

Another Jesus? Examining Jehovah's Witness Beliefs

Testing the Spirits: Are Jehovah's Witnesses Biblical?" Jehovah's Witnesses: Truth or Deception?

The background of JW is that it was founded by Charles Taze Russell. It was founded by man, not by God. It is clearly a manmade religion, and I would argue it is a cult. The point of this teaching is simply to state the obvious and counter the lies that they have been pushing and spreading in the church and the body of Christ.

Jehovah's Witnesses were founded in the late 19th century.

- **1870** – Charles Taze Russell began a Bible study group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (the roots of the movement).
- **1879** – Russell began publishing *Zion's Watch Tower* (now *The Watchtower*).
- **1881 / 1884** – The Watch Tower Society was formally organized and incorporated.
- **1931** – The name "**Jehovah's Witnesses**" was officially adopted.

The movement began around **1870**, but **Jehovah's Witnesses as a distinct organization took their modern identity in 1931.**

Charles Taze Russell died on October 31, 1916.

Details:

- **Born:** February 16, 1852
- **Died:** October 31, 1916
- **Age at death:** 64
- This is significant because **Russell died before 1918 and 1925**, yet many major Watchtower prophecies tied to those dates were promoted as divinely guided after his leadership

One thing that stands out about cults is the claim that a specific, tiny group alone (in this case, the Jehovah's Witnesses) have access to God or alone has God speak to them.

A Cult Definition from a Biblical & Practical viewpoint.

A movement shows **cultic characteristics** when it:

- 1) Claims exclusive truth
- 2) Rewrites Scripture (New World Translation).
- 3) Elevates leadership above the Bible
- 4) Punishes dissent (shunning)
- 5) Redefines Christ
- 6) Extreme devotion
- 7) Using manipulative tactics to keep members dependent and obedient
- 8) Controlling members' lives (thoughts, actions, finances)
- 9) Authoritarian Leadership: A single, charismatic leader holds absolute power, demands unquestioning loyalty, and is not accountable to outside authorities.
- 10) Devaluation of Outsiders: Former members are often demonized, and there's a belief that no one outside the group understands or can provide a legitimate life.
- 11) Family Disruption: Encouraging members to abandon or dishonor their biological families.
- 12) Financial Exploitation: Members may be pressured to give large amounts of money, assets, or work for free, with no financial transparency from leadership.
- 13) "Us vs. Them" Mentality: The group sees itself as special, elite, and possessing ultimate truth, while viewing the outside world as evil, dangerous, or unenlightened.
- 14) Isolation & Control: Members are isolated from family, friends, and outside information, with the group controlling daily life, relationships, and finances.

Note:

The governing body claims **exclusive authority** to interpret Scripture.

According to the JW teaching, Members are forbidden to question leadership interpretations.

Members must cut off disfellowshipped relatives.

Teach Christ returned invisibly in 1914.

Jehovah's Witnesses have notoriously had failed prophecies/predictions

Jehovah's Witness leadership (Watchtower Society) **claimed to speak for God** and repeatedly made **specific prophetic claims**:

- 1874 – Claimed Christ returned *invisibly*
- 1914 – Taught the end of the world and the full establishment of God’s Kingdom
- 1918 – Taught God would destroy churches and governments
- 1925 – Predicted resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets
- 1975 – Taught the likely end of 6,000 years of human history and Armageddon

Result:

None of these events occurred as prophesied. They later admitted to:

- 1) Dates were wrong
- 2) Expectations were incorrect

Note that God does not give **false revelation**, wrong dates, or misleading prophecy. They violated Deuteronomy 18:20–22.

Matthew 24:24 – False christs and false prophets will arise

1. Denial of the Deity of Jesus Christ

- a) The JW deny that Jesus was and is God and Teach that Jesus is **not God**
 - i) The true scriptures teach that Jesus is fully God.
- b) The true scriptures teach that
 - i) John 1:1 — *“The Word was God.”*
 - ii) Colossians 2:9 — *“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”*
 - iii) Titus 2:13 — *“The great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*
 - iv) Hebrews 1:8 — *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever.”*

2. Jesus as a Created Being

- a) JW Teach that Jesus was created by God. Nothing can be further from the Truth.

JWs teach that Jesus is a created being (Michael the Archangel).
- b) The true scriptures teach that:

- i) John 1:3 — *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."*
- ii) Colossians 1:16–17 — *"By him were all things created... and he is before all things."*

3. False Translation of John 1:1

- a) JW New World Translation: "the Word was a god"
- b) The true scriptures teach that Greek grammar does not allow "a god." Original Greek & faithful translations: translate this as *"the Word was God"*
 - i) John 1:1;
 - ii) Isaiah 43:10 (no other gods)

4. Denial of the Bodily Resurrection of Christ

- a) JWs teach that Jesus was raised as a spirit only.
 - i) The problem with this is that then there is no way of verifying His resurrection, even after being seen by over 500 eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6). The claim that He was only resurrected as a spirit violates the entire fabric and foundation of the Christian faith, the Word and salvation, and it is clearly designed to overthrow the faith of many.
- b) The true Scriptures teach that Jesus rose bodily and physically.
 - i) Acts 2:31
 - ii) Luke 24:39 — *"Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."*
 - iii) John 2:19–21 — *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*

5. Salvation by Works, Not Grace Alone

- a) Emphasis on organization loyalty, door-to-door work, and obedience.
- b) The true scriptures teach that Salvation is by grace through faith, not works.

- i) Ephesians 2:8–9; For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- ii) Romans 4:5;
- iii) Titus 3:5
- iv) Romans 10:9–10 — *"If thou shalt confess... thou shalt be saved."*

I have a full teaching called: *The Only Requirement for Salvation*

6. Denial of Eternal Punishment (Hell)

Hell is not fun, and no one should like it, but just because you do not like it does not mean it does not exist.

- a) JW's teach annihilation (Souls cease to exist) instead of conscious punishment.
- b) The true scriptures teach Eternal conscious punishment is affirmed.
 - i) Matthew 25:46; Everlasting punishment
 - ii) Revelation 14:11;
 - iii) Revelation 20:10 "Tormented day and night for ever and ever."
 - iv) Mark 9:43–48

7. Limiting Heaven to 144,000 People

- a) Only 144,000 go to heaven; others live on earth.
- b) The true scriptures teach that all believers are promised heaven.
 - i) John 14:2–3; *"I go to prepare a place for you."*
 - ii) Philippians 3:20;
 - iii) Revelation 7:9 (great multitude)
 - iv)

8. Denial of the Trinity

- a) Teach that the Father alone is God; deny that the Holy Spirit is a Person.
- b) The true scriptures teach that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God.
 - i) Matthew 28:19; Matthew 28:19 — *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."*
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 13:14;

- iii) Acts 5:3–4
- iv) 1 John 5:7 — *"The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*
- v) John 14:26 — *"He shall teach you all things."*
- vi) Acts 13:2 — *"The Holy Ghost said..."*

9. Jesus Is Not to Be Worshiped (According to JW's)

- a) They forbid worship of Christ.
- b) The true scriptures teach that Jesus is worshiped and receives it.

(Worship is reserved for God alone (Matthew 4:10). Angels refused worship (Revelation 19:10 and 22:8-9), and men refused worship (Acts 10:25-26 and 14:11-18). There are eleven instances where Jesus was worshiped (Matthew 2:2, this verse, Matthew 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 20:20, 28:9, 17; Mark 5:6; Luke 24:52; and John 9:38). The fact that Jesus received this man's worship further attests to the fact that He was God in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

- i) Matthew 14:33;
- ii) Hebrews 1:6;
- iii) Revelation 5:12–14

10. Use of Extra-Biblical Authority (Watchtower Organization)

- a) The Watchtower overrides Scripture interpretation.
- b) The true scriptures teach that God's Word alone is the final authority.

Key verses altered to support doctrine.

- i) Mark 7:7–9;
- ii) Acts 17:11
- iii) Acts 5:29 — *"We ought to obey God rather than men."*
- iv) Galatians 1:8 — *"If any preach any other gospel... let him be accursed."*

11. False Prophecies and Date-Setting

- a) Failed predictions (1914, 1925, 1975).

b) The true scriptures teach that False prophecy disqualifies a teacher.

i) Deuteronomy 18:20–22;

ii) Matthew 24:36

In summary, the JW

1. Jehovah's Witness theology redefines Christ, reworks salvation, and rewrites Scripture to fit organizational doctrine.

Jehovah's Witness doctrine presents "another Jesus," "another gospel," and "another spirit"

(2 Corinthians 11:4) For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

2. The Bible presents Jesus as the eternal God, salvation by grace, and Scripture as the highest authority.
3. It is a cult that must be rejected.
4. "If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."
— Isaiah 8:20 (KJV)

Core Issue Summary

- Deny Christ's deity
- Corrupt Scripture
- Preach another gospel
- Add works to salvation
- Replace Christ's authority with organizational control
- Reject biblical hell
- Reject the Trinity
- Deny bodily resurrection