See, Jesus is distinct from God. He’s not God, but he is God’s chosen Savior for us.*” This false statement is even more obvious when reading Titus 2:13 from their NWT, which says, “*the great God and of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*”

This subtle change is similar to how the JW's alter Romans 9:5, continuing to obscure the original claim that Jesus is God.

Romans 9:5 – Christian Interlinear Bible

3739 [e]	3588 [e]	3962 [e]	2532 [e]	1537 [e]	3739 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	3588 [e]	2596 [e]	4561 [e]
hōn	hoi	pateres	kai	ex	hōn	ho	Christos	to	kata	sarka
5 ὧν	οἱ	πατέρες ;	καὶ	ἐξ	ὧν	ὁ	Χριστὸς	τὸ	κατὰ	σάρκα ,
whose [are]	the	patriarchs	and	from	whom [is]	-	Christ	-	according to	the flesh
RelPro-GMP	Art-NMP	N-NMP	Conj	Prep	RelPro-GMP	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Art-ANS	Prep	N-AFS

3588 [e]	1510 [e]	1909 [e]	3956 [e]	2316 [e]	2128 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	165 [e]	281 [e]
ho	ōn	epi	pantōn	Theos	eulogētos	eis	tous	aiōnas	amēn
ὁ	ὧν	ἐπὶ	πάντων	Θεὸς ,	εὐλογητὸς	εἰς	τοὺς	αἰῶνας	ἀμήν .
-	being	over	all	God	blessed	to	the	ages	Amen
Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Adj-GNP	N-NMS	Adj-NMS	Prep	Art-AMP	N-AMP	Heb

Romans 9:5 – Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Interlinear

of whom the fathers, and out of whom												
5	ὧν	οἱ	πατέρες,	καὶ	ἐξ	ὧν						
the	Christ	the (thing)	according to	flesh,	the (one)	being	upon	all (things),				
ὁ	χριστὸς	τὸ	κατὰ	σάρκα,	ὁ	ὧν	ἐπὶ	πάντων,				
God blessed (one) into the ages; amen.												
θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν.												

In the Christian Interlinear Bible, Jesus is said to be, “**over all God, blessed to the ages.**” However, the JW Kingdom Interlinear says that Jesus is, “*the (one) being upon all (things), God blessed (one) into the ages.*” For the JW's, Jesus is upon all, but not Creator of all, nor over all. Secondly, the JW's present Jesus as one blessed by God into the ages, not God Himself. Again, as subtle as these changes may be to some, they create doctrinal heresy.

As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans, he defends that Jesus is a fleshly descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (known by Jews as “The Fathers”) just as the Bible prophesied. Romans 9:5, “**whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.**” Here, Jesus Christ is described as being in the flesh, yet while a man, He is, “**who is over all,**” over all angels and man, as He is the Creator of all as He has another nature beyond His flesh; His divine nature. And as such He is also said to be, “**God blessed forever.**” So, the Christian Bible gets it right when it says, “**who is over all, God blessed forever.**” This statement is one continuous statement about the same man, Jesus.

Now compare to how the NWT provides Romans 9:5, “*To them the forefathers belong, and from them the Christ descended according to the flesh. God, who is over all, be praised forever.*” Here, the verse is broken up into separate sentences. The second sentence implies that God, who is over all, and who is distinct from Jesus, is to be praised forever for giving us Jesus. Do you see the subtle change in how this verse is presented?

Similarly, the original Greek is altered by the JW's when reading 2 Peter 1:1 which again presents Jesus' identity differently, creating doctrinal heresy.

2 PETER 1:1 – Christian Interlinear Bible

4826 [e]	4074 [e]	1401 [e]	2532 [e]	652 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]	3588 [e]	2472 [e]	
Symeōn	Petros	doulos	kai	apostolos	Iēsou	Christou	Tois	isotimon	
1 Συμεὼν	Πέτρος	, δοῦλος	καὶ	ἀπόστολος	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	, τοῖς	ἰσότιμον	
Simon	Peter	a servant	and	apostle	of Jesus	Christ	To those	equally precious	
N-NMS	N-NMS	N-NMS	Conj	N-NMS	N-GMS	N-GMS	Art-DMP	Adj-AFS	
1473 [e]	2975 [e]	4102 [e]	1722 [e]	1343 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1473 [e]	2532 [e]	4990 [e]
hēmin	lachousin	pistin	en	dikaiosynē	tou	Theou	hēmōn	kai	Sōtēros
ἡμῖν	λαχοῦσιν	πίστιν	, ἐν	δικαιοσύνῃ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἡμῶν	καὶ	Σωτῆρος
with ours	having obtained	a faith	through	[the] righteousness	of the	God	of us	and	Savior
PPro-D1P	V-APA-DMP	N-AFS	Prep	N-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P	Conj	N-GMS
2424 [e]	5547 [e]								
Iēsou	Christou								
Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	:							
Jesus	Christ								
N-GMS	N-GMS								

2 PETER 1:1 – Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Interlinear

1	Simon	Peter	slave	and	apostle	of Jesus	Christ	to the (ones)	
1	Σίμων	Πέτρος	δοῦλος	καὶ	ἀπόστολος	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	τοῖς	
	equally precious	to us	having obtained (by lot)	faith	in	righteousness	of the	God	
	ἰσότιμον	ἡμῖν	λαχοῦσιν	πίστιν	ἐν	δικαιοσύνῃ	τοῦ	θεοῦ	
	of us	and	of Savior	Jesus	Christ;				
	ἡμῶν	καὶ	σωτῆρος	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ				

In the Christian version, Peter writes to fellow Christians saying that their faith is, “**a faith through the righteousness of the God of us and Savior, Jesus Christ.**” However, the JW's subtly insert “of” again, and create a distinction between two beings, where their altered version states that the believers have obtained a “faith in righteousness of the God of us and of Savior Jesus Christ.” Again, this alteration attempts to put two distinct people in view; God and Jesus. This rendering separates Jesus as not being the eternal God, but a creation of God, used by God as a Savior. This is not the gospel!

Other examples could be given, but I hope you see the difference in doctrine between the Christian Interlinear Bible and the Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Interlinear. The JW's are only allowed to use the Kingdom Interlinear version. If you've ever had a JW walk you through passages of their NWT along with their Interlinear “Bible”, you can be sure it was a Kingdom Interlinear and not the real thing. Truth matters. Doctrine cannot be changed. There are eternal consequences.