

## Why I Am Not A... Jehovah's Witness

### I. History

#### A. Under Charles Taze Russell

1. Started from a Bible study group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1870.
2. Had some ties to early Seventh Day Adventist leaders.
3. Started publishing a periodical called "Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence". This eventually became known as "The Watchtower"
4. In 1884 incorporated the Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society
5. Died in 1916
6. Old-timers often called this group "Russellites"

#### B. Under Joseph Franklin Rutherford

1. President from 1917-1942, his election was disputed
2. Centralized governing power over congregations to the Watch Tower.
3. In 1922 began to emphasize house-to-house preaching
4. Adopted the name "Jehovah's Witnesses" in 1931

#### C. Under Nathan H. Knorr

1. President from 1942-1977
2. Commissioned their own translation of the Bible: "The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures"
3. Began enforcing stricter moral codes
4. Since 1976, the Governing Body became more powerful than the president.

### II. Sampler of False Doctrines

A. *NOTE - I am only able to give references to many of JW's writings. Some are still copyrighted, and as a whole the group is very secretive about their beliefs.*

#### A. No Trinity

1. *Let God be True*, 2nd Ed., pp. 100-101; *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* p. 7; *Watchtower*, 2/1/1960, p. 94, *Why Do You Believe in the Trinity?*
2. I John 5:7

#### B. Holy Spirit is a force and not a being

3. *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 406-407; *The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force*, *The Watchtower*, June 1, 1952, p. 24.
4. I Corinthians 3:21-23

#### C. Christ was the *first* creation

5. *Aid to Bible Understanding*, pp. 390-391.
6. John 1:1

#### D. Christ is actually the archangel Michael

7. *The Watchtower*, May 15, 1963, p. 307; *The New World*, 284.
8. Hebrews 1:5-8

#### E. Christ was "born again"

9. *The Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1954, p. 682.
10. Hebrews 7:26-27

#### F. Christ died on a stake, not a cross

11. Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985, pp. 89-90.
12. John 19:17, 19, 25, 31
- G. Christ did not physically rise from the dead, but as a spirit
  13. *Awake!* July 22, 1973, p. 4.; *Let God be True*, p. 276.
  14. I Corinthians 15:14
- H. Christ began to rule the earth invisibly in 1914
  15. *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, p. 300.
  16. Revelation 19:11-21
- I. The sins of Adam and Eve were not atoned for
  17. "The man Adam is not included in those ransomed. Why not? Because he was a willful sinner, was justly sentenced to death, and died deservedly and God would not reverse his judgment and give Adam life." *Let God be True*, p. 119, copyright 1946.
  18. I John 2:2
- J. No fire in hell
  19. *Let God be True*, pp. 79, 80.
  20. Revelation 20:14-15
- K. Only 144,000 people are really saved
  21. *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 76.; *Watchtower* 11/15/54, p. 681.
  22. II Peter 3:9
- L. Lots and lots of date setting
  23. Russell emphasized 1874-1918
    - a) 1799 - Last days began
    - b) 1874 - Start of Jesus invisible presence
    - c) 1878 - Jesus became king in heaven
    - d) 1914 - End of the world
  24. Rutherford
    - a) 1914 - Last days, began, Start of Jesus' invisible presence, Jesus became king in heaven
    - b) 1925 - End of world, earthly resurrection begins
  25. Others
    - a) 1951 - end of world because of 37 years between Christ's death and destruction of Jerusalem
    - b) 1975 - end of the world because it was 6,000 years since Creation?
    - c) 2033 - because of something about Noah's days being 120 years.
  26. Matthew 24:36, 25:13