

ALTERNATIVES TO CHRISTIANITY

Jehovah's Witnesses Fast Facts

History

The cult of Jehovah's Witnesses appeared first in 1872 under the name "International Bible Students Association." They changed their name to Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931.



Primary Location

BROOKLYN

While Jehovah's Witnesses are found throughout the U.S., the headquarters for the cult is in Brooklyn, NY. This is where the majority of Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society publications are produced.

Population

 = 1 million Jehovah's Witnesses



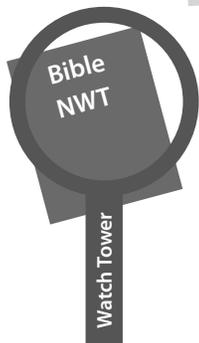
There are over 19 million people who attended the Jehovah's Witness convention last year. But because "membership" is so strict in this cult, only 7.5 million of those are actually considered to be one of "Jehovah's Witnesses."

Holy Books

Jehovah's Witnesses claim that the Bible as the only holy book of their denomination, but that is quite the misleading statement! They are only able to use the New World Translation (NWT), their own Bible translation.

On top of that, they can't read the Bible outside of the interpretive sphere of Watch Tower publications. Books such as *Reasoning from the Scriptures* (which is neither reasonable nor based in the Scriptures) are essential for the "proper" understanding of the Bible, according to this cult.

What happens if a Jehovah's Witness reads non-Watch Tower publications about the Bible? Doing this is so bad in Jehovah's Witness circles that it is compared to looking at pornography!



God

1!

Jehovah's Witnesses—like Muslims—think that the Trinity is an abomination. They believe that there is only one God, named Jehovah (all other names for him are wrong).

Teachings like the Trinity are actually invented by Satan to mislead the people of the world. Jesus is the first created being of Jehovah, and the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force, not a person.

Human Condition

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that all of humanity is born sinful. When Adam sinned, all of humanity was plunged into darkness. What's more than that, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the entire world is under the control of the devil. This is why they refuse to be involved in government, the military, and many other different things.

Additionally, Jehovah's Witnesses deny that we have an immaterial soul.

Salvation

There are three things that are required for salvation according to Jehovah's Witnesses:

1. Faith in Jesus' sacrifice (but remember, Jesus isn't God!).
2. Being a part of the true church (the Jehovah's Witnesses of course!)
3. Obedience to Jehovah's demands for "preaching" and righteous living.

Afterlife

144,000

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that 144,000 people from all of human history have been chosen by God to be a part of those who rule in heaven (this group includes people such as Noah and Moses).

So do Jehovah's Witnesses think that they might be a part of this 144,000? Probably not! Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus returned to earth (invisibly) in 1914. To be a part of this group of 144,000, you have to be a Jehovah's Witness born before 1914.

So what happens to the rest of us? Jehovah's Witnesses now seek to be citizens of God's kingdom on earth when it is restored. Everyone who rejects the teachings of the Watch Tower will be annihilated—you won't go to Hell, you will just cease to exist.