

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Introduction

Jehovah's Witnesses is a religious sect that is viewed by orthodox Christianity as one promoting false, distorted doctrines that lead persons away from the truth of God's Holy Word, the scriptures embraced by Christianity for millennia. In support of that assertion, Jehovah's Witnesses have their own Bible translation – the New World Translation (NWT). The group's headquarters, called The Watchtower, is located in Brooklyn, New York.

Origin

The sect started in Pennsylvania in 1870 as a Bible class taught by Charles Taze Russell. Russell wrote a six-volume series of books entitled *The Millennial Dawn* that contained the basis of the teachings Jehovah's Witnesses believe today. Followers were labeled 'Russellites.' In 1886, The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society was established and became the organization through whom the 'Millennial Dawn' movement spread.

Upon Russell's death in 1916, J. F. Rutherford succeeded him and wrote the seventh and final volume of *The Millennial Dawn* series entitled *The Finished Mystery*. Disputes within the group led to a split in 1917. Those who followed Rutherford called themselves Jehovah's Witnesses.

Main Beliefs

As mentioned, beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect are alien to Christian orthodoxy. Following are the main beliefs the group holds:

Jesus is Michael the archangel and is the highest created being of God.

Salvation is attained by combining faith, good works, and obedience. Grace is absent from this view.

The reality of the Trinity of God is rejected. Jesus, they claim, was only a created being and the Holy Spirit is an inanimate power of God.

Jesus' death was a ransom payment for Adam's sin, not the substitutionary atonement.

It should be noted that to fit their false beliefs, they rewrote the Bible with their own version, the aforementioned New World Translation, that has undergone numerous revisions as they discover other well-established doctrines contrary to their beliefs.

Leadership of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the only body in the sect that can interpret Scripture. Their views, they claim, are the last word and cannot be challenged.

Demographics

In 2018, the Jehovah's Witnesses official website listed a worldwide membership of just over 8.4 million. Though the sect is growing today, it is far smaller than the 20+ million members of the 1930s. Following are the top ten countries with highest populations of Jehovah's Witnesses, according to worldatlas.com*:

Country	Jehovah's Witnesses
United States	1,232,293
Mexico	871,207
Brazil	858,799
Nigeria	381,398
Italy	251,192
Republic of the Congo	216,696
Japan	213,473
Philippines	210,914
Zambia	194,311
Colombia	173,802

Closing Thoughts

To compare Jehovah's Witnesses and what they believe to other religions, we invite you to explore www.sourceoftruelife.com/Resources/ComparisonofReligions

This is an introduction on the subject of **Jehovah's Witnesses**. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore:

[Who are the Jehovah's Witnesses and what are their beliefs? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Jehovah's Witnesses -10 Things to Know About Their Beliefs \(christianity.com\)](#)

[12 Outrageous Facts about Jehovah's Witnesses you need to Know | by Sylviane Nuccio | Medium](#)

[What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe? Who are the Jehovah's Witnesses? \(compellingtruth.org\)](#)

[*Countries With the Largest Jehovah's Witness Populations - WorldAtlas](#)