

Jehovah's Witnesses – Part 2

Knowing What to Witness to a Jehovah's Witness About
Acts 4:12

I. Review

- A. The Jehovah's Witnesses were begun by **Charles Taze Russell** in 1872.
 - 1. He had great difficulty in dealing with:
 - a. The doctrine of eternal hell fire.
 - b. The Trinity
 - c. The deity of Christ
 - d. And the Person of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Russell claimed that the Bible could be only understood according to his interpretations.
- B. After the death of Russell on Oct. 31, 1916, a Missouri lawyer named **Joseph Franklin Rutherford** took over and changed the name of the organization to "**The Jehovah's Witnesses.**"
- C. Worldwide membership exceeded 19.9 million.
- D. They have produced their own translation, the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures.
- E. Jehovah's Witnesses claim all other Christian denominations are false.
- F. Look at the outcome of someone who disagreed with the Bible!

II. Key Issues to Focus On When Dealing With a JW

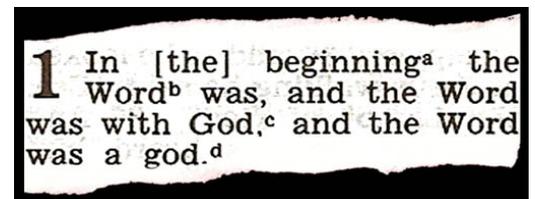
- A. **With a JW, it all boils down to _____**: Is it the Bible? Or a religious organization?
- B. **Three points of agreement, and one question**
 - 1. The Bible is God's word
 - 2. We should trust the Bible over any human religious institution
 - 3. If a religious institution contradicts the Bible, we should follow the Bible
 - 4. Question: Should I follow the Watchtower or the Bible?
- C. **Point 1. The Bible is God's Word.**
- D. **Point 2. Because the Bible is God's Word, we should trust _____ rather than any human religious institution.**
- E. **Point 3. If a religious institution teaches something contrary to the Bible, then we should follow the Bible, not the religious institution.**
- F. **Question: If the Watchtower Society teaches something that is contrary to the teaching of the Bible, would you follow the Watchtower or the Bible?**
- G. **NOW, ask them...**
 - 1. Has the Society ever taught anything scripturally incorrect?
 - 2. Might the Society be teaching anything scripturally incorrect now?
 - 3. Can Jehovah's Witnesses hold and discuss openly with other Jehovah's Witnesses opinions that differ from orthodox Watch Tower doctrine?
 - 4. Can individuals read & understand the Bible alone, or do they need an organization and its publications to do so?
 - 5. Why are you called, "Jehovah's Witnesses" and not "Christians"? Since Jehovah's Witnesses appeal to Isa 43:12; 44:8 for scriptural support that they should be called, "Jehovah's Witnesses" then what was the "new name" prophesied in Isa 62:2? Can't be "Jehovah's Witnesses", for God already used it 20 chapters earlier. Could the new name be "Christian" after our savior "Christ"?

6. Why would the name God gave to His people not be "Christians" since Acts 11:26 says, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."? Why is the name "Jehovah's Witness" found nowhere in the New Testament, if that is God's divine name for His people under the new covenant? Why would God wait almost 2000 years to suddenly start using the name "Jehovah's Witness". Does this mean that first century Christians were not known as Jehovah's Witnesses"?
7. If the name Jehovah is so important, then why is it never used in the entire Greek New Testament? If men edited out the name of God, "JHVH" when they copied the New Testament, as only the Watchtower organization claims, then how can we have any confidence in any of the New Testament? Should we discard the New Testament, or the Watchtower organization as unreliable?
8. If the name "Jehovah" is so important, then why does Acts 4:12 say, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [v10 Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."? Would this not have been the logical place for God to have used the name "YHWH"?
9. Since the Jehovah's Witness organization currently rejects most of the teachings of its founder Charles Taze Russell (who was president of the organization from 1879-1916), and since they also reject "Judge" Joseph Franklin Rutherford, who succeeded Russell as president from 1916 - 1942, how can we be sure that in 25 more years, Jehovah's Witnesses won't also reject the current president, Milton G. Henschel (1992 - present), as they did Russell and Rutherford?
10. What kind of confidence can anyone have in an organization that rejected its founder and first two presidents for the first 63 years of its existence? This represents about 53% of the time they have existed!
11. And this is before you have showed any false doctrines!

III. Key Scriptures and Problems for a Jehovah's Witness

A. Only One _____ (Isaiah 45:18)

1. Isaiah 45:18
2. The NWT of John 1:1 is a blatantly false translation



B. Only One _____ (Isaiah 43:11)

1. KJV I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.
2. NWT I—I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior.
3. And HE is JESUS! (Luke 2:11)

C. The _____ of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7,8)

1. The Jehovah's Witnesses deny the Deity of the Holy Spirit, insisting that He is merely an impersonal force (like gravity, or electricity) acting on behalf of Jehovah.
2. If the Spirit is merely God's impersonal active force, then...
 - a. Why does He directly speak and refer to Himself as "I" and "me" - Acts 13:2
 - b. How could He be referred to as "he" and "him" in John 16:7-8, 13-14

D. Hell is _____ (Rev 14:9-11)

1. Jehovah's Witnesses spread the notion of "Soul Sleep," that is, when a believer dies, he remains in an unconscious state of existence in the grave (asleep) until God resurrects him.
2. Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.
3. Absent from the body, you will be... (2Cor 5:8)
4. The Lake of Fire is eternal TORMENT (Rev 14:9-11)
5. The supposed "parable" of Luke 16 describes DEATH, and THEN TORMENT, not the grave

E. Salvation and Forgiveness from Sin (Mark 2:5-7)

1. Watchtower doctrine decrees that Christ alone cannot save. His atonement does not provide salvation; it is merely a ransom paid to Jehovah God by Christ in order to remove the evil effects of Adam's sin on mankind.
2. Man may earn his own salvation by faith and good works [The Harp of God, pp. 139-141]. Official Watchtower teaching is that – "All who by reason of faith in Jehovah God and in Christ Jesus dedicate themselves to do God's will and then faithfully carry out their dedication will be rewarded with everlasting life..." [Let God be True, p.298]
3. Only GOD can forgive sins (Psalm 103:2,3; Mark 2:5-7)
4. Jesus forgave sins (Matthew 9:2)
5. ONLY in the name of JESUS can someone be forgiven (Acts 4:12)

F. The Person of _____ (Zechariah 12:10)

1. Jesus is worshiped by the angels (Heb. 1:6) and by man (Matt. 14:33), and yet only God is ever to be worshiped (Ex. 34:14).
2. Christ Himself said that worship is due to God alone (Matt. 4:10), and yet He accepted worship. If Jesus in His pre-existent state were the archangel Michael, how could He have received worship, since angels are not allowed to receive worship (Rev.19:10)? If Christ were not God, then worshipping Him would be idolatrous.
3. So, the Jehovah's Witnesses forbid the Worship of Jesus!
4. Yet, Both Jesus and Jehovah are the First and the Last
 - a. Jehovah is referred to as the first and the last in Isaiah 44:6 and 48:12
 - b. Jesus refers to Himself as the first and the last in Revelation 1:17 and 22:12.
 - c. How can this be since by definition there can only be ONE first and last. This shows that Jesus Christ is Jehovah.

IV. Goals – The Goal is to get the Jehovah's Witness to do the following:**A. _____ the evidence against the Watch Tower Society**

1. All the constant changes in the New World Translation
2. All the constantly changing doctrines
 - a. For at first, and then against Israel
 - b. For worshipping Jesus along with Jehovah, and then no longer allowed
 - c. Allowing organ transplants (1961), and then forbidding them (1967)
 - d. That Christ died on a cross (up to 1928), and then only on a Torture Stake
 - e. The use of the Pyramids to discern prophecy (up to 1925), and rejected now
3. All the False Prophecies (Dt 18:22)
 - a. 1880 "*We need not here repeat the evidences that the "seventh trump" began its sounding A.D., 1840, and will continue until the end of the time of trouble, and the end of "The times of the Gentiles," A.D., 1914, and that it is the trouble of this "Great day,"*
 - b. 1888 "*In this chapter we present the Bible evidence proving that the full end of the times of the gentiles, i.e., the full end of their lease of dominion, will be reached in A.D. 1914;*
 - c. 1889 "*In the coming 26 years, all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved.*" (C.T. Russell, Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 2, p. 98-99, 1889)
 - d. 1891 "*A.D. 33, to A.D. 70 was 36 ½ years; and so from A.D. 1878 to the end of A.D. 1914 is 36 ½ years. And, with the end of A.D. 1914, what God calls Babylon, and what men call Christendom, will have passed away, as already shown in prophecy.*" Studies In the Scriptures - Thy Kingdom Come (1891) p.153

- e. 1908 "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)
 - f. 1918 "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).
 - g. 1922 "The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914," (Watchtower, Sept. 1, 1922, p. 262).
 - h. 1931 "There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1917, 1918, and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time . . . and they also learned to quit fixing dates," (Vindication, p. 338).
 - i. 1968 "True, there have been those in times past who predicted an 'end to the world', even announcing a specific date. Yet nothing happened. The 'end' did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing? . . . Missing from such people were God's truths and evidence that he was using and guiding them," (Awake, Oct. 8, 1968).
 - j. 1968 "Why are you looking forward to 1975?" (Watchtower, Aug. 15, 1968, p. 494).
4. A true prophet of God won't err in prophesying. Only a false prophet does. The Jehovah's Witness organization, that claims to be a prophet of God, is really a false prophet. Jesus warned us by saying, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

B. Believe the _____ as it speaks! (Isaiah 8:20)

C. To follow the life of _____! Believing only on Him (1John 5:13)!

V. Conclusion

- A. All Religion Teachings should come from the Bible**
- B. All Religions should be held to the authority of the Bible**
- C. All religious people need Jesus**
- D. Satan blinds religious people more than ruined sinful people (Mt 21:31,32)**
- E. Open JW's eyes with the same powerful Gospel that opened yours**
- F. Just be ready for a lot of discussion!**