

A Preview of King Messiah

John's prologue is not unlike a Rubik's Cube, the exasperating puzzle-toy of the 1970s. You can't change one sentence of the prologue without causing logical problems with the others. Joseph Smith (the founder of Mormonism, for example, altered **John's** prologue in his "Inspired Version" of the Scriptures to support the notion that **Christ** is not **God**, but rather an exalted figure created by **God** before anything else. He failed, however, to account for verse three: **Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3).**

According to Smith's *Inspired Version*, the word created **all things**. Furthermore, anything that had a beginning was created by the word. But if there was a time when **Christ** was not, if **He** came into being at some point in time, then **Jesus** had to have created **Himself** before **He** existed. If that sounds like nonsense, you're right. It is nonsense! Thus, on this point we can agree: **without Him nothing was made that has been made. Messiah** could not have **made Himself**; therefore, **He is God** and **He** created **all things**.¹¹

The Jehovah's Witnesses have the same problem. Their translation of **John 1:1** says: *In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was a God (New World Translation)*. The reason they give for translating the end of the verse: *a God*, is that **God** does not have the definite article in front of it. But definite nouns in the New Covenant that precede the verb, literally **God** (noun) **was** (verb) **the Memra**, regularly lack the definite article (see **Af - The Memra of God**). In other words, both the Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses violate basic Greek grammar to make their point. Once again, the Rubik's Cube principle comes into play. The Watchtower teaches that **Christ** was the first "thing" **God** ever brought into existence. So they teach that **Jesus** is not **God**. Not only is **He** not **God**, they teach that **He** is Michael the Archangel. They believe that the personality of Michael the Archangel was somehow transferred to the womb of **Mary**, was born as a human to be the man, **Jesus**, and then when **Christ** returned to heaven at the end of **His** earthly ministry, **He** became Michael the Archangel again, but in a more exalted position.¹²

Wow! I think it is best if we just believe what the apostle **John** wrote about **the Memra**: **Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3)**. **John's** prologue is structured as a chiasm. There is a parallelism, where the first letter is parallel to the second letter, and so on, with the letter **D** being the turning point.¹³

- A The identity and mission of **the Memra** (John 1:1-5)
- B The testimony of John the Baptist to **the Memra** (John 1:6-8)
 - C The incarnation of **the Memra** (John 1:9-10a)
 - D The response to the Memra** (John 1:10b-13)
 - C The incarnation of **the Memra** (John 1:14)
- B The testimony of John the Baptist to **the Memra** (John 1:15)
- A The identity and mission of **the Memra** (John 1:16-18)

The rabbis teach that seven things were created before the world was created: Torah, repentance, the garden of Eden, Gehinnom, the throne of glory, the Temple, and the name of the Messiah (Tractate Pesachim 54a).