

CHRISTIANITY vs. JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

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ORIGIN OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. In 1852, Charles Taze Russell defected out of a congregational church and became a skeptic after attending bible studies influenced by the teachings of Seventh Day Adventism. He later began his own group who developed a fusion of end-times + individualism. In 1876, he was elected 'pastor' of his own bible study group. Three years later in 1879, some of Russell's views were published in magazines and tracks which eventually led to the incorporation of "Zion's Watchtower & Tract Society".
2. In 1917, a man named Joseph Rutherford took over the organization. It was under his leadership that the term 'Jehovah's Witnesses' was made official in 1931. In 1942, a man named Nathan Knorr took over the organization; and under his leadership Jehovah's Witnesses completed a new bible translation entitled New World Translation of the Bible in 1961. It became the official bible of Jehovah's Witnesses.

BELIEFS/PRACTICES OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. Jehovah's Witnesses construct doctrinal distinctives from obscure texts with interpretations unfounded. Much of their interpretations developed from a combination of speculative resolutions and mathematical calculations. These factors were used to bring guidance and improvement to biblical versions or translations.
2. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Father (Jehovah) is God alone, Jesus was an angel who became human to be adopted as a god-like, spiritual son, and the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force; to which it is referred to the New World Translation in lower-case letters. In summary, Jehovah's Witnesses are non-trinitarian.
3. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Christ' atonement only makes salvation possible if humans are good enough for it. Thus, they believe in two ways of salvation:
 - a) **Anointed Class Salvation**

These, through faith, repentance, baptism, dedication to J.W., etc, will be judged to be worthy of membership in the 144,000. They are the anointed class who will experience a spirit-body resurrection and live with Christ in Heaven.

b) Other-Sheep Salvation

These, through faith, repentance, baptism, dedication to J. W., works, etc, get saved only if they qualify for the 144,000 due to sufficient good works. If they are insufficient good works, they will be annihilated. If their good works are sufficient, they will experience a physical body resurrection and live on earth under Christ.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. Jehovah's Witnesses are unitarian; in that they believe that only the Father is God; while at the same time they believe that Christ was the angel-to-human-become-semi-god. Well: if Christ became divine, then Unitarianism is impossible. Therefore, their doctrine of God is a contradiction. **Simply put: to believe that only the Father is God but then make the Son a god is contradictory to believing that the Father is God alone.** (John 1:1-3, 14/I John 5:7).
2. Jehovah's Witnesses interpret the bible according to speculative resolve and real mathematics. This type of approach to biblical interpretation has led to a minimum of 6 different end-time prophecies that were erroneous and required review: 1886, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1925 & 1975. Observe: if only 144,000 are going to live with Christ in Heaven, then it stands to reason that Jehovah's Witnesses should have already amassed that number. **Hence numbers in scripture are more symbolic than literal.** (Prov 24:16/Mt 18:21-22).
3. The New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witness 'bible' is built on speculative reference and mathematical exaggerations whose translators are anonymous and thus have 00.5% reliability. The bible, however, holds approximately 99.5% reliability in relation to its ancient OT/NT copies; and its book writers are known prophets or apostles.
4. Salvation is through faith alone, not works. (Eph 2:8-10)
5. Scriptures regarding the end-times and Christ' one & only 2nd Coming (Jesus' most detailed description of the end-times: Mt 24:1-25:46/ Mt 24:36/ I Thes 4:13-18/ II Peter 3:10/ Rev 7)