

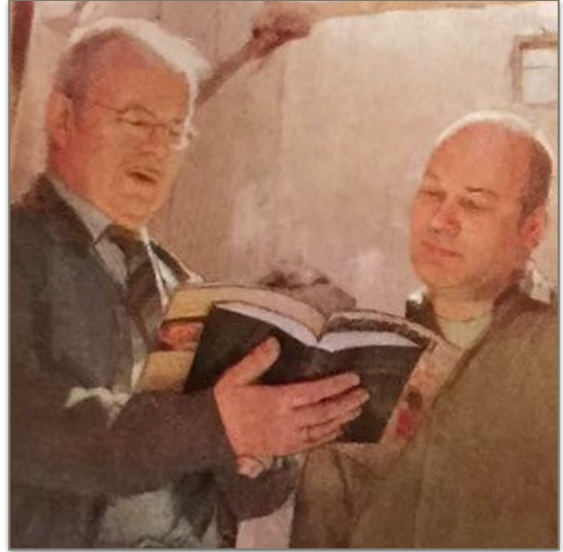
What the Jehovah's Witnesses Believe

Final Authority: The "Governing Body" a group of men who head the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. To reject, disobey, or question the Watchtower's doctrines is to reject, disobey, or question God himself. "The Bible cannot be understood with Jehovah's visible organization in mind"

Examples of Watchtower publications:

- *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines
- *What does the Bible really teach?*

The Bible: *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. The NWT was published by the Watchtower Society and blatantly distorts verses pertaining to Jesus' deity in order to support Watchtower doctrine. For example, in John 1:1 where the Bible says "and the Word was God", the NWT puts "and the word was a god".



Doctrine	Jehovah's Witness	Biblical Christianity
God	The Father alone is the one true Almighty God "Jehovah"	The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit alone are the one true God Jehovah (Genesis 1:1, 26, Isaiah 48:16, 61:11, Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
Jesus	"Jehovah's first creation was his only begotten Son" "Michael was the name of Jesus Christ before he left heaven & after his return"	Almighty God himself, in the flesh! (John 1:1, 14, Colossians 2:8-10, Hebrews 1:8-9, 2 Peter 1:1)
The Holy Spirit	"not a person but is a powerful force that God causes to emanate from himself" Reasoning from the Scriptures pg 381	Almighty God himself (2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Ephesians 4:30, Isaiah 63:10, Acts 5:3-4, 10:19-21, Psalm 51:11)
Jesus' resurrection	"We deny he was raised in the flesh". When Jesus died, he became nonexistent and was recreated 3 days later as Michael, devoid of a human body	Jesus was raised from the dead in the same body in which He was buried, but now glorified (Luke 24:36-43, John 20:24-29, 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)
Salvation	Believe in Jehovah and Jesus, carefully follow the Watchtower's commands (eg get baptized, go door to door, don't do blood transfusions etc), and *maybe* you'll make it through Armageddon. 144,000 will reign with Jesus in heaven. Everyone else will be "resurrected" and live on renewed earth.	Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Not by works that no one may boast! "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:5-8, 10:13, John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

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Watchtower Failed Prophecies:

- **1874:** Date for Christ's "invisible presence," changed to 1914
- **1914:** End of the world
- **1915:** Replaced 1914 for the end of the world
- **1918:** End of the world, the destruction of churches
- **1925:** End of the world with the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- **1929:** "Beth Sarim" House of Princes built in San Diego, deeded to king David and other biblical prophets for their "soon" return upon the earth
- **1940's:** End of the World would come with the "soon" battle of Armageddon
- **1975:** 6,000-years of human history, the end of the world would come within "months, not years."
- **1994:** 80-year Generation of 1914 should bring the end of the world
- **1995** redefined the word "generation" to be symbolic of general readiness for the end.

There are 4 classes of people.

The anointed class: 144,000 JWs. They are the only ones "born again" and part of the New Covenant. They are the only ones who can eat the bread and wine and will be with Jesus/Michael in heaven. Jesus/Michael is only the mediator of the anointed class. The anointed class consists "the Governing Body" and the Watchtower's elite i.e. the super JWs.

The great crowd: faithful JWs who will survive Armageddon and will live forever in a paradise earth. Those who died before Armageddon will be "resurrected" (i.e. recreated) to also live forever in a paradise earth.

Non-Jehovah's Witnesses: Every non-JW is under Satan's control and will ultimately be annihilated i.e. cease to exist. JWs don't believe in eternal conscious torment in hell.

Apostates: Existing JWs are under a constant threat of being disfellowshipped. If a JW becomes defiant to the Watchtower Society and begins to question their doctrines and doubt them they could get shunned, a harsh and brutal process which destroys families, absolutely forbidding existing JWs to even say "Hi" to the disfellowshipped friend or even family member, *for the rest of their lives*, or until they re-embrace Watchtower doctrine.

How to Witness to a Jehovah's Witness

Be thoroughly grounded in the Word of God and sound doctrine: If you don't have a good grasp of the Bible and biblical theology (deity of Christ, the Trinity, the sufficiency of Scripture), you could easily get tangled up in their convoluted passionately defended heresies. Therefore, "be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Preach the truth in love: God is the one who regenerates sinners' hearts. Our job is to patiently, kindly, persuasively proclaim the truth of God's word to them. And remember that they're image bearers of the living God i.e. regular people like you and me who love their families and jokes and good food and sports.