

Major Nineteenth-Century American Cults

	MORMONS	ADVENTISTS		CHRISTIAN SCIENCE	JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
OFFICIAL NAME	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Seventh-Day Adventists		Church of Christ, Scientist	Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
FOUNDER(S)	Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805–1844)	William Miller (1782–1849) (Movement)	Former Followers of Miller (Church)	Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy (1821–1910)	Charles Taze Russell (1852–1916)
DATE	1830	1844	1860	1879	1884
PLACE	Harmony, Pa.	Northern N.Y.	Battle Creek, Mich.	Boston, Mass.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
OTHER MAJOR FIGURES	Brigham Young (1801–1877)	Hiram Edson Joseph Bates Ellen G. White (1827–1915)			Joseph F. Rutherford (1869–1942) Nathan H. Knorr (1905–1977)
EXTRABIBLICAL SOURCES OF AUTHORITY	<i>Book of Mormon Doctrine and Covenants Pearl of Great Price</i> Ongoing divine revelation through president of church	Writings of Ellen G. White Continuing gift of prophecy within church		<i>Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures</i>	<i>New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures</i> Writings produced by Brooklyn, N.Y., headquarters
DOCTRINE OF GOD	Polytheism—God was once man; man becomes God. God has a body.	Orthodox		Pantheism—All is God. Matter does not exist.	Monotheism— Doctrine of the Trinity is denied.
PERSON OF CHRIST	Christ is divine, but not unique.	Orthodox		Distinguish between Jesus (a man) and Christ (a divine idea) cf. Gnosticism	Arian—Christ is unique but not divine, identified with Michael the Archangel, the first created being.
WORK OF CHRIST	Death of Christ erased effect of Adam's sin, thus providing for the resurrection of all people.	Atonement is substitutionary but not finished. Investigative judgment is now determining whose sins are to be blotted out.		Christ was the great example of a scientific healing practitioner.	Ransom removes original sin from all "good and faithful" people, providing them with opportunity for everlasting life.

Major Nineteenth-Century American Cults (continued)

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HOLY SPIRIT	impersonal force	Orthodox	not distinguished from God	impersonal force
MAN	Man was preexistent and has innate goodness.	Orthodox (dichotomist)	Man is coeternal with God. Bodies are non-existent. Sin is imaginary.	Sin is not pervasive, merely an imperfection.
SALVATION	Comes through faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, keeping commandments.	Comes through faith, keeping Mosaic law (especially Sabbath commandment).	Comes through realizing that sin and evil do not exist.	Comes through faith plus works to gain God's approval.
CHURCH	Exclusivist—After apostle John died, church ceased to exist until 1830; only their sacraments valid.	Exclusivist—They are the 144,000—all other true believers will eventually accept their beliefs.	Exclusivist	Exclusivist—All others will be annihilated.
INDIVIDUAL ESCHATOLOGY	There is a second chance after death; no eternal punishment; man eventually advances to Godhood.	Soul sleep and annihilation of wicked are taught.	There is probation after death, allowing growth into truth; otherwise, annihilation.	Soul sleep and annihilation of wicked are taught.
GENERAL ESCHATOLOGY	Israel (American Indians) will be restored. Millennial reign of Christ will take place from Jerusalem and Independence, Missouri. All people will be assigned to one of three kingdoms, according to degree of spiritual advancement.	Hold premillennial, posttribulational views. Righteous will spend eternity on renewed earth.		Christ returned in 1914. Millennial kingdom was to begin after Armageddon in 1975. The 144,000 will spend eternity in heaven, all other Witnesses in earthly Paradise.
PRACTICE	Practice abstinence from liquor, tobacco, coffee, tea. Fasting, tithing, sabbath keeping are required. Marriage is for time and eternity. Encourage baptism for dead relatives.	Adhere to Old Testament dietary laws. Practice Sabbath-keeping, believers' baptism by immersion, foot-washing.	Have no sacraments. Church government and teaching cannot be changed without written permission from Mrs. Eddy. All churches are linked to the Mother Church in Boston.	Teach total pacifism. Refuse to participate in government (voting, holding office, saluting flag, taking oath, etc.). No blood transfusions are permitted.