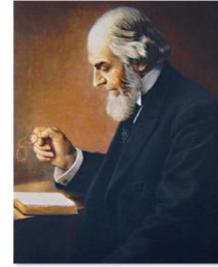




SESSION 3 Jehovah's Witnesses

Zoom Meeting ID: 436 198 7805

Password: 126034



Charles Taze Russell

Founder: Charles Taze Russell (b Feb. 16, 1852; d Oct 31, 1916.).

A good and successful leader, with "many, colorful legal entanglements and scandals."

Actually, he used the teachings of Arias of Alexandria (4 BC)

Publications: "Awake!"

"Watchtower" (Earlier known as "Herald of the Morning" - 1879)



Key Dates

1870 Russell forms –Started a Bible Class in Pittsburgh to reject doctrine of eternal punishment

1879 Russell begins publishing the "Herald"

1884 Russell begins "Zion's Watchtower Tract Society"

1886 Russell begins 7 volume books "Studies in the Scriptures" (orig. "The Millennial Dawn")

1908 Headquarters moves to New York City (in Brooklyn today)

1917 After Russell's death seventh volume, "The Finished Mystery" causes split

1917 Clean Split - larger group followed Rutherford now called "Jehovah's Witnesses"
Russell's group--The Dawn Bible Students Association

Setting- America was founded by godly men and women in the 1600 and 1700's. Even a casual observation of literature and architecture reveals this clearly. However, with great prosperity and freedom the next generations forgot God. During this _____ there was a great swell of spiritism and occultism that swept our nation including political, educational and philosophical leaders. Christianity's reaction to all of this was complacency and mockery. I wonder if God did not permit a Civil War to get us back to Him.

It is during this Satanic _____ that several key movements flourished.

Check the list:

Mormonism - Joseph Smith, Brigham Young early 1800s

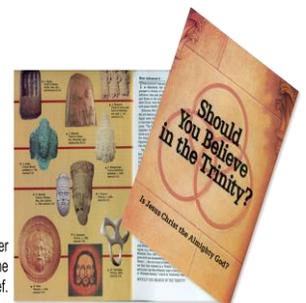
Evolution - Charles Darwin mid 1800s

Christian Science - Mary Baker Eddy mid 1800s

Jehovah's Witnesses - Charles Taze Russell mid 1800s

Spiritism - Fox Sisters mid 1800s

Unity School - mid 1800s

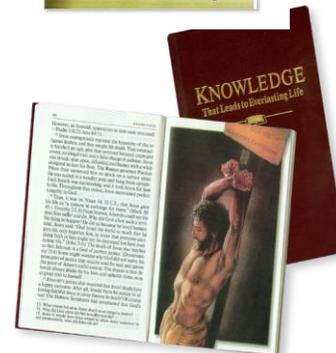


Widely-distributed Watchtower literature that tries to show that the Trinity is a pagan belief.

Practical: The most attacked doctrines are the _____ and the _____.

Basic Beliefs of Russellites or Jehovah's Witnesses

1. **One God**—Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus was a lesser "god" created _____ by Jehovah.
2. **Salvation**---Begins with work of Jesus, ends with your faithfulness. Immortality is a reward for your hard work and faithfulness. No eternal hell---annihilation. Kingdom of Heaven only _____ enter.
3. **Jesus**---A lesser god, spirit creature. The 1st creation by God. Jehovah made the universe through Him. Jesus is not God. Before He lived on earth, He was Michael, the archangel. On earth He was a man who lived a perfect life. He died on a _____ not a cross. He rose from dead as a "spirit creature." Returned to earth "invisibly" in 1914, expelled Satan, & is setting up the Theocratic Millennial Kingdom. Very soon, Jesus and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.
4. **Bible**---Originally, inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God
5. **Man**--Created in image of Jehovah, willfully sinned. We need to follow Christ until death to inherit the Kingdom, Human governments are the _____ organization.
6. **Satan**--- a great angel who rebelled, destiny is death by _____.
7. **Holy Spirit**--Impersonal "holy spirit" is not God, but rather an invisible, active _____ from Jehovah.
8. **Afterlife**--The 144,000 live as spirits in heaven. The rest of the righteous, the "great crowd," on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1,000 years or be annihilated.
9. **Other Beliefs/Practices**--Meet in "Kingdom Halls" instead of churches. Also known as the *International Bible Students Association*. Forbidden to use the cross as a symbol. Active members are encouraged to distribute literature door-to-door, initiate "book studies" in homes of potential converts. Once a year, followers observe "the Lord's Evening Meal" (communion); only "anointed ones" may partake. Do not observe birthdays or holidays (such as Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving). Forbidden to vote or run for _____. Forbidden to _____. Forbidden to work in the military. Forbidden to accept blood transfusions.



October 1, 2009 issue of The Watchtower magazine

Witnessing---You will not convince a JW that of anything by just quoting scripture verses. The doctrine of the Trinity is what is under attack, especially the deity of Christ. You must start at the beginning basics and define terms.

The term "Trinity" must be defined. To the JW the Trinity is _____ in one. But that is not the Christian, Biblical definition at all.

We believe that there is in the nature of ONE God, three distinct _____.

Here is the basic flow of logic that will need to be used.

- P1 If we can prove that there are three persons called God, or Jehovah
- P2 And if there is only one Jehovah God, then
- C All there are the same Jehovah God

STEP BY STEP WITNESSING TO JW's

Step 1 Is there a person called the Father?

For He received honor and glory from **God the Father** when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." 2 Peter 1:17

Is the Father Jehovah? (they will answer quickly here "yes")

Step 2 Is there a person called the Son?

For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is **My Son**, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." 2 Peter 1:17

So Is the Son Jehovah? Let's see from the Old Testament

Old Testament approach

Exodus 3:11 God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: **I AM** has sent me to you."

John 8:51-58; 10:30-33

51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps My word, He will never see death."

52 At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" 54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies Me. 55 Though you do not know Him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; He saw it and was glad."

57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to Him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I AM!**" 30 **I and the Father are one.**" 31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone Me?"

33 "We are not stoning You for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because You, a mere man, **claim to be God.**"

NOTE: The JW NWT (1950) translation will have a footnote on John 8:58...saying that "I am" should be the "imperfect indefinite tense"—"I have been." Problem---there is no such tense.

Is the Son Jehovah? Let's look in the New Testament....

New Testament approach

Revelation 1:8

8 "I Am the **Alpha and the Omega**," says the **Lord God**, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, **the Almighty**" *Who is this?*

Revelation 22:7,12,13

7 "Behold, I Am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.".... 12 "Behold, I Am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what He has done. **13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**

Revelation 22:16,20 (same passage)

16 "**I, Jesus**, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star" 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, **Lord Jesus**.

13 I Am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 1:12-17 Who is this? Obviously, Jesus

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. **I am the First and the Last.**

Isaiah 44:6

6 "This is what the LORD says— Israel's King and Redeemer, **the LORD Almighty: I Am the first and I Am the last;** apart from me there is no God.

Is the Son Jehovah?

Let's look at another New Testament section.....Hebrews 1:1-8

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven. 4 So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are My Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be His Father, and He will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him." 7 In speaking of the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, His servants flames of fire."

8 But about the Son He[Jehovah] says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Is the Son Jehovah?

Is there a person called the Spirit in the Bible?

Matthew 28:19

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the **name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

If the three were different persons it would be "name**S**"of

Is the Spirit Jehovah God?Acts 5:3,4

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have **lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, ~~wasn't the money at your disposal?~~ What made you think of doing such a thing? **You have not lied to men but to God.**"

Other Thoughts: Trinity is not 1+1+1=3, it is 1 x 1 x 1= 1.

Also, water example it can exist as steam, ice and water. It's still H2O

John 14:28 paradox?? See Philippians 2:1-10, Colossians 1:1-20, Matthew 28:19.

Millennial verses not fulfilled. 144,000 are clearly Jews.

The JW movement is growing due to the lack of basic Bible knowledge on the part of Christians.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE!!

ANSWERS:

Godless Period, Incubation Period, Trinity, Deity of Christ,
144,000, Stake, Devils, Annihilation, Force, Public Office, Salute the
Flag, Three Gods, Persons