



Jehovah's Witnesses: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

Biblical Reasons to Study Religions

And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

FOUNDER

- ▶ Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)
- ▶ later Joseph F. Rutherford (1869-1942)

DATE

- ▶ Began 1879 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

LOCATION

- ▶ Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York

KEY WRITINGS

- ▶ Bible (*New World Translation* only)
- ▶ *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*
- ▶ *Reasoning from the Scriptures*
- ▶ *Watchtower* magazine
- ▶ *Awake!* magazine

WHO IS GOD?

- ▶ One-person God called "**Jehovah.**"
- ▶ No **Trinity.**
- ▶ Jesus is the first thing Jehovah **created.**

WHO IS JESUS?

- ▶ The Jehovah's Witnesses' Jesus is **not God.**
- ▶ Before he lived on earth, he was **Michael,** the **archangel.**
- ▶ Jehovah made the universe **through him.**
- ▶ On earth he was a man who lived a **perfect life.**
- ▶ After dying on a **stake** (*not* a cross), he was resurrected as a **spirit.**
- ▶ He is *not* coming again; he already "**returned**" invisibly in 1914 in spirit.
- ▶ Very soon, he and the angels will **destroy** all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ▶ The **impersonal** “holy spirit” is not God.
- ▶ Instead, the “holy spirit” is an invisible, **active force** from Jehovah.

HOW TO BE SAVED

- ▶ Be **baptized** as a Jehovah’s Witness.
- ▶ Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by “**door-to-door work**.”
- ▶ Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 “**anointed ones**.”
(This number had already been **reached** by 1935)

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- ▶ The 144,000 “anointed ones” live as **spirits** in heaven and are referred to as “**the little flock**”.
- ▶ The rest of the righteous (“**the great crowd**”) live on earth and must obey God perfectly for 1,000 years or be **annihilated**.

OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- ▶ Meet in **Kingdom Halls** instead of churches.
- ▶ Active members are encouraged to distribute literature **door-to-door**.
- ▶ Once a year, members observe “Lord’s Evening Meal” (like communion); only “**anointed ones**” may actually partake.
- ▶ Members are *not* allowed to...
 - observe **holidays** or **birthdays**
 - **vote**
 - salute the **flag**
 - work in the **military**
 - accept blood **transfusions**
- ▶ Members believe **Armageddon** will occur soon.

Resource for Further Study:

Websites

1. Stand To Reason, “Talking to Jehovah’s Witnesses? Start Here”
www.str.org/w/talking-to-jehovah-s-witnesses-start-here

Books

2. Ron Rhodes, *Conversations with Jehovah's Witnesses: A Friendly Approach to Sharing the Truth About God and the Bible* (200 pages)
3. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (400 pages)
4. Diane Wilson, *Awakening of a Jehovah's Witness: Escape from the Watchtower Society*