

The Watchtower Society's "Knight-jump" hermeneutic

It is important to examine the manner in which the Watchtower Society (WTS) applies or misapplies the Word of God.

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics may be defined thus: "the linguistic and literary principles used to interpret scripture, and includes the discovery and understanding of these principles".

Present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who ... correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, NIV)

The principles of biblical interpretation (hermeneutics) need to be applied to the passages that are relied on by the WTS. These generally acknowledged principles are:

- Take the words in their usual and ordinary sense
- Take the words in the sense that the phrase indicates (short context)
- Take the words in context (long context)
- Consider the object or design of the passage
- Consult parallel passages
- Recognize parallel exclusions

That is: understand the contexts of the passage, writer, audience, contemporary conditions and contemporary understanding, starting with the words that are of interest and gradually broaden the scope of the investigation.

Commence with the immediate words, then look at the immediate context, then the larger context, and then consider the writer's structure. After this, locate any parallel passage(s), and determine whether any should be excluded. Apply the same hermeneutic principles to these parallel passages.

Also, in the interpretation of a parable (illustration) a key principle is "Consider the object or design of the passage".

"Knight-jump" hermeneutic

One method relied on by the WTS is the "proof-text" method of interpreting and applying Scripture, in which it often selects and combines unrelated verses to produce a conclusion. Usually the conclusion is predetermined and the only verses selected are those that appear to support that conclusion.

The WTS's process of combining unrelated verses may be likened to the moves made by the Knight in a game of chess. In that game, the Knight jumps from one color to the other color, ignoring any obstacles. These obstacles might include context, the contemporary understanding by the intended audience, and so on.

Using its method of jumping around the Bible like a knight on a flat chessboard, the WTS links passages and words that have no relevance to one another.

The flags in the following "Knight-jump Hermeneutic" diagram display elements that form the WTS's foundation. The WTS leaps from flag to flag and combines them to claim its authority.

Knight-jump hermeneutic: The Bible is treated as a flat chess board, with verses connected together in the way that the Knight jumps -- from one color to the other color, ignoring all obstacles and contexts. It also jumps from board to board, even though they are different games. And the piece jumping like a Knight is actually a Castle.

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