

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect.

O Lord, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences; that through thy bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the bands of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour.

Amen

The Epistle. Colossians 1:3

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love which ye have to all the saints, for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: as ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow-servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

For this cause

since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus

and the love you have to all the saints

for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven

you heard in the word of the truth of the gospel

as it is in all the world

in bringing forth fruit

you knew the grace of God in truth

as you learned from Epaphras

your faithful minister of Christ

who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit

We pray without ceasing since the day we heard about your faith, love and hope

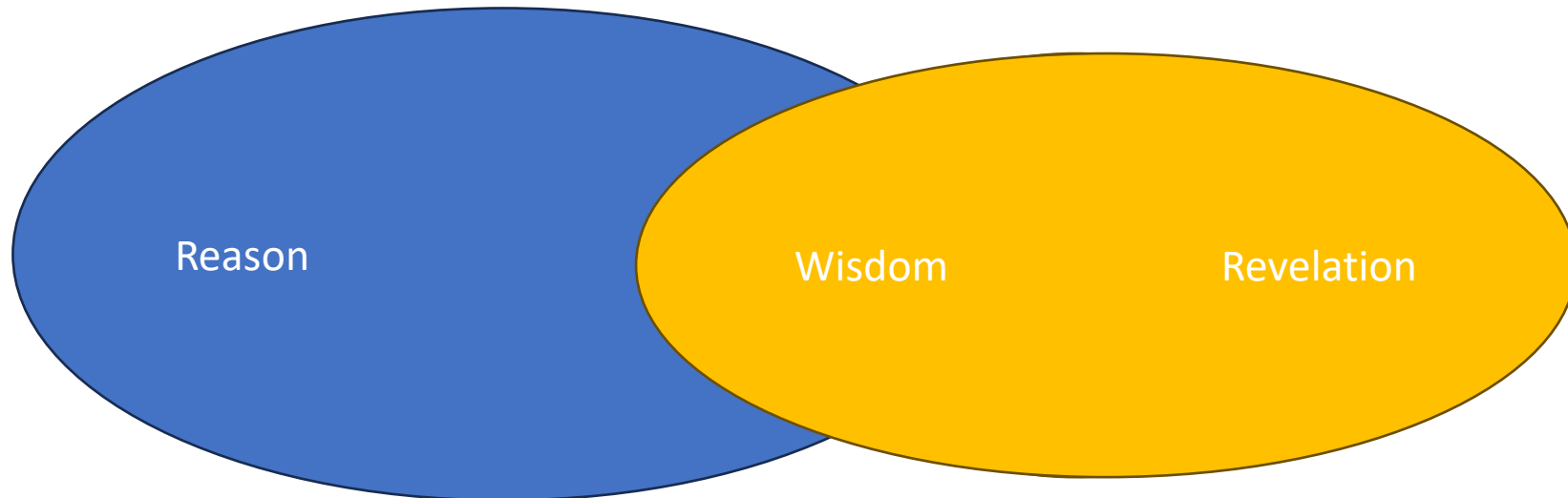
- 1) That you might be filled with the knowledge of his will
in all wisdom
in all spiritual understanding
- 2) That you might have spiritual discernment
needed to walk in God's will
study His Word
- 3) That you might walk worthy of the Lord
pursue Jesus blameless life
- 4) That you might please God fully
honor God above all else
trust and obey Him
love Him first and neighbor second

- 5) That you might be fruitful in every good work
love joy peace
patience kindness goodness
faithfulness gentleness self control
- 6) That you might increase in the knowledge of God
to know Him is to love Him
ever seeking a deeper more intimate relationship with the Lord
- 7) That you might be strengthened with all might
His glorious power
seek His help initially
accomplish His will
for His glory
AND He will do it
- 8) That you might remain joyful in all patience and long-suffering
- 9) That you might be thankful as partakers of your inheritance in the saints

Reason Wisdom Revelation

Fanaticism vs. Humanism

Humanism



Fanaticism

Human wisdom

Job 5:12-13 He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success. He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away.

1Cor 1:17-21 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel- not with words of wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolish to those who are perishing; but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate". Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Godly wisdom

1Kings 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong...The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart"

1Cor 1:30-31 It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord".

1Cor 12:7-8 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit

Discernment – drawing the line

Safety net

Hammock

Atomic energy

Atomic bomb

Healing effect of medicines

Dangers of reactions

Risking life for country

Giving life for country

What is your understanding?
What is standing under your assumptions?

The Rock of Gibraltar
creator of the universe
His promises
His written commitment
His love letter

The shifting sands of Destin
The golden plates of Joseph Smith

What is supporting your faith?
Thin ice of heresy
Thick ice of Christ

Saving faith
Salvation is God's idea

Salvation is mentioned in the Bible 81 times in the Old Testament 400 years before Christ
33 times in the Psalms
28 times in Isaiah

Faith is only as strong as its object
We are saved by grace (God's redemption at Christ's expense)
If the object has value what is its cost

MATTHEW 9:18

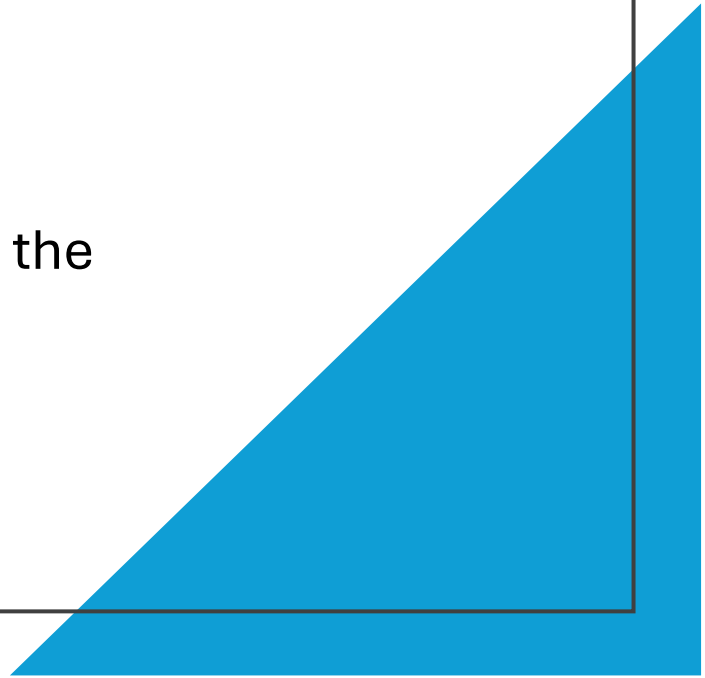
- Harmony of The Gospels Matt 9:18, Mark 5:21, Luke 8:40
- Characters: Jesus, Ruler Jarius ,Daughter, Sick Woman, Physicians, Multitude, People of Jarius' house, James, Peter, John, Tumult of weepers, Mother of child
 - Weepers were most likely paid professional weepers
 - Humiliating laughter disqualified them as witnesses of event
- Location: NW shore of Sea of Galilee

Notable Points

- “Who touched my clothes”
 - Wanted to single her out for the crowd
- “I perceived power coming out of me”
 - Interesting that God and Christ’s power is available and transferable to those who believe in it and want to receive it, belief and humility are the wire and the switch
- daughter was only child of Jarius
- “Tell no one”
 - Jesus wanted to be known for bringing the Gospel not as a miracle worker
 - Nobleman came to him because of what he could do or who he was?

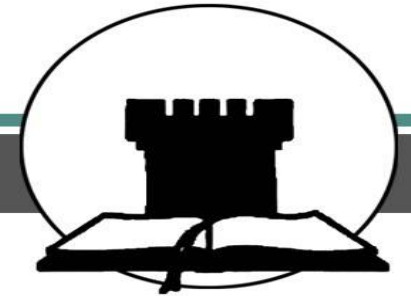
Contrast Challenge to you

- Look up in your study Bibles harmony of the Gospel guide
- Reflect on the faith of those the petitioners and recipients of the miracles
- Read John 4:46-54, the healing of the nobleman's son
- What was the condition of faith?
- Did they believe because of the Miracle **OR** di they receive the miracle because of their faith?



Jehovah's Witnesses

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



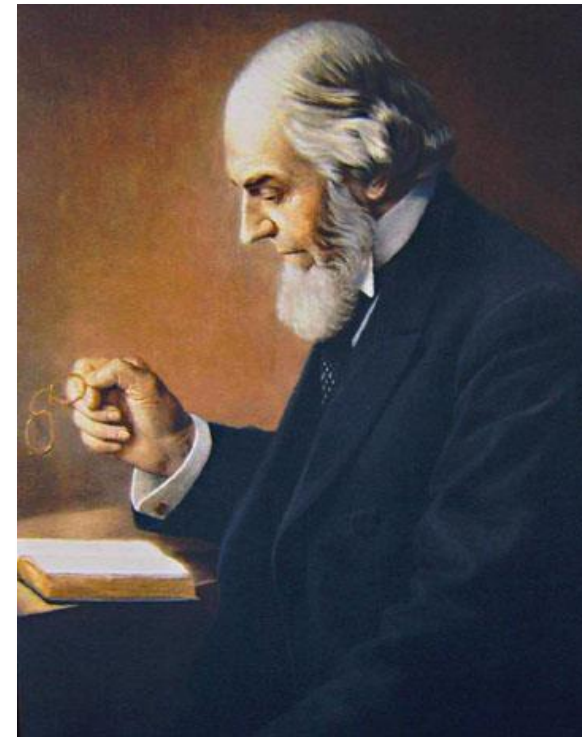
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Jehovah's Witnesses



FOUNDED, LOCATION

- Founded by Charles Taze Russell (1852–1916) in 1879 in Pennsylvania.
- Later led by “Judge” Joseph F. Rutherford (1869–1942).
- Headquarters today in Brooklyn, New York.



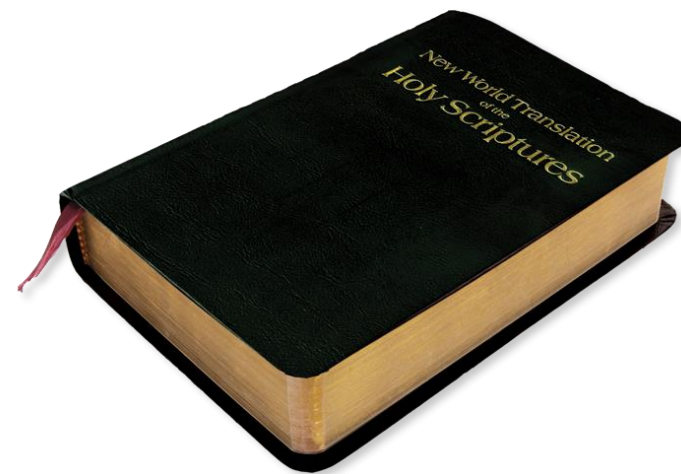
Charles Taze Russell

Jehovah's Witnesses



KEY WRITINGS

- All current Watchtower publications, including the Bible (*New World Translation* only), *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*
- *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.



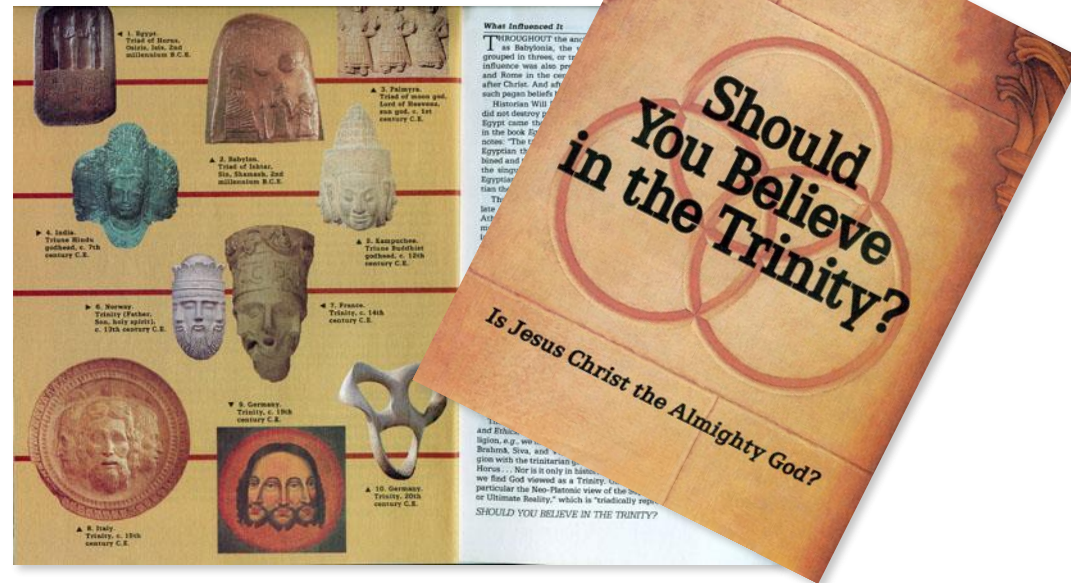
Jehovah's Witnesses



WHO IS GOD?

- One-person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity.
- The first thing Jehovah created was Jesus.

Widely-distributed Watchtower literature that tries to show that the Trinity is a pagan belief.



Jehovah's Witnesses



WHO IS JESUS?

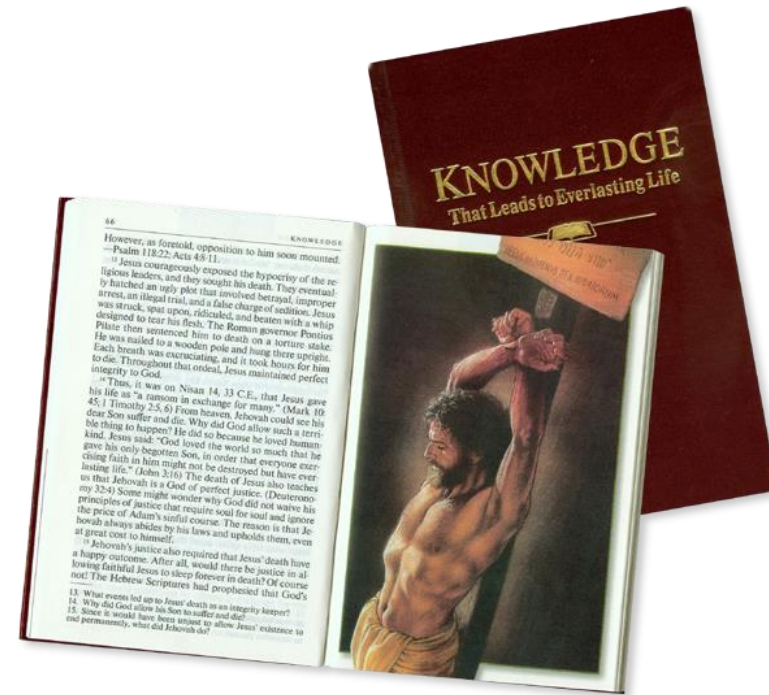
- Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel.
- Jehovah made the universe through him.
- On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life.

Jehovah's Witnesses



WHO IS JESUS?

- After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed.
- Jesus is not coming again. He already “returned” invisibly in 1914 in spirit.
- Very soon, Jesus and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.

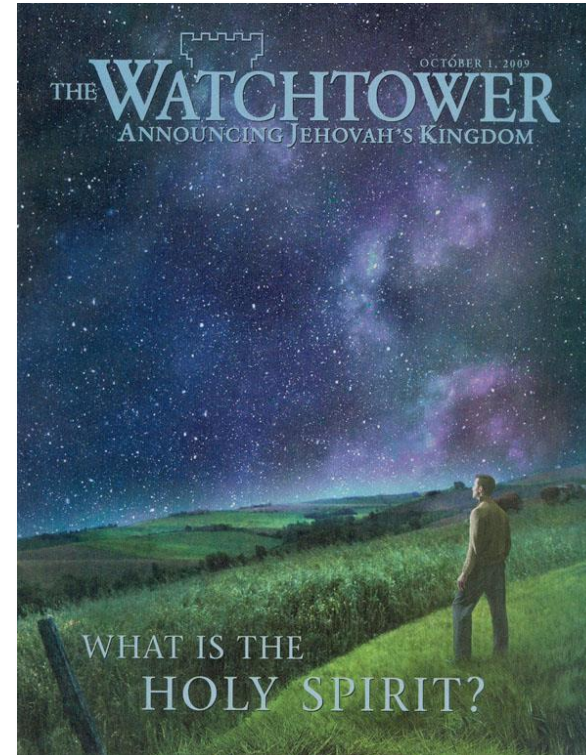


Watchtower illustration showing Jesus on a “stake”



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- Impersonal “holy spirit” is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.



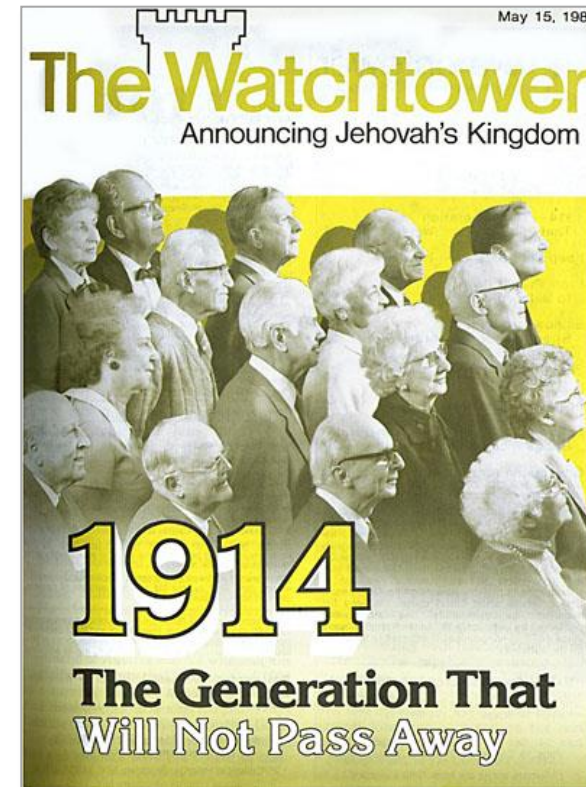
October 1, 2009 issue of
The Watchtower magazine

Jehovah's Witnesses



HOW TO BE SAVED

- Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 “anointed ones.” This number is already reached.
- Followers must be baptized as a Jehovah’s Witness.
- Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by “door-to-door work.”



May 5, 1984 issue of *The Watchtower* magazine featuring the 144,000

Jehovah's Witnesses



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER 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 1,000 years or be annihilated.

Jehovah's Witnesses



OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Meet in “Kingdom Halls” instead of churches.
- Also known as the *International Bible Students Association*.
- Forbidden to use the cross as a symbol.



Jehovah's Witnesses



OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Active members are encouraged to distribute literature door-to-door, initiate “book studies” in homes of potential converts.
- Once a year, followers observe “the Lord’s Evening Meal” (communion); only “anointed ones” may partake.





OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Do not observe birthdays or holidays (such as Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving).
- Forbidden to vote or run for public office.
- Forbidden to salute the flag.
- Forbidden to work in the military.
- Forbidden to accept blood transfusions.



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