

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Jehovah Witness doctrine was founded by Charles Taze Russell. He was only **18** years old when he began a Bible study that focused on the second coming of **Jesus**, as well as the chronology of the Bible. As a result of his study, which took place around **1870**, he published numerous books. During that decade, he also presented several formal lectures.

In **1879**, Russell founded Herald of **Christ's** Presence and Zion's Watch Tower, which became monthly publications. In **1884**, the Zion's Watch Tower and Tract Society were officially formed. Russell served as the president until he died in **1916**. Russell also authored a series of books called "Studies in the Scriptures," which became the basis of the **Jehovah** Witness theology. Today, several men lead the **Jehovah's** Witness "theocratic" organization, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (WBTS). The organization is based in Brooklyn, New York.

Jehovah's Witness use many different translations of the Bible so as to get a complete sense of what the original writings meant. The most common translation used, though, is the New World Translation of the **Holy** Scriptures.

It is claimed this is a modern language translation that adheres to the original word meanings as completely and accurately as possible. It also restores the use of **God's** name, **Jehovah** (see **Psalm 83:18**), which they claim can be found in the original manuscripts almost **7000** times (sound like they are saying this name **JEHOVAH** is equal to **YHWH**)? but is omitted in most Bibles commonly used today. The New World Translation was translated by a group of men over a period of many years using the oldest Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek manuscripts available.

Jehovah's Witnesses also use other Bibles for personal study and research, and commonly have the King James Version, the Jerusalem Bible, the Douay Bible, the American Standard Version, The Kingdom Interlinear, the Emphatic Diaglott and the paraphrased Living Bible.

The Basic Theology The basics of the **Jehovah's** Witness Watchtower doctrine: **God** is a single being, not a Trinity. He is not all-knowing or present everywhere. (At one point, the WBTS proclaimed that **God** ruled the universe from somewhere in the Pleiades star system. They have since backed down from this teaching.) First, **God** created **Michael** the Archangel, through whom **God** later created all "other things," such as the earth, the universe, and all mankind. This process took place over exactly **42,000** years.

When it was time for the birth of a savior, Michael became a man, in the form of **Jesus Christ**. He was without sin and kept every law of God. According to **Jehovah's** Witness theology, **Jesus** was put to death on a "torture stake." It is here that He bore the sins of all mankind (except for Adam). Later, **Jesus** rose from death in spirit, but did not rise in physical form. **Jehovah's** Witnesses who faithfully abide by **God's** organization on earth (the WBTS) will be spared from eternal annihilation.

They will live forever on Paradise Earth. Heaven is a special place that is reserved for a distinct group of **144,000 Jehovah's** Witnesses, who have been deemed "born again" by the WBTS and are allowed to take annual communion. Generally, **Jehovah's** Witnesses agree to attend five meetings a week where they are taught from WBTS literature. After studying the material for at least six months, they answer a series of questions before a panel of elders, and upon approval, are baptized into the organization.

Followers are then asked to maintain a modest appearance and demeanor, refusing to vote in government elections, salute the American flag, join the U.S. armed forces, or celebrate birthdays and Christmas. Each member is required to fulfill a schedule of public canvassing in order to distribute WBTS literature and collect donations for WBTS headquarters in New York.

If a **Jehovah's** Witness leaves the organization, he is shunned in all ways. Outside the WBTS organization, "**Christendom**" is considered "demonic." **Christianity** is deemed "apostate," filled with pastors who are **Anti-Christ's**, in churches run by **Satan**, who support the earthly governments.