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## Jehovah's Witnesses

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The Jehovah's Witnesses claim to be Christians. Founded by Charles Taze Russell, the sect publishes the Watchtower magazine and Awake! Because of their deviations from traditional Christian teaching, they are not considered to be true Christians.

“Was Moses the mediator between Jehovah God and mankind in general? No, he was the mediator between the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the nation of their fleshly descendants. Likewise, the Greater Moses, Jesus Christ, is not the Mediator between Jehovah God and all mankind. He is the Mediator between his heavenly Father, Jehovah God, and the nation of spiritual Israel, which is limited to only 144,000 members.” (Worldwide Security Under the Prince of Peace, page 10). This makes it impossible to regard the witnesses as Christians. Christianity has made a core doctrine out of Jesus being the mediator between God and humankind.

The cult's most notorious doctrine is how blood transfusions are absolutely forbidden.

Blood transfusions are supposed to be sinful as life is so sacred that blood must be treated as sacred. The sect argues that blood transfusions desecrate blood and that the deaths that happen due to the ban are justified for they are uncommon and unintended. It is like, "Blood is sacred. The ban on blood transfusions is good and the deaths are unwanted and unintended side-effects". This is the same hypocrisy as the Catholics use in relation to euthanasia. If somebody who could live for years is given painkillers to deal with their agony and the painkillers poison them so that they die in a few months, the Church pretends that it is fine as long as the intention was to ease pain and not to hurry the death of the person! Hypocrisy in such a tragic situation is truly vulgar.

The sect is sometimes in the news when parents keep their children out of hospital as they fear they will get blood. Children have died as parents refused to allow them to be given blood. The issue of whether or not a Jehovah's Witness adult should be forcibly given blood in hospital against their express wishes is hotly debated among ethicists. The trouble with their refusal is there is a chance they might change their minds when they are at death's door. Also, how free is their choice? They are told they are dying and they are afraid of Jehovah their judge.

Hypocritical Jehovah's Witness doctors and nurses believe that it's okay to give blood transfusions if the person is not a Jehovah's Witness! If they really believe that blood is sacred, then they are allowed to desecrate it for unbelievers! This is a really permission to do what is wrong in order to keep the peace with people who demand that religion does not impose its principles on them.

The witnesses deny the doctrine of eternal punishment and the divinity of Christ and the Trinity. The Bible certainly does teach the existence of eternal punishment. Jesus said we must be born again to enter the heavenly kingdom of God and they say only 144,000 will be born again and enter Heaven while the rest of the just will live on Paradise Earth. The only place where this number is mentioned is Revelation 7. But all it says is that the people will be selected for sealing from the twelve tribes of Israel and then says that the author saw a great innumerable crowd clad in white before the throne and the Lamb. So, it will be more than 144,000. It is not even said that they will be in Heaven only that they will be sealed on earth.

Interestingly the Jehovah's Witnesses give out "Bibles" not Bibles. They have an altered Bible that they lie is a true translation. The Jehovah's Witnesses have issued a Bible, the New World Translation, which is full of deliberate mistranslations to back up the doctrines of the sect. An organisation that does something like that with its central work, promoting scripture, should not have charitable status. I wonder how far I would get if I put a faked version of the Aeneid out there! The reality is that the organisation takes money off the people to put a fake Bible out there.

The notion of God opening Heaven only to that number is ridiculous. God would not keep us at a distance from him on a Paradise Earth. And why could God not become man instead of sending an angel to become Jesus and die for the world? God put the dirty work on Jesus. They argue that since Jesus is said to be a spirit now that he never rose bodily from the dead. But the Bible may mean spiritual body by spirit. This is a material body that is more spirit than matter but Jesus is not just a spirit. They illogically argue that since Jesus is a spirit now that his second coming will be invisible which is sheer nonsense. Nothing in the Bible says such a thing. They take Revelation figuratively when it says every eye will see Jesus coming back. They say this is the eye of understanding but one rule of interpretation is not to assume that something that might be literal is figurative. This example shows how the Witnesses approach the Bible.

It is thought that since the Witnesses say that Michael the Archangel stopped being a spirit and became the man Jesus and then that Jesus became a spirit again three days after he ceased to exist at death that there are really three Jesuses here. But God could use a time warp so that the same mind is preserved through the different transformations. He could arrange that when Jesus died that his mind was instantly transferred to the spirit that rose from the dead as if there was no time in-between. Time is elastic and relative and God can change it. As for the transformation of Michael, God could turn my mind into the mind of a dog and still keep me the same person.

An excellent Catholic booklet, Jehovah's Witnesses, tells us that the name of God is more likely to be Yahweh than Jehovah. And Father is a more important name for God so the witnesses overstress it for they put so much emphasis on it and on knowing it that they even put it into the name of their sect. God is never called Jehovah or Yahweh in the New Testament. Their translation of the phrase "And the Word was God," becomes, "The Word was a god" in their New World Translation. The whole world of Greek scholarship is against them in this. They could translate, "In the beginning was the word and the word was with THE GOD and the word was GOD NOT THE GOD." The word is the description of God. The word is God not in the identity sense but in the descriptive sense.

The society argues that since the two birthdays recorded in the Bible were not celebrated by believers in God that birthdays are immoral and forbidden by the Bible. That is appalling logic.

They say that when Jesus said it is better to lose a limb that draws you to sin than to be thrown into Gehenna that Gehenna means the grave. But Jesus meant more than that for sin does not instantly kill you and you will die anyway. So why be afraid of the grave? If you lost a limb in those days you were almost certain to die through infection and blood loss so when he says sin is worse he means it has worse consequences for you than anything earthy.

Against all the evidence the Jehovahs think that the fall of Jerusalem happened in 606 BC and they start counting from the 2520 years indicated in Daniel 4 to get the year 1914 which they say ended the times of the Gentiles and started the prophecies of Jesus coming true about the world going into its worst ever calamities and which was the year of Jesus' invisible second coming which now makes him guide the world through guiding the Watchtower to make infallible Bible interpretations (page 80, Jehovah's Witnesses). (See also, Crisis of Conscience.) The year should have been 1935 for it has been proven that the fall took place in 587 BC. The year 1914 is as important to the sect and its credibility as the papacy is to the Roman Catholic cult.

The witnesses got the legal right in 1943 to refuse to salute the flag. For the witnesses, such salutes are idolatrous. They got the right in the landmark case West Virginia State Board of Education versus Barnette. "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein. If there are any circumstances which permit an exception, they do not now occur to us."

The Watchtower is apostate Christianity for it says it adheres to the Bible alone doctrine which is not true. Worse, the society claims to be prophesied in scripture and to be infallible when it thinks it can tell when the end of the world will take place. It has got that wrong many times. It is a false prophet - speaking words in the name of God that he never uttered.

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