
THE WATCHER'S LANTERN

Terms of Use

Last updated: August 18, 2026

The terms governing use of The Watcher's Lantern website, content, community features, and store.

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1. Agreement to These Terms

These Terms of Use govern your access to and use of The Watcher's Lantern website, its content, member features, store, communications, and other services made available through the site.

By accessing or using the website, creating an account, submitting content, subscribing to communications, or making a purchase, you agree to be bound by these Terms and by any additional policies or notices that apply to a particular feature or transaction.

If you do not agree to these Terms, please do not use the website or its services.

2. About The Watcher's Lantern

The Watcher's Lantern is an independent Christian publishing and media project that may provide articles, theological reflection, fiction and allegory, Bible translation material including the Watcher's Lantern Translation (WLT), educational resources, member features, email communications, and products offered through its online store.

Features, content, products, and services may be added, changed, suspended, or discontinued from time to time.

3. Eligibility and Legal Capacity

You may browse publicly available content subject to these Terms. To create an account, submit content, make a purchase, or enter into another transaction, you must have the legal capacity to do so in your jurisdiction.

If you are under the age of legal majority where you live, a parent or legal guardian should review these Terms and supervise any activity that creates a legal or financial obligation.

You may not use the website where doing so would violate applicable law or regulation.

4. Accounts and Account Security

Some features may require a member account.

If you create an account, you agree to provide information that is reasonably accurate and to keep your login credentials confidential. You are responsible for activity conducted through your account to the extent permitted by law.

Please notify The Watcher's Lantern promptly if you believe your account has been accessed or used without authorization.

We may suspend, restrict, or terminate accounts that violate these Terms, threaten the security or operation of the website, infringe the rights of others, or are used for fraud, abuse, harassment, or unlawful activity.

5. Permitted Use

The website and its content may be used for lawful personal, educational, devotional, research, and other legitimate purposes consistent with these Terms.

You may link to publicly available pages on the website and may share ordinary links to articles, WLT passages, stories, or other resources.

Any permission granted by these Terms is limited, non-exclusive, revocable, and does not transfer ownership of any intellectual property.

6. Prohibited Conduct

You agree not to use the website or its services to:

- violate any applicable law, regulation, court order, or legal right;
- harass, threaten, defame, impersonate, exploit, or abuse another person;
- submit or distribute unlawful, fraudulent, deceptive, obscene, hateful, or malicious material;
- infringe copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity, contractual, or other rights;
- introduce malware, harmful code, automated attacks, or other material intended to disrupt or damage the website;
- attempt to gain unauthorized access to accounts, systems, data, or restricted areas;
- scrape, crawl, harvest, or systematically extract substantial website content except as permitted by law or with written permission;
- circumvent technical restrictions, security controls, access limits, or protective measures;
- use automated systems in a way that places an unreasonable burden on the website or interferes with normal operation;
- use the website to send spam, unauthorized advertising, or deceptive solicitations; or
- misrepresent your affiliation with The Watcher's Lantern or imply endorsement where none exists.

7. Intellectual Property

The Watcher's Lantern name, branding, logos, original articles, artwork, stories, site design, graphics, compilations, original editorial material, and other original content are owned by or licensed to The Watcher's Lantern to the extent protected by applicable law.

The Watcher's Lantern Translation (WLT), including its original English wording, editorial presentation, notes, and related original materials, is protected to the extent available under applicable copyright and other law. The underlying biblical source texts, public-domain materials, and third-party materials remain subject to their own legal status and rights.

Brief quotations for review, teaching, scholarship, commentary, or similar lawful purposes may be used to the extent permitted by law. When practical, attribution to The Watcher's Lantern or the WLT is appreciated. Reproduction or redistribution of substantial portions of original Watcher's Lantern material may require prior written permission unless another license or notice expressly allows it.

Nothing in these Terms grants permission to use The Watcher's Lantern trademarks, branding, or logos in a way that suggests sponsorship, endorsement, partnership, or official affiliation without permission.

8. User Content, Comments, and Submissions

The website may allow visitors or members to submit comments, messages, profile information, reviews, or other content.

You retain ownership of content you lawfully own. By submitting content to a public or interactive feature of the website, you grant The Watcher's Lantern a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to host, store, reproduce, display, and technically adapt that content as reasonably necessary to operate, moderate, display, and promote the feature in which you submitted it.

You represent that you have the rights needed to submit the content and that the content does not violate these Terms or the rights of others.

We may moderate, hide, remove, or refuse user content when we reasonably believe it violates these Terms, applicable law, platform requirements, community safety, or the rights of another person. We are not obligated to publish or retain every submission.

9. Purchases and Store Transactions

The Watcher's Lantern may offer physical products, digital products, books, apparel, or other items through its online store.

Before purchasing, you are responsible for reviewing the product description, price, available options, shipping information, and any policy presented with the item or at checkout.

By submitting an order and completing checkout, you offer to purchase the selected item or service under the terms shown at the time of purchase. We may decline or cancel an order when reasonably necessary, including because of inventory problems, pricing or listing errors, suspected fraud, payment failure, legal restrictions, or other circumstances that prevent fulfillment.

If we cancel an order after payment has been collected, amounts paid for the cancelled portion will be refunded using an appropriate method, subject to payment-provider processing rules.

10. Prices, Taxes, and Payment

Prices displayed on the website may change from time to time. We may correct typographical, pricing, or listing errors.

Applicable taxes, shipping charges, transaction charges, or other amounts may be shown during checkout when relevant.

Payments are processed through the payment method or payment provider presented at checkout. Your use of a third-party payment provider may also be governed by that provider's terms and privacy practices.

You agree to provide payment information that you are authorized to use and to pay the amounts shown and accepted during checkout.

11. Shipping, Delivery, and Digital Fulfillment

For physical products, shipping methods, charges, and estimated delivery information may be displayed at checkout or in a separate shipping policy. Delivery dates are estimates unless expressly stated otherwise.

Delays may occur because of carriers, weather, supply interruptions, customs, incorrect addresses, or circumstances outside the reasonable control of The Watcher's Lantern.

For digital products or downloads, access or delivery may occur electronically. Unless a product listing states otherwise, digital purchases are for the purchaser's personal use and may not be redistributed, resold, or publicly posted in full.

12. Returns, Refunds, and Cancellations

Any return, refund, exchange, or cancellation policy shown on a product page, at checkout, or in a separate store policy forms part of these Terms for the applicable purchase.

If a specific policy is not displayed for a particular transaction, requests will be considered in light of the nature of the product, any promise made in the listing, the circumstances of the transaction, and applicable law.

Nothing in these Terms limits a mandatory consumer right that cannot lawfully be waived.

13. Promotional and Service Communications

If you voluntarily subscribe to marketing communications, The Watcher's Lantern may send newsletters, article notices, WLT updates, product announcements, or similar messages.

You may unsubscribe from marketing emails using the unsubscribe method provided in the message.

We may still send non-marketing communications that are reasonably necessary for an order, account, security matter, customer-service request, or other service you initiated.

14. Third-Party Services and Links

The website may contain links to or integrations with third-party websites, services, payment providers, social networks, video services, retailers, or other resources.

The Watcher's Lantern does not control and is not responsible for the content, availability, security, terms, privacy practices, or conduct of independent third parties.

A link or integration does not necessarily mean that The Watcher's Lantern endorses the third party. Your interactions with third parties are governed by the terms and policies that apply to those services.

15. Educational, Religious, and Informational Content

The Watcher's Lantern publishes Christian, theological, biblical, literary, cultural, and educational material. Such content is offered for reading, study, reflection, discussion, and general informational purposes.

Articles, commentary, WLT translation notes, stories, and other material do not create a professional-client relationship and are not a substitute for individualized legal, medical, mental-health, financial, tax, or other regulated professional advice.

Theological and interpretive material reflects the editorial work and convictions of The Watcher's Lantern and may differ from the views of particular churches, denominations, scholars, ministries, or readers.

16. Site Availability and Changes

We may update, correct, remove, reorganize, or discontinue website content or features at any time.

We do not guarantee that every page, feature, account, product, download, or service will remain available permanently or without interruption.

Maintenance, technical failures, platform changes, security events, internet outages, or circumstances outside our control may temporarily limit access.

17. Disclaimer of Warranties

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the website and its content and services are provided on an "as is" and "as available" basis.

The Watcher's Lantern does not warrant that the website will always be uninterrupted, error-free, secure, or free from harmful components, or that every statement, translation choice, article, product description, link, or item of information will be complete or free from error.

Nothing in this section excludes warranties or protections that applicable law does not permit to be excluded.

18. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, The Watcher's Lantern and its operators, contributors, and service providers will not be liable for indirect, incidental, special, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages arising from or related to use of, inability to use, or reliance on the website, content, services, or third-party links.

Where liability cannot lawfully be excluded, any limitation in these Terms applies only to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law.

Some jurisdictions do not allow certain exclusions or limitations, so portions of this section may not apply to you.

19. Indemnification

To the extent permitted by applicable law, you agree to be responsible for claims, losses, liabilities, and reasonable costs arising from your unlawful use of the website, your violation of these Terms, your infringement of another person's rights, or content you submit in violation of these Terms.

This provision does not require a consumer to waive rights that cannot lawfully be waived.

20. Suspension and Termination

We may restrict, suspend, or terminate access to accounts, interactive features, or services when reasonably necessary to protect the website, other users, The Watcher's Lantern, service providers, or legal rights.

Reasons may include violation of these Terms, fraud, abuse, security threats, unlawful conduct, repeated infringement, nonpayment, or misuse of website features.

Provisions that by their nature should survive termination, including intellectual-property, disclaimer, limitation-of-liability, and dispute provisions, will continue to apply to the extent permitted by law.

21. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

These Terms are governed by the laws of the State of Ohio and applicable federal law, without regard to conflict-of-law principles, except to the extent mandatory consumer-protection law in your jurisdiction requires otherwise.

To the extent a dispute may properly be resolved in court, the parties agree that proceedings should be brought in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction located in Ohio, unless applicable law requires or permits a different forum.

Before filing a formal claim, we encourage you to contact The Watcher's Lantern so the parties can attempt in good faith to resolve the issue informally.

22. Changes to These Terms

We may revise these Terms from time to time to reflect changes in the website, products, services, business practices, technology, platform requirements, or applicable law.

The revised Terms will be posted with an updated effective date. Your continued use of the website after revised Terms become effective constitutes acceptance to the extent permitted by law.

If a change requires separate notice or consent under applicable law, we will seek to provide it.

23. Severability, Waiver, and Entire Agreement

If any provision of these Terms is found unenforceable, that provision will be enforced to the maximum extent permitted and the remaining provisions will remain in effect, unless applicable law requires otherwise.

A failure to enforce a provision on one occasion does not necessarily waive the right to enforce it later.

These Terms, together with the Privacy Policy and any additional policy or transaction-specific terms presented on the website, constitute the agreement governing your use of the applicable website features and services.

24. Contact Us

Questions about these Terms, purchases, permissions, account issues, or use of The Watcher's Lantern may be submitted through the Contact page on the website.

Please provide enough information for us to understand and respond to your request. Do not send passwords, full payment-card numbers, or other highly sensitive information through a general contact message.

Legal drafting note: These Terms are a practical website terms document tailored to the current Watcher's Lantern site and should not be treated as individualized legal advice. Business practices, store policies, jurisdiction, and applicable law can change, so the document should be reviewed when the site's operations materially change.