

Week 3 Essay October 8, 2018

The Cult called the: "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" twists scripture verses to use them as proofs for their lies that they use to deceive people into joining them. One such verse: Revelation 3:14 they twist to say that Our God Jesus is just a created being therefore he is not God at all. They say the Greek word "arche" means that Jesus is the first created being. The fact is that "arche" can mean "beginning" as it is the first in a series, which is how the Jehovah's Witnesses understand it. But it can also mean "beginning" in the sense of "origin" or "source" which can mean the one with whom a process begins. It even can mean "ruler" or "authority", from which comes words like "archbishop" or archangel". So the meaning of the use of this word in this verse is that Jesus is the Originator of Gods creation thereby using this term for Himself to show how much weight His Words carry to His intended hearers.

In the immediate context of the verse, Jesus is addressing the church at Laodicea. He is not merely stating random facts about Himself but is establishing the authority of His Words. The term "Amen" is a strong affirmation of the truthfulness of His statement. When He calls Himself the "Amen" He is saying that His Identity is the ultimate affirmation of Truth. Who He is proves the truthfulness of what He says. This is reinforced by the second title He gives Himself here, "the faithful and true witness".

Use of a word in it's context determines the meaning of the word. Etymology is a statement on the history of a word, not it's meaning. Imposing a modern day English meaning on a word that comes from the Greek is a fallacy because it does not use the original meaning as the ancient Greek language. The context is emphasizing Jesus' authority and identity as the arbiter of truth. When He gives the third title, that He is the "arche" of creation, it seems highly unlikely that the sense intended here is merely "God made me before He made you. I come first on the timeline."

The Grammar Principle states that the meaning is determined by the grammatical rules of the original language. If Jesus is the source of everything that is or the ruler of everything that is, that furthers His point. Stating that He is just one of the things that God created and just comes first in chronological order doesn't do anything to establish His authority or truthfulness of His testimony. The statement would simply be out of place. Imposing a present day English meaning is to impose a Grammar Fallacy.

The ISV translates it: " The Amen, the Witness Who is faithful and true, the originator of God's creation, says this:

The NIV translates it: "These are the Words of the Amen, The faithful and true witness, the Ruler of God's Creation"

The NSFLB translates it: "The Amen the God of Truth and the Guarantor of all God's promises."

It should also be briefly observed that the Book of Revelation frequently points to the Trinitarian understanding that Jesus and God the Father are distinct persons but are one and the same God.

"And there will no longer be any curse. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his slaves will offer him sacred service; and they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads," (Revelation 22:3-4. NWT).

Who is the one on the throne? God. It is God's throne, and throughout the book He is upon it. But interestingly, it is also the throne of the Lamb and it is the Lamb sitting on the throne.