

Christianity, Cults & Religion

Scientology

New Age

Wicca



Islam

Buddhism



Christianity

Taoism



Judaism

Hinduism



Christian
Science

Jehovah's
Witnesses

Mormonism

Christianity, Cults & Religion

Purpose –

- To strengthen our foundation as Christians
 - Know what others believe
 - Know what their beliefs are founded on
 - Compare those beliefs and foundations with Christianity
- To be better prepared in evangelism

Overview

Week 1 Hinduism

Week 2 Buddhism

Week 3 New Age

Week 4 Islam

Week 5 Scientology

Week 6 Christian Science

Week 7 Jehovah's Witness



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Watchtower Bible & Tract Society

Headquarters – Brooklyn, NY

6 million worldwide
90,000 Kingdom Halls



"Jehovah's theocratically controlled organization under the immediate direction of Jehovah God Himself." [Watchtower, 6/1/1965, p.352]

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Charles Taze Russell 1852-1916

Rejected Biblical Concept of...
Hell, Trinity, Deity of Christ

Influenced by Adventists

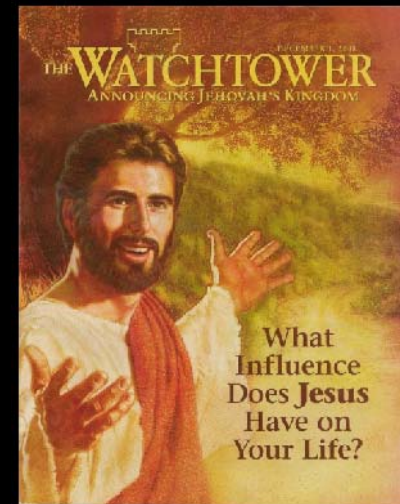


JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Watchtower Magazine 1879

25 million twice a month

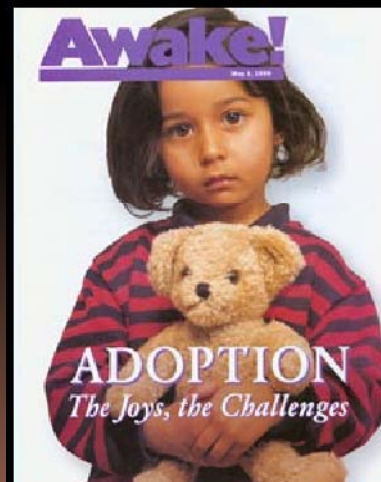
148 Languages



Awake Magazine

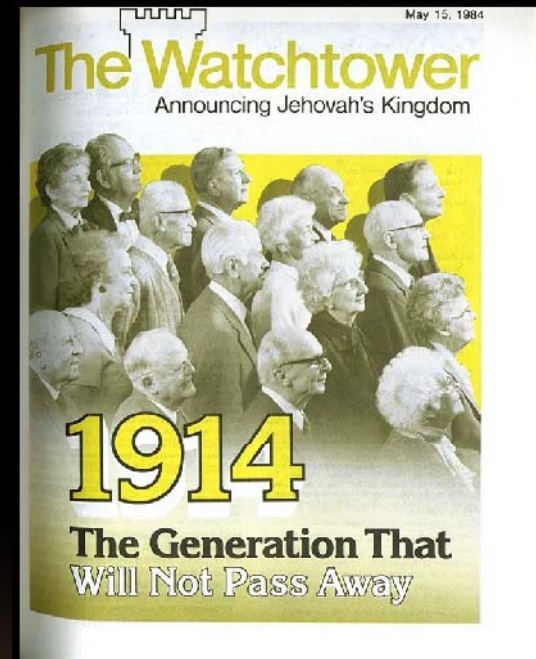
22.5 Million

87 Languages



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Predicted 1914 for...
Battle of Armageddon
End Gentile Times
Establish His Kingdom



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

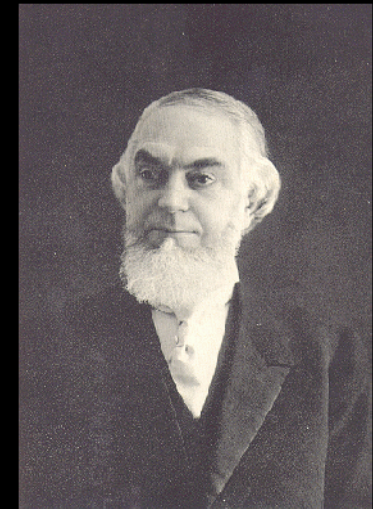
**1908 Moved
Headquarters to
Brooklyn,
New York**



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

1912 Exposed in court as a perjurer

Reverend J. J. Ross denounced Russell's theology.



Charles Russell

Ross exposed Russell as a pseudo-scholar, who never attended the higher schools of learning, is totally ignorant of the dead languages, and was never ordained.

Russell claimed high scholastic ascendancy, recognized theological training, and working knowledge of the dead languages (Greek, Hebrew, etc.) and valid ordination by a recognized body.

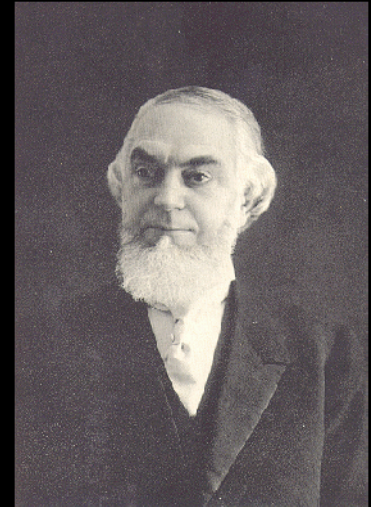
JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Question (Attorney Staunton): "Do you know the Greek alphabet?"

Answer (Russell): "Oh yes."

Question (Attorney Staunton): "Can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?"

Answer (Russell): "Some of them; I might make a mistake on some of them."



Charles Russell

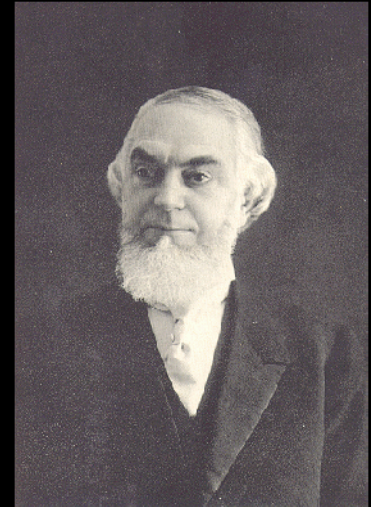
JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Question (Attorney Staunton): "Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447, I have got here?"

Answer (Russell): "Well, I don't know that I would be able to."

Question (Attorney Staunton): "You can't tell what those letters are? Look at them and see if you know."

Answer (Russell): "My way...[he was interrupted at this point and not allowed to explain]."

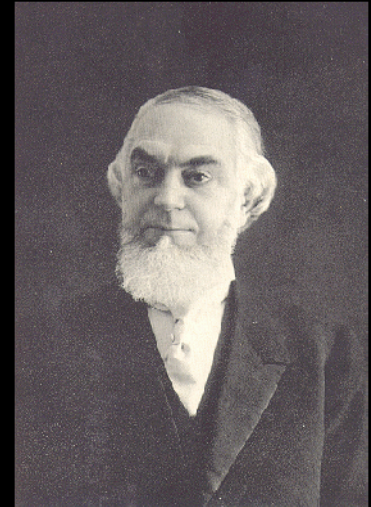


Charles Russell

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Question (Attorney Staunton): "Are you familiar with the Greek language?"

Answer (Russell): "No."

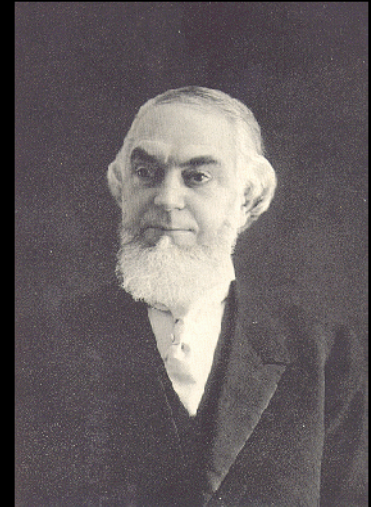


Charles Russell

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

He referred to his six volumes of Scripture Studies as “practically the Bible itself.”

“If anyone lays the Scripture Studies aside and goes to the Bible alone, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness.”



Charles Russell

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

1917 New President
Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford

1925 Predicted Armageddon

1931 Changed Name to Jehovah's Witnesses



Rutherford

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

1917 New President
Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford

1925 Predicted Armageddon

1931 Changed Name to Jehovah's Witnesses

1942 Died in San Diego
Beth Sarim



Rutherford



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS



“The Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as a whole, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah’s visible organization in mind.”

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

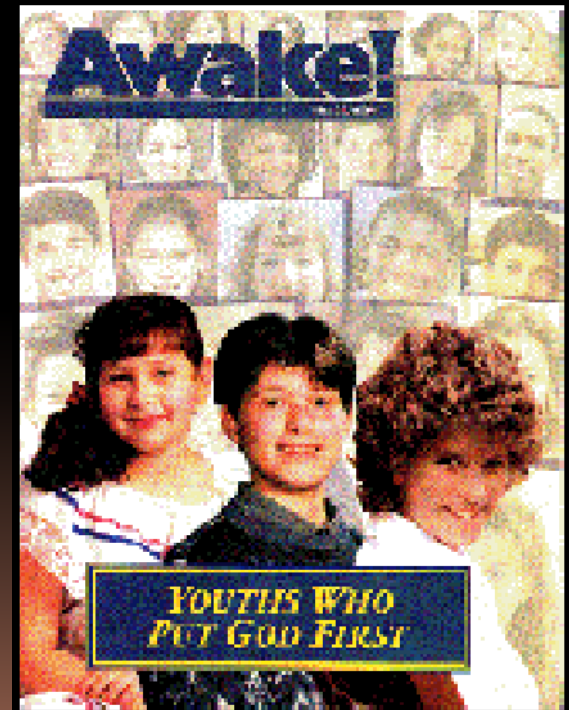
1. Their door to door activity
2. The fact that they don't celebrate birthdays, Christmas or Easter
3. The fact that they don't allow blood transfusions



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Jehovah's Witnesses are taught that to please Jehovah, it would be better to allow their young child (who has perhaps been bitten by a rattlesnake) to die in the hospital room, rather than give her a blood transfusion that would save her life.

The cover of the May 22, 1994 Awake! magazine showing photos of 26 children, with the caption: "Youths Who Put God First." Inside the magazine states, "In former times *thousands* of youths died for putting God first. *They are still doing it*, only today the drama is played out in hospitals and courtrooms, with blood transfusions the issue."



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Beliefs

The Deity Of Christ

The Resurrection Of Christ

Hell

Heaven

Salvation By Grace Alone

Christ's Second Coming

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Deity Of Christ

Watchtower: Jesus was Michael the Archangel

Bible: Jesus was God

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Deity Of Christ

John 20:28

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

2 Peter 1:1

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Deity Of Christ

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Deity Of Christ

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 10:21

The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Deity Of Christ

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Hebrews 1:8

But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Resurrection Of Christ

Watchtower: Denies the Bodily Resurrection

The Bible: Teaches the Bodily Resurrection

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Resurrection Of Christ

Luke 24:36-39

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Resurrection Of Christ

John 20:27

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Existence of Hell

Watchtower: Jehovah will annihilate the wicked

The Bible: Everlasting torment for the wicked

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Existence of Hell

Revelation 19:20

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:15

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The Existence of Hell

Matthew 25:41, 46

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels..."

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Revelation 14:11

And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs Heaven

Watchtower: Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses go to heaven

The Bible: All believers go to heaven

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs Heaven

John 12:26

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

John 14:2-3

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs Salvation

Watchtower: Salvation by grace + works

The Bible: Salvation by grace alone



JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs Salvation

"...there will only be one organization—God's visible organization—that will survive the fast-approaching "great tribulation." It is simply not true that all religions lead to the same goal. You must be part of Jehovah's organization, doing God's will, in order to receive his blessing of everlasting life."

If you want to be sure that you will be saved at the battle of Armageddon the Watchtower teaches that you must be faithful and active in what they call "kingdom work," which for them is mainly door to door ministry. (See You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, p.250ff)

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs Salvation

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 3:28

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The 2nd Coming of Christ

Watchtower: Jesus returned invisibly in 1914

The Bible: At Jesus 2nd Coming every eye will see Him

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The 2nd Coming of Christ

Revelation 1:7

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS VS. THE BIBLE

Beliefs The 2nd Coming of Christ

Matthew 24:23-27

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

See, I have told you beforehand.

“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Beliefs

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Interesting Side Note

JACKSON 5 JEHOVAH'S WITNESS



OSMOND'S MORMON



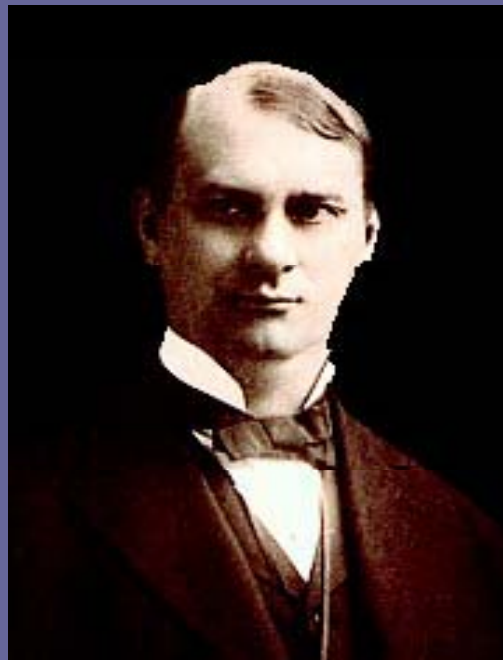
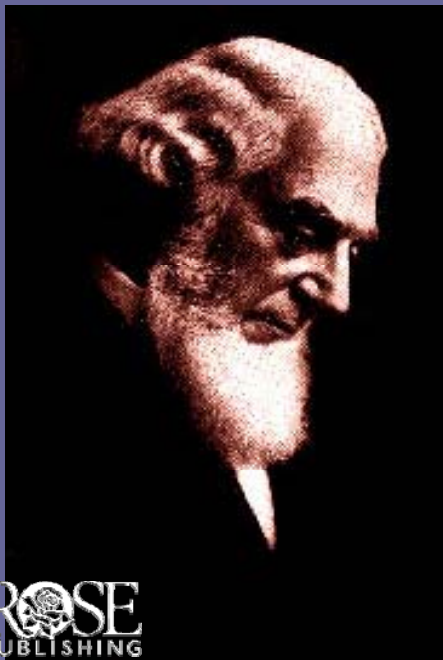
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



FOUNDERS

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



DATE

- Began 1879 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

LOCATION

- Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



KEY WRITINGS

Include...

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



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



WHO IS GOD?

- One-person God called “Jehovah.”
- No Trinity.
- Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



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.



Bible

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



WHO IS JESUS?

- 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.



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



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 has already been reached.)



Bible

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

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



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



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.



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- 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.



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