

Evangelism Class #21 Outline - Religions Crash Course part 2

Jehovah's Witnesses:

Origin: Charles Taze Russel in late 1800's. Started magazine called Zion's Watchtower with all of his own interpretations. Published volume of 7 books called "Studies in the Scriptures." Called themselves the Watchtower Society. After his death, new president Joseph Rutherford moved headquarters to NY and named them Jehovah's Witnesses.

Beliefs: Watchtower publications are God's channel of communication to us along with the Bible. Can't understand the Bible without the Watchtower Organization. Deny the trinity, deny Jesus was God. Jesus was merely a created being; He is Michael the archangel. Deny His bodily resurrection, don't believe in hell. Only 144,000 in heaven, the rest on paradise earth.

Approach: Try to help them see their organization is false.

- **Deuteronomy 18:20-22** - TONS of false prophecies by the Watchtower.
- Also, point out to them you can't become a JW just from reading the Bible.

Mormonism:

Origin: Joseph Smith in early 1800's. Unsure of which denomination to choose, this 15 year old prayed to God for guidance. Had a vision of two personages in bright light and told him all denominations were wrong and all creeds an abomination, that the church had become corrupt. Was told of a set of hidden golden plates with the full gospel and the account of Jesus' trip to America. Plates had been engraved by ancient American prophet named Mormon. Smith translated the plates with divine guidance and the result was the "Book of Mormon." Received other revelations, recorded in "Doctrines and Covenants" and after death, more of his writings were collected in a book called "The Pearl of Great Price."

Beliefs: They are the one true church. The Bible is God's Word, but it has become corrupted and can't be trusted. Main authority are from the 3 works listed above, and from modern day prophets and apostles. God used to be a man, but was exalted to God and ruling over the earth. God (Elohim) has flesh and bones like we do, lives on a planet with his many wives. Millions of gods ruling over their own planets. Jesus is not God, but His firstborn child. Jesus had 3 wives, and after His resurrection travelled to America to established the church there.

Their Goal: Prove yourself worthy through rigid Mormon living and faith in Jesus' atonement and you can become a god and rule over your own planet with many wives like Elohim does.

Approach: 1) Challenge them to present evidence. There is none. 2) If there is more than one sect of Mormons, Joseph Smith failed. Which do we choose now? 3) God wouldn't allow His church to become corrupted (**Matthew 16:18**) 4) Expose false prophecies by J.S. 5) Use the Bible to show how radically different their teachings are. 6) Remind them of **2**

Corinthians 11:14 - "Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

7th Day Adventists:

Origin: William Miller in 1831 predicted 2nd coming (Advent) of Christ on October 22nd, 1844. These were the Adventists. Failed, called "The Great Disappointment." Hiram Edson had a vision that Jesus entered the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary on that day to begin "investigative judgment," process of reviewing people's records with God. Ellen G. White claimed to be a prophet, was influenced by a 7th Day Baptist to practice the Sabbath. Claimed to have vision about the Sabbath still being in force; the pope changed it, but God never did.

Beliefs: 28 Fundamental beliefs, many of them Biblical. 27th belief is allegiance to the authority of Ellen G. White.

Approach: 1) Challenge them on allegiance to Ellen G. White. Pope did not change day of worship to first day of the week. The Bible and at least 50 quotes from early Christians all say

Sources: "Handbook of Today's Religions" by McDowell and Stewart

"The School of Biblical Evangelism" by Cameron and Comfort

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Christians worshipped on first day from the very start. **(Col. 2:16-17)** 2) Expose her false prophecies. 3) Show how their baptism is tied to their denomination. 4) Be just Christians!

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bible.ca wikipedia.com jw.org adventist.org