

## **Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses (The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society)**

As one of the leading cults of Christianity, the Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) have resurrected a number of ancient heresies. Who is the Jesus Christ of the JWs? Did the JWs intentionally mistranslate the Bible to support their heretical views? How many types of salvation do the JWs teach? This lecture will examine these and other questions.

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**The Watchtower is a Theological Cult of Christianity.**

**It rejects nearly every essential Christian Doctrine.**

It rejects the authority of Scripture

It is Anti-Trinitarian.

It is Arian in its Christology.

It rejects the Substitutionary Atonement of Christ

It rejects the bodily resurrection of Christ.

It teaches salvation by works.

## **The Jehovah's Witnesses are False Prophets**

They have falsely predicted the end of the world on a number of occasions.

2. The dates include the following: 1914, 1925, and 1975, and others.

## **The New World Translation of the JWs**

**The JWs intentionally mistranslate the Bible to fit their theology.**

### **Examples of their translations**

John 1:1-the Word was "a god."

2. John 8:58- Before Abraham was born, "I have been."

3. Colossians 1:16 – "By means of him all other things were created."

## **The Name "Jehovah"**

### ***Kethibh & Qere in the Hebrew Bible***

Definition

*Kethibh* – That which is written in the text

*Qere* – That which should be spoken in place of the written text

***The Name Yahweh as a Perpetual Qere (Qere Perpetuum)***

Instead, the reader of the text was expected in speech to substitute the *Qere* (the word “Adonai”) for the *Kethibh* (the word “Yahweh”), without having his or her attention drawn to it each time it occurs.

This is accomplished by placing the vowels from the Hebrew word “*Adonai*” (*Qere*) on the consonants of the text, “*YHWH*” (*Kethibh*). Thus, the vowels from the name “Yahweh” are removed and the vowels from the name “Adonai” are placed on the consonants. The vowels from *Adonai* are as follows: “a,” which becomes short “e” when used with the Hebrew consonant *yodh* or “y,” “o,” and “a.”

Thus, when the vowels of the *Qere* (*Adonai*)—e, o, and a— were combined with the consonants of the *Kethibh* (*YHWH*), the word was written in the text as *YeHoWaH*, that is, they placed the vowels from “*Adonai*” on the consonants of the word “Yahweh” and the result is the hybrid “Yehowah.”

***From Yahweh to YeHoWaH to Jehovah***

The transliterated YeHoWaH became the English “Jehovah” when the German pronunciation of the consonants became the accepted English pronunciation. The changes from Hebrew to the Germanic pronunciation entailed changing the Y to J and W to V. As such, the transliterated “Yehowah” became “Jehovah.”

In sum, there are only two problems with the name “Jehovah” as the “true” pronunciation of the name of God: (1) the consonants and (2) the vowels.

Jehovah’s Witnesses have made an elementary error on the name of God. Yet this item is one of their essential issues on which they rest their distinctiveness. As such, the student should memorize this section and have a nice chat with JWs about this topic!

## **Majoring in the Minors**

### **Birthdays & Holidays**

## **2. Blood Transfusions**

## **3. The “Torture Stake”**