

**ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS
ABOUT
JEHOVAH'S
WITNESSES**

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

DECEMBER 20, 2015

INTRODUCTION

- **Why Jehovah's Witnesses this close to Christmas?**
- **What do they believe?**
- **What should we do when they come to the door?**
 - Its not a competition ... winning isn't always what we think it is
 - Maintain a smile ... keep control of yourself
 - Main point: Jesus is the Christ, Jesus is God

WHO ARE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

- **Who are the Jehovah's Witnesses?**
 - Great Religious Awakening in 19th century United States
 - Adventist Religions: obsessed with "end-of-the-world" prophecies
 - Seventh Day Adventist, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses
 - Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916) in 1872
 - Congregationalist or strict Protestantism
 - Borrowed from Mormonism and Seventh Day Adventist
 - No Holy Spirit
 - St. Michael the Archangel is Jesus, the Second Adam
 - Man does not have soul, he is a soul
 - Death is the soul sleeping or "soul disappearance"
 - Hell is not eternal
 - Jesus is great, but not God; JWs are ***NOT*** Christians
 - Complete rejection of deuterocanonical books of the Old Testament, Eucharist, confession, purgatory, intercession of the saints
 - Re-wrote the Bible with his own translation *New World Translation*
- **Response**
 - Read Church Fathers: Jurgen's *The Faith of the Early Fathers*

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

MERELY HUMAN JESUS

- **Christianity demands believe in the divinity of Jesus**
- **JWs believe Jesus is merely a man**
- **Prove Jesus is God with Bible, Church Fathers, & Reason**

MERELY HUMAN JESUS

- **JWs always try to move the argument to the Holy Trinity ... keep the focus on the question of Jesus**
- **Typical Lines**
 - “Jesus is divine.” What they mean is: “Jesus is a holy person.”
 - “The Bible calls Jesus God’s ‘only begotten Son’ and ‘Son of God’. Let’s agree to call Jesus ‘Son of God’, and leave it at that.” What they mean is” “Jesus is a special man, but not God.”
- **Prove that Jesus is God, then we can prove existence of the Trinity**
 - Jesus is truly God, like the Father
 - There is only one God
 - There can be more than one person in God

MERELY HUMAN JESUS

- **Purpose of Sacred Scripture: Prove Jesus God**
- **All verses from *New World Translation***
- **Matthew 1:23 “Look! The virgin will become pregnant and will give birth to a son, and they will name him Im·man’u·el,” which means, when translated, “With Us Is God.”**
 - God with “G”, not “g”. Jesus is God.
- **John 20:28-29 In answer Thomas said to him: “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him: “Because you have seen me, have you believed? Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”**
 - Jesus accepts the worship of Thomas
- **John 14:9 Jesus said to him: “Even after I have been with you men for such a long time, Philip, have you not come to know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also. How is it you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**
 - Jesus equates Himself to the Father

MERELY HUMAN JESUS

Sacred Scripture continued...

- Deuteronomy 10:17; Revelation 19:16 – Jesus is Lord of Lords, just like the Father
- Isaiah 9:6 – This Messiah is “Mighty God”
- Isaiah 43:11, Titus 3:4-6 – Jesus is the Savior, who is God
- Matthew 28:19 – “in the name”, not “in the names”; all are equal
- John 10:30; 14:9 – “I and the Father are one.”
- Colossians 2:9 – the *fullness* of Godhead and divinity is Jesus
- Revelation 1:8; Revelation 22:12-13 – Jehovah is Alpha & Omega, Jesus is Alpha & Omega

MERELY HUMAN JESUS

- **Church Fathers**

- **St. Ignatius of Antioch:** “For our God, Jesus Christ, was conceived by Mary in accord with God’s plan...”

Letter to the Ephesians, 18, 2; Jurgens, The Father of the Fathers

- **St. Irenaeus:** “But not knowing Him, who, from the Virgin, is Emmanuel, they are deprived of His gift, which is life eternal. And not receiving the Word of incorruption, they remain in mortal flesh and are the debtors of death, not having received the antidote of life... Nevertheless, what cannot be said of anyone else who ever lived, that He is Himself in His own right God and Lord and Eternal King and Only-begotten and Incarnate Word, proclaimed as such by all the Prophets and by the Apostles and by the Spirit Himself, may be seen by all who have attained to even a small portion of the truth. The Scriptures would not have borne witness to these things concerning Him, if, like everyone else, He were a mere man.”

Against Heresies, 3, 19, 1-2; Jurgens, #222.

144,000

Only 144,000 people will go to Heaven, they are *The Anointed*

The rest of the faithful go to an earthly paradise

1935, JW's reached 144,000 members

no one else can go to Heaven, only earthly paradise

They cite Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5

Literal translation: Heaven is for celibate Jewish males

Symbolic translation: large number indicates many people

144,000

Christian Response

- Bible speaks of 12,000 men from 12 tribes, where are the 12 tribes of JWs?
- Symbolic use of “virgins”, but literal use of 144k
- Read Revelation 7:1-8 very carefully and the 144k are people on earth
- Revelation 7:9 begins to speak of another group of people, so great no one could count it
 - 144,000 on earth; great crowd in Heaven
- No where does the Bible make a distinction between those who go to Heaven and those who remain on earth

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

- **Bible assures us that Enoch and Elijah went to Heaven**
 - 2 Kings 2:11; Hebrews 11:5
- **Jesus assures us that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets are in Heaven**
 - Luke 13:28
- **Do the 1 million Christians martyred in the first 300 years of Christianity not take the 144,000 cherished spots?**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
 - Whether we die before Christ comes again, or we are alive at His coming, we get the same reward

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

- **Old Testament prohibition of eating blood**
 - Genesis 9:3-4; Leviticus 17:14
- **Continued in the New Testament**
 - Acts 15:28-29 (cultural repugnance)
- **Blood transfusions did not exist in the Old Testament**
 - Even the most strict Orthodox Jews permit transfusions
- **John 6**
 - “...unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man you do not have life within you...”

DOCTRINAL REVERSALS

**End of the world: those alive in 1914
would see the end of the world**

1925 ... 1975 ... ?????

**“... a peaceful and secure new world that
is about to replace the present, wicked,
lawless system of things.”**

**Vaccinations, LDOT, and the end of the world have all been
cast aside...what is next?**

ANNIHILATION OF THE SOUL

Catholic: man is a person with a body and a soul

at death, body dies, soul lives on

at resurrection, soul will be reunited with his body

JWs: man is a soul

at death, soul is annihilated

at resurrection, new soul is created

ANNIHILATION OF THE SOUL

- **Genesis 1:27 – God made man in His image**
- **1 Samuel 28 – Samuel appears to Saul**
- **Matthew 10:28 – they kill the body, not the soul**
- **Matthew 17 – Elijah and Moses appear at Transfiguration**
- **Luke 16 – Abraham and Lazarus are dead, but still “living”**
- **Revelation 6:9-10 – vision of souls who died for Christ**

- **“The resurrection is of the flesh which died; for the spirit does not die.” ~ Justin Martyr**

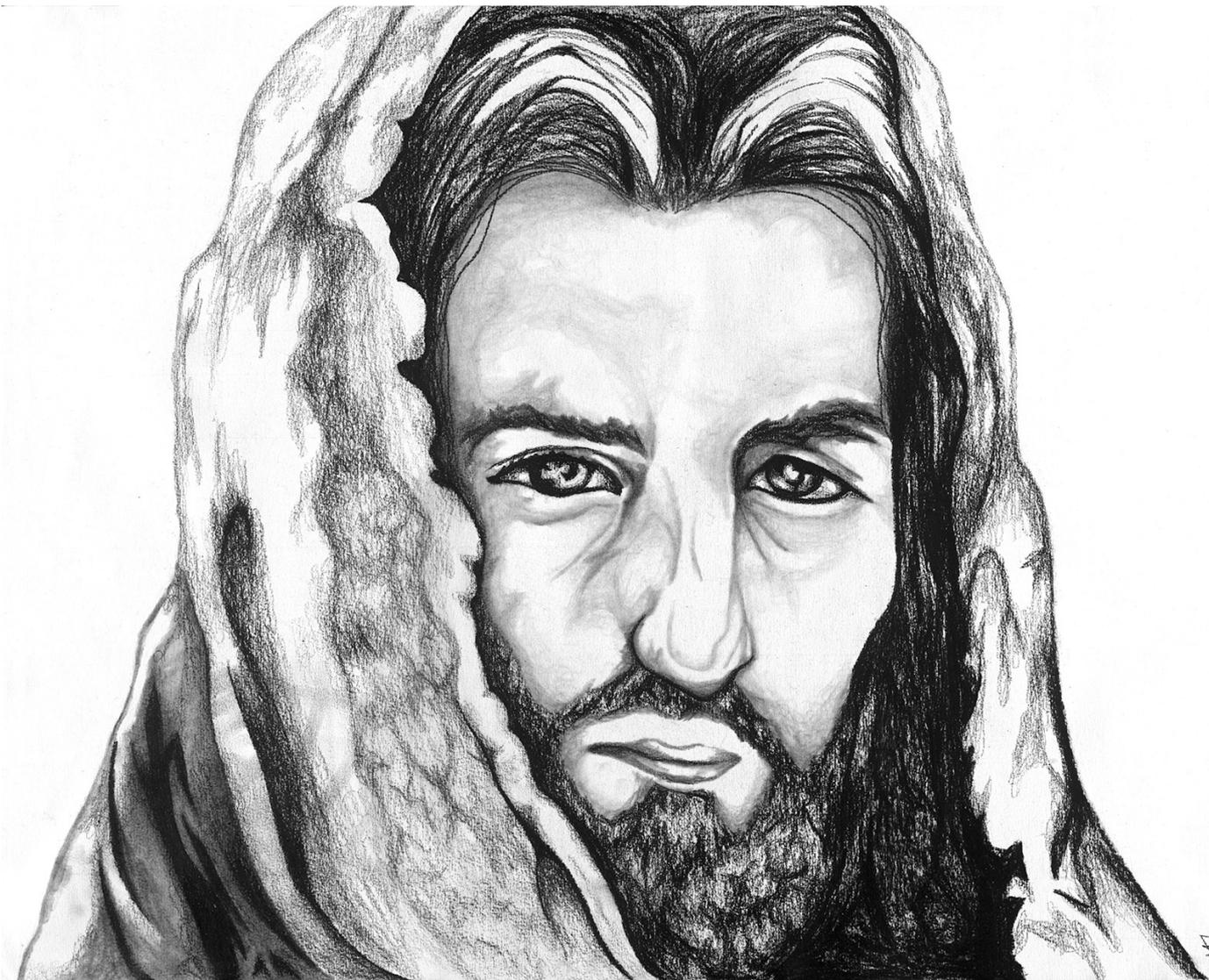
TEMPORARY HELL

All wicked humans and devils will be completely annihilated

Catholic Response

- **Reason**
 - Contradicts immortal nature of soul
- **Sacred Scripture**
 - Matthew 3:12 ~ the wicked are burned with a fire that cannot be put out
 - Matthew 18:8; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43; Revelation 20:10
- **Church Fathers**
 - “...unquenchable fire...”
St. Ignatius of Antioch, *Letter to the Ephesians*, 16, 1.
 - “...eternal punishment or reward ... eternal sentence of fire.”
St. Justin Martyr, *First Apology*, 52.

FACE OF MERCY



MARK
2011