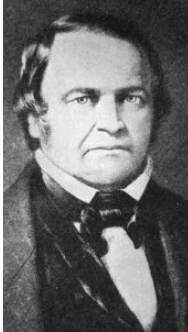





Jehovah's Witnesses: Influences



- ◉ William Miller (1782-1849)
- ◉ Rejected his Baptist roots and became a Deist
- ◉ Was a 33° mason
- ◉ After military he asked questions about afterlife
- ◉ This led him back to his Baptist roots.
- ◉ Studied the 2nd coming of Christ

Jehovah's Witnesses: Influences




- ◉ Predicted the return of Christ in 1843
- ◉ When it failed he revised it to 1844
- ◉ Followers said something happened in heaven
- ◉ Died in 1849

Jehovah's Witnesses: Influences

- ◉ Faithful Millerites became known as Adventists
- ◉ Seventh-day Adventist under Ellen G. White
- ◉ More recently the Branch Davidians.
- ◉ Adventists deny hell and anticipate Christ's return and judgment

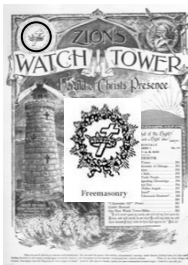
Jehovah's Witnesses: History



Charles T. Russell (1852-1916)

- ◉ Struggled with idea of the Trinity, deity of Christ and hell
- ◉ 1870: adopted Adventist Jonas Wendell's annihilation view
- ◉ Started a Bible class of "Bible Students"
- ◉ 1874: meet Adventist, Nelson H. Barbour who taught that Christ would come in 1878

Jehovah's Witnesses: History



- ◉ 1879: created "Zion's Watch Tower"
- ◉ Initial printing 6,000 copies
- ◉ Taught Christ had returned invisibly in 1878
- ◉ Christians raptured in 1910
- ◉ End of the world in 1914

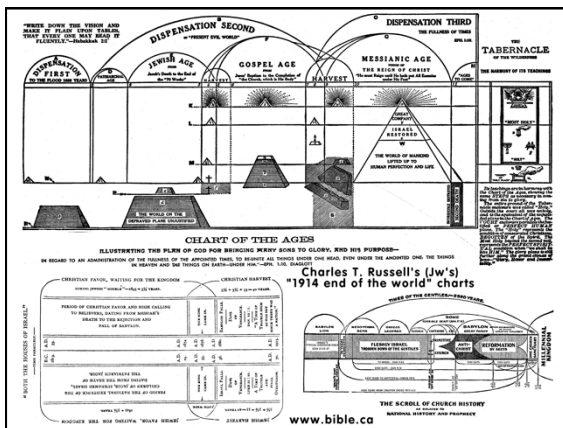
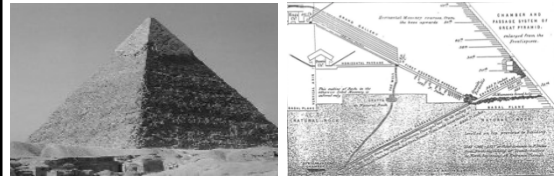
Jehovah's Witnesses: History

"We see no reason for changing the figures — nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God's dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble."

Tower p. 1677.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: History

- Believed God had designed Egyptian pyramids
- Measured design of pyramids to determine second coming of Christ



Jehovah's Witnesses: History

- 1879: married Maria F. Ackley
- Appointed her Secretary-Treasurer of the society and associate editor of the Watchtower
- Gave him complete control over the society and finances



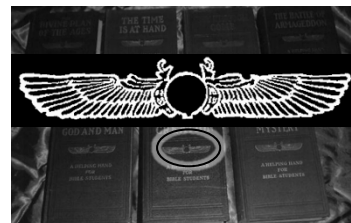
Jehovah's Witnesses: History



- 1881: Formed the legal entity "The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania"
- 1882: Officially attacked the Trinity in his publications
- 1909: Establish headquarters in Brooklyn, NY

Jehovah's Witnesses: History

- 1886: Published the first in a series of seven books called "Scripture Studies"
- Sixth volume published in 1904
- Seventh published in 1917 after his death



Jehovah's Witnesses: History



"If the six volumes of 'Scripture Studies' are practically the Bible, topically arranged with Bible proof texts given, we might not improperly name the volumes 'the Bible in arranged form,' that is to say, they are not mere comments on the Bible, but they are practically the Bible itself. Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see also, that if anyone lays the Scripture Studies aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for 10 years...

Jehovah's Witnesses: History



If he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood the Bible for 10 years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the Scripture Studies with their references and had not read a page of the Bible as such, he would be in the light at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures." (Charles T. Russell. *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1910, p. 298.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: History



- ◎ 1912: Convicted of financial fraud
- ◎ Lied in court about being ordained and knowing Greek
- ◎ 1913: Maria sued for divorce for "his conceit, egotism, domination, and improper conduct in relation to other women"

Jehovah's Witnesses: History



Joseph F. Rutherford (1869-1942)

- ◎ 1917: elected as president
- ◎ Proclaimed himself as mouthpiece of Jehovah
- ◎ Denounced all other religions
- ◎ Denounced Russell's pyramid prophecies
- ◎ Taught Christ was spiritually present in 1914 not 1874
- ◎ Churches in 1918
- ◎ World would end in 1920
- ◎ Changed it to 1925

Jehovah's Witnesses: History



- ◎ Stated Christ was a god
- ◎ Cross a pagan symbol
- ◎ Jehovah as only true God
- ◎ Changed the magazines name to "The Watchtower"
- ◎ Made door-to-door witnessing a requirement
- ◎ 1931: changed Society's name to "Jehovah's Witnesses" (Isa. 41:10)
- ◎ Wrote 100 books translated into 80 languages


Jehovah's Witnesses: History



Nathan H. Knorr (1905-77)

- ◎ 1942: became president
- ◎ Created *School of Gilead*
- ◎ 1950: published *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*


Jehovah's Witnesses: History



Frederick W. Franz (1893-1992)

- 1977: became president
- Was principal translator of *New World Translation*
- Did not know Hebrew or Greek
- Was seen as the oracle of the Society
- His nephew, Raymond Franz was dis-fellowship


Jehovah's Witnesses: History



Milton G. Henschel (1920-2003)

- 1992: became president
- 2000: power was given to the Governing Body
- Group of "anonymous" leaders that control "The Organization."

Jehovah's Witnesses: Writings



- Bible (New World Translation only)
- You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth
- Reasoning from the Scriptures
- Watchtower magazine
- Awake! Magazine

Jehovah's Witnesses: Writings

"...the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible...the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind." (Watchtower, October 1, 1997, p. 587.)

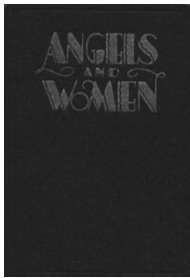
Jehovah's Witnesses: Writings

"The Watchtower Bible Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of it's organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the glad tidings." (The Watchtower, 1917, p. 22.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Writings

"Jehovah God has also provided his visible organization, his 'faithful and discreet slave,' made up of spirit-anointed ones, to help Christians in all nations to understand and apply properly the Bible in their lives. Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do." (The Watchtower, December 1, 1981, p. 27.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Writings



- 1878: J. Gregory Smith wrote *Seola* by automatic writing
- Revised by a "Bible Student" and re-titled *Women*
- Russell endorsed the book
- 1924: recommended by the Watchtower Society

Jehovah's Witnesses: God



- One God and His name is Jehovah
- Deny the Trinity

"The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the Trinity doctrine."
(, Watchtower Society, 1946, p. 101.)

"Sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God." (*God Be True*, Watchtower Society, 1946, p. 102.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: God



"But the holy spirit has no personal name. The reason for this is that the holy spirit is not an intelligent person. It is the impersonal, invisible active force that finds its source and reservoir in Jehovah God and that he uses to accomplish his will even at great distances, over light years of space." (*Let Your Name Be Sanctified*, p. 269.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Matter



- Jehovah is the creator of the universe

Jehovah's Witnesses: Humanity



- Do not have an immaterial soul or spirit
- Soul is merely your physical body

Jehovah's Witnesses: Problem



- Born into sin due to the sin of Adam and Eve
- At Armageddon Jehovah will judge all humans according to their works
- Those found outside the Watchtower Society are annihilated

Jehovah's Witnesses: Jesus



- Jesus is a god (John 1:1 NWT)

"...the Son of God was known as Michael before he came to earth." (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, p. 218.)

"The true Scriptures speak of God's Son, the Word, as 'a god.' He is a 'mighty god,' but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah." (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, Watchtower Society, 1943, pp. 47.)

"In other words he was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God." (*The Kingdom Is at Hand*, Watchtower Society, 1944, pp. 46-47.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Jesus



- Reject the symbol of the cross; it is a pre-Christian pagan symbol
- Jesus was executed by being nailed to a "torture stake"



Jehovah's Witnesses: Solution



- Jesus' death was necessary to pay for Adams not for all humanity
- Death makes everlasting life possible
- Any perfect human could have done this
- Salvation must be earned through works

"To get one's name written in that book of life will depend on one's works, whether they are in fulfillment of God's will and approved by his Judge and King." (*Watchtower*, August 15, 1972.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Solution



- Requirements of Salvation
 1. Take in knowledge of God
 2. Must obey God's Law
 3. good standing with the Watchtower Society
 4. Preach the Kingdom gospel of the Watchtower

Jehovah's Witnesses: Afterlife



- Only the Chosen 144,000 get to go to heaven
- Rest of Jehovah's Witnesses will live forever on a paradise earth
- Determined by membership and door-to-door witnessing

"The Bible shows that only a limited number of persons, a 'little flock,' will go to heaven... The rest of faithful humankind will live on earth as the subjects of these rulers." (*Watchtower*, February 15, 1984.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Afterlife



- According to the Watchtower, the number of the 144,000 filled up in 1935
- All others will be annihilated
- Hell was invented by Satan to scare people away from Jehovah
- One sin in the afterlife results in annihilation

Jehovah's Witnesses: Practices



Blood Transfusions

© *Reasoning from the Scriptures* (1985), and *Blood, Medicine and the Law of God* (1961), claim Acts 15:29 as a prohibition against receiving blood transfusions.

Jehovah's Witnesses: Practices



Holidays

"...nowhere in the Bible do we find that parents are to be worshiped, or that there should be a Father's Day and a Mother's Day kept in their honor." (*Awake!*, May 8, 1956.)

"Christendom's chief holiday, Easter, therefore finds no support at all in the Bible. It is of pagan origin." (*The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life*, 1968.)

"...birthday celebrations tend to give excessive importance to an individual... Jehovah's Witnesses do not share in birthday festivities (parties, singing, gift giving, and so forth)." (*School and Jehovah's Witnesses*, 1983.)

Jehovah's Witnesses: Practices



Government Politics

"...we view the flag salute as an act of worship." (*School and Jehovah's Witnesses*, 1983.)

"...Jehovah's Witnesses take no part whatsoever in political activities." (*United in Worship of the Only True God*, 1983.)