

Is it true that the Jehovah's Witnesses are linked to the Watchtower Society? Do the JWs meeting in Kingdom Halls? Is it true that they have their own version of the Bible which changes the opening words from the Gospel of John to say that Jesus was a god rather than co-equal in the Trinitarian sense? Is it true that during part of the 20th century that JWs predicted the end of the world was coming and of course never came? Is it true that research has been done on why people that are part of a group like the JWs may ignore the obvious evidence that something is inconsistent or false out of habit, bias confirmation, and similar socio-psychological behaviors? So, are there things that people can and should learn from the behavior of JWs and such studies of how people respond to a sincerely held being being disproven?



Yes, the Jehovah's Witnesses are linked to the Watchtower Society, meet in Kingdom Halls, use their own Bible translation that differs from the Trinitarian view of Jesus, and have made failed predictions about the end of the world. Research has been conducted on how psychological factors like habit and confirmation bias can lead individuals to accept or ignore information within groups, and these studies can provide insights into the behavior of group members and how they respond to disproven beliefs.

Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watchtower Society

- Link to Watchtower Society: <u>Jehovah's Witnesses</u> are directed by the <u>Watch Tower</u>
 <u>Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania</u>, which serves as the main legal and
 administrative entity for the group.
- Kingdom Halls: JWs meet in buildings they call <u>Kingdom Halls</u>, a name that was suggested in 1935 to emphasize their preaching of the "good news of the Kingdom".
- **Bible translation:** JWs have their own translation, the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. It differs from standard translations on certain key points, such as the divinity of Jesus. For example, in John 1:1, it translates the verse to indicate

Jesus was a god, but not the supreme God, which is a departure from the Trinitarian view of Jesus as co-equal with God.

- **Failed end-of-the-world predictions:** The Watchtower Society has made several predictions about the end of the world or major biblical events that have not occurred, leading to criticism.
- **Psychological studies:** There has been research into how psychological factors such as habit, confirmation bias, and other socio-psychological behaviors can lead people within a group to accept or ignore evidence that conflicts with their beliefs.
- **Lessons from group behavior:** Studies of this nature can provide valuable insights into how people respond when beliefs they hold sincerely are disproven, and what psychological and social mechanisms are involved.

