

Period 7

Nineteenth Century Proliferation (1881 - Present)

Lesson 30 - Restorationism - Russellism

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1. References:

- Book reference: Kingdom of the Cults – Walter R. Martin (PP.34-110)

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2. Essential Theory, Belief or Practice:

- That Jesus is Michael the archangel
- Salvation by a combination of faith, good works and obedience
- Reject the Trinity of the Godhead – that the Holy Spirit is a force, not a Person
- Reject the concept of Substitution and hold to the ransom theory
- That the church has corrupted the Bible and they have re-translated it in the New World Translation
- The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the only body that claims authority to interpret Scripture
- That Jesus already returned in the 1900's (1874 & then 1914)
- Reject an eternal Hell

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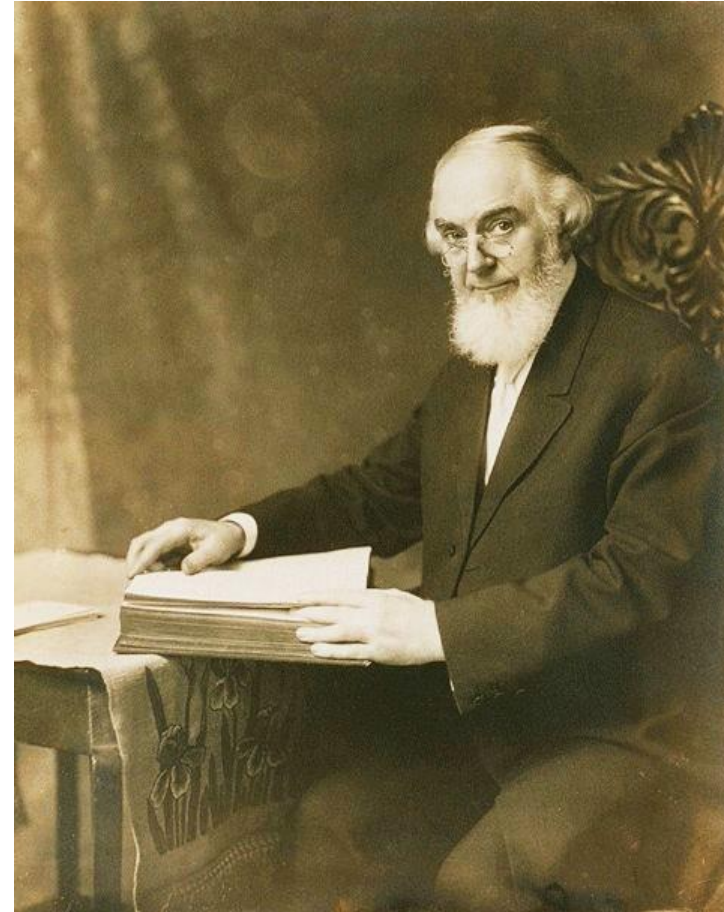
3. Principle Characters:

Charles Taze Russell (2/16/1852-10/31/1916)

Raised a Presbyterian, influenced by an Adventist (Nelson Barbour)

1870 - Founded a group called "Millennial Dawn Bible Study" followers called "Bible Students"

1870 - Founded the Watchtower Tract Society in Pittsburgh (now in Brooklyn, NY)



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3. Principle Characters:

Joseph Franklin Rutherford (11/8/1869 – 1/8/1942)

Raised a Baptist in Missouri, went to Law school – “Judge Rutherford”

1917 – succeeded Russell as President and General Manager

Wrote *The Finished Mystery* and was charged under the 1917 Espionage Act. Released in 1920

1919 – new magazine published *The Golden Age* (later renamed *Awake*)

1931 – name of the organization changed to Jehovah’s Witnesses

1935 – Kingdom Hall name given to local congregations

Changed many of Russell’s teachings

1942 - Died at his lavish San Diego “Beth Sarim” property from colon cancer



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4. Scriptural Refutation:

- When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him. **Deut. 18:22**
- These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. **Acts 17:11**
- **6** I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: **7** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. **8** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. **Gal. 1:6-8**
- And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. **1 Tim. 3:16**
- Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **2 Tim. 2:15**