

Jehovah's Witnesses

The following includes an excerpt from a June 9th, 2023, article from Ligonier Ministries entitled:
“Who Are the Jehovah's Witnesses?”

<https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/field-guide-on-false-teaching-jehovahs-witnesses>

What are the main beliefs?

Jehovah's Witnesses are most well-known for denying the Trinity, the deity of Christ, the personhood of the Holy Spirit, and the doctrine of eternal punishment. Their false teaching on these subjects can be summarized under two main headings:

- 1. The Father alone is God.** The Jehovah's Witnesses hold to the sole deity of the Father on the basis that Jehovah (a frequently used English rendering of God's covenant name in Hebrew) is represented as the only God in Scripture. Denying classical Trinitarian doctrine, the Jehovah's Witnesses adamantly reject the idea that there are three persons in the Godhead. In their attack on historic Christian doctrine, the Jehovah's Witnesses insist that a belief in three persons in the Godhead is equivalent to a belief in three gods.

Since the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the triune God, they teach that Jesus is a created being - specifically, He is the archangel Michael. Although they refer to Him as “the only begotten of God,” Jehovah's Witnesses insist that Jesus is the first of the created beings of God. They teach that Jesus agreed to be placed in the womb of the Virgin Mary in order to be a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. However, Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus' death propitiated the eternal wrath of God, since they do not believe in the deity of Jesus or in eternal punishment. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Holy Spirit is not a person, let alone God. Rather, the Spirit is merely an emanating and active force of God.

- 2. No eternal punishment.** Jehovah's Witnesses insist that there is no eternal torment for unbelievers in the afterlife. In Jehovah's Witness theology, the body and the soul are inseparable, so the soul dies with the body. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that physical death was the only thing Adam suffered when he fell in the garden. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, there is no immortal soul.

The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:4 are 144,000 faithful Jehovah's Witnesses who will go to heaven. The remainder of faithful Jehovah's Witnesses will be resurrected and live forever on earth. Those who die without hearing of Christ or knowing God's will in the Bible will be raised in the resurrection of the unrighteous and will have a second chance to believe in the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses and obey God and to be included in the final inheritance of eternal life on earth. Anyone who does not attain to the eternal inheritance by failing to believe and obey the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses will be annihilated.

Why do people believe this form of false teaching?

The Jehovah's Witnesses insist that Scripture is the only source of divine revelation. This leads to the faulty conclusion that the Jehovah's Witnesses are simply teaching the Bible. However, the organization also publishes and distributes millions of copies of *The Watchtower* magazine, which they treat as the infallible interpreter of Scripture, as well as other publications. Proselytizing is the central feature of their religion; the organization equips and sends all its members out into the world to make converts. The Jehovah's Witnesses offer people a moralistic, monotheistic religion. Presenting a picture of morally clean families, good health, and upright behavior, the Jehovah's Witnesses hold to false teaching that can feed a self-righteous spirit. Additionally, the Jehovah's Witnesses are a multiethnic organization, a characteristic that is often lacking in other religious groups.

An Infamous Quote:

“If the message Jehovah's witnesses are bringing to the people is true, then it is of greatest importance to mankind. If it is false, then it is the duty of the clergymen and others who support them to come boldly forward and plainly tell the people wherein the message is false.”

Joseph Franklin Rutherford - 2nd President of Watchtower (The Golden Age January 17th, 1933, pg. 252)

Remember...

- Cult members have been taken captive through the deceptive lies of the enemy.
- There is no salvation outside of Christ.
- Through prayerful, loving, and humble communication of the gospel, cult members can come to their senses and escape the snare of deception.
- Be prayerful and look for open doors! May the Lord use you as you avail yourself to Him!

*Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.
Proverbs 24:11 (NKJV)*

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:13-18 (NKJV)

Jehovah's Witnesses Practical Ministry Guide (JW Scripture Chart)

JW Practical Ministry Introduction (Part I):

Jehovah's Witnesses are extremely focused on the topic of the Name of God, and the "restoration" of the 'Name of God' to the Scriptures. Unfortunately, the term Jehovah is not actually the Name of God, but rather a commonly used mispronunciation of the Name of God found in many Bibles and is also commonly used in Christianity. There is nothing inherently wrong with the term Jehovah, or in using it to refer to the God of the Bible, however, it is most certainly not the **Name of God**. The **Name of God** is first mentioned in the Bible in Gen 2:4 and is also clearly articulated in Is 42:8 and elsewhere. The **Name of God** in the Hebrew language is written with the four consonants: **YHWH** (Yod He Waw He) and is also known as the **tetragrammaton** (Greek for "the four letters"). Most scholars agree that the best pronunciation of the **Name of God** is "**Yahweh**". (Note: Out of deep reverence and the desire to avoid profaning the divine name, practicing Jews have historically refrained from pronouncing it.)

יהוה

YHWH
Yahweh

"This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD** God made the earth and the heavens"

Gen 2:4 NKJV

"I am the **LORD**, that is My Name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images."

Is 42:8 NKJV

In English Bibles, the personal **Name of God** is often represented by the words **LORD** and/or **GOD** (all capital letters) to distinguish it from the distinct terms Lord and God.

Practical Application of (Part I) Information:

When speaking with Jehovah's Witnesses, using the term "Jehovah" will enhance trust and openness. Be prepared to discuss the name "Jehovah".

Remember...

"Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."

1 Cor 8:1 NKJV

JW Practical Ministry Introduction (Part II):

The Watchtower has made systematic, deliberate, progressive changes to the Bible to alter its meaning to line up with their false doctrines. Their translation does not accurately follow or represent the original texts.

Examples:

John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **God.**” **John 1:1 NKJV**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.” **John 1:1 NWT**

Col 1:16-20

“For by Him **all things** were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things** were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before **all things**, and in Him **all things** consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile **all things** to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” **Col 1:16-20 NKJV**

“Because by means of him all [**other**] things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [**other**] things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ Also, he is before all [**other**] things, and by means of him all [**other**] things were made to exist, ¹⁸ and he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might become the one who is first in all things; ¹⁹ because God was pleased to have all fullness to dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all [**other**] things by making peace through the blood he shed” **Col 1:16-20 NWT**

Note: The word “**other**” is totally foreign to the Greek text yet has been *inserted into the text 5 times to support the false belief that Jesus was a created being.

Phil 2:9

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name”

Phil 2:9 NKJV

“For this very reason, God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [**other**] name” **Phil 2:9 NWT**

Practical Application of (Part II) Information:

The NWT translation does not provide accurate translations of the texts of the Bible. This discredits the Watchtower and shows it to be an untrustworthy religious organization. This can be demonstrated using interlinear resources and Bibles, including the Watchtowers own 'Kingdon Interlinear Translation'.

JW Practical Ministry Introduction (Part III) JW Scripture Chart:

The provided Scripture chart demonstrates that **Jesus is God** by showing that Titles and descriptors that apply to **God the Father (Yahweh / 'Jehovah')** also apply to Jesus, proving that the Biblical **Jesus is God**.

JW Scripture Chart:

God The Father (Yahweh / 'Jehovah') is:

Creator	Gen 1:1
Mighty God	Is 10:21-23
Father	Matt 6:9
King of Israel	Is 44:6
Savior	Is 43:11 / Is 45:21
First and Last	Is 44:6
Lord of lords	Deut 10:17
Shepherd	Ps 23:1
King over gods	Ps 95:3

Jesus is:

Creator	John 1:3
Mighty God	Is 9:6
Everlasting Father	Is 9:6
King of Israel	John 1:49
Savior	Titus 2:13 / Matt 1:21
First and Last	Rev 1:17-18
Lord of lords	Rev 17:14 / Rev 19:16
Shepherd	John 10:11 / John 10:14
King of kings	Rev 17:14 / Rev 19:16

Practical Application of (Part III) JW Scripture Chart Information:

The above verses can be used from the Bible and/or from the NWT translation of the Bible to demonstrate that **Jesus is God**.

Bringing it all together...

Using John 3:16 as a starting point, then focusing on the Biblical identity of Jesus is an excellent way to approach discussing the Gospel.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16 NKJV

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten Son, so that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16 NWT



Yahweh

Also known as: Jehovah, YHWH

Yahweh, Name for the God of the [Israelites](#), representing the biblical pronunciation of “**YHWH**,” the [Hebrew](#) name revealed to [Moses](#) in the book of [Exodus](#). The name **YHWH**, consisting of the sequence of consonants **Yod, Heh, Waw, and Heh**, is known as the [tetragrammaton](#).

After the [Babylonian Exile](#) (6th century BC), and especially from the 3rd century BC on, Jews ceased to use the name Yahweh for two reasons. As [Judaism](#) became a universal rather than merely a local religion, the more common Hebrew noun [Elohim](#) (plural in form but understood in the singular), meaning “God,” tended to replace Yahweh to demonstrate the universal sovereignty of Israel’s God over all others. At the same time, the divine name was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered; it was thus replaced vocally in the [synagogue](#) ritual by the Hebrew word Adonai (“My Lord”), which was translated as Kyrios (“Lord”) in the [Septuagint](#), the [Greek](#) version of the [Hebrew Scriptures](#).

The [Masoretes](#), who from about the 6th to the 10th century AD worked to reproduce the original text of the Hebrew Bible, added to “**YHWH**” the vowel signs of the Hebrew words Adonai or Elohim. [Latin](#)-speaking [Christian](#) scholars replaced the **Y** (which does not exist in [Latin](#)) with an **I** or a **J** (the latter of which exists in Latin as a variant form of **I**). Thus, [the tetragrammaton became the artificial Latinized name Jehovah](#) (JeHoWaH). As the use of the name spread throughout medieval Europe, the initial letter **J** was pronounced according to the local vernacular language rather than Latin.

Although Christian scholars after the [Renaissance](#) and [Reformation](#) periods used the term Jehovah for YHWH, in the 19th and 20th centuries biblical scholars again began to use the form Yahweh. Early Christian writers, such as [St. Clement of Alexandria](#) in the 2nd century, had used a form like **Yahweh**, and this pronunciation of the tetragrammaton was never really lost. Many [Greek](#) transcriptions also indicated that **YHWH** should be pronounced **Yahweh**.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Yahweh>