



# JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

# Review

- Last week, we learned that Jehovah's Witnesses trace themselves back to Charles Taze Russell, who preached near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the 1870s
- At first, they were known as the Bible Students, but the group split due to failed predictions and they were renamed the Jehovah's Witnesses

# Review

- ⦿ The crux of Jehovah's Witness teaching is the Watchtower Publication and the New World Translation (NWT) sculpted to fit the Watchtower's teachings
- ⦿ Russell was heavily influenced by Adventist teaching, so he taught his followers to expect the end of the world and Armageddon
- ⦿ He also had many personal struggles with the doctrines of the Trinity, the deity of Christ, hell, and others

# Review

- ⦿ Based on a literal interpretation of Revelation 7, he believed there would be 144,000 anointed Jehovah's Witnesses in heaven and many more on earth in a "Great Crowd"
- ⦿ Jehovah's Witnesses cut themselves off from the world as much as possible, trying not to become contaminated by its ways
- ⦿ However, they are still fully committed to spreading "the truth" by knocking on doors throughout the country

# A part of the world

- ⦿ “While some contact with worldly people is unavoidable at work, at school, and otherwise we must be vigilant so as to keep from being sucked back into the death-dealing atmosphere of this world.” *Watchtower* 1987 Sep 15 p.12
- ⦿ Part of being a good JW is staying separate from the world, avoiding holidays, sports, college education, and basic interactions
- ⦿ This comes to a head on the issue of military service, so let’s watch a couple clips from *Hacksaw Ridge*

# A part of the world

- ⦿ Sometimes, being associated with the world is hard
- ⦿ We pay taxes to support immoral programs, we see leaders do the opposite of what God's Word says, and we might think we'd be better off on our own
- ⦿ Read Matthew 22:15-22. Why do we not abandon living in society? What are our purposes for remaining? What are Jehovah's Witnesses missing?

# A part of the world

- Read 1 Peter 5:8-12. Instead of fleeing from the world, how should we act? Where and when does our enemy most often stalk us? How can we most effectively resist Satan's plans?

# Life or death

- ⦿ Jehovah's Witnesses do not accept blood transfusions, since they think blood itself is sacred and must not be passed from one to another
- ⦿ Read Acts 10:9-16 and 15:24-29. Who are each of these sections directed to? How did these Christians act, in light of these? What does this mean for JW's?