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Basic Bible Beliefs



An Introduction to Theology

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Preface

In the struggle against the forces of darkness, today's Christian is well-equipped. Armed with his Pre-millennialism in one hand and his Hypostatic Unionism in the other, he marches boldly into battle remembering the promise of the Lord, "I have come that you might have *doctrine*, and have it in abundance."

Of course Christ did not come to bring doctrine, but "*that you might have life. . .*" *But the understanding of basic Biblical teaching is important – not a cold, intellectual knowledge of content, but a foundational understanding of the teachings of Scripture as a basis for a relationship with the Lord which is personal, growing, and life changing.*

“Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth, and the body armor of God’s righteousness.” Ephesians 6:14 NLT

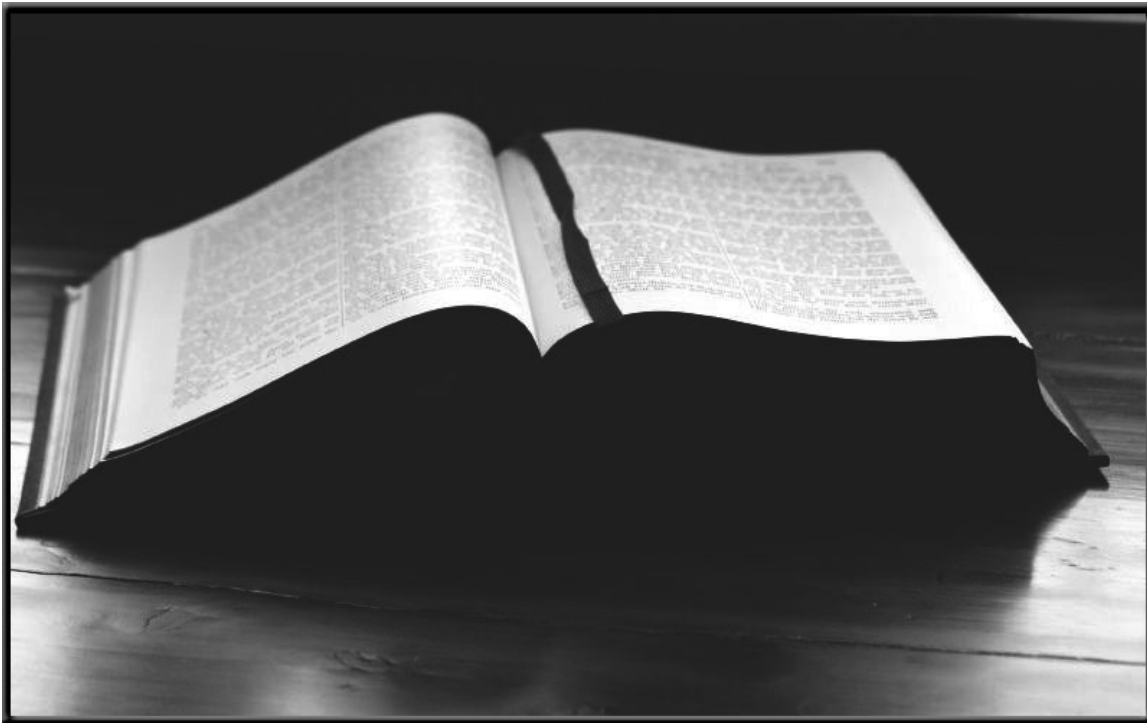
Bibliology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

The Bible

“Here is a book, the Bible, worth more than all others that were ever printed; yet it is my misfortune to never have found time to read it.” Patrick Henry, near death

“O how I love your law; it is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97



Revelation

Revelation is the process by which God has revealed himself to people.

Specific revelation concerning the character of God and his ways is disclosed in two ways:

1. By Deed
 - Acts of Power
 - Miracles
 - Life in Christ
2. By Word

“He made His ways known . . .”
Psalm 1:37

“His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made. . .”
Romans 1:20

“Thy word is truth.”
John 17:17

Inspiration

The view a person holds concerning the inspiration of the Bible will dictate their response to the commitments called for in the Scripture.

The Bible says, *“all Scripture is inspired,”* or *“God-breathed”*. As men on a ship have free movement, though all arrive at the same destination, the men who wrote the Bible had individual expression, but God superintended to record His perfect revelation to man.

The full inspiration of the Bible is called *PLENARY INSPIRATION*. The Bible’s word for word inspiration is called *VERBAL INSPIRATION*

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable. . .”
2 Timothy 3:16

“. . . men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
2 Peter 1:21

“Now go, write it on a tablet before them and inscribe it on a scroll.”
Isaiah 30:8

- HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED, WORD FOR WORD?

Jesus said it was.

Matthew 4:4; 5:17,18; 15:3

Luke 24:44

John 10:35

Peter said it was.

II Peter 1:21; 3:16

Paul said it was.

Galatians 3:16

II Timothy 3:16

- HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT YOUR INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT?

We interpret the Bible “*literally*”; that is, we take the Bible for what it says, whether parable, history, dream, metaphor . . . whatever figure of speech is given.

Biblical interpretation is within the realm of first principles. Literal interpretation cannot be proven as God cannot be proven. To believe that scripture is fully inspired is to believe in the claims of the Bible requiring reasonable *faith*.

A statement about inspiration is primarily a statement about God: that He has revealed His basic plan and embodied it in writing.

“ . . . *To interpret literally is nothing more or less than interpreting words and sentences in the normal, customary, proper designation.*”

Bernard Ramm

Protestant Biblical Interpretation

“*We walk by faith, not by sight.*”

2 Corinthians 5:7

Three Steps of

Inductive Bible Study

*“Study to show yourselves approved. . .
handling accurately the word of truth.”*

1 Timothy 2:15

*The difference between a wise man and a
fool is that a wise man will see more in a
trip around the block than a fool will see in
a trip around the world.*

Observation

What does the passage say?

“I have more understanding than all my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditation.”
Psalm 119:99

Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

“Be ye doers of the word, and not merely hearers, deluding yourselves.”
James 1:22

Application

What does the passage mean to me?

- GENERALIZATION: a statement of principle.
- VARIED APPLICATION: areas of life to which principles apply.
- PERSONALIZATION: area most relevant to personal need.
- DETERMINATION: how I will see to apply it.

The Word of God. . .

. . . Helps you grow	. . . long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow. . .” 1 Peter 2:2
. . . Cleanses you	“How can a young man keep his ways pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.” Psalms 119:9
. . . Changes you	“We all, with unveiled face beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image.” 2 Corinthians 3:18
. . . Enables you to share Christ’s life	“. . .the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” John 6:63
. . . Keeps you from sin	“Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.” Psalms 119:11
. . . Enables you to defeat Satan	“Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Ephesians 6:17
. . . Is the basis of your faith	“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17
. . . Is your authority	“And these words which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart, and you shall teach them to your sons. . .” Deuteronomy 6:6,7

Theology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

God

“I AM THAT I AM”



The knowledge of God is like the two sides of a coin. On the one hand, the church recognizes that God is the Incomprehensible One. Yet, on the other hand, God can be known and the knowledge of Him “is eternal life” which we possess through Christ even now.

“The intellect knows that it is ignorant of Thee because it knows Thou cannot be known, unless the knowable could be known, and the invisible beheld, and the inaccessible attained.” (from *The Vision of God*, Nicholas of Cusa)

However, God has revealed to people something of his divine character and being. Martin Luther speaks of the hidden God in distinction from the revealed God. It is God revealed through the scriptures and through His works whom we will define.

“Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?” Job 12:7

“To whom will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with him?” Isaiah 40:18

“His essence is incomprehensible so that His divinity wholly escapes all human senses.” John Calvin

“And this is eternal Life: that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” John 17:3

“. . .that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen. . .” Romans 1:19,20

Proofs of the unity of God

1. The Father is God.
John 6:27; Romans 1:7; Galatians 1:1,3
2. The Son is God.
 - a. He has the attributes of Deity.
 - b. He has names which imply Deity.
God, Son of God, Lord, Son of Man, Logos, Supernatural metaphors: bread, water, light.
 - c. He does the work of Deity.
 - d. He has the Prerogatives of Deity.
 - e. He and the Father are one.

Forgives sin raises the dead will execute judgments
John 10:31

3. The Spirit is God.
 - a. He has the attributes of Deity.
 - b. He does the work of Deity.
 - c. His words are considered the words of God.
Acts 28:25-27; Hebrews 3:7-11
 - d. He is called God.
Acts 5:3,4; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18

The Trinity of God

God's nature has been clearly revealed in the physical universe.

The law of universal trinity means common structure rather than common substance.

Concept

$$1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$$

$$1 \times 1 \times 0 = 0$$

Application

Length	X	Breadth	X	Height	=	Space
Energy	X	Motion	X	Phenomena	=	Matter
Past	X	Present	X	Future	=	Time
Space	X	Matter	X	Time	=	Universe
Root	X	Trunk	X	Branches	=	Tree
Shell	X	Yoke	X	White	=	Egg
Proton	X	Neutron	X	Electron	=	Atom
Actinic	X	Luminiferous	X	Calorific	=	Light
Ice	X	Steam	X	Liquid	=	Water
Father	X	Son	X	Husband	=	Me
Body	X	Soul	X	Spirit	=	Person
Father	X	Son	X	Holy Spirit	=	God!

Disclaimer: Even though most of these examples fall short of describing the nature and personality of the Godhead, we can recognize the concept.

Christology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

Jesus Christ

*“I have come that you might **have** life, and have it more abundantly.”*

John 10:10



The Person of Christ

As to His eternal Person, Christ is equal to the Father and the Spirit.

Colossians 1:16,17

The Pre-Incarnate Christ

We find that Christ appears throughout the Old Testament in the form of “the Angel of Jehovah”. These appearances are referred to as *Theophanies*. Note, for example:

Genesis 16:7-12	Judges 6:12-21
Genesis 28:1-33	Judges 13:3-22
Genesis 28:12-15	2 Samuel 24:26,17
Genesis 32:24-30	Daniel 10:5
Numbers 22:22-35	

God took a human body and nature, not for time only, but for eternity. The one purpose was redemption (*Isaiah 53:5,5*). The Scripture clearly teaches that Christ is fully God and fully man. *John 1:14*

The Incarnate Christ

His Deity is evidenced by:

1. Prophetic utterances: *Psalm 2:2-9*
2. His Claims: *John 8:56-58*
3. His attributes: *John 5:21-23*
4. His titles: *John 1:1*
5. He received worship: *Matthew 2:11*
6. He forgave sin: *Mark 5:2-7*
7. His resurrection: *Romans 1:4*

“The Father **and I** are one.”
John 10:30

His Humanity is evidenced by:

1. His birth: *Matthew 2:1*
2. His Experiences:
--Hunger *Matthew 4:2*
--Thirst *John 19:28*

- Weariness *John 4:6*
- Temptation *Matthew 4:1*
- Suffering *Hebrews 2:9*

3. His death: *Matthew 27:50*

“ . . . That at the name of Christ every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
Philippians 2:10, 11

The Exultation of Christ

Historically, the exultation of Christ was accomplished in two stages:

1. His Resurrection *Acts 2:24*
2. His Ascension *Acts 1:9-11*

The exultation of Christ is marked by the following characteristics:

1. Restoration to glory: *John 17:5*
2. Seated at God’s right hand: *Ephesians 1:20*
3. Giver of the Holy Spirit: *John 15:26*
4. Dominion over creation: *Matthew 28:18*
5. Head of the church: *I Corinthians 11:3*
6. Intercession: *Hebrews 7:25*
7. Expectancy of return: *Acts 3:20*

The Work of Christ

A prophet is a messenger of God’s truth to people.

Christ as Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

Christ fulfilled the three-fold requirements of the prophetic office. He was a teacher, a predictor, and did mighty works.

There are three major discourses of his prophetic ministry:

1. Sermon on the Mount. *Matthew 5-7*
2. Olivet *Matthew 24-25*
3. Upper Room *John 13-16*

Christ called himself a prophet (Matthew 13:57) and others called Him a prophet (1 John 6:14)

A priest is an intercessor to God on behalf of people.

Christ as Priest (Hebrews 6:20)

In the Old Testament, there are two kinds of priests. Both are types of Christ.

The Melchizedek Pattern (Genesis 24:18-20)

1. Prophecy concerning Christ
Psalms 110:4
2. Application to Christ
Hebrews 5-7

The Melchizedek pattern is eternal in nature

The Aaronic Pattern (Leviticus 1-5)

1. Christ offered Himself.
1 Peter 2:24
2. Christ was offered by the Father.
John 3:16
3. He offered Himself by the Spirit.
Hebrews 9:24

The Aaronic pattern is sacrificial in nature

A King provides for and protects his kingdom..

Christ as King (Revelation 19:13-16)

“And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.’” Revelation 19:16

1. Prophesied as King. *2 Samuel 7:16*
2. Recognized as King at birth. *Matthew 2:2*
3. Future ministry as King. *Acts 1:6-7*
4. Rejected as King. *John 19:14,15*
5. Coming again to rule as King. *Revelation 19:16*

Pneumatology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

The Holy Spirit

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is, the Spirit of truth.”

John 14:16,17



The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or a mere influence, but the third person of the Trinity. His personality is evidenced by His attributes, His works, and His being subjected to personal actions.

His Personality

As evidenced by His Attributes:

1. Life - *Romans 8:2*
2. Intelligence - *I Corinthians 2:10,11*
3. Will - *I Corinthians 12:11*
4. Sensibility - *Ephesians 4:30*

As Evidenced by His Works:

1. Teaching - *John 16:13*
2. Comforting - *John 14:26*
3. Empowering - *Zachariah 4:6*
4. Guiding - *Romans 8:14*
5. Interceding - *Romans 8:26,27*
6. Commanding - *Acts 8:29; 13:2-4*
7. Convicting - *John 16:7-21*
8. Catching away - *Acts 8:39*
9. Bearing witness - *John 15:26*

As Evidenced by His Being Subjected to Personal Actions:

1. Sent - *John 15:26a*
2. Lied to - *Acts 5:3*
3. Grieved - *Ephesians 4:30*
4. Resisted - *Acts 7:51*
5. Blasphemed - *Matthew 12:31,32*
6. Insulted - *Hebrews 10:29*
7. Vexed - *Isaiah 63:10*

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The work of the Spirit in the Unbeliever:

1. Restraining sin - *II Thessalonians 2:7*

2. Reproving - *John 16:7-11*
3. Convicting - *II Corinthians 4:4-6*

The Work of the Spirit in the Believer:

1. Regeneration - *John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5; John 1:12-13*
2. Indwelling - *John 7:37-39; John 14:16,17; I Corinthians 6:29*
3. Baptizing - *I Corinthians 12:13; Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:5*
4. Sealing - *II Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13,14*
5. Anointing - *II Corinthians 1:21; I John 2:20,27; I Samuel 16:1,12,13*
6. Sanctifying - *II Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 6:11*

The work of the Spirit in the Believer who is in Proper Relationship to Him:

Filling: This is experiential and must be repeated continually in the believer's life. It is the ministry whereby the Spirit, being unhindered in the believer's life, can fulfill in us all He came to do and alone can do through his unique empowering.

■ **The Precept:** *Ephesians 5:18* **The Example:** *Luke 4:1*

His Deity

The deity of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the Scriptural claims, the devine attributes of the Holy Spirit, and by His works which are the works of God.

As Evidenced by the Scriptures:

1. The Holy Spirit is Jehovah. - *Isaiah 6:8-10; Jeremiah 31:31-34*
2. The Holy Spirit is God - *Acts 5:1-4*
3. The Holy Spirit is closely associated with the Father and the Son.
 - a. in the Baptismal formula. - *Matthew 28:19*
 - b. in the Apostolic benediction. - *II Corinthians 13:1*

As Evidenced by His Attributes:

1. Omnipresent - *Psalm 139:7-10*
2. Omniscience - *I Corinthians 2:10,11*
3. Omnipotent - *Luke 1:35; I Peter 3:18*
4. Holy - *John 14:26*
5. Truth - *I John 5:6*
6. Love - *Romans 15:30*
7. Eternal - *Hebrews 9:14*
8. Life - *Romans 8:2*

9. Wisdom - *Isaiah 40:18*

As Evidenced by His Works:

1. Creation - *Genesis 1:1,2*
2. Inspiration - *II Peter 1:22*
3. Illumination - *I Corinthians 2:9-13*
4. Baptizing - *I Corinthians 12:13*
5. Resurrection of believers - *Romans 8:11*
6. Regeneration - *John 3:5-7*

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

The Bible uses several symbols for the Holy Spirit which enhance our understanding of the ministry of the Spirit of God.

Dove

“... *the Spirit like a dove descended.*...” Mark 1:10

The dove represents qualities of inner beauty: loveliness, gentleness, purity, peace. The Spirit is the manifesting power which produces these qualities within the believer.

Water

“*I will pour out water on a thirsty land. . . I will pour out my Spirit.*” Isaiah 44:3

Water represents the refreshment and fullness offered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “*If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.*” (John 7:37-39)

Fire

“... *for our God is a consuming fire.*” Deuteronomy 4:24

The symbol of fire represents the presence, the power, and the purging of God. (*Isaiah 6:6,7; Exodus 3:1-9*)

Wind

Wind suggests life and activity created by the quickening and reviving power of the Spirit. (*Ezekiel 27:1-14; Acts 2*)

Oil

Oil is a symbol of an anointing: *to set apart, to devote*. We have been set apart to the Lord and the Holy Spirit is a pledge of that anointing. (*II Corinthians 1:21,22*)

Ecclesiology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

The Church

“Thou art the Christ.”

*“You have spoken well. . . and on this rock I
will build my church and the gates of hell
will not prevail against it.”*

Matthew 16:16,18



What is the Church?

The greek word in the New Testament for the English word *church* is *ekkelesia*, derived from the compound root *ek*, “out”, and *kaleo*, “to call”. *Ekkelesia* designates believers from the day of Pentecost until the Rapture and applies to local assemblies or all true believers as a whole.

The church is not a worldly institution made up of buildings and offices, departments and programs.

Universal Church or the Invisible Church

The Universal Church consists of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ from the time of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling on the day of Pentecost until Christ meets His church in the air at the Rapture.

“*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*’
‘. . . *Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*’”
Matthew 16:18

Local Church or the Visible Church

The Local church is an expression of the universal church in a particular locale consisting of people who have made a commitment to one another to strive together toward specific goals as a part of Christ’s universal church. A local assembly has both true believers and also mere professors who are not a part of the church universal but do participate in the functioning of the local group.

Acts 2:42 – 47

And they were continually devoting themselves to the Apostle’s teaching¹ and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer².

And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe³; and many signs and wonders were taking place⁴ through the Apostles.

And those who had believed were together, and had all things in common;

And they began selling their property and possessions. And were sharing⁵ them with all, as anyone might have need.

And day by day⁶ continuing with one mind⁷ in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness⁸ and sincerity of heart⁹, praising God¹⁰ and having favor with all the people¹¹. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved¹².

¹ Learning church

² Relational church

³ Reverent church

⁴ Miraculous church

⁵ Sharing church

⁶ Daily church

⁷ Unified church

⁸ Happy church

⁹ Devoted church

¹⁰ Worshipping church

¹¹ Respected church

¹² RESULT: Life-giving church

What is the Purpose of the Church?

“. . . that we may present every man complete in Christ.”

Evangelization . . . to “the world”

The word *evangelist* literally means *messenger of the good news* (*eu*: well; *angelos*: messenger), or *gospel*.

The local church is to present the gospel message: “*that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures.*” I Corinthians 15:3,4

“Go (in your going) and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded.” Matthew 28:19,20

Edification . . . to “one another”

Allelon (“one another”) is used 58 times in the New Testament.

The relationships of the believers who make up the church is a key concern. As the unity of the body of Christ is perfected, the world will come to acknowledge the reality of God. (*John 17:23*). The proper working of the body is dependant upon ministry of the individuals which make up the body “one to another”.

“. . . for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ: until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12,13

How is the Church Organized?

One of the identifying marks of a local church is that it has Biblical organization of leadership.

CHRIST

“. . . Christ is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.” Ephesians 5:23

ELDERS / PASTORS

Elders are men of the church who are responsible for the spiritual leadership of the church.

Episopos (*overseer*) and *presbytyeros* (*elder*) are used interchangeably in Scripture to Describe the office of Elder. (See *I Peter 5:1,2; Titus 1:5,7*)

Qualifications of Elders: *I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9*

1. Godly and spiritual character
2. Example in family life
3. Able to teach the Scriptures

DEACONS

Deacons are men and women of the church who are responsible for the leadership in the service of the church.

Qualifications of Deacons: *I Timothy 3:8-13*

The qualifications are similar to those of elders, though deacons are not required to teach.

FELLOWSHIP

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:7,17

Church Ordinances

There are only two ordinances in the Christian church – baptism and the Lord’s supper. Both are instituted in the gospels, celebrated in Acts, and explained in the Epistles. We believe that both ordinances are to be practiced by Christ’s church until His return.

Baptism

Why does the church practice baptism?

1. Christ commanded it. *Matthew 28:19*
2. The early church practiced it. *Acts 2:38,41*

What is the meaning of Baptism?

Baptism is an identification for the believer with Christ and His church.

Baptism is a symbol of joining in the death and the resurrection of Christ. We are buried with Him in death and raised in newness of life.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Jesus Christ have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the death through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:3,4

Baptism is an acknowledgement that the old nature and it’s ways are dead.

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” Galatians 2:20

“Only a thirsty man knows the value of water; only a thirsty soul knows the value of the Living Water.” J. Hudson Taylor, missionary to China

The Lord's Supper

Why does the church practice the Lord's Supper?

- Christ instituted it.
Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; I Corinthians 11:23-2
- The early church practiced it.
Acts 2:42,46

What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper, or communion, is an opportunity for each believer to recall the death of Christ and to examine himself in reflecting on Christ's death for his sins.

“This do in remembrance of Me.”

The bread represents the body of Christ, broken for each one of us. The drink represents the blood of Christ,

“To recall, in Biblical thought means to transport an action which is buried in the past in such a way that it's original potency and vitality are not lost, but are carried over into the present.”

Ralph P. Martin
Worship in the Early Church

Angelology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

Angels, Demons & Satan



Angels may be defined as powerful spirit-beings created by God who inhabit the heavenly spheres.

■ *Psalm 8:5; Matthew 22:30*

The word for angel in the original languages literally means “*Messenger*”.

■ *Malachi 3:1*

Scripture divides angels into two classes: Good Angels, Bad Angels

Good Angels. . .

Good angels are sinless in nature.

■ Their sinlessness is inferred from the names given them:

■ “*holy angels*” Mark 8:38

■ “*elect angels*” I Timothy 5:21

Good angels are superior to man in intellect and power in his present state. Redeemed man will be superior to the angels.

■ *II Peter 2:21*

Their abode is in heaven, though they do have assignments upon the earth.

■ *Matthew 18:10; Mark 12:25; Genesis 28:22*

Though they are finite, their number is beyond computation.

■ *Deuteronomy 33:2*

They seem to be organized in various ranks, though the ranking order has not been revealed.

■ *Luke 2:13; Romans 8:38; I Peter 3:22*

Angel of the Lord: this angel holds a position no other angel could occupy for He is God Himself in the pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus Christ. *Genesis 16:10-13*

The Cherubim: these are angels who are always connected with the throne of God, indicating the holiness of God against the pride of man. *Genesis 3, Revelation 4*

The Seraphim: these are celestial beings who appear only once in Scripture (*Isaiah 6:2*). They appear nearest to the throne of God proclaiming and praising His holiness.

The archangel Michael: (Heb. = “who is like God”) He appears to be a messenger of law and judgment. *Jude 9*

Gabriel: (Heb. = “God’s hero”) He appears to be a messenger of mercy and promise.
Daniel 8:16-26

Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers, Authorities, Mighty and Dignities: *Colossians 1:16; Psalm 82:1; I Peter 3:22; Jude 8*

Good angels have various ministries:

They stand in God's presence and worship Him. *Psalm 29:1,2*

They encourage and deliver the child of God. *Acts 5:19,20; 27:23-25*

They deliver and execute God's will for people, for churches, for nations and in nature.
Psalm 103:21,22

Bad Angels. . .

Bad angels, demons, are angels who fell with Satan in his rebellion against God.

Demons are called "unclean spirits" and "fallen angels."

Demons are divided into two groups: Bound Demons, Free Demons

Some Demons have already been judged and bound. *II Peter 2:4 Jude 6*

Some will be loosed during the tribulation. *Revelation 9:1-11*

Some are active now and subject to Satan. *Matthew 12:24*

All will be cast into the lake of fire with Satan. *Matthew 25:41*

Demons are in constant revolt against God, seek to blind and mislead believers, and encourage sinners in their evil.

The external influence of demons, demonic oppression, can extend even to believers.

The internal influence, demonic possession, is the inhabiting and controlling of unbelievers with resultant harmful effects on their minds and/or bodies.

Satan. . .

Satan is a real being and not a myth or a force.

This is supported by the testimony of : Christ (*Matt. 13:39; Luke 10:18*), Paul (*I Thess. 2:18*), Peter (*I Peter 5:8*), John (*Revelation 20:2*)

Satan has a personality:

Intelligence: *Matthew 4:2-11; Job 1; II Corinthians 11:3*

Emotions: *Luke 22:3; Revelation 12:17*

Will: *Matthew 4:1-11; II Timothy 2:26*

The Bible describes Satan in many ways:

Murderer and a liar. Adversary. Accuser. Prince of this world (temporarily heading the evil world system). Angel of light, (disguising himself to oppose God's best.)

Since he is a created being, he is not omnipresent, omnipotent, or omniscient.

Satan wanted to elevate himself to be "like the Most High". The pride of Satan is contrasted with the humble submission of Christ:

"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You have weakened the nations. But you said in your heart, 'I will ascent to heaven' I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit in the mount of assembly. In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the 'Most High'. Nevertheless, you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit."

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may be with you forever; that is, the Spirit of truth. . . I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. . . He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to Him."

Because of his prideful desire to be like God, Satan has been barred from his original relationship with God (*Ezekiel 28:16*), condemned in the garden of Eden (*Genesis 3:14-15*), and was judged at the cross (*John 12:31*).

During the tribulation and millennium, he will be judged with increasing severity (*Revelation 20:1-3*) and then will be cast into the lake of fire (*Revelation 20:10*).

To overcome Satan. . .

"Father . . . Keep them from the evil one."

John 17:15

-Be alert to Satan's Attacks - I Peter 5:8

-Develop a proper attitude toward the power of Satan - Jude 8,9; II Peter 2:10

-Be aware of the devices Satan uses - II Corinthians 2:11

Satan is a deceiver, attacking the believer in the area of God's truth:

Diversion: From the unseen to the temporal, from the great to the small.

II Corinthians 4:4

Delusion: By lies, wiles, evasion, and misrepresentation. *II Corinthians 1:14*

Double-mindedness: Temptation to compromise God's truth.

Doubt: By challenging the authority of God's Word. *Matthew 22:29; Genesis 3*

Darkness: Enveloping the soul in gloom and despair. *Isaiah 20:50*

Deadness: Substituting "dead works" for living godliness. *Hebrews 6:1; 9:14*

Delay: Procrastination of good; put off decisions and action. *Acts 24:25; 26:28*

-Put on the Whole Armor of God - *Ephesians 6:11-18*

-Stand in the power of Christ – *Ephesians 4:27; James 4:7*

Stand in the power of the Word. *Luke 4:1-13*

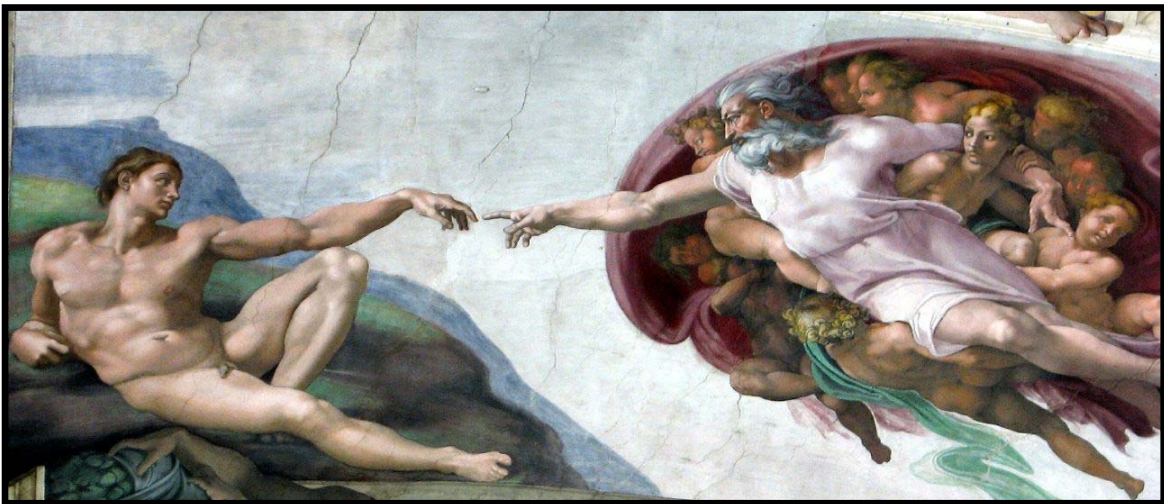
Stand in the power of prayer.

Anthropology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

Man

“The Lord God formed man of dust and from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7



The Scriptures clearly and distinctly teach that man is the result of an act of immediate divine creation.

“And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

“The Lord formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7

There are at least three crucial problems of evolution:

1. Mutations almost always leave a crippling effect.
2. Fossils should record many transitional forms, but there are none in pre-Cambrian and lower.
3. Dating systems are circular in reasoning. All origins science is based on faith because it deals with present phenomena. There is no experiment that can verify or falsify the macro-evolution scenario.

The Scriptures clearly and distinctly teach that man as constituted by creation has a material nature, the *body*, and an immaterial nature, consisting of the *soul* and the *spirit*.

“ . . . the dust of the ground . . . ”

BODY (Soma)

”World –Awareness”

“ . . . a living being . . . ”

SOUL (Psuche)

”Self –Awareness”

“ . . . the breath of life . . . ”

SPIRIT (Pneuma)

”God –Awareness”

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify your entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete. . . ” I Thessalonians 5:23

“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you.”

I Corinthians 3:16

A comparison of tri-partite man to the Jewish Temple shows how the three elements are manifested:

1. The Outer Court, like the body, is external and visible.
2. The Holy Place represents the inner life of man, the soul.
3. The Holy of Holies, like the spirit, is the dwelling place of God.

The Scriptures clearly and distinctly teach that man was created in the image and likeness of God.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our own image, according to Our likeness’ . . . And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

God’s image seen in physical likeness

Though God is Spirit, He has always had a form in which He manifests Himself.

The Bible says that man – not just the immaterial part of man – was made in God’s image. The physical likeness is found in the body as the fit instrument for the self expression of the soul.

“. . . and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man. . . such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.” Ezekiel 1:26,28

God’s image seen in soulical (personality) likeness

The likeness of God in man also includes the natural constitution of man: the intellectual power, the natural affections, and the freedom of choice.

“Even after the fall of man, regardless of his spiritual condition, he is still regarded as the image of God.” James 3:9

God’s image seen in spiritual (moral) likeness

Man was created in a state of true knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, after the likeness of God – but forfeited this spiritual likeness by the original sin.

Ecclesiastes 7:29; Colossians 3:9,10; Ephesians 4:23,24

The scriptures clearly and distinctly teach that God placed man in the garden after his creation and subjected him to a state of probation.

The purpose of the probation of our first parents was to test their virtue – to transform their *holy natures* into *holy characters*.

PROBATION: From a Latin word which means “to prove” or “to test”

Probation is a period of trial under a law of duty. It is the test of obedience and is enforced by the sanctions of:

- 1. Reward for a right choice and good conduct*
- 2. Punishment for a wrong choice and evil conduct*

A moral nature is the result of creation, or birth. But moral character is produced only by probation – by the free personal choice of good in the presence of evil and with full power to choose evil.

Adam and Eve were created with holy moral natures. A right choice of obedience to God’s command would have transformed these holy moral natures into holy moral characters. As it was, however, their disobedience to the command transformed their holy moral natures into sinful moral characters, and involved both themselves and their posterity in the guilt of sin and the defilement of depravity.

Hamartiology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

Sin

“ . . . through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-“

Romans 5:12



The Origin of Sin

The entrance of sin into the universe

In *Isaiah 14:12-17*, we have an account of the rebellion of Lucifer against God.

In *Ezekiel 28:11-19*, the fall of Satan from perfection is found in the prophet's lamentation upon the King of Tyre.

Although the highest of God's creation, Satan chose to rebel against God. With the rebellion of Satan, sin entered into the universe.

The entrance of sin into the human race

The *Genesis 3* account of the fall of man is a familiar story, and the most tragic chapter in the Bible.

God commanded Adam and Eve, saying: "*From the fruit of the trees of the garden you may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, you shall not eat from it or touch it. Least you die.*"

Satan deceived Eve by attacking the truth of God's command: "*You surely shall not die.*"

Eve chose to listen to the voice of Satan and disobey God's command, taking the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and giving it to her husband also. With this disobedience, sin entered into the human race.

The Nature of Sin

Towards God. . .

Rebellion *1 Samuel 15:23*
Not primary Delight *Deuteronomy 6:5*

Towards God's Law. . .

Brazenly Violate *Numbers 15:30*
Ignorant *Hebrews 9:7*

Towards Man. . .

Unjust *Romans 1:18*
Lack love *Mark 12:31*

Towards Self. . .

Selfish *John 15:25*
Corruption *Psalms 51:5*

Scripture declares the reality of sin.

" . . . for all have sinned." Romans 3:23

Nature proclaims the reality of sin.

“the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth” Romans 8:22

Law discloses the reality of sin.

“. . . through the law comes the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20

Experience proves the reality of sin.

*“The man I have the most trouble with is the man who walks under my hat.”
–D.L. Moody*

Man confesses the reality of sin.

“I am chief among sinners.” I Timothy 1:15

The Definition of Sin

Old Testament words for Sin

“To miss the mark”: moral deviation from a divine goal. *Judges 20:16*

“Bent, twisted, crooked”: moral perverseness. *Isaiah 21:3*

“Habit of evil”: sin of disposition – opposite of righteousness.

New Testament words for sin

“To miss the mark”: *Romans 3:23*

“Failure”: falling when one should have stood. *Galatians 6:1*

Theological definitions

Transgression of, or lack of conformity to the law of God.

Deficiency of love to God and man.

Preference of self to God.

Any lack of conformity to God or His moral law in act, disposition, or state.

Insubordination.

Sin can be divided into three root problems. . .

The Three-Fold amplification of Sin: *I John 2:16*

1. Immorality – *“the lust of the flesh”*
2. Temporal values – *“the lust of the eyes”*
3. Arrogance – *“the boastful pride of life”*

“Sin” should be distinguished from “sins” . . .

1. Personal sin: all acts which fail to conform to the character of God.
2. Sin nature: the depraved and degenerate nature of man making him always prone to sin. *Romans 1:28-3:20*

The Penalty for Sin

The moral penalty for Sin

God has established principles for living and when those principles are violated, there are natural consequences:

Conflicts or Calamity

“According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble harvest it.” *Job 4:8*

The positive penalty for Sin

Transgression against God’s law brings punishment:

Death & Destruction

Death – Thanatos

Physical – separation of body from the soul & spirit. *Genesis 3:19*

Spiritual – separation of the spirit from God forever. *Revelation 14:9*

Destruction – Apoleia

Ruined, not ceasing to exist. *Matthew 9:27; 26:8*

Conscious, unending torment. *Revelation 17:8*

Curiosity was too powerful. Though his father had warned him against getting into the bottles in the medicine chest, the small boy could not resist to explore.

When his mother arrived home that afternoon, he already felt the natural consequences of his actions. He was rushed to the hospital. Soon he would be feeling fine.

The disobedient son had yet to face the penalty for his actions, the reproof of his father.

Soteriology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

Salvation

*“By grace you have been saved through
faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift
of God.”* Ephesians 2:8

*“Amazing Grace! (How sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.”*

John Newton



The Meaning of Salvation

“. . . the whole work of God by which He rescues man from the eternal ruin and doom of sin and bestows on him the riches of His grace.” *Lewis Sperry Chafer*

SOTERIA: “*Salvation*” SOZO: “*to save*”

Three Tenses of Salvation

“. . . *who delivered us* (past) *from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us* (present), *He on whom we have set our hope. And he will yet deliver us* (future).” II Corinthians 1:10

The past tense of salvation refers to the completed work of deliverance from the penalty of sin for the one who has believed.

“*For the law of the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*” Romans 8:2

The present tense of salvation has to do with present deliverance from the reigning power of sin now being accomplished for the believer.

“. . . *work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you. . .*” Philippians 2:12

The future tense of salvation contemplates that the believer will yet be saved into full conformity to the image of Jesus Christ.

“. . . *when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He is.*” I John 3:2

The Condition of Salvation

Faith is the *one* condition of salvation. To believe represents all a sinner can do and must do to be saved.

To believe means to *place full confidence in Christ* with a view to redemption from sin. It is an *active* quality, not passive.

Salvation is accomplished by God alone.

“In such an undertaking, man is powerless. All his ability must be forever set aside. It must be accomplished for him, and God alone can do it. He alone can form a new creation; he alone can deal with sin; he alone can bestow a perfect righteousness; He alone can translate from the powers of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Faith is to turn voluntarily from all hope in one’s merits, and take an expectant attitude toward God, trusting Him to do a perfect work of salvation based on the merits of Christ alone.” (Chafer)

“*By grace you have been saved through faith.*” Ephesians 2:8

“*Whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.*” John 3:15

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.”

Acts 16:31

Kinds of Faith Distinguished

Historical: an intellectual apprehension of truth, yet void of any moral or spiritual purpose.
John 3:2

Temporal: a persuasion of religious truths accompanied by some promptings of the conscience, but not rooted in a regenerate heart. *Matthew 13:20,22*

True Saving Faith: “a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance (trust) on the promises of God in Christ.” (*Berkhof*)

The Mystical Union

When an individual “believes in the Lord Jesus Christ”, a union between Christ and the believer is effected by the Holy Spirit in a mystical and supernatural way.

“YOU IN ME, AND I IN YOU.”

1. The believer in Christ
 - a. Vine and branches
 - b. Head and the members of the body
2. Christ in the believer

John 14:20; I Corinthians 12:13; John 15; Ephesians 4; Galatians 2:20

Characteristics of the Union:

It is an organic union: *Christ and the believers form one body.*
I Corinthians 6:15-19

It is a vital union: *Christ is the vitalizing principle.*
Romans 8:10

It is a union mediated by the Holy Spirit: *the Holy Spirit knits Christ and the believers together in a holy unity.*
I Corinthians 6:17

It is a personal union: *Every believer is personally united with Christ.*
Matthew 11:28-30

It is a union which implies reciprocal action: *Christ united believers to Himself by regenerating them; believers unite themselves with Christ through an act of faith.*
John 14:23

It is a transforming union: *Believers are changed into the image of Christ.*
Matthew 16:24; Romans 6:5

The Assurance of Salvation

“ . . . realize the full assurance of hope until the end.” Hebrews 6:11

Three witnesses of Salvation

The Word of God – *I John 5:23*

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.”
II Timothy 2:13

The Spirit of God – *Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6*

“Thy faithfulness reaches to the skies.”
Psalms 36:5b

The New Life of the Believer – *II Corinthians 5:17; I Thessalonians 1:9*

“And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse, and he who sat upon it is called Faithful and True.” *Revelation 19:11*

Awareness of sin – *Romans 7:18-25*

Hunger for the word – *I Peter 2:2; Jeremiah 15:16*

Desire for a changed life.

Increase in testing - *II Timothy 3:22*

Love for other believers – *I John 4:7-13*

Desire to share Christ – *Psalms 107:2; II Peter 3:25*

“I will never leave you, nor will I forsake you.”
Hebrews 13:5

“ . . . the one who comes to me I will certainly not cast out.”
John 6:37

Terms of Salvation

Redemption: *To redeem is to recover possession by the payment of a ransom.* The ransom paid to redeem us was the blood of Jesus Christ; we have become the Lord's possession forever.

Propitiation: Is what Christ did for the Father through his death at Calvary. *To propitiate is to make favorable.* The death of Christ fully satisfied the righteousness of God in regard to sin. Because of Christ's death, God is now favorably disposed and can righteously offer salvation to all men.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation is what Christ did for man by his death at Calvary. *To reconcile is to change or adjust to a standard* as a watch is adjusted to a chronometer. By the death of Christ, man can now be changed and restored to fellowship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Atonement: Atonement (*at-one-ment*) is the Old Testament word for “reconciliation”. It comes from the word for covering and relates to the animal sacrifices which were a type of the sacrificial death of Christ as a covering for sin.

Justification: *To justify is to declare righteous.* It is a judicial term from the Roman court system and means a verdict of acquittal has been returned and the person in question is removed from condemnation.

Sanctification: *To sanctify means to set apart, or to be made holy.* When a person receives Christ as Savior, he is “set apart” positionally and viewed by God as a saint, or “holy one”. Following this positional sanctification is a progressive sanctification which is the process of becoming holy in our daily experience.

Salvation

... in the gospel of John

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1:1-3 | Jesus, the Word, is God and did not come into existence at Bethlehem, but only took on human form. |
| 1:12-13 | Receiving Christ is what it takes to become a Christian. |
| 3:3-7 | Upon believing, the individual is born again into new life in Jesus Christ. |
| 3:16 | The present possession of eternal life is conditioned upon believing alone. |
| 3:17 | Christ came to save, not to judge. |
| 3:36 | There are only two alternatives: believing means possession of eternal life; failure to believe means abiding under the wrath of God. |
| 5:24 | Christ promises three things to the one who believes in Him: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He presently possesses eternal life.2. He will never come into judgment for sin.3. He has already passed out of the realm of death into life. |
| 5:28,29
6:28,29 | Christ specifically answers the pointed question concerning what “deed” is good enough to please God: believing in Him |
| 6:35-37 | If Christ is not believed in, the individual will die without a solution for his sins. |

- 8:24 Trusting in Christ results in the potential for life in all its fullness right now.
- 10:27-30 Christ knows His sheep, and no one can snatch them out of his hands.
- 14:6 Christ claims to be the only way to God.



Eschatology -

What the Bible teaches concerning:

Last Things

“ . . . the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. . .

But you, brethren, are not in darkness that the day should overtake you like a thief. . .

So then let us not sleep as others do but let us be alert and sober.”

I Thessalonians 5:2,4,6



Prophecy

Prophecy is to *declare, to proclaim, or to announce* the counsels of God.

Although prophecy does not necessarily include prediction of future events, *eschatology* deals within the area of predictions of the future.

Prophecy may include the declaration of past truth, FORTHTELLING, or of future truth, FORTELLING.

Biblical prophecy may be divided into two categories:

1. Already fulfilled prophecy.
2. Prophecy which is yet to be fulfilled

These categories are not static. We are seeing the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy during the present generation such as the re-establishment of Israel as a nation.

“ . . . the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you make careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating, He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.” I Peter 1:10,11

Predictions of future events have been declared by both true and false prophets. A distinction between the two is important.

TRUE PROPHETS: These men were generally reformers whose national warnings led to predictions by supernatural guidance.

FALSE PROPHETS: Though they may at times be accurate, false prophets speak for self or Satan.

TWO TESTS OF A TRUE PROPHET:

1. Fulfillment. *Deuteronomy 18:21,22*
2. According to God's Word. *Deuteronomy 13:1-5*

Time Table

“ . . . the day of the lord will come. . . ”

I Thessalonians 5:2

The Rapture

The resurrection of the church, first the dead in Christ and then those believers who are still alive shall meet Him in the air and shall ever be with Him.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Bema Seat

The judgment (without condemnation) of church-age believers based upon works and with the outcome of reward.

II Corinthians 5:9-10

The Marriage

Christ, the Bridegroom, shall be united with his Bride, the Church.
II Corinthians 11; Ephesians 5:22-29

The Tribulation

The 70th week of Daniel 9, the seven years of trial on the earth. During the first three and one half years will be the signing of a seven-year peace treaty by the beast with Israel. At the mid-point, the covenant will be broken and the tribulation culminates three and a half years later with the Battle of Armageddon.

Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 24; Revelation 16:16

The Second Advent of Christ

Christ returns at Armageddon to destroy Satan's forces and end the Tribulation. With his return are two major events: the resurrection of the tribulation saints and the Old Testament saints, and the separation of the "sheep" (believing Gentiles) from the "goats" (unbelieving Gentiles).

Revelation 20:4-6; Matthew 24:40-41; 25:40-41

The Millennial Kingdom

Christ will reign over the earth for 1,000 years while Satan is chained. At the end, Satan will be released for a short time and will lead an unsuccessful rebellion against Christ.

Ezekiel 38,39; Revelation 20:21

The Great White Throne

The second resurrection including all un-believers in history and the final judgment of Satan along with his forces and all unbelievers.

Revelation 20:10-15

The New Jerusalem

The first heaven and earth will pass away and a new heaven and new earth will be created to be inhabited by the saints.

Revelation 21:1,2