

Basic Bible Doctrine 1

A Study in Basic Systematic Theology

Introduction

The Doctrine of the Bible

The Doctrine of God

The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

16 – 30 minute Lessons (8 Hours)

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Introduction

Welcome message.

There are several ways to study the Bible – Book, verse(s) [verbs], word study, story, character study, topical [grace, faith, husband, etc.], inductive [What does this Bible passage teach me about God? About man? Is there any command here that I need to obey? Is there any sin that I need to avoid? Is there any promise from God that applies to me? What does God want me to do?]

And doctrine.

Doctrine means teaching. Because we hear this word in churches, many assume that “doctrine” is a religious teaching, but it is also used in philosophy, government, military, legal, and politics. But any teaching of the Bible is Bible doctrine.

But be warned that just because it is teaching of the bible, it doesn’t mean that it is correct. It could be false/wrong teaching. In fact, the bible warns us of false doctrine and false bible teachers.

Isaiah 8:20; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Gal. 1:6-7; Eph 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:3-4

Example of woman pastor in Africa - Problem #1 is a woman pastor – Pastor/Elder/Bishop is the same position of the leader of a church. God gives clear qualifications of a pastor

Problem #2. Her husband is a “witch doctor” and if you pray and God doesn’t answer your prayer, then you go to him, and he will heal you by traditional/ancestor means meaning to invoke demons. Suppose you pray to God for healing. God answers prayer 3 ways... And maybe God has a reason for not healing you right now.

And going to those who use ancestor religion shows LACK OF FAITH, is SELFISH, is like a soldier laying down his sword/gun and going to the enemy. According to the Bible, it needs to be rejected.

Problem #3. If you are married and unable to have children, “God told her” to have sex with her and then you’ll have the ability to have children – according to the Bible - it is ADULTERY! (7th Commandment). God did not tell her that, He would never go contrary to His Word, the Bible.

You may say, “you don’t understand our culture”. No, you don’t understand the Bible! There are many aspects of American culture that needs to be rejected. My culture is unbiblical. It is my responsibility to compare my culture with the Bible and then if there is a contradiction, go with God.

That is why we at GBBC want you to study the Bible for yourself. I don’t want you to believe me, just because I said it. We want you to study the Bible for yourself and believe God’s Word.

We want you to be like the Bereans of Acts 17:10-11 – They just didn’t believe what Paul said but they searched the scriptures to see whether what Paul taught lined up with the Bible.

One method of studying Bible doctrine is to study them by their ten general topics that form the foundation for doctrine in the Bible. This type of study is called Systematic Theology.

“Systematic” refers to something being put into organized categories. Systematic theology is, therefore, the division of theology into various categories.

For example, many books of the Bible give information about the angels. But no one book gives all the information about the angels. Systematic theology takes all the information about angels from all the books of the Bible and organizes it into a system called angelology.

That is what systematic theology is all about—organizing the teachings of the Bible into categorical systems. In this course, we'll study these 10 topics.

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| 1. The doctrine of the Bible (Bibliology) | 6. The doctrine of Man (Anthropology) |
| 2. The doctrine of God (Theology Proper) | 7. The doctrine of Sin (Hamartiology) |
| 3. The doctrine of Jesus Christ (Christology) | 8. The doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology) |
| 4. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology) | 9. The doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology) |
| 5. The doctrine of Angels & Satan (Angelology) | 10. The doctrine of Last Things (Eschatology) |

Systematic theology or Basic Bible Doctrine is an important tool in helping us to understand and teach the Bible in an organized manner.

This class is the basic course. There will be advanced courses covering these topics for third year students who are planning on preparing to be a pastor or missionary. But for now, we'll just study the basics.

In many instances, what Baptists believe the Bible teaches is identical to what many other Christians believe. However, there are some key differences. These differences are mainly historic. When Protestant denominations separated from the Roman Catholic Church, many of them retained some of the Catholic errors that Baptists firmly reject.

These differences will be studied throughout this course. Baptist doctrine is Bible doctrine. Baptists base their faith and practice upon the Bible instead of the traditions and philosophies of men. Why is the study of Bible doctrine important?

1. It is a command of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2. It is required of preachers.

Titus 1:9 – “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

Titus 2:1 – “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:”

3. It is required of all believers. .

1 Peter 3:15 – “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

4. It produces men of God.

2 Timothy 3:17 – “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Doctrine – to know what is right

Reproof – to know when I am not right

Correction – to know how to get right

Instruction – to know how to stay right

Doctrine of the Bible

The Bible is made up of 66 books divided into two major sections known as the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books from Genesis to Malachi. The New Testament has 27 books from Matthew to Revelation. The books of the Bible are not arranged chronologically, but rather topically.

Old Testament

<u>Law</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Wisdom</u>	<u>Prophecy</u>	
			<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	1 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	1 Kings			Micah
	2 Kings			Nahum
	1 Chronicles			Habakkuk
	2 Chronicles			Zephaniah
	Ezra			Haggai
	Nehemiah			Zechariah
	Esther			Malachi

New Testament

<u>Gospels</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Epistles (Letters)</u>		<u>Prophecy</u>
		<u>Pauline</u>	<u>General</u>	
Matthew	Acts	Romans	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark		1 Corinthians	James	
Luke		2 Corinthians	1 Peter	
John		Galatians	2 Peter	
		Ephesians	1 John	
		Philippians	2 John	
		Colossians	3 John	
		1 Thessalonians	Jude	
		2 Thessalonians		
		1 Timothy		
		2 Timothy		
		Titus		
		Philemon		

Together, these 66 books are the complete revelation of God's Word to man. Written over a period of 1,600 years (From Moses in 1,500 B.C. to Apostle John in 100 A.D.) God used 40 different men to write the Bible. Various Occupations: Prophets, Kings, Farmers, Fishermen, a Scribe, a Tax Collector, a Physician

Old Testament was written in Hebrew (mostly). New Testament was written in Greek. Not a single mistake or contradiction

There are four areas we need to discuss when we study the doctrine of the Bible. These four are: Revelation, Inspiration, Preservation, and Translation. Let's look at each one of these in detail.

Revelation

The word revelation means to reveal something hidden so that it may be seen. Without revelation, we would not know anything about God. God made Himself known to man because He desires to have a relationship with man. There are two ways God has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity.

A) General Revelation. It is the knowledge of God that is derived from nature

Psalm 19:1-3 - According to this passage, God's existence and power can be clearly seen through observing the universe.

Romans 1:20 - teaches that God's eternal power and divine nature are "clearly seen" and "understood" from what has been made, and that there is no excuse for denying these facts.

General revelation is accessible to all people. It bears witness to the existence of God. Does not give the knowledge of sin or the plan of salvation for mankind to be saved.

B) Special Revelation. It is the knowledge of God through the supernatural.

It is called "special" because it is not given to all people in all places. At certain times, before the Bible was completed, God spoke to man through dreams, audible voices, and angels.

God stopped using these methods after the Bible was completed. Do not listen to anyone who "claims" God has spoken to them through a dream, an angel, or in an audible voice. God does not use any of these methods today.

The Bible is the completion of God's special revelation to man. It gives the knowledge of sin and God's plan of salvation for mankind.

God has recorded everything He wants us to know about Himself in the Bible including knowledge of Himself, His works, and His will.

Inspiration

The way God gave us the Bible is called inspiration.

2 Timothy 3:16 – "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, ..."

The word "inspiration" literally means "God-breathed". According to this verse, what is inspired? Is it the men or the words? Clearly, it is the words of scripture that were inspired of God. Therefore, God is the origin and author of all the words of Scripture. How did God give us the Bible?

2 Peter 1:21 – "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

This verse tells us three important facts concerning how we got the Bible:

1. It was not invented by man nor man's ideas – "... *came not by the will of man* ..."
2. Men of God wrote the Bible – "... *holy men of God spoke* ..."
3. God authored the Bible – "... *as they were moved by the Holy Ghost* ..."

Definition of Inspiration: The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words of God without error.

Not everyone believes what the Bible teaches concerning the doctrine of inspiration. There are many other theories and explanations made by those who doubt and reject the Bible.

Wrong Explanation #1 – Thought Inspiration. This view holds that only the thoughts, concepts, and overall message of the Bible was given by inspiration and NOT the very words themselves. This theory accepts different Bible versions since they all say basically the same thing and sees no need to have a pure translation of the Scriptures.

Wrong Explanation #2 – Partial Inspiration. This view is expressed by the statement, “The Bible contains the Word of God” meaning some of it is inspired and some of it is not inspired. Those holding such a view often cannot agree themselves on which parts are inspired and which parts are not and comes down to man deciding what is of God and what is not of God.

In light of the many false explanations on the doctrine of inspiration, it is necessary to clarify what we believe about the doctrine of inspiration with the following four points: 1. The very words of Scripture are God’s words, 2. The entire Bible is inspired equally, 3. The Bible was written down correctly in every detail, and 4. The Bible is without error in its teaching. Let’s look at each one of these in greater detail.

1. The very words of Scripture are God’s words (Verbal Inspiration).

1 Corinthians 2:13 – “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

From this verse, did Paul claim to speak the thoughts or concepts of God? No! Paul claimed to speak the words of God.

Matthew 24:35 – “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

From this verse, did Jesus say that his thoughts or concepts would not pass away? No! He said that His words will not pass away.

Jeremiah 1:9 – “Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.”

From this verse, did God put His thoughts or concepts in the mouth of the prophet? No! God put His words in the mouth of the prophet, so he speaks the words of God.

Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

From this verse, are believers supposed to live by every thought or concept of God? No! Believers are supposed to live by every word of God. In summary, these four verses teach:

1. Paul claimed to speak the word of God.
2. Jesus said His words will not pass away.
3. God put His words in the mouth of the prophet.
4. Believers are supposed to live by every word of God.

Summarizing these four verses, we can confidently say that the words of the Bible are God's words. This is the reason that those who hold to "Thought Inspiration" viewpoint are wrong, because the Bible teaches that every word in the Bible is the word of God that was inspired. It was not the thought or concepts of the Bible that was inspired, but the words.

2. The entire Bible is inspired equally (Plenary Inspiration).

2 Timothy 3:16 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

Does the phrase "all scripture is inspired" mean that only portions of the Bible are inspired? No! Every word of Scripture is inspired. This is the reason that those who hold to the "Partial Inspiration" viewpoint are wrong, because this verse teaches that every word of Scripture is inspired equally.

3. The Bible was written down correctly in every detail (Inerrant Inspiration).

Titus 1:2 - "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, ..."

Hebrews 6:18 - "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie,..."

Since God, the Holy Spirit, moved the human writers of the Bible so that they recorded the words of God AND since these two verses teach that God cannot lie, therefore, the Bible was recorded correctly in every detail.

4. The Bible is without error in its teaching (Infallible Inspiration).

Psalms 119:160 - "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Since the Word of God is true, it is without error in its teaching. It is possible that some Bible teachers can teach error because they misinterpret the Bible or misapply the Bible in the Christian life. However, the Bible is true and it is impossible for the Bible to teach error. So, the Bible is true, even though, a Bible teacher may misuse the Bible to teach error. In summary, the Bible teaches four truths about inspiration.

1. The very words of Scripture are God's word (Verbal Inspiration).

Thought Inspiration is WRONG!

2. The entire Bible is inspired equally (Plenary Inspiration).

Partial Inspiration is WRONG!

3. Every word was written down correctly in every detail (Inerrant Inspiration).

4. The Bible is without error in its teaching (Infallible Inspiration).

The correct viewpoint of inspiration is "Every Word Inspiration" (Verbal Plenary Inspiration).

A problem soon developed. As the Bible was being written down, numerous other Christian writings were also being produced.

In some cases, these writings were counterfeits published in the name of an Apostle and intended to deceive people (2 Thessalonians 2:2).

In other cases, these writings were by trustworthy men, but their writings were not inspired by God. Eventually, the question came to be: “Which writings were genuine Scripture?”

Four tests were established to determine which writings were genuine Scripture. If the writing passed all four tests, it was considered to be genuine Scripture and included as a book in the Bible.

It is important to understand that this process was for man to recognize the books God inspired and **NOT** man giving a specific book divine authority.

Here at Global Baptist Bible College, we have an advanced course on the “History of the Bible” for those going for the 2 or 3 year degree which will go into much greater detail.

Preservation of the Bible

The inspiration of Scripture is a wonderful truth. It is amazing that God desires to have a relationship with man, so much so, that He gave us his words so we can know Him, His acts, and His will. However, we do not have the original writings with us today.

Maybe they have disintegrated and turned to dust over time or maybe are hidden somewhere and forgotten about. We don’t know what happened to the original writings. Does that mean God’s Word has been lost and we don’t have those precious words today?

Some Bible teachers believe that they can’t be sure the Bible is God’s Word since we don’t have the original Scriptures in our possession today. Furthermore, they believe mistakes were made in the copying process over time so they believe the Bible contains errors and therefore cannot be trusted or relied upon to be God’s Word.

Are they right or wrong? Are they a teacher that you can trust or should they be rejected? The issue becomes the subject of preservation. Has God preserved his words both in perpetuity, from generation to generation and in purity, without error? Some Bible teachers believe God has preserved His words and some do not. What does the Bible have to say?

Psalm 12:6-7 – “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”

According to this verse, what is being preserved? It is the words of the LORD.

Who is doing the preserving? It is the LORD - Jehovah God.

How long is the preserving? It is forever.

Did God preserve his words or not? According to this verse, He did!

God knew that over time the original writings would not last and He had a plan to preserve His words both in perpetuity and in purity. This one verse should suffice us to know that God promised to preserve His words, but there are other verses we can study too. Here are just a few:

1. *Isaiah 40:8* – “... but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

According to this verse, what is it that will stand? The verse says “the word of our God”. How long will it stand? It says in this verse, “forever”.

2. *Isaiah 59:21b* – “...and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.”

According to this verse, what will not depart out of the prophet's mouth? It is the words of the LORD. For how long? Forever.

3. *Matthew 24:35* – “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

According to this verse, what did Jesus say will not pass away? He said, “my words”. Will His words pass away? No.

4. *1 Peter 1:23* – “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

According to this verse, what is the seed by which we are born again? The verse says, the “word of God”. How long does the verse say it will abide? Forever.

5. *1 Peter 1:25* – “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever....”

According to this verse, what is enduring? It says, the “word of the Lord”. How long does it endure? The verse says, “Forever”.

There are more than these few verses, but they are sufficient to answer our question, “Has God preserved His Word?” Yes, He has preserved His Word! God preserved His Word both in...

1. Physical Perpetuity

On numerous occasions, Satan has attempted to eradicate the Word of God from the face of the earth. Wicked men have had the Bible banned and burnt. Down through the many centuries, God has miraculously preserved His Word from physical destruction.

2. Textual Purity

In conjunction with his attempts to destroy God's Word in a physical way, Satan used another method, that of corrupting the text. One of Satan's methods is to cause man to doubt or to question God's Word! Notice Satan's very first words to man in this verse.

***Genesis 3:1* – “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”**

Satan's very first words to man was to cast doubt on the words God spake, "Yea, hath God said". From the beginning, Satan has attempted to corrupt God's Word by using False Bible teachers to produce bibles that delete or change portions of God's Word. Nevertheless, God has preserved His Word in its pure form.

Preservation of the Old Testament

A Jewish Scribe was one who made handwritten copies of the different books of the Bible. They were very careful to make no mistakes. If a mistake was made, the whole book was destroyed. That is one of the reasons there is so few copies available today.

From 500 A.D. to 1,000 A.D. the Jewish Scribes were called Masoretes which comes from a Hebrew word meaning "tradition". It was during this period of time that these copies became known as the "Masoretic Text" and is the text that God preserved the Old Testament in.

Preservation of the New Testament

As we already studied, there are many different views on inspiration. The people who hold to the "Thought Inspiration", believe that only the thoughts and concepts of God were inspired and not the very words themselves. However, we studied that the Bible teaches that every word in the Bible is God's word and that every word in the Bible was inspired equally.

God did not inspire His thoughts or concepts, but He did inspire His every word. We call this viewpoint of inspiration, "Every Word Inspiration" (Verbal Plenary Inspiration). We hold to the "Every Word Inspiration" and reject "Thought Inspiration".

In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, Christians separated into two groups based on their view of inspiration: "Thought Inspiration" and "Every Word Inspiration". Both groups were involved in making handwritten copies of the Bible.

The "Every Word Inspiration" group established a school in the city of Antioch, Syria which is where believers were first called Christians in Acts 11:26. Based on their view of inspiration, they were very careful to copy the Bible word for word.

The "Thought Inspiration" group established a school in Alexandria, Egypt. Based on their view of inspiration, they believed that the words of God were not important, but only the thoughts and concepts of God were important. Therefore, they acted more like an editor of the Bible and made changes to the Word of God. Many corrupted Bibles came out of this school.

God used the "Every Word Inspiration" school in Antioch to preserve the New Testament.

Then from 1516-1535, God used Desiderius Erasmus to produce a Greek New Testament from these preserved texts from this school in Antioch.

By the year 1550 A.D., this text became known as the Textus Receptus or Received Text.

Therefore, we believe that God preserved His Word in the Old Testament Hebrew Masoretic Text and in the New Testament Greek Received Text.

Translation of the Bible

Both schools, the “Thought Inspiration” school and the “Every Word Inspiration” groups were busy translating the Bible.

“Thought Inspiration” Group

In the 19th Century, two men Westcott and Hort, from this group, developed a new method of interpretation and produced a new Greek New Testament. Because both of these men rejected the “Every Word Inspiration” point of view, they made many changes to the Bible. They cut out many words, phrase, and even whole verses of the Bible. They also changed many words in the Bible.

Their text became known as the “Westcott and Hort” Text. We do not accept this corrupted text. Every English Bible except one, has been translated using this corrupt “Westcott and Hort” text in their translation or even later texts that came from the school in Alexandria, Egypt. This means that every modern day English Bible translation is a corrupt Bible.

How can you tell if you have the pure Word of God or a corrupted Bible? The first thing to consider is what was the source of the translation? Was the translation done from God’s preserved texts – the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Received Text (or from a translation that came from those texts like the King James Version) OR from a corrupted text?

Here are just a few examples out of the hundreds and hundreds of verses that were deleted or changed in corrupted Bibles. Look at this these verses and compare it to your Bible.

1. Luke 4:4 – do you have the words ***“but by every word of God”*** included or are they missing? If they are missing, you have a corrupt Bible. Why did they delete this phrase from the Bible? They did it because it was translated from a corrupted bible that did not believe every word of the Bible is important and necessary.

2. Acts 8:37 – Is the verse missing or is there a note saying that this verse is not in the older texts? If so, you have a corrupt Bible. Why did they cut this verse out of the Bible? Think about it – the Eunuch says what hinders me to be baptize? Belief!!! Went against infant baptism. They did it because it was translated from a corrupted Bible that held to the “Thought Inspiration”.

3. 1 John 5:7 – This verse clearly teaches the Trinity – The Father, The Son, and the Holy Ghost being One, but in corrupt Bibles, they delete verse 7 and then break up verse 8 into two verses, a verse 7 and a verse 8. Below is what verse 7 and verse 8 should read.

1 John 5:7 – “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. “

1 John 5:8 – “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

If your Bible does not read this way or missing the words “Father”, “Word”, and “Holy Ghost” from verse 7, then you have a corrupt Bible. Why did they do this? Because it was translated from a corrupted Bible by people who did not believe that Jesus Christ is God.

4. Colossians 1:14 – If the phrase “through his blood” is missing, then you have a corrupt Bible. It was translated from a corrupted Bible that did not believe that the blood of Jesus Christ was necessary for redemption.

5. Isaiah 7:14 – The correct reading should be that a virgin will give birth. If your Bible has changed the word virgin to a young woman, then you have a corrupt Bible. It was translated from a corrupted Bible by people that rejected that Jesus Christ is God.

The meaning of virgin is not the same as a young woman. This verse is speaking about Jesus Christ being born of a virgin. If Jesus was not born of a virgin then he would have a human father meaning he was not God. Many English Bibles reject Jesus Christ being God by changing the word “virgin” to “young woman”.

Truly, it is nothing special if a young woman gets pregnant and gives birth to a son, because it happens every day all around the world. However, it is very special when a virgin becomes pregnant and gives birth, because it means that there was no human father.

“Every Word Inspiration” Group

The “Verbal Inspiration” group was very careful to use the texts that God preserved – the Hebrew “Masoretic Text” and the Greek “Received Text”. The only English Bible in use today that was translated from God’s preserved texts is the King James Bible. The translation was completed in the year 1611 A.D. Over the years since, many missionaries have translated the King James Bible into other languages.

In summary, we believe the King James Bible is the preserved Word of God in the English language and we reject the modern English versions which delete or change portions of the Bible.

Warning against adding to or taking away from God’s Word

Beware of any religious group which claims God is ok with groups that take away, add to, or change God’s words. They are not of God and should be avoided! Carefully read the following verses.

Revelation 22:18-19 and Deuteronomy 12:32

It is clear from these verses that God does not want man adding to or taking away from the Word He has given. Any religious group that asserts that God has other writings means that they are adding to what God has already given. For example, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is also known as The Mormons. They have a book other than the Bible called “The Book of Mormon”.

The Mormons will say they are “Christian” and believe both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. However, when asked which one they would choose if there was a contradiction between the two books, they would choose the Book of Mormon. They believe it has greater authority than the Bible.

Another group to be very careful of is the Jehovah Witnesses. They have their own translation of the Bible called, the New World Translation. It is also a corrupt Bible, full of deletions and changes. Both the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses have many doctrinal errors that will be studied in a future class.

The Doctrine of God

Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

The Bible does not present any argument for the existence of God. Does not use science or philosophical arguments to prove God exists. It simply states that God exists.

Many people have a wrong view of God. Some think there is no God. Some there are many gods. Some believe God is nature, or a force, or that they are their own God. Some think God.

How do we know these are wrong views of God? Is it even possible to know God and to know what He is like? Yes, it is possible. The only source of information that we can learn about God is found in the Bible. God has no other source of information by which we can know Him. All that we know and believe about God comes from His Word!

The Nature of God – What God is

In John 4:24, we learn three things about God's nature.

John 4:24 – God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth

1. God is Life.

God is living. He has life. The verse states: “God **is**” not “God was” Other scriptures also show that God is Life. For example,

John 5:26 – “For as the Father hath life in himself ... “

Jeremiah 10:10 – “But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, ...”

Acts 14:15 – “... ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God...”

Because life is in God, three truths follow:

A) All life comes from God.

Genesis 2:7 – “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Man received his life from God.

John 1:3-4 – “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

Acts 17:24 – “God that made the world and all things therein...”

These two verses tell us God created everything in the world and therefore everything has received its life from God.

B) God is the sustainer of life.

Colossians 1:17 – “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Isaiah 42:5 – “... he that giveth breath unto the people upon it”

Psalms 138:12 – “... and none can keep alive his own soul.”

No living thing can stay alive without God's help. Every living thing would die without God sustaining the breath and life.

C) Eternal Life is in the life of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:11-12 – “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

Eternal life is in the life of Jesus Christ. If you have Jesus, you have eternal life. If you do not have Jesus, you do not have eternal life.

2. God is Spirit.

John 4:24 – “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

A spirit is without a body. God does not have flesh and bone like humans and animals do. He does not have a material body and therefore he has no bodily needs. Man is limited in understanding and has bodily needs. For example, man needs air to breathe, water to drink, and food to eat, but God has none of these limitations.

A) God is Invisible. ***Colossians 1:15 – “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:”***

One reason that God strictly forbids idolatry is because since He is invisible, He cannot be represented accurately by any man-made picture or idol.

B) God is Unlimited. ***Psalms 139:7 – “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”***

There is no place in the whole universe that man can escape or hide from God's presence. There is no place man can go where God cannot find him.

3. God has personality.

John 4:24 – “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Notice the word “him” in John 4:24. The Bible does not say “and they that worship it”. God has a personality; meaning the ability to think, to feel, and to make decisions. He is NOT an impersonal force of nature. God demonstrates characteristics of personality throughout the Bible. For example,

A. God sees. ***Genesis 6:5 – “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great ...”***

B. God speaks. ***Exodus 3:4 – “... God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, ...”***

C. God hears. ***Exodus 2:24 – “And God heard their groaning ...”***

D. God creates. ***Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”***

E. God grieves. ***Genesis 6:6 – “...and it grieved him at his heart.”***

F. God can get angry. ***1 Kings 11:9 – “And the LORD was angry with Solomon...”***

G. God is jealous. ***Deuteronomy 6:15 – “For the LORD thy God is a jealous God ...”***

H. God loves. ***John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, ...”***

I. God hates. ***Proverbs 6:16 – “These six things doth the LORD hate”***

J. God cares. ***1 Peter 5:7 – “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”***

The Nature of God – His Natural Attributes

God has explained what He is like by revealing characteristics about Himself that we find in the Bible. Of His many attributes, there are specifically 8 characteristics that pertain exclusively to God Himself and not to anyone or anything else. These 8 characteristics are called His natural attributes. He also has 12 attributes (moral attributes) that man can also display but to a lesser degree than God.

1. God is one in being.

Some religions like Hinduism teach that there are many gods. Others teach that there are two equal “forces” of good and evil. What does the Bible teach concerning how many there are?

Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:”

Isaiah 45:5 – “I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me ...”

The Bible clearly declares that in being, there is only one God.

2. God is a Trinity of persons

Let’s go back to Genesis 1 when God made man. Read Genesis 1:26,

Notice that God says, “Let us make man in our image after our likeness.” Do you see anything strange about what God said? He did not say, “Let me make man in my image after my likeness.”, but He used the words “Let us” and “in our image” and “after our likeness”.

The word “us” and “our” is plural, meaning more than one. Who is God speaking to? He is not talking to man because man was not created yet. Some have said that God is talking to the angels. But we know he was not talking to the angels because in the next verse we read:

Genesis 1:27 – “So God created man in his own image”

Was man created in God’s image or in the angel’s image? According to this verse, it was in God’s image. Man was made in the image of God. So, God was not talking to the angels. So, if He was not talking to the angels and was not talking to man, just who was He talking to? Interesting question.

God was speaking to Himself in the plural. Does this mean there is more than one God? No, the Bible teaches very clearly that there is only one God. So, what does this teach us about God?

The answer is found in the Hebrew word for God. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew word for God is Elohim. The “im” on the end of the word makes it plural. In English, we use the letter “s” or “es” to show plurality.

So, from the very beginning God was revealing Himself to be a plurality of persons. If you study the Bible, you will learn that there is only one God, but He is in three persons. This is called the Trinity. This does not mean that there are 3 gods. There is only one God, but 3 persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity. Explain the chart.

It is not a problem if you have a hard time understanding the Trinity. Most people have a difficult time understanding it. We do not need to understand everything about God to be able to believe Him.

God is one in being, but He has three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Each of these persons is said to be God in the following Scriptures:

A) The Father is declared to be God.

John 6:27 – “... for him hath God the Father sealed.”

B) The Son is declared to be God.

Hebrews 1:8 – “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: ...”

C) The Holy Spirit is declared to be God.

Acts 5:3-4 – “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”

Did you see the connection? Peter told Ananias that he lied to the Holy Ghost and then he said that he did not lie to a man, but to God. That makes the Holy Ghost to be God.

We also see the doctrine of the Trinity in the following verses in the New Testament.

Matthew 28:19 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

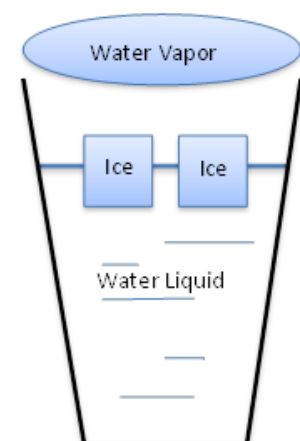
2 Corinthians 13:14 – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”

All three are also seen at the baptism of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:16-17 – “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Notice that Jesus the Son of God is in the water, the Holy Ghost is descending like a dove and the Father's voice from Heaven. The doctrine of the Trinity does NOT mean three Gods. There is only ONE God (in being), but in THREE persons. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Ghost.

Some people have tried to explain the Trinity using water as an example. Water can exist as a liquid, as a solid (ice), and as a vapor (steam). It does not matter which phase it is in; it is still water. Another example is that I am a husband, I am a son, and I am a father, but I am still one person.



3. God is self-existing

God is independent of everything and everyone. He did not create Himself. He existed before He created the world. He existed before He created the spirit world. He existed before He created time. He always has been and always will be.

Exodus 3:14 – “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

The name Jehovah means “I AM that I AM” or literally, “The Self-Existent One”. Jehovah is translated as LORD (all in capital letters) in the English Old Testament. Man needs air, food, and water, to live, but God does not need any of these things. He doesn't need the earth, sun, air, food, or water, because He existed before all things.

4. God is all-knowing

The Bible teaches that God is all-knowing and absolutely perfect in knowledge.

1 John 3:20 – “... God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

A) God knows all about His creation.

Hebrews 4:13 – “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

B) God knows the action of every man.

Proverbs 15:3 – “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

C) God knows the thoughts of man.

Psalms 94:11 – “The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man ...”

Ezekiel 11:5 – “... for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.”

5. God is all-powerful.

God has unlimited power by which He can bring everything to pass which He wills.

Luke 1:37 – “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

A. God's power is demonstrated in the Creation.

Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

B. God's power is demonstrated in that He is able to sustain every living thing.

Colossians 1:17 – “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

C. God's power is demonstrated in that He controls the forces of nature.

Psalms 107: 29 – “He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.”

D. God's power is demonstrated in that He is able to protect from man from death.

(1) Shut the mouths of lions. ***Daniel 6:22 – “Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: ...”***

(2) Not be burned by fire. ***Daniel 3:23-27 – “And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.... saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.”***

E. God's power is demonstrated over Satan and evil spirits.

Job 1:12 – “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”

6. God is everywhere at the same time.

Psalm 139:7-10 – “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

Jeremiah 23:23-24 – “Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.”

7. God is eternal.

God has no beginning and has no end.

Genesis 21:33 – “And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.”

Psalm 90:2 – “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

There was never a moment in time from eternity past when God did not exist. Likewise, there will never be a time in the future where He ceases to exist.

8. God does not change.

God is completely and fully perfect in all His being. He cannot change His attributes.

Malachi 3:6 – “For I am the LORD, I change not ...”

Hebrews 13:8 – “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

All change is either to get better or worse. God cannot change for the better since He is perfect, neither can God change for the worse. He can never be wiser or more holy than He already is.

The Nature of God – His Moral Attributes

These 12 attributes are characteristics of God that man can display as well but to a lesser degree.

1. The Holiness of God. This is the greatest attribute of God. The word holiness means to be “set apart”. God is infinitely set apart from sin. Everything He is, is perfect

1 Peter 1:16 – “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Psalm 99:9 – “...for the LORD our God is holy.”

2. The Righteousness of God. The righteousness of God is a manifestation of His holiness. All God’s requirements of man are righteous. His holiness demands righteous laws. He treats fairly.

Psalm 116:5 – “Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.”

Psalm 145:17 – “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”

3. The Justice of God. God's holiness demands right judgments. It is the way God is. Fair & Right

Zephaniah 3:5 – “The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.”

Deuteronomy 32:4 – “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”

God is just in punishing unrighteousness (Romans 6:23), forgiving those who trust Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9), and keeping His promises (1 Kings 8:56).

4. The Wrath of God. God hates all unrighteousness.

Psalm 7:11 – “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

Romans 1:18 – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”

5. The Love of God. This love is defined as sacrificing something to meet a need in someone else's life. Mankind had a great need. Man is born a sinner and separated from God. Man needed someone to provide a way back to God. God showed his love to man through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin (our greatest need) and in so doing provided a way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Show love to those who can do nothing for us.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

6. The Mercy of God. This attribute is most frequently mentioned in the Old Testament. It is an act of the Love of God. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. What does man deserve? Man is a sinner and deserves to go to Hell. However, God is merciful to not give us what we deserve, Hell, and provided a way of escape.

Psalm 103:8 – “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”

Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

7. The Grace of God. This attribute is most frequently mentioned in the New Testament. Grace means receiving something we do not deserve. Through salvation in Jesus Christ, man receives eternal life in Heaven which is something he does NOT deserve. Being kind and pleasant.

Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”

It may be easy to get confused between grace and mercy. Grace is receiving what we do not deserve (Heaven). Mercy is not receiving what we do deserve (Hell).

8. The Patience of God. Patience is the power of control God exercises over Himself. Accept delays, problems, suffer without being annoyed or anxious.

2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Nahum 1:3 – “The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.”

9. The Goodness of God. God is the standard of good. All that God is and does is worthy of approval. God manifests His care and concern for the believer. Showing kindness and doing right.

Psalm 52:1 – “Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.”

10. The Faithfulness of God. God is faithful, because He is unchanging. He will always do what He has said and fulfill what he has promised. Loyal, constant, and steadfast.

Deuteronomy 7:9 – “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, ...”
Lamentations 3:23 – “... great is thy faithfulness.”

11. The Truthfulness of God. God is eternally true. Honest. Speaks the truth. His promises are reliable and dependable.

Psalm 33:4 – “For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”
Titus 1:2 – “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

12. The Wisdom of God. God is all-wise. Everything He does is wise. God does nothing foolish. Showing experience, knowledge, and good judgment.

1 Timothy 1:17 – “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Jude 1:25 – “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

The Sovereignty of God

God is Sovereign, but the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God is sometimes avoided by Baptists because of those that hold to Calvinism. What is Calvinism? John Calvin was a reformer who lived in the 1500's.

Calvinism basically teaches that people are so enslaved to sin that by nature they are unable to choose for themselves to repent of their sin and believe on Jesus Christ for salvation. Therefore, they believe that because God is Sovereign, He chooses who will be saved.

It naturally follows then those that were not “chosen” for salvation have been “chosen” to go to Hell. They misapply the doctrine of Sovereignty and end up embracing wrong doctrine. The error of Calvinism will be covered in more detail in a future lesson.

Although those who believe Calvinist teaching talk a lot about the “Sovereignty of God”, it should not scare us away from the subject and learn what the Bible teaches. The word “sovereign” means supreme, above all others, and independent of all others. Our God is absolutely sovereign.

Psalm 47:2 – “For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.”
Psalm 115:3 – “But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.”

Although God is Sovereign, He never sets aside one of His attributes just because He can do anything He wants to. He is always holy, He is always loving, He is always gracious, He is always merciful, He is always patient, He is always just, and He is always Sovereign. This is where Calvinist teaching goes wrong.

IE, God is all-knowing. He knows everything that has happened, is happening, and will happen from eternity past to eternity future. There is nothing God does not know. God knows what will happen in the future. We call that His foreknowledge. In eternity past, God knew when you would be born. He knew where you would be born. He knows everything about you before you were even born.

Romans 8:29 – “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

1 Peter 1:2 – “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father ...”

God’s foreknowledge simply means that every event in time, every thought of man, every word of man, every action of man, every animal that dies, every soul that is saved – everything – is known to God, and was known to God in eternity past.

Calvinist teaching believes that since God knew a certain event would take place in time, that in His Sovereignty, He must have chosen it to be that way because He could have changed it if He wanted to. This is flawed reasoning. God cannot set aside one of His attributes just because He is Sovereign.

For example, Calvinists believe that since God knew in eternity past who would be saved, that it means God chose him to be saved. If that is true, then by the same thinking, since God knew that sin would enter into the world, that it means God ordained sin to come into the world, making God the author of sin! Of course, God is NOT the author of sin and Calvinists do not believe that either.

This example demonstrates their faulty and inconsistent thinking that leads to false doctrine. More on the false doctrine of Calvinism and the equally false teaching of Arminianism as a reaction to Calvinism will be studied in a future lesson.

The Three Most Commonly Used Names for God

The God of the Bible is referred to by several different names. The three most used words in the English Bible are:

1. God. The Old Testament Hebrew word for God means “The Faithful, Strong One”.
2. LORD (L-O-R-D). You will only find the word LORD in the Old Testament. It is a translation of the Hebrew word “Jehovah” – the “I AM that I AM”. It means the Self-Existent One, the “One without beginning or ending”. The name Jehovah is used to show a covenant or an agreement between God and His people. It is a name that God uses with people who have a relationship with Him. The two most often used names in the Bible are God and Jehovah.

The word God is His general name by which all people use whether you know Him or not. However, people who know God and have a relationship with Him use the name Jehovah. This shows that God is a personal God who wants to have a relationship with you.

3. Lord (Upper case “L” and lower case “o-r-d”) - Both the Old Testament Hebrew word and the New Testament Greek word means “a Master” (Owner) or “a Ruler”.

The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ asked His disciples two questions in Matthew 16 that are still being asked in the minds of men today. The first question is in

Matthew 16:13 – “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”

Jesus’ first question was, “Who do people say I am?” Over the many years since then, people have given various answers. To some, Jesus is a Prophet, to others, He is a great teacher, and yet even others would say He is simply a good man. The second question is

Matthew 16:15 – “He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”

It is the answer to Jesus’ second question – “Who do **YOU** say that I am?” – That is much more important. The response of each person will determine whether they will go to Heaven or Hell.

John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

The answer to Jesus’ second question will also determine how meaningful their life will be on earth.

Jn 10:10 – “... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

That is why the greatest question in all of history is, “Who is Jesus Christ?” Since Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, each person needs to be concerned about coming into a right relationship to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. According to the following verse, there is no other way to Heaven than going through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

If Buddha is taken from Buddhism, there is still a system of belief left over. If Mohammed is taken from Islam, there is still a system of belief left over. But, if Jesus Christ is taken from Christianity, there is nothing left. Christianity is not a system of beliefs, but a PERSON. We do not become Christians by following rules of the religion, but through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Before the Birth of Jesus Christ

The question is sometimes asked, “Where was Jesus Christ before He was born? Was He in Heaven before His birth? Or did His life begin at birth?” What does the Bible say?

John 1:1, 14 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, ...”

This verse clearly teaches that Jesus Christ, the Word, is God. Therefore, Jesus existed before He was born in this world. Furthermore, verse 3 in the same chapter teaches that Jesus Christ is the Creator of everything.

Jn 1:3 – “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Acts 4:24 – “And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord [Jesus Christ], thou art God, which has made the heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:”

Colossians 1:16 – “For by him [Jesus Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth”

Obviously, if Jesus Christ is the Creator of everything, He would have had to exist before He was born. Furthermore, consider what Jesus said,

John 17:5 – “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

Jesus prays to the Father and references a time He was in Heaven before the world was created, clearly teaching that Jesus Christ existed before His birth. Although Jesus did not possess a physical body prior to His birth, the Bible clearly teaches that the Son of God was eternally co-existent and co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Ghost.

Christophany

What is a Christophany? Christophany comes from two Greek words; Christos, which means Christ, and phaneroo, which means to be revealed or to manifest. Therefore, a Christophany is a visible manifestation or appearance of Christ before His human incarnation.

In the OT, we read on several occasions that God appeared in physical form. We know from scripture that:

1. God is a spirit – John 4:24 – you can’t see or touch a spirit
2. No one has seen God – 1 John 4:12 (God the Father); John 1:18

So what about the visible appearances of God in the OT? Colossians 1:15 – image of invisible God

They are the appearances of the second person of the Trinity – Jesus Christ before he was born.

1. Appearance to Abraham (Genesis 18)

Three men visited Abraham, and one of them was God Himself. We know he was God because vs 1 says, “And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre.” The other two men were angels. Look at verses 8 – they did eat (not a spirit), 13, 17, 20, and 33

2. Angel of the LORD (Judges 6:11-24) Gideon

Verse 12 says the angel of the LORD is speaking and verse 14 says the LORD is speaking and they are referring to the same person. We know from the verses the angel of the LORD sat down, appeared to Gideon, and spoke to him, engaging in conversation. Here again, we see God in physical form. See also vs 16, 20-23 seen God face to face.

3. Judges 13:21-22 – Angel of the LORD appeared to the parents of Samson.
4. Angel of the LORD and Hagar (Gen. 16:7-13)

Vs 10 - To understand how this points to the Lord you must pay attention to what the angel of the LORD says. He not only comforts Hagar but he promises that he will increase her descendants which is something no angel can do, which means this is not just an angel speaking but God himself.

Vs 13 – Thou God seest me... I have seen him

This doesn't mean that Jesus was an angel before the incarnation. Jesus was, is, and always be Jehovah God (John 8:58). He created the angels including Lucifer who would later rebel.

The Hebrew word for angel is malak, which means a messenger. It appears 213 times in the Old Testament. It can refer to actual angels such as in Genesis 19:1, and men such as in Genesis 32:3.

5. Appeared to Isaac. Genesis 26:2, 24

6. Genesis 32:24-32 – Jacob returning home, vs 24 – wrestled a man, 30 – seen God face to face. and compare with Hosea 12:2-5 (taking brother by the heel – when born Genesis 25:26)

There are many other examples of Christophanies in the Old Testament. But some are less certain than others. For example, many people believe the fourth man in the fire in Daniel 3:25 was a Christophany. But all we know about him is that he had the appearance of the “Son of God.” Without additional information, we can't say for sure if he was a Christophany or an actual angel.

Melchizedek is another questionable Christophany. He appears in Genesis 14:18-20 and his name means king of righteousness, and a priest of God most High. Hebrews 7:3 says that “he is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he continues a priest forever.” As a result, many people believe Melchizedek was a Christophany. But he could have been a type of Christ.

Christophanies do not contradict the incarnation of Christ nor the virgin birth. Jesus taking on the form of a man is not the same as becoming a man or Angel of God (LORD).

The Birth of Jesus Christ

There are several reasons why Jesus Christ came into this world. Some of these are:

1. To save sinners.

Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

1 Timothy 1:15 – “... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; ...”

2. To put away sin.

1 John 3:5 – “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins...”

3. To destroy the works of Satan.

Hebrews 2:14 – “... that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”

1 John 3:8 – “... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

Over the last 100 years, many false Bible teachers attacked the doctrine of the “Virgin Birth” of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ were not born of a virgin, then he would have a human father meaning He is only a man and not God. If Jesus was only a man, then He could not be our Saviour and many books of Bible like Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and John are all fakes.

The fact is that the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ is an absolutely essential doctrine and one of the most important truths in all the Word of God. There are several key Bible verses regarding the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ.

1. The very first announcement of a Savior refers to Jesus as the “seed of the woman”.

Genesis 3:15 – “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

The wording of “her seed” is very important because the Saviour would have no human father.

2. The Prophecy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

This verse clearly declares a virgin birth. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, He would have had a human father and therefore would not be God. Many corrupted English Bibles have denied that Jesus is God by changing the word “virgin” in this verse to “a young woman”. If that is what your Bible reads, then you have a corrupt Bible. It is nothing special when “a young woman” conceives and bears a child, because it happens every day all over the world. However, it is very special when a virgin conceives because that means there is no human father.

3. Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus Christ

A. Matthew 1:16-25

* **Verse 18** – “... *before they came together*” Mary was pregnant before her marriage to Joseph. Based on Joseph’s reaction to learning of her pregnancy, both he and Mary were sexually pure.

* **Verse 20** – “... *conceived ... of the Holy Ghost.*” The conception of Jesus Christ in the womb of Mary is declared to be a work of God.

* **Verse 25** – “*And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*” Although married, Joseph and Mary had no sexual encounters until AFTER Jesus was born, meaning that Mary remained a virgin until the birth of Jesus Christ.

B. Luke 1:26-35

* **Verse 27** – Mary is said to have been a virgin.

* **Verse 34** – Mary herself said she was sexually pure.

* **Verse 35** – Mary was told that she would experience a conception by the work of God.

4. The Bible declares Jesus Christ to be eternal.

One of God’s attributes is that He is eternal – no beginning and no ending. The prophet Micah gave the following prophecy 500 years before the coming of the Son of God.

Micah 5:2 – “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

He tells us two important facts about the coming Savior. First, he tells us the name of the city where Jesus Christ would be born, Bethlehem. Second, in the same verse, he declares Jesus Christ to be “from everlasting”, which is an attribute that belongs only to God. The following verses explain what was involved when God the Son became a man.

Philippians 2:5-8 – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

The coming of God the Son in a human body was a voluntary act where He placed Himself under the limitations of man. As a man, He would need to breathe air, drink water, eat food, and sleep which God the Son does not need. However, as God, He emptied Himself of certain rights to become a man and therefore, subjected Himself to human limitations.

Jesus Christ – His Deity

The fact is that Jesus Christ IS God. The Bible is very clear on the subject.

1. The Book of John.

John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Verse 14 – Word made flesh. John clearly stated in this verse that Jesus Christ is God.

John 20:28 – “And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.”

Jesus did not rebuke or correct Thomas for calling Him God.

John 5:18 – “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

The Jews clearly recognized the claims of Christ when He referred to Himself as the “Son of God” and wanted to kill Him for claiming to be God.

John 10:30-33 – “I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”

Based on the reaction of the Jews, they understood that Jesus was claiming to be God. The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus in the New Testament is Jehovah in the Old Testament. Jesus said,

John 8:56-59 – “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

Why did the Jews pick up stones to stone Jesus to death? It was because Jesus said that he was the “I AM” – Jehovah God. In Jews culture claiming to be Jehovah was a serious crime punishable by death. In Jesus’ case, it was TRUE and used it to declare His deity.

A. I AM the Bread of Life – John 6:48. Jesus said this shortly after He had fed the five thousand and the people wanted more free food. But Jesus didn’t want to keep filling their stomachs. He wanted them to see that physical food only satisfied hunger temporarily, but He was the One who could satisfy them spiritually. He was saying He is the bread that provides life.

B. I AM the Light of the World – John 8:12. Jesus was letting them know that in a world darkened by sin, He is holy (His light contrasts the darkness) and He offers the light and guidance to those stumbling in sin.

C. I AM the Door – John 10:7,9. Shepherds guided their flocks into stone enclosures each night to protect them. These structures had no doors. The shepherd would sit or lie in the opening to prevent predators from attacking. This “I am” statement stresses that no one can enter the kingdom of heaven by any other means than Christ Himself.

D. I AM the Good Shepherd – John 10:11. With this statement, Jesus described His great love and care for His people. He was letting the Israelites know that, unlike a hired man who will run and leave a flock unprotected in order to save his own life when the wolf threatens the sheep, He will not abandon His sheep, but will keep watch over His people.

E. I AM the Resurrection and the Life – John 11:25. Jesus spoke this statement immediately before raising Lazarus from the dead. Again, we see that Jesus’ teaching was not just empty talk; when He made a claim, He substantiated it with action in raising Lazarus from the dead.

F. I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life – John 14:6. Jesus is not merely one way among many ways to God; He is the only way. Jesus was reiterating that all roads do not lead to heaven. There are not many paths or religions to God. Jesus is the only way to forgiveness, the only source for truth and knowledge about God, and the only route to eternal life.

G. I AM the true Vine – John 15:1. By abiding in or dwelling in Christ, we enable His life to flow in and through us. Then we cannot help but bear fruit that will honor the Father. In this metaphor, He is the gardener. In Him, and in His nurturing, tending, and pruning, we can grow to our potential and bear much fruit.

2. Book of Acts.

Carefully compare Acts 16 verse 31 with verse 34. The jailor asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved. Paul replies in

Acts 16:31 - “... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ...”

The jailor gets saved and three verses later that jailor was

Acts 16:34 - “... believing in God...”

Did you get the connection? Paul told him to believe on Jesus Christ. Then we are told that the jailor believed in God. That makes Jesus Christ to be God.

3. Book of Romans.

Romans 9:5 – “Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

This verse clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is God.

4. Book of 1 Timothy.

1 Timothy 3:16 – “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh ...”

This is another verse that clearly teaches Jesus Christ is God.

5. Book of Titus.

Make a careful comparison of Titus 1:3 and 1:4.

Titus 1:3 – “... God our Saviour.”

Titus 1:4 – “... Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.”

Comparing these two verses shows that Jesus Christ is God.

6. Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:8 – “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever ...”

This is a clear reference that Jesus Christ is called God by God the Father.

7. Book of 1 John.

1 John 5:20 – “And we know that the Son of God is come ... even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

The Apostle John clearly states that Jesus Christ is God.

Jesus Christ – His Humanity

The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ is both 100% God and also 100% human. He had a human birth, born of a woman.

Galatians 4:4 – “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

After His birth, Jesus experienced normal human development.

Luke 2:40 – “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.”

He passed through infancy, childhood, youth, and into manhood in the same way as any other man. He was subject to the laws of ordinary human growth.

Luke 2:52 – “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

He was raised in a godly home and grew mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. Jesus Christ had a typical human appearance. He looked Jewish. The woman of Samaria said in

John 4:9 – “... How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me...?”

She recognized Him, by His appearance, to be a Jew. Most likely, this meant He had dark hair, brown eyes and olive colored skin. Jesus was average in His appearance. Consider the following three statements:

1. His attraction was not outward.

Isaiah 53:2 – “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

2. He easily blended in with the crowds.

John 8:59 – “Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

3. Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, had to identify Him to others with a kiss so the soldiers would know who to arrest.

Matthew 26:48 – “Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.”

In becoming a man, Jesus Christ experienced the limitations of humanity.

1. He experienced weariness. ***John 4:6 – “Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey”***

2. He required sleep. ***Matthew 8:24 – “... but he was asleep.”***

3. He experienced hunger. ***Matthew 21:18 – “... as he returned into the city, he hungered.”***

4. He experienced thirst. ***John 19:28 – “... Jesus ... saith, I thirst.”***

5. He suffered agony. ***Luke 22:44 – “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly...”***

6. He suffered physical death. ***Luke 23:46 – “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”***

In becoming a man, Jesus Christ experienced human emotions.

1. Compassion. ***Matthew 9:36 – “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them...”***

2. Anger. ***Mark 3:5 – “And when he had looked round about on them with anger ...”***

3. Grief. ***Mark 3:5 – “And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts ...”***

4. Love. ***John 15:12 – “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”***

The Person of Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 3:16 – God was manifest in the flesh.

The Lord Jesus Christ possessed a sinless human nature and a holy divine nature. Jesus Christ is not 50% man and 50% God. He IS 100% man and at the same time 100% God! This may lead some people to ask two questions.

1. Why did Jesus Christ have to be 100% man?

Jesus Christ had to become a man in order to atone for the sins of mankind. It was man that sinned, thus only a man could pay the penalty of sin.

2. Why did Jesus Christ have to be 100% God?

God's plan to fix man's sin problem involved a substitute – the innocent dying for the guilty. Only someone who was without sin could die for sinners. Man was disqualified to be the substitute because all men are sinners. I cannot die for your sin because I am a sinner. Likewise, you cannot die for my sin because you are a sinner.

The only one who could pay the penalty of sin is someone who is without sin. The only one without sin is God Himself. As God, Jesus Christ could pay the penalty of sin on the cross.

God's plan to fix man's sin problem was for Jesus Christ to pay the penalty of sin on the cross for us. Jesus Christ is our substitute. He did that for us! He did it so He could make a way to come into a right relationship with God.

The Atonement of Jesus Christ

The Atonement of Jesus Christ centers on His death and resurrection. It made it possible for God and man to be at peace with each other. How could God love the sinner and still punish sin? Christ was the answer! With the penalty of sin paid for by Jesus Christ on the cross, God is now able to save the sinner. There are a number of words used to describe the nature of the Lord's death.

1. Substitution. Jesus died in our place when He suffered the punishment of our sins.

Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

2. Propitiation.

The word propitiation means a payment for the penalty of sin. At the moment of salvation, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses the sinner from sin. Therefore, when God looks at a believer, He does not see a sinner, but the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:2 – “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

3. Redemption.

The word redemption means to buy back. At salvation, God redeems or buys back the sinner, so he belongs to God. God then sets him free, so he is no longer a slave to sin.

Ephesians 1:7 – “In whom we have redemption through his blood ...”

1 Peter 1:18-19 – “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But with the precious blood of Christ, ...”

4. Reconciliation.

Reconciliation means to make peace between two parties who are in opposition to each other. Through Jesus Christ's death, man is restored to fellowship and peace with God.

Colossians 1:20 – “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

The Blood of Jesus Christ

Many false Bible teachers believe that only the death of Christ was important and the shedding of blood was not essential. What does the Bible teach? God states that both death AND the shedding of blood are necessary in the atonement. In regard to the Passover Lamb in Moses' time, God said in

Exodus 12:13 - “... when I see the blood, I will pass over you...”

God did not say, “When I see the death...” He said, “When I **SEE** the **BLOOD**, ...” God's penalty for sin is death by the shedding of blood. What could be clearer than the following verse:

Hebrews 9:22 - “...and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

The Bible is very clear on the importance of the blood of Jesus Christ. We are justified by His blood.

Romans 5:9 – “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

We have redemption through His blood.

Ephesians 1:7 – “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

Colossians 1:14 – “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

1 Peter 1:18-19 – “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But with the precious blood of Christ, ...”

We are cleansed and washed from sin by His blood.

1 John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

Revelation 1:5 – “...Jesus Christ, who ... washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, but that does not mean that all men will be saved. The blood atonement of Jesus Christ is freely offered to all people, but only applied to those who believe.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ's death would have been meaningless and a terrible defeat if He did not rise from the dead. But the fact is that Jesus Christ DID rise from the dead! The Word of God directly speaks of the resurrection of Christ over 100 times. There are several pieces of evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ some of which are listed below.

1. The empty tomb.

Luke 24:3 – “And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.”

2. The testimony of the angel.

Mark 16:6 – “And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.”

3. Jesus Christ's appearances after his resurrection to:

A. Mary. ***John 20:16 – “Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.”***

B. Simon. ***Luke 24:34 – “Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.”***

C. The disciples. ***John 20:19 – “...came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”***

D. Peter and John. ***John 21:5 – “Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.”***

E. The 11 disciples. ***Matthew 28:16-17 – “Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him ...”***

4. The resurrection preaching of the Apostles.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was central to the Gospel preaching recorded in Acts.

Acts 2:32 – “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

Acts 3:15 – “And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead;...”

Acts 4:2 – “Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”

Acts 10:40 – “Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;”

Acts 13:30 – “But God raised him from the dead:”

5. The institution of the first day of the week.

The Jewish “Sabbath Day” is the seventh day of the week which is Saturday. However, it is evident that the early Christians began meeting on Sunday, the first day of the week, since it is the day Jesus resurrected from the dead.

Acts 20:7 – “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ...”

1 Corinthians 16:2 – “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

6. The witness of Jesus Christ Himself.

Revelation 1:18 – “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

In spite of all these evidences, many people still do not believe Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead. Some people believe He fainted on the cross and revived when placed in the cool tomb. However, shortly before taking Jesus down from the cross, a soldier pierced his side (John 19:31-35). Water and blood came out showing that he was dead.

Some people believe that the body of Jesus Christ was removed by the disciples. This is quite unlikely as they would have to overpower the soldiers. Furthermore, many years later, most of the disciples were persecuted and put to death. If they knew that the resurrection of Jesus was lie, they would not have been so willing to die for a lie.

Some people believe that the body of Jesus Christ was removed by the Jewish leaders. However, this is unlikely too. After the Apostles started preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ, many people became Christians. The Jewish leaders, if they had the body, had the opportunity to produce the body of Jesus Christ and put a stop to the spread of Christianity. It is a FACT that Jesus Christ rose personally, bodily, and visibly from the dead!!

The Work of Jesus Christ

The work of Jesus Christ is usually viewed in three stages: past, present and future.

1. The Past Work of Jesus Christ.

There are many things Jesus did and said while He was on the earth (John 21:25). The Lord Jesus Christ did not come to be a teacher, though He taught. He did not come to set a good example, though He did. The greatest work of Jesus Christ centers on the cross. He came to “seek and save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10).

2. The Present Work of Jesus Christ.

The present work of Jesus Christ began with His ascension to Heaven and will conclude with His Second Coming. Currently, Jesus Christ is in Heaven where He appears on the behalf of each believer.

1 John 2:1 – “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

Just as the past work of Christ has to do with our past sins, so His present work has to do with our present sins and our present relationship with our Heavenly Father.

A. He makes intercession for us:

Romans 8:34 – “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

B. He is our mediator between God and man:

1 Timothy 2:5 – “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

C. He provides every believer free access to the Father through prayer:

Hebrews 4:14-16 – “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, ... Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

3. The Future Work of Jesus Christ.

Much of what the Bible has to say concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is yet to be fulfilled. One day, the Lord Jesus Christ will return. There are two stages to the return of Jesus Christ. The first stage is the Rapture and the second stage is the Revelation.

Stage 1 – The Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

The word “Rapture” means “caught up”. It is the next event to occur. No one knows when that will be, but we believe it can happen any day now. At the Rapture, all believers will be caught up to be with the Lord forever before the terrible 7-year period on Earth known as the Great Tribulation begins. During this 7-year period, all believers will take part in the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-10). Both will be covered in detail in a future class.

2 Corinthians 5:10 – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, ...”

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, every believer will give an account of his life and service to God. It is NOT a judgment for salvation but for service. Rewards in the form of crowns will be given by the Lord for good and faithful service.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 – “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

Stage 2 – The Revelation

At the end of the 7-year tribulation period on earth, the Anti-Christ will be just about to destroy the nation of Israel. Jesus Christ then returns to the earth with all the believers in what is called the Revelation of Jesus Christ. He will then destroy the armies of the Anti-Christ (Revelation 19:17-21) and Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom on earth where He will rule and reign for 1,000 years (see Revelation chapters 19 and 20). The city of Jerusalem will be the center of both world government and worship. Christians will be assigned governmental duties.

After 1,000 years, Satan will be released and he will deceive the nations to war against Jesus Christ. This is Satan's last attempt to defeat God! Jesus Christ will destroy those armies. Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire where he will be for all eternity while all the saved people will be with Jesus Christ forever.