



Where did the J.W.'s begin? As with any other cultic movement, this particular cult began with a man claiming to have received additional revelations from God. Before we discuss this man and his revelations, what does the Bible state about adding/diminishing from the Word of God?

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Deu 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deu 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Pro 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Pro 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

This man also staked claim to being a prophet. What is the Biblical test for a prophet?

Deu 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Deu 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Deu 18:21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

Deu 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Deu 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

Deu 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

Deu 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

So as we progress thru this study we must:

- 1) Test the message of the man to see if anything he has ever prophecied has failed to come to pass.
- 2) If something he prophecied did come to pass, did the end result violate Scriptural principles or doctrines?
- 2) See if this same "prophet" has changed the Word of God in order to have his own doctrinal beliefs confirmed.

Remember that a prophet has to be 100% accurate in order to be from God. He cannot be 99.9% or below.

Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)

Charles Taz Russell was the founding father of the J.W.'s and the first president of the society. Russell was raised in a Presbyterian Church and at the age of 15 became discontented with organized religion and set out to search out and establish his own "truths". At the age of 18, he attended a meeting in Allegheny, PA where he was introduced to the false doctrines of the Adventists. Such doctrines as the extinction of the soul at death, the annihilation of the wicked and the denial of hell were propagated by this sect. Russell adopted these views and would later add his own theologies to the mix to include an outright denial of the Trinity. Russell became a prominent business man by dabbling in the clothing industry. Upon selling his business, Russell netted close to \$250,000. On a business trip to Philadelphia, Russell encountered a publication by N. H. Barbour of Rochester, NY entitled "The Herald of the Morning". In reading this publication he was surprised that Barbour held to many of Russell's core beliefs. He believed that the 2nd Advent of Jesus Christ would be an

invisible one. Russell then collaborated with Barbour and in 1877 they published a 194 page book titled "Three Worlds or Plan of Redemption". This book established their belief that Jesus' second coming would be an invisible one. Russell and Barbour eventually parted ways due to doctrinal disagreements in other areas.

In 1879 Russell founded his new publication, "Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence". On July 1st he printed 6000 copies which has now grown to millions weekly. On December 13, 1884 this Society was granted a legal charter and was organized as a corporation. The first headquarters was in Allegheny, PA and by 1889 they had outgrown this and built their own structure. The name is now "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania".

After their formation, Russell endeavored to attack the fundamentally sound churches and influence their unstable members. The plan was to distribute his booklets to people as they left their churches on Sunday. Two or three J.W.'s would await services to end and then distribute their literature to the departing congregations. This plan worked for many years and eventually led to house-to-house distribution. Russell also provided "withdrawal" letters with his literature in order to make the process of changing churches easy on the congregational members.

Russell then began travelling from 1905 to 1907 preaching his famous sermon "To Hell and Back" which attempted to discredit the literal burning hell that had been preached by fundamental Bible believers for years. Russell was successful at coverting many from Bible believing Christianity to the Jehovah's Witness doctrines.

Russell was then accused and caught in many fraudulent schemes. In 1913 he claimed to have "miracle wheat" that would grow five times as fast as any other type. Government officials tested the wheat and found it to be slightly inferior to ordinary wheat.

In court, Russell lied and claimed that he knew the Greek language. When confronted with the Greek alphabet, he was unable to read it. Russell had claimed to have reverted back to the original Greek and Hebrew in order to give the world a true rendition of the Word of God. He had to admit that he lied and could not read Greek! Russell died on October 31st, 1916.

Joseph Franklin Rutherford

Rutherford would become the 2nd president of the J.W.'s. Rutherford's parents were Baptists. He was a very educated man and was a practicing lawyer at the time of his conversion. His conversion took place when two women entered his law firm selling J.W. material and he simply purchased the materials to be kind to them. He then read the materials and was persuaded by their doctrine. Rutherford believed in "progressive revelation" and wrote a book entitled "The Finished Mystery". This "progressive revelation" is very important as it allowed for Rutherford to provide excuses for all of his "prophecies" that were unfulfilled. Rutherford then authored a tract entitled "The Fall of Babylon---Why Christendom Must Now Suffer---The Final Outcome". This tract was produced in 10 million copies and distributed to Christians worldwide in an attempt to discredit the Trinity, Hell and many other Biblically based doctrines.

Rutherford then stated that the Tribulation Period had begun in the first half of the month of November, 1914 and 3 1/2 years after this announcement he and 7 other of the Society's officers were arrested. J.W.'s claim that the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation ended at this arrest.

In 1936, Rutherford announced that there were so many new prophecies and revelations being revealed that he could not produce books quickly enough. He stated that in order to keep up with the many prophecies that one must constantly stay updated with the "Watchtower" magazine.

Rutherford also established the J.W. classification of people. Rutherford announced that by 1931 The Heavenly Class of J.W.'s (144,000) was complete and that all future J.W.'s would be classified as the "Earthly Class" and never be allowed access in Heaven but would rather rule on earth. And since Heaven is not their home...they do not need to be born again!

Rutherford was notorious for being a "date setter". None of his dates ever transpired as being accurate. Rutherford wrote this in 1920:

"Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favor. We may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel..."

When this didn't come to pass in 1925 Rutherford stated:

"it may be reasonably concluded that the "ancient worthies will be back on earth as perfect men within a comparatively short time."

In 1929 Rutherford instructed the J.W.'s to build a house in San Diego, CA called "Beth Sharim" (House of Princes) in order to house the resurrected saints of Israel. Rutherford died in 1942 and "Beth-Sharim" was sold. The "princes" never came.

Nathan H. Knorr

On January 13, 1942, Nathan H. Knorr became the 3rd president of the J.W.'s. Thanks to Knorr, the J.W.'s produced their own "version" of the Bible entitled "The New World Translation". Under Knorr's leadership, all writings are now anonymous. Under his leadership the J.W.'s refuse military service, refuse to salute the flag and refuse to allow any form of blood transfusion for any reason.

Back to The New World Translation. Just as an example, see in the examples following how the true Word of God is changed in order to make their doctrines fit. They believe Jesus Christ to be a created being just as the Mormon's due and strip Him of all His deity.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. KJV

1 In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. NWT

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; KJV

13 while we wait for the happy hope and glorious manifestation of the great God and of [the] Savior of us, Christ Jesus, NWT

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. KJV

16 Indeed, the sacred secret of this godly devotion is admittedly great: *He was made manifest in flesh, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in [the] world, was received up in glory. NWT

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: KJV

27 to whom God has been pleased to make known what are the glorious riches of this sacred secret among the nations. It is Christ in union with YOU, the hope of [his] glory. NWT

Act 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. KJV

28 Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has appointed YOU overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own [Son]. NWT

Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. KJV

5 to whom the forefathers belong and from whom the Christ [sprang] according to the flesh: God, who is over all, [be] blessed forever. Amen. NWT

1Jo 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. KJV

1 John 5:7 COMPLETELY OMITTED IN NWT

Joh 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

Joh 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Joh 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. KJV

57 Therefore the Jews said to him: *You are not yet fifty years old, and still you have seen Abraham?* 58 Jesus said to them: *Most truly I say to YOU, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been.* 59 Therefore they picked up stones to hurl [them] at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple. NWT

FAST FACTS ABOUT J.W.'s

- * Have over 30,000 congregations and over 91,000 special full-time representatives
- * In 1970, they obtained 2,464,196 new subscriptions for Watchtower Magazine and Awake Magazine
- * When a congregation reaches 200 in number, they split and start a new congregation elsewhere
- * Their presses print 25,000 magazines an hour, can bind 50,000 books per day and can stitch 100,000 32 page booklets per day.
- * Each Jehovah's Witness that works at these facilities works 5 1/2 days per week, 8 hours and 40 minutes a day and are provided only with lodging, food and a small allowance for personal items.

The following was written in a J.W. yearbook concerning fundamental Biblical Christianity:

"There is a great difference between those persons who belong to Christendom's religions and Jehovah's witnesses. Christendom requires little or nothing of their members except to make contributions to the church. At Christmas and Easter time much larger numbers than usual attend the church services....There is no dedication of people's lives to the doing of God's will, or walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. The church members of both Catholic and Protestant denominations, as well as their clergy, do not know anymore what Jesus meant when he said: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you"..This was no meaningless statement on the part of Christ Jesus. He meant that every follower of his should be a witness of him wherever he lives...That is how Jehovah's witnesses feel about it. They take their commission seriously...."

**How seriously do we take our commission?...Have we handed out tracts this week?...Have we witnessed to someone about the love of Christ?...This should be a challenge to every Born Again Christian in our church....

** Note: Much of this study was taken from Salem Kirban's book Jehovah's Witnesses..Doctrines of Deception..