

So What's The Difference?

By: Fritz Ridenour

Chapter Eight: Jehovah's Witness: There Is No Hell...Hard Work Earns "Paradise"

PLUMB LINE: 1 Cor. 15:3-4

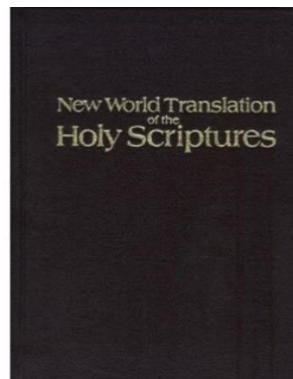
Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...he was buried...he was Raised on the third day according to the Scriptures



<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LAN/Urmston/KingdomHall.shtml>

Introduction

- Jehovah's Witnesses are officially called The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (WTBTS)
- One of the Jehovah's Witnesses tools is The Watchtower Society's own version of the Bible, *The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (NWT)*.



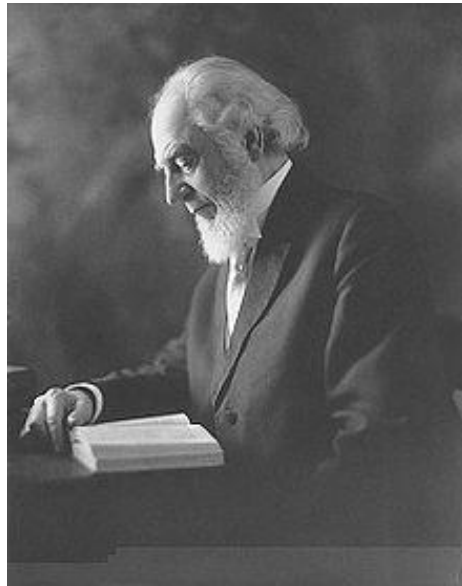
<http://www.amazon.com/New-World-Translation-Holy-Scriptures/dp/images/B000GBRC7W>

- The JWs are totally convinced by Watchtower headquarters that all those who disagree with them-particularly biblical Christians-are not only wrong but are mortal **enemies** who will finally be destroyed by Jehovah at the great battle of Armageddon, which is yet to come.
- JWs are tightly controlled by Watchtower headquarters and are constantly told they cannot **interpret** the Bible for themselves in any way; they must avoid independent thinking; they are never to question the counsel provided by the Watchtower. (1 Thessalonians. 5:21)



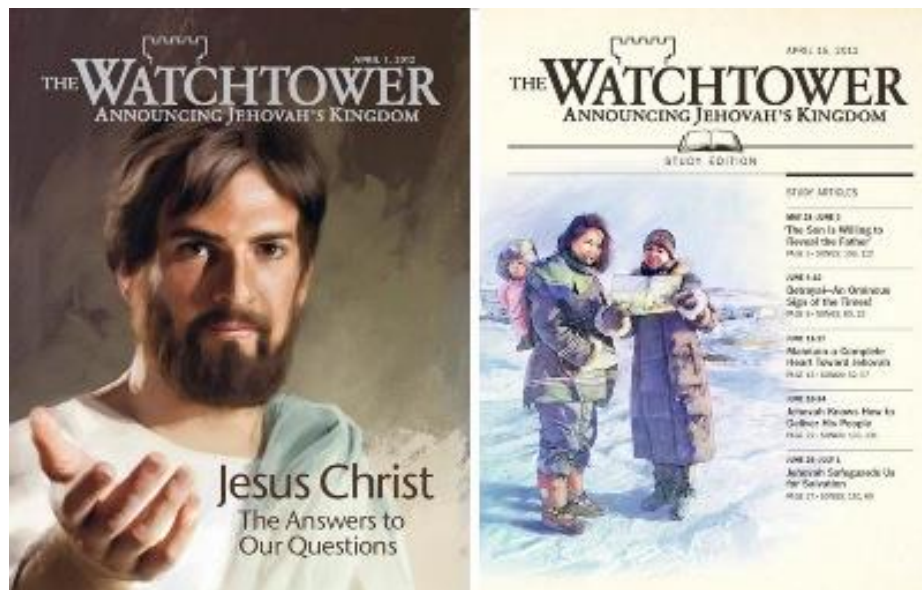
<http://jwsurvey.org/cedars-blog/new-light-watchtower-magazine-leaked-from-organization-weeks-ahead-of-general-release>

Charles Taze Russell: How It All Began



<http://associazione-legittimista-italica.blogspot.com/2012/02/la-massoneria-e-le-origini-dei.html>

- The roots go back to Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916) who, as a teenager, rejected many of the views taught in his **Congregational** church, particularly the doctrines of hell and the Trinity, which struck him as unreasonable. (Isa. 55:8-9)
- At the age of 18, Russell formed his own Bible study and began developing his own system of theology, emphasizing the second coming of Christ, which many predicted would happen in **1874**. When it didn't happen, Russell was further influenced by some who decided that Christ's coming had happened in a "spiritual and invisible way" in 1874.
- In 1879, Russell launched his own magazine, eventually known as **The Watchtower**.
- Russell set 1914 as the year of the battle of Armageddon when God would destroy all present governments of the earth, end "**Gentile times**" and establish His kingdom.
- Russell moved his headquarters from Pennsylvania to New York City.
- Russell financed his magazine with personal income from his profitable men's clothing business.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Watchtower_Magazine_English_issues.jpg

- Russell never had any formal theological training, and his tempestuous career included his exposure in court in 1912 as a perjurer.
- He claimed to know the **Greek** alphabet, but under examination he could not read Greek letters.

- Nonetheless, he wrote a six-book series called **Studies** in the Scriptures, which he described as “practically the Bible itself.”
- Russell died in 1916 after claiming that the beginning of World War I, which started in 1914, was also the beginning of **Armageddon**.
- JW history tried to continue the predictions for the end of the world.

Rutherford Sets New Date For Armageddon

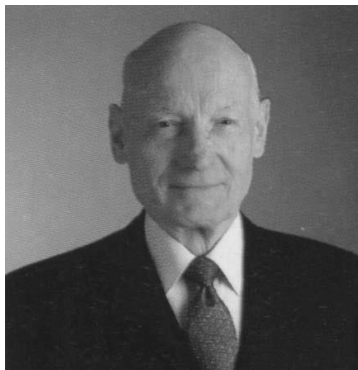
- Joseph F. Rutherford, a lawyer who had served as legal advisor to the WTBT, became its new president.
- Rutherford set **1925** as a new date for Armageddon. This was widely advertised across the nation, particularly in *The Watchtower*, as being not of man but of God and “absolutely and unqualifiedly correct.”
- In 1931, Rutherford adopted the new name for the Society-**Jehovah’s Witnesses**-taken from Isaiah 43:10 (KJV): “Ye are my witnesses, saith (Jehovah).”



http://www.jehovahs-witness.net/watchtower/beliefs/184456/1/Why-Joe-Rutherford-was-a-JUDGE#.UvF_NqyPI2w

- Rutherford started the door-to-door visitation program. At first one of Rutherford’s main goals was to increase membership, which he attempted to do by spreading the word that only **144,000** people were going to make it to heaven.
- As converts grew, Rutherford announced that everyone who had become a JW before 1935 would go to heaven (the “**little flock**”), while everyone who became a JW after 1935 would be among the “**great crowd**” who would not go to heaven but could look forward to living on Earth in a new paradise after Armageddon and the Millennium.

- 1940 was to be the “most important year yet.” In 1941, the WTBTs mentioned “there were just a few remaining months before Armageddon.”
- Rutherford died in 1942 and Nathan Knorr became president and wrote anonymously.
- In 1943, the WTBTs released a book entitled *The Truth Shall Make You **Free***, which was the first step in coming up with a new dating system teaching that Jesus had not returned invisibly in 1874, as Russell had taught. The new Watchtower revelation taught that Christ had returned invisibly in 1914; and, in accordance with Matthew 24:34, the generation that had been alive in 1914 would **not** “pass away” before Armageddon would occur.
- During Knorr’s presidency, JW taught that the latest-and certainly the “absolutely final”-date for Armageddon would be **1975**.
- In 1977, Frederick Franz, Watchtower’s vice president, succeeded Knorr as president. Touted as the Watchtower’s most “knowledgeable” Hebrew scholar, Franz suffered the same fate during a court trial as did Charles Russell.
- In Franz’s case, he had to confess he could not cast a simple Bible verse (Gen. 2:4) back into **Hebrew**, even though he claimed he was knowledgeable in Greek and Hebrew, as well as many other languages.
- During Franz term as president, he was steadfast in teaching that persons alive during 1914 would definitely experience **Armageddon**.
- Franz died in 1992 at the age of 99, and JWs were running out of time for people who had been alive in 1914.
- Franz’s successor, 72-year-old Milton G. Henschel discarded the entire 1914 generation prophecy in 1995 by producing more “**new light**”.



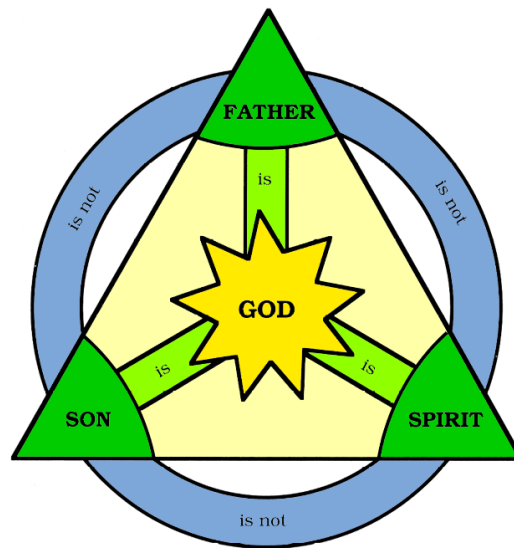
<http://www.watchtower.org.pl/fotokopie.php>

- Henschel stated that the word “generation” had nothing to do with individuals who had been alive in 1914; now it simply applied to all people of the earth in

any generation who would see the signs of Christ's coming but "fail to mend their ways."

Jehovah's Witnesses Deny the Trinity

- JWs believe that the doctrine of the Trinity is an **insult** to "God-given intelligence and reason." And, because God is not a God of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33), they reason that He would never author such a confusing doctrine; Satan is the author instead.
- JWs point out that the word "Trinity" is not in the bible, and this adds to the **unbiblical** nature of the term.



<http://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVarticles/TrinityGodIsThreeInOne.html>

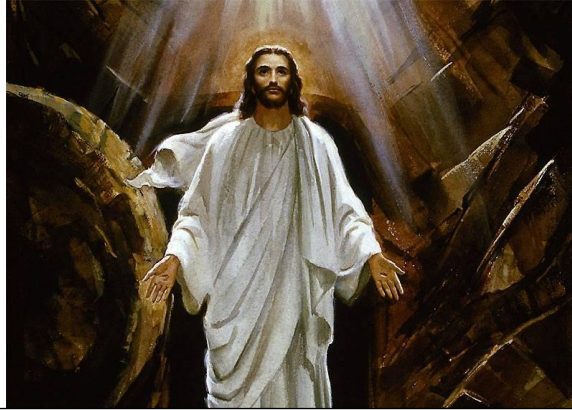
- An obvious response is that the word "Bible" is not in the Scriptures either. Nor is the word "theocracy" (a favorite JW term for God's rulership).
- The **concept** of the Trinity is definitely in the Bible. (Daniel 7:13-14; Matt. 28:9- Jesus accepted worship).
- Genesis 1:26 Jehovah speaks in the plural, saying, "Let *us* make man in *our* image". See also Gen. 11:7; Isa. 6:8).
- While the Old Testament suggests **plurality** in the Godhead, the New Testament states it clearly. Three distinct, divine persons of the Trinity are specifically mentioned in John 14:26; 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; and 1 Peter 1:2.

Jehovah's Witnesses Deny Christ's Deity

- JWs teach a kind of **polytheism** with their doctrine of "two gods."

- They say Jehovah is the *Almighty God* who created Jesus.
- Then Jesus, the **mighty god**, created everything else.
- JWs say Jesus Christ had been the archangel Michael in heaven before He came to Earth.
- JWs twist the scriptural phrase “the only **begotten** Son of God” (John 1:14,18; 3:16,18), claiming that Jesus was the “first and only being created directly by Jehovah.”
- Begotten is translated monogenes from monos-only.
- Only John uses monogenes to describe the relation of Jesus to God the Father, presenting Him as the **unique** One, the only One (monos) of the family (genos), in the discussion of the relationship of the Son to the Father.
- Jesus is never called teknon, child of God as the believers are.
- This word monogenes is to be differentiated from gennaō, to **beget** or generate.
- JWs try to prove Jesus was a **created** being.
- In any reputable translation of the Greek, John 1:1 clearly states, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.”
- In the NWT, however, the JWs translate the verse, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was **a god**”
- NWT misconstrues Colossians 1:15-20 by describing Jesus not as “first born over all creation,” a term showing His preeminence, but as “first **created**” by God.
- Colossians 1:16 goes on to say that Jesus is the preeminent One, because through Him “all things were created.”
- The JW translation inserts the word “other” into the passage in several more places to make it look as if Jesus were created first by God, and then He created “**all other things**.” The problem, of course, is that the word “other” is simply not there in the Greek text.

Jehovah’s Witnesses Deny Jesus’ bodily resurrection

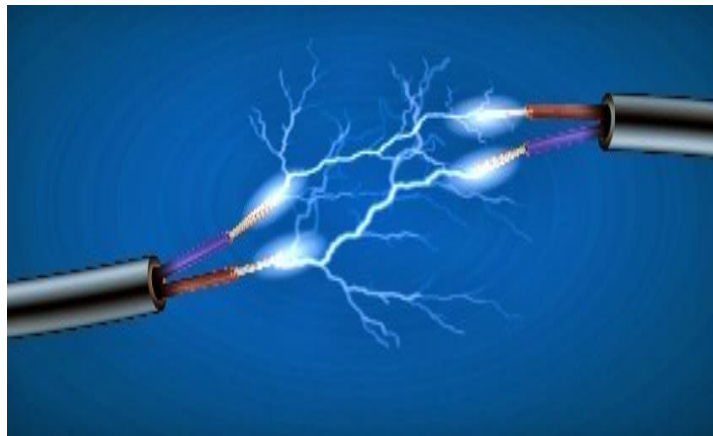


<http://www.australianmarianacademy.blog.com/2011/05/23/christ%E2%80%99s-resurrection-conquered-wall-of-spiritual-death-pope-explains/>

- The JWs feel that the body and soul are one and when the body dies, God must re-create the “life pattern” of a person, and He can easily do this by retrieving that life pattern from His **memory**.

Jehovah’s Witnesses Deny the Holy Spirit is God

- The WTBTs teaches that the Holy Spirit is an “invisible act or **force**” that God uses to inspire His servants (JWs) to do His will.
- According to the Watchtower, the “holy spirit” is like **electricity**. (Acts 13:2, Romans 8:14, 26-27; 1 Cor. 12:11; Heb. 3:7 and Rev. 2:7).



<https://8factss.blogspot.com/2013/09/five-interesting-facts-about-electricity.html>

Jehovah's Witnesses Deny Christ's Full atonement



- JWs may say that salvation is “of grace,” but nowhere will you find anything saying salvation is by **faith** in Christ alone. (John 5:24, 11:25; 20:31; Rom. 3:24-25; 10:9-10). JWs are working their way to heaven.
- JWs say that Christ was a “ransom to God for Adam’s sin,” but what they means is Christ (Michael the Archangel in human form and not equal to God) was a sort of **fair trade** to pay for Adam’s sin.
- Salvation comes through **works** and perfect obedience to Jehovah and by being and doing exactly what the WTBTs teaches.

The Last Days According to the Watchtower

- According to the Watchtower, during the Millennium the earth will be repopulated by faithful JWs who survive **Armageddon**, plus billions of people who are “resurrected” (re-created from Jehovah’s memory bank).
- During the Millennium, those on Earth will be taught the truth (as JWs see it) and constantly evaluated on how faithful they are to Jehovah.
- At the end of the 1,000 years, there will be a final test when **Satan** and his demons are let loose from the abyss where they have been imprisoned.
- They will challenge Jehovah and tempt His people.
- The faithful will be rewarded with everlasting life on a paradise Earth while those led astray will suffer a final horrible fate.

How to Answer Jehovah's Witnesses with Love

- The late Walter Martin stated that every Christian needs to be absolutely **sure** of what the Bible teaches regarding the Trinity, Jesus' deity and resurrection, the Holy Spirit and salvation through grace, not works. (1 Pet. 3:15).
- Above all, you need to know Christ is, indeed, God and He died for our **sins** and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.



<https://hosanna-lutheran.org/cropped-jesus-resurrection-easter-sunday-and-cross-web-header3-jpg/>

Summing Up Major Differences Between Jehovah's Witnesses and Christians

Regarding Authority

- Jehovah's Witnesses are not allowed to do independent thinking.
- They must obey the Watchtower Society's teaching.
- Christians depend upon the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- The Bible is the ultimate authority for the Christian. (Acts 5:29; 17:11; 1 John 2:26-27).

Regarding the Trinity, Christ's deity, and the Resurrection

- Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the Trinity.
- They believe Jesus is a mighty God but not Jehovah.
- They believe Jesus was raised from the grave not in a human body but in spirit.
- Christians believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three in one. (Matthew 3:13-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

- Christians believe Jesus rose from the grave in a bodily form; He was touched by the disciples; and ate with them.

Regarding Salvation

- Jehovah's Witnesses believe Christ's death provided a pathway to salvation through works.
- Christians believe Christ paid for all sin and believers are freely justified by God's grace. (Romans 3:24-25; 5:12-19; 1 Peter 2:24).

Regarding Christ's Return and Man's Immortality

- Jehovah's Witnesses believe only 144,000 of the original Witnesses will spend eternity in heaven. The remaining will work for a place in an earthly paradise.
- Christians believe that all those who put their faith in Christ will spend eternity with Him. (John 14:1-4).