

A N S W E R S  
F O R O U R  
J E H O V A H ' S  
W I T N E S S  
F R I E N D S



theLighthouse

# Beginnings

## Founding Father - Charles T. Russell

- Raised in a protestant church in Pennsylvania
- Age of 17 he rebelled the teaching of the church: hell, eternal judgment and the Trinity
- Age 18 came under the teaching of Jonas Wendall a Seventh-day Adventist who "specialized in Bible prophecy."
- He organized a Bible study of 6 members and began to publish his own theology in a series of volumes called "Studies in Scripture."
- In 1884 he incorporated the organization called The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.
- In 1887 he joint published a book that prophesied that in 1914 Christ would return.
- When Christ did not return in 1914, he revised the definition that the Second Coming meant that Christ would return as an invisible spirit to help set up his organization.
- Wife divorced him citing: "his conceit, egotism, domination, and improper conduct in relation to other women."
- He tried to pay the \$6,000 alimony settlement by selling miracle wheat seeds claiming they would grow five times more than any other wheat seeds. His claim was later discredited in court. They were found to be inferior not superior.
- In 1912 a pastor of a Christian church published a pamphlet against Russell and his views. Russell sued him for libel and during the trial Russell claim he was an expert in the Greek language. When the lawyer handed him a Greek NT, Russell was forced to admit publicly that he was completely unfamiliar with Greek.
- Russell died in 1916 as a false prophet.

## Joseph Franklin Rutherford

- Under his leadership that the name Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) began to be used.
- This phrase was used because he claimed Jesus Christ is not God, but Jehovah alone is God.
- Theocratic belief:
  - JW are God's true government on Earth
  - All other governments are satanic
  - They do not salute the flag
  - They will never recite the Pledge of Allegiance
  - They will never serve in the Armed Forces
- Other beliefs:
  - Don't celebrate Christmas (deny incarnation of Jesus)
  - Don't celebrate Easter (deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus)
  - Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Church Age ended in 1914, so they meet in Kingdom Halls.
  - Will not take a blood transfusion
- Promoted the idea of Armageddon coming soon and that only 144,000 would be going to heaven. They did this by the door-to-door approach to gain membership.
- In 1935 the organization grew more than 144K. Rutherford then had another "revelation" from God and claimed that everyone who became a JW before 1935 would go to heaven but those who

became a JW after would remain here on earth and live in a new paradise.

- False Prophet:
  - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would return visibly on the earth between 1925-1929 to help promote the Kingdom of God and build a large mansion for them to live in.
  - 1929 came and went and the patriarchs never showed up.
  - He moved into the mansion himself and lived there till he died in 1942.

### Nathan H. Knorr

- Under his leadership that the organization developed its strong missionary outreach along with a new translation of the Bible.
- The New World Translation bible
  - Claim that 5 Greek scholars did the translation (not revealed who)
  - Gross errors in this translation and was obviously produced as an attempt to make the Bible fit their theology.
  - The Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watchtower Society realized that their beliefs contradicted Scripture. So, rather than conforming their beliefs to Scripture, they altered Scripture to agree with their beliefs.
    - The New World Translation (NWT) renders the Greek term word *staurós* ("cross") as "torture stake" because Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus was crucified on a cross.
    - The NWT does not translate the words *sheol*, *hades*, *gehenna*, and *tartarus* as "hell" because Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in hell.

- The NWT gives the translation "presence" instead of "coming" for the Greek word *parousia* because Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Christ has already returned in the early 1900s.
- In Colossians 1:16, the NWT inserts the word "other" despite its being completely absent from the original Greek text. It does this to give the view that "all other things" were created by Christ, instead of what the text says, "all things were created by Christ." This is to go along with their belief that Christ is a created being, which they believe because they deny the Trinity.
- The most well-known of all the NWT perversions is John 1:1. The original Greek text reads, "the Word was God." The NWT renders it as "the word was a god." This is not a matter of correct translation, but of reading one's preconceived theology into the text, rather than allowing the text to speak for itself. There is no indefinite article in Greek (in English, "a" or "an"), so any use of an indefinite article in English must be added by the translator. This is grammatically acceptable, so long as it does not change the meaning of the text.
  - <https://www.gotquestions.org/New-World-Translation.html>
- Prophesied through *The Watchtower Magazine* and *Awake! Magazine* that in 1975 was going to be the end of the age and that the battle of Armageddon would occur.
  - 1975 came and went and Armageddon did not occur.
  - 1976 and 1977 over a million Jehovah's Witnesses left the Watchtower

- Knorr passed away in 1977.

*Deuteronomy 18:20-22 New International Version (NIV)*

**20** *But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."*

**21** *You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?"* **22** *If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord **does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken.** That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.*

## **Five Important Facts**

- 1) They have accepted the Watch Tower Society as the prophet from of God.
- 2) They have accepted the Watch Tower Society as God's sole channel for His truth.
- 3) They believe that to reject the Watch Tower Society is to reject God.
- 4) They believe that only the Watch Tower Society can interpret the bible; as individuals they are unable to do so.
- 5) They believe that *The Watchtower Magazine* contains God's truth, direct by Him, through the organization.

## **Conflict with Christianity**

- 1) That Jesus is a created being – a creature.
- 2) That Jesus is Michael the Archangel.
- 3) That Jesus was not resurrected bodily, but as a spirit being.
- 4) That Jesus returned invisibly in 1914 secretly to the Watch Tower Society.
- 5) That Jesus was only a man when on earth, not "the Word become flesh."
- 6) That the Holy Spirit is only an active force, not the Person of the God.
- 7) That hell is simply the grave.
- 8) That heaven's doors are open to only 144,000 people.
- 9) That the majority of Witnesses must remain on earth.
- 10) That salvation is found only through the organization.
- 11) That salvation can only be maintained only by energetic works for the organization until the end when one may the merit eternal life on a paradise earth.
- 12) That Satan is the author of the doctrine of the Trinity.
- 13) That Jesus cannot be given worship, only honor as Jehovah's first creation.



# Answers for Our Jehovah's Witness Friends

## 1) The Trinity

*Matthew 28:19 (NIV)*

**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**,

*2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)*

**14** May the grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the **love of God**, and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.

*Luke 1:35 (NIV)*

**35** The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit** will come on you, and the power of the **Most High** will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God**."

## 2) The Deity of Christ

*John 17:11 (NIV)*

**11** I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, **so that they may be one as we are one**.

*John 1:18 (NIV)*

**18** No one has ever seen **God**, but the one and only **Son**, who is **himself God** and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

*John 20:28 (NIV)*

**28** Thomas said to Him (Jesus), "My Lord and **my God!**"

Colossians 2:9-10

**9** For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, **10** and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

**9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
**10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,**  
**in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**  
**11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,**  
to the glory of God the Father.

John 2:19

**19** “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

### **3) The Bodily Resurrection of Christ**

Matthew 28:6 (NIV)

**6** He is not here; **he has risen**, just as he said. Come and see the place **where he lay**.

Luke 24:39 (NIV)

**39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; **a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**”

1 Corinthians 15:4 (NIV)

**4** that he **was buried**, that he **was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,

#### **4) The Visible Return of Christ**

*Matthew 24:30 (NIV)*

**30** “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they **see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven**, with power and great glory.

*Acts 1:11 (NIV)*

**11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV)*

**16** For the **Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

#### **5) The Person of God the Holy Spirit**

*Ezekiel 36:27 (ESV)*

**. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

*Romans 8:9 (ESV)*

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the **Spirit**, if in fact the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.

*2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)*

Now **the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

## **6) The Promise of Heaven to All Believers**

John 14:3 (ESV)

**3** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, **that where I am you may be also.***

Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

**31** *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. **34** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

***41** “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

***46** And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life.**”*

## **7) The Necessity of the New Birth for All Believers**

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

**8** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is **not from yourselves, it is the gift of God***

Titus 2:11 (NIV)

**11** *For the grace of God has appeared that **offers salvation to all people.***

Titus 3:3 -8

**3** *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **4** But when the*

kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **8** This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that **those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.** These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

## **8) The Lord's Supper for All Believers and Not Just for the 144,000**

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NIV)

**23** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**27** So then, **whoever** eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28 Everyone** ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

1 Corinthians 10:15-17

**15** I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. **16** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?**17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.**

## **9) The Eternal Security of the Believer**

*John 3:16 (ESV)*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***

*John 10:27-29 (ESV)*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and **no one will snatch them out of my hand.** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.***

*Romans 8:38-39 (ESV)*

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

*2 Corinthians 1:20-22*

***20** For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. **21** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, **22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.***

*Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)*

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption***

## **10) The Conscious Eternal Punishment of the Lost**

*Matthew 25:46 (ESV)*

*And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

Mark 9:43-48 (ESV)

*And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to **hell, to the unquenchable fire**. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into **hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'***

Matthew 13:50 (ESV)

*And throw them into the **fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

*And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the **lake of fire and sulfur** where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be **tortured day and night forever and ever.***

Luke 16:19-24 (ESV)

***19** "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21** who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23** and in **Hades, being in torment**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. **24** And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for **I am in anguish in this flame.**'*

## Conclusion

### 2 John 7-11

**7** I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. **8** Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. **9** Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. **11** Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

\*Some study and information on this topic was done from the book *Fast Facts on False Religions* by Ron Carlson and Ed Decker