

## A Simple Response to Jehovah's Witnesses about John 1:1

Dr. John Niemelä

The Pastor and the Professor

April 9, 2019

### INTRODUCTION

#### WHAT JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES THINK

**John 1:1 in the *New World Translation*:**

**In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.**

**The *New World Translation* is inconsistent:**

**It translates god/God without the Greek article ("the") as *God* fifteen times in John's Gospel:**

**1:6, 12-13, 18a; 3:2a, 21; 6:45; 8:54; 9:16, 33; 13:3a; 16:30; 19:7;  
20:17ab**

**It only translates this as *god* in three verses in John: 1:1b, 18b; 10:33**

**What Jehovah's Witnesses think we mean in John 1:1**

**That the Word \_\_\_\_\_ almighty God**

**That almighty God \_\_\_\_\_ Himself**

**We are vulnerable, if we think that John 1:1 means what they think we mean**

#### EXPLAINING THE REAL MEANING OF JOHN 1:1

**The difference between names and titles**

**An illustration that will help with John 1:1**

**A difference between presidents and kings**

**Only one person is president at one time**

**Sometimes kings appoint one of their sons as a co-regent (sharing kingship)**

**David appointed Solomon as co-regent during the last three years of his life**

**Why?**

### **Illustration from the co-regency of David and Solomon**

During the last three years of King David's life, he made Solomon his co-regent. Thus, David and Solomon at that time shared the office of Israel's king.

David could say \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Solomon could say \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Application of the illustration to John 1:1**

The Father can say \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The Son can say \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The Spirit can say \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **We do not mean what Jehovah's Witnesses think we mean**

**John 1:14: The word *dwelt* could be translated *shekinah-ed***

### **Answering a quick-witted Jehovah's Witness**

We could say \_\_\_\_\_.

We can say more:     1 Chronicles 23–29

1 Kings 1

1 Kings 2

### **Conclusion**