

the candy, the child exclaims, "Candy!" The child doesn't say, "There is candy!" using the verb "is" because that would weaken the expression. If this translation is adopted, Thomas emphasizes that Jesus whom he addresses is his own personal God, for he exclaims, "my God!" The New World translation adopts this translation but it works against the Jehovah's Witnesses because it means that Thomas emphasizes that Jesus whom he addresses is his own personal God, and this is contrary to what the Jehovah's Witnesses believe.

c. Belief of Thomas

Thomas was a monotheistic Jew. He believed that there is only one God. Yet, in this passage Thomas either addresses Jesus as that God or emphasizes that Jesus whom he addresses is that God.

d. Significance of the failure of Jesus to correct Thomas

The Jehovah's Witnesses say that the significance of the failure of Jesus to correct Thomas is that when Thomas said "my God!" he didn't mean "my God!", for if that is what he meant, Jesus would have corrected him, but that Thomas meant "my Son of God!" (cf. John 20:31 where John says that the miracles of Jesus he records in his book are recorded in order that the ones to whom he wrote might "believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God" NWT). But if Thomas meant "my Son of God" when he said "my God!" then Thomas didn't say what he meant, and he didn't mean what he said, and if that is true in this passage, how can we trust any passage in the Bible that records what a person says? The answer is, "We can't!", for that person may have meant something entirely different than what is actually recorded. It is clear then that the failure of Jesus to correct Thomas doesn't signify that when Thomas said "my God!", he actually meant "my Son of God!" What then does it signify? It signifies that Jesus accepted the words of Thomas as being true. It signifies that Jesus is Thomas' own personal God. But suppose the Jehovah's Witnesses are right when they say that when Thomas said, "my God!" he actually meant "my Son of God!" - that still wouldn't help them because when Jesus is called the Son of God, it means that He is the same rank, authority, and nature as God, i.e., that He is God!