WORLD RELIGIONS **June 5-6, 2004**
Part 7 of 7 "Jehovah's Witnesses: False Prophets"

Primary scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Purpose: We want to be Christians who know God's truth and share it with grace.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:15-16

I. TWO TESTS OF A PROPHET

1. The words of a false prophet are _____ to the Word of God.
Dt. 18:20 ...who speaks in the name of other gods...

2. The prophecies of a false prophet are not _____.
Dt. 18:22 ...if the word does not come to pass or come true...

II. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AND TEST NUMBER TWO

- Founded in the 1800's
  - Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)
  - Established the _____ Bible and Tract Society in 1884.

- Failed prophecies in the 1900's
  1. _____: Failed prophecy number one.
  2. _____: Failed prophecy number two.
  3. _____: Failed prophecy number three.

- Flourishing in the new millennium
  - _____ million members in 233 countries.
  - Largest private publisher in the world.

III. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AND TEST NUMBER ONE

1. God: The Almighty God of the Bible is not _____

Jesus is less than God and the Holy Spirit is not a divine person.

The Scriptures: (See also message #4 on Islam)

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…

2. Jesus: The first and greatest of God's _____

Jehovah created Jesus first and then Jesus created everything else.

The Scriptures: (See also message #1 on Judaism)

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (ESV)

John 1:1 In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. (NWT)

3. Scripture and authority: The _____ and _____ Bible

The Watchtower is God's only visible organization on earth.
The Watchtower is God's sole channel of truth.
The Bible alone is not sufficient to know truth.
People must not attempt to interpret the Scriptures on their own.

The Scriptures: (See also message #3 on Catholicism)

Acts 17:11 ...received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

4. Salvation: Paradise for all JWs who _____

Jesus' sacrifice provides the opportunity to earn salvation by obedience.
The first 144,000 will live in heaven. The rest get paradise on earth.

The Scriptures: (See every single message in this series)

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.