







Origins

- The "Organization" legally incorporated in 1884 by **Charles Taze Russell**
- Rejected most of orthodox Christianity
- Ideas circulated through seven volume "Studies in the Scripture" (15 Million distributed)
- Headquarters in Brooklyn, NY "Governing Body"

Origins

- Joseph F. Rutherford
- Second president of the Watchtower Society
- 1931 Gave them the name Official name became Jehovah's Witnesses (Isaiah 43:10)
- Predicted Christ's judgment of Christianity in 1918

Origins

- Joseph F. Rutherford
- Divided the Witnesses into two distinct groups
- The Elect (144,000) who are born again
- The Great Crowd –the unelect with everlasting life on earth

Origins

- Group was known by the names
 - Russellites
 - Millennial Dawnists
 - Rutherfordites
 - International Bible Students

Structure



The Kingdom Hall

- Constructed in 48 hours
- Where local congregations meet
- Services are planned in advance by the headquarters in Brooklyn-even to the song
- "Publishing" is the distribution of "Watchtower" and "Awake" magazines door to door.
 - A duty for the most faithful of Witnesses
 - Encounters are planned in advance

Lord's Supper

- Largest attended service
- Shows the true number of witnesses
- Only the 144K may partake
 - Elements are passed locally in the congregations with no one partaking
- Only about 5K left
- 1 Corinthians 11:26 refutes their understanding

Sources of Authority

- Ultimate source is the volumes of ***Studies in Scripture*** because "people cannot see the divine plan by studying the Bible itself"
- ***The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*** published in 1961
 - Made to "verify" predetermined doctrines

Sources of Authority

- ***Watchtower Magazine*** gives "spiritual food" from the "faithful and discreet slave"
- There are no Articles Of Faith
- ***Make Sure of All Things***-Doctrinal Handbook
- Awake Magazine

Sources of Authority

- Five services held by the Kingdom Hall
 - Public Talk
 - The Watchtower Study
 - Book Study
 - Theocratic Ministry School
 - Service Meeting

Doctrine of God

- Jehovah means “the Purposer”
- “and is not working out his purpose of vindicating his name and sovereignty and blessing all faithful mankind through his kingdom.”
- One Person who’s attributes are love, wisdom, justice, and power

Doctrine of God

- Omniscient but not Omnipresent although his power extends everywhere
- Trinity is “false, unbiblical”

Doctrine of Jesus Christ

- Jesus is inferior to Jehovah, Jehovah is Christ's God
- Is God's first creation
- He is Michael the Archangel
- He is not "the Word" but is a lesser god
- His resurrection was not of the same body but materialized flesh and blood to be seen and believed

Doctrine of Jesus Christ

- First Born Son of God, a Spirit (He was spirit-person)
- Lesser than Jehovah
- Born as a Human Son of God
- Became the messiah seed in fall A.D. 29
- Died on stake as "Ransomer in Spring"
- Resurrected Immortal on Third Day

Doctrine of Holy Spirit

- Not a person
- "Jehovah's invisible energizing force...that produces visible results....experienced by men"
- Does not explain activities as helper, guide, advocate, comforter, conviction of sin, etc....

Doctrine of Man

- Man is a soul
- “consists of body together with the life principle or life force activating it”
- “Man has no soul within him that is separate and distinct from his human body and that could exist independently should dissolutions of body occur”
- Man is not immortal-Death is cessation from existence

Doctrine of Man

- Only the 144K can be immortal
- Human souls can only dwell forever on the earth

Adam

- If Adam had not sinned, he would have lived forever on earth, and his children
- Death is called “soul-sleep” termination of existence, utter cessation of conscious, intellectual, or physical activity of any kind.
- Satan challenged God by inducing man to sin

Atonement and Salvation

- "Salvation is the deliverance from the destructive power of sin, a redemption from the ultimate end of sin which is everlasting death, annihilation."

Atonement and Salvation

- Atonement is a ransom and only a ransom- "corresponding ransom"
- Christ was nothing more than a ransom paid to Jehovah God to recover the rights and prospects again for the human race
- Works are necessary for salvation
 - "more is required than mere confession of faith...belief demonstrated by works"

144,000

- Only they will share in heavenly glory with Jesus Christ
- Must exercise faith in God's provision
- "God now...causes his active force or holy spirit to act upon them so as to bring them forth"
- Demonstrate "their dependability by carrying out their dedication till death"
- Apostles first members of this group.

Other Sheep

- Promised everlasting life on earth for those now working as Jehovah's Witnesses
- At death a person will
 - Remain in the non-existence
 - "raised" with a spirit body and gain immortality
 - Raised with a physical body-preserved
 - Raised with a physical body-annihilated

Eschatology

- 1914 began the Enthronement of Christ in Heaven-Jesus received the "never to be destroyed kingdom"
- 1. Daniel 4:16
- 2. Revelation 12:6,14
- 3. Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6

Eschatology

- Cleansing of the Spiritual Temple and Judgment
- 1918
 1. Jesus entered the spiritual temple and began to cleanse it
 2. Judgement of the nations began-people divided into sheep and goats

Eschatology

Next great Event-Armageddon

- “the battle of Jehovah God Almighty by Christ Jesus who leads invisible forces of righteousness to destroy Satan and his demonic and human organization eliminating wickedness from the universe vindicating Jehovah’s universal sovereignty”

Eschatology

Armageddon survivors

- “will enter the Millennium on Earth. A New earth will be governed by the New Heavens -Christ and 144K”
- No evil, disease, aches no pains
- People will marry and have children and when the earth is full people will stop having children

Eschatology

Two Resurrections

- Persons raised to life on earth with physical bodies who were faithful witnesses to Jehovah in pre-Christian times (Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc.)
- “Those who wanted to do right but died without opportunity to hear or learn...Decent and sincere people”

Eschatology

Loosing of Satan and Final Judgment

- Satan will gain a large following and lead a final rebellion against Jehovah
- Satan and demons cast into the lake of fire and sulfur-Gehenna-annihilated as though they never existed

Eschatology

Final Disposition of Men

- The “other sheep” will remain on earth entering “upon an eternity of paradisaic happiness in the ever-abiding new earth”
- “absolute and endless destruction is the doom of all others”

Angels

- Angels were created of different ranks
- Lucifer (Son of the morning) and the only-begotten son were the princes and were called “morning stars” who worked together and “sang together”

Heavens and Earth Creation

- Finally the Heaven and Earth were created
- Jesus sought to working and creating the space, earth, heaven
