

BIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Ancestor Worship

- A. Worship of ancestors is in vain
- B. Humans may be honored, but only God worshiped

2. Armageddon

- A. God's war to end wickedness
- B. Love of God not violated

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- A. A Christian requirement
- B. Does not wash sins away

4. Bible

- A. God's Word is inspired
- B. Is a practical guide for our day
- C. Written for peoples of all nations and races

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- A. Transfusions violate sacredness of blood
- B. Question of saving life not justify breaking God's law

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- A. Church spiritual, built upon Christ
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8. Creation

- A. Agrees with proved science; disproves evolution
- B. Creative days not 24-hour days

9. Cross

- A. Jesus hanged on an execution stake as a reproach
- B. Should not be worshiped

10. Death

- A. Cause of death
- B. Condition of the dead
- C. Talking with the dead impossible

11. Devil, Demons

- A. The Devil is a spirit person
- B. The Devil is the invisible ruler of the world
- C. Demons are rebellious angels

12. Earth

- A. God's purpose for the earth
- B. Will never be destroyed or depopulated

13. False Prophets

- A. False prophets foretold; existed in apostles' day

14. Healing, Tongues

- A. Spiritual healing has permanent benefits
- B. God's Kingdom will bring permanent physical cures
- C. Modern faith healing lacks evidence of divine approval
- D. Speaking in tongues only a temporary provision

15. Heaven

- A. Only 144,000 go to heaven

16. Hell (Hades, Sheol)

- A. Not a literal place of fiery torment
- B. Fire is a symbol of annihilation
- C. Rich man and Lazarus account no proof of eternal torment

17. Holidays, Birthdays

- A. Birthdays, Christmas, not observed by early Christians

18. Images

- A. Use of images, statues, in worship is a reproach to God
- B. Image worship proved fatal to the nation of Israel
- C. "Relative" worship unauthorized

19. Interfaith

- A. Joining with other religions not God's way
- B. "Good in all religions" is not true

20. Jehovah, God

- A. God's name
- B. God's existence
- C. God's attributes
- D. Not all are serving the same God

21. Jehovah's Witnesses

- A. Origin of Jehovah's Witnesses

22. Jesus

- A. Jesus is God's Son and appointed King
- B. Belief in Jesus Christ essential to salvation
- C. More than belief in Jesus is required

23. Kingdom

- A. What God's Kingdom will do for mankind
- B. Operation begins while Christ's enemies still active

- C. Not 'in hearts,' not developed through men's efforts

24. Last Days

- A. What is meant by "the end of the world"
- B. Need to be awake to signs of last days

25. Life

- A. Everlasting life is assured for obedient mankind
- B. Heavenly life is limited to those in Christ's body
- C. Earthly life promised to unlimited number, "other sheep"

26. Marriage

- A. Marriage union must be honorable
- B. Headship principle must be respected by Christians
- C. Christian parents' responsibility to children
- D. Christians should marry only Christians
- E. Polygamy not Scriptural

27. Mary Worship

- A. Mary mother of Jesus, not "mother of God"
- B. Mary not "ever virgin" (Not always a virgin)

28. Memorial, Mass

- A. Commemoration of Lord's Evening Meal
- B. Mass unscriptural

29. Minister

- A. All Christians must be ministers
- B. Qualifications for the ministry

30. Opposition, Persecution

- A. Reason for opposition toward Christians
- B. Wife should not allow husband to separate her from God
- C. Husband should not allow wife to prevent his serving God

31. Prayer

- A. Prayers that God hears
- B. Vain repetition, prayers to Mary or “saints” not valid

32. Predestination

- A. Man not predestinated

33. Ransom

- A. Jesus’ human life paid as a “ransom for all”
- B. Was corresponding price

34. Religion

- A. Only one true religion
- B. False doctrine is properly condemned
- C. Changing one’s religion essential if proved wrong
- D. Apparent “good in all religions” does not assure God’s favor

35. Resurrection

- A. Hope for the dead
- B. Resurrection to life either in heaven or on earth

36. Return of Christ

- A. Return invisible to humans
- B. Recognized by physical facts

37. Sabbath

- A. Sabbath day not binding on Christians
- B. Sabbath observance required only of ancient Israel
- C. God’s Sabbath rest (7th day of creative “week”)

38. Salvation

- A. Salvation is from God through Jesus’ ransom sacrifice
- B. “Once saved, always saved” is not Scriptural

C. “Universal salvation” is unscriptural

39. Sin

- A. What sin is
- B. Why all have suffered from Adam’s sin
- C. Forbidden fruit was disobedience, not sex act
- D. What sin against holy spirit is

40. Soul

- A. What the soul is
- B. Difference between soul and spirit

41. Spirit, Spiritism

- A. What the holy spirit is
- B. Life-force called spirit
- C. Spiritism must be shunned as work of demons

42. Trinity

- A. God, the Father, one Person, greatest in universe
- B. Son inferior to Father before and after coming to earth
- C. Oneness of God and Christ
- D. God’s holy spirit is his active force

43. Wickedness, World Distress

- A. Who is responsible for world distress
- B. Why wickedness permitted
- C. Prolonged time of the end is merciful provision
- D. Solution to world distress not from men

44. Witnessing

- A. All Christians must witness, tell good news
- B. Need for repeated calls, continued witnessing
- C. Must bear witness to be free of bloodguilt

1. Ancestor Worship

A. Worship of ancestors is in vain

Ancestors are dead, unconscious

(Ec 9:5) For the living are conscious that they will die; but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all, neither do they anymore have wages, because the remembrance of them has been forgotten.

(Ec 9:10) All that your hand finds to do, do with your very power, for there is no work nor devising nor knowledge nor wisdom in She'ol, the place to which you are going.

Original ancestors unworthy of worship

(Ro 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.

(Ro 5:14) Nevertheless, death ruled as king from Adam down to Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of the transgression by Adam, who bears a resemblance to him that was to come.

(1Ti 2:14) Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and came to be in transgression.

God forbids such worship

(Ex 34:14) For you must not prostrate yourself to another god, because Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, he is a jealous God;

(Mt 4:10) Then Jesus said to him: "Go away, Satan! For it is written, 'It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.'"

B. Humans may be honored, but only God worshiped

Youths should honor older persons

(1Ti 5:1, 2) Do not severely criticize an older man. To the contrary, entreat him as a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, younger women as sisters with all chasteness.

(1Ti 5:17) Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching.

(Eph 6:1-3) Children, be obedient to YOUR parents in union with [the] Lord, for this is righteous: ² "Honor your father and [your] mother"; which is the first command with a promise: ³ "That it may go well with you and you may endure a long time on the earth."

But God alone to be worshiped

(Ac 10:25, 26) As Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet and did obeisance to him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying: "Rise; I myself am also a man."

(Re 22:8, 9) Well, I John was the one hearing and seeing these things. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel that had been showing me these things. ⁹ But he tells me: "Be careful! Do not do that! All I am is a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who are prophets and of those who are observing the words of this scroll. Worship God."

2. Armageddon

A. God's war to end wickedness

Nations gathered to Armageddon

(Re 16:14) They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

(Re 16:16) And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Har-Ma-ged'on.

God fights, using Son and angels

(2Th 1:6-9) This takes into account that it is righteous on God's part to repay tribulation to those who make tribulation for YOU, ⁷ but, to YOU who suffer tribulation, relief along with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels ⁸ in a flaming fire, as he brings vengeance upon those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news about our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength,

(Re 19:11-16) And I saw the heaven opened, and, look! a white horse. And the one seated upon it is called Faithful and True, and he judges and carries on war in righteousness. ¹² His eyes are a fiery flame, and upon his head are many diadems. He has a name written that no one knows but he himself, ¹³ and he is arrayed with an outer garment sprinkled with blood, and the name he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ Also, the armies that were in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth there protrudes a sharp long sword, that he may strike the nations with it, and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron. He treads too the winepress of the anger of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ And upon his outer garment, even upon his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

How we may survive

(Zep 2:2, 3) Before [the] statute gives birth to [anything], [before the] day has passed by just like chaff, before there comes upon YOU people the burning anger of Jehovah, before there comes upon YOU the day of Jehovah's anger, ³ seek Jehovah, all YOU meek ones of the earth, who have practiced His own judicial decision. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably YOU may be concealed in the day of Jehovah's anger.

(Re 7:14) So right away I said to him: "My lord, you are the one that knows." And he said to me: "These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

B. Love of God not violated

World extremely corrupt.

(2Ti 3:1-5) But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, ³ having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, ⁴ betrayers, headstrong, puffed up [with pride], lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

God patient, but justice requires action

(2Pe 3:9) Jehovah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with YOU because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.

(2Pe 3:15) Furthermore, consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul according to the wisdom given him also wrote YOU,

(Lu 18:7, 8) Certainly, then, shall not God cause justice to be done for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, even though he is long-suffering toward them? ⁸ I tell YOU, He will cause justice to be done to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man arrives, will he really find the faith on the earth?"

Wicked must go so righteous can prosper

(Pr 21:18) The wicked is a ransom for the righteous one; and the one dealing treacherously takes the place of the upright ones.

(Re 11:18) But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time for the dead to be judged, and to give [their] reward to your slaves the prophets and to the holy ones and to those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth."

3. Baptism

A. A Christian requirement

Jesus set example

(Mt 3:13-15) Then Jesus came from Gal'i-lee to the Jordan to John, in order to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But the latter tried to prevent him, saying: "I am the one needing to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?" ¹⁵ In reply Jesus said to him: "Let it be, this time, for in that way it is suitable for us to carry out all that is righteous." Then he quit preventing him.

(Heb 10:7) Then I said, 'Look! I am come (in the roll of the book it is written about me) to do your will, O God.'"

Symbol of disowning or dedication

(Mt 16:24) Then Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me.

(1Pe 3:21) That which corresponds to this is also now saving YOU, namely, baptism, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the request made to God for a good conscience,) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Only for those old enough to be taught

(Mt 28:19, 20) Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded YOU. And, look! I am with YOU all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

(Ac 2:41) Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added.

Immersion in water is proper way

(Ac 8:38, 39) With that he commanded the chariot to halt, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they had come up out of the water, Jehovah's spirit quickly led Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him anymore, for he kept going on his way rejoicing.

(Joh 3:23) But John also was baptizing in Ae'non near Sa'lim, because there was a great quantity of water there, and people kept coming and being baptized;

B. Does not wash sins away

Jesus was not baptized to wash away sins

(1Pe 2:22) He committed no sin, nor was deception found in his mouth.

(1Pe 3:18) Why, even Christ died once for all time concerning sins, a righteous [person] for unrighteous ones, that he might lead YOU to God, he being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive in the spirit.

Jesus' blood washes away sins

(1Jo 1:7) However, if we are walking in the light as he himself is in the light, we do have a sharing with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

4. Bible

A. God's Word is inspired

Men were moved by God's spirit to write

(2Pe 1:20, 21) For YOU know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit.

Contains prophecy:

(Da 8:5, 6) And I, for my part, kept on considering, and, look! There was a male of the goats coming from the sunset upon the surface of the whole earth, and it was not touching the earth. And as regards the he-goat, there was a conspicuous horn between its eyes. ⁶ And it kept coming all the way to the ram possessing the two horns, which I had seen standing before the watercourse; and it came running toward it in its powerful rage.

(Da 8:20-22) "The ram that you saw possessing the two horns [stands for] the kings of Me'di-a and Persia. ²¹ And the hairy he-goat [stands for] the king of Greece; and as for the great horn that was between its eyes, it [stands for] the first king. ²² And that one having been broken, so that there were four that finally stood up instead of it, there are four kingdoms from [his] nation that will stand up, but not with his power.

(Lu 21:5, 6) Later, as certain ones were speaking concerning the temple, how it was adorned with fine stones and dedicated things, ⁶ he said: "As for these things that YOU are beholding, the days will come in which not a stone upon a stone will be left here and not be thrown down."

(Lu 21:20-22) "Furthermore, when YOU see Jerusalem surrounded by encamped armies, then know that the desolating of her has drawn near. ²¹ Then let those in Ju-de'a begin fleeing to the mountains, and let those in the midst of her withdraw, and let those in the country places not enter into her; ²² because these are days for meting out justice, that all the things written may be fulfilled.

(Isa 45:1-4) This is what Jehovah has said to his anointed one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have taken hold of, to subdue before him nations, so that I may ungird even the hips of kings; to open before him the two-leaved doors, so that even the gates will not be shut: ² “Before you I myself shall go, and the swells of land I shall straighten out. The copper doors I shall break in pieces, and the iron bars I shall cut down. ³ And I will give you the treasures in the darkness and the hidden treasures in the concealment places, in order that you may know that I am Jehovah, the One calling [you] by your name, the God of Israel. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and of Israel my chosen one, I even proceeded to call you by your name; I proceeded to give you a name of honor, although you did not know me.

Entire Bible inspired and beneficial

(2Ti 3:16, 17) All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

(Ro 15:4) For all the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope.

B. Is a practical guide for our day

Ignoring Bible principles is fatal

(Ro 1:28-32) And just as they did not approve of holding God in accurate knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mental state, to do the things not fitting, ²⁹ filled as they were with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, badness, being full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malicious disposition, being whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, self-assuming, inventors of injurious things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, false to agreements, having no natural affection, merciless. ³² Although these know full well the righteous decree of God, that those practicing such things are deserving of death, they not only keep on doing them but also consent with those practicing them.

Man's wisdom no substitute.

(1Co 1:21) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not get to know God, God saw good through the foolishness of what is preached to save those believing.

(1Co 1:25) Because a foolish thing of God is wiser than men, and a weak thing of God is stronger than men.

(1Ti 6:20) O Timothy, guard what is laid up in trust with you, turning away from the empty speeches that violate what is holy and from the contradictions of the falsely called “knowledge.”

A defense against strongest enemy

(Eph 6:11, 12) Put on the complete suit of armor from God that YOU may be able to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil; ¹² because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places.

(Eph 6:17) Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word,

Guides man in the right way

(Ps 119:105) Your word is a lamp to my foot, And a light to my roadway.

(2Pe 1:19) Consequently we have the prophetic word [made] more sure; and YOU are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and a daystar rises, in YOUR hearts.

(Pr 3:5, 6) Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight.

C. Written for peoples of all nations and races

Bible writing began in the East

(Ex 17:14) Jehovah now said to Moses: “Write this as a memorial in the book and propound it in Joshua’s ears, ‘I shall completely wipe out the remembrance of Am’a-lek from under the heavens.’”

(Ex 24:12) Jehovah now said to Moses: “Come up to me in the mountain and stay there, as I want to give you the stone tablets and the law and the commandment that I must write in order to teach them.”

(Ex 24:16) And Jehovah’s glory continued to reside upon Mount Si’nai, and the cloud continued to cover it for six days. At length on the seventh day he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.

(Ex 34:27) And Jehovah went on to say to Moses: “Write down for yourself these words, because it is in accordance with these words that I do conclude a covenant with you and Israel.”

God’s provision not just for Europeans

(Ro 10:11-13) For the Scripture says: “None that rests his faith on him will be disappointed.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for there is the same Lord over all, who is rich to all those calling upon him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved.”

(Ga 3:28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female; for YOU are all one [person] in union with Christ Jesus.

God accepts men of all sorts

(Ac 10:34, 35) At this Peter opened his mouth and said: “For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial, ³⁵ but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.

(Ro 5:18) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, likewise also through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is a declaring of them righteous for life.

(Re 7:9, 10) After these things I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying: “Salvation [we owe] to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

5. Blood

A. Transfusions violate sacredness of blood

Noah was told that blood was sacred, was the life

(Ge 9:4) Only flesh with its soul—its blood—YOU must not eat.

(Ge 9:16) And the rainbow must occur in the cloud, and I shall certainly see it to remember the covenant to time indefinite between God and every living soul among all flesh that is upon the earth.”

Law covenant prohibited feeding on blood

(Le 17:14) For the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood by the soul in it. Consequently I said to the sons of Israel: “YOU must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh, because the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood. Anyone eating it will be cut off.”

(Le 7:26, 27) ““And YOU must not eat any blood in any places where YOU dwell, whether that of fowl or that of beast. ²⁷ Any soul who eats any blood, that soul must be cut off from his people.””

Prohibition repeated to Christians

(Ac 15:28, 29) For the holy spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to YOU, except these necessary things, ²⁹ to keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If YOU carefully keep yourselves from these things, YOU will prosper. Good health to YOU!”

(Ac 21:25) As for the believers from among the nations, we have sent out, rendering our decision that they should keep themselves from what is sacrificed to idols as well as from blood and what is strangled and from fornication.”

B. Question of saving life not justify breaking God’s law

Obedience is better than sacrifice

(1Sa 15:22) In turn Samuel said: “Does Jehovah have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Look! To obey is better than a sacrifice, to pay attention than the fat of rams;

(Mr 12:33) and this loving him with one’s whole heart and with one’s whole understanding and with one’s whole strength and this loving one’s neighbor as oneself is worth far more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Putting one’s life ahead of God’s law is fatal

(Mr 8:35, 36) For whoever wants to save his soul will lose it; but whoever loses his soul for the sake of me and the good news will save it. ³⁶ Really, of what benefit is it for a man to gain the whole world and to forfeit his soul?

6. Chronology

A. 1914 (C.E.) ends Gentile Times

Line of kingdom rulers interrupted, 607 B.C.E.

(Eze 21:25-27) “And as for you, O deadly wounded, wicked chieftain of Israel, whose day has come in the time of the error of [the] end, ²⁶ this is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has said, ‘Remove the turban, and lift off the crown. This will not be the same. Put on high even what is low, and bring low even the high one. ²⁷ A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no [one’s] until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give [it] to him.’”

“Seven times” to pass until rule restored

(Da 4:32) and from mankind they are driving even you away, and with the beasts of the field your dwelling will be. Vegetation they will give even to you to eat just like bulls, and seven times themselves will pass over you, until you know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind, and that to the one whom he wants to he gives it.””

(Da 4:16, 17) Let its heart be changed from that of mankind, and let the heart of a beast be given to it, and let seven times pass over it. ¹⁷ By the decree of watchers the thing is, and [by] the saying of holy ones the request is, to the intent that people living may know that the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of mankind and that to the one whom he wants to, he gives it and he sets up over it even the lowliest one of mankind.”

Seven – 2 X 3 1/2 times, or 2 X 1,260 days

(Re 12:6) And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.

(Re 12:14) But the two wings of the great eagle were given the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place; there is where she is fed for a time and times and half a time away from the face of the serpent.

(Re 11:2, 3) But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple [sanctuary], cast it clear out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. ³ And I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days dressed in sackcloth.”

A day for a year. [Makes 2,520 years]

(Eze 4:6) And you must complete them. “And you must lie upon your right side in the second case, and you must carry the error of the house of Judah forty days. A day for a year, a day for a year, is what I have given you.

(Nu 14:34) By the number of the days that YOU spied out the land, forty days, a day for a year, a day for a year, YOU will answer for YOUR errors forty years, as YOU must know what my being estranged means.

To run until Kingdom’s establishment

(Lu 21:24) and they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled.

(Da 7:13, 14) “I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! with the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man happened to be coming; and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. ¹⁴ And to him there were given rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin.

7. Church

A. Church spiritual, built upon Christ

God does not dwell in man-made temples

(Ac 17:24, 25) The God that made the world and all the things in it, being, as this One is, Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in handmade temples, ²⁵ neither is he attended to by human hands as if he needed anything, because he himself gives to all [persons] life and breath and all things.

(Ac 7:48) Nevertheless, the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; just as the prophet says,

True church is spiritual temple of living stones

(1Pe 2:5, 6) YOU yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it is contained

in Scripture: “Look! I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious; and no one exercising faith in it will by any means come to disappointment.”

Christ, cornerstone; apostles, secondary foundation

(Eph 2:20) and YOU have been built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone.

God to be worshiped with spirit and truth

(Joh 4:24) God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth.”

B. Church not built upon Peter

Jesus did not say church built upon Peter

(Mt 16:18) Also, I say to you, You are Peter, and on this rock-mass I will build my congregation, and the gates of Ha'des will not overpower it.

Jesus identified as the “rock-mass.”

(1Co 10:4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they used to drink from the spiritual rock-mass that followed them, and that rock-mass meant the Christ.

Peter identified Jesus as foundation

(1Pe 2:4) Coming to him as to a living stone, rejected, it is true, by men, but chosen, precious, with God,

(1Pe 2:6-8) For it is contained in Scripture: “Look! I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious; and no one exercising faith in it will by any means come to disappointment.”⁷ It is to YOU, therefore, that he is precious, because YOU are believers; but to those not believing, “the identical stone that the builders rejected has become [the] head of [the] corner,”⁸ and “a stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offense.” These are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were also appointed.

(Ac 4:8-12) Then Peter, filled with holy spirit, said to them: “Rulers of the people and older men,⁹ if we are this day being examined, on the basis of a good deed to an ailing man, as to by whom this man has been made well,¹⁰ let it be known to all of YOU and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Naz-a-rene', whom YOU impaled but whom God raised up from the dead, by this one does this man stand here sound in front of YOU.¹¹ This is ‘the stone that was treated by YOU builders as of no account that has become the head of the corner.’¹² Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved.”

8. Creation

A. Agrees with proved science; disproves evolution

Science agrees with order of creation

(Ge 1:11, 12) And God went on to say: “Let the earth cause grass to shoot forth, vegetation bearing seed, fruit trees yielding fruit according to their kinds, the seed of which is in it, upon the earth.” And it came to be so.¹² And the earth began to put forth grass, vegetation bearing seed according to its kind and trees yielding fruit, the seed of which is in it according to its kind. Then God saw that [it was] good.

(Ge 1:21) And God proceeded to create the great sea monsters and every living soul that moves about, which the waters swarmed forth according to their kinds, and every winged flying creature according to its kind. And God got to see that [it was] good.

(Ge 1:24, 25) And God went on to say: “Let the earth put forth living souls according to their kinds, domestic animal and moving animal and wild beast of the earth according to its kind.” And it came to be so.²⁵ And God proceeded to make the wild beast of the earth according to its kind and the domestic animal according to its kind and every moving animal of the ground according to its kind. And God got to see that [it was] good.

God’s law of “kinds” holds true

(Ge 1:11, 12) And God went on to say: “Let the earth cause grass to shoot forth, vegetation bearing seed, fruit trees yielding fruit according to their kinds, the seed of which is in it, upon the earth.” And it came to be so.¹² And the earth began to put forth grass, vegetation bearing seed according to its kind and trees yielding fruit, the seed of which is in it according to its kind. Then God saw that [it was] good.

(Jas 3:12) My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives or a vine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce sweet water.

B. Creative days not 24-hour days

“Day” can mean simply period of time

(Ge 2:4) This is a history of the heavens and the earth in the time of their being created, in the day that Jehovah God made earth and heaven.

Day with God can be long time

(Ps 90:4) For a thousand years are in your eyes but as yesterday when it is past, And as a watch during the night.

(2Pe 3:8) However, let this one fact not be escaping YOUR notice, beloved ones, that one day is with Jehovah as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.

9. Cross

A. Jesus hanged on an execution stake as a reproach

Jesus was hanged on an execution stake or tree

(Ac 5:30) The God of our forefathers raised up Jesus, whom YOU slew, hanging him upon a stake.

(Ac 10:39) And we are witnesses of all the things he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem; but they also did away with him by hanging him on a stake.

(Ga 3:13) Christ by purchase released us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse instead of us, because it is written: “Accursed is every man hanged upon a stake.”

Christians must bear stake as reproach

(Mt 10:38) And whoever does not accept his torture stake and follow after me is not worthy of me.

(Lu 9:23) Then he went on to say to all: “If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake day after day and follow me continually.

B. Should not be worshiped

Displaying Jesus' stake a reproach

(Heb 6:6) but who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame.

(Mt 27:41, 42) In like manner also the chief priests with the scribes and older men began making fun of him and saying: ⁴² "Others he saved; himself he cannot save! He is King of Israel; let him now come down off the torture stake and we will believe on him.

Use of cross in worship is idolatry

(Ex 20:4, 5) "You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. ⁵ You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Jehovah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me;

(Jer 10:3-5) For the customs of the peoples are just an exhalation, because it is a mere tree out of the forest that one has cut down, the work of the hands of the craftsman with the billhook. ⁴ With silver and with gold one makes it pretty. With nails and with hammers they fasten them down, that none may reel. ⁵ They are like a scarecrow of a cucumber field, and cannot speak. Without fail they are carried, for they cannot take any steps. Do not be afraid because of them, for they can do nothing calamitous and, what is more, the doing of any good is not with them."

Jesus a spirit, not still on stake

(1Ti 3:16) Indeed, the sacred secret of this godly devotion is admittedly great: 'He was made manifest in flesh, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in [the] world, was received up in glory.'

(1Pe 3:18) Why, even Christ died once for all time concerning sins, a righteous [person] for unrighteous ones, that he might lead YOU to God, he being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive in the spirit.

10. Death

A. Cause of death

Man had perfect start, prospect of endless life

(Ge 1:28) Further, God blessed them and God said to them: "Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth."

(Ge 1:31) After that God saw everything he had made and, look! [it was] very good. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a sixth day.

Disobedience brought sentence of death

(Ge 2:16, 17) And Jehovah God also laid this command upon the man: "From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. ¹⁷ But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively die."

(Ge 3:17) And to Adam he said: “Because you listened to your wife’s voice and took to eating from the tree concerning which I gave you this command, ‘You must not eat from it,’ cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life.

(Ge 3:19) In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Sin and death have passed on to all Adam’s children

(Ro 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.

B. Condition of the dead

Adam was made to be a soul, not given one

(Ge 2:7) And Jehovah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul.

(1Co 15:45) It is even so written: “The first man Adam became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

It is man, the soul, that dies

(Eze 18:4) Look! All the souls—to me they belong. As the soul of the father so likewise the soul of the son—to me they belong. The soul that is sinning—it itself will die.

(Isa 53:12) For that reason I shall deal him a portion among the many, and it will be with the mighty ones that he will apportion the spoil, due to the fact that he poured out his soul to the very death, and it was with the transgressors that he was counted in; and he himself carried the very sin of many people, and for the transgressors he proceeded to interpose.

(Job 11:20) And the very eyes of the wicked will fail; And a place for flight will certainly perish from them, And their hope will be an expiring of the soul.”

Dead are unconscious, know nothing

(Ec 9:5) For the living are conscious that they will die; but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all, neither do they anymore have wages, because the remembrance of them has been forgotten.

(Ec 9:10) All that your hand finds to do, do with your very power, for there is no work nor devising nor knowledge nor wisdom in She’ol, the place to which you are going.

(Ps 146:3, 4) Do not put YOUR trust in nobles, Nor in the son of earthling man, to whom no salvation belongs. ⁴ His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; In that day his thoughts do perish.

Dead asleep awaiting resurrection

(Joh 11:11-14) He said these things, and after this he said to them: “Laz’a-rus our friend has gone to rest, but I am journeying there to awaken him from sleep.” ¹² Therefore the disciples said to him: “Lord, if he has gone to rest, he will get well.” ¹³ Jesus had spoken, however, about his death. But they imagined he was speaking about taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ At that time, therefore, Jesus said to them outspokenly: “Laz’a-rus has died,

(Joh 11:23-26) Jesus said to her: “Your brother will rise.” ²⁴ Martha said to him: “I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her: “I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; ²⁶ and everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?”

(Ac 7:60) Then, bending his knees, he cried out with a strong voice: “Jehovah, do not charge this sin against them.” And after saying this he fell asleep [in death].

C. Talking with the dead impossible

The dead not alive with God as spirits

(Ps 115:17) The dead themselves do not praise Jah, nor do any going down into silence.

(Isa 38:18) For it is not She’ol that can laud you; death itself cannot praise you. Those going down into the pit cannot look hopefully to your trueness.

Warned against trying to speak with dead

(Isa 8:19) And in case they should say to YOU people: “Apply to the spiritistic mediums or to those having a spirit of prediction who are chirping and making utterances in low tones,” is it not to its God that any people should apply? [Should there be application] to dead persons in behalf of living persons?

(Le 19:31) “Do not turn yourselves to the spirit mediums, and do not consult professional foretellers of events, so as to become unclean by them. I am Jehovah YOUR God.

Mediums, fortune-tellers, condemned

(De 18:10-12) There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, a practicer of magic or anyone who looks for omens or a sorcerer,¹¹ or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or a professional foreteller of events or anyone who inquires of the dead.¹² For everybody doing these things is something detestable to Jehovah, and on account of these detestable things Jehovah your God is driving them away from before you.

(Ga 5:19-21) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct,²⁰ idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects,²¹ envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning YOU, the same way as I did forewarn YOU, that those who practice such things will not inherit God’s kingdom.

11. Devil, Demons

A. The Devil is a spirit person

Not evil within oneself but a spirit person

(2Ti 2:26) and they may come back to their proper senses out from the snare of the Devil, seeing that they have been caught alive by him for the will of that one.

Devil as much a person as the angels

(Mt 4:1) Then Jesus was led by the spirit up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil.

(Mt 4:11) Then the Devil left him, and, look! angels came and began to minister to him.

(Job 1:6) Now it came to be the day when the sons of the [true] God entered to take their station before Jehovah, and even Satan proceeded to enter right among them.

Made himself Devil by wrong desire

(Jas 1:13-15) When under trial, let no one say: "I am being tried by God." For with evil things God cannot be tried nor does he himself try anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin; in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death.

B. The Devil is the invisible ruler of the world

World under his control as god

(2Co 4:4) among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through.

(1Jo 5:19) We know we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the [power of the] wicked one.

(Re 12:9) So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

Allowed to remain until issue settled

(Ex 9:16) But, in fact, for this cause I have kept you in existence, for the sake of showing you my power and in order to have my name declared in all the earth.

(Joh 12:31) Now there is a judging of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

To be abyssed, then destroyed

(Re 20:2, 3) And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ And he hurled him into the abyss and shut [it] and sealed [it] over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while.

(Re 20:10) And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet [already were]; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

C. Demons are rebellious angels

Joined Satan before Flood

(Ge 6:1, 2) Now it came about that when men started to grow in numbers on the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them, ² then the sons of the [true] God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking; and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose.

(1Pe 3:19, 20) In this [state] also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.

Abased, cut off from all enlightenment

(2Pe 2:4) Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into Tar'ta-rus, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment;

(Jude 6) And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Fight against God, oppress mankind

(Lu 8:27-29) But as he got out onto land a certain man from the city who had demons met him. And for a considerable time he had not worn clothing, and he was staying, not at home, but among the tombs. ²⁸ At the sight of Jesus he cried aloud and fell down before him, and with a loud voice he said: “What have I to do with you, Jesus Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” ²⁹ (For he had been ordering the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For over a long time it had held him fast, and he was repeatedly bound with chains and fetters under guard, but he would burst the bonds and be driven by the demon into the lonely places.)

(Re 16:13, 14) And I saw three unclean inspired expressions [that looked] like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

To be destroyed with Satan

(Mt 25:41) “Then he will say, in turn, to those on his left, ‘Be on YOUR way from me, YOU who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

(Lu 8:31) And they kept entreating him not to order them to go away into the abyss.

(Re 20:2, 3) And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ And he hurled him into the abyss and shut [it] and sealed [it] over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while.

(Re 20:10) And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet [already were]; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

12. Earth

A. God’s purpose for the earth

Paradise made on earth for perfect humans

(Ge 1:28) Further, God blessed them and God said to them: “Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth.”

(Ge 2:8-15) Further, Jehovah God planted a garden in E’den, toward the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Thus Jehovah God made to grow out of the ground every tree desirable to one’s sight and good for food and also the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. ¹⁰ Now there was a river issuing out of E’den to water the garden, and from there it began to be parted and it became, as it were, four heads. ¹¹ The first one’s name is Pi’shon; it is the one encircling the entire land of Hav’i-lah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good. There also are the bdellium gum and the onyx stone. ¹³ And the name of the second river is Gi’hon; it is the one encircling the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is Hid’de-ke; it is the one going to the east of As-syr’i-a. And the fourth river is the Eu-phra’tes. ¹⁵ And Jehovah God proceeded to take the man and settle him in the garden of E’den to cultivate it and to take care of it.

God's purpose is certain

(Isa 55:11) so my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it.

(Isa 46:10, 11) the One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done; the One saying, 'My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do'; ¹¹ the One calling from the sunrising a bird of prey, from a distant land the man to execute my counsel. I have even spoken [it]; I shall also bring it in. I have formed [it], I shall also do it.

Earth to be filled with peaceful, perfect men

(Ps 72:7) In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more.

(Isa 45:18) For this is what Jehovah has said, the Creator of the heavens, He the [true] God, the Former of the earth and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited: "I am Jehovah, and there is no one else."

(Isa 9:6, 7) For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite. The very zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this.

Paradise to be restored by Kingdom

(Mt 6:9, 10) "YOU must pray, then, this way: "Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. ¹⁰ Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.

(Re 21:3-5) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." ⁵ And the One seated on the throne said: "Look! I am making all things new." Also, he says: "Write, because these words are faithful and true."

B. Will never be destroyed or depopulated

Literal earth to be permanent

(Ec 1:4) A generation is going, and a generation is coming; but the earth is standing even to time indefinite.

(Ps 104:5) He has founded the earth upon its established places; It will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever.

Mankind of Noah's time destroyed, not earth

(2Pe 3:5-7) For, according to their wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an earth standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God; ⁶ and by those [means] the world of that time suffered destruction when it was deluged with water. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men.

(Ge 7:23) Thus he wiped out every existing thing that was on the surface of the ground, from man to beast, to moving animal and to flying creature of the heavens, and they were wiped off the earth; and only Noah and those who were with him in the ark kept on surviving.

Example gives hope of surviving in our time

(Mt 24:37-39) For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. ³⁸ For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; ³⁹ and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

Wicked destroyed; “great crowd” survive

(2Th 1:6-9) This takes into account that it is righteous on God’s part to repay tribulation to those who make tribulation for YOU, ⁷ but, to YOU who suffer tribulation, relief along with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels ⁸ in a flaming fire, as he brings vengeance upon those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news about our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength,

(Re 7:9) After these things I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands.

(Re 7:14) So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one that knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

13. False Prophets

A. False prophets foretold; existed in apostles’ day

Rule to determine false prophets

(De 18:20-22) “However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. ²¹ And in case you should say in your heart: “How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?” ²² when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not get frightened at him.’

(Lu 6:26) “Woe, whenever all men speak well of YOU, for things like these are what their forefathers did to the false prophets.

Were foretold; recognized by fruits

(Mt 24:23-26) “Then if anyone says to YOU, ‘Look! Here is the Christ,’ or, ‘There!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones. ²⁵ Look! I have forewarned YOU. ²⁶ Therefore, if people say to YOU, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; ‘Look! He is in the inner chambers,’ do not believe it.

(Mt 7:15-23) “Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to YOU in sheep’s covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruits YOU will recognize them. Never do people gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles, do they? ¹⁷ Likewise every good tree produces fine fruit, but every rotten tree produces worthless fruit; ¹⁸ a good tree cannot bear worthless fruit, neither can a rotten tree produce fine fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree not producing fine fruit gets cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Really, then, by their fruits YOU will recognize those [men]. ²¹ “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. ²² Many will say to me in

that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’ ²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew YOU! Get away from me, YOU workers of lawlessness.

14. Healing, Tongues

A. Spiritual healing has permanent benefits

Spiritual sickness is destructive

(Isa 1:4-6) Woe to the sinful nation, the people heavy with error, an evildoing seed, ruinous sons! They have left Jehovah, they have treated the Holy One of Israel with disrespect, they have turned backwards. ⁵ Where else will YOU be struck still more, in that YOU add more revolt? The whole head is in a sick condition, and the whole heart is feeble. ⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no sound spot in it. Wounds and bruises and fresh stripes—they have not been squeezed out or bound up, nor has there been a softening with oil.

(Isa 6:10) Make the heart of this people unreceptive, and make their very ears unresponsive, and paste their very eyes together, that they may not see with their eyes and with their ears they may not hear, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves.”

(Ho 4:6) My people will certainly be silenced, because there is no knowledge. Because the knowledge is what you yourself have rejected, I shall also reject you from serving as a priest to me; and [because] you keep forgetting the law of your God, I shall forget your sons, even I.

Spiritual healing the primary commission

(Joh 6:63) It is the spirit that is life-giving; the flesh is of no use at all. The sayings that I have spoken to YOU are spirit and are life.

(Lu 4:18) “Jehovah’s spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare good news to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release,

Removes sins; gives happiness, life

(Jas 5:19, 20) My brothers, if anyone among YOU is misled from the truth and another turns him back, ²⁰ know that he who turns a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

(Re 7:14-17) So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one that knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ That is why they are before the throne of God; and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down upon them nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.”

B. God's Kingdom will bring permanent physical cures

Jesus cured infirmities, preached Kingdom blessings

(Mt 4:23) Then he went around throughout the whole of Gal'i-lee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news of the kingdom and curing every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity among the people.

Kingdom promised as means of permanent cure

(Mt 6:10) Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.

(Isa 9:7) To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite. The very zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this.

Even death will be abolished

(1Co 15:25, 26) For he must rule as king until [God] has put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing.

(Re 21:4) And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

(Re 20:14) And death and Ha'des were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire.

C. Modern faith healing lacks evidence of divine approval

Disciples did not miraculously heal selves

(2Co 12:7-9) just because of the excess of the revelations. Therefore, that I might not feel overly exalted, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan, to keep slapping me, that I might not be overly exalted. ⁸ In this behalf I three times entreated the Lord that it might depart from me; ⁹ and yet he really said to me: “My undeserved kindness is sufficient for you; for [my] power is being made perfect in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, will I rather boast as respects my weaknesses, that the power of the Christ may like a tent remain over me.

(1Ti 5:23) Do not drink water any longer, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent cases of sickness.

Miraculous gifts ended after apostles' day

(1Co 13:8-11) Love never fails. But whether there are [gifts of] prophesying, they will be done away with; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will be done away with. ⁹ For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially; ¹⁰ but when that which is complete arrives, that which is partial will be done away with. ¹¹ When I was a babe, I used to speak as a babe, to think as a babe, to reason as a babe; but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the [traits] of a babe.

Healing not sure evidence of God's favor

(Mt 7:22, 23) Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’ ²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew YOU! Get away from me, YOU workers of lawlessness.

(2Th 2:9-11) But the lawless one's presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents ¹⁰ and with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a

retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved. ¹¹ So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie,

D. Speaking in tongues only a temporary provision

Was sign; greater gifts to be sought

(1Co 14:22) Consequently tongues are for a sign, not to the believers, but to the unbelievers, whereas prophesying is, not for the unbelievers, but for the believers.

(1Co 12:30, 31) Not all have gifts of healings, do they? Not all speak in tongues, do they? Not all are translators, are they? ³¹ But keep zealously seeking the greater gifts. And yet I show YOU a surpassing way.

Miraculous gifts of spirit foretold to pass away

(1Co 13:8-10) Love never fails. But whether there are [gifts of] prophesying, they will be done away with; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will be done away with. ⁹ For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially; ¹⁰ but when that which is complete arrives, that which is partial will be done away with.

Wonderful works not sure proof of God's favor

(Mt 7:22, 23) Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?' ²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew YOU! Get away from me, YOU workers of lawlessness.

(Mt 24:24) For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones.

15. Heaven

A. Only 144,000 go to heaven

A limited number; to be kings with Christ

(Re 5:9, 10) And they sing a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought persons for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth."

(Re 20:4) And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. Yes, I saw the souls of those executed with the ax for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had worshiped neither the wild beast nor its image and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand. And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years.

Jesus was forerunner; others chosen since

(Col 1:18) and he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things;

(1Pe 2:21) In fact, to this [course] YOU were called, because even Christ suffered for YOU, leaving YOU a model for YOU to follow his steps closely.

Many others will live on earth

(Ps 72:8) And he will have subjects from sea to sea And from the River to the ends of the earth.

(Re 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

144,000 in special position no others have

(Re 14:1) And I saw, and, look! the Lamb standing upon the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.

(Re 14:3) And they are singing as if a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to master that song but the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been bought from the earth.

(Re 7:4) And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

(Re 7:9) After these things I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands.

16. Hell (Hades, Sheol)

A. Not a literal place of fiery torment

Suffering Job prayed to go there

(Job 14:13) O that in She'ol you would conceal me, That you would keep me secret until your anger turns back, That you would set a time limit for me and remember me!

A place of inactivity

(Ps 6:5) For in death there is no mention of you; In She'ol who will laud you?

(Ec 9:10) All that your hand finds to do, do with your very power, for there is no work nor devising nor knowledge nor wisdom in She'ol, the place to which you are going.

(Isa 38:18, 19) For it is not She'ol that can laud you; death itself cannot praise you. Those going down into the pit cannot look hopefully to your trueness. ¹⁹ The living, the living, he is the one that can laud you, Just as I can this day. The father himself can give knowledge to his own sons concerning your trueness.

Jesus was raised from grave, hell

(Ac 2:27) because you will not leave my soul in Ha'des, neither will you allow your loyal one to see corruption.

(Ac 2:31, 32) he saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Ha'des nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses.

(Ps 16:10) For you will not leave my soul in She'ol. You will not allow your loyal one to see the pit.

Hell will deliver up other dead, be destroyed

(Re 20:13, 14) And the sea gave up those dead in it, and death and Ha'des gave up those dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds. ¹⁴ And death and Ha'des were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire.

B. Fire is a symbol of annihilation

Cutting off in death symbolized by fire

(Mt 25:41) “Then he will say, in turn, to those on his left, ‘Be on YOUR way from me, YOU who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

(Mt 25:46) And these will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous ones into everlasting life.”

(Mt 13:30) Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the harvest season I will tell the reapers, First collect the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them up, then go to gathering the wheat into my storehouse.”

Unrepentant wicked destroyed forever as by fire

(Heb 10:26-27) For if we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left, ²⁷ but [there is] a certain fearful expectation of judgment and [there is] a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition.

Satan's fiery “torment” is everlasting death

(Re 20:10) And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet [already were]; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

(Re 20:14, 15) And death and Ha'des were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life was hurled into the lake of fire.

C. Rich man and Lazarus account no proof of eternal torment

Fire no more literal than Abraham's bosom

(Lu 16:22-24) Now in course of time the beggar died and he was carried off by the angels to the bosom [position] of Abraham. “Also, the rich man died and was buried. ²³ And in Ha'des he lifted up his eyes, he existing in torments, and he saw Abraham afar off and Laz'a-rus in the bosom [position] with him. ²⁴ So he called and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Laz'a-rus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in anguish in this blazing fire.’

Abraham's favor also contrasted with darkness

(Mt 8:11, 12) But I tell YOU that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens; ¹² whereas the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where [their] weeping and the gnashing of [their] teeth will be.”

Babylon's annihilation called a fiery torment

(Re 18:8-10) That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Jehovah God, who judged her, is strong. ⁹ “And the kings of the earth

who committed fornication with her and lived in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her, when they look at the smoke from the burning of her, ¹⁰ while they stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and say, ‘Too bad, too bad, you great city, Babylon you strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived!’

(Re 18:21) And a strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying: “Thus with a swift pitch will Babylon the great city be hurled down, and she will never be found again.

17. Holidays, Birthdays

A. Birthdays, Christmas, not observed by early Christians

Those not true worshipers observed

(Ge 40:20) Now on the third day it turned out to be Phar’aoth’s birthday, and he proceeded to make a feast for all his servants and to lift up the head of the chief of the cupbearers and the head of the chief of the bakers in the midst of his servants.

(Mt 14:6) But when Herod’s birthday was being celebrated the daughter of He-ro’di-as danced at it and pleased Herod so much

Jesus’ death day to be commemorated

(Lu 22:19, 20) Also, he took a loaf, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: “This means my body which is to be given in YOUR behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ Also, the cup in the same way after they had the evening meal, he saying: “This cup means the new covenant by virtue of my blood, which is to be poured out in YOUR behalf.

(1Co 11:25, 26) He did likewise respecting the cup also, after he had the evening meal, saying: “This cup means the new covenant by virtue of my blood. Keep doing this, as often as YOU drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as YOU eat this loaf and drink this cup, YOU keep proclaiming the death of the Lord, until he arrives.

Celebration revelries improper

(Ro 13:13) As in the daytime let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in illicit intercourse and loose conduct, not in strife and jealousy.

(Ga 5:21) envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning YOU, the same way as I did forewarn YOU, that those who practice such things will not inherit God’s kingdom.

(1Pe 4:3) For the time that has passed by is sufficient for YOU to have worked out the will of the nations when YOU proceeded in deeds of loose conduct, lusts, excesses with wine, revelries, drinking matches, and illegal idolatries.

18. Images

A. Use of images, statues, in worship is a reproach to God

No image of God possible

(1Jo 4:12) At no time has anyone beheld God. If we continue loving one another, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us.

(Isa 40:18) And to whom can YOU people liken God, and what likeness can YOU put alongside him?

(Isa 46:5) “To whom will YOU people liken me or make [me] equal or compare me that we may resemble each other?”

(Ac 17:29) “Seeing, therefore, that we are the progeny of God, we ought not to imagine that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, like something sculptured by the art and contrivance of man.

Christians warned against images

(1Co 10:14) Therefore, my beloved ones, flee from idolatry.

(1Jo 5:21) Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

God must be worshiped with spirit, truth

(Joh 4:24) God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth.”

B. Image worship proved fatal to the nation of Israel

Worship of images prohibited to Jews

(Ex 20:4, 5) “You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. ⁵ You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Jehovah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me;

Cannot hear, speak; makers become like them

(Ps 115:4-8) Their idols are silver and gold, The work of the hands of earthling man. ⁵ A mouth they have, but they cannot speak; Eyes they have, but they cannot see; ⁶ Ears they have, but they cannot hear. A nose they have, but they cannot smell. ⁷ Hands are theirs, but they cannot feel. Feet are theirs, but they cannot walk; They utter no sound with their throat. ⁸ Those making them will become just like them, All those who are trusting in them.

Brought a snare, destruction

(Ps 106:36) And they kept serving their idols, And these came to be a snare to them.

(Ps 106:40-42) And the anger of Jehovah began to blaze against his people, And he came to detest his inheritance. ⁴¹ And he repeatedly gave them into the hand of the nations, That those hating them might rule over them, ⁴² And that their enemies might oppress them, And that they might be subdued under their hand.

(Jer 22:8, 9) And many nations will actually pass along by this city and say one to the other: “On what account did Jehovah do like this to this great city?” ⁹ And they will have to say: “On account of the fact that they left the covenant of Jehovah their God and proceeded to bow down to other gods and to serve them.””

C. “Relative” worship unauthorized

God refused to allow “relative” worship of himself

(Isa 42:8) “I am Jehovah. That is my name; and to no one else shall I give my own glory, neither my praise to graven images.

God is the only “Hearer of prayer.”

(Ps 65:1, 2) For you there is praise—silence—, O God, in Zion; And to you the vow will be paid. ² O Hearer of prayer, even to you people of all flesh will come.

19. Interfaith

A. Joining with other religions not God’s way

Only one way, is narrow, few find it

(Eph 4:4-6) One body there is, and one spirit, even as YOU were called in the one hope to which YOU were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all [persons], who is over all and through all and in all.

(Mt 7:13, 14) “Go in through the narrow gate; because broad and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are the ones going in through it; ¹⁴ whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are the ones finding it.

Warned that false doctrine contaminates

(Mt 16:6) Jesus said to them: “Keep YOUR eyes open and watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

(Mt 16:12) Then they grasped that he said to watch out, not for the leaven of the loaves, but for the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

(Ga 5:9) A little leaven ferments the whole lump.

Commanded to be separate

(2Ti 3:5) having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

(2Co 6:14-17) Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what sharing does light have with darkness? ¹⁵ Further, what harmony is there between Christ and Be’li-al? Or what portion does a faithful person have with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement does God’s temple have with idols? For we are a temple of a living God; just as God said: “I shall reside among them and walk among [them], and I shall be their God, and they will be my people.” ¹⁷ “‘Therefore get out from among them, and separate yourselves,’ says Jehovah, ‘and quit touching the unclean thing’”; “‘and I will take YOU in.’”

(Re 18:4) And I heard another voice out of heaven say: “Get out of her, my people, if YOU do not want to share with her in her sins, and if YOU do not want to receive part of her plagues.

B. “Good in all religions” is not true

Some have zeal but not in accord with God

(Ro 10:2, 3) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God; but not according to accurate knowledge; ³ for, because of not knowing the righteousness of God but seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Badness spoils what else might be good

(1Co 5:6) YOUR [cause for] boasting is not fine. Do YOU not know that a little leaven ferments the whole lump?

(Mt 7:15-17) “Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to YOU in sheep’s covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruits YOU will recognize them. Never do people gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles, do they? ¹⁷ Likewise every good tree produces fine fruit, but every rotten tree produces worthless fruit;

False teachers bring destruction

(2Pe 2:1) However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among YOU. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves.

(Mt 12:30) He that is not on my side is against me, and he that does not gather with me scatters.

(Mt 15:14) LET them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

Clean worship demands exclusive devotion

(De 6:5) And you must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force.

(De 6:14, 15) YOU must not walk after other gods, any gods of the peoples who are all around YOU, ¹⁵ (for Jehovah your God in your midst is a God exacting exclusive devotion,) for fear the anger of Jehovah your God may blaze against you and he must annihilate you from off the surface of the ground.

20. Jehovah, God

A. God’s name

“God” indefinite term; our Lord has a personal name

(1Co 8:5, 6) For even though there are those who are called “gods,” whether in heaven or on earth, just as there are many “gods” and many “lords,” ⁶ there is actually to us one God the Father, out of whom all things are, and we for him; and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are, and we through him.

We pray for his name to be sanctified

(Mt 6:9, 10) “YOU must pray, then, this way: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. ¹⁰ Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.

Jehovah is God’s name

(Ps 83:18) That people may know that you, whose name is Jehovah, You alone are the Most High over all the earth.

(Ex 6:2, 3) And God went on to speak to Moses and to say to him: “I am Jehovah. ³ And I used to appear to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty, but as respects my name Jehovah I did not make myself known to them.

(Ex 3:15) Then God said once more to Moses: “This is what you are to say to the sons of Israel, ‘Jehovah the God of YOUR forefathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to YOU.’ This is my name to time indefinite, and this is the memorial of me to generation after generation.

(Isa 42:8) “I am Jehovah. That is my name; and to no one else shall I give my own glory, neither my praise to graven images.

Name in KJ. Ex 6:3 (Dy footnote) (If you have a copy of the Dy footnote, could you provide me with a copy?)

(Ps 83:18) That people may know that you, whose name is Jehovah, You alone are the Most High over all the earth.

(Isa 12:2) Look! God is my salvation. I shall trust and be in no dread; for Jah Jehovah is my strength and [my] might, and he came to be the salvation of me.”

(Isa 26:4) Trust in Jehovah, YOU people, for all times, for in Jah Jehovah is the Rock of times indefinite.

Jesus made name known

(Joh 17:6) “I have made your name manifest to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have observed your word.

(Joh 17:26) And I have made your name known to them and will make it known, in order that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in union with them.”

(Joh 5:43) I have come in the name of my Father, but YOU do not receive me; if someone else arrived in his own name, YOU would receive that one.

(Joh 12:12, 13) The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival, on hearing that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took the branches of palm trees and went out to meet him. And they began to shout: “Save, we pray you! Blessed is he that comes in Jehovah’s name, even the king of Israel!”

(Joh 12:28) Father, glorify your name.” Therefore a voice came out of heaven: “I both glorified [it] and will glorify [it] again.”

B. God’s existence

Impossible to see God and live

(Ex 33:20) And he added: “You are not able to see my face, because no man may see me and yet live.”

(Joh 1:18) No man has seen God at any time; the only-begotten god who is in the bosom [position] with the Father is the one that has explained him.

(1Jo 4:12) At no time has anyone beheld God. If we continue loving one another, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us.

No need to see God to believe

(Heb 11:1) Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld.

(Ro 8:24, 25) For we were saved in [this] hope; but hope that is seen is not hope, for when a man sees a thing, does he hope for it? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we keep on waiting for it with endurance.

(Ro 10:17) So faith follows the thing heard. In turn the thing heard is through the word about Christ.

God is known by his visible works

(Ro 1:20) For his invisible [qualities] are clearly seen from the world’s creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that they are inexcusable;

(Ps 19:1, 2) The heavens are declaring the glory of God; And of the work of his hands the expanse is telling.
² One day after another day causes speech to bubble forth, And one night after another night shows forth knowledge.

Fulfillment of prophecy proves God's existence

(**Isa 46:8-11**) “Remember this, that YOU people may muster up courage. Lay it to heart, YOU transgressors. ⁹ Remember the first things of a long time ago, that I am the Divine One and there is no other God, nor anyone like me; ¹⁰ the One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done; the One saying, ‘My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do’; ¹¹ the One calling from the sunrising a bird of prey, from a distant land the man to execute my counsel. I have even spoken [it]; I shall also bring it in. I have formed [it], I shall also do it.

C. God's attributes

God is love

(**1Jo 4:8**) He that does not love has not come to know God, because God is love.

(**1Jo 4:16**) And we ourselves have come to know and have believed the love that God has in our case. God is love, and he that remains in love remains in union with God and God remains in union with him.

(**Ex 34:6**) And Jehovah went passing by before his face and declaring: “Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth,

(**2Co 13:11**) Finally, brothers, continue to rejoice, to be readjusted, to be comforted, to think in agreement, to live peaceably; and the God of love and of peace will be with YOU.

(**Mic 7:18**) Who is a God like you, one pardoning error and passing over transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? He will certainly not hold onto his anger forever, for he is delighting in loving-kindness.

Excels in wisdom

(**Job 12:13**) With him there are wisdom and mightiness; He has counsel and understanding.

(**Ro 11:33**) O the depth of God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How unsearchable his judgments [are] and past tracing out his ways [are]!

(**1Co 2:7**) But we speak God's wisdom in a sacred secret, the hidden wisdom, which God foreordained before the systems of things for our glory.

Is just, exercises justice

(**De 32:4**) The Rock, perfect is his activity, For all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice; Righteous and upright is he.

(**Ps 37:28**) For Jehovah is a lover of justice, And he will not leave his loyal ones. To time indefinite they will certainly be guarded; But as for the offspring of the wicked ones, they will indeed be cut off.

Is almighty, has all power

(**Job 37:23**) As for the Almighty, we have not found him out; He is exalted in power, And justice and abundance of righteousness he will not belittle.

(**Re 7:12**) saying: “Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

(**Re 4:11**) “You are worthy, Jehovah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created.”

D. Not all are serving the same God

Way that appears good not always right

(Pr 16:25) There exists a way that is upright before a man, but the ways of death are the end of it afterward.

(Mt 7:21) “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will.

Two roads, only one leads to life

(Mt 7:13, 14) “Go in through the narrow gate; because broad and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are the ones going in through it; ¹⁴ whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are the ones finding it.

(De 30:19) I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against YOU today, that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the malediction; and you must choose life in order that you may keep alive, you and your offspring,

Many gods but only one true God

(1Co 8:5, 6) For even though there are those who are called “gods,” whether in heaven or on earth, just as there are many “gods” and many “lords,” ⁶ there is actually to us one God the Father, out of whom all things are, and we for him; and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are, and we through him.

(Ps 82:1) God is stationing himself in the assembly of the Divine One; In the middle of the gods he judges:

Knowing true God essential for life

(Joh 17:3) This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.

(1Jo 5:20) But we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us intellectual capacity that we may gain the knowledge of the true one. And we are in union with the true one, by means of his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and life everlasting.

21. Jehovah’s Witnesses

A. Origin of Jehovah’s Witnesses

Jehovah identifies his own witnesses

(Isa 43:10-12) “YOU are my witnesses,” is the utterance of Jehovah, “even my servant whom I have chosen, in order that YOU may know and have faith in me, and that YOU may understand that I am the same One. Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none. ¹¹ I—I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior.” ¹² “I myself have told forth and have saved and have caused [it] to be heard, when there was among YOU no strange [god]. So YOU are my witnesses,” is the utterance of Jehovah, “and I am God.

(Jer 15:16) Your words were found, and I proceeded to eat them; and your word becomes to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart; for your name has been called upon me, O Jehovah God of armies.

Line of faithful witnesses began with Abel

(Heb 11:4) By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than Cain, through which [faith] he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness respecting his gifts; and through it he, although he died, yet speaks.

(Heb 11:39) And yet all these, although they had witness borne to them through their faith, did not get the [fulfillment of the] promise,

(Heb 12:1) So, then, because we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also put off every weight and the sin that easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Jesus was faithful and true witness

(Joh 18:37) Therefore Pilate said to him: “Well, then, are you a king?” Jesus answered: “You yourself are saying that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is on the side of the truth listens to my voice.”

(Re 1:5) and from Jesus Christ, “the Faithful Witness,” “The firstborn from the dead,” and “The Ruler of the kings of the earth.” To him that loves us and that loosed us from our sins by means of his own blood

(Re 3:14) “And to the angel of the congregation in La·o·di·ce’a write: These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God,

22. Jesus

A. Jesus is God’s Son and appointed King

Firstborn of God, used in creating all other things

(Re 3:14) “And to the angel of the congregation in La·o·di·ce’a write: These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God,

(Col 1:15-17) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ because by means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [other] things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist,

Made a man born of woman, lower than angels

(Ga 4:4) But when the full limit of the time arrived, God sent forth his Son, who came to be out of a woman and who came to be under law,

(Heb 2:9) but we behold Jesus, who has been made a little lower than angels, crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death, that he by God’s undeserved kindness might taste death for every [man].

Born of God’s spirit, with destiny in heaven

(Mt 3:16, 17) After being baptized Jesus immediately came up from the water; and, look! the heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove God’s spirit coming upon him. ¹⁷ Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said: “This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.”

Exalted higher than during prehuman existence

(Php 2:9, 10) For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [other] name, ¹⁰ so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground,

B. Belief in Jesus Christ essential to salvation

Christ is promised Seed of Abraham

(Ge 22:18) And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice.”

(Ga 3:16) Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It says, not: “And to seeds,” as in the case of many such, but as in the case of one: “And to your seed,” who is Christ.

Jesus only High Priest, ransom

(1Jo 2:1, 2) My little children, I am writing YOU these things that YOU may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one. ² And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, yet not for ours only but also for the whole world’s.

(Heb 7:25, 26) Consequently he is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them. ²⁶ For such a high priest as this was suitable for us, loyal, guileless, undefiled, separated from the sinners, and become higher than the heavens.

(Mt 20:28) Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.”

Life through knowing God and Christ, obedience

(Joh 17:3) This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.

(Ac 4:12) Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved.”

C. More than belief in Jesus is required

Belief must be accompanied by works

(Jas 2:17-26) Thus, too, faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself. ¹⁸ Nevertheless, a certain one will say: “You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith apart from the works, and I shall show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder. ²⁰ But do you care to know, O empty man, that faith apart from works is inactive? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father declared righteous by works after he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² You behold that [his] faith worked along with his works and by [his] works [his] faith was perfected, ²³ and the scripture was fulfilled which says: “Abraham put faith in Jehovah, and it was counted to him as righteousness,” and he came to be called “Jehovah’s friend.” ²⁴ YOU see that a man is to be declared righteous by works, and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same manner was not also Ra’hab the harlot declared righteous by works, after she had received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

(Jas 1:22-25) However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. ²⁵ But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in [it], this [man], because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing [it].

Must obey commands, do work he did

(Joh 14:12) Most truly I say to YOU, He that exercises faith in me, that one also will do the works that I do; and he will do works greater than these, because I am going my way to the Father.

(Joh 14:15) “If YOU love me, YOU will observe my commandments;

(1Jo 2:3) And by this we have the knowledge that we have come to know him, namely, if we continue observing his commandments.

Not all using name of Lord will enter Kingdom

(Mt 7:21, 23) “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. ²² Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’ ²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew YOU! Get away from me, YOU workers of lawlessness.

23. Kingdom

A. What God’s Kingdom will do for mankind

To bring God’s will to pass

(Mt 6:9, 10) “YOU must pray, then, this way: “Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. ¹⁰ Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.

(Ps 45:6) God is your throne to time indefinite, even forever; The scepter of your kingship is a scepter of uprightness.

(Re 4:11) “You are worthy, Jehovah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created.”

A government with king and laws

(Isa 9:6, 7) For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite. The very zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this.

(Isa 2:3) And many peoples will certainly go and say: “Come, YOU people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” For out of Zion law will go forth, and the word of Jehovah out of Jerusalem.

(Ps 72:1) O God, give your own judicial decisions to the king, And your righteousness to the son of the king.

(Ps 72:8) And he will have subjects from sea to sea And from the River to the ends of the earth.

Destroy wickedness, rule entire earth

(Da 2:44) “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite;

(Ps 72:8) And he will have subjects from sea to sea And from the River to the ends of the earth.

1,000-year rule to restore mankind, Paradise

(Re 21:2-4) I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

(Re 20:6) Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years.

B. Operation begins while Christ's enemies still active

After Christ raised he had long wait

(Ps 110:1) The utterance of Jehovah to my Lord is: “Sit at my right hand Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet.”

(Heb 10:12, 13) But this [man] offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet.

Takes power, wars against Satan

(Ps 110:2) The rod of your strength Jehovah will send out of Zion, [saying:] “Go subduing in the midst of your enemies.”

(Re 12:7-9) And war broke out in heaven: Mi'cha-el and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled ⁸ but it did not prevail, neither was a place found for them any longer in heaven. ⁹ So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

(Lu 10:18) At that he said to them: “I began to behold Satan already fallen like lightning from heaven.

Kingdom established then, earth's woes follow

(Re 12:10) And I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God!

(Re 12:12) On this account be glad, YOU heavens and YOU who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to YOU, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time.”

Trouble now means time to stand for Kingdom

(Re 11:15-18) And the seventh angel blew his trumpet. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying: “The kingdom of the world did become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever.” ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who were seated before God upon their thrones fell upon their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: “We thank you, Jehovah God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king. ¹⁸ But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time for the dead to be judged, and to give [their] reward to your slaves the prophets and to the holy ones and to those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth.”

C. Not ‘in hearts,’ not developed through men’s efforts

Kingdom is in heaven, not earth

(2Ti 4:18) The Lord will deliver me from every wicked work and will save [me] for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(1Co 15:50) However, this I say, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit God’s kingdom, neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

(Ps 11:4) Jehovah is in his holy temple. Jehovah—in the heavens is his throne. His own eyes behold, his own beaming eyes examine the sons of men.

Not ‘in hearts’; Jesus addressing Pharisees

(Lu 17:20, 21) But on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them and said: “The kingdom of God is not coming with striking observableness,²¹ neither will people be saying, ‘See here!’ or, ‘There!’ For, look! the kingdom of God is in YOUR midst.”

Not any part of this world

(Joh 18:36) Jesus answered: “My kingdom is no part of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, my attendants would have fought that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is, my kingdom is not from this source.”

(Lu 4:5-8) So he brought him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in an instant of time;⁶ and the Devil said to him: “I will give you all this authority and the glory of them, because it has been delivered to me, and to whomever I wish I give it.⁷ You, therefore, if you do an act of worship before me, it will all be yours.”⁸ In reply Jesus said to him: “It is written, ‘It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service.’”

(Da 2:44) “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite;

Governments, world standards, replaced

(Da 2:44) “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite;

24. Last Days

A. What is meant by “the end of the world”

Windup of the system of things

(Mt 24:3) While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: “Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?”

(2Pe 3:5-7) For, according to their wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an earth standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God;⁶ and by those [means] the world of that time suffered destruction when it was deluged with water.⁷ But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men.

(Mr 13:4) “Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are destined to come to a conclusion?”

Not end of earth, but of wicked system

(1Jo 2:17) Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever.

Time of end precedes destruction

(Mt 24:14) And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Escape for righteous; new world follows

(2Pe 2:9) Jehovah knows how to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial, but to reserve unrighteous people for the day of judgment to be cut off,

(Re 7:14-17) So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one that knows.” And he said to me: “These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ That is why they are before the throne of God; and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down upon them nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.”

B. Need to be awake to signs of last days

Signs provided by God for our guidance

(2Ti 3:1-5) But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, ³ having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, ⁴ betrayers, headstrong, puffed up [with pride], lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

(1Th 5:1-4) Now as for the times and the seasons, brothers, YOU need nothing to be written to YOU. ² For YOU yourselves know quite well that Jehovah’s day is coming exactly as a thief in the night. ³ Whenever it is that they are saying: “Peace and security!” then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of distress upon a pregnant woman; and they will by no means escape. ⁴ But YOU, brothers, YOU are not in darkness, so that that day should overtake YOU as it would thieves,

World fails to realize seriousness

(2Pe 3:3, 4) For YOU know this first, that in the last days there will come ridiculers with their ridicule, proceeding according to their own desires ⁴ and saying: “Where is this promised presence of his? Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep [in death], all things are continuing exactly as from creation’s beginning.”

(2Pe 3:7) But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men.

(Mt 24:39) and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

God not slow, but gives warning

(2Pe 3:9) Jehovah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with YOU because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.

Reward for being awake, concerned

(Lu 21:34-36) “But pay attention to yourselves that YOUR hearts never become weighed down with overeating and heavy drinking and anxieties of life, and suddenly that day be instantly upon YOU ³⁵ as a snare. For it will come in upon all those dwelling upon the face of all the earth. ³⁶ Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that YOU may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man.”

25. Life

A. Everlasting life is assured for obedient mankind

God, who cannot lie, has promised life

(Tit 1:2) upon the basis of a hope of the everlasting life which God, who cannot lie, promised before times long lasting,

(Joh 10:27, 28) My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ And I give them everlasting life, and they will by no means ever be destroyed, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Eternal life assured those exercising faith

(Joh 11:25, 26) Jesus said to her: “I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; ²⁶ and everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?”

Death will be destroyed

(1Co 15:26) As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing.

(Re 21:4) And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

(Re 20:14) And death and Ha’des were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire.

(Isa 25:8) He will actually swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces. And the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Jehovah himself has spoken [it].

B. Heavenly life is limited to those in Christ’s body

God selects members as it pleases him

(Mt 20:23) He said to them: “YOU will indeed drink my cup, but this sitting down at my right hand and at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

(1Co 12:18) But now God has set the members in the body, each one of them, just as he pleased.

Only 144,000 taken from earth

(Re 14:1) And I saw, and, look! the Lamb standing upon the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.

(Re 14:4) These are the ones that did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are virgins. These are the ones that keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes. These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb,

(Re 7:2-4) And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrising, having a seal of [the] living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying: “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

(Re 5:9, 10) And they sing a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought persons for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth.”

Not even John the Baptizer to be in heavenly Kingdom

(Mt 11:11) Truly I say to YOU people, Among those born of women there has not been raised up a greater than John the Baptist; but a person that is a lesser one in the kingdom of the heavens is greater than he is.

C. Earthly life promised to unlimited number, “other sheep”

Limited number with Jesus in heavens

(Re 14:1) And I saw, and, look! the Lamb standing upon the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.

(Re 14:4) These are the ones that did not defile themselves with women; in fact, they are virgins. These are the ones that keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes. These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb,

(Re 7:2-4) And I saw another angel ascending from the sunrising, having a seal of [the] living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying: “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads.” ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

“Other sheep” not Christ’s brothers

(Joh 10:16) “And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd.

(Mt 25:32) And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

(Mt 25:40) And in reply the king will say to them, ‘Truly I say to YOU, To the extent that YOU did it to one of the least of these my brothers, YOU did it to me.’

Many now gathering for earthly survival

(Re 7:9) After these things I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes; and there were palm branches in their hands.

(Re 7:15-17) That is why they are before the throne of God; and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple; and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down upon them nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.”

Others raised for life on earth

(Re 20:12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. But another scroll was opened; it is the scroll of life. And the dead were judged out of those things written in the scrolls according to their deeds.

(Re 21:4) And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

26. Marriage

A. Marriage union must be honorable

Likened to Christ and bride

(Eph 5:22, 23) Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of [this] body.

Marriage bed must be undefiled

(Heb 13:4) Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

Couples counseled not to separate

(1Co 7:10-16) To the married people I give instructions, yet not I but the Lord, that a wife should not depart from her husband; ¹¹ but if she should actually depart, let her remain unmarried or else make up again with her husband; and a husband should not leave his wife. ¹² But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord: If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her; ¹³ and a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and yet he is agreeable to dwelling with her, let her not leave her husband. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in relation to [his] wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother; otherwise, YOUR children would really be unclean, but now they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving one proceeds to depart, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called YOU to peace. ¹⁶ For, wife, how do you know but that you will save [your] husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save [your] wife?

Por-neia only Scriptural ground for divorce

(Mt 19:9) I say to YOU that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery.”

B. Headship principle must be respected by Christians

Husband as head must love, care for family

(Eph 5:23-31) because a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of [this] body. ²⁴ In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, so let wives also be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, continue loving YOUR wives, just as the Christ also loved the

congregation and delivered up himself for it, ²⁶ that he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word, ²⁷ that he might present the congregation to himself in its splendor, not having a spot or a wrinkle or any of such things, but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself, ²⁹ for no man ever hated his own flesh; but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave [his] father and [his] mother and he will stick to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Wife, in subjection, loves, obeys husband

(1Pe 3:1-7) In like manner, YOU wives, be in subjection to YOUR own husbands, in order that, if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of [their] wives, ² because of having been eyewitnesses of YOUR chaste conduct together with deep respect. ³ And do not let YOUR adornment be that of the external braiding of the hair and of the putting on of gold ornaments or the wearing of outer garments, ⁴ but let it be the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible [apparel] of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God. ⁵ For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him “lord.” And YOU have become her children, provided YOU keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror. ⁷ YOU husbands, continue dwelling in like manner with them according to knowledge, assigning them honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one, since YOU are also heirs with them of the undeserved favor of life, in order for YOUR prayers not to be hindered.

(Eph 5:22) Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord,

Children must be obedient

(Eph 6:1-3) Children, be obedient to YOUR parents in union with [the] Lord, for this is righteous: ² “Honor your father and [your] mother”; which is the first command with a promise: ³ “That it may go well with you and you may endure a long time on the earth.”

(Col 3:20) YOU children, be obedient to [your] parents in everything, for this is well-pleasing in [the] Lord.

C. Christian parents’ responsibility to children

Must show love, giving time, attention

(Tit 2:4) that they may recall the young women to their senses to love their husbands, to love their children,

Do not irritate them

(Col 3:21) YOU fathers, do not be exasperating your children, so that they do not become downhearted.

Provide, including spiritual things

(2Co 12:14) Look! This is the third time I am ready to come to YOU, and yet I will not become a burden. For I am seeking, not YOUR possessions, but YOU; for the children ought not to lay up for [their] parents, but the parents for [their] children.

(1Ti 5:8) Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith.

Give them training for life

(Eph 6:4) And YOU, fathers, do not be irritating YOUR children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah.

(Pr 22:6) Train up a boy according to the way for him; even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it.

(Pr 22:15) Foolishness is tied up with the heart of a boy; the rod of discipline is what will remove it far from him.

(Pr 23:13, 14) Do not hold back discipline from the mere boy. In case you beat him with the rod, he will not die. ¹⁴ With the rod you yourself should beat him, that you may deliver his very soul from She'ol itself.

D. Christians should marry only Christians

Marry only “in the Lord”

(1Co 7:39) A wife is bound during all the time her husband is alive. But if her husband should fall asleep [in death], she is free to be married to whom she wants, only in [the] Lord.

(De 7:3, 4) And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. ⁴ For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods; and Jehovah’s anger will indeed blaze against YOU, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry.

(Ne 13:26) Was it not because of these that Sol’o-mon the king of Israel sinned? And among the many nations there proved to be no king like him; and loved of his God he happened to be, so that God constituted him king over all Israel. Even him the foreign wives caused to sin.

E. Polygamy not Scriptural

Originally man was to have only one wife

(Ge 2:18) And Jehovah God went on to say: “It is not good for the man to continue by himself. I am going to make a helper for him, as a complement of him.”

(Ge 2:22-25) And Jehovah God proceeded to build the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman and to bring her to the man. ²³ Then the man said: “This is at last bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, Because from man this one was taken.” ²⁴ That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he must stick to his wife and they must become one flesh. ²⁵ And both of them continued to be naked, the man and his wife, and yet they did not become ashamed.

Jesus restored standard for Christians

(Mt 19:3-9) And Pharisees came up to him, intent on tempting him and saying: “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on every sort of ground?” ⁴ In reply he said: “Did YOU not read that he who created them from [the] beginning made them male and female ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’? ⁶ So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart.” ⁷ They said to him: “Why, then, did Moses prescribe giving a certificate of dismissal and divorcing her?” ⁸ He said to them: “Moses, out of regard for YOUR hardheartedness, made the concession to YOU of divorcing YOUR wives, but such has not been the case from [the] beginning. ⁹ I say to YOU that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits adultery.”

Early Christians not polygamous

(1Co 7:2) yet, because of prevalence of fornication, let each man have his own wife and each woman have her own husband.

(1Co 7:12-16) But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord: If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her; ¹³ and a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and yet he is agreeable to dwelling with her, let her not leave her husband. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in relation to [his] wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother; otherwise, YOUR children would really be unclean, but now they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving one proceeds to depart, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called YOU to peace. ¹⁶ For, wife, how do you know but that you will save [your] husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save [your] wife?

(Eph 5:28-31) In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself, ²⁹ for no man ever hated his own flesh; but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave [his] father and [his] mother and he will stick to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

27. Mary Worship

A. Mary mother of Jesus, not “mother of God”

God is without beginning

(Ps 90:2) Before the mountains themselves were born, Or you proceeded to bring forth as with labor pains the earth and the productive land, Even from time indefinite to time indefinite you are God.

(1Ti 1:17) Now to the King of eternity, incorruptible, invisible, [the] only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Mary was mother of God’s Son, in his earthly state

(Lu 1:35) In answer the angel said to her: “Holy spirit will come upon you, and power of the Most High will overshadow you. For that reason also what is born will be called holy, God’s Son.

B. Mary not “ever virgin” (Not always a virgin)

She married Joseph

(Mt 1:19, 20) However, Joseph her husband, because he was righteous and did not want to make her a public spectacle, intended to divorce her secretly. ²⁰ But after he had thought these things over, look! Jehovah’s angel appeared to him in a dream, saying: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for that which has been begotten in her is by holy spirit.

(Mt 1:24, 25) Then Joseph woke up from his sleep and did as the angel of Jehovah had directed him, and he took his wife home. ²⁵ But he had no intercourse with her until she gave birth to a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Had other children besides Jesus

(Mt 13:55, 56) Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And his sisters, are they not all with us? Where, then, did this man get all these things?”

(Lu 8:19-21) Now his mother and brothers came toward him, but they were unable to get to him because of the crowd. ²⁰ However, it was reported to him: “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside wanting to see you.” ²¹ In reply he said to them: “My mother and my brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

These not then his “spiritual brothers”

(Joh 7:3) Therefore his brothers said to him: “Pass on over from here and go into Ju·de’a, in order that your disciples also may behold the works you do.

(Joh 7:5) His brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him.

28. Memorial, Mass

A. Commemoration of Lord’s Evening Meal

Observed once a year on Passover date

(Lu 22:1) Now the festival of the unfermented cakes, the so-called Passover, was getting near.

(Lu 22:17-20) And, accepting a cup, he gave thanks and said: “Take this and pass it from one to the other among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell YOU, From now on I will not drink again from the product of the vine until the kingdom of God arrives.” ¹⁹ Also, he took a loaf, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: “This means my body which is to be given in YOUR behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ Also, the cup in the same way after they had the evening meal, he saying: “This cup means the new covenant by virtue of my blood, which is to be poured out in YOUR behalf.

(Ex 12:14) ““And this day must serve as a memorial for YOU, and YOU must celebrate it as a festival to Jehovah throughout YOUR generations. As a statute to time indefinite YOU should celebrate it.

Commemorates Christ’s sacrificial death

(1Co 11:26) For as often as YOU eat this loaf and drink this cup, YOU keep proclaiming the death of the Lord, until he arrives.

(Mt 26:28) for this means my ‘blood of the covenant,’ which is to be poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins.

Those with heavenly hope partake

(Lu 22:29, 30) and I make a covenant with YOU, just as my Father has made a covenant with me, for a kingdom, ³⁰ that YOU may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

(Lu 12:32) “Have no fear, little flock, because YOUR Father has approved of giving YOU the kingdom.

(Lu 12:37) Happy are those slaves whom the master on arriving finds watching! Truly I say to YOU, He will gird himself and make them recline at the table and will come alongside and minister to them.

How a person knows he has such hope

(Ro 8:15-17) For YOU did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but YOU received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out: “*Abba, Father!*” ¹⁶ The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ If, then, we are children, we are also heirs: heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ, provided we suffer together that we may also be glorified together.

B. Mass unscriptural

Forgiveness of sins requires shedding of blood

(Heb 9:22) Yes, nearly all things are cleansed with blood according to the Law, and unless blood is poured out no forgiveness takes place.

Christ is sole Mediator of new covenant

(1Ti 2:5, 6) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all—[this is] what is to be witnessed to at its own particular times.

(Joh 14:6) Jesus said to him: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Christ in heaven; not brought down by priest

(Ac 3:20, 21) and that he may send forth the Christ appointed for YOU, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven, indeed, must hold within itself until the times of restoration of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old time.

No need to repeat Christ’s sacrifice

(Heb 9:24-26) For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. ²⁵ Neither is it in order that he should offer himself often, as indeed the high priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise, he would have to suffer often from the founding of the world. But now he has manifested himself once for all time at the conclusion of the systems of things to put sin away through the sacrifice of himself.

(Heb 10:11-14) Also, every priest takes his station from day to day to render public service and to offer the same sacrifices often, as these are at no time able to take sins away completely. ¹² But this [man] offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet. ¹⁴ For it is by one [sacrificial] offering that he has made those who are being sanctified perfect perpetually.

29. Minister

A. All Christians must be ministers

Jesus was God’s minister

(Ro 15:8-9) For I say that Christ actually became a minister of those who are circumcised in behalf of God’s truthfulness, so as to verify the promises He made to their forefathers, ⁹ and that the nations might glorify God for his mercy. Just as it is written: “That is why I will openly acknowledge you among the nations and to your name I will make melody.”

(Mt 20:28) Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.”

Christians follow his example

(1Pe 2:21) In fact, to this [course] YOU were called, because even Christ suffered for YOU, leaving YOU a model for YOU to follow his steps closely.

(1Co 11:1) Become imitators of me, even as I am of Christ.

Must preach to accomplish the ministry

(2Ti 4:2) preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season, reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all long-suffering and [art of] teaching.

(2Ti 4:5) You, though, keep your senses in all things, suffer evil, do [the] work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.

(1Co 9:16) If, now, I am declaring the good news, it is no reason for me to boast, for necessity is laid upon me. Really, woe is me if I did not declare the good news!

B. Qualifications for the ministry

God's spirit and knowledge of his Word

(2Ti 2:15) Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright.

(Isa 61:1-3) The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah is upon me, for the reason that Jehovah has anointed me to tell good news to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening [of the eyes] even to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Jehovah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God; to comfort all the mourning ones; ³ to assign to those mourning over Zion, to give them a headdress instead of ashes, the oil of exultation instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of the downhearted spirit; and they must be called big trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah, for [him] to be beautified.

Follow Christ's pattern in preaching

(1Pe 2:21) In fact, to this [course] YOU were called, because even Christ suffered for YOU, leaving YOU a model for YOU to follow his steps closely.

(2Ti 4:2) preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season, reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all long-suffering and [art of] teaching.

(2Ti 4:5) You, though, keep your senses in all things, suffer evil, do [the] work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.

God trains by spirit, organization

(Joh 14:26) But the helper, the holy spirit, which the Father will send in my name, that one will teach YOU all things and bring back to YOUR minds all the things I told YOU.

(2Co 3:1-3) Are we starting again to recommend ourselves? Or do we, perhaps, like some men, need letters of recommendation to YOU or from YOU? ² YOU yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts and known and being read by all mankind. ³ For YOU are shown to be a letter of Christ written by us as ministers, inscribed not with ink but with spirit of a living God, not on stone tablets, but on fleshly tablets, on hearts.

30. Opposition, Persecution

A. Reason for opposition toward Christians

Jesus was hated, foretold opposition

(Joh 15:18-20) If the world hates YOU, YOU know that it has hated me before it hated YOU. ¹⁹ If YOU were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because YOU are no part of the world, but I have chosen YOU out of the world, on this account the world hates YOU. ²⁰ Bear in mind the word I said to YOU, A slave is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute YOU also; if they have observed my word, they will observe YOURS also.

(Mt 10:22) And YOU will be objects of hatred by all people on account of my name; but he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved.

Adhering to right principles indicts world

(1Pe 4:1) Therefore since Christ suffered in the flesh, YOU too arm yourselves with the same mental disposition; because the person that has suffered in the flesh has desisted from sins,

(1Pe 4:4) Because YOU do not continue running with them in this course to the same low sink of debauchery, they are puzzled and go on speaking abusively of YOU.

(1Pe 4:12, 13) Beloved ones, do not be puzzled at the burning among YOU, which is happening to YOU for a trial, as though a strange thing were befalling YOU. ¹³ On the contrary, go on rejoicing forasmuch as YOU are sharers in the sufferings of the Christ, that YOU may rejoice and be overjoyed also during the revelation of his glory.

Satan, god of this system, opposes Kingdom

(2Co 4:4) among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through.

(1Pe 5:8) Keep YOUR senses, be watchful. YOUR adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour [someone].

Christian does not fear, God sustains

(Ro 8:38, 39) For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers ³⁹ nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Jas 4:8) Draw close to God, and he will draw close to YOU. Cleanse YOUR hands, YOU sinners, and purify YOUR hearts, YOU indecisive ones.

B. Wife should not allow husband to separate her from God

Forewarned; others may misinform him

(Mt 10:34-38) Do not think I came to put peace upon the earth; I came to put, not peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I came to cause division, with a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a young wife against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ Indeed, a man's enemies will be persons of his own household. ³⁷ He that has greater affection for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me; and he that has greater affection for son or daughter than for me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not accept his torture stake and follow after me is not worthy of me.

(Ac 28:22) But we think it proper to hear from you what your thoughts are, for truly as regards this sect it is known to us that everywhere it is spoken against.”

She must look to God and Christ

(Joh 6:68) Simon Peter answered him: “Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life;

(Joh 17:3) This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.

By faithfulness may save him also

(1Co 7:16) For, wife, how do you know but that you will save [your] husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save [your] wife?

(1Pe 3:1-6) In like manner, YOU wives, be in subjection to YOUR own husbands, in order that, if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of [their] wives, ² because of having been eyewitnesses of YOUR chaste conduct together with deep respect. ³ And do not let YOUR adornment be that of the external braiding of the hair and of the putting on of gold ornaments or the wearing of outer garments, ⁴ but let it be the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible [apparel] of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God. ⁵ For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him “lord.” And YOU have become her children, provided YOU keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror.

Husband is head, but not to dictate worship

(1Co 11:3) But I want YOU to know that the head of every man is the Christ; in turn the head of a woman is the man; in turn the head of the Christ is God.

(Ac 5:29) In answer Peter and the [other] apostles said: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.

C. Husband should not allow wife to prevent his serving God

Must love wife and family, want life for them

(1Co 7:16) For, wife, how do you know but that you will save [your] husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save [your] wife?

Responsible to decide, provide

(1Co 11:3) But I want YOU to know that the head of every man is the Christ; in turn the head of a woman is the man; in turn the head of the Christ is God.

(1Ti 5:8) Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith.

God loves man who stands for truth

(Jas 1:12) Happy is the man that keeps on enduring trial, because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life, which Jehovah promised to those who continue loving him.

(Jas 5:10, 11) Brothers, take as a pattern of the suffering of evil and the exercising of patience the prophets, who spoke in the name of Jehovah. ¹¹ Look! We pronounce happy those who have endured. YOU have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome Jehovah gave, that Jehovah is very tender in affection and merciful.

Compromise for sake of peace brings God's disfavor

(Heb 10:38) "But my righteous one will live by reason of faith," and, "if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

Lead family to happiness in new world

(Re 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

31. Prayer

A. Prayers that God hears

God does listen to prayers of men

(Ps 145:18) Jehovah is near to all those calling upon him, To all those who call upon him in trueness.

(1Pe 3:12) For [the] eyes of Jehovah are upon the righteous ones, and his ears are toward their supplication; but [the] face of Jehovah is against those doing bad things."

Unrighteous not heard unless course changed

(Isa 1:15-17) And when YOU spread out YOUR palms, I hide my eyes from YOU. Even though YOU make many prayers, I am not listening; with bloodshed YOUR very hands have become filled. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the badness of YOUR dealings from in front of my eyes; cease to do bad. ¹⁷ Learn to do good; search for justice; set right the oppressor; render judgment for the fatherless boy; plead the cause of the widow."

Must pray in Jesus' name

(Joh 14:13, 14) Also, whatever it is that YOU ask in my name, I will do this, in order that the Father may be glorified in connection with the Son. ¹⁴ If YOU ask anything in my name, I will do it.

(2Co 1:20) For no matter how many the promises of God are, they have become Yes by means of him. Therefore also through him is the "Amen" [said] to God for glory through us.

Must pray in harmony with God's will

(1Jo 5:14, 15) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that, no matter what it is that we ask according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ Further, if we know he hears us respecting whatever we are asking, we know we are to have the things asked since we have asked them of him.

Faith essential

(Jas 1:6-8) But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. ⁷ In fact, let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from Jehovah; ⁸ he is an indecisive man, unsteady in all his ways.

B. Vain repetition, prayers to Mary or “saints” not valid

Must pray to God in Jesus’ name

(Joh 14:6) Jesus said to him: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

(Joh 14:14) If YOU ask anything in my name, I will do it.

(Joh 16:23, 24) And in that day YOU will ask me no question at all. Most truly I say to YOU, If YOU ask the Father for anything he will give it to YOU in my name. ²⁴ Until this present time YOU have not asked a single thing in my name. Ask and YOU will receive, that YOUR joy may be made full.

Repetitious words will not be heard

(Mt 6:7) But when praying, do not say the same things over and over again, just as the people of the nations do, for they imagine they will get a hearing for their use of many words.

32. Predestination

A. Man not predestinated

God’s purpose sure

(Isa 55:11) so my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it.

(Ge 1:28) Further, God blessed them and God said to them: “Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth.”

Individuals given choice of serving God

(Joh 3:16) “For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.

(Php 2:12) Consequently, my beloved ones, in the way that YOU have always obeyed, not during my presence only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out YOUR own salvation with fear and trembling;

33. Ransom

A. Jesus’ human life paid as a “ransom for all”

Jesus gave his life a ransom

(Mt 20:28) Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many.”

Value of shed blood provides remission of sin

(Heb 9:14) how much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to [the] living God?

(Heb 9:22) Yes, nearly all things are cleansed with blood according to the Law, and unless blood is poured out no forgiveness takes place.

One sacrifice was sufficient for all time

(Ro 6:10) For [the death] that he died, he died with reference to sin once for all time; but [the life] that he lives, he lives with reference to God.

(Heb 9:26) Otherwise, he would have to suffer often from the founding of the world. But now he has manifested himself once for all time at the conclusion of the systems of things to put sin away through the sacrifice of himself.

Benefits are not automatic; must be acknowledged

(Joh 3:16) “For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.

B. Was corresponding price

Adam created perfect

(De 32:4) The Rock, perfect is his activity, For all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice; Righteous and upright is he.

(Ec 7:29) See! This only I have found, that the [true] God made mankind upright, but they themselves have sought out many plans.”

(Ge 1:31) After that God saw everything he had made and, look! [it was] very good. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a sixth day.

Lost perfection for self and children by sin

(Ro 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.

(Ro 5:18) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, likewise also through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is a declaring of them righteous for life.

Children helpless; exact equal of Adam needed

(Ps 49:7) Not one of them can by any means redeem even a brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him;

(De 19:21) And your eye should not feel sorry: soul will be for soul, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Jesus' perfect human life a ransom

(1Ti 2:5, 6) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all—[this is] what is to be witnessed to at its own particular times.

(1Pe 1:18, 19) For YOU know that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that YOU were delivered from YOUR fruitless form of conduct received by tradition from YOUR forefathers. ¹⁹ But it was with precious blood, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, even Christ's.

34. Religion

A. Only one true religion

One hope, one faith, one baptism

(Eph 4:5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

(Eph 4:13) until we all attain to the oneness in the faith and in the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man, to the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ;

Commissioned to make disciples

(Mt 28:19) Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit,

(Ac 8:12) But when they believed Philip, who was declaring the good news of the kingdom of God and of the name of Jesus Christ, they proceeded to be baptized, both men and women.

(Ac 14:21) And after declaring the good news to that city and making quite a few disciples, they returned to Lys'tra and to I-co'ni-um and to Antioch,

Recognized by its fruit

(Mt 7:19, 20) Every tree not producing fine fruit gets cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Really, then, by their fruits YOU will recognize those [men].

(Lu 6:43, 44) "For there is not a fine tree producing rotten fruit; again there is not a rotten tree producing fine fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. For example, people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they cut grapes off a thornbush.

(Joh 15:8) My Father is glorified in this, that YOU keep bearing much fruit and prove yourselves my disciples.

Love, agreement among members

(Joh 13:35) By this all will know that YOU are my disciples, if YOU have love among yourselves."

(1Co 1:10) Now I exhort YOU, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that YOU should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among YOU, but that YOU may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.

(1Jo 4:20) If anyone makes the statement: "I love God," and yet is hating his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot be loving God, whom he has not seen.

B. False doctrine is properly condemned

Jesus condemned false doctrine

(Mt 23:15) "Woe to YOU, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because YOU traverse sea and dry land to make one proselyte, and when he becomes one YOU make him a subject for Ge-hen'na twice as much so as yourselves.

(Mt 23:23, 24) "Woe to YOU, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because YOU give the tenth of the mint and the dill and the cumin, but YOU have disregarded the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness. These things it was binding to do, yet not to disregard the other things. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out the gnat but gulp down the camel!

(Mt 15:4-9) For example, God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death.’ ⁵ But YOU say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother: “Whatever I have by which you might get benefit from me is a gift dedicated to God,” ⁶ he must not honor his father at all.’ And so YOU have made the word of God invalid because of YOUR tradition. ⁷ YOU hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about YOU, when he said, ⁸ ‘This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me. ⁹ It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines.’”

Did so for protection of blinded ones

(Mt 15:14) LET them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

Truth made them free to be Jesus’ disciples

(Joh 8:31, 32) And so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him: “If YOU remain in my word, YOU are really my disciples, ³² and YOU will know the truth, and the truth will set YOU free.”

C. Changing one’s religion essential if proved wrong

Truth makes free; proves many are wrong

(Joh 8:31, 32) And so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him: “If YOU remain in my word, YOU are really my disciples, ³² and YOU will know the truth, and the truth will set YOU free.”

Israelites, others, left former worship

(Jos 24:15) Now if it is bad in YOUR eyes to serve Jehovah, choose for yourselves today whom YOU will serve, whether the gods that YOUR forefathers who were on the other side of the River served or the gods of the Am’or-ites in whose land YOU are dwelling. But as for me and my household, we shall serve Jehovah.”

(2Ki 5:17) Finally Na’a-man said: “If not, please, let there be given to your servant some ground, the load of a pair of mules; because your servant will no more render up a burnt offering or a sacrifice to any other gods but to Jehovah.

Early Christians changed views

(Ga 1:13, 14) YOU, of course, heard about my conduct formerly in Ju’da-ism, that to the point of excess I kept on persecuting the congregation of God and devastating it, ¹⁴ and I was making greater progress in Ju’da-ism than many of my own age in my race, as I was far more zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

(Ac 3:17) And now, brothers, I know that YOU acted in ignorance, just as YOUR rulers also did.

(Ac 3:19) “Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get YOUR sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Jehovah

Paul changed his religion

(Ac 26:4-6) “Indeed, as to the manner of life from youth up that I led from [the] beginning among my nation and in Jerusalem, all the Jews ⁵ that have been previously acquainted with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of our form of worship I lived a Pharisee. ⁶ And yet now for the hope of the promise that was made by God to our forefathers I stand called to judgment;

Whole world deceived; must make mind over

(Re 12:9) So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

(Ro 12:2) And quit being fashioned after this system of things, but be transformed by making YOUR mind over, that YOU may prove to yourselves the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

D. Apparent “good in all religions” does not assure God’s favor

God sets the standard for worship

(Joh 4:23, 24) Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth.”

(Jas 1:27) The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world.

Not good if not as God wills

(Ro 10:2, 3) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God; but not according to accurate knowledge; ³ for, because of not knowing the righteousness of God but seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

“Good works” can be rejected

(Mt 7:21-23) “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. ²² Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’ ²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew YOU! Get away from me, YOU workers of lawlessness.

Recognized by fruitage

(Mt 7:20) Really, then, by their fruits YOU will recognize those [men].

35. Resurrection

A. Hope for the dead

All in tombs to be raised

(Joh 5:28, 29) Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment.

Resurrection of Jesus is a guarantee

(1Co 15:20-22) However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death]. ²¹ For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive.

(Ac 17:31) Because he has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead.”

Sinners against spirit will not rise

(Mt 12:31, 32) “On this account I say to YOU, Every sort of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven. ³² For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come.

Those showing faith assured of it

(Joh 11:25) Jesus said to her: “I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life;

B. Resurrection to life either in heaven or on earth

All die in Adam; receive life in Jesus

(1Co 15:20-22) However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death]. ²¹ For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive.

(Ro 5:19) For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were constituted sinners, likewise also through the obedience of the one [person] many will be constituted righteous.

Difference in nature of those raised

(1Co 15:40) And there are heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly bodies is one sort, and that of the earthly bodies is a different sort.

(1Co 15:42) So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in incorruption.

(1Co 15:44) It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one.

Those with Jesus will be like him

(1Co 15:49) And just as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, we shall bear also the image of the heavenly one.

(Php 3:20, 21) As for us, our citizenship exists in the heavens, from which place also we are eagerly waiting for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will refashion our humiliated body to be conformed to his glorious body according to the operation of the power that he has, even to subject all things to himself.

Those not ruling will be on earth

(Re 20:4b, 5) And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

(Re 20:13) And the sea gave up those dead in it, and death and Ha'des gave up those dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds.

(Re 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

36. Return of Christ

A. Return invisible to humans

Told disciples world would see him no more

(Joh 14:19) A little longer and the world will behold me no more, but YOU will behold me, because I live and YOU will live.

Only disciples saw ascension; return similar

(Ac 1:6) When, now, they had assembled, they went asking him: “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

(Ac 1:10, 11) And as they were gazing into the sky while he was on his way, also, look! two men in white garments stood alongside them, ¹¹ and they said: “Men of Gal'i-lee, why do YOU stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who was received up from YOU into the sky will come thus in the same manner as YOU have beheld him going into the sky.”

In heaven, an invisible spirit

(1Ti 6:14-16) that you observe the commandment in a spotless and irreprehensible way until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ This [manifestation] the happy and only Potentate will show in its own appointed times, [he] the King of those who rule as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords, ¹⁶ the one alone having immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom not one of men has seen or can see. To him be honor and might everlasting. Amen.

(Heb 1:3) He is the reflection of [his] glory and the exact representation of his very being, and he sustains all things by the word of his power; and after he had made a purification for our sins he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty in lofty places.

Returns in heavenly Kingdom power

(Da 7:13, 14) “I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! with the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man happened to be coming; and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. ¹⁴ And to him there were given rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin.

B. Recognized by physical facts

Disciples asked for sign of presence

(Mt 24:3) While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: “Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?”

Christians “see” presence through understanding

(Eph 1:18) the eyes of YOUR heart having been enlightened, that YOU may know what is the hope to which he called YOU, what the glorious riches are which he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones,

Many events make up evidence of presence

(Lu 21:10, 11) Then he went on to say to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ and there will be great earthquakes, and in one place after another pestilences and food shortages; and there will be fearful sights and from heaven great signs.

Enemies “see” as destruction overtakes

(Re 1:7) Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen.

37. Sabbath

A. Sabbath day not binding on Christians

Law abolished on basis of Jesus’ death

(Eph 2:15) By means of his flesh he abolished the enmity, the Law of commandments consisting in decrees, that he might create the two peoples in union with himself into one new man and make peace;

Sabbath not binding on Christians

(Col 2:16, 17) Therefore let no man judge YOU in eating and drinking or in respect of a festival or of an observance of the new moon or of a sabbath; ¹⁷ for those things are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Christ.

(Ro 14:5) One [man] judges one day as above another; another [man] judges one day as all others; let each [man] be fully convinced in his own mind.

(Ro 14:10) But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you also look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

Reproved for observing Sabbath, etc.

(Ga 4:9-11) But now that YOU have come to know God, or rather now that YOU have come to be known by God, how is it that YOU are turning back again to the weak and beggarly elementary things and want to slave for them over again? ¹⁰ YOU are scrupulously observing days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I fear for YOU, that somehow I have toiled to no purpose respecting YOU.

(Ro 10:2-4) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God; but not according to accurate knowledge; ³ for, because of not knowing the righteousness of God but seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the Law, so that everyone exercising faith may have righteousness.

Enter God’s rest by faith and obedience

(Heb 4:9-11) So there remains a sabbath resting for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the man that has entered into [God’s] rest has also himself rested from his own works, just as God did from his own. ¹¹ Let us therefore do our utmost to enter into that rest, for fear anyone should fall in the same pattern of disobedience.

B. Sabbath observance required only of ancient Israel

Sabbath first observed after Exodus

(Ex 16:26, 27) Six days YOU will pick it up, but on the seventh day is a sabbath. On it none will form.” ²⁷ However, it came about on the seventh day that some of the people did go out to pick [it] up, but they found none.

(Ex 16:29, 30) Mark the fact that Jehovah has given YOU the sabbath. That is why he is giving YOU on the sixth day the bread of two days. Keep sitting each one in his own place. Let nobody go out from his locality on the seventh day.” ³⁰ And the people proceeded to observe the sabbath on the seventh day.

Unique to natural Israel as sign

(Ex 31:16, 17) And the sons of Israel must keep the sabbath, so as to carry out the sabbath during their generations. It is a covenant to time indefinite. ¹⁷ Between me and the sons of Israel it is a sign to time indefinite, because in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth and on the seventh day he rested and proceeded to refresh himself.”

(Ps 147:19, 20) He is telling his word to Jacob, His regulations and his judicial decisions to Israel. ²⁰ He has not done that way to any other nation; And as for [his] judicial decisions, they have not known them. Praise Jah, YOU people!

Sabbath years also required under Law

(Ex 23:10, 11) “And for six years you are to sow your land with seed and you must gather its produce. ¹¹ But the seventh year you are to leave it uncultivated and you must let it lie fallow, and the poor ones of your people must eat of it; and what is left over by them the wild beasts of the field are to eat. That is the way you are to do with your vineyard and your olive grove.

(Le 25:3, 4) Six years you should sow your field with seed, and six years you should prune your vineyard, and you must gather the land’s produce. ⁴ But in the seventh year there should occur a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath to Jehovah. Your field you must not sow with seed, and your vineyard you must not prune.

Sabbath not necessary thing for Christians

(Ro 14:5) One [man] judges one day as above another; another [man] judges one day as all others; let each [man] be fully convinced in his own mind.

(Ro 14:10) But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you also look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

(Ga 4:9-11) But now that YOU have come to know God, or rather now that YOU have come to be known by God, how is it that YOU are turning back again to the weak and beggarly elementary things and want to slave for them over again? ¹⁰ YOU are scrupulously observing days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I fear for YOU, that somehow I have toiled to no purpose respecting YOU.

C. God’s Sabbath rest (7th day of creative “week”)

Began at close of earthly creation

(Ge 2:2, 3) And by the seventh day God came to the completion of his work that he had made, and he proceeded to rest on the seventh day from all his work that he had made. ³ And God proceeded to bless the seventh day and make it sacred, because on it he has been resting from all his work that God has created for the purpose of making.

(Heb 4:3-5) For we who have exercised faith do enter into the rest, just as he has said: “So I swore in my anger, ‘They shall not enter into my rest,’” although his works were finished from the founding of the world. ⁴ For in one place he has said of the seventh day as follows: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works,” ⁵ and again in this place: “They shall not enter into my rest.”

Continued past Jesus’ day on earth

(Heb 4:6-8) Since, therefore, it remains for some to enter into it, and those to whom the good news was first declared did not enter in because of disobedience, ⁷ he again marks off a certain day by saying after so long a time in David’s [psalm] “Today”; just as it has been said above: “Today if YOU people listen to his own voice, do not harden YOUR hearts.” ⁸ For if Joshua had led them into a place of rest, [God] would not afterward have spoken of another day.

(Ps 95:7-9) For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasturage and the sheep of his hand. Today if YOU people listen to his own voice, ⁸ Do not harden YOUR heart as at Mer'i-bah, As in the day of Mas'sah in the wilderness, ⁹ When YOUR forefathers put me to the proof; They examined me, they also saw my activity.

(Ps 95:11) Concerning whom I swore in my anger: "They shall not enter into my resting-place."

Christians rest from works of self-interest

(Heb 4:9, 10) So there remains a sabbath resting for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the man that has entered into [God's] rest has also himself rested from his own works, just as God did from his own.

Ends when Kingdom completes work toward earth

(1Co 15:24) Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power.

(1Co 15:28) But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

38. Salvation

A. Salvation is from God through Jesus' ransom sacrifice

Life is God's gift through his Son

(1Jo 4:9) By this the love of God was made manifest in our case, because God sent forth his only-begotten Son into the world that we might gain life through him.

(1Jo 4:14) In addition, we ourselves have beheld and are bearing witness that the Father has sent forth his Son as Savior of the world.

(Ro 6:23) For the wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord.

Salvation is possible only through Jesus' sacrifice

(Ac 4:12) Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved."

No works possible in "deathbed repentance"

(Jas 2:14) Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if a certain one says he has faith but he does not have works? That faith cannot save him, can it?

(Jas 2:26) Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Must work energetically to attain

(Lu 13:23, 24) Now a certain man said to him: "Lord, are those who are being saved few?" He said to them: ²⁴ "Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door, because many, I tell YOU, will seek to get in but will not be able,

(1Ti 4:10) For to this end we are working hard and exerting ourselves, because we have rested our hope on a living God, who is a Savior of all sorts of men, especially of faithful ones.

B. “Once saved, always saved” is not Scriptural

Partakers of holy spirit can fall

(Heb 6:4) For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of holy spirit,

(Heb 6:6) but who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame.

(1Co 9:27) but I pummel my body and lead it as a slave, that, after I have preached to others, I myself should not become disapproved somehow.

Many Israelites destroyed though saved from Egypt

(Jude 5) I desire to remind YOU, despite YOUR knowing all things once for all time, that Jehovah, although he saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterwards destroyed those not showing faith.

Salvation is not instantaneous

(Php 2:12) Consequently, my beloved ones, in the way that YOU have always obeyed, not during my presence only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out YOUR own salvation with fear and trembling;

(Php 3:12-14) Not that I have already received it or am already made perfect, but I am pursuing to see if I may also lay hold on that for which I have also been laid hold on by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having laid hold on [it]; but there is one thing about it: Forgetting the things behind and stretching forward to the things ahead, ¹⁴ I am pursuing down toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God by means of Christ Jesus.

(Mt 10:22) And YOU will be objects of hatred by all people on account of my name; but he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved.

Those turning back are worse off than before

(2Pe 2:20-21) Certainly if, after having escaped from the defilements of the world by an accurate knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they get involved again with these very things and are overcome, the final conditions have become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have accurately known the path of righteousness than after knowing it accurately to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.

C. “Universal salvation” is unscriptural

Repentance impossible for some

(Heb 6:4-6) For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of holy spirit, ⁵ and who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the coming system of things, ⁶ but who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame.

God has no pleasure in death of wicked

(Eze 33:11) Say to them, “As I am alive,” is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, “I take delight, not in the death of the wicked one, but in that someone wicked turns back from his way and actually keeps living. Turn back, turn back from YOUR bad ways, for why is it that YOU should die, O house of Israel?””

(Eze 18:32) “‘For I do not take any delight in the death of someone dying,’ is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. ‘So cause a turning back and keep living, O YOU people.’”

But love cannot condone unrighteousness

(Heb 1:9) You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with [the] oil of exultation more than your partners.”

Wicked will be destroyed

(Heb 10:26-29) For if we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left, ²⁷ but [there is] a certain fearful expectation of judgment and [there is] a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition. ²⁸ Any man that has disregarded the law of Moses dies without compassion, upon the testimony of two or three. ²⁹ Of how much more severe a punishment, do YOU think, will the man be counted worthy who has trampled upon the Son of God and who has esteemed as of ordinary value the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has outraged the spirit of undeserved kindness with contempt?

(Re 20:7-15) Now as soon as the thousand years have been ended, Satan will be let loose out of his prison, ⁸ and he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Ma’gog, to gather them together for the war. The number of these is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they advanced over the breadth of the earth and encircled the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet [already were]; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one seated on it. From before him the earth and the heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. But another scroll was opened; it is the scroll of life. And the dead were judged out of those things written in the scrolls according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up those dead in it, and death and Ha’des gave up those dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds. ¹⁴ And death and Ha’des were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life was hurled into the lake of fire.

39. Sin

A. What sin is

A violation of God’s law, his perfect standard

(1Jo 3:4) Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, and so sin is lawlessness.

(1Jo 5:17) All unrighteousness is sin; and yet there is a sin that does not incur death.

Man, as God’s creation, accountable to him

(Ro 14:12) So, then, each of us will render an account for himself to God.

(Ro 2:12-15) For instance, all those who sinned without law will also perish without law; but all those who sinned under law will be judged by law. ¹³ For the hearers of law are not the ones righteous before God, but the doers of law will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ For whenever people of the nations that do not have law do by nature the things of the law, these people, although not having law, are a law to themselves. ¹⁵ They are the very ones who demonstrate the matter of the law to be written in their hearts, while their conscience is bearing witness with them and, between their own thoughts, they are being accused or even excused.

Law defined sin, made men aware of it

(Ga 3:19) Why, then, the Law? It was added to make transgressions manifest, until the seed should arrive to whom the promise had been made; and it was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator.

(Ro 3:20) Therefore by works of law no flesh will be declared righteous before him, for by law is the accurate knowledge of sin.

All in sin, short of God's perfect standard

(Ro 3:23) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

(Ps 51:5) Look! With error I was brought forth with birth pains, And in sin my mother conceived me.

B. Why all have suffered from Adam's sin

Adam passed imperfection, death to all

(Ro 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.

(Ro 5:18) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, likewise also through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is a declaring of them righteous for life.

God was merciful in tolerating humankind

(Ps 103:8) Jehovah is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness.

(Ps 103:10) He has not done to us even according to our sins; Nor according to our errors has he brought upon us what we deserve.

(Ps 103:14) For he himself well knows the formation of us, Remembering that we are dust.

(Ps 103:17) But the loving-kindness of Jehovah is from time indefinite even to time indefinite Toward those fearing him, And his righteousness to the sons of sons,

Jesus' sacrifice atones for sins

(1Jo 2:2) And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, yet not for ours only but also for the whole world's.

Sin and all other works of Devil to be erased

(1Jo 3:8) He who carries on sin originates with the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from [the] beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, namely, to break up the works of the Devil.

C. Forbidden fruit was disobedience, not sex act

Prohibition of tree made before Eve created

(Ge 2:17, 18) But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively die.”¹⁸ And Jehovah God went on to say: “It is not good for the man to continue by himself. I am going to make a helper for him, as a complement of him.”

Adam and Eve told to have children

(Ge 1:28) Further, God blessed them and God said to them: “Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth.”

Children not result of sin, but of God's blessing

(Ps 127:3-5) Look! Sons are an inheritance from Jehovah; The fruitage of the belly is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, So are the sons of youth. ⁵ Happy is the able-bodied man that has filled his quiver with them. They will not be ashamed, For they will speak with enemies in the gate.

Eve sinned when husband absent; ran ahead

(Ge 3:6) Consequently the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something to be longed for to the eyes, yes, the tree was desirable to look upon. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward she gave some also to her husband when with her and he began eating it.

(1Ti 2:11-14) Let a woman learn in silence with full submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and came to be in transgression.

Adam, as head, rebelled against God's law

(Ro 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.

(Ro 5:19) For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were constituted sinners, likewise also through the obedience of the one [person] many will be constituted righteous.

D. What sin against holy spirit is

(Mt 12:32) For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come.

(Mr 3:28, 29) Truly I say to YOU that all things will be forgiven the sons of men, no matter what sins and blasphemies they blasphemously commit. ²⁹ However, whoever blasphemes against the holy spirit has no forgiveness forever, but is guilty of everlasting sin."

Inherited sin not such kind

(Ro 5:8) But God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(Ro 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.

(Ro 5:18) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, likewise also through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is a declaring of them righteous for life.

(1Jo 5:17) All unrighteousness is sin; and yet there is a sin that does not incur death.

One may grieve spirit, yet recover

(Eph 4:30) Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which YOU have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.

(Jas 5:19, 20) My brothers, if anyone among YOU is misled from the truth and another turns him back, ²⁰ know that he who turns a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Willful practice of sin leads to death

(1Jo 3:6-9) Everyone remaining in union with him does not practice sin; no one that practices sin has either seen him or come to know him. ⁷ Little children, let no one mislead YOU; he who carries on righteousness is righteous, just as that one is righteous. ⁸ He who carries on sin originates with the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from [the] beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, namely, to break up the works of the Devil. ⁹ Everyone who has been born from God does not carry on sin, because His [reproductive] seed remains in such one, and he cannot practice sin, because he has been born from God.

God judges such, removes his spirit

(Heb 6:4-8) For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of holy spirit, ⁵ and who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the coming system of things, ⁶ but who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame. ⁷ For example, the ground that drinks in the rain which often comes upon it, and that then brings forth vegetation suitable to those for whom it is also cultivated, receives in return a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected and is near to being cursed; and it ends up with being burned.

We should not pray for such unrepentant ones

(1Jo 5:16, 17) If anyone catches sight of his brother sinning a sin that does not incur death, he will ask, and he will give life to him, yes, to those not sinning so as to incur death. There is a sin that does incur death. It is concerning that sin that I do not tell him to make request. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin; and yet there is a sin that does not incur death.

40. Soul

A. What the soul is

Man is a soul

(Ge 2:7) And Jehovah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul.

(1Co 15:45) It is even so written: "The first man Adam became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

(Jos 11:11) And they went striking every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword, devoting [them] to destruction. No breathing thing at all was left over, and he burned Ha'zor in the fire.

(Ac 27:37) Now, all together, we souls in the boat were two hundred and seventy-six.

Animals also called souls

(Nu 31:28) And as a tax for Jehovah you must take away from the men of war who went out on the expedition one soul out of five hundred, of humankind and of the herd and of the asses and of the flock.

(Re 16:3) And the second one poured out his bowl into the sea. And it became blood as of a dead man, and every living soul died, [yes,] the things in the sea.

(Le 24:18) And the fatal striker of the soul of a domestic animal should make compensation for it, soul for soul.

Soul has blood, eats, can die

(Jer 2:34) Also, in your skirts there have been found the blood marks of the souls of the innocent poor ones. Not in the act of breaking in have I found them, but [they are] upon all these.

(Le 7:18) However, if any of the flesh of his communion sacrifice should at all be eaten on the third day, the one presenting it will not be accepted with approval. It will not be put to his account. It will become a foul thing, and the soul that eats some of it will answer for his error.

(Eze 18:4) Look! All the souls—to me they belong. As the soul of the father so likewise the soul of the son—to me they belong. The soul that is sinning—it itself will die.

Man, having life, is said to have soul

(Mr 8:36) Really, of what benefit is it for a man to gain the whole world and to forfeit his soul?

(Joh 10:15) just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I surrender my soul in behalf of the sheep.

B. Difference between soul and spirit

Life as a person or creature is soul

(Joh 10:15) just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I surrender my soul in behalf of the sheep.

(Le 17:11) For the soul of the flesh is in the blood, and I myself have put it upon the altar for YOU to make atonement for YOUR souls, because it is the blood that makes atonement by the soul [in it].

Life-force activating souls called “spirit”

(Ps 146:4) His spirit goes out, he goes back to his ground; In that day his thoughts do perish.

(Ps 104:29) If you conceal your face, they get disturbed. If you take away their spirit, they expire, And back to their dust they go.

When one dies, control of life-force returns to God

(Ec 12:7) Then the dust returns to the earth just as it happened to be and the spirit itself returns to the [true] God who gave it.

God alone can put life-force into action

(Eze 37:12-14) Therefore prophesy, and you must say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah has said: “Here I am opening YOUR burial places, and I will bring YOU up out of YOUR burial places, O my people, and bring YOU in upon the soil of Israel. ¹³ And YOU will have to know that I am Jehovah when I open YOUR burial places and when I bring YOU up out of YOUR burial places, O my people.”’ ¹⁴ ‘And I will put my spirit in YOU, and YOU must come to life, and I will settle YOU upon YOUR soil; and YOU will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have spoken and I have done [it],’ is the utterance of Jehovah.”

41. Spirit, Spiritism

A. What the holy spirit is

God's active force, not a person

(**Ac 2:2, 3**) and suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. ³ And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them,

(**Ac 2:33**) Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God and received the promised holy spirit from the Father, he has poured out this which YOU see and hear.

(**Joh 14:17**) the spirit of the truth, which the world cannot receive, because it neither beholds it nor knows it. YOU know it, because it remains with YOU and is in YOU.

Used in creation, inspiration of Bible, etc.

(**Ge 1:2**) Now the earth proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of [the] watery deep; and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters.

(**Eze 11:5**) Then the spirit of Jehovah fell upon me, and he went on to say to me: "Say, 'This is what Jehovah has said: "YOU people said the right thing, O house of Israel; and as regards the things that come up in YOUR spirit, I myself have known it."

Begets, anoints, Christ's body members

(**Joh 3:5-8**) Jesus answered: "Most truly I say to you, Unless anyone is born from water and spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ What has been born from the flesh is flesh, and what has been born from the spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel because I told you, YOU people must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone that has been born from the spirit."

(**2Co 1:21, 22**) But he who guarantees that YOU and we belong to Christ and he who has anointed us is God. ²² He has also put his seal upon us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.

Empowers, leads God's people today

(**Ga 5:16**) But I say, Keep walking by spirit and YOU will carry out no fleshly desire at all.

(**Ga 5:18**) Furthermore, if YOU are being led by spirit, YOU are not under law.

B. Life-force called spirit

Principle of life, sustained by breathing

(**Jas 2:26**) Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

(**Job 27:3**) While my breath is yet whole within me, And the spirit of God is in my nostrils,

Power over life-force resides with God

(**Zec 12:1**) A pronouncement: "The word of Jehovah concerning Israel," is the utterance of Jehovah, the One who is stretching out [the] heavens and laying the foundation of [the] earth and forming the spirit of man inside him.

(Ec 8:8) There is no man having power over the spirit to restrain the spirit; neither is there any power of control in the day of death; nor is there any discharge in the war. And wickedness will provide no escape for those indulging in it.

Life-force of humans, beasts, belongs to God

(Ec 3:19-21) For there is an eventuality as respects the sons of mankind and an eventuality as respects the beast, and they have the same eventuality. As the one dies, so the other dies; and they all have but one spirit, so that there is no superiority of the man over the beast, for everything is vanity. ²⁰ All are going to one place. They have all come to be from the dust, and they are all returning to the dust. ²¹ Who is there knowing the spirit of the sons of mankind, whether it is ascending upward; and the spirit of the beast, whether it is descending downward to the earth?

Spirit committed to God with hope of resurrection

(Lu 23:46) And Jesus called with a loud voice and said: "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." When he had said this, he expired.

C. Spiritism must be shunned as work of demons

God's Word forbids

(Isa 8:19, 20) And in case they should say to YOU people: "Apply to the spiritistic mediums or to those having a spirit of prediction who are chirping and making utterances in low tones," is it not to its God that any people should apply? [Should there be application] to dead persons in behalf of living persons? ²⁰ To the law and to the attestation! Surely they will keep saying what is according to this statement that will have no light of dawn.

(Le 19:31) "Do not turn yourselves to the spirit mediums, and do not consult professional foretellers of events, so as to become unclean by them. I am Jehovah YOUR God.

(Le 20:6) "As for the soul who turns himself to the spirit mediums and the professional foretellers of events so as to have immoral intercourse with them, I shall certainly set my face against that soul and cut him off from among his people.

(Le 20:27) "And as for a man or woman in whom there proves to be a mediumistic spirit or spirit of prediction, they should be put to death without fail. They should pelt them to death with stones. Their own blood is upon them."

Fortune-telling is demonism; condemned

(Ac 16:16-18) And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain servant girl with a spirit, a demon of divination, met us. She used to furnish her masters with much gain by practicing the art of prediction. ¹⁷ This [girl] kept following Paul and us and crying out with the words: "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who are publishing to YOU the way of salvation." ¹⁸ This she kept doing for many days. Finally Paul got tired of it and turned and said to the spirit: "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

Leads to destruction

(Ga 5:19-21) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct, ²⁰ idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects, ²¹ envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning YOU, the same way as I did forewarn YOU, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom.

(Re 21:8) But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death.”

(Re 22:15) Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie.’

Astrology forbidden

(De 18:10-12) There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, a practicer of magic or anyone who looks for omens or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or a professional foreteller of events or anyone who inquires of the dead. ¹² For everybody doing these things is something detestable to Jehovah, and on account of these detestable things Jehovah your God is driving them away from before you.

(Jer 10:2) This is what Jehovah has said: “Do not learn the way of the nations at all, and do not be struck with terror even at the signs of the heavens, because the nations are struck with terror at them.

42. Trinity

A. God, the Father, one Person, greatest in universe

God is not three persons

(De 6:4) “Listen, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.

(Mal 2:10) “Is it not one father that all of us have? Is it not one God that has created us? Why is it that we deal treacherously with one another, in profaning the covenant of our forefathers?

(Mr 10:18) Jesus said to him: “Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God.

(Ro 3:29, 30) Or is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of people of the nations? Yes, of people of the nations also, ³⁰ if truly God is one, who will declare circumcised people righteous as a result of faith and uncircumcised people righteous by means of their faith.

Son created; God alone before

(Re 3:14) “And to the angel of the congregation in La-o-di-ce’a write: These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God,

(Col 1:15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

(Isa 44:6) “This is what Jehovah has said, the King of Israel and the Repurchaser of him, Jehovah of armies, ‘I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God.

God ruler of universe at all times

(Php 2:5, 6) Keep this mental attitude in YOU that was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although he was existing in God’s form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God.

(Da 4:35) And all the inhabitants of the earth are being considered as merely nothing, and he is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there exists no one that can check his hand or that can say to him, ‘What have you been doing?’

God to be exalted above all

(Php 2:10, 11) so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground,¹¹ and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

B. Son inferior to Father before and after coming to earth

Son obedient in heaven, sent by Father

(Joh 8:42) Jesus said to them: “If God were YOUR Father, YOU would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth.

(Joh 12:49) because I have not spoken out of my own impulse, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to tell and what to speak.

Obedient on earth, Father greater

(Joh 14:28) YOU heard that I said to YOU, I am going away and I am coming [back] to YOU. If YOU loved me, YOU would rejoice that I am going my way to the Father, because the Father is greater than I am.

(Joh 5:19) Therefore, in answer, Jesus went on to say to them: “Most truly I say to YOU, The Son cannot do a single thing of his own initiative, but only what he beholds the Father doing. For whatever things that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

(Heb 5:8) Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered;

Exalted in heaven, still subject

(Php 2:9) For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [other] name,

(1Co 15:28) But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

(Mt 20:23) He said to them: “YOU will indeed drink my cup, but this sitting down at my right hand and at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

Jehovah is Christ’s head and God

(1Co 11:3) But I want YOU to know that the head of every man is the Christ; in turn the head of a woman is the man; in turn the head of the Christ is God.

(Joh 20:17) Jesus said to her: “Stop clinging to me. For I have not yet ascended to the Father. But be on your way to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and YOUR Father and to my God and YOUR God.’”

(Re 1:6) and he made us to be a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—yes, to him be the glory and the might forever. Amen.

C. Oneness of God and Christ

Always in complete harmony

(Joh 8:28, 29) Therefore Jesus said: “When once YOU have lifted up the Son of man, then YOU will know that I am [he], and that I do nothing of my own initiative; but just as the Father taught me I speak these

things. ²⁹ And he that sent me is with me; he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him.”

(Joh 14:10) Do you not believe that I am in union with the Father and the Father is in union with me? The things I say to YOU men I do not speak of my own originality; but the Father who remains in union with me is doing his works.

Oneness, like that of husband and wife

(Joh 10:30) I and the Father are one.”

(Mt 19:4-6) In reply he said: “Did YOU not read that he who created them from [the] beginning made them male and female ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’? ⁶ So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart.”

All believers must have same oneness

(Joh 17:20-22) “I make request, not concerning these only, but also concerning those putting faith in me through their word; ²¹ in order that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me and I am in union with you, that they also may be in union with us, in order that the world may believe that you sent me forth. ²² Also, I have given them the glory that you have given me, in order that they may be one just as we are one.

(1Co 1:10) Now I exhort YOU, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that YOU should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among YOU, but that YOU may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought.

One worship of Jehovah through Christ forever

(Joh 4:23, 24) Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth.”

D. God’s holy spirit is his active force

A force, not a person

(Mt 3:16) After being baptized Jesus immediately came up from the water; and, look! the heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove God’s spirit coming upon him.

(Joh 20:22) And after he said this he blew upon them and said to them: “Receive holy spirit.

(Ac 2:4) and they all became filled with holy spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance.

(Ac 2:17) ““And in the last days,” God says, “I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and YOUR sons and YOUR daughters will prophesy and YOUR young men will see visions and YOUR old men will dream dreams;

(Ac 2:33) Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God and received the promised holy spirit from the Father, he has poured out this which YOU see and hear.

Not a person in heaven with God and Christ

(Ac 7:55, 56) But he, being full of holy spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God’s glory and of Jesus standing at God’s right hand, ⁵⁶ and he said: “Look! I behold the heavens opened up and the Son of man standing at God’s right hand.”

(Re 7:10) And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying: “Salvation [we owe] to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Directed by God to accomplish purposes

(Ps 104:30) If you send forth your spirit, they are created; And you make the face of the ground new.

(1Co 12:4-11) Now there are varieties of gifts, but there is the same spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of ministries, and yet there is the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of operations, and yet it is the same God who performs all the operations in all persons. ⁷ But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each one for a beneficial purpose. ⁸ For example, to one there is given through the spirit speech of wisdom, to another speech of knowledge according to the same spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same spirit, to another gifts of healings by that one spirit, ¹⁰ to yet another operations of powerful works, to another prophesying, to another discernment of inspired utterances, to another different tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But all these operations the one and the same spirit performs, making a distribution to each one respectively just as it wills.

Those serving God receive, guided by it

(1Co 2:12, 13) Now we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that have been kindly given us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not with words taught by human wisdom, but with those taught by [the] spirit, as we combine spiritual [matters] with spiritual [words].

(Ga 5:16) But I say, Keep walking by spirit and YOU will carry out no fleshly desire at all.

43. Wickedness, World Distress

A. Who is responsible for world distress

Wicked rule cause of bad times today

(Pr 29:2) When the righteous become many, the people rejoice; but when anyone wicked bears rule, the people sigh.

(Pr 28:28) When the wicked rise up, a man conceals himself; but when they perish, the righteous become many.

Ruler of world the enemy of God

(2Co 4:4) among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through.

(1Jo 5:19) We know we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the [power of the] wicked one.

(Joh 12:31) Now there is a judging of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Woes brought by Devil, time short

(Re 12:9) So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

(Re 12:12) On this account be glad, YOU heavens and YOU who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to YOU, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time.”

Devil bound, glorious peace follows

(Re 20:1-3) And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ And he hurled him into the abyss and shut [it] and sealed [it] over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while.

(Re 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

B. Why wickedness permitted

Devil challenged loyalty of creatures to God

(Job 1:11, 12) But, for a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch everything he has [and see] whether he will not curse you to your very face.” ¹² Accordingly Jehovah said to Satan: “Look! Everything that he has is in your hand. Only against him himself do not thrust out your hand!” So Satan went out away from the person of Jehovah.

Faithful given opportunity to prove loyal

(Ro 9:17) For the Scripture says to Phar’ao: “For this very cause I have let you remain, that in connection with you I may show my power, and that my name may be declared in all the earth.”

(Pr 27:11) Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice, that I may make a reply to him that is taunting me.

Devil proved a liar, issue to be settled

(Joh 12:31) Now there is a judging of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Faithful rewarded with everlasting life

(Ro 2:6, 7) And he will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ everlasting life to those who are seeking glory and honor and incorruptibleness by endurance in work that is good;

(Re 21:3-5) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. ⁴ And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” ⁵ And the One seated on the throne said: “Look! I am making all things new.” Also, he says: “Write, because these words are faithful and true.”

C. Prolonged time of the end is merciful provision

As in Noah’s day, takes time to give warning

(Mt 24:14) And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

(Mt 24:37-39) For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. ³⁸ For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; ³⁹ and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

God not slow, but merciful

(2Pe 3:9) Jehovah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with YOU because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.

(Isa 30:18) And therefore Jehovah will keep in expectation of showing YOU favor, and therefore he will rise up to show YOU mercy. For Jehovah is a God of judgment. Happy are all those keeping in expectation of him.

Bible helps us avoid being caught unawares

(Lu 21:36) Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that YOU may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man.”

(1Th 5:4) But YOU, brothers, YOU are not in darkness, so that that day should overtake YOU as it would thieves,

Seek God’s provision now for protection

(Isa 2:2-4) And it must occur in the final part of the days [that] the mountain of the house of Jehovah will become firmly established above the top of the mountains, and it will certainly be lifted up above the hills; and to it all the nations must stream. ³ And many peoples will certainly go and say: “Come, YOU people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” For out of Zion law will go forth, and the word of Jehovah out of Jerusalem. ⁴ And he will certainly render judgment among the nations and set matters straight respecting many peoples. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore.

(Zep 2:3) seek Jehovah, all YOU meek ones of the earth, who have practiced His own judicial decision. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably YOU may be concealed in the day of Jehovah’s anger.

D. Solution to world distress not from men

Men very fearful, perplexed

(Lu 21:10, 11) Then he went on to say to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ and there will be great earthquakes, and in one place after another pestilences and food shortages; and there will be fearful sights and from heaven great signs.

(2Ti 3:1-5) But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, ³ having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, ⁴ betrayers, headstrong, puffed up [with pride], lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power; and from these turn away.

God’s Kingdom, not men, will succeed

(Da 2:44) “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite;

(Mt 6:10) Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.

To live, sue for peace with King now

(Ps 2:9) You will break them with an iron scepter, As though a potter's vessel you will dash them to pieces."

(Ps 2:11, 12) Serve Jehovah with fear And be joyful with trembling. ¹² Kiss the son, that He may not become incensed And YOU may not perish [from] the way, For his anger flares up easily. Happy are all those taking refuge in him.

44. Witnessing

A. All Christians must witness, tell good news

Must acknowledge Jesus before men to be approved

(Mt 10:32) "Everyone, then, that confesses union with me before men, I will also confess union with him before my Father who is in the heavens;

Must be doer of Word, demonstrating faith

(Jas 1:22-24) However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is.

(Jas 2:24) YOU see that a man is to be declared righteous by works, and not by faith alone.

New ones, too, should become teachers

(Mt 28:19, 20) Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded YOU. And, look! I am with YOU all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

Public declaration brings salvation

(Ro 10:10) For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation.

B. Need for repeated calls, continued witnessing

Warning of end must be given

(Mt 24:14) And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Jeremiah announced Jerusalem's end for years

(Jer 25:3) "From the thirteenth year of Jo-si'ah the son of A'mon, the king of Judah, and down to this day, these twenty-three years the word of Jehovah has occurred to me, and I kept speaking to YOU people, rising up early and speaking, but YOU did not listen.

Like early Christians, cannot stop

(Ac 4:18-20) With that they called them and charged them, nowhere to make any utterance or to teach upon the basis of the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But in reply Peter and John said to them: “Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to YOU rather than to God, judge for yourselves. ²⁰ But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard.”

(Ac 5:28, 29) and said: “We positively ordered YOU not to keep teaching upon the basis of this name, and yet, look! YOU have filled Jerusalem with YOUR teaching, and YOU are determined to bring the blood of this man upon us.” ²⁹ In answer Peter and the [other] apostles said: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.

C. Must bear witness to be free of bloodguilt

Must warn of approaching end

(Eze 33:7) “Now as regards you, O son of man, a watchman is what I have made you to the house of Israel, and at my mouth you must hear [the] word and give them warning from me.

(Mt 24:14) And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Failure brings bloodguilt

(Eze 33:8, 9) When I say to someone wicked, ‘O wicked one, you will positively die!’ but you actually do not speak out to warn the wicked one from his way, he himself as a wicked one will die in his own error, but his blood I shall ask back at your own hand. ⁹ But as regards you, in case you actually warn someone wicked from his way [for him] to turn back from it but he actually does not turn back from his way, he himself will die in his own error, whereas you yourself will certainly deliver your own soul.

(Eze 3:18, 19) When I say to someone wicked, ‘You will positively die,’ and you do not actually warn him and speak in order to warn the wicked one from his wicked way to preserve him alive, he being wicked, in his error he will die, but his blood I shall ask back from your own hand. ¹⁹ But as for you, in case you have warned someone wicked and he does not actually turn back from his wickedness and from his wicked way, he himself for his error will die; but as for you, you will have delivered your own soul.

Paul freed of bloodguilt; spoke full truth

(Ac 20:26, 27) Hence I call YOU to witness this very day that I am clean from the blood of all men, ²⁷ for I have not held back from telling YOU all the counsel of God.

(1Co 9:16) If, now, I am declaring the good news, it is no reason for me to boast, for necessity is laid upon me. Really, woe is me if I did not declare the good news!

Saves both witness and one listening

(1Ti 4:16) Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Stay by these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.

(1Co 9:22) To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some.