

Jehovah's Witnesses Beliefs

- 1) Jesus is _____ Jehovah God; He is the first and only direct _____ of God and the agent through which Jehovah made all other things.
- 2) Jesus true followers are known by their worship of the true and almighty God, Jehovah, who is NOT a _____
- 3) Jesus was raised from the dead _____ with a physical body, but as a mighty spirit Creature
- 4) The second coming of Jesus was an _____ spiritual presence that began in 1914
- 5) The dead exist only in God's memory: the wicked will NOT be punished with _____ torment but will be extinguished forever

Sources of Authority

- 1) The Watchtower Society
 - a) The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that God personally set up the Watchtower Society as His _____ representative on earth.
 - b) It is through this organization and no other that God _____ the Bible to humankind today
 - c) JW's are expected to obey the Society as the _____ of God
- 2) The New World Translation Bible
 - a) _____ work of a Watchtower Society committee
 - b) Published in _____, revised in 1984 and 2013
 - c) It is a Bible version that is specifically edited and revised to _____ with JW doctrine

Prominent features of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- 1) The name "Jehovah"
 - a) The proper use of God's "correct" name, "Jehovah" is _____ for salvation
 - b) JW's are the only group that refers to God by His "_____" name
- 2) Jesus Christ
 - a) Jesus is the first being in the universe _____ by God

3) Christ's 2nd Coming

a) What did Jehovah's Witnesses Teach before 1914?

- i) Jesus arrived and started to rule _____ in 1878
- ii) 1914 would mark the _____ of the system of things (world system)

b) What do Jehovah's Witnesses teach since 1914?

- i) That Christ's 2nd coming happened in _____ (not 1878) – and it was invisible.
- ii) That the Battle of Armageddon will _____ before the generation of 1914 has passed.
- iii) Armageddon will come Before the generation that _____ the original 1914 generation passes away

4) The Trinity

5) Atonement

- a) Jesus Christ was a perfect Man who laid down His life as a ransom sacrifice to atone for _____ sin.

6) Salvation—1st Tier

- a) first group is the 144,000 “_____ class,” (the “John class,” “bride class,” and the “little flock.”)
- b) only members of the anointed class are born-again, sanctified, and looking forward to a _____ home.
- c) They will _____ from heaven with Jesus during the millennial kingdom.

7) Salvation—2nd tier

- a) The second class is often referred to as the “other _____” or the “great crowd.”
- b) comprises the vast _____ of Witnesses.
- c) Salvation is based on their _____ and their faithfulness to Jehovah's organization,
- d) they are given the _____ for eternal life on paradise earth after Armageddon and the Millennial reign of Christ

8) Hell

- a) Hell is _____ - _____.
- b) hell is a state of unconsciousness to which _____ of the dead go—both good and bad people

9) What happens to the unbeliever's soul at death

- a) It dies and it remains dead, _____ to be resurrected.
- b) That individual ceases to _____.

Quick reference----Biblical responses to JW beliefs

1) Jehovah's name

- a) JW contention: The proper use of God's "correct" name—Jehovah—is essential to salvation
- b) Biblical response
 - i) In Ex 3:15, God's "name" refers His essence and being (Ps 18:49)
 - ii) God IS known by the name Jehovah (Yahweh) but not ONLY by that name
 - iii) Jesus never referred to God as Jehovah, but called Him Father (Rom 8:15)
 - iv) Believers are privileged to call God "Father"
 - v) The word Jehovah NEVER occurs in the New Testament

2) Deity of Christ

- a) JW's contention
 - i) Jesus Christ was the first created being and is not equal with Jehovah God
- b) Biblical response
 - i) God (Jehovah) Himself planned to appear in human form (Isaiah 9:6)
 - ii) Jesus is both our Savior and our great God—they are one (Titus 2:13)
 - iii) The Word was both with God and was God (John 1:1)
 - iv) Both God and Jesus called themselves "I AM" (Exodus 3:14, John 8:58)
 - v) ²⁸And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:28

3) Christ's resurrection

- a) JW's contention:
 - i) They deny the **bodily** resurrection of The Lord Jesus Christ
 - ii) He was raised an **invisible** "divine spirit being"
- b) Biblical response
 - i) Jesus Himself makes it clear that He was physically resurrected (Luke 24:39, John 2:19-21)

4) Christ's 2nd coming

- a) JW's contention:
 - i) Christ returned spiritually to the temple in 1914
 - ii) Since He did not rise physically, He will not return physically
- b) Biblical response
 - i) The Bible repeatedly states that Christ's return will be visible (Titus 2:13, Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7)

5) Atonement

a) JW's contention

- i) Atonement is not wholly of God
- ii) Jesus sacrifice on the cross removed ONLY the effects of Adam's sin—not individuals
- iii) Atonement won't be completed until survivors of Armageddon return to God through free will and become subject to the theocratic rule of Jehovah

6) Biblical response

- i) a believer's atonement for sin is solely through the shed blood of Jesus Christ—and is complete (Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22, Colossians 1:20, Rev 1:5)

7) Salvation

a) JW's contention

- i) Immortality is a reward for faithfulness
- ii) A person could fall away at any time ---into everlasting destruction

b) Biblical response

- i) It is by the grace of God through faith alone in the atoning work of Jesus Christ—and has nothing to do with our own works (John 3:16,18, Ephesians 2:8-9)

8) Death/Soul

a) JW's contention

- i) Man does not HAVE a soul, but rather it IS a soul
- ii) When a person's physical body stops functioning their soul stops functioning as well
- iii) There is no conscious existence after death (soul sleep)
- iv) "hell" is just representative of the Old Testament word "Sheol" or "the grave." Even good men and women go to this place after they die.

b) Biblical response

- i) a conscious soul does live on after physical death(Revelation 6:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

9) Hell

a) JW's contention

- i) "hell" or "hades" is nothing more than the common grave of mankind.
- ii) It is the eventuality for every living person.
- iii) They do not teach that hades is a place of torment or that it is something to be avoided.

b) Biblical response

- i) Everlasting conscious separation from God and torment after death are real
Matthew 25:45-46, Revelation 14:10b-11
- ii) The Bible makes it clear that hell is a place to fear (Luke 12:4-5, Mark 9:43-44)