

Cults & Counterfeits — Jehovah Witnesses

"Charles Taze Russell was the founder of what is now known as the Jehovah's Witnesses cult and the energetic administrator that brought about its far-flung organization. The name Jehovah's Witnesses, incidentally, was taken at Columbus, Ohio, in 1931, to differentiate between the Watchtower organization run by Judge Rutherford, Russell's successor, and those who remained as true followers of Russell as represented by The Dawn Bible Students and the Laymen's Home Missionary Movement."

— Walter Martin, *The Kingdom of Cults, Revised.* (Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55438, A Division of Bethany Fellowship, Inc, 1997), 66.

Cults & Counterfeits — JW's (Arianism)

Arianism (4th Century) This heresy taught Jesus was a "creature" who was "begotten" of the Father. Only God the Father is "un-begotten". In this view, only the Father is truly God; He was too pure and perfect to appear here on earth, so He created the Son as His first creation. The Son then created the universe. God then adopted Jesus as a son (because, after all Jesus and God are not supposed to have the same nature in this view). Jesus was worshipped only because of His preeminence as the first creation. Website Reference: <https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/historic-heresies-related-to-the-nature-of-jesus/> "In other words, he was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God"

— *The Kingdom Is at Hand*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1944, 46–47, 49.

"The Bible shows that there is only one God ... greater than His Son ... and that the Son, as the Firstborn, Only-begotten, and 'the creation by God,' had a beginning. That the Father is greater and older than the Son is reasonable, easy to understand, and is what the Bible teaches."

— *From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1958, 164.

Cults & Counterfeits — JW's (Deity of Christ)

"The true Scriptures speak of God's Son, the Word, as 'a god.' He is a 'mighty god,' but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah."

— *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1943, 47).

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"Jesus was 'the Son of God.' Not God himself!" "The Word," Who Is He?, 20. "The very fact that he was sent proves he was not equal with God but was less than God his Father." "The Word," Who Is He?, 41. "Certainly the apostle John was not so unreasonable as to say that someone (the Word) was with some other individual ('God') and at the same time was that other individual ('God')."

— "The Word," Who Is He?, 53.

"Thus, Jesus had an existence in heaven before coming to the earth. But was it as one of the persons in an almighty, eternal triune Godhead? No, for the Bible plainly states that in his prehuman existence, Jesus was a created spirit being, just as angels were spirit beings created by God. Neither the angels nor Jesus had existed before their creation."

— *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*

Cults & Counterfeits — JW's (Heresies)

- 1) Deny the Trinity
- 2) Deny the Deity of Christ
- 3) Claim Jesus was a Created Being
- 4) The Spirit is a Force (not a person)

Cults & Counterfeits — JW's (Holy Spirit)

"The holy spirit is the invisible active force of Almighty God that moves his servants to do his will."

— Let God Be True, 108.

"As for the 'Holy Spirit,' the so-called 'third Person of the Trinity,' we have already seen that it is not a person, but God's active force."

— The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1968, 24.

"The Scriptures themselves unite to show that God's holy spirit is not a person but is God's active force by which he accomplishes his purpose and executes his will."

— Aid to Bible Understanding, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1969, 1971, 1543.

"The Bible's use of 'holy spirit' indicates that it is a controlled force that Jehovah God uses to accomplish a variety of his purposes. To a certain extent, it can be likened to electricity, a force that can be adapted to perform a great variety of operations."

— Should You Believe in the Trinity?

"No, the holy spirit is not a person and it is not part of a Trinity. The holy spirit is God's active force that he uses to accomplish his will. It is not equal to God but is always at his disposition and subordinate to him."

— Should You Believe in the Trinity?

Cults & Counterfeits — JW's (Trinity)

"The doctrine, in brief, is that there are three gods in one: 'God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost,' all three equal in power, substance, and eternity."

— Let God Be True, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 ed., 100.

"The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the Trinity doctrine."

— Let God Be True, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 ed., 101.

"Sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve Him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God."

— Let God Be True, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 ed., 102.

"The Trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians."

— Let God Be True, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 ed., 111.

"The plain truth is that this is another of Satan's attempts to keep God-fearing persons from learning the truth of Jehovah and his Son, Christ Jesus. No, there is no Trinity."

— Let God Be True, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1946 ed., 111.

"Any trying to reason out the Trinity teaching leads to confusion of mind. So the Trinity teaching confuses the meaning of John 1:1-2; it does not simplify it or make it clear or easily understandable" — "The Word," Who Is He? According to John, 7.

"Is Jehovah a Trinity—three persons in one God? No! Jehovah, the Father, is "the only true God" (John 17:3; Mark 12:29). Jesus is His firstborn Son, and he is subject to God (1 Cor. 11:3). The Father is greater than the Son (John 14:28). The holy spirit is not a person; it is God's active force (Gen. 1:2; Acts 2:18)."

— What Does God Require of Us?, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1997, electronic version.

"Thus, neither the thirty-nine books of the Hebrew Scriptures nor the canon of twenty-seven inspired books of the Christian Greek Scriptures provide any clear teaching of the Trinity. ... Thus, the testimony of the Bible and of history makes clear that the Trinity was unknown throughout biblical times and for several centuries thereafter."

— Should You Believe in the Trinity?, Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1997, electronic version.

Cults & Counterfeits — JW's (Virgin Birth)

"Mary was a virgin. ... When Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a child, he did not want to take her as his wife. But God's angel ... said: 'That which has been begotten in her is by holy spirit'. ... He took Mary his wife home. 'But he had no relations with her until she gave birth to a son.' (Matt. 1:20-25)

— From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained, 122–123.

"Jesus was conceived by a sinless, perfect Father, Jehovah God. ... The perfect child Jesus did not get human life from the sinner Adam, but received only a human body through Adam's descendant Mary. Jesus' life came from Jehovah God, the Holy One. ... Jehovah took the perfect life of his only begotten Son and transferred it from heaven to ... the womb of the unmarried girl Mary. ... Thus, God's Son was conceived or given a start as a human creature. It was a miracle. Under Jehovah's holy power the child Jesus, conceived in this way, grew in Mary's womb to the point of birth."

— From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained, 126–127.

"Jesus' birth on earth was not an incarnation. ... He emptied himself of all things heavenly and spiritual, and God's almighty spirit transferred his Son's life down to the womb of the Jewish virgin of David's descent. By this miracle he was born a man. ... He was not a spirit-human hybrid, a man and at the same time a spirit person. ... He was flesh."

— What Has Religion Done for Mankind?, 231.

"While on earth, Jesus was a human, although a perfect one because it was God who transferred the life-force of Jesus to the womb of Mary."

— Should You Believe in the Trinity?