

Mormonism And Jehovah's Witnesses Handout

Mormonism

Origin/History:

- Joseph Smith
 - [Vision of Father and Son](#) (1820)
 - [Vision of Angel Moroni](#) (1823)
 - Where to find the gold tablets
 - Urim and Thummin ([Stones for translating](#))
 - Translated the book of Mormon (1829)
 - Returned plates to Angel Moroni in Cumorah cave (lost)
- Brigham Young
 - Led pioneer movement of LDS to Utah (1847)
 - Became separatist society until around 20th century



Main Doctrine Summary:

- [13 Articles of Mormon Faith](#)
- [Doctrinal Mastery Core Document](#)
- Texts:
 - Book of Mormon, King James Bible – Inspired books
 - Pearl of Great Price, Doctrine and Covenants – Canonized
- 5 Steps of the Gospel (see Article 4)
- Bodily resurrection with family
- “Word of Wisdom” (No wine, caffeine, tobacco, etc.)

Specific Doctrines:

- Highlighted Selections of [the 13 Articles](#):
 - “3. That through Christ’s Atonement, we can be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.”
 - “4. That faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion, confirmation, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost are all necessary for salvation.”
 - “8. That the Bible and Book of Mormon are both divinely revealed scripture.”
- Highlighted Selections “[Doctrinal Mastery Core Doc.](#)”:
 - “There are three separate personages in the Godhead: God, the Eternal Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Ghost. The Father and the Son have tangible, glorified bodies of flesh and bone, and the Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit (see D&C 130:22–23). They are one in purpose and are perfectly united in bringing to pass Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation.”
 - “God the Father is the Supreme Being whom we worship.”
 - “Before we were born on the earth, we lived in the presence of our Heavenly Father as His spirit children. In this premortal existence we participated in a council with Heavenly Father’s other spirit children. During that council Heavenly

Father presented His plan and the premortal Jesus Christ covenanted to be the Savior [...] Those who followed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were permitted to come to the earth to experience mortality and progress toward eternal life. Lucifer, another spirit son of God, rebelled against the plan. He became Satan, and he and his followers were cast out of heaven and denied the privileges of receiving a physical body and experiencing mortality.”

- “The Fall is an essential part of Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation. As a result of the Fall, Adam and Eve could have children. They and their posterity could experience joy and sorrow, know good from evil, and progress.”
- “There are three kingdoms of glory: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, and the telestial kingdom. Those who are valiant in the testimony of Jesus and obedient to the principles of the gospel will dwell in the celestial kingdom in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and with their righteous family members.”

Christian?

- Doctrine of Trinity
 - God is one Being eternally manifest in three Persons.
 - Key Language:
 - 3 Persons.
 - 1 Essence/Being.
 - [Athanasian Creed](#)
 - [Nicene Creed](#)
 - Lutheran Satire - “[St. Patrick’s Bad Analogies](#)”
 - Contributing Passages which help form the doctrine:
 - One-ness
 - Deut 6:4; Ex 20:3; Is 45:14; 1 Cor 8:4-6; Eph 4:3-6; Jam 2:19
 - Three-ness
 - Deity of “the Father” - Jn 6:27; 1 Pet 1:2; 1 Cor 8:6; Rom 1:7
 - Deity of “the Son” - Heb 1:3-4; Matt 1:21-23; Jn 1:1; 8:58; 10:30; Col 1:15
 - Deity of “the Spirit” - Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor 2:10; 6:19
 - Other Contributing Passages
 - Matt 28:19; 3:16-17; 2 Cor 13:14
- Doctrine of Salvation
 - Salvation is solely of God and not at all of man.
 - Salvation is the free gift of God that comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Cor 15; Gal 2-3; Rom 1-8; Eph 2:8-10
 - Grace alone, not Grace plus works.
 - Lutheran Satire – “[Donall and Conall Convince the Mormon Missionaries...](#)”

Jehovah's Witnesses

Origin/History:

- Charles Taze - "The Pastor"
 - Born Feb 16, 1852
 - Started Bible Class in Pittsburgh 1870
 - Founded magazine *The Herald of the Morning* 1879 (which later became *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*)
 - Incorporated "Zion's Watchtower Tract Society" 1886
- J.F. Rutherford
 - Led larger faction of a split after Russell's death 1917
 - Name "Jehovah's Witnesses" adopted to distinguish factions
- Charles Taze Personal Issues
 - *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* led fight to expose Taze as a fraud
 - Ran "Miracle Wheat" advertising scheme to fund *Watchtower*
 - Wife divorced and sued him under a claim of mental cruelty
 - Rev J.J. Ross published anti-Russell pamphlet about which Russell sued for libel and in court committed multiple documented counts of [perjury](#)

Main Doctrine Summary:

- [15 Basic Beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses.](#)
- [There is one God and his name is Jehovah.](#)
- [Jesus is important, but different from God.](#)
- [Jesus returned to earth in 1914](#) as the invisible Logos working to overthrow Satan and establish kingdom.
- Texts:
 - New World Translation of Bible – Authoritative translation
 - All "Watchtower" Publications – "Helpful Bible Study tools"
- Annihilationist view of hell

Specific Doctrines:

- [Jesus is important, but different from God.](#)
 - Jesus is "God's Son"
 - Jesus was one of Jehovah's "perfect spirit sons"
 - Jesus was Jehovah's first creation, but not eternally existing
 - Uses Col 1:15 as support
 - Modern form of ancient heresy "Arianism," condemned at Nicaea 325 and Constantinople 381
- [There is one God and his name is Jehovah.](#)
 - Emphasis on the fact that "Jehovah" is the proper English name of God
 - Firm belief that God is one personality
 - Salvation is [dependent upon worshipping God](#) "rightly" as one personality whose name is Jehovah

Christian?

- Doctrine of the Trinity
 - *See Section on "Doctrine of Trinity" above under "Mormonism - Christian?"
 - Lutheran Satire – [“Donall and Conall Meet the JW’s”](#)
- Doctrine of Christ
 - The denial of Jesus Christ in either His humanity or deity is the spirit of antichrist. (1 John 3:23; 4:1-3)
 - Jesus is “Fully God and fully Man.” (John 8:58; John 1:1ff)
 - Jesus’s enemies recognized his claims to deity (John 5:18)
 - [Chalcedonian Definition](#)
 - Lutheran Satire – [“Donall and Conall Learn that Jesus isn’t Divine”](#)

Reaching Both Groups:

- Listen carefully
- Define terms
- Don’t get distracted
- Preach the gospel, emphasizing its trinitarian nature.
 - Grace alone.
 - Faith alone.
 - God-incarnate’s perfect sacrifice