

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, this passage teaches that Jesus isn't God because Jesus says "my Father is greater than I." However, when Jesus says "my Father is greater than I," He doesn't mean that His Father is greater than He is because His Father is God and He isn't God, but He means that His Father is positionally greater than He is as the God-man.

Let me illustrate it. President Reagan and I both have a human nature and, therefore, we are equal in nature. Yet, although we are equal in nature, President Reagan is greater than I am because he is President of the United States of America and I am not. President Reagan then is positionally greater than I am, but he isn't greater than I am in nature. The same is true with Jesus and His Father. They are both God and, therefore, they are equal in nature. Yet although Jesus and His Father are equal in nature, His Father is positionally greater than He is as the God-man. When Jesus says "my Father is greater than I" then, He is referring to a positional difference that exists between His Father and Himself, as the God-man, and not to a difference in nature.

This interpretation fits with the context, for in the context Jesus reminds His disciples of the news that He had previously given to them that He was going to leave them and go to His Father, but that He would come again to them. He tells them that if they loved Him with an unselfish love as they ought, they would rejoice over this news instead of grieving over it as they were doing. He then explains the reason why, and the reason is that His Father is positionally greater than He is as the God-man, and therefore, when He goes to Him, His Father will exalt Him as the God-man to His own right hand, i.e., to a position of honor and authority in heaven.

This passage then doesn't contradict the doctrine that Jesus is God as the Jehovah's Witnesses claim.