

**Prepared to Answer...**



**Jehovah's  
Witnesses**

# A Brief History

- Proper Name: *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*
- 7 965 954 members worldwide
- Founded by Charles Taze Russel
- 1879: The Magazine *Zion's Watchtower*
- 1914: The second coming occurred (Yes, really!)
- 1961: *New World Translation* published
- 1914,1915,1918,1925,1941,1975: World ends




# A Brief History

- Proper Name: *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*
- *Why then are they called the Jehovah's Witnesses?*
- Say that God's true name is Jehovah
  - That the New World Translation has “faithfully”  
restored this name into the Bible
- See themselves as the only ones who actually call  
on God's “real” name\*



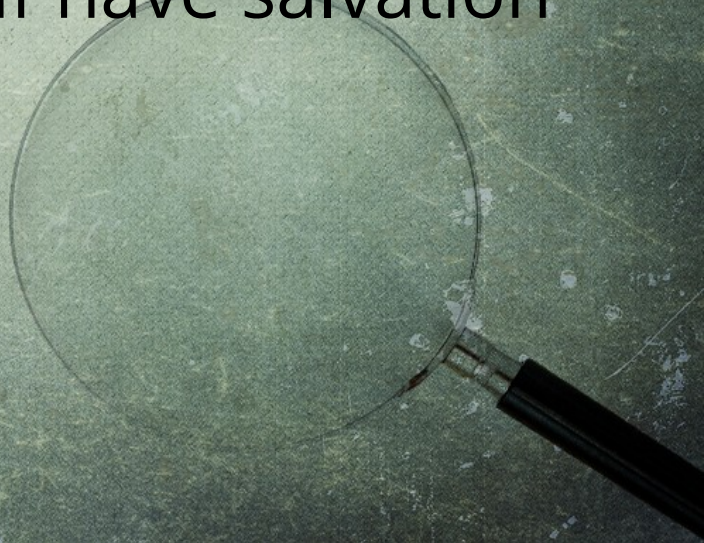
# The Authority of Scripture

- Jehovah derived: combines Adonai (Lord) and YHWH
  - NT always uses Lord (kurios) and God (theos)
    - Never uses YHWH – and yet they selectively insert “Jehovah” whenever they think it refers to God
      - Even when the context is clear that it is JESUS!
  - None of the NWT translators were Greek/Hebrew scholars – most only had high-school graduation
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# The Authority of Scripture

- Members claim to accept the Bible as their authority
- In practice, WatchTower Society takes precedence
  - Say it is the *sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth.* (Watchtower 15/7/60)
- Say that if one “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 two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures” (C. T. Russel, *Watchtower*, 15/9/10)

# How is one saved?

- Salvation not seen as a free gift from God based on Jesus' work on the cross
  - say that good works don't *earn* salvation, but are a *pre-requisite* for salvation
  - seem to view grace as the *chance* to “work out” or earn their salvation
  - teach that JW can't know for certain if have salvation during this life
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# Who is Jesus?

- Often told that “Oh, we believe in Jesus too!”
- Claim that Jesus is not Jehovah but a created angel – Michael the Archangel
- Col 1:16-17 is often cited as proof that Jesus is the created creator



# Who is Jesus?

by means of him **all other things** were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. **All other things** have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before **all other things**, and by means of him **all other things** were made to exist... (NWT 2013)

For in him **all things** were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things** have been created through him and for him. He is before **all things**, and in him **all things** hold together. (NIV 2011)



# Who is Jesus?

- But only God is the creator...

This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer and Creator: “I am the Lord, who made all things. I alone stretched out the heavens. Who was with me when I made the earth? (Isaiah 44:24)



# Sharing the Good News

- **With Love!**
- By examining beliefs – theirs and our own
- By finding common ground
- By taking time
- By asking questions
- By pointing out false prophecies
- **By Prayer**



# Who is Jesus?

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god\*. (NWT 2013)*

*In the beginning the Word already existed.*

*The Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*(NLT)*

## **The “Rule” (applied 16/282 times)**

when a singular predicate noun (such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> “God”) has no definite article (“the”) and it occurs *before* the verb (as here), this points to a *quality* about someone

### **As the NWT puts it:**

*There came a man who was sent as a representative of God; his name was John.*

### **If the rule was followed:**

*There was a man who was sent as a representative of a god; his name was a John.*