

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

JOHN 1:1, 14-17

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14-17

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. ¹⁶ And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

George Gallup states, "This is the most crucial decade in History. Designer, a la carte religion flourishes as traditional Christianity is undermined by counterfeits."

This is true when it comes to Charles Taze Russell the founder of Jehovah's Witness cult. He was born in February 16, 1852 in Pittsburgh Pa. and died October 31, 1916.

He lived a colorful life with all kinds of legal troubles with his religious schemes.

- He was selling his so-called sermons that were supposed to have been preached on his “World Tour” in 1912 and that proved to be a lie.
- Another scheme was called the “Miracle Wheat” with claims that it would grow 5 times that of normal wheat. It sold for \$1.00 a pound. The Brooklyn Daily Eagle was a N.Y. paper that had national importance and it ran from 1841 to 1955. It exposed many of Russell’s schemes through court.
- In June of 1912 Reverend J.J. Ross pastor of James Street Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ontario published a pamphlet denouncing Russell as a minister and his qualifications as a scholar along with his moral depravity. Well Charles Russell sued Pastor Ross for “Defamatory Libel”.
- In the pamphlet, Ross said that Russell’s system of theology was, “Anti-rational, anti-scientific, anti-biblical, anti-Christian and a deplorable perversion of the gospel of God’s dear Son.”

As we looked last week at the things that are common among most all cults:

- The Trinity
- The Deity of Christ
- The Person of the Holy Spirit
- The Immortality of the Soul

The Jehovah's Witness does a good job butchering these 4 points!

1. THEIR DECEPTION

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In their New World Translation of the Bible that was first published in 1950 it says:

In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.

This was a deliberate rewriting of the Word of God.

This was part of their scheme.

What is this verse from the NWT saying about God and Jesus Christ?

That God is polytheistic – or that there are multiple gods.

They get around this as saying that Jehovah is higher than all other gods.

Note:

God said to Moses in Exodus 3:14:

Exodus 3:14

¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Jesus said in John 8:58:

John 8:58

⁵⁸ Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

When Jesus said this - any reasonable person can see that Jesus was actually saying, "I Am Jehovah" in the flesh!

By the way, how do we know this for sure? Because in the next verse the Jews tried to stone Him for blasphemy - Jesus was identifying Himself not as a god but Jehovah God!

Notice:

Isaiah 43:10-11

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I, *even* I, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour.

To the Jehovah's Witness, Jesus is Michael the archangel. Remember, Mormons teach that Lucifer is Jesus spirit brother!

The Jehovah Witness teach the Jesus is a created god.

However in John 1:1 we see again that:

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. THEIR DENIAL

They deny that Jesus hung on a cross.

They say that the cross is legend! That it developed after the 3rd century!

The Watch Tower Society says, "The cross is a symbol falsely used to represent Christianity. Jesus was not crucified on a cross, but on a single stake, a single pole in the ground with no crossbar."

It's so easy to say this and never show any documentation! This is what Cults are great at doing because they know most people are biblically illiterate!

Even secular historians and archaeologist disagree with Jehovah Witness!

3. THEIR DEPARTURE

They teach that Jesus rose from the dead in spirit only. In a debate with John Ankerburg, this was their comment on Christ's body, "We know nothing about what became of His physical body, except that it did not decay or corrupt, whether it was dissolved into gases or whether it's preserved somewhere as a grand memorial of God's love."

But the Bible makes it clear that after three day He rose from the grave and was seen by several people.

- Why did Mary and the woman, John and Peter only see the burial cloth in the tomb?
- Jesus ate with the disciples – a spirit can't eat!
- Thomas touched Jesus' wounds – you can't touch a sprit!

We read in Revelation 1:5:

Revelation 1:5

⁵ And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

The Jehovah Witness say since that since Jesus did not physically rise from the dead, He will not physically return! But wait the Bible says, "Every eye will see Him" return to earth!

4. THEIR DEFINITION

In the one of their publications "Let God be True" they state:

All who by reason of faith in Jehovah God and in Christ Jesus dedicate themselves to do God's will and then faithfully carry out their dedication will be rewarded with everlasting life. (Rom 6:23) However, that life will not be the same for all. The Bible plainly shows some of these, that is 144,000 will share in heavenly glory with Christ Jesus, while the others will enjoy the blessings of life down here on earth. (pg. 298)

Do you see now why the Jehovah's Witnesses display such zeal in spreading their teaching from house to house? They are doing it to earn salvation. The teach salvation by works.

The Bible on the other hand says:

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

5. THEIR DENOUNCING

In the publication that we just referenced they clearly state:

“There is no hell fire where the wicked are punished.”
(pg. 79, 80)

Yet the Saviour Himself said:

Matthew 25:46

⁴⁶And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

6. THEIR DATING

The Watchtower Society is date-setting organization. It believes that God still makes new revelations through “prophets,” today. In the eyes of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, a false prophet is a person who prophesies something that does not occur. By this definition, they are guilty of being false prophets many times over.

Note some of their predictions:

Our Lord the appointed King is now present since

October 1874 (Studies in the Scriptures vol., 4 p 621)
The battle of the great day of God Almighty (Rev 16:14)
which will end AD 1914 with the complete overthrow
of earth's present rulership, is already commenced.

(The Time is at Hand, 1908 edition p, 101) Why are you
looking forward to 1975? (Watchtower, 15th August
1968, p 494)

Ed Gruss a former Jehovah's Witness, examined
predictions of the Watchtower Society back to
1877. He concluded, "When I looked at the many
events the Jehovah's Witnesses had predicted and the
specific dates they had set, I found that in every case
the prediction had proved to be false." (Dave Hunt The
Cult Explosion p. 208)

The Bible states:

Matthew 24:42

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth
come.

Close:

May we know the truth and not be tossed to and fro
with every wind of doctrine.