

Jehovah Witnesses

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Jehovah Witnesses' history started in 1881, when the American merchant Charles Taze Russell founded a private company. In 1884, the "Zion Watch Tower Tract Society" was founded; in 1896 it was renamed to "Bible and Tract Watchtower Society", while in 1955 it took its current name: "Watchtower of Pennsylvania Bible and Tract Society". Russell's followers, who were called "Bible Students" or "Russelites", considered his six-volume Millennial down series (now called "Studies in the Scripture"), more important than the Holy Scripture. In these books, the "Watchtower Society" was presented to the reader as a commercial enterprise, that represents a fund. But in 1938, the next Watchtower president J. Rutherford turned the limited company to theocracy, obliging "Bible Students" to replace Scripture study and prayer with the spread of the "Watchtower" printed matter from door to door (a task named "work"), because this was supposed to be "Jehovah's pure worship", and to sign a statement which included the following words: "We, the group of God's people... acknowledge that God's order is pure theocracy... ant that the "Society" is the Lord's visible representative on earth".

1872	International Bible Students Association
1884	Zion's Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
1896	Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
1931	Jehovah's Witnesses

Presidents

1872 - 31 Oct 1916	Charles Taze Russell	(b. 1852 - d. 1916)
6 Jan 1917 - 8 Jan 1942	Joseph Franklin Rutherford	(b. 1869 - d. 1942)
13 Jan 1942 - 8 Jun 1977	Nathan Homer Knorr	(b. 1905 - d. 1977)
22 Jun 1977 - 22 Dec 1992	Frederick W. Franz	(b. 1893 - d. 1992)
30 Dec 1992 - 7 Oct 2000	Milton G. Henschel	(b. 1920 - d. 2003)
7 Oct 2000 -	Don Adams	(b. 1925?)

The WT Society is controlled by a handful of men known as the Governing Body, who are all of the "anointed class". These members believe that they alone are anointed of the Holy Spirit, and God communicates directly through them to lead His organization today. According to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45, these anointed ones are supposedly commissioned by Jehovah to dispense "spiritual nourishment at the right time". Thus, all authority flows from the anointed class (in effect the Governing Body) down to the great crowd. The "Governing Body", based "at the central offices... at Brooklyn, New York", consists of 10 "anointed Christians", who supposedly are spiritual brothers of Jesus Christ, and who are "ruled in a theocratic way".... In this way, the publications of this American Company - which, according to its statutes, must have from 300 to 500 shareholders, all from Northern America - have spread worldwide, thanks to the people who consider Watchtower Society as the Jehovah's government!

Watchtower Society doesn't believe in the Holy Trinity, they believe this concept come from Paganism. They believe in the Father only; it also claims that whoever does not use the name "Jehovah" for the Father, will suffer his flesh being worn away and his body being melt away! Yet, there is no word such as "Jehovah". This word is a mistaken translation of "Tetragrammaton", which is the set of consonants of the phrase "I am that I am". Between 500-1000 A.D., Jew scholars combined these consonants with the vowels of the word "Adonai", and found the forgotten correct translation, which is "Yahweh". WT. S. admits that "Yahweh" is technically more correct. They defend their usage by saying "Jehovah" is more commonly used by people. - Until 1953 Watchtower claimed that the constellation of the Pleiades is the place of the eternal throne of God!

They even believed that God wore clothes. Today WT Society teaches that God exists in an imperishable, spiritual “body” with eyes, ears, arms, legs and the like and is therefore confined to a particular location and cannot be in more than one “place” at a time. This means that they still believe he exists in some kind of space and time. While Christians know God is Infinite, Eternal, Omniscient, Ubiquitous and Omnipotent, WT Society claims He is situated in Heaven, from where He can send His active force, (they mean the Holy Spirit), and do whatever He wants even if He is... far away.

The Holy Spirit is considered to be God’s impersonal “active force” in spite of the fact that Christ reveals that it has a name (“in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”) and that in many Scripture quotations the Holy Spirit invites people, prays, talks, sends people somewhere etc. (See Acts 13:2, 10:19-20 and elsewhere), as only a person would do. Watchtower Society claims that “Satan’s first lie was that sin would not bring death...the teaching that man has an immortal soul tends to further Satan’s lie.” Consequently, the existence of Saints and their intervention in our lives is considered as another Satan’s lie. “The word “soul” used in the Bible refers to a person or an animal or to the life that a person or an animal enjoys.” “Because the soul is simply life of a being, the soul ceases to exist after death.” According to Watchtower Society, Devil claimed that man can be self-governed successfully, without God’s help, and that he (Devil) could estrange from God all Adam and Eve’s descendants. God did not destroy Satan, but yielded power to

him for 6,000 years, a period during which He would prove to the angels that Satan’s claim is a lie. This is the renowned

“vexed question.” Always according to Watchtower Society, Christ came on Earth to prove that Satan’s claim is a lie and to vindicate Jehovah. This is Jehovah’s prime aim: not the salvation of mankind, but the vindication of His own name, the vindication of His sovereignty. Society no longer speaks of Jehovah’s name as being vindicated. Rather, it speaks of his name being sanctified.

Secondary aim of Christ’s sacrifice is to offer us the gift of the eternal (physical) life in God’s fair “New Order.” Watchtower claims that the Son of God, Who in truth has no beginning, has not always existed. The Watchtower’s Jesus is not equal to God the Father nor Eternal but is himself a created being. “Thus the scriptures identify the Word (Jesus in his pre-human existence) as God’s first creation, his firstborn Son. This son was actually a creature of God”. The Watchtower’s Jesus is also... Satan’s brother! In the beginning, says the WT, God had two sons, that were named Word and Lucifer. Though Lucifer was not as favored as the Word was, he was defined with the Word as the morning star. This “Jesus” is equivalent to Adam, the perfect man. The Society’s book titled “Things In Which it is Impossible for God to Lie” teaches: “Not at birth but at thirty years of age Jesus became Christ or “Anointed One” (p. 211). Jesus never rose bodily from the dead according to Jehovah’s Witnesses. They explain, “At death he laid aside the human organism in which he ministered as a new creature for three and a half years; and in his resurrection he was no more human. He was raised as a spirit creature”. His spirit became the... leader of Jehovah’s heavenly government, that was founded in Heaven in 1914! Christ and his angels will very soon take action to release the earth from all current worldly governments. Earth vine shall be destroyed... The heavenly troops that follow Jesus in the final war against the establishment of Satan...are those who squeeze the vineyard of Earth... Extermination (of the non-followers of Watchtower Society) will take place. The river of blood... is too deep, it goes up to the horses’ bridles... The destruction will be complete... let’s wish not to be squeezed together with the vine of Earth when the Jehovah’s unfavorable judgment will take place. “Surviving will depend on our consciously choosing a true religion” (that is to say, the religion of the Watchtower, which initially claimed that religions come from Satan), “because all other religions will be perished” (and their followers too!). To survive Armageddon, we must be marked on the forehead by the man who has the registrar’s stamp, i.e. the Watchtower Society. Additionally:

1. We must not be ruled by democratic methods; God’s will must flow to us theocratically through the leadership of the “faithful and wise servant”, who is provided by God.

2. We must stay alert with our service and our financial contributions to Watchtower Society, because Jehovah has done so much for us through this assembly... We must contribute from our money and from our time to spread the worldwide work of preaching people. Let's give generously from our money income and from our time. "Life insurance contracts, registered and other shares, debentures, interest-bearing bonds of the Greek state, bank bonds, inheritances and other assets" are acceptable.

3. We must show "deep respect and wholehearted obedience" to the "Society, since it is controlled by the God's holy spirit." "Doing what the organization says, means doing what He (Jehovah) says. Resistance to the Organization means resistance to Him.

Since the days of Rutherford, the Watchtower Society has defined a two-class system of believers: the anointed class (144,000) and the great crowd (originally called the Jonadab class). The Watchtower insists that only the anointed are "born again," and that, technically, Jesus is the mediator for that small group alone. They teach that the great crowd cannot look to Jesus as their mediator. The vast majority of Jehovah's Witnesses fall into the great crowd category, which is also called the "other sheep." They have traditionally been excluded from upper-level leadership and decision making because the Watchtower teaches that they have spiritual handicaps. More importantly, they are also taught that they are not anointed with the Holy Spirit, nor does God communicate directly with them. Instead, the average Jehovah's Witness believes that (s)he must "come to Jehovah's organization for salvation." According to the Society, there are two resurrections: a) One for those of the 144,000 who had died, which allegedly took place on 1918. After 1918, the anointed who die as humans on the earth, are supposedly raised to serve as kings and priests in the heavenly Kingdom of Jehovah under Jesus, to continue serving and living there forever. b) One for the great crowd after Armageddon. The great crowd have no hope of heaven, but instead have an earthly hope. They will be resurrected after Armageddon; they will then be given a soul, or life, that exactly duplicates their personality in a new body. They will be tested, living for 1000 years on earth under Jehovah's government, (Jesus and the 144,000 who will rule from heaven). They will be working and getting married, but someday Jehovah will stop them from bearing children, to avoid overpopulation! "According to the Scriptures Satan is to be bound for a thousand years, that he may deceive the nations no more. (Rev. 20:3) After the thousand years shall have ended, Satan shall be loosed for a short period to test mankind. Then he will be destroyed in the Second Death, together with all who are in harmony with him." Those who won't follow him, will live forever on a paradise earth.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD - THE SECOND COMING (They prefer the term "presence")

1st INTERPRETATION

The "second presence" happened invisibly in 1874. "The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874...From 1874 forward is the latter part of the period of "the time of the end." From 1874 is the time of the Lord's second presence... It was in the year 1874, the date of our Lord's second presence..." In 1878 "Jehovah" and Christ established the Kingdom in heaven, cleaning the sanctuary and those who died in Christ were resurrected. Initially the organization taught the "battle of the Great Day of God Almighty" (Armageddon) would end in 1914. Every kingdom of the world would be overthrown in 1914 which was "God's date" not for the beginning but "for the end" of the time of trouble..." "We consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished by the end of A.D. 1914." The "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced." World War I, rather than Armageddon, broke out in 1914. The Society had already begun to modify their prediction. They taught that 1914 was not the end, but the beginning of Armageddon. World War I was supposed to be the beginning of the Battle of Armageddon. That battle was to end shortly after 1914 with the utter destruction of professing

Christianity, and the inauguration of Christ's millennial reign. The Watchtower first suggested this would be accomplished in 1915, but later predictions delayed it to 1918.

"The present great war in Europe [World War I] is the beginning of the Armageddon of the Scriptures" (Pastor Russell's Sermons, p. 67).

2nd INTERPRETATION

"...In the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of "Christianity." "The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures because it is fixed by the law God gave to Israel. Viewing the present situation in Europe, one wonders how it will be possible to hold back the explosion much longer; and that even before 1925 the great crisis will be reached and probably passed." "The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in the Scriptures, even more clearly than that of 1914; but it would be presumptuous on the part of any faithful follower of the Lord to assume just what the Lord is going to do during that year." "As we have heretofore stated, the great jubilee cycle is due to begin in 1925. At that time the earthly phase of the kingdom shall be recognized. Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews chapter eleven, to the condition of human perfection."

On 01/01/1925 Rutherford said that the kingdom was not established in 1878, but in 1914, and that would be spread on Earth when the generation of people living in 1914 will go. The cleansing of the sanctuary and the resurrection of ancient persons deserving it was also transferred to 1918. "...Christ Jesus has been present since 1914 and witness has been given of the signs that prove it, but the veil will not lift from the sightless 'eyes of understanding' of humanity's majority till his power is revealed in Armageddon's fury."

"Also, the Bible said that all these things would happen upon the generation that was alive in 1914... After drawing attention to the many things that have marked the period from 1914 onward, Jesus said: "This generation will by no means pass away until all these things [including the end of this system] occur." (Matthew 24:34, 14) Which generation did Jesus mean? He meant the generation of people who were living in 1914. Those persons yet remaining of that generation are now very old. However, some of them will still be alive to see the end of this wicked system. So of this we can be certain: Shortly now there will be a sudden end to all wickedness and wicked people at Armageddon... Some of the generation living in 1914 will see the end of the system of things and survive it." For decades the Watchtower claimed that knocking on doors and making converts was "separating the sheep from the goats." Judgment foretold by Christ (Matthew 25:31-46). When 1914 failed to bring Armageddon as originally announced, the Watchtower had slowly reinterpreted their prediction claiming that 1914 was the year that Jesus "sat down in judgment" in heaven. Since 1914, the Watchtower had supposedly been helping Jesus with that judgment by "separating the sheep from the goats." The "sheep" were those who became Jehovah's Witnesses and supported the Watchtower while the "goats would be destroyed because they fail to help Christ's anointed "brothers" in their service to God." The Armageddon was transferred in 1975.

3rd INTERPRETATION

During an assembly at Rizoupolis, Athens, Greece in 1975, the Watchtower's delegates stated they never announced dates. Later on, the blame about the dates was put on the... Watchtower editors (who are controlled by the Society).

4th INTERPRETATION

According to the Watchtower of 15.10.1995, "1914 generation" means the evil and adulterous generation that exists in every era; no one knows when the Second Coming will take place and no one should be concerned with dates! Finally, the Society has abandoned all attempts to measure the 1914 generation by the life

span of its “survivors.” According to the latest “light,” 1914 still started “the last generation” that will end in Armageddon. But the 1914 generation now consists of all “the peoples of earth who see the sign” of Christ’s 1914 presence but fail to repent . In Watchtower dogma, this “sign” is a “composite” sign made up of many historical events of which virtually all adults alive today would be aware, regardless of when they were born. “Rather than providing a rule for measuring time, the term “generation” as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical period, with their identifying characteristics.” With such a definition, a “generation” could, functionally, last indefinitely - conveniently protecting the Watchtower against further charges of failed prophecy over its teaching about the 1914 generation surviving till the “end of the system.” To maintain a sense of urgency, the Society claims the time period begun in 1914 is “a short period of time.”. How can they say this after defining “generation” so vaguely?

It is short, they say, when “compared with the thousands of years of Satan’s rulership.” “Eager to see the end of this evil system, Jehovah’s people have at times speculated about the time when the “great tribulation” would break out, even tying this to calculations of what is the lifetime of a generation since 1914. However we “bring a heart of wisdom in” not by speculating about how many years or days make up a generation. Is anything to be gained, then, by looking for dates or by speculating about the literal lifetime of a “generation?” Far from it!... Therefore, in the final fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy today, “this generation” apparently refers to the peoples of earth who see the sign of Christ’s presence but fail to mend their ways... Does our more precise viewpoint on “this generation” mean that Armageddon is further away than we had thought? Not at all.”

THE RESURRECTION OF CRIST (1 Corinthians 15:42-46)

SHOULD CHRIST BE WORSHIPPED? (Heb. 1:6)

1st INTERPRETATION

Worshipping Jesus Christ is a duty of the believers. “His position is contrasted with men and angels, as he is Lord of both, having “all power in heaven and earth.” Hence it is said, “Let all of the angels of God worship him” [that must included Michael, the chief angel, hence Michael is not the Son of God] and the reason is, because he has “by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (C.T. Russell, Watchtower Nov. 1879, bracketed comment in the original).

2nd INTERPRETATION

Christians should not worship Christ. This is not what He taught. (Watchtower, 15.7.1959).

3rd INTERPRETATION

In the 1970 revised edition of NWT (New World Translation, the Watchtower's version of the Bible). We read that Christ must be worshipped! “But when He again brings his First-born into the inhabited earth, he says: “And let all God’s angels worship him” Hebrews 1:6.”

4th (!) INTERPRETATION

Later on we read that Christ must not be worshipped! [The NWT revised 1971 (and 1984) edition was changed to read, “do obeisance to” rather than “worship.”]

HELL AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

1. “Those who have been taught by Christendom believe the God-dishonoring doctrine of a fiery hell for tormenting conscious human souls eternally.”

2. “It is so plain that the Bible hell is mankind’s common grave that even an honest little child can understand it, but not the religious theologians.”
3. “Who is responsible for this God-defaming doctrine of a hell of torment? The promulgator of it is Satan himself. His purpose in introducing it has been to frighten the people away from studying the Bible and to make them hate God.”
4. Imperfect man does not torture even a mad dog, but kills it. And yet the clergymen attribute to God, who is love, the wicked crime of torturing creatures merely because they had the misfortune to be born sinners.”
5. The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: (1) Because it is wholly unscriptural (2) it is unreasonable; (3) it is contrary to God’s love; and (4) it is repugnant to justice.”
6. “ It is a lie, which the Devil has had spread, that the souls of the wicked are tormented in a hell or a purgatory.”
7. “Death is annihilation (destruction). There is no conscious existence when you are dead.”

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

1st INTERPRETATION

Blood transfusion from human to human, for prevention of death, is a little sacrifice on behalf of our fellowman. If Christ gave his soul – his life on behalf of the mankind, don’t we owe to spare on behalf of our fellowman a part of our life energy, which is in our blood?

2nd INTERPRETATION

Blood transfusion “may result in the immediate and very temporary prolongation of life, but at the cost of eternal life for a dedicated Christian.”. “Bible says we should stay away from blood (of the animals that were sacrificed to pagan gods)... staying away from blood means you must not put blood into your body.” (!)blood transfusions may damage the individual’s personality... The blood in any person is in reality the person himself... Transfusing blood, then, may amount to transfusing tainted personality traits. How great the danger may become if the blood is taken from... criminals and other derelicts.” “Moral insanity, sexual perversions, inferiority complexes, petty crimes – these often follow in the wake of blood transfusions.”

HOW TO DEFEND THE REAL BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

Holy Trinity

There is one verse in the Bible regarding the Trinity (Lat. *Tres-Unitas* (Three-Unity) that most of the verses that Jehovah Witnesses like to mention and it is Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

In the Hebrew language we have two words to describe the term “one”

Yachid	To describe an <u>Absolute Oneness</u>	(Zechariah 12:10; Jeremiah 6:26)
Echad	To describe a <u>Composed Oneness</u>	(Gen. 2:24; Jud. 6:16)

Regarding *The Lord* or *Jehovah*, the word used to describe ONE is “ECHAD”

There are many other verses in the Bible that shows that the Holy Trinity is true to be believed, we will list just some.

- Isaiah 6:8;
- Matthew 3:16-17; 28:1,20;
- Mark 10:18;
- Luke 10:18;
- John 10:11,30; 14:8,10,20;
- Acts 20:28;
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6;
- 2 Corinthians 13:13;
- 1 John 5:7;
- Ephesians 2:15;
- *And many, many others...*

Jesus Christ is God

- Psalm 110;
- Isaiah 9:5; 35:4;
- John 1:1 can be examined in details and it also shows that JW have voluntarily *perverted* the verse, like also Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:8;
- John 5:17:10; 8:58; 20:28;
- Acts 9:4-8;
- Colossians 2:2,9;
- Titus 2:13;
- Hebrews 1:6;
- 1 John 5:20;
- Revelations 1:18; 2:8; 5:6;
- *And, many, many others...*

The Holy Spirit is God

- Was not God who created man. How JW explain Job 33:4;
- Luke 1:35;
- John 16:13;
- Acts 5:3-4; 8:29; 10:19-20; 13:2,4; 21:11;
- 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19;
- 2 Corinthians 3:17
- Hebrew 9:14;
- *And many, many others...*

Salvation is by grace

- Ephesians 2: 8

The Resurrection of Christ

- John 2:19-21; 10:15-18; 20:34-38;
- Luke 24:36-42;
- 1 Timothy 2:5;

Jesus' Return

Greek > Phanero > *Epiphaneia* > Appearance; Physical manifestation; To be made visible.

- Isaiah 16:5;
- Zechariah 6:13; 12:10; 14:14;
- Matthew 24:30
- Acts 1:9-12;
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13
- Titus 2:13;
- 1 Timothy 6:14;
- Rev. 1:7;

Hell and eternal punishment

- First of all the Bible teaches us that death is separation

Principle points made in the (Westminster) Confessional Statement regarding hell

1. Eternal torment
2. Everlasting destruction
3. Being cast out from the presence of God
4. Being cast out from the fellowship with Christ, the being saints, holy angels
5. Being cast out into hell
6. Unspeakable torments of the body and soul
7. Being with the devil and his angels forever

What does the Bible say about hell?

1. Place of destruction of body and soul (Matthew 10:28; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)
2. Prepared for the devil and his angels, and demons (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 19:20; 20:10,15)
3. Place of fire (Matthew 25:41; Rev. 20:15)
4. Place of outer darkness (Matthew 25:30)
5. Place where the fire never quenched and the worm continues gnaw to gnash (Mark 9:43-44)
6. Place of great torment (Revelation 14:9-11)
7. Place of thirst and great heat (Luke 16:24)
8. Place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 22:13; 25:30)
9. Place of unending misery and eternal torment (Dan. 12:2; Matthew 25:46; Revelation 14:11)
10. Place of conscious existence (Matthew 17:1-3; John 11:25-26; “ Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23)

And, once again, many, many other verses...

Blood transfusion

The following verses supported by JW do not speak about transfusion. God is simply saying that He doesn't like that we eat blood from animals, and so we are supposed not to do it.

- Genesis 9:3-4;
- Leviticus 17:14;
- Acts 15:28-29;

It's not possible that God doesn't agree with transfusion because life is precious for Him

- Deuteronomy 30:19;
- John 10:10;
- Romans 8:2;
- 1 Peter 3 :10 ;

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