

Sermon Notes - Jehovah's Witness Compared to What We Believe Pt 1

Topic: Introduction to Jehovah's Witnesses

Scripture Text: Galatians 1:6-9

02/25/2018

"A half truth is a whole lie"

Galatians 1:6-9 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Beginnings

- Its founder, Charles Taze Russel came out of the 7th Day Adventist denomination and began the JW movement in 1870s, Pennsylvania.
- The name Jehovah's Witness was adopted in 1931.

Basis Facts

- In 240 lands
 - 8.4 million JW's
 - Conduct 10 million free home Bible Studies
 - 20 Million attend annual Memorial of Christ's Death
 - Over 120 thousand Congregations
- <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/worldwide/>

Bible and Publications

- The New World Translation is their translation of the biblical manuscripts
- *The Watchtower—Public Edition* is the [most widely circulated magazine](#) in the world, with an average circulation of approximately 70 million copies every four months in 334 languages

Governing Body ("faithful and discreet slave")

- Its RULING council consist of seven to eighteen members based in Warwick, New York
- There is a "faithful and discreet slave" class made up of the anointed ones and their Governing Body to direct affairs of Jehovah's people.

Doctrine

- God – They reject the Trinity and will use it to attack Christians.
- God - His correct name is Jehovah
- Jesus - they do not consider Christ to be fully equal with God.
- Creation – They believe the creative days were not 24-hours but a “period” of time.
- Lords Supper – available to only members of the anointed (144,000).
- Last Days – Present earth will last forever.

Death

- They believe that the body and soul are the same (7th day Adventist doctrine).

The Cross

- They reject that Jesus died on a cross, but instead He died nailed to a stake. and that the cross is in fact a pagan symbol.
- While Christians honor the cross of Christ they reject it.
- During the reign of the Romans, everyone knew the difference between a “stake” and a “cross” crucifixion on the cross was a very common form of roman execution, (I.e. Spartacus)
- See Philippians 2:8, 1 Corinthians 1:18, John 20:25

False Prophecies

There are a number of false predictions made either by Charles Russell, subsequent leaders of the church or the Watchtower Organization itself, including this latest limited sampling:

Jehovah’s Witness said in:

1. **1916 The Millennial Reign Began in 1873**
“The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great 1000 year days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great 7th Day, the 1000 years of Christ’s Reign, began in 1873.” (The Time Is at Hand, page ii)
2. **1922 Jesus Will Return in 1925**
“The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914.” (The Watchtower, September 1st, 1922, page 262)
3. **1925 Jesus May Return in 1925**
“The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during this year. This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own due time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire this year.” (The Watchtower, January 1st, 1925, page 3)
4. **1897 The Millennial Reign Began in 1874**
“ Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874” (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 4, page 621)
5. **1940 Armageddon is Eminent Within the Year**
“The year 1940 is certain to be the most important year yet, because Armageddon is very near.” (Informant, May 1940)
6. **1941 Jesus Will Return in Months**
“Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for

idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon." (The Watchtower, September 15th, 1941, page 288)

7. **1968 Jesus Will Return in 1975**

"Why are you looking forward to 1975?" (The Watchtower, August 15th, 1968, page 494)

8. *"Just think, brothers, there is only 90 months left before 6000 years of man's existence on earth is completed... the majority of people living today will probably be alive when Armageddon breaks out." (Kingdom Mystery, March 1968, page 4)*

<http://coldcasechristianity.com/2014/some-important-questions-for-the-jehovahs-witness-worldview/>

I wonder how they reconcile all these false prophecies with Deuteronomy 18.

Deuteronomy 18:20–22 (NKJV) ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' ²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Do they just ignore Matthew 24:36?

Matthew 24:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

END

Message Scriptures: **Galatians 1:6–9**, *Matthew 28:19*, *1 Corinthians 10:17*, *1 Corinthians 12:13*, *Revelation 21:1*, *Matthew 24:24*, *Matthew 10:16*

Resources:

History of Jehovah's Witnesses

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses

Basic Facts

<https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/worldwide/>

How to Respond to Jehovah's Witnesses by Randall Watters

<http://www.freeminds.org/doctrine/respond.htm>

10 Important Questions for the Jehovah's Witness Worldview

<http://coldcasechristianity.com/2014/some-important-questions-for-the-jehovahs-witness-worldview/>

False doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses reviewed!

<http://crossbearer-brian.tripod.com/id56.htm>

Jehovah's Witnesses Organization

<https://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses>

Jehovah's Witness an Adventist Cult?

http://www.watchtowerlies.com/origins_of_jehovah_s_witnesses.html

Watch Tower Society Unfulfilled Prophecies

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watch_Tower_Society_unfulfilled_predictions

How to Respond to Jehovah's Witnesses

<http://www.freeminds.org/doctrine/respond.htm>

YouTube Video reference to Michael

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bspmOpqE_4s

JW New World Translation Study Bible

<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/bible/study-bible/books/john/5/>

<http://www.lovetoshareministries.com/jehovahs-witnesses/jesus-raised-a-spirit.html>

Names of God

<http://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/names-of-god>

<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/bible-teach/who-is-michael-the-archangel-jesus/>