The Jehovah’s Witness worldview: “The clergy, the profiteers, & the politicians are in an alliance to govern the people of earth, and their god or invisible ruler is Satan, the Devil, the prince of evil.”  
(source: J. Rutherford, Government, p. 329)

Jehovah’s Witnesses erect invisible barriers between themselves & the outside world; & similar to the Mormons they believe that Jehovah Kingdom will someday literally replace human governments.

**SOCIAL BARRIERS:**

- Jehovah’s Witnesses are taught to take Jesus’ words about being “not of the world” (Jn. 17:14-16) as a basis for separating themselves from non-Jehovah’s Witnesses.
- Birthday celebrations – whether children’s or those of Washington, Lincoln, or Martin Luther King are improper because they exalt an individual rather than God.
- Christmas, Easter & Halloween are forbidden because of their alleged pagan origins.
- Mother’s Day, Father’s Day are forbidden because they exalt the individual.
- Obviously, Labor Day, Memorial Day & Independence Day is restricted from a Jehovah’s Witness calendar.
- Sadly, young Jehovah’s Witnesses cannot be involved in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts & Cub Scouts (too militaristic); they “Y” in Young Men’s or Young Women’s Christian Assoc. – another religion and, they say, any other outside club or pursuit (bad assoc. and a waste of time!)

**BLOOD ISSUES:**

- Our Kingdom Ministry of Sept. 1992 tells Jehovah’s Witnesses to “be firmly resolved before any emergency comes up to refuse blood for yourself or your CHILDREN.
- By the time elders from Kingdom Hall arrive at the hospital and start talking directly to the surgeon and the pediatrician about avoiding objectionable procedures ... scores of Jehovah’s Witnesses, documented cases, have bled to death!  
(Source: Our Kingdom Ministry, Sept. 92, p. 3)
- Religiously mixed marriages involving Witnesses often end up in divorce court, where the Watchtower Society regularly provide assistance through printed material and its own legal staff.
- The Dec. 1, 1922 Watchtower magazine outlawed certain forms of sexual contact between husband & wife. It instructed that “the elders should act to try to correct the situation…” (p. 735) Serious about their responsibility to enforce “God’s Law”, many of these elders went on to interrogate the couples at length concerning the most intimate details of their love play. The problem was particularly damaging to marriages with a non-Witness husband.

**Jehovah’s Witnesses**

Message #6 in the Similarities & Differences series  
Wednesday, May 1, 2002
Dr. Jerry Johnston’s Sermonar
Bible Text: Matthew 24:21-25

**Jesus clearly said in Matthew 24:21-25:**

“For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. 21 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 22 At that time if a nyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 23 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. 24 See, I have told you ahead of time.”

WILLIAM MILLER - THE MILLERITE MOVEMENT OF THE EARLY 1800s

It has been a popular feature of several false teachers and cults to set an actual date for Christ’s return to planet earth. And each time, there has been bitter disappointment among avid followers who neglected Jesus’ clear words in Mt. 24: 21-25 and even clearer in verse 36.

**WHAT JEHOWAH’S WITNESSES BELIEVE AND TEACH**

Jesus said in Matthew 24:36:

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

1. The Jehovah’s Witnesses have falsely claimed that Armageddon and its outcome would happen in 6 different years: 1914; 1918; 1920; 1925; 1941; and 1975.
- Yet each time Christ did not come! The Jehovah’s Witnesses violate Matthew 24:36 and each time cover it up with their excuses.
- Still, members believe the end can’t be far off
- Jehovah’s Witnesses, by their false prophecies prove they are teachers!

Deuteronomy 18:1-22 “You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?” If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.”
Jehovah’s Witnesses falsely claim the Watchtower Society is God’s sole spokesman for communicating His will to people today.

If the six volumes of “Scripture Studies” are practically the Bible, topically arranged with Bible proof texts given, we might not improperly name the volumes “the Bible in arranged form,” that is to say, they are not mere comments on the Bible, but they are practically the Bible itself. Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible itself, but we see also, that if anyone lays the Scripture Studies aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years - if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the Scripture Studies with their references and had not read a page of the Bible as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures (Charles Taze Russell, The Watchtower, September 15, 1920, p. 298).

It is God’s sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth (The Watchtower, July 15, 1960, p. 439).

Jehovah’s Witnesses twist the scriptures by rewriting their own Bible, the New World Translation.

- The Watch Tower claims that its translation of the Bible is highly accurate.
- The Watch Tower Society has even gone so far as to say that God Himself has supervised its translation of the Bible, by “angels of various rank who controlled” the translators.
- Yet, Greek scholars, Christian & Non-Christian, universally reject the NWT, calling it biased & inaccurate.

“The Jehovah’s Witnesses have incorporated in their translations of the New Testament several quite erroneous renderings of the Greek.”
- Dr. Bruce Metzger, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny the consciousness of Jesus Christ — they teach Jesus was a created being.

- Similar to the Mormons, the Unitarian - Universalists, Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus Christ is God.
- To the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Jesus is not equal to Jehovah God. He was rather, Michael the Archangel in his pre-existent state, having a brother named Lucifer who rebelled against God while He (known then as Michael) remained obedient. (Source: The Kingdom Is At Hand, by J. Rutherford, p. 49)
- Upon Jesus’ resurrection, He went back to His former state as an invisible spirit, no longer having a body, according to Jehovah’s Witness’s theology.
- Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus Christ was created by God, they are guilty of believing that the first act of Jehovah God was to create another God.
- Scripture teaches otherwise: Colossians 1:15-17 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses teach the false doctrine of

- The Jehovah’s Witnesses — along with the Seventh-Day Adventists — teach that when a believer dies, he remains in an conscience state of existence in the grave until he is resurrected by God. The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe the soul of a person is a separate entity that has consciousness.

Scripture emphatically soul sleep!
- The Bible teaches that a person has both a material & immaterial part – each separate from the other. When the body dies, the soul & spirit do not cease to exist but are merely separated from the body.

Matthew 10:28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses teach salvation is by

In Let God Be True they express this belief: “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 (Romans 6:23). However, that life will not be the same for all. The Bible plainly shows that 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 (Revelation 14:1-1, Micah 4:1-5).” p. 298

“They must be recovered from blindness as well as from death, that they each for himself, may have a full chance to prove, by obedience or disobedience their worthiness of life eternal.” -Charles Taze Russell, Studies in Scripture Vol. 1, P. 158

Ephesians 2:8,9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses teach the false theory of

According to Jehovah’s Witnesses: “the doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for 4 reasons (they say) (1) It us wholly unscriptural; (2) it is unreasonable; (3) it is contrary to God’s love; and (4) it is repugnant to justice.

Scripture teaches God has given man his choice either to believe & receive eternal life or refuse to believe and spend eternity in hell.

Matthew 25:46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Revelation 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.”

- Annihilationism is a false, man-made doctrine.

Jehovah’s Witnesses maintain peculiar beliefs: Anti-patriotic; socially-isolated; and reject blood transfusions.
**WHERE THEY CAME FROM...**

*Jehovah’s Witnesses* came into being through the work of Charles Taze Russell, a Congregationalist who was influenced by Adventism in 1870. Russell organized his first congregation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1872 and registered his first incorporated society in 1884. Until the name Jehovah’s Witnesses was adopted in 1893, adherents were known as Russellites, Millennial Dawnists, and International Bible Students. At present, the organization is based on 3 USA corporations, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, and the International Bible Students Association. Congregations meet in Kingdom Halls and are grouped into circuits and districts, there being 31 districts in the USA. There is no separate clergy; all members are ministers and are expected to give personal witness and distribute literature from door to door, resulting in a massive voluntary missionary enterprise technically known as publishing, with members being called Publishers. As with the Mormons, a sizable number of schisms have broken from Jehovah’s Witnesses through the years, several in a mainline Protestant direction, including the Layman’s Home Missionary Movement (1918), the Church of the Kingdom of God, Greek Bible Students, and Converted Jehovah’s Witnesses. (Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Oxford University Press*, Volume 1 © 2001, page 778)

**JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES FOUNDER**

Charles Taze Russell, by name Pastor Russell (b. Feb. 16, 1852, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania U.S. - died Oct. 31, 1916, Pampa, Texas, U.S.), founder of the International Bible Students Association, forerunner of Jehovah’s Witnesses. By the time he was 20, Russell had left both Presbyterian and Congregationalism because he could not reconcile the idea of an eternal hell with God’s mercy. He had drifted into skepticism when a chance encounter with some Adventists introduced him to the idea that the Bible could be used to predict God’s plan of salvation, especially as the plan related to the end of the world.

With the help of tutors, Russell managed to master the use of Hebrew and Greek dictionaries to study the Bible. The scriptures fascinated him far more than did his haberdashery in Pittsburgh, and he left the business world to form a flourishing publishing business. His own books and booklets (notable seven volumes of Studies in the Scriptures) reached a circulation of 16 million copies in 35 languages, and 2,000 newspapers published his weekly sermons. Russell’s movements survived the embarrassment caused by the apparent failure of his apocalyptic prediction, as well as the problems caused by his separation from his wife and numerous lawsuits. (Source: *The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, volume 10, © 1985, p. 251)

**PASTOR JERRY HIGHLY RECOMMENDS:**


- **So What’s the Difference: A Look at 20 Worldviews, Faiths and Religions and How They Compare to Christianity** by Fritz Ridenour, Regal Books, © 1967, 1979, 2001 (Chapter 10: Jehovah’s Witnesses: There is no Hell ... Hard Work Earns “Paradise”); 256 pages.


**VIDEOS**

- **The Witnesses at Your Door**; 45 minutes, ©1992, Jeremiah Films

- **Witnesees of Jehovah**, 58 minutes, ©1988, Good News Defenders, P.O. Box 8007, La Jolla, CA 92038.

- **Battling Over the Children: Jehovah’s Witnesses and Child Custody Cases** by MacGregor Ministries, 47 minutes, Witness, Inc., P.O. Box 597, Clayton, CA 94517

- **Jehovah’s Witnesses: A Non-Prophet Organization (Over 100 years of False Prophesies and Lies!)**; 45 minutes; ©1994; Witness, Inc. P.O. Box 597, Clayton, CA 94517

**For further study:**

- **What You Need to Know About Jehovah’s Witnesses** by Lorri MacGregor. (Lorri MacGregor was a Jehovah’s Witness for fifteen years.) Macgregor Ministries, P.O. Box 454, Metaline Falls, WA 99153-0454.