

Jehovah's Witnesses often violate their own rule (summary of the accompanying two-page chart)

NWT translates "the God/god" as God:	1a, 2	(follows their rule)
NWT translates "God/god" (w/o "the") as god:	1b, 18b	(follows their rule)
NWT translates "God/god" (w/o "the") as God:	6, 12, 13, 18a	(breaks their rule)

If the absence of "the" in verses 1b and 18b show that *theos* means *god* (not *God*), why does not the absence of "the" in 6, 12, 13, 18a show that *theos* means *god*?

What is it that causes Jehovah's Witnesses to find John 1:1 so difficult. In a nutshell, they treat the word God as a name, rather than as a title. Examples may help. The following sentence does not make much sense:

President Barak Obama is eating lunch with President Barak Obama.
The Apostle John was with the Apostle John.
Jesus was with Jesus.

However, it makes sense for a titleholder to be with a titleholder. For example, during the last three years of King David's life, he was a co-regent with his son, Solomon. In other words, if you asked David, "What are you?" He would say, "I am Israel's king." If (at the same time) you asked Solomon, "What are you?" He would say, "I am Israel's king." A co-regency is when two men share the office of king. During the last three years of David's reign, Solomon could have said, "I am Israel's King and I am eating lunch with Israel's King [David]."

John 1:1 looks at two members of the Trinity: Jesus is with God [the Father] and Jesus is God.

John 1:1 must be understood in light of John 1:14 and 18.