

R.B.S. POSITIONAL PAPER

R.U.S.H.



A BIBLE STUDY

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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R.U.S.H. Bible Study
Read Understand Spread Harvest

The R.B.S. Arguments Against the Jehovah's Witnesses Dogma

The Jehovah's Witness organization (JW's) was founded by **C. T. Russell**, who was born on February 16, 1852, the son of Joseph L. and Anna Eliza Russell, and spent most of his early years in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where at the age of twenty-five he was known to be manager of several men's furnishings stores. 1870, at the age of eighteen, Russell organized a Bible class in Pittsburgh, which in **1876** elected him "Pastor" of the group. From 1876 to 1878 the "Pastor" was assistant editor of a small Rochester, New York, monthly magazine, but he resigned when a controversy arose over Russell's counterarguments on "the atonement" of Christ. Shortly after leaving his position, Russell founded *The Herald of the Morning* (1879), which developed into today's ***The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom***. From 6,000 initial issues, the publication has grown to **17.8 million copies per month in 106 languages**. After his death he was succeeded by Joseph Rutherford. The name "Jehovah's Witnesses" was taken in 1931 in Columbus, Ohio under Rutherford's leadership.

The Jehovah's Witnesses Errors:

1. They deny the Trinity: (*Insight Vol.1, pg. 689 Egypt, Awake 4/22/2005, pg 7.*)

The most vocal attack from JW's to Christians is the attack on **the doctrine of the Trinity**. The main publication they base their beliefs on is The Watchtower Society (WTS). The WTS has consistently rejected the doctrine of the Trinity, and its understanding of the second and third Persons of the Trinity is radically different from Biblical Christianity. It claims that the Trinity doctrine had its origins in paganism and hence must be vehemently rejected by Christians. The problem with that lie is, as we will show below, that **only God can save you**. (Isaiah 43:10-11 below). And then **Jesus is the only Savior**. (Acts 4:10-11). **If your Jesus isn't God, your Jesus can't save you. Period.**

Biblical Christianity affirms from scripture that there is One God, in three distinct Persons, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Here are some scriptures we use to attest to this truth. There are many more. Also see the Trinity in the section on Mormon Dogma and the full argument in the **RBS positional paper on the Trinity**.

There is only One God:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Deuteronomy 4:35, 39: | Unto thee it was shown, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him . Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. |
| Deuteronomy 6:4: | Hear, O Israel: The LORD thy God is one LORD . |
| Isaiah 43:10,11: | Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me . I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior . |
| Mark 12:29-34 | And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord : And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. |
| James 2:19 | Thou believest that there is one God ; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. |

The Father is God:

1 Corinthians 8:6:

“Yet for us **there is one God, the Father**, from whom all things are and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are and through whom we exist.”

Ephesians 4:4-6:

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father of all**, who is above all and through all and in all.”

The Son is God:

John 1:1-4:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Revelation 1:7-8:

Behold, **He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.** And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

The Holy Spirit is God:

Acts 5:3-4:

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**”

The Trinity Together:

Matthew 3:16:

“After being baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending as a dove and lighting on Him.”

Luke 3:22:

“And the **Holy Spirit** descended upon Him [**Jesus**] in bodily form like a dove, and **a voice came out of heaven, “You are My [the Father’s] beloved Son**, in You I am well-pleased.”

Matthew 28:19:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**”

John 14:26:

“But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the **Father** will send in **My [Jesus’] name**, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

2 Corinthians 13:14:

The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**, be with you all.

They are Distinct:

Matthew 24:36:

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,
nor the Son, but the Father only.

John 14:26:

But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the **Father** will send in **My name**,
He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance
all that I have said to you.

2. The JW's Believe the Father alone is God. They further believe Jesus is the archangel Michael. (Watchtower 9/15/2005 p.7, Awake 4/22/1983, pg 24, Watchtower 4/1/2010, pg 19.)

Since the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the triune God, **they teach that Jesus is a created being—specifically, He is the archangel Michael.** John 1:1 shows clearly that **Jesus is God.**

*"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and **the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**" John 1:1*

And that He is clearly not an Angel.

*"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: ⁴ Being made **so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.** Hebrews 1:1-4*

More on the Jehovah's Witnesses Belief that Jesus is the Archangel Michael. The Bible makes a vehement case against this heresy in the Book of Hebrews, even teaching that at Jesus birth, **all the angels of God worshiped Him.** All of them, even Michael, and I would add that I believe that wonderful angel was honored to do so.

How can all the Angels of God worship Him if He is an angel Himself?

Look at this next passage concerning the difference between Jesus and angels, from the lips of the Father. The Father calls the Son God, and further states that Jesus created everything in Heaven and Earth!

But to the Son He says:

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

*⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*

¹⁰ And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?

And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"?

⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Hebrews 1:8-10.

It is odd to me that the Jehovah's Witnesses hierarchy have held to this obviously false position for so long. The **Archangel Michael in his fight with the devil dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but says instead "the Lord rebuke you" In Jude verse 9. Jesus, to the contrary, rebuked the devil many times in scripture and cast out demons like they were old socks.** Then He gave His disciples the authority to do the same! The Angels actually belong to Jesus. Read this passage from Matthew 13:41 that shows the kingdom and its angels belong to Christ.

*"The Son of Man will send out **His angels**, and they will gather out of **His kingdom** all things that offend,*

and those who practice lawlessness.” **Matthew 13:41**

3. JW'S don't believe Jesus blood washes away our sins. (*Live forever, chap. 17 pp. 143-144 pars.6-7.*)

Although they refer to Him as “the only begotten of God,” Jehovah’s Witnesses insist that Jesus is the first of all the created beings of God. They teach that Jesus agreed to be placed in the womb of the Virgin Mary in order to be a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. However, **Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe that Jesus’ death propitiated the eternal wrath of God**, based on the false doctrine that they do not believe in the deity of Jesus. Jesus reveals He is God in claiming to be the “I Am” in John 8, in **John 10:30** He claims equality with God saying “I and the Father are one”, and **He claims to be “Almighty God” in Revelation 1:8**. Also in John 20:24-29 **Thomas calls Jesus “my Lord and my God”** and Jesus says “now you believe? Blessed are they who not seeing believe.”

The Bible is adamant that Jesus blood washes us clean from our sins.

"Then the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from every sin. If we say we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right"

1 John 1:7-9

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace".

Ephesians 1:7

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" **Hebrews 9:14**

4. JW's don't believe the Holy Spirit is a distinct person, in the Trinity or not.

According to the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Holy Spirit is not a person, let alone God. Rather, the Spirit is merely an emanating and active force of God, despite **Acts 5:3-5** which makes it clear that,

“Lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God.”

They believe this despite **Jesus statement of distinction that you can blaspheme the Father’s name or Jesus name and be forgiven, but if you blaspheme the Holy Spirit it will not be forgiven** in **Mark 3:28-30**.

“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation” because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.” **Mark 3:28-30.**

If the Holy Spirit is just an emanating spirit coming out from God the Father, how can you blaspheme the Father without blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

5. JW's do not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

JW’s do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, or eternal life except for the “144,000” mentioned in **Revelation 7:4**. In Jehovah’s Witness theology, the body and the soul are inseparable, so the soul dies with the body. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that physical death was the only thing Adam suffered when he fell in the garden. **According to the Jehovah’s Witnesses, there is no immortal soul.** This despite the clear teaching of the resurrection of the dead throughout scripture. This is found in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, Romans 5** and most notably in **Matthew 22:31-32**

Let's take a look at some of those verses:

Jesus rebuked the Sadducees because they didn't believe in the resurrection.

*"But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?
God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Mat: 22.*

*"Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, **how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** ¹³ **But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.*

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus." 1Thess.4:13-14.

6. Jehovah's Witnesses Believe the Saved who are still alive at the end of the age, will exist on an Eternal World. A Paradise on Earth. Building Houses and Planting Gardens etc. with our physical bodies.

The Bible is very clear on this subject as well. The Bible states in Matthew 5:18: "Heaven and Earth will pass away," and repeats the same in Revelation 21:1. We are instructed in Matthew 6:20 to "lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven", finally in John 14:1-3 (*my favorite chapter in the entire Bible*) Jesus Himself promises:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
John 14:1-3.

Jesus is very clear here on the week of His death, the Passion Week, He is going to heaven to prepare a place for us there.

Who are you going to believe? Jesus or C.T. Russel and the Watchtower Society?

A Few Final Problems With the JW's

7. The Doctrine of Annihilation: It is their doctrine that Satan (and the wicked) will be annihilated and not suffer eternal torture. This doctrine is diametrically opposed to the clear teaching of scripture.

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:41-46.

8. The Doctrine of "Shunning." (*Watchtower, Shunning is love Feb. 15, 2011 pg 3*)

Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's) practice shunning, or disfellowshipping, as a form of formal expulsion and control over members' conduct. This practice involves prohibiting members from communicating with those who leave the religion, including **not speaking to them or even saying "hello"**. Those who leave the faith are called "**apostates**" and are considered outsiders. Shunning can have a deep impact on former members.

This doctrine is not as minor as one might think on the surface. **Jehovah's Witnesses are three times more likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia than the general population and four times more likely to suffer from paranoid schizophrenia than the general population. They possess a 5-10x higher rate of suicide than the general population depending on the country.** (*Neurosurgical procedures in Jehovah's Witnesses Suess s. Suess O, Brock M*)

That stat is brutal. In the November Issue of the Watchtower magazine on pp. 703-704 they actually lament the fact that they cannot murder apostate family members.

9. Jehovah's Witnesses Have Their Own False Translation of The Bible: (*Watchtower, July 1, 1973, p. 402, Watchtower, Oct. 1, 1967, p. 591, 1939 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses, p. 85*).

This became necessary when they could not use scripture to defend the false teachers running the organization. They have altered many verses in order to suit their doctrines such as:

John 1:1 going from the biblical truth "the Word was God", to the Watchtower lie "the Word was a god."

Acts 20:28 reads "the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" was replaced by "with the blood of His own."

Again on the deity of Christ, **1 Timothy** states,

"Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh"

This was changed to the absolutely pagan version they wrote by deleting the word God here,

"Great is the mystery of godliness which was manifest in flesh."

By deleting the word "God" the verse becomes stupid. It means nothing.

What source for scripture should we believe? The earliest sources from the Apostles life-time or the lunatic ramblings of "The Watchtower Society" from 1950?

10. They View all Governments as Products of Satan and prophesied in 1889 that all governments would be overthrown by Jesus in 26 years: (*The 1889 edition of Studies In the Scriptures - The Time Is At Hand pp.98-99.*) **Then in 1969 they told everyone to quit going to college because by the time they finished their studies the world would end!** (*Awake! 1969 May 22 pg 15.*) **They do not acknowledge armies, also regarding them as satanic. They refuse military service.**

The Bible says:

"The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong." Romans 13:1.

Paul wrote this under the Roman government that crucified our Lord!

11. The Watchtower Society on Women: Watchtower is a patriarchal society that believes women are lesser than men. The most damaging quotes I've found regarding how women may have deserved being beaten or raped, and even that being raped could be considered as having committed the sin of fornication!

"Thus if a Christian woman does not cry out and does not put forth every effort to flee, she would be viewed as consenting to the violation." Watchtower 1964 Jan 15 p.63

"So by no means would it be proper quietly to submit to rape, as that would be consenting to fornication." Watchtower 1968 Jun 1 pp.345-50

"On one particular day," says Selma, "I didn't want to have a Bible study. The night before, Steve had hit me as I had tried to prove a point, and I was feeling sad and sorry for myself. After I told the sister what had happened and how I felt, she asked me to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. As I did, I began to reason, 'Steve never does any of these loving things for me.' But the sister made me think differently by asking, 'How many of those acts of love do you show toward your husband?' My answer was, 'None, for he is so difficult to live with.' The sister softly said, 'Selma, who is trying to be a Christian here? You or Steve?' Realizing that I needed to adjust my thinking, I prayed to Jehovah to help me be more loving toward Steve. Slowly, things started to change." After 17 years, Steve accepted the truth." Watchtower 2012 Apr 1 p.29

12. The Racism in The Watchtower Society:

"Question: Is there anything in the Bible that reveals the origin of the Negro?"

Answer: It is generally believed that the curse which Noah pronounced upon Canaan was the origin of the Black race. Certain it is that when Noah said, "Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren," he pictured the future of the Colored race. They have been and are a race of servants, but now in the dawn of the twentieth century, we are all coming to see this matter of service in its true light and find that the only real joy in life is in serving others; not bossing them. There is no servant in the world as good as a good Colored servant, and they joy that he gets from rendering faithful service is one of the purest joys there is in the world." (Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, The Golden Age)

"PROHIBITION FOR THE POOR"

...From a criminal viewpoint the desirability of sobering the southern negro speaks volumes for national prohibition." (Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, The Golden Age)

And Finally:

As with any cult, we must defend the faith, the Bible and the church. However, we must also win the lost. That is not a conundrum that is a calling. **To repeat the R.B.S. Mandate:**

Win souls, not arguments. DH

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10.



Charles Taze Russell 1852-1916
Jehovah's Witnesses Founder



