

The Kingdom According to Charles Taze Russell

Something I appreciated that was said, something I've heard in the past, is that we need to first put a greater effort into studying the **Bible** before we study any of the world religions so that we'll be better able then, to defend the truth. A couple weeks ago there were two ladies from the Jehovah's Witnesses (*hereafter J.W.*) that knocked on the door of my office in the carriage house. They were concerned that people didn't know of the kingdom and left some information for me to look at with the idea that they would return in two weeks to consider going over it. So in studying their information and realizing there were things in it that don't gel with what I understand as **Biblical** truth, it was obvious that what I had heard about studying the **Bible** first was true. What study I've done in the past helped to immediately recognize the error of the man-made "teachings of demons".

1Ti 4:1 Now the **Spirit** expressly says that in later times (*during the last dispensation, a.k.a. the Christian age*) some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful (*Gk.4108-misleading*) spirits (*Gk.4151- vital principal*) and teachings (*Gk.1319- instruction*) of demons, **2** through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared (*Gk.2743- render insensitive*),

With such knowledge we can then show others how to deal with these false doctrines. Any and all such revisions or additions to the faith since it was first canonized are to be considered counterfeit.

Jud 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for **the** (*direct article*) **faith** (*Gk.4102-persuasion, moral conviction [of religious truth]*) that was **once for all** (*Gk.530- one [or a single] time [conclusively]*) delivered (*Gk.3860- entrusted*) to the saints.

Therefore, if it wasn't written from inspiration, which ended when "the perfect" (*1 Cor 13:10*), completed will of **God** was compiled from the writings of **inspired** men, then it is to be deemed bogus to the core. First we'll look at their beginning and some of the teachings of the J.W. and then compare them to what the **Bible** actually communicates according to the truth. The J.W. was started by **Charles Taze Russell** (February 16, 1852 – October 31, 1916) who was from Pittsburg, PA and continued through **Joseph Franklin Rutherford** (November 8, 1869 – January 8, 1942), the second president of the incorporated [Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania](#). He played a primary role in the organization and doctrinal development of [Jehovah's Witnesses](#) which emerged from the [Bible Student](#) movement established by [Charles Taze Russell](#) (in the late 1870s). The name *Jehovah's witnesses*, based on Isaiah 43:10–12, was adopted in 1931 to distinguish themselves from other Bible Student groups and symbolize a break with the legacy of Russell's traditions.

Isa 43:10 "You are **My** witnesses," declares the **LORD**, "and **My** servant whom **I** have chosen, that you may know and believe **Me** and understand that **I** am **He** (*same statement Jesus made in Jn 8:24*). Before **Me** no god was formed, nor shall there be any after **Me**. **11** **I**, **I** am the **LORD**, and besides **Me** there is no savior. **12** **I** declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are **My** witnesses," declares the **LORD**, "and **I** am **God**."

- Obviously this passage concerned the **Jews** of the O.T. who witnessed firsthand **God** saving them from their enemies and to reference it as a name which **God** would use to distinguish **His** followers today is to take it **way** out of context. We will look at some inconsistencies concerning verse **10** with regard to The New World Translation's rendition to **Jn 1:1** shortly. But, when they claim that there is no **Godhead**, they must get it from passages like this since

God states here that “besides Me there is no savior”. In the context, God is rebuking the Jews who turned to mere idols to save them!

According to Wikipedia: **Jehovah's Witnesses** is a millenarian restorationist Christian denomination with nontrinitarian beliefs distinct from mainstream Christianity.

The 1,000 Year Reign

Millennialism (from millennium, Latin for "thousand years"), is a belief held by some Christian denominations that there will be a Golden Age or Paradise on Earth in which "Christ will reign" for 1000 years prior to the final judgment and future eternal state (the "World to Come" of the New Heavens and New Earth). This belief is derived primarily from the Book of Rev. 20:1–6.

Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from **Heaven**, holding in his hand the key (*control*) to the bottomless pit and a great chain. **2** And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent (*through which Satan deceived Eve*), who is the devil and **Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years, **3** and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, **until** the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

- The ‘1,000 years’ is in contrast to the period of martyrdom in **Rev 12:6** where 1,260 days (*3 ½ years*) represented the shorter period between the cross and the reign of **Constantine**. Being a complete number, the 1,000 years represent the age between the end of the Roman persecution (*Constantine as Emperor outlawed it*) and the, yet future, return of **Christ**.

Dan 7:25 And he (*Domitian- [Rev 13:5] 81-96 AD*) shall speak *great* words against the most **High**, and shall wear out the saints of the most **High**, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time (*1*) and (*plus*) times (*2*) and (*plus*) the dividing (*1/2*) of time. = 3 ½ years (*broken 7*) thus incomplete, 7 being complete.

- **Domitian** couldn’t wait until his death to be ‘deified’ as Caesars were since **Julius Caesar** was granted the title ‘Divus Julius’ (*the divine Julius*) after his death on Jan 1 in 42 BC by the Roman senate. **Domitian** claimed deity **while living** to the point where even Roman coinage was minted with the words “Caesar is God”. And he persecuted anyone who did not proclaim “Lord Caesar”. (*The Eternal Kingdom- F.W. Mattox- pgs. 65, 94*)

2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who **opposes** and **exalts himself** against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of **God**, **proclaiming himself to be God**.

- But who was ultimately in control?

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of **Jesus** and for the word of **God**, and those who had not worshiped the beast (*Rome*) or its image (*Caesar*) and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands (*did not give allegiance to Roman idolatry*). They came to life (*resurrected*) and reigned with **Christ** for a thousand years.

"The thrones are occupied by the living, reigning saints, who have either suffered martyrdom or refused to worship the beast".

Michael Wilcock

 Rev 5:10 and You (*Christ*) have made (*past tense*) them (*Christians*) a kingdom (*the church*) and priests to our God, and they shall (*present, active indicative*) reign on the earth."

Col 1:13 He (*the Father*) has delivered us (*Christians*) from the domain of darkness and transferred (*past tense*) us to **the kingdom** (*the church*) of (*belonging to*) His beloved Son (*"My church"- Mat 16:18*), 14 in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to **their number** (*transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son*) day by day those who were being saved.

- What exactly is 'their number' representative of? "Those who were being saved". Who are 'those being saved'? Christians. What do combined Christians make up? The church. In other words, according to many English translations, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved". And how much clearer can it be stated than what John said while on the island of Patmos concerning the **present spiritual kingdom** on earth?

Rev 1:9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and **the kingdom...** of Jesus Christ...

- The following shows that once raised from baptism we are added to the church, the kingdom and with Christ in heavenly places, all three being synonymous.

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive** (*resurrected us*) together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and **raised us up** with Him (*Rom 6*) and seated us with Him **in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,

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- In Rev 20:4 the 'sitting on thrones' is a term that is used for authority and gives it to these saints. God's judgment is given in their favor. It was first prophesied...

Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the **whole** heaven shall be **given to the people of the saints of the Most High**; their kingdom shall be an **everlasting kingdom** (*the church*), and all dominions shall serve and obey them.' ...and later fulfilled.

Rev 2:26 The one who conquers and who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give **authority over the nations**, 27 and he will **rule them** with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I Myself have received authority from My Father.

Mat 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for **they shall inherit the earth**. (*Thayer: ...to partake of eternal salvation in the Messiah's kingdom.*) This all in view of the **then** coming kingdom/church.

- They came to life- The righteous dead do not really die, they just pass through death.

Joh 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life. He does **not** come into judgment, but has **passed from death to life**.

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the **first resurrection**. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who **shares** in the first resurrection! Over such the **second death** (*eternal separation from God*) **has no power**, but they will be priests of **God** and of **Christ**, and they will (*present/future*) reign with **Him** for a thousand years.

- The conversion of sinners by the gospel **is the first resurrection**. Those in sin who do not pass from death into life, because they did not partake of the first resurrection, are "the rest of the dead". The first death is spiritual and has to do with being "dead to sin but alive to **God in Christ Jesus**" (*Rom 6:11*). The second, to those who have **not** participated in the first, will be both a physical **and** a spiritual resurrection to face **God's** wrath in judgment. Following their physical deaths they will only be raised up in judgment after the 1,000 year reign of the saints to be judged. Until then they exist in a state of separation from **God**.

Joh 5:28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Rom 6:5 For if we have been united with **Him** in a **death like His**, we shall certainly be united with **Him** in a **resurrection like His**. (*Death/burial/resurrection of baptism.*)

The Kingdom in Prophecy and Fulfillment

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the **God of Heaven** will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

- those kings- (**Roman Emperors**) Corresponds with Rev 17:9-11. There were Caesars before **Augustus** but he was the first Emperor.
 1. Augustus (27 BC-14 AD) Lk 2:1 The first emperor and founder of the Roman Empire.
 2. Tiberius (14 – 37 AD) Church of Christ/kingdom was established in 30 AD.
 3. Caligula (37 – 41 AD)
 4. Claudius (41 – 54 AD) *The first to be deified after death.*
 5. Nero (54 – 68 AD) *In 68 AD Galba, Otho and Vitellius reigned.*
 6. Vespasian (69 – 79 AD) Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.
 7. Titus (79 – 81 AD) a son of **Vespasian**, died of a fatal fever in 81 AD.
 8. Domitian (81 – 96 AD) "an eighth" (*17:11*), another son of **Vespasian**.
- Further on, **Daniel** saw in a vision what the apostles themselves would witness firsthand.

Dan 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, **with the clouds** of heaven there came **One** like a son of man, and **He** came to the **Ancient of Days** and was presented before **Him**.

- 'Son of man' representing **Christ** and **Ancient of Days** representing the **Father**.

Act 1:9 And when **He** (**Christ**) had said these things, as they were looking on, **He** was lifted up, and a **cloud** took **Him** out of their sight.

- You may ask "what does that have to do with the church?"

Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion and glory **and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- Peter preached that Daniel's prophecy came to pass during the feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (*not in 1914 as believed by the J.W.*).

Act 2:33 Being therefore exalted **at the right hand of God** (*presented before Him'- Dan 7:13*), and having received from the Father (*given ..a kingdom'*) the promise of the Holy Spirit (*the fulfillment of Daniel's inspired vision*), He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing (*the evidence that "the kingdom of God" would "come with power"- Mk 9:1- as Jesus said it would during their lifetime!*).

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "**All authority in heaven and on earth** (*dominion...glory...kingdom...peoples, nations and languages should serve Him'- Dan 7:14*) **has been given to Me.**

- There are so many other passages too numerous to list here, that speak of this very event in which the kingdom would come in such a manner. It is a spiritual kingdom that would outlast all earthly kingdoms according to Daniel's vision which he revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in Dan 2:44. But if you ever get a visit from, and decide to sit down with, the J.W. they will undoubtedly discuss all that they believe from...

The New World Translation

The **New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (NWT)** is a translation of the [Bible](#) published by the [Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society](#) in 1961; it is used and distributed by [Jehovah's Witnesses](#). Though it is not the first Bible to be published by the group, it is their first original translation of ancient [Classical Hebrew](#), [Koine Greek](#), and [Old Aramaic](#) biblical texts.

- But, with many subtle grammatical changes to the original text that they seem to feel naming such sources gives respect to **their** translation.

Concerning the Godhead

Nontrinitarianism (or **antitrinitarianism**) refers to [monotheistic](#) belief systems, primarily within [Christianity](#), which reject the mainstream [Christian doctrine](#) of the [Trinity](#), namely, the teaching that [God](#) is three distinct persons who are co-eternal, co-equal, and indivisibly united in one being.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word **was** God. 2 He was in the beginning **with** God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- How can anyone **not** understand that, as the Word, He is referred to as **being** God (*v.1*)? But, according to the New World Translation, Jn 1:1 reads "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **a god**"; 'A' god, with a lower case 'g'. But not according to the original Greek text where the 'Word' is referred to as **being** 'God', not

just 'a god' as if Jesus isn't on the same plain with His Father. In their teachings, Jesus is not to be considered part of the Godhead because they don't even believe there is a Godhead to begin with. But not according to Paul's inspired writing to the church at Colossae.

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition (*Gk.3862- precepts [teachings]*), according to the elemental spirits of the world (*basic worldly teachings*), and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him (*Christ Jesus*) the whole fullness of Deity (*Gk.2320- Divinity*) dwells bodily (*Jesus is God!*), 10 and you have been filled in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority.

Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name (*Gk.3686- authority*) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (=Godhead)

- And all three Persons of the Godhead were mentioned by Jesus in the great commission as all three were involved in the Genesis creation. The Spirit Himself was noted in verse 2.

Gen 1: 2 ... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness..."

- Therefore if only God can create then how can they say that Jesus, Who they even admit was the focus of and was with God, is not God? Notice what even one of the twelve admitted after having denied that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Joh 20:26 Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- And how can they accept Jesus as coming from God without also believing He was a liar for claiming He actually is God, the Son in the flesh, if they don't recognize Him as part of the Godhead that they don't believe in? Even their own translation includes Thomas' claim.

Mar 14:60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?" 61 But He remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." 63 And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? 64 You have heard His blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned Him as deserving death.

- How can even a human being claim they are someone's son unless they have proof? Jesus gave such proof many times through the miracles He performed (*Jn 2:23 et al*). For Jesus to outright profess His Sonship in such a way that the Jews thought it blasphemous, was His confession, at the risk of death, that He truly is the Son of God! For the J.W. to make the statement that He was only 'a god', it expresses the fact that either they are promoting a false doctrine or that, by allowing these statements, Jesus Himself was an imposter.

Joh 10:30 I and the Father are One." (...regarding the 'Oneness' God spoke of in Isa 43)

- Note also the striking similarity between God's own affirmation of His name and the title Jesus Himself claimed. If Jesus was not God, then in the eyes of the J.W. He was a fraud.

Exo 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Joh 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

"As in his human nature he was not yet 50 years old, and could not, as a man, have existed before Abraham, this declaration must be referred to another nature; and the passage proves that, while he was a man, he was also endowed with another nature existing before Abraham, and to which he applied the term (familiar to the Jews as expressive of the existence of God) I AM; and this declaration corresponds to the affirmation of John 1:1, that he was in the beginning with God, and was God." Albert Barnes

Concerning Armageddon and the 'Coming' Kingdom

They believe that the destruction of the present world system at [Armageddon](#) is imminent, and that the establishment of [God's kingdom](#) on earth is the only solution for all problems faced by humanity.

- 'Armageddon' is of Hebrew origin and is a **symbolical** name. From (*Heb 2022*) 'har' (a shortened form of *H2042*) having to do with 'a mountain or range of hills' and (*Heb 4023* from *H1413*) 'Megiddo' as 'a place in Palestine'. Megiddo is from another Hebrew word 'gadad' (pronounced *gaw-dad*) which means 'to crowd: -assemble (selves **by troops**), **gather** (selves **together**, self in troops). Speaking of Megiddo...

"In the days when John wrote the book of Revelation, that little mountain or hill or knoll was only about seventy feet high. Located in the central section of the land of Palestine, looking down over the rich, fertile valley of Jezreel, which took its name, and being the crossroads of the trade routes from Egypt and Babylon and Syria, it was of strategic importance. Whoever controlled Megiddo would control the trade routes and the area around about."

Mack Lyon "Did You Miss The Rapture", pg. 27

- Thus said, to control the spiritual battle of Armageddon was to control the battle between good and evil, between the nations of Rome and the followers of Christ.

Rev 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates (*military might of Rome*), and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the **kings from the east** (*East or sun rising denotes Divine support. Any enemy would be difficult to fight with the sun in your eyes. And 'kings', according to Rev 1:5, refers to Christians*). 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs (*lies*). 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. 15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

- There's not enough room here to explain in detail the context of the passage, but suffice it to say that this **has already happened**. It concerns the spiritual battle the saints warred against Rome, according to Dan 7:22, and Domitian who, as emperor, her most noted

persecutor. Rome, as “the great prostitute” of Rev 17:1, was to deceive “the kings of the earth” (v.2), to gather them in array against Christ and His army, “the camp of the saints” (Rev 20:9), through persecuting the Christians in an attempt to conform them to Roman idolatry and Caesar worship. In verse 15 Jesus warned them that His judgment would be quick if they succumbed to such practices. That is the gist of ‘the battle of Armageddon’ (or Har-Megiddo). It was a battle waged by Satan (as the “roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”-1 Pet 5:8) for the souls of God’s people, under the persecution that the devil influenced Rome to lead against them. It was such an event that it was termed ‘the great day of God the Almighty’ because it was what ultimately brought about Rome’s downfall.

Among Christians who hold this belief, this is not the "[end of the world](#)", but rather the penultimate age, the age just prior to the end of Satan's worldwide system in anticipation of a New Heavens and a New Earth under Jehovah's (i.e., God's) kingdom reign (Rev. 21:1). Some believe that between the millennium proper and the end of the world there will be a brief period in which a final battle with [Satan](#) will take place. After this follows the [Last Judgment](#).

- Peter also dealt with the term “new heavens and new earth” in 2 Pet 3, after commenting in verse 10 on the final destruction of all things physical, to be spoken out of existence “by the same word” (v.7) that spoke the creation into existence (v.5)

2Pe 3:13 But according to His promise we (those who have obeyed the gospel) are waiting for (expect) new (Gk.2537-fresh) heavens (Gk.3772-the sky; by extension heaven [as the abode of God]) and a new earth (Gk.1093-country) in which righteousness dwells.

Heb 11:16 But as it is, they desire a **better country**, that is, a **heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has **prepared for them a city**.

Joh 14:2 In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to **prepare a place** for you?

- As a new system of government, the ‘earth’ (country) that will then be is not this one, thus there is no support whatsoever in this passage for the pre-millennial theory of Christ reigning on a physical throne on this earth for a thousand years when He comes.

2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things (the end of the physical earth), be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

- The things that these brethren were to look for, as are we, were the second coming of Christ, the destruction of the worlds and the dawn of the eternal age. These events are certain to occur and all who wish to escape the destruction are to be found **in Him**. And whether or not anyone believes in the eternal punishment of the wicked, as the J.W. **do not**, it won't change the fact that it **will** happen. Obviously there are so many other false teachings that the J.W. promote as truth, that it would take hours to go down through each one. And they sincerely believe what they teach to be the truth since it is an indoctrination that is worldwide. But are we any different and do we take what we believe for granted?

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

- So how ready are we if we are ever to be confronted with such deceit when a simple understanding of the **Bible** would suffice? And are you ready to face death, according to the truth, with confidence in an eternal home that awaits the faithful?

*Charli Yana
October 26, 2014*

www.searchfortruth.church

All information on the Jehovah's Witnesses came from Wikipedia.