

♥ Welcome ♥

A decorative flourish consisting of several elegant, swirling lines that extend horizontally from the base of the word 'Welcome'.

October 14, 2025



# Christianity

## Cults & Religions

Rev. Deborah Dillard

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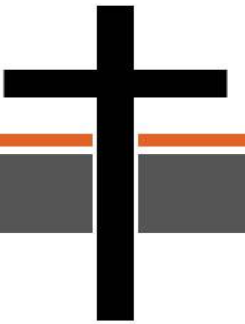
Sikhism 

Buddhism 

Soka Gakkai 

What the Bible Teaches

# Biblical Christianity





## FOUNDED, LOCATION

- Founded by Jesus Christ, about AD 30–33, in the Judean province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire.
- Followers of Jesus Christ became known as Christians.



Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount



## KEY WRITINGS

- The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament).





## WHO IS GOD?

- The one God is Triune (one God in three persons, not three gods): Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God is a spiritual being without a physical body.
- He is personal and involved with people.
- He created the universe out of nothing.
- He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect.
- Often the title “God” designates the first person of the Trinity, God the Father.



## WHO IS JESUS?

- Jesus is God, the second person of the Trinity.
- As God the Son, he has always existed and was never created.
- He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed).
- As the second person of the Trinity, he is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.





## WHO IS JESUS?

- In becoming man, he was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
- Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation, and eternal life.
- He died on a cross according to God's plan, as the full sacrifice and payment for our sins.

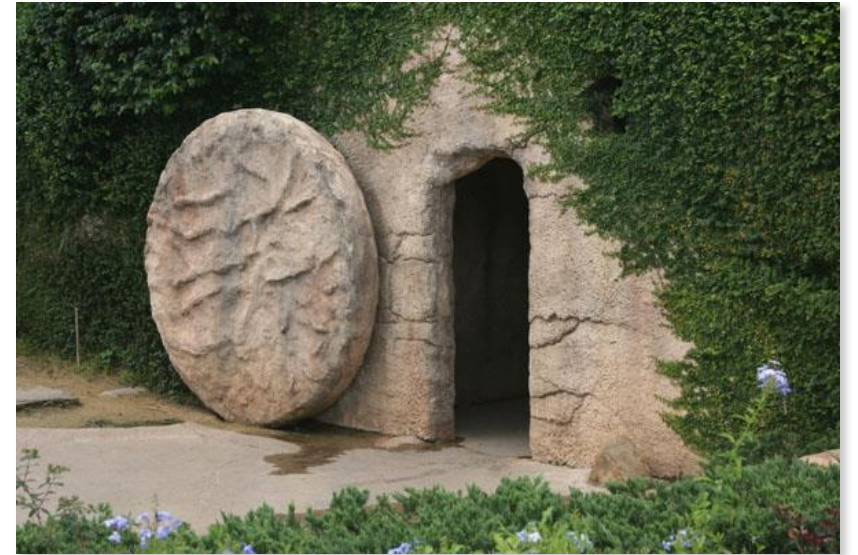


Virgin Mary and the Christ Child



## WHO IS JESUS?

- He rose from the dead on the third day, spiritually and physically immortal.
- For the next 40 days he was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses; his wounds were touched, and he ate meals.





## WHO IS JESUS?

- Jesus physically ascended to heaven.
- He will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God's kingdom and judge the world.



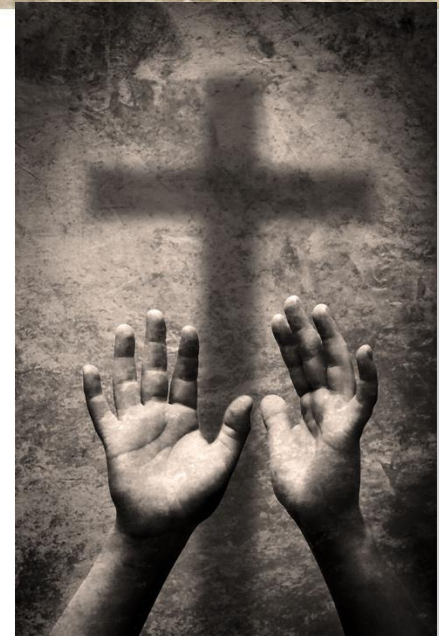
## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity.
- He is a person, not a force or energy field. He comforts, grieves, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches, and fills Christians.
- He is not the Father, nor is he the Son, Jesus Christ.



## HOW TO BE SAVED

- Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works; it must be received by faith.
- People must believe in their hearts that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body.
- This is God's loving plan to forgive sinful people.





## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

- Believers go to be with Jesus.
- After death, all people await the final judgment. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected.
- Those who are saved will live with Jesus in heaven.
- Those who are lost will suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (hell).
- Jesus' bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they will be resurrected and receive new immortal bodies.

## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Baptism and Lord's Supper (Communion).
- Group worship, usually in churches.
- No secret rites.
- Active voluntary missionary efforts.



Bread and wine used in  
Communion



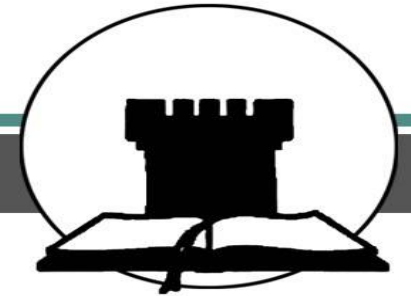
## **OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES**

- Aid to those in need: the poor, widows, orphans, and downtrodden.
- Christians believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah promised to Israel in the Old Testament.
- Jesus said his followers would be known by their love for one another.



# Jehovah's Witnesses

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

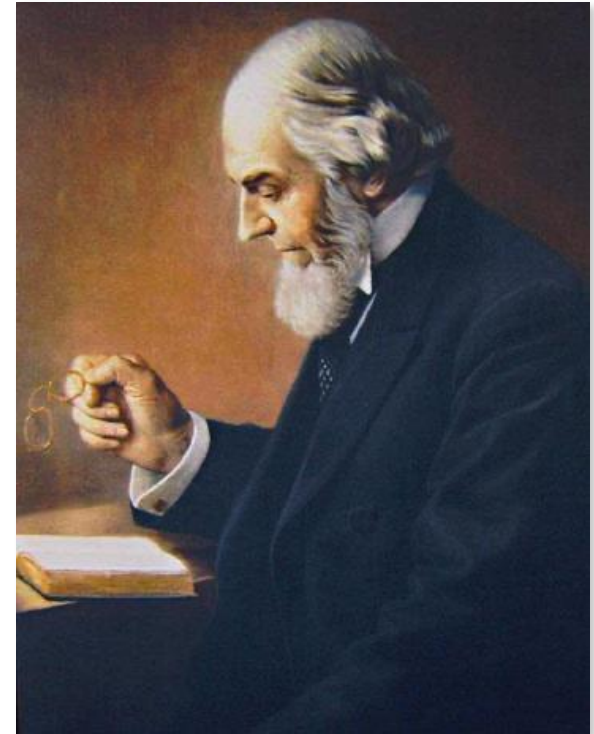


# Jehovah's Witnesses



## FOUNDED, LOCATION

- Founded by Charles Taze Russell (1852–1916) in 1879 in Pennsylvania.
- Later led by “Judge” Joseph F. Rutherford (1869–1942).
- Headquarters today in Brooklyn, New York.

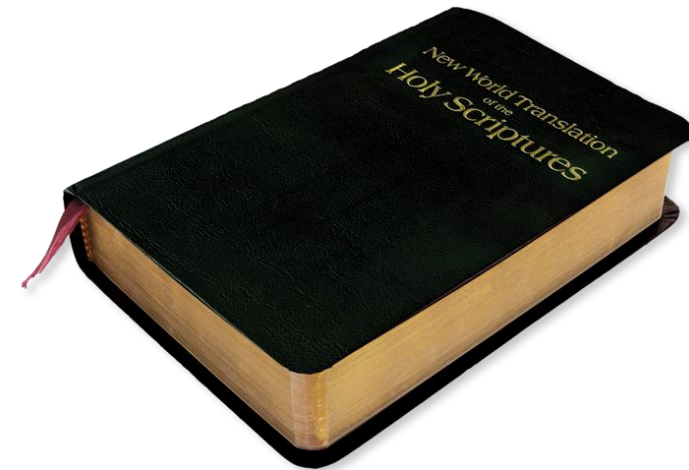


Charles Taze Russell



## KEY WRITINGS

- All current Watchtower publications, including the Bible (*New World Translation* only), *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*
- *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.



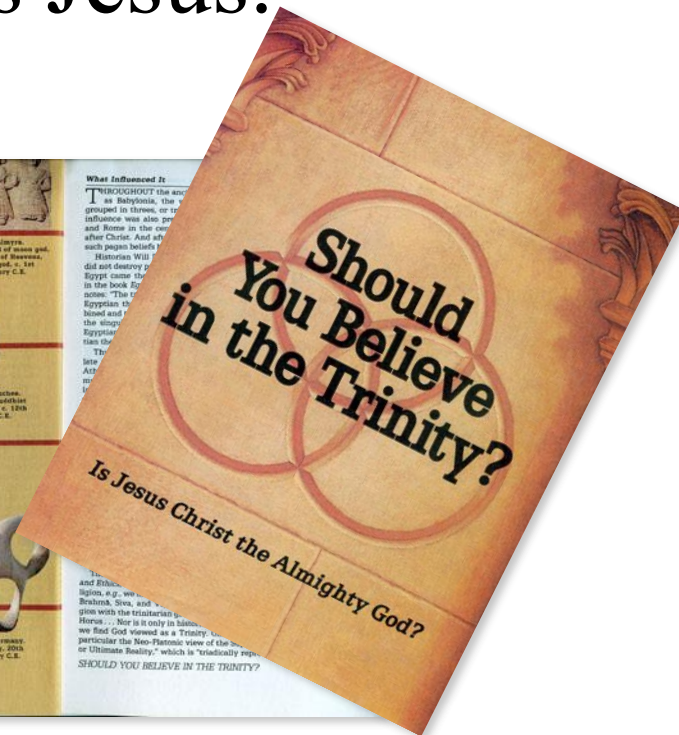
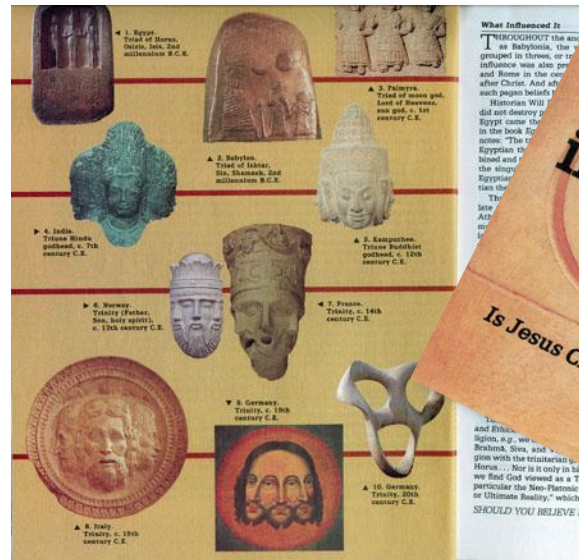
# Jehovah's Witnesses



## WHO IS GOD?

- One-person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity.
- The first thing Jehovah created was Jesus.

Widely-distributed Watchtower literature that tries to show that the Trinity is a pagan belief.





## WHO IS JESUS?

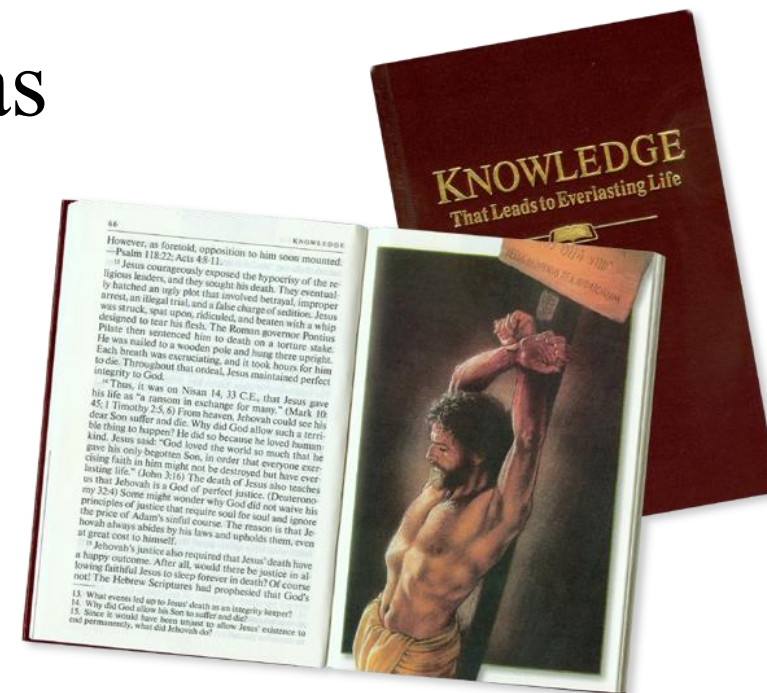
- Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel.
- Jehovah made the universe through him.
- On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life.

# Jehovah's Witnesses



## WHO IS JESUS?

- After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed.
- Jesus is not coming again. He already “returned” invisibly in 1914 in spirit.
- Very soon, Jesus and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.

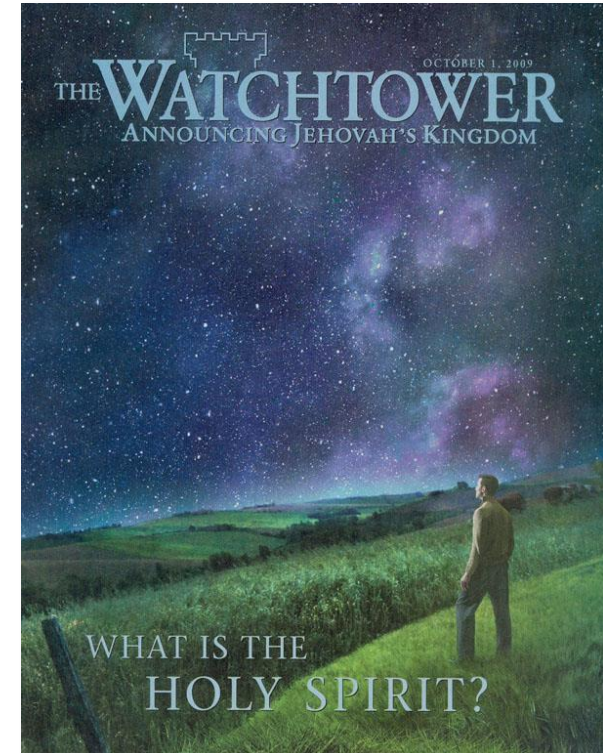


Watchtower illustration showing Jesus on a “stake”



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- Impersonal “holy spirit” is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.



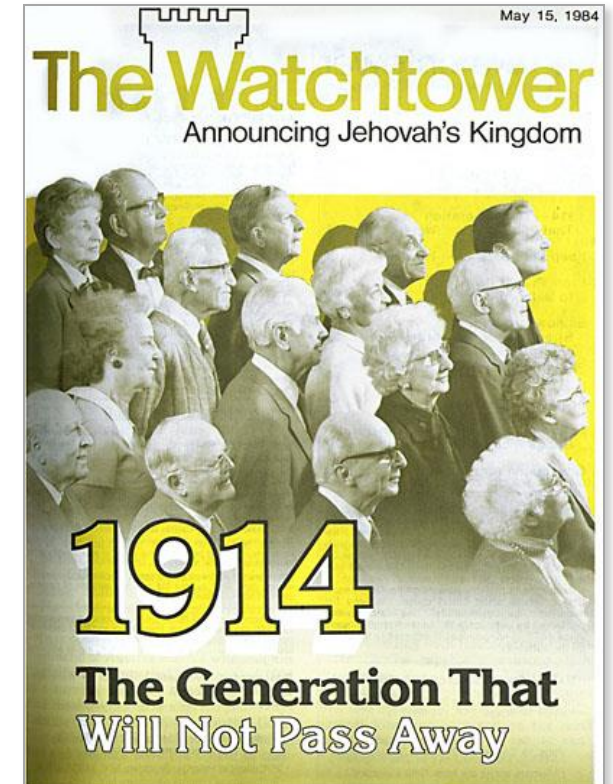
October 1, 2009 issue of  
*The Watchtower* magazine

# Jehovah's Witnesses



## HOW TO BE SAVED

- Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 “anointed ones.” This number is already reached.
- Followers must be baptized as a Jehovah’s Witness.
- Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by “door-to-door work.”



May 5, 1984 issue of  
*The Watchtower*  
magazine featuring  
the 144,000





## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?**

- The 144,000 live as spirits in heaven.
- The rest of the righteous, the “great crowd,” live on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1,000 years or be annihilated.



## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Meet in “Kingdom Halls” instead of churches.
- Also known as the *International Bible Students Association*.
- Forbidden to use the cross as a symbol.





## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Do not observe birthdays or holidays (such as Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving).
- Forbidden to vote or run for public office.
- Forbidden to salute the flag.
- Forbidden to work in the military.
- Forbidden to accept blood transfusions.



# Mormonism

The Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints

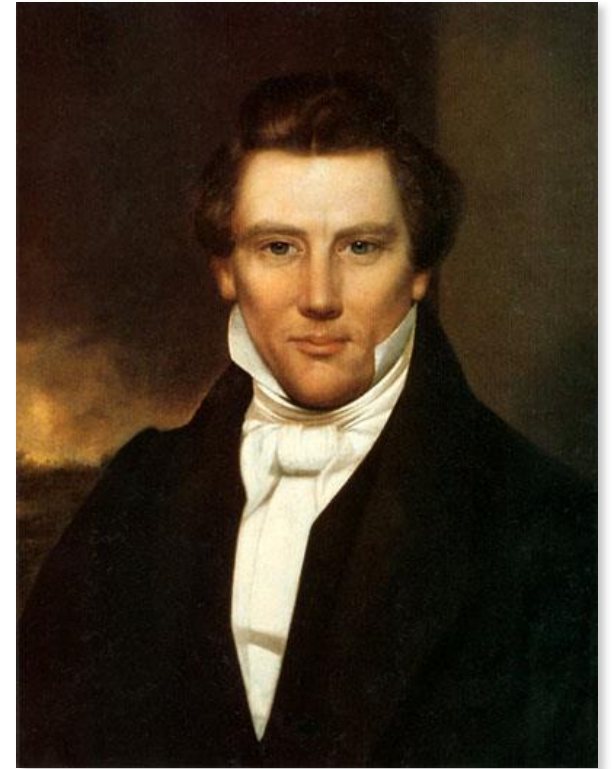


# Mormonism



## FOUNDED, LOCATION

- Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805–1844) organized what is now *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (LDS) in 1830 near Rochester, New York.



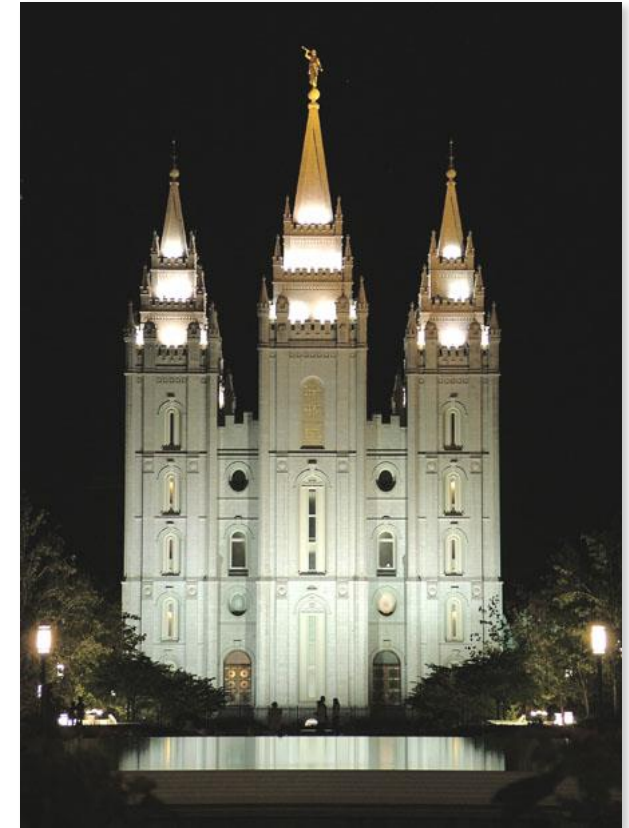
Joseph Smith, Jr.

# Mormonism



## FOUNDED, LOCATION

- After Smith's death, Brigham Young (1801–1877) became the first president of the Mormon Church.
- In 1847, Young moved the church to its current headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.



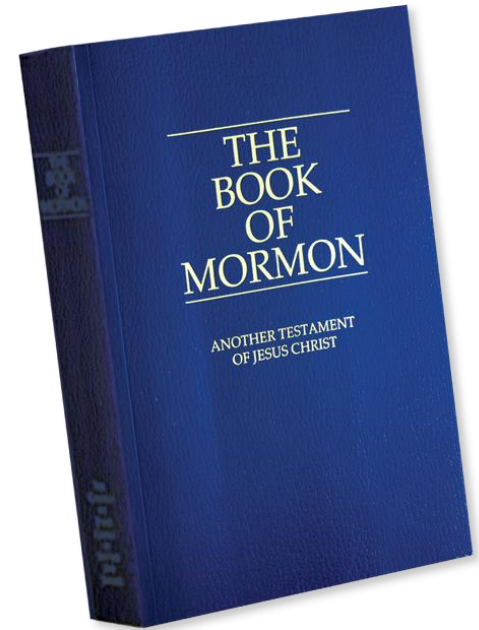
The Mormon temple in Salt Lake City, Utah

# Mormonism



## KEY WRITINGS

- The Book of Mormon
- Doctrine and Covenants
- The Pearl of Great Price
- The Bible (King James Version only or Smith's "Inspired Version"); seen as less reliable than Mormon "scriptures"

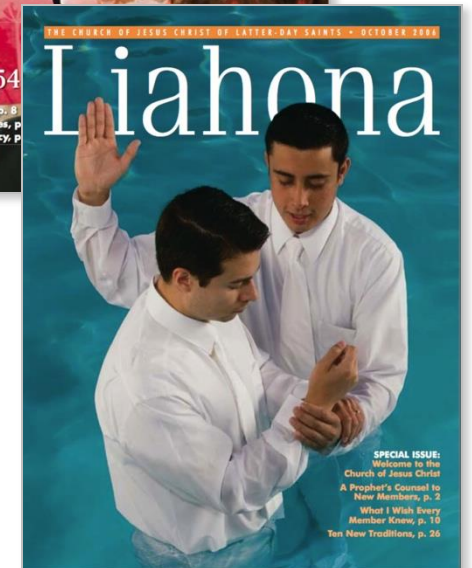
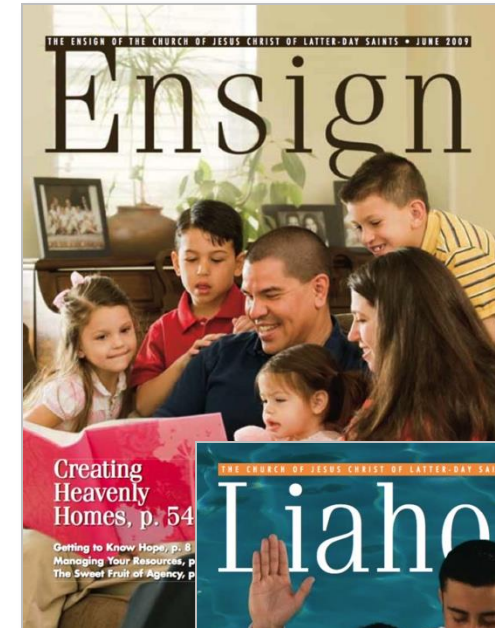


# Mormonism



## KEY WRITINGS

- *Ensign* and *Liahona* magazines.
- Authoritative teachings of Mormon prophets and other LDS “general authorities.”







## WHO IS GOD?

- God the Father was once a mortal man on another planet, but “progressed” to godhood.
- He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother).
- No Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods.
- Worthy members may one day become “exalted” to godhood themselves.



## WHO IS JESUS?

- Jesus is a separate god from the Father (*Elohim*).
- He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in heaven.
- He is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings, including Lucifer.



“Christus” statue in the Salt Lake temple visitors’ center



## WHO IS JESUS?

- His earthly body was created through sexual union between God the Father (Elohim) and Mary.
- Jesus was married.
- His suffering in Gethsemane and death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin but does provide everyone who has lived on earth with resurrection.
- Jesus traveled to the Americas after his death and resurrection in Palestine.



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- The “holy spirit” is different from the “Holy Ghost.”
- The holy spirit is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (“light of Christ”).
- The Holy Ghost is a “spirit man” and a member of the godhead.



## HOW TO BE SAVED

- One is resurrected by grace, but fully saved (exalted to a state of godhood) by works.
- Required works include: faithfulness to church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination (for males), marriage, and secret temple “endowment” rituals.
- No eternal life without membership in the Mormon church.



## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?**

- Eventually, nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly “kingdoms” (telestial, terrestrial, and celestial).
- Some achieve literal godhood (“exaltation”) at the highest level of the celestial kingdom.
- Apostates and murderers join Satan in “outer darkness.”

# Mormonism



## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Secret temple “endowment” rituals and “celestial marriage” available only to members in good standing.
- Baptism on behalf of the dead.



Mormon temple  
San Diego, California



## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- “Word of Wisdom” prohibits tobacco, alcohol, and caffeine drinks.
- Tithing is essential.
- Two-year missionary commitment encouraged.







## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- Door-to-door proselytizing.
- Extensive social network.
- People of African ancestry denied full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.



# Seventh-day Adventism



# Seventh-day Adventism



## FOUNDED, LOCATION

- Primary organizers: James (1821–1881) and Ellen (1827–1915) White, Joseph Bates (1792–1872).
- Incorporated in 1863 in Michigan.
- Headquarters today in Silver Spring, Maryland.



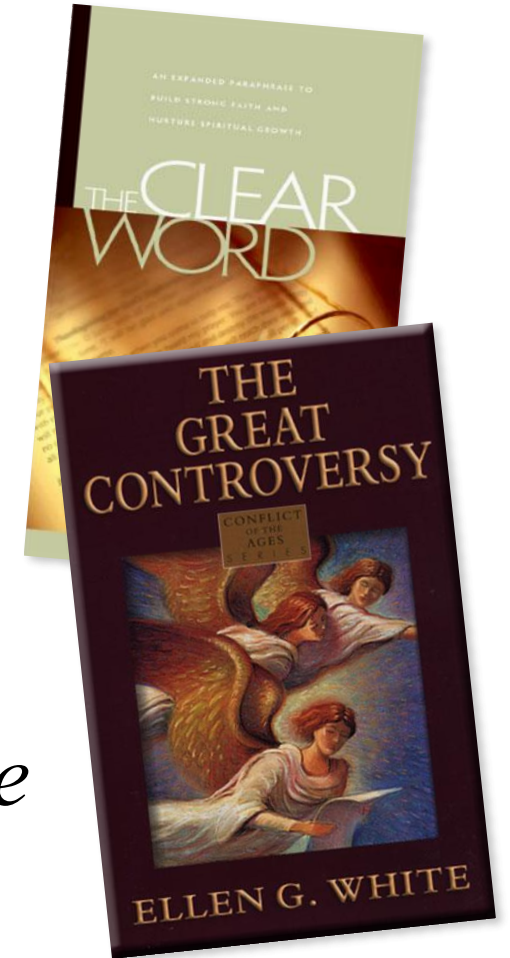
James and Ellen White

# Seventh-day Adventism



## KEY WRITINGS

- The Bible, including Adventist paraphrase *The Clear Word*.
- Over 600 published titles by Ellen White, including *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*.
- *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, and *SDA Bible Commentary*.
- *Adventist Review* and numerous other magazines.





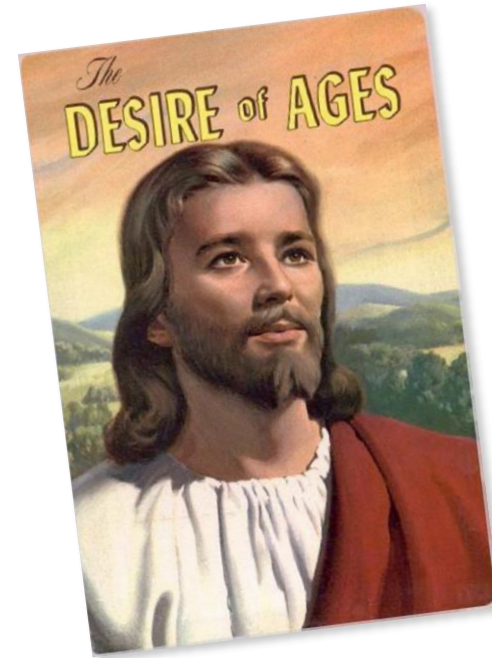
## WHO IS GOD?

- God is comprised of a unity of three co-eternal persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who are one in motive and purpose, but not substance.
- God the Father is generally understood to possess a physical body.
- Both trinitarianism and anti-trinitarianism are believed in the church today.



## WHO IS JESUS?

- Ellen White says God the Father exalted Jesus to be his Son, thus provoking Lucifer's jealousy and a war in heaven.
- Jesus is our example to prove we can live sinlessly.



*The Desire of Ages*  
by Ellen G. White



## WHO IS JESUS?

- His sacrifice on the cross did not complete the atonement; since 1844 he has been applying his blood in heaven in an ongoing “Investigative Judgment” after which he will return.
- Also identified as Michael the Archangel.
- Most Adventist founders denied Jesus’ deity.



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- Originally thought to be a force or power from God, today the Holy Spirit is understood to be the third person of the Godhead.





## HOW TO BE SAVED

- Salvation by grace through faith, but maintained by commandment-keeping and repentance.
- Saturday Sabbath observance is the “sign of the seal” of God; Sunday worship is the “mark of the beast.”
- Satan is the scapegoat to be punished in the lake of fire for the sins of the saved.



## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?**

- Humans have no immaterial spirit, so at death the body goes into the ground and the breath goes to God.
- Nothing remains except in God's memory. God will re-create the righteous dead from his memory .
- At judgment, the lake of fire annihilates the wicked.

# Seventh-day Adventism



## OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES

- SDA church is God's one, special end-time remnant church.
- Proselytizing programs include “Revelation seminars,” health outreach.





## **OTHER BELIEFS, PRACTICES**

- Old Testament clean/unclean meat laws observed.
- SDA “health message” includes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine; advocates veganism.
- Traditionalist Adventists believe that wearing jewelry is sinful.

# NEXT WEEK



**Unification  
Church**

**Christian  
Science**

**Unity**

**New Age**

**Wicca**

STUDY & GROW with US each Sunday

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**HYBRID**

8:30AM-9:30AM -- IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL

Dial-In: (339) 207-7080



[www.NewMacedonia.org](http://www.NewMacedonia.org)



Impact Generation  
New Macedonia Baptist Church

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Ages 4-17

Youth Church @ 10am

[www.newmacedonia.org](http://www.newmacedonia.org)



## COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY

••• **YOUTH CHAPEL** •••

10 A.M. - 11 A.M.

VIRTUAL

# BIBLE Study

## Adult Class

TUESDAYS @ 7:00 P.M.

JOIN VIA [NEWMACEDONIA.ORG](http://NEWMACEDONIA.ORG)

JOIN US FOR A WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE"

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY  
12:00 - 1:00 PM

# BIBLE Study

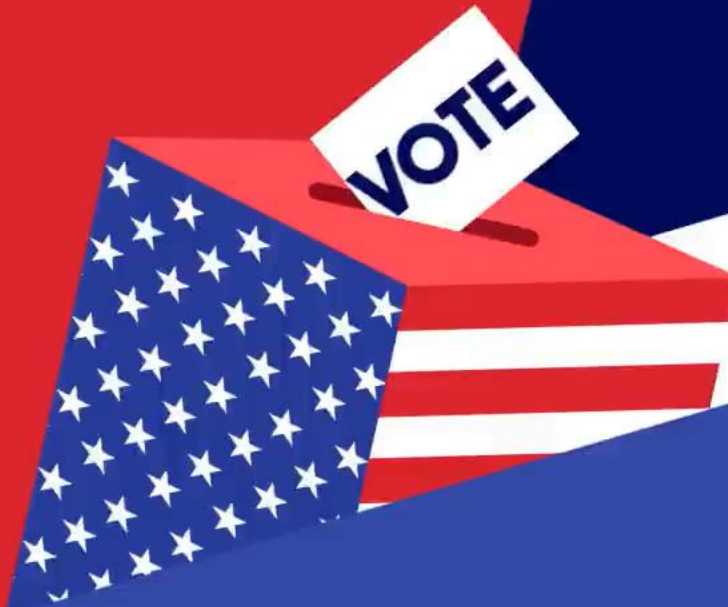
**HYBRID**

With:  
Rev. Vanessa Anderson

LOCATION: NEW MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, 7725 HIGHWAY 85, RIVERDALE, GA

**Election Day is Tuesday  
November 4, 2025**

**YOUR  
VOTE  
MATTERS**



**Early voting begins October 14th**



# FALL FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY | OCTOBER 25TH**  
**12:00-3:00 PM**

**FOOD . MUSIC . GAMES . FUN**

**For more info, see a member of the Youth & Teen Ministry  
or send an email to [nmbcyp77@outlook.com](mailto:nmbcyp77@outlook.com)**



# NMBC Missionary Society Ministry

The NMBC Missionary Society Ministry wants to be a blessing to a member in need by giving away a \$75 gift card each month!

## Starting

**August through December 2025**

a box labeled “Magnetic Power” will be placed at the Courtesy Guild desk on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month.



## How it works:

- Fill out a contact information card and place it in the box.
- You may enter your name once per month
- A winner will be drawn on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- The selected member will be contacted by a Missionary Society representative.

**You could be the next to receive a blessing!**  
Let us bless each other in love, kindness, and support.

Blessings to you all,  
NMBC Missionary Society Ministry

# MISSIONARY MINISTRY

# FOOD

# PANTRY DONATION DRIVE



Thank you for  
your donations!

- \* Canned Vegetables
- \* Rice
- \* Cranberry Sauce
- \* Stuffing Mix