

COMPARING THE BELIEFS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WITH BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

GOD AND THE TRINITY

Jehovah's Witnesses: God's one true name is Jehovah. The Trinity is unbiblical, for Jesus was created as a lesser god and the Spirit is a force, not a divine person.

Christianity: There is one God, an eternal spiritual being who is infinite and perfect in all His attributes. God exists eternally in three distinct, fully divine persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is not only referred to as Jehovah but also as "God Almighty" and "Lord." Jesus often referred to God as "Father."

SCRIPTURE AND AUTHORITY

Jehovah's Witnesses: Use the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (published in 1961 by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society), a translation that departs at certain points from commonly accepted translations used by groups that are historically Christian (Compare John 1:1 of the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures with the ESV, NIV, NASB, and KJV).

Christianity: Scripture alone is the Christian's ultimate source of authority. The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments comprise God's final written revelation to man, a revelation that is inspired by God's Spirit and is thus without error. All Scripture is a testimony to God's saving work in Christ.

MAN

Jehovah's Witnesses: Man has no immaterial soul, as the soul is simply a person's life-force that ceases to exist at death.

Christianity: Every person is created in God's image with a body and a soul. A person's soul is eternal and will be reunited with the body after death at the resurrection of the dead, either for eternal judgment or for eternal life.

JESUS AND SALVATION

Jehovah's Witnesses: Jesus was created as a lesser god. He died on a simple stake and His resurrection was spiritual, not physical. His second coming occurred spiritually and invisibly in 1914. To receive salvation, a person must put their faith in Jesus, identify with Jehovah's Witnesses, and obey the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Christianity: Jesus Christ is the fully divine Son of God through whom all things were created. Although He existed eternally with the Father and the Spirit, Christ, the Son, took on flesh for our salvation. Jesus is therefore fully divine and fully human. He lived a life of perfect obedience, died on the cross to take God's judgment for sin upon Himself, and conquered sin and death by rising from the dead. Those who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever.

JUDGMENT AND ETERNITY

Jehovah's Witnesses: Hell is not a place of eternal suffering, but rather the common grave for all people. The wicked are annihilated rather than being punished forever. There are two peoples of God: (1) the Anointed Class (144,000) who will live in heaven and rule with Christ, and (2) other believers ("other sheep") who will live forever on a paradise earth.

Christianity: All those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in perfect fellowship with God in heaven. Those who continue in their sin and do not receive God's salvation in Christ will face God's just judgment in hell. Scripture describes hell as a place of eternal, conscious torment.

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