

Jehovah's Witnesses (Watchtower Bible & Tract Society)

Founder	Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916), later Joseph F. Rutherford. Began 1879 in Pennsylvania. Headquarters in Brooklyn, NY.
Writings	All current Watchtower publications, including the Bible (New World Translation only), <i>Reasoning from the Scriptures</i> , <i>You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth</i> . Watchtower and Awake! Magazines.
God	One-person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.
Jesus	Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit and his body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he "returned" invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.
Holy Spirit	Impersonal "holy spirit" is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.
Salvation	Be baptized as Jehovah's Witness. Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by "door-to-door work." Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 "anointed ones." This number is already reached.
Death	The 144,000 live as spirits in heaven. The rest of the righteous, "the great crowd," live on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1000 years or be annihilated.
Other Beliefs	Know as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Meet on Sundays in "Kingdom Halls." Active members encouraged to distribute literature door-to-door. Once a year, Lord's Evening Meal; only "anointed" ones may partake. Do not observe holidays or birthdays. Do not vote, salute the flag, work in the military, or accept blood transfusions. Believe Armageddon will occur soon.