

Jehovah's Witness

History: The group emerged from the Bible Student movement, founded in the late 1870's by Charles Taze Russell with the formation of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, with significant organizational and doctrinal changes under the leadership of Joseph Franklin Rutherford. The JW's were originally called **Russelites**. The name Jehovah's Witnesses was adopted in 1931 to distinguish themselves from other Bible Student groups and symbolize a break with the legacy of Russell's traditions. There are about 8.7 million active members and a Memorial (*the table of the Lord, a ransom or proprietary sacrifice*) attendance of over 17 million.

Response: Why would anyone give credit to a religion that cannot trace its origins back to Christ, the apostles, and prophets? [Eph. 2:20](#)

The Bible: Until the release of the New World Translation, the Jehovah's Witnesses primarily used the King James Version. The NWT was published in 1961 and was later revised in 2013. The NWT is based on **OT:** Biblia Hebraica (Kittels) and **NT:** Westcott & Hort. These are both corrupt manuscripts (as you'd expect).

The Watchtower: "We must serve Jehovah in truth, as revealed in his Word and made clear in the publications of "the faithful and discreet slave." *Watchtower* 1996 May 15 p.18. The doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses are established by a Governing Body, which assumes responsibility for interpreting and applying scripture. The Governing Body does not issue any single, comprehensive "statement of faith", but prefers to express its doctrinal position in a variety of ways through publications published by the Watch Tower Society. Their publications teach that doctrinal changes and refinements result from a process of progressive revelation, in which God gradually reveals his will and purpose, and that such "new light" results from the application of reason and study, the guidance of the holy spirit, and direction from Jesus Christ and angels.

Response: We accept no extra-biblical revelation. [Ps. 119:89](#), [2 Pet. 1:19](#), [Ps. 12:6-7](#), [Pro.30:6](#)

Jesus: Jesus is Michael – the highest created being. They believe he died on a stake and not a cross. **From their website:** We follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and honor him as our Savior and as the Son of God. ([Matthew 20:28](#), [Acts 5:31](#)) Thus, we are Christians. ([Acts 11:26](#)) However, we have learned from the Bible that Jesus is not Almighty God and that there is no Scriptural basis for the Trinity doctrine. ([John 14:28](#)). (Modern JW's believe different than their founder, see *Watch Tower*, July 1879, p.9, & Nov. p.48)

Response: Jesus is God. [Matt. 1:23](#), [Isa. 9:6](#), [Joh. 1:1-3](#), [1 Tim. 3:16](#), [Col. 2:9](#), [Acts 20:28](#), etc.

Salvation: Jehovah's Witnesses do not teach Christ's substitutionary atonement but instead hold to a concept similar to the **ransom theory** propagated by men like Origen. Jehovah's Witnesses erroneously believe that Jesus' death was merely a ransom for Adam's sin and provided the opportunity for recovery from enslavement by Satan. They say, Deliverance from sin and death is possible through the ransom sacrifice of Jesus' **body**. ([Matthew 20:28](#); [Acts 4:12](#)). Thus, they conclude that Christ did not resurrect bodily but only spiritually, because his body was the payment for Adam's sin (not his blood, ignoring [Acts 20:28](#)). Jehovah raised him back to spirit life.

To benefit from that sacrifice, people must not only exercise faith in Jesus but also **change their course of life and get baptized**. ([Matthew 28:19, 20](#); [John 3:16](#); [Acts 3:19, 20](#)) A person's works proves his faith is alive. ([James 2:24, 26](#)) However, they say salvation cannot be earned—it comes through "the undeserved kindness of God." ([Gal. 2:16, 21](#)).

Response: The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, [1 Joh. 1:7](#). We have been redeemed from the bondage of sin through Jesus Christ, our propitiation - [Rom. 3:25-24](#). Jesus became sin for us and was our substitute ([2Cor.5:21](#)). Jesus arose having a glorified body ([Lk.24:39](#)), the same body that awaits all believers ([Rom.8:29](#), [1Cor.15:53](#)).

Jehovah: Jehovah's Witnesses emphasize use of the name Jehovah—a representation of God's name based on the Tetragrammaton יהוה (tetra = 4, grammaton = letters, commonly transliterated into Latin letters as YHWH but should be JHVH). Yahweh is a false construction of the Tetragrammaton by Latin Roman Catholics and German rationalists of the 19th century who didn't even believe the validity of the O.T. The vowel points of the Tetragrammaton reveal the correct pronunciation of Jehovah. Many "Christian" seminaries and books say that the vowel points were not in the originals but were rather inserted by Masoretes in the 10th century. Research by John Gill (pastor and grammarian), Johannes Buxtorf (celebrated Hebraist), Gail Ripplinger, and others reveal that these vowel points have always been there and were removed by those who sought to corrupt the text (see [Mat.5:18](#)). JW's believe that Jehovah is the only

true God and the "Universal Sovereign". They believe that all worship should be directed toward him, and that he is not part of a Trinity. They believe that the holy spirit is God's applied power or active force, rather than a person. The NWT uses the name *Jehovah* 6,979 times in the Old Testament and 237 times in the New Testament. The King James Bible uses the name *Jehovah* 7 times in the O.T. and the name *Jesus* 983 times in the N.T.

Response: The reason the NWT says *Jehovah* more than the KJB is because it is improperly translated. The King James translates the Tetragrammaton as "LORD" all but seven times.

The KJV translators properly used the name "Jehovah" whenever the name JHVH was found under one of the following three conditions:

1. When JHVH is used as God's personal name. [Exodus 6:3](#), [Psalm 83:18](#)
2. When God's name is repeated as "Jah Jehovah." [Isaiah 12:2](#), [Isaiah 26:4](#)
3. When God's personal name is part of a place name. [Genesis 22:14](#), [Exodus 17:15](#), [Judges 6:24](#)

Furthermore, the Lord revealed himself to Moses as "I am" in [Ex. 3:13-15](#) and *Jehovah* in [Ex. 6:3](#). In the N.T. Jesus said, [John 8:58](#) *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

Hell: The dead are believed to be sleeping until the day of Judgment. God will then resurrect all people who will have a chance to either accept or reject him. If they reject him, they will be annihilated. *Jehovah's Witness* do not believe in a burning Hell. Hades and Sheol are understood to refer to the condition of death, termed "the common grave".

Response: Jesus preached of a burning Hell. [Mark 9:43](#), [Rev. 14:10-11](#)

Heaven. *Jehovah* God, *Jesus* Christ, and the faithful angels reside in the spirit realm. ([Psalm 103:19-21](#); [Acts 7:55](#)) A relatively small number of people—144,000—will be resurrected to life in heaven to rule with *Jesus* in the Kingdom of God. ([Daniel 7:27](#); [2 Timothy 2:12](#); [Revelation 5:9](#), [10](#); [14:1](#), [3](#))

Response: *Jesus* himself promised us a home in Heaven ([John 14:3](#)). The 144,000 are Jewish males ([Rev.14:4](#)).

The Kingdom of God: *Jehovah's* Witnesses believe that God's kingdom is a literal government in heaven, not a condition in the hearts of Christians ([Lk.17:21](#), [Ro.14:17](#)). They believe *Jesus* is currently reigning over the earth from his throne in heaven but will never visit the earth again. The kingdom is viewed as the means by which God will accomplish his original purpose for the earth, transforming it into a paradise without sickness or death. They believe the kingdom was established in 1914, and that *Jehovah's* Witnesses serve as representatives of the kingdom on earth. This is why they meet in Kingdom Halls. The year 1914 marked the end of a 2,520 year period called "the Gentile Times," at which time world society would be replaced by the full establishment of God's kingdom on earth. This is also the year *JW's* believe that Satan and his devils were cast out of heaven, at which point the end times began. Witnesses believe that Satan is the ruler of the current world order (*partially true*).

Response: It is vital to rightly divide the word of truth in order to distinguish what is promised to the church and what is promised to Israel. We are still in the age of grace (Times of the Gentiles) and awaiting the rapture of the church.

Politics: *Jehovah's* Witnesses believe their highest allegiance belongs to God's kingdom, which is viewed as an actual government in heaven, with *Christ* as king. They remain politically neutral, do not seek public office, and are discouraged from voting, though individual members may participate in uncontroversial community improvement issues.

Response: My personal view is that God understands that all his children will find themselves under civil government in this world ([Rom. 13](#)). I value the right to vote and will do what I can to preserve our freedoms.

Blood Transfusions: *Jehovah's* Witnesses refuse blood transfusions, which they consider a violation of God's law based on their interpretation of [Acts 15:28](#), [29](#) and other scriptures. Since 1961 the willing acceptance of a blood transfusion by an unrepentant member has been grounds for expulsion from the religion. Members are directed to refuse blood transfusions, even in "a life-or-death situation".

Response: Nonsense

If a JW Comes to Your Door: Don't invite them into your home or wish them God's blessing. [2 John 1:10-11](#) *If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*