

# Unit 12: Jehovah's Witnesses

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## Unit Introduction

In this unit we will be examining the history and teachings of the group known as Jehovah's Witnesses, and what God's Word has to say regarding these teachings.

## Outline

Unit 12: Jehovah's Witnesses

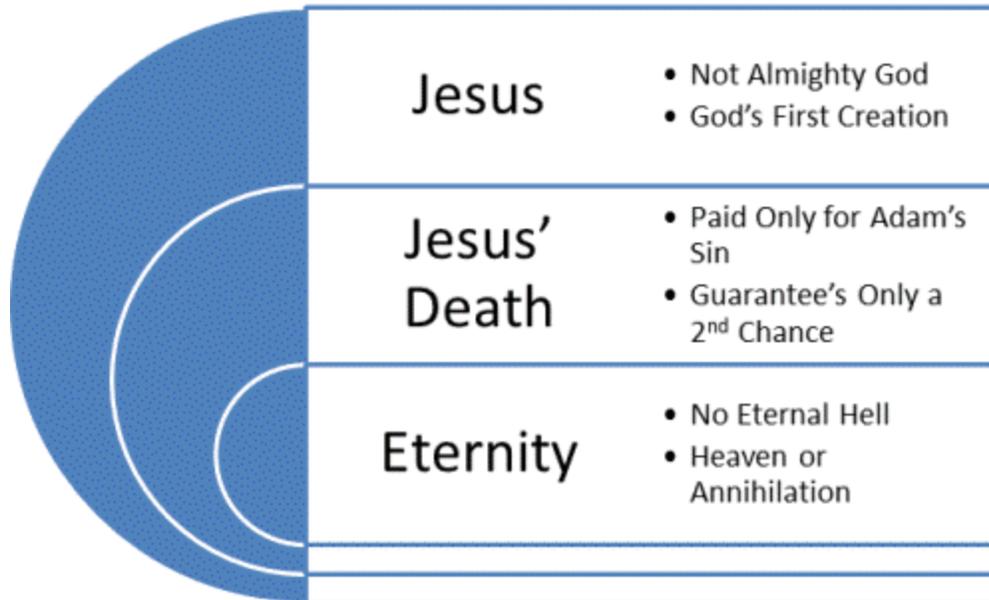
Lesson 30: Jehovah's Witnesses Part 1

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# Lesson 30: Jehovah's Witnesses Part 1

## Lesson Introduction



When we think about witnessing to someone, often our biggest fear is, "What if this person is a (fill in the religion) and I can't answer their questions? Worse yet, what if they get me doubting my own faith?"

It is a natural human tendency, but one that we do not have to fall victim to. If we

take a callous attitude of, "I don't care what other religions teach", then we will struggle in witnessing to people of those religions.

However, we must take the time to examine what they believe, and then hold it up to the light of Scripture. Then, not only will we gain a better understanding of their beliefs, but we will have a better knowledge of what the Bible truly teaches and be better prepared to defend the faith.

In this topic we will examine some of the basic beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and begin to dissect and see just what God's Word teaches.

### Lesson Outline

Introduction

Topic 1: Doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses

Some Main Teachings

What Does the Bible Say?

Topic 2: Is Jesus God?

No Savior but Jehovah

God is With Us

Only God Can Forgive

The Father and Son Are One

## Introduction

I want to look at Jehovah's Witnesses. Now I am not here to attack Jehovah's Witnesses, or tell you I hate them, I don't hate them, and I don't think you should hate them. I just believe that they teach something that is not in the Bible. Now those of you who say well I don't care, well sometimes when you look at something that is wrong you find out what the Bible says is right. And I think we've got a lot of things tonight that say the Bible, and what it says is right. Jehovah's Witnesses, you know they've really grown lately. They are up around 10 million. They are not real popular in most areas, but they knock on doors and they knock on doors and they keep at it and they've grown considerably in the last few years. There's hardly a town in this nation, especially the rural towns, that you will not see a Jehovah Witnesses Kingdom Hall. Now usually you will find them in the smaller towns. Also you will find them down in South America, Central America, and they have spread out in a tremendous fashion. It was started by Charles Russell in 1852, he was in a Congregational church and he had a great fear of hell, and a skeptic showed him and taught him that there was no hell. Now I wish I could believe there was no hell but there is a hell. Then he spent the rest of his life trying to prove that there was no hell. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe there is a hell, eternal hell. Anyway, then he died in 1916, and Judge Rutherford took over, and he was a lawyer and a layman in the cult and in 1917 he was chosen to succeed Russell. During the 20 years he controlled the cult, he wrote approximately 100 books and pamphlets and they were translated into nearly 80 languages, with a total distribution of over 300 million copies. Rutherford let Russell's books go out of print and they had different names. They were called Russellism, Millennial Dawnism, and International Bible Students until finally they took the name of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931. Nathan Knorr took over in 1942 and has led the movement.

### Assignment:

Memorize John 3:36

### QUESTION 1

It is not important to know what other religions are teaching. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTION 2

Jehovah's Witnesses is based on the belief that eternal hell is real. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTION 3

Which of the following were once names for Jehovah's Witnesses? *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Latter-Day Saints
- B. Russellism
- C. Millennial Dawnism
- D. International Bible Students

## Topic 1: The Doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses

The main issue in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses is always the same issue in witnessing to anybody, and I want you to look at some of these verses, but it is always grace versus works. Grace versus works,

whether you are talking to any group that believes that salvation is not only by Jesus Christ, and this is the main issue. We have Ephesians 2:8 listed on your verses, "For by grace are you saved through faith that not of yourselves it is a gift of God," and then nine, "Not of works lest any man should boast." And then Romans 4:5, "But to him that worketh not but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness." And I had never heard anything like these verses, even though I had gone to church all my life. A lot of people reject what they think Christianity is, but not what Christianity really is. You know the Jehovah's Witnesses have a reputation for possessing a great Bible knowledge. The truth is, they only know certain portions of the Bible. You would never see them studying the Bible verse by verse, going through one chapter and one book in its entirety. That's not how they do it. If they did that it would disprove them and the cult would cease to exist. You see the Bible teaches itself, the Bible is not hard to understand, but we make it difficult because we don't study it. And cults like Jehovah's Witnesses they just study portions, they never study it in its entirety, and that is one of the dangerous things about a cult.

**Assignment:**

Memorize Hebrews 9:27

**QUESTION 4**

When you witness to Jehovah's Witnesses, you will have a different main issue besides grace vs. works. *True or False?* Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 5**

Jehovah's Witnesses have a reputation for possessing a great Bible knowledge. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 6**

One of the marks of a cult is that they only study \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. Prophecy
- B. The end times
- C. Portions of Scripture
- D. The entire Word of God

**Some Main Teachings**

The test of any groups claim to be Christian is its doctrine, mainly what do they say about Jesus Christ, and what do they say about how to go to heaven? Is it by grace or is it by works and this is where the Jehovah's Witnesses have their problems. Here is some of the things Jehovah's Witnesses believe. Salvation according to a Jehovah's Witness is this. The ransom does not guarantee everlasting life to any man but only a second chance. This is found in *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, page 176 and 177. Man will be given a second chance for salvation during the millennium. *Studies in Scripture Vol. 1*, p. 106-107 Here is another one of their doctrines: One forfeited life can redeem one forfeited life, but no more. The man Christ Jesus redeemed Adam, that is found on page 133, that is kind of the same as the Catholic Church teaches that Christ paid for Adam's sin and not all sin. The second trial will decide whether we may or may not have everlasting life, *The Watchtower*, Feb.15, 1960, page 143. The Watchtower Society, they are also called, and *The Watchtower* is the name of their magazine. Most of their printing, they're getting sharper now, but he used to be that ugly looking green, you could always tell their printing by their green that they printed everything in. But they are not doing that so much anymore. Many times they

will put out little Bible studies and stories for kids, and it'll be a Jehovah's Witness or it will be Mormon, and you will get it and say well it looks so good does it hurt my kids? Well there are subtleties in it, such as, Jesus was God's first creation, instead of Jesus is God.

### **QUESTION 7**

To a Jehovah's Witness, salvation is not eternal life, only a second chance. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 8**

What teaching do Jehovah's Witnesses have in common with the Roman Catholic Church?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. There is no hell.
- B. Confession of sin.
- C. Christ's death paid only for Adam's sin.
- D. Jesus is the Son of God.

### **QUESTION 9**

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is God. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

Now as we look at some of the verses on salvation according to the Bible. Look at some more of these, "He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he has not believed on the name of the only begotten son of God." John 3:18 do you see that? He that believeth on him is not condemned, you say I never knew that, salvation was something that I had to try to work for. I never knew it was believe only. "He that believeth not is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God." What gets you to heaven is whether you put your trust in Christ or not. Look at John 3:36, "He that believeth on the son hath everlasting life." It means you have it right now, "... and he that believeth not the son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him." He that believeth on the son hath everlasting life, he that believeth not hath not seen life but the wrath of God abideth on him. Can you imagine what that would be, to have the wrath of God abiding on you? How terrible that would be? But he that believeth on the son hath, you see the word believe means to trust depend or rely upon. Look at Acts 16:31, "And they said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." That's what the Philippian jailer said, he said what must I do to be saved? All he had to do was to believe. John 6:47, "Verily verily I say to you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life." You see that word hath means you possess now everlasting life. How long is everlasting? You say it's forever. It says he that believeth on me hath everlasting, do you see what we're saying? We are saying that salvation is totally on Jesus. Hebrews 9:27, "As it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment." What does this say? That says it is appointed unto men once to die, and then there is the judgment. There is no intermediate, there is no purgatory, there's no millennial time, that you can be saved, as Jehovah's Witnesses or Roman Catholics would say. It is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment. Once you die, if you don't know Christ, you are going to have the judgment and the judgment is going to be eternal hell. In first Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time." He didn't die for just Adams sin, he died for all of our sins. He didn't just die for Adam's sins like so many people like to say.

## QUESTION 10

Not believing in Jesus' sacrifice is what condemns you. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTION 11

According to John 6:47, we won't actually possess eternal life until we die. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic 2: Is Jesus God?

Now the Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is a mighty God, but not almighty God who is Jehovah. They said this in Truth Shall Make You Free, page 47. He is a mighty God but not almighty God who is Jehovah. You see they don't believe Jesus was almighty God, they believe he was just a God. A God in the sense that we would be a God. And then they also say, in The Kingdom Is At Hand, page 46 through 49, he was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God, he was the start of God's creative work. Now we believe that Jesus has always been, you cannot be an eternal father and not have an eternal son. Jesus was not a creation, Jesus was. But again Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus was God. Now they took the name Jehovah's Witnesses, now I believe that Jesus Christ is Jehovah God, they don't. Now if we can prove that Jesus Christ is Jehovah God, then they have a problem. I want us to look at some of these verses, and I think that they are kind of exciting verses because they prove that Jesus Christ was Jehovah. Now a Jehovah's Witness would never say that, oh no Jesus wasn't Jehovah, Jehovah that is referring to the father. So now if we can prove that Jesus in the Old Testament, Jehovah is Jesus, then we can prove to the Jehovah Witnesses that they are wrong. You see the way to win them is the Scriptures. What do the Scriptures teach? Well let's look.

### Assignment:

Memorize 1 Timothy 2:5

## QUESTION 13

The Jehovah's Witness will tell you that Jesus is: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Almighty God.
- B. A mighty God.
- C. The Everlasting Son.
- D. God's first and direct Creation.

## QUESTION 14

The best way to win a Jehovah's Witness is to use the Scriptures. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## No Savior But Jehovah

Isaiah 43:10, "Ye are my witnesses...", Jehovah's Witnesses would say man that's us, "...saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I even I am the Lord, and beside me there is no savior." This is talking about Jehovah. Beside me there is no savior. Now if we can prove that Jesus was the Savior, then he is Jehovah. That anytime you see LORD it means Jehovah. Isaiah 43:6, "Thus saith the Lord, Jehovah, the king of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts, I am first and I am last, and beside me there is no God. Fear not, neither be afraid, as I have told the from that time and declared it, you are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me, yea there is no God, I know not any." Look at Deuteronomy 4:39, "Know therefore this day and consider it in thine heart that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath there is none else." Now I want you to understand that it is very clear in there that there's not two gods. Now let's look at the New Testament and I want you to understand, that Jehovah's Witnesses believe in the New Testament just like they believe in the Old Testament. Luke 2:11, "And unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord." Okay? Remember Isaiah 43:10? Beside me there is no savior? Unto you is born in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. Jesus was Jehovah. So is the father Jehovah. The Godhead is in three distinct persons, and yet only one Godhead, there is only one distinct God in three distinct persons. Now, if we could say that Jehovah God is the Lord of glory, and if Jesus could be proven to be the Lord of glory, you can prove that Jesus is Jehovah. Well let's look at it. In Isaiah 42:8, "I am the Lord, that is my name and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise unto graven images." Okay do you see that? My glory will I not give to another? Look at first Corinthians 2:8, "Which none of the princes of this world knew, for had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." Now he could never be called the Lord of glory if Jesus wasn't God Jehovah. It could never be done, it would be an impossibility. Now Zechariah 12:1 through 10 basically says they will look upon me whom they have pierced, you might just want to write that down, Zachariah 12 verses one through 10. When was Jehovah Lord, Jehovah, pierced? It says they will look on me whom they have pierced. I think that is kind of important for us to be able to see. John 19:33, "but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was dead already, they break not his legs..." Now remember the scripture said that none of his legs would be broken, none of his bones would be broken? "... but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forth with came out blood and water." See he was pierced. He had to be pierced. It was told in the Old Testament that he would be pierced. "And he that saw it bear record, and this record is true, and he knoweth it, that he saith truth that you might believe. For these things were done that the Scriptures should be fulfilled, a bone of him should not be broken, and yet another scripture, they shall look upon him whom they pierced." Listen there is no way I could read this Bible and not believe that Jesus was God. Since Christ was pierced, and Jehovah God said he would be pierced then Christ is God.

### **QUESTION 15**

Jehovah stated that beside Him, there is no Savior. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 17**

In 1 Corinthians, Paul could not have called Jesus the Lord of Glory if He wasn't God. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **God is With Us**

The next one is Isaiah 7:14, boy this is a good one, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign, behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Now I want to read you Matthew 1:18, but I want you to notice some things before I read it. Notice in verse 18, I'm going to read it later okay, the child was of the Holy Ghost. Okay remember Isaiah 7:14? A virgin would conceive? And Mary was with child before they, Mary and Joseph, came together. Again in verse 20, the angel of the Lord confirms that the child is of the Holy Ghost. In verse 21 the child is named Jesus because he

shall save the people from their sins. The very name Jesus means the God who saves. In verses 22 and 23 we shall learn that all was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophets same behold a virgin shall be with child, Immanuel which means God is with us. Now let's look at it. In Matthew 1:18, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise, when asked his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily, but while he thought on these things behold an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost, and she shall bring forth a son they shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins. All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophets saying, behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife and knew her not until she had brought forth her firstborn son, and he called his name Jesus." Man that ought to get you excited. A virgin shall conceive, see Jesus was God and he was man it's an incredible thing to be even able to think about how tremendous it is. God himself says that the child Jesus is actually God himself. And we can see this so clearly.

### **QUESTION 18**

God's sign for Messiah would be that a young maid would conceive and bear a son. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 19**

The name Jesus means: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. The God Who loves
- B. The God Who is Just
- C. The God of mercy
- D. The God Who saves

### **QUESTION 20**

God Himself said through the prophets that the child Jesus is actually God Himself. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Only God Can Forgive**

Now we want to look at some other things, Mark 2:5 says that Jesus forgave people's sins. Only God could forgive people's sins. Look at Mark 2:5, "When Jesus saw her faith he said unto the sick of the palsy, son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Only Jesus, only God could forgive people's sins. Now, Luke 1:68, I want you to look at this, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." Isn't that an incredible thing? It is really incredible. Now this next verse is a man that was healed and he was told to go to his own house. In Luke 8:39, let's look at this, "Return to thine own house and show how great things God has done." Now remember Jesus had just done the healing, he said go tell them what God has done unto thee, "... and he went his way and published throughout the whole city, great things Jesus had done unto him." There is no contradiction because Jesus was God. Jesus was God. I think it's a very important thing for us to be able to see. Now John 19:33 through 38, it is recorded, Christ's conversation with a man who wanted to know who Christ was. Christ said he was the son of God and man. He was worshiped. Believe me, only God can be worshiped. No man can never be worshiped, although some men are worshiped, no man ever should be worshiped. It is a very dangerous thing. John 9:33, "If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. They answered and said to him, thou was

altogether born in sin, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. And Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and when he had found him he said to him, dost thou believe on the son of God? And he answered and said, who is he Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said the Lord I believe, and he worshiped him." No one in the Bible ever accepted worship except Jesus. Look at Exodus 34:14, "For they shall worship no other god, for the Lord whose name is jealous, is a jealous God." Look at John 5:23, "That all men should honor the son, even as they honor the father. He that honor is not the son, honor is not the father which has sent him." You see that? Jesus and the father are one. It's good for us to see it.

### **QUESTION 21**

Only God can forgive sins. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 22**

Luke 8:39 contains a contradiction in Scripture. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 23**

If Jesus were not God, He could not have accepted worship as God. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Father and Son Are One**

I think it shows it again if we look at John 14:7-9, "If you had known me, you should have known my father also. And from henceforth, you know him and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord show us the father, and it suffices us. Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you and yet thou hast not known me Philip? He that has seen me has seen the father, and how saith thou show us the father?" Oh I tell you can't you see the beauty of that? Have I been so long time with you Philip? Don't you know and understand now Philip? Isn't that something? Have I been with you so long time and you still don't know it Philip? He that has seen me has seen the father, and how saith thou show us the father? Then the Jehovah witnesses say, no he wasn't God, he was created. He wasn't almighty, he was a mighty but not almighty. No he didn't pay for our sins, he only paid for Adam's sins. We have to pay for our own sins. No, he paid for our sins and he wiped them clean. Look at John 12: 45, "he that hath seen me seeth him that sent me." Can you imagine anybody but God making statements like that? If I were up here tonight and I said he that has seen me has seen him that sent me, you would say let me start getting out of here fast. John 15:24, "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin, but now have they both seen and hated both me and my father." You say pastor can we really know the Bible is the word of God? I say yes we can really know it. I'm not talking about religion, religions are man-made and woman made. Religions are man trying to reach God by good works, Christianity is God reaching us through Christ. That's what makes all the difference.

## LESSON 30 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**QUESTION 1:** False [As we examine their teachings, we can see what the Bible has to say.]

**QUESTION 2:** False [They do not believe in a literal, eternal hell.]

### QUESTION 3

- B. Russellism
- C. Millennial Dawnism
- D. International Bible Students

**QUESTION 4:** False [Grace vs. Works is always the main issue.]

**QUESTION 5:** True [In reality, they only study certain portions.]

### QUESTION 6

- C. Portions of Scripture

**QUESTION 7:** True

### QUESTION 8

- C. Christ's death paid only for Adam's sin.

**QUESTION 9:** False [They believe He was a creation of God.]

**QUESTION 10:** True [John 3:18]

**QUESTION 11:** False [The word "hath" in this verse means "possess now".]

### QUESTION 12

| <i>Reference</i> | <i>Teaching</i>                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John 3:36        | Believe on the Son                |
| Acts 16:31       | Only believe to be saved          |
| Hebrews 9:27     | Man dies once, then the judgment. |
| 1 Timothy 2:5    | Christ was a ransom for all.      |

### QUESTION 13

- B. A mighty God.
- D. God's first and direct Creation.

**QUESTION 14:** True [This applies to witnessing to anybody.]

**QUESTION 15:** True

**QUESTION 17:** True

**QUESTION 18:** False [It would not be much of a sign.]

### QUESTION 19

- D. The God Who saves

**QUESTION 20:** True

**QUESTION 21:** True [Jesus forgave sins as God; that was one thing that caused the Pharisee's to hate him.]

**QUESTION 22:** False [There is no contradiction; Jesus was and is God.]

**QUESTION 23:** True