

# JEHOVAH'S

A silhouette of a person stands in a doorway, looking out. In the foreground, two other silhouettes of people are shown from behind, looking towards the doorway. The scene is set against a dark background with a light-colored doorway.

# WITNESSES



eBook Series:  
*Issues Facing the Churches*

David Cloud

## *The Jehovah's Witnesses*

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PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061  
866-295-4143 (toll free) - [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org)  
[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)

Canada: Bethel Baptist Church  
4212 Campbell St. N., London Ont. N6P 1A6  
519-652-2619

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### ***Way of Life Literature***

P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061

866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org)

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# History

The Jehovah's Witnesses arose within the end-time fervor of the latter half of the 19th century that produced the Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and the Seventh-day Adventists as well as the Pentecostal Latter Rain theology.

## Charles Taze Russell

The Jehovah's Witnesses originated in America with Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916).

Russell had been a Presbyterian, a Congregationalist, and an Adventist before he formed the Jehovah's Witnesses.

In the 1870s he organized a Bible study and by 1880 there were 30 congregations following his teaching.

In 1879, he began publishing a magazine called *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*.

In 1884, he incorporated the Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society.

He published his doctrine in six books called *Studies in the Scriptures*.

He claimed to be the “Seventh Messenger” of Revelation 10:7.

In 1909, the headquarters was moved to Brooklyn, New York.

Russell falsely predicted that Armageddon would occur by 1916.

His wife divorced him in 1911 because of his immoral relations with other women.

Russell claimed that he could read Greek, but in a court of law he was shown to be a liar in that he could not decipher even the basic Greek alphabet.

Russell died in 1916. He had traveled more than one million miles, preached 30,000 times, authored more than 50,000 pages of material. More than 20 million copies of his books and booklets had been distributed.

### **Joseph Rutherford**

Joseph F. Rutherford became president upon the death of Russell and led the organization until 1942. Under his leadership, it grew quickly.

In 1931, Rutherford changed the name of the organization to Jehovah's Witnesses. In the early days, they were known as Russellites, Millennial Dawn People, and International Bible Students.

Rutherford predicted that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be resurrected in 1925 and he built them a mansion — which he occupied when the patriarchs didn't show up!

Rutherford was an alcoholic.



## Miscellaneous Facts

Jehovah's Witnesses take their name from Isaiah 43:10-11, which actually refers to Israel.

"I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God" (Isaiah 43:11-12).

The Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) have a centralized leadership, with the congregations closely directed from the headquarters in New York City.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are very aggressive in promoting their beliefs, with churches and missionaries throughout the world.

To witness for the organization is considered a necessary part of one's salvation. Every JW is expected to go witnessing at least once a week and must turn in a report. Individual Witnesses are called Publishers. They spend an average of four hours per week in this work.

Full-time preachers give at least 90 hours per month to proclaiming the JW faith. There are 700,000 of these today.

In 2000, Jehovah's Witnesses spent 1.1 billion hours in various evangelistic activities in 235 countries, including the distribution of over 700 million pieces of printed material, and thousands of audio and videocassettes.

It takes many hours to produce one convert. In Japan, 17,415 hours are required for every baptism. In Canada, 8,195 hours are required; in Germany, 7,042; in Russia, 2,416; in India, 2,312 hours.

Their meetinghouses are called Kingdom Halls. Each Hall divides its community into sectors and assigns the sectors to individual witnesses.

They have five meetings per week, as follows:

On Sunday they usually have two services. One is called the Public Talk, during which an elder gives a sermon or talk. After that they usually have the Watchtower Study, which is a lesson based on an article in the current *Watchtower* magazine.

During a weekday, they have the Theocratic Ministry School, which is devoted to practice in witnessing. They teach the Witnesses how to answer challenges and questions that typically encounter find while door knocking. Following this, they usually have the Service

Meeting. This involves training in matters pertaining to the congregation.

At another time during the week, they have the Book Study, during which they study Watchtower teachings from various JW books.

The JWs have produced an amazing amount of literature.

The *Watchtower*, the official JW journal, has a circulation of more than 22 million in 129 languages.

More than one billion Bibles, books, and leaflets have been distributed in at least 176 languages since 1920.

There are approximately 6 million Jehovah's Witnesses in 93,000 congregations in 235 countries.

The JW organization is called the “faithful and discreet slave” of Jehovah and is often called merely the “slave.”

The JW organization is called the “mother.” “If we are to walk in the light of truth we must recognize not only Jehovah God as our Father but his organization as our mother” (*The Watchtower*, May 1, 1957, p. 274).

They teach that no one can be saved apart from the JW organization. All other groups of Christians are called Babylon the Great and it is said that they will be destroyed at Armageddon. “To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it” (*The Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1983, p. 12).

The JW organization is not to be criticized. “We will not ‘forsake our mother’s teaching’ by immediately beginning to criticize and find fault. We will realize that Jehovah knows what is going on in his organization, and if he is willing to permit it, who are we to insist it should be different?” (*The Watchtower*, May 1, 1957, p. 284).

Those who leave the JWs are called apostates. They are completely shunned. The JWs do not talk to them or have anything to do with them. In fact, they are to be hated.

Jehovah’s Witnesses do not take blood transfusions, believing this falls under the Bible’s prohibition against eating blood.

Jehovah’s Witnesses refuse to give allegiance to any nation’s flag, join the military, run for political office, or vote in elections.

# Doctrines

## About Jehovah God

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, there is no Trinity; God's only name is Jehovah, and He created Jesus.

“Never was there a more deceptive doctrine advanced than that of the trinity. It could have originated only in one mind, and that the mind of Satan the Devil” (*Reconciliation*, 1928, p. 101).

### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

The Bible teaches the doctrine of the Trinity: that there is one God revealed in three Persons. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*: “The Trinity is the union of three persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) in one Godhead, so that all the three are one God as to substance, but three persons as to individuality.”

1. *The term “trinity” is not in the Bible, but the doctrine is* (Mt. 28:19; Jn. 14:16,26; 16:7-15; 2 Co. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Jn. 5:7).

2. *The O.T. teaches that God is one in a plurality.*

Though the Old Testament does not fully reveal the doctrine of the Trinity, it does teach that God is a plurality. It is left for the New Testament to open up this revelation more fully.

Genesis 1:1. The Hebrew word for God here is *elohim*. This is a plural noun, but the verb is singular, teaching that there is one God in a plurality.

Genesis 1:26. Again God is spoken of as plural, *elohim*, yet we know from other O.T. passages that God is one (De. 6:4).

Genesis 11:6-7. Here again God is spoken of in the plural and in the singular at the same time.

Deuteronomy 6:4. This verse could be translated, “Jehovah our *elohim* is a united Jehovah.” The word “one” refers to a unity. The same word for one is used in Gen. 2:24, speaking of the oneness of a husband and wife. This verse summarizes the Bible’s teaching about God. He is one but exists in three Persons.

Psalms 45:6-7. According to Hebrews 1:8-9, God the Father is speaking in Psalm 45, and He is referring to the Son as God. Sometimes people ask, “If Jesus Himself was God, why did He address the Father as God?” The

answer is that Jesus addressed the Father as God for the same reason that the Father addressed the Son as God—because they are both God!

Isaiah 48:16. Here the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, is speaking and referring to God the Father and the Holy Spirit (compare Jn. 18:20).

## **About Jesus Christ**

1. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus is not God but was created by Jehovah God. He is "a god" and a "mighty God" (Is. 9:6), but he is not Almighty Jehovah God.

"One's being in the image of God and according to his likeness would never mean that one was the equal of Jehovah God. An 'image' is not the real thing" (*God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphant For Man's Good*, 1974; p. 37).

2. Jesus was supposedly Michael the Archangel before He came to earth.

"There is Scriptural evidence for concluding that Michael was the name of Jesus Christ before he left heaven and after his return" (*The Watchtower*, May 15, 1969, p. 307).

3. While on earth Jesus was a perfect man but not God.

“When on the earth, he was not a divine god-man. He was wholly human, though perfect, as Adam originally was. Since Jesus' resurrection, he has been an exalted immortal spirit ever subordinate to God” (*The Watchtower*, Jan 15, 1992, p. 23).

4. Jesus has no physical resurrection body, only a spirit body; He only appeared to have a body.

“He was the first to be raised as a spirit person” (*You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*, 1982, p. 172).

“Our Lord's human body was, however, supernaturally removed from the tomb; because had it remained there it would have been an insurmountable obstacle to the faith of the disciples, who were not yet instructed in spiritual things — for ‘the spirit was not yet given.’ (John 7:39) We know nothing about what became of it, except that it did not decay or corrupt. (Acts 2:27, 31) Whether it was dissolved into gasses or whether it is still preserved somewhere as the grand memorial of God's love, of Christ's obedience, and of our redemption, no one knows; — nor is such knowledge necessary” (*The Time Is at Hand*, 1889, 1915 ed., p. 129).

“The bodies in which Jesus manifested himself to his disciples after his return to life were not the body in which he was nailed to the tree. They were merely materialized for the occasion, resembling on one or two occasions the body in which he died, but on the majority of occasions being unrecognizable by his most intimate disciples” (*The Kingdom Is at Hand*, 1944, p. 259).



5. When Jesus rose from the dead, he was again Michael the Archangel and he is no longer a man.

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

### *1. Jesus Christ is God*

Everything said about God in the Old Testament is also said about Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Title	Jehovah	Jesus
King of kings	Ps. 95:3	1 Ti. 6:14-15
Lord of lords	Ps. 136:3	Re. 19:16
Stone stumbling	Is. 8:13-15	1 Pet. 2:6-8
Judge	Is. 24:20-21	He. 12:23 Col. 1:17
Reigning	Is. 24:23	Mt. 25:31
Good Shepherd	Is. 40:10-11	Jn. 10:11
Only Savior	Is. 43:11	2 Ti. 1:10
Alpha Omega	Is. 44:6	Re. 1:7-18
Creator	Is. 44:24	Col. 1:16
Every knee bow	Is. 45:23	Ph. 2:10-11

The Old Testament prophets foretold that the Messiah would be God (compare Isa. 7:14 and Mat. 1:23; Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:5-6).

Jesus claimed to be God (Jn. 5:17-18; 8:58-59; 10:30-33) and he accepted worship (Mt. 2:11; 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 20:20; 28:9,17). If Jesus were not God He could not receive worship (Ex. 20:3-5; 34:10; Is. 42:8; Mt. 4:10).

The New Testament writers said Jesus Christ is God (Jn. 1:1; 10:36; Ph. 2:6; Col. 1:15; 2:9; 1 Ti. 1:15-17; 3:16; 6:14-16; He. 1:3; Tit. 2:13; 1 Jn. 3:16).

God the Father calls the Son God and the Son calls the Father God (compare Hebrews 1:8-9 and Psalm 45). This is the mystery of the Trinity. Though we do not fully understand it, we believe it because it is the teaching of Scripture.

Isaiah 43:10 says Jehovah God did not form another God and Deuteronomy 32:39 says there is no god with Jehovah God. Thus, the JW teaching that Jesus is “a god” (New World Translation rendering of John 1:1) cannot be true.

Compare Isaiah 9:6 with Isaiah 10:21. JWs say Jesus was the “mighty God” but not the Almighty God, but Isaiah 10:21 calls Jehovah God the “mighty God.” (See also Ps. 50:1; 132:2, 5; Jer. 32:18; Hab. 1:12.)

Compare Isaiah 43:7 with Colossians 1:16. If everything was created for Jehovah God's glory, why does Colossians 1:16 say that everything was created for Jesus?

It was God who was pierced on the cross (Zech. 12:10) and His blood that was shed (Acts 20:28).

2. *Jesus Christ had no beginning* (Micah 5:2; Col. 1:17; 1 John 1:2).

3. *Jesus Christ created ALL things* (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16).

4. *Jesus Christ rose bodily* (Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 2:18-21; 20:26-27).

5. *Jesus Christ is a man after His resurrection* (Acts 17:31; 1 Tim. 2:5).

## **About the Holy Spirit**

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Holy Spirit is not a person but is a force like electricity (*The Watchtower*, Sept. 15, 1992, p. 16).

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

1. *The Holy Spirit is called a person and does the works of a person* (Jn. 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15).

2. *The Holy Spirit has His own feelings* (Ep. 4:30).

3. *The Holy Spirit has His own will* (Ac. 13:2; 15:28; 1 Co. 12:11).

4. *The Holy Spirit has His own mind* (Ro. 8:26-27).

## **About Salvation**

1. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, salvation is by faith PLUS works.

“What things are involved in getting ‘saved’? (Acts 16:30) The prime requirement is: ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will get saved.’ (Acts 16:31) This involves taking in accurate knowledge of God’s purposes and his way of salvation. Then faith has to be exercised in Jesus Christ as the Chief Agent of salvation. (John 3:16; Titus 2:14) This places the Christian in a saved condition, but he must now persevere in doing God’s will and continue to adhere to all of God’s requirements for the rest of his life. Only then will he be saved to eternal life. (Matthew 24:13)” (*The Watchtower*, Dec. 15, 1989, p. 30).

2. There are two categories of the saved:

First, there is **the “anointed remnant”** composed of the 144,000 (Revelation 7). This group was supposedly completed by the 1930s. Only these will go to heaven and only these are born again.

They are called the “anointed remnant” and the partakers of the “new covenant.” “The new covenant will terminate with the glorification of the remnant who are today in that covenant mediated by Christ. The ‘great crowd’ of ‘other sheep’ that is forming today is not in that new covenant” (*The Watchtower*, April 1, 1979, p. 31).

They are supposed to be the priesthood of Melchizedek.

Only the 144,000 “anointed remnant” partake of the Lord’s Supper

They are changed to spirit creatures when they die.

The members of the 144,000 that have died are allegedly guiding the work of God from heaven.

The rest of the Jehovah’s Witnesses compose **the “Great Crowd” or “Other Sheep”** which is taken from Revelation 7:9.

According to JW doctrine, these are not born again. Christ is not their mediator. They do not have the Holy Spirit. They will never go to heaven but will live forever on a glorified earth. They are not children of God until they are resurrected and pass the final test during the millennium. They cannot partake of the Lord's supper in this life.

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

*1. Salvation is a free gift of God's grace without works* (John 3:16-18; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 3:19-24; 4:1-8; 11:6; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-8).

*2. The 144,000 of Revelation 7 are of the 12 tribes of Israel during the Tribulation.* They are Jews.

*3. There are not classes of believers* (Jn. 17:5-6, 20-21; Eph. 2:18-22).

Ephesians 4:4-6 teaches there is only *one* body, *one* hope, *one* calling, *one* faith.

All believers have the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9).

All believers partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11).

All believers in Christ are born again (1 John 5:1).

1 Peter 1:1-5 teaches the following doctrine:

All believers are the elect of God vv. 1-2.

All are born again v. 3

All have a living hope v. 3

All have an inheritance in heaven v. 4

All are kept by God's power v. 5

*4. The believer's home is in heaven* (Jn. 14:1-3; Col. 1:4-5; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 3:1; 12:22-24; 1 Pet. 1:4).

*5. Those who mind earthly things are false teachers* (Phil. 3:18-20)..

## **About the Bible**

1. According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Bible is inspired of God but it is a closed book except to Jehovah's remnant who are taught by the JW organization.

"Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the Divine Plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the *Scripture Studies* [the writings of Charles Russell] aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years — if he

lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the *Scripture Studies* with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures” (*The Watchtower*, Sept. 15, 1910, p. 298; see also *The Watchtower*, June 15, 1951, p. 375; *Riches*, 1936, pp. 106, 167; *New Heavens and a New Earth*, 1953, p. 18).

“Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, 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” (*The Watchtower*, Oct. 1, 1967, p. 587; *The Watchtower*, July 1, 1973, p. 402).

“Jehovah God has also provided his visible organization, his ‘faithful and discreet slave,’ made up of spirit anointed ones, to help Christians in all nations to understand and apply properly the Bible in their lives. Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do” (*The Watchtower*, Dec. 1, 1981, p. 27).

2. The JW organization teaches that they are given “new light” from God from time to time, and that they can change their doctrine based on this new light. This is how they have explained the many changes through the years.



“Things published were not perfect in the days of Charles Taze Russell, first president of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society; nor were they perfect in the days of J.F. Rutherford, the succeeding president. The increasing light on God’s Word as well as the facts of history have repeatedly required that adjustments of one kind or another be made down to the very present time. But let us never forget that the motives of this ‘slave’ were always pure, unselfish; at all times it has been well-meaning” (*The Watchtower*, March 1, 1979, p. 24).

3. The JWs have their own Bible, the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

It was published in 1961 and is available in whole or in part in some 15 languages with plans to expand the translation into 30 more languages.

None of the five translators knew Hebrew or Greek. The main translator, Fred Franz, lied to a court in Edinburgh, Scotland, in November 1954, and said he knew Hebrew, but he failed a simple test (Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, 1993, pp. 97-98). Franz was the fourth President of the JWs.

The *New World Translation* perverts every passage that deals with the deity of Jesus Christ. Following are examples:

John 1:1 says “the word was a god.”

Colossians 1:15-17 the JW Bible adds the word “other” four times — i.e., “for by him were all [other] things created...”

In Hebrews 1:8 the JW Bible changes “Thy throne, O God” to “God is your throne.”

In Zechariah 12:10, the JW Bible changes “they shall look upon me whom they have pierced” to “they shall look upon the one they have pierced,” because they don’t want to admit that Jehovah God died on the cross.

Prior to the publication of their own English translation in 1961, the Jehovah’s Witnesses published the American Standard Version (ASV). It is a simple matter to find the reason for this. The Unitarians associated with the ASV translation project, such as Ezra Abbot and J. Henry Thayer (who was secretary of the New Testament Committee), held the same view of Christ as the Jehovah’s Witnesses. And the critical Greek text underlying the ASV weakened key passages touching Christ’s deity. A footnote at John 9:38, where the man worshipped Christ, says, “The Greek word denotes an act of reverence, whether paid to a creature (AS HERE) or to

the Creator...” This is from an edition of the American Standard Version printed by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in about 1929. The Jehovah’s Witnesses also published the Westcott-Hort Greek New Testament.

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

*1. The believer has the Holy Spirit as his Teacher and is not dependent upon man (1 Jn. 2:20-27).*

*2. The Christian faith was settled during the days of the Apostles (Jude 3).*

*3. The Bible is complete and sufficient (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is able to make the man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

*4. The Jehovah’s Witness translation is a perversion produced by a convicted liar who was unqualified to translate the Bible.*

## **About Hell**

According to the Jehovah’s Witnesses, hell is only the grave:

“Of course, the prophets Moses and Elijah were not actually there with Jesus on that lofty mountain when

he was thus transformed before the three apostles. Moses and Elijah were still dead, still in Hades, the common grave of mankind. What the three apostles saw was merely a vision, not an actuality” (*Let Your Name Be Sanctified*, 1961, p. 250).

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

The Bible word “hell” has two meanings:

*1. Sometimes the Old Testament word for hell, Sheol, describes the grave* (Ps. 6:5; Ec. 9:10; Is. 38:18,19). (The common Hebrew word for the grave is not *sheol*, but *geburah*. This word is used in such passages as Ge. 35:20; 50:5; Nu. 19:16; 2 Sa. 3:32; 1 Ki. 13:30.)

*2. Hell also refers to the place where departed spirits go*

This is true in the Old Testament (De. 32:22; Pr. 9:18; 23:14; Eze. 31:16; 32:21).

This is also true in the New Testament for the Greek word “hades” (Mk. 9:43-48).

3. The doctrine of life after death was not fully revealed until the gospel (2 Tim. 1:10).

## **About Death**

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, at death, the soul sleeps until resurrection. It does not journey to heaven or to hell (which they say is just the grave).

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

*1. The Old Testament teaches that death is a journey (Ge. 25:8; 35:18; Nu. 27:13; 2 Sa. 12:23; 1 Ki. 17:21-22).*

*2. The New Testament also teaches that death is a departure of the spirit from the body to another conscious realm of existence.*

The body is distinct from the spirit (1 Th. 5:23; see also Mk. 14:38; 1 Co. 6:20; 2 Co. 12:2).

It is the body that dies (Jam. 2:26).

Paul's testimony was that death is a journey (2 Co. 5:6-7; see also Ph. 1:23, 24; 2 Ti. 4:6).

Peter testified that at death he would put off his body (2 Pe. 1:14).

The story of Lazarus and the rich man shows that death is a departure (Lk. 16:22-23). We do not believe this is a parable because of the proper names Jesus used. Yet,

even if it were allowed that this is a parable, it would still teach literal truth, as did all of Christ's parables.

The dead saints are said to return with Christ from heaven at the time of the resurrection and rapture of the saved. This shows that dead saints go to Heaven at death (1 Th. 4:14).

John's heavenly visions show dead saints in Heaven before the resurrection and during the Great Tribulation on earth (Re. 6:9-11).

Moses' appearance on the Mount of Transfiguration proves that the dead have conscious existence between death and resurrection (Mt. 17:1-3; Lk. 9:30-31).

*3. False teachers twist Scripture out of context to prove their false doctrine.* For example, Jehovah's Witnesses use verses such as Ecc. 9:5 — "the dead know not any thing." They do not consider the context of the verse. Ecclesiastes was written to teach what man thinks apart from God's revelation. The key passage is "under the sun," because it shows man's philosophy in this life apart from divine revelation. Thus, from the perspective of this life, the dead are finished; they do not know anything; they have ceased to exist. But when we look at death from the perspective of divine revelation, we know that

the dead do know something, that they are conscious either in heaven or in hell. Even the book of Ecclesiastes itself, in its conclusion, says that death is a journey (Ecc. 12:7).

## **About Eternal Punishment**

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, Satan and the unsaved are not punished eternally but are annihilated, burned up in the lake of fire. They teach that the *effect* of the punishment is eternal but not the *pain and consciousness* of the punishment.

“Yes, the destruction of the gross sinners in those cities [Sodom and Gomorrah] was eternal, as will be the destruction of the wicked at the end of the present system of things” (*The Watchtower*, April 15, 1990, p. 20).

### **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

1. *The suffering in hell and the lake of fire is eternal* (Mat. 25:46; Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 14:10; 20:10).

2. *If annihilation is true, Jesus' words to Judas make no sense* (Mat. 26:24). He warned that divine judgment is much worse than a violent death.

## **About the Return of Christ**

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, Christ's return was not physical but was spiritual and occurred in 1914. From then on, he began to rule invisibly as king of the earth.

### **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

*1. Christ's return will be bodily just as He ascended (Acts 1:11).*

*2. At Christ's return, every eye shall see Him (Mat. 24:30; Rev. 1:7).*

*3. At Christ's return, His feet will touch Jerusalem (Zech. 14:4).*



# False Prophecies

“And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

Jehovah’s Witness leaders have marked themselves as false teachers by their false prophecies.

JW leaders prophesied that the millennium would began in October 1872.

“We are already living in the seventh millennium — since October 1872” (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1889; 1915 ed., p. 363; also *Thy Kingdom Come*, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, 1905, p. 127).

They prophesied that the battle of Armageddon ended in 1914 and God’s kingdom began.

“...the ‘battle of the great day of God Almighty’ (Revelation 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership, is already commenced” (*The Time Is at Hand*, 1908 edition, p. 101).

“In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A. D. 1914” (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1889, 1908 ed., p. 99).

They prophesied that the kingdom of God would be established in 1915.

“In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915” (*The Time Is At Hand*, 1889, 1915 ed., p. 99; see also p. 242).

They prophesied that the millennium would begin in 1925.

“Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews 11, to the condition of human perfection” (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, p. 89).

“The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914” (*The Watchtower*, Sept. 1, 1922, p. 262).

They prophesied that the millennium would begin in 1975.

“According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man’s creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E” (*Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, 1966, p. 29; the date is also listed in chart on page 35; see also, *The Watchtower*, Oct. 15, 1969, p. 623; *The Approaching Peace of a Thousand Years*, pp. 26-27; *Kingdom Ministry*, March 1968, p. 4).

They prophesied that Armageddon would begin before the end of the 20th century.

“Shortly, within our twentieth century, the ‘battle in the day of Jehovah’ will begin against the modern antitype of Jerusalem, Christendom” (*The Nations Shall Know That I Am Jehovah*, 2nd ed. 1971, p. 216).

# Conclusion

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:17-18).

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9).

“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself” (Titus 3:10-11).

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying

the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2:1-2).

“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 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” (2 John 1:8-11)/

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*The Jehovah's Witnesses*  
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