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The sect known today as the Jehovah's Witnesses started out in Pennsylvania in 1870 as a Bible class led by Charles Taze Russell. Russell named his group the "Millennial Dawn Bible Study." Charles T. Russell began writing a series of books he called "The Millennial Dawn," which stretched to six volumes before his death and contained much of the theology Jehovah's Witnesses now hold. After Russell's death in 1916, Judge J. F. Rutherford, Russell's friend and successor, wrote the seventh and final volume of the "Millennial Dawn" series, "The Finished Mystery," in 1917. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society was founded in 1886 and quickly became the vehicle through which the "Millennial Dawn" movement began distributing their views to others. The group was known as the "Russellites" until 1931 when, due to a split in the organization, it was renamed the "Jehovah's Witnesses." The group from which it split became known as the "Bible students."

What do Jehovah's Witnesses believe? Close scrutiny of their doctrinal position on such subjects as the deity of Christ, salvation, the trinity, the Holy Spirit, and the atonement shows beyond a doubt that they do not hold to orthodox Christian positions on these subjects.

- ✓ Jehovah's Witnesses believe Jesus is Michael the archangel, the highest created being.
 - This contradicts many Scriptures which clearly declare Jesus to be God.
 - Jude 9: Michael the Archangel "dared not bring a judgment of blasphemy" against Satan and calls on the Lord to rebuke him. This does not match up with JW doctrine b/c Jesus did rebuke Satan.
 - The Bible nowhere identifies Jesus as Michael (or any other angel for that matter). Hebrews 1:5-8 draws a clear distinction between Jesus and the angels: "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'? Or again, 'I will be His Father, and He will be my Son'? And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, 'Let all God's angels worship Him.' In speaking of the angels He says, 'He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.' But about the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.'"
- ✓ Jehovah's Witnesses believe salvation is obtained by a combination of faith, good works, and obedience. This contradicts countless scriptures which declare salvation to be received by grace through faith ([John 3:16](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Titus 3:5](#)).
- ✓ Jehovah's Witnesses reject the Trinity, believing Jesus to be a created being and the Holy Spirit to essentially be the impersonal power of God.
- ✓ Jehovah's Witnesses reject the concept of Christ's substitutionary death and instead hold to a "ransom theory" -- that Jesus' death was a ransom payment for Adam's sin.

- ✓ They claim that the church has corrupted the Bible over the centuries; thus, they have re-translated the Bible into what they call the New World Translation. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society altered the text of the Bible to make it fit their doctrine, rather than basing their doctrine on what the Bible actually teaches. The New World Translation has gone through numerous editions, as the Jehovah's Witnesses discover more and more Scriptures that contradict their doctrines.
 - The NWT is the first intentional systematic effort at producing a complete version of the Bible that is edited and revised for the specific purpose of agreeing with a group's doctrine.
 - The New World Translation (NWT) is defined by the Jehovah's Witnesses' parent organization (The Watchtower Society) as "a translation of the Holy Scriptures made directly from Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek into modern day English by a committee of anointed witnesses of Jehovah." The NWT is the anonymous work of the "New World Bible Translation Committee." Jehovah's Witnesses claim that the anonymity is in place so that the credit for the work will go to God. Of course this has the added benefit of keeping the translators from any accountability for their errors, and prevents real scholars from checking their academic credentials.
 - The New World Translation renders the Greek term word "staurós" ("cross") as "torture stake" because Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus was crucified on a cross.
 - The New World Translation does not translate the Greek words "sheol," "hades," "gehenna," and "tartarus," as "hell" because Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in hell.
 - The NWT gives the translation "presence" instead of "coming" for the Greek word "parousia" because JW's believe that Christ has already returned in the early 1900's.
 - In Colossians 1:16, the NWT inserts the word "other" despite it being completely absent from the original Greek text. It does this to give the view that "all other things" were created by Christ, instead of what the text says, "all things were created by Christ." This is to go along with their belief that Christ is a created being, which they believe because they deny the Trinity.
 - The most well known of all the New World Translation perversions is John 1:1. The original Greek text reads, "the Word was God." The NWT renders it as "the word was a god." This is not a matter of correct translation, but of reading one's preconceived theology into the text, rather than allowing the text to speak for itself. There is no indefinite article in Greek (in English - "a" or "an").
 - There are complex Greek language/grammar issues involved, but...
 - Throughout the Gospel of John, the Greek word "theon" occurs without a definite article. The New World Translation renders none of these as "a god." Just 3 verses after John 1:1, the New World Translation translates another case of "theos" without the indefinite article as "God." Even more inconsistent, in John 1:18, the NWT translates the same term as both "God" and "god" in the very same sentence.

- Watchtower magazine, April 1 2009, pg 19 says that William Barclay says John 1:1 does not say Jesus is God. They are trying to pull a well-known Protestant scholar & translator onto their side. They don't give a source reference. <http://www.bible.ca/trinity/trinity-texts-john1-1.htm> says: "Dr. William Barclay, a leading Greek scholar of the University of Glasgow, Scotland: "The deliberate distortion of truth by this sect is seen in their New testament translations. John 1:1 is translated: '...the Word was a god,' a translation which is grammatically impossible...It is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest." [also, no source reference given]

Jehovah's Witnesses are told to "avoid independent thinking" (See *The Watchtower*, [January 15](#), 1983, pp. 22, 27)¹

They will even allow their own children to die by refusing life-saving blood transfusions because transfusions of blood are condemned by the Watchtower organization.

Jehovah's Witnesses are discouraged from reading the bible "alone" apart from Watchtower literature and warned that if they do read it by itself, they will end up going into spiritual darkness by believing doctrines of "apostate" Christianity. (See *The Watchtower*, [August 15](#), 1981, pp. 28-29)²

The Watchtower tells Jehovah's Witnesses that they cannot understand the Bible without the "help" of its organization. (See *The Watchtower*, [February 15](#), 1981, p. 19³ and *The Watchtower*, October 1, 1967, p. 587)

If you leave on your own with a desire to follow Jehovah God apart from the Watchtower organization and its control, you will be shunned by friends and family members in the organization, and they will be told to "hate" you with "Godly hatred." (See *The Watchtower*, [October 1](#), 1993, p. 19⁴ and *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1988, pp. 26-28)

As an "apostate," you will not even be allowed to express your concerns in writing to your former Jehovah's Witness associates as they are commanded by the Watchtower to discard all personal letters from "apostates" unopened. (See *The Watchtower*, [March 15](#), 1986, pp. 12-13)⁵

If you desire to read more about Watchtower policies concerning family members and those who leave, see *The Watchtower*, [November 15](#), 1952, pp. 703-704 and *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1981, pp. 24-31.⁶

The Jehovah's Witness view of the outside world is a very a dark one. The Watchtower association is likened to the ark of Noah (the only place of safety), and the outside world is seen as a "system dominated by Satan the Devil" whose end at the battle of Armageddon is imminent. Jehovah's Witnesses claim one must "come to Jehovah's organization" for salvation. (See *The Watchtower*, [November 15](#), 1981, p. 21⁷)

¹ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wt11-01-87.pdf

² http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wt08-15-81.pdf

³ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wtbiblealone.pdf

⁴ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wthate.pdf

⁵ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wt03-15-86.pdf

⁶ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wtfellowship.pdf

⁷ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wt11-15-81.pdf

They are told that they are the only ones who “have any Scriptural hope of surviving the impending end of this doomed system dominated by Satan the Devil” **IF** they “remain organized with the anointed remnant [Jehovah’s Witnesses].” (See *The Watchtower*, [September 1](#), 1989, p. 19 and *The Watchtower*, April 1, 1982, p. 30-31)⁸

The Watchtower bases its beliefs and doctrines on the original and expanded teachings of Charles Taze Russell, Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford, and their successors. The governing body of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the only body in the organization that claims authority to interpret Scripture. In other words, what the governing body says concerning any scriptural passage is viewed as the last word, and independent thinking is strongly discouraged.

This is in direct opposition to Paul’s admonition to Timothy (and to us as well) to study to be approved by God, so that we need not be ashamed as we correctly handle the Word of God. This admonition, found in [2 Timothy 2:15](#), is a clear instruction from God to each of His children to be like the Berean Christians, who searched the Scriptures daily to see if the things they were being taught lined up with the Word (Acts 17:11).

“Charles Taze Russell, thou hast, by the Lord, been crowned a king; and through the everlasting ages they name shall be known amongst the people, and they enemies shall come and **worship at thy feet.**”—*The Watch Tower*, December 1, 1916, p. 377⁹

Witnesses are taught that people had to “come to Jehovah’s organization for salvation” (*The Watchtower*, November 15, 1981, p. 21) but Jesus actually said, “No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

False Prophetic Dates:

- 1874: Date for Christ’s “invisible presence,” changed to 1914
- 1914: End of the world
- 1915: Replaced 1914 for the end of the world
- 1918: End of the world, the destruction of churches
- 1925: End of the world with the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- 1929: “Beth Sarim” House of Princes built in San Diego, deeded to king David and other biblical prophets for their “soon” return upon the earth
- 1940’s: End of the World would come with the “soon” battle of Armageddon
- 1975: 6,000-years of human history, the end of the world would come within “months, not years.”
- 1994: 80-year Generation of 1914 should bring the end of the world, 1995 redefined the word “generation” to be symbolic of general readiness for the end.

⁸ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/authority/wtonlysaved.pdf

⁹ http://www.4jehovah.org/downloads/jehovahs_witness/history/russell4.pdf

Earth will never be destroyed or depopulated

Christ died on a stake, not a cross

Christ was first of God's creations

Wicked will be eternally destroyed

Jesus was not the Christ (Messiah) until age 30

Jesus rose invisibly in three days, so Jehovah had to "materialize" a fake body for him complete with fake nail prints so His disciples would believe it was really Jesus risen

They teach the eternal punishment of the lost is annihilation.

Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus died on a cross but a stake. However, recent "new light" in the Watchtower now admits they are not certain about the cross, but will continue to deny it anyway. Further, the watchtower originally claimed it was a cross.

"No one goes to heaven but 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses."

But this does not mean that the rest are condemned, as most suppose. The rest "rule on earth."

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob etc. were to be back on earth as perfect humans in 1925. The Society built a palatial home called "Beth Sarim" for them BUT when the patriarchs failed to show up, the President of the Society moved in.

If a Witness receives a blood transfusion, it results in his eternal death.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/blood-transfusions.html>

<http://www.4jehovah.org/help-jw-no-blood.php>

<http://www.4jehovah.org/jehovahs-witness-blood-transfusion.php>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_view_of_Jesus%27_death

http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Why_do_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_believe_Jesus_was_crucified_on_a_stick_and_not_a_cross