

## **God's Word Reveals....<sup>©</sup> A Polemic Belief Statement**

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## **God's Word Reveals....<sup>©</sup>**

### **A Polemic Belief Statement<sup>1</sup> of the ministry Paraclete Press Research Service, Inc.**

#### **1.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding the Bible:**

##### **1.1 Identity**

Divine revelation<sup>2</sup> to man is Scripture identified as the 66 books of the Holy Bible; Unique among claimed 'sacred' texts, revelation is God-breathed, inerrant in the plenary, original autographs, unchangeable in its truth.

##### **1.2 Eternality, Inspiration**

Divine revelation is eternal, i.e., it pre-exists creation. Transmitted supernaturally by verbal inspiration through "men of old" chosen by God, the received canon is complete, precluding any addition to or deletion of the truth therein; while divine revelation excludes apocryphal, oral or extra-biblical works — any non-contradictory doctrine these teach may serve to clarify and elucidate revelation by insight of philology, particularly source language grammar; cultural context or historical facts.

##### **1.3 Authority, Inerrancy, Finality**

Immutable, infallible, inerrant, and divinely preserved, mere men are incapable of ensuring the integrity of revelation; truth is not mediated by ecclesial authority; it is safeguarded by the promise that God's Word endures forever (Isa 40:8; 55:11). Value of manuscript translation and version revision is intrinsic;

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<sup>1</sup> The entire Bible is the Scriptural basis for this Statement. Hundreds of possible verses collectively prove the doctrine outlined by this Statement. The reader is encouraged to research additional texts that support each truth.

<sup>2</sup> Revelation: "God's disclosure of Himself and His Will to His creatures", Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, 2001, p. 1646.

the canon<sup>3</sup> is re-confirmed through successive generations of Spirit-led scholars rendering and comparing manuscripts for content and meaning —confirming that theology and doctrine according to Jude 3 remains unchanged throughout the history of translation. While the content of divine revelation precludes preservation in a single translation or version, there is lack of evidence the availability of ever-varied Bible versions actually accrues value. At some point diminishing return mitigates against ever increasing versions —their purpose mainly serving profit motives.

#### **1.4 Exclusivity and Extent of the Canon**

Refashioned esoteric Gnosis remains external to divine revelation, opposing received truth; there are no "lost books of the Bible" that have been recovered by man subsequent to the close of the canon.

#### **1.5 Interpretation**

Accurate knowledge and understanding of divine revelation is by literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic; figurative / spiritual / allegorized interpretation contradicts the whole of Scripture.

#### **1.6 Study**

The Bible student must possess the mind of Christ to discern and apprehend divine revelation. Effective mastery of Holy Scripture necessitates teachable students, willing to rightly handle the Word of Truth and seek Spirit filled teachers to elucidate, confirm and orient to that truth, praying for wisdom to avert self-determined private interpretation that leads to confusion and error.

#### **1.7 Teaching**

Authentic Bible teaching presents consistent content no matter the age; gender; community; calling; lifestyle; 'felt needs' or 'perceived issues' of students; if content varies for niche-identified groups (i.e., addicts, women, men, cultists, inmates, minorities, denominations) this effectively segregates and isolates. Yet, *one* body united under *one* Lord, *one* Spirit, *one* faith, *one* hope, *one* baptism requires common understanding of revelation sourced to teaching that is consistent in content and meaning.

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<sup>3</sup> Meaning of canon here does not coincide with Roman Catholic use.

## **1.8 Bible Printing**

Approval of printing and distributing the New Testament alone —serves primarily to truncate the message of the divine author's Person, Christ Jesus; Holy writ is the entire 66 book canon. Distribution programs based on less than the entire canon erode rather than build on Christ, according to 1 Cor 3:11.

## **1.9 Sufficiency of Scripture**

The Bible is self-authorizing, self-explaining, and self-sufficient to reprove sin and correct wrong doing; to instruct in truth and righteousness; to teach doctrine; to provide for the believer “an account for the hope that is in you” (1 Pet 3:15).

(Deut 4:2, 29:29; Psa 119, 30:5, Pro 1:23, 2:1-17; Isa 40:7-8; Matt 5:8, 18; Lk 1:1-4; Jn 8:32, 10:35, 17:17; 1 Cor 2:9-16; Phil 2:5; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 3:16; Heb 4:12; 1 Pet 3:15, 2 Pet 1:21, 3:16; Jude 3; Rev 22:18-19)

## **2.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding the Godhead:**

### **2.1 Existence / Identity**

The One True, Living, Eternal God exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit; co-equal, co-glorious, mutually submitted in self-sufficient, unified identity; Divinity in tri-unity is unique to the Holy Bible's God. His sacred name is the tetragrammaton, YHWH, rendered Elohim (Gen 2:4b).

### **2.2 Divine Essence and Some of God's Attributes**

The triune Godhead is sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, all loving, all perfect, all holy, all just. Existing external to His creation, no man is able to fully know God or possess Him entirely.

### **2.3 Exclusivity**

No divinity exists external to the triune Godhead; no creature, beginning with Satan (Isa 14:12-17), achieves or is granted divine identity, essence, personage, status, power or authority. Dualism is false.

## **2.4 Creator God**

Elohim, the Creator God (Gen 2:4), exists external to His creation, with all creatures incapable of perfect, complete knowledge of Him.

## **2.5 Worship**

Confession, supplication, adoration, intercession, thanksgiving and praise are offered to God the Father, through, and in the name of God, the Son, and by the power of God, the Spirit.

(Gen 1:26; Deut 6:4; Job 11:7; Psa 90:2; 2 Cor 13:14)

## **3.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding God, the Son:**

### **3.1 Identity**

God's Word reveals only One Name under heaven and earth by which man is saved: Christ Jesus, the second Person of the triune Godhead, the one-of-a-kind, unique Son of the Father is the Last Adam.

### **3.2 Divinity and Humanity**

Transcending time and eternity, God humbled Himself in the likeness of man. The incarnate God, Israel's Shepherd, of whom the prophets speak, Immanuel, God with us, was conceived in human flesh by the work of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin Jewess.

### **3.3 Atones for Sin**

Having no sin, the Nazarite purer than snow was made sin for all born of a woman; He is Israel's final, perfect, holy, Pascal Lamb. The long awaited Messiah, sacrificed and crucified according to the Scriptures —Christ was buried as a pauper and remained dead three days and three nights in the grave.

### **3.4 First Fruits of the Resurrection**

By the power of the triune God Christ Jesus is bodily resurrected —having died a physical death. He is raised in glory. He ascended to heaven after 40 days on earth in His resurrected body; He is now

exalted at the right hand of God, the Father, always doing the Father's will, forever interceding for those whom the Father gave Him. He is the First fruits of all those who will be resurrected to glory with Him.

### **3.5 Fulfills Prophecy**

The perfect propitiation for sin, Christ Jesus alone is the supreme and final sacrifice, surpassing the shed blood of goats and bulls. As the spotless Lamb, only Christ Jesus is worthy; He is High Priest, Final Prophet and Eternal King; He is the son of Jesse, the One and Only Redeemer of the "one new man" —Jew and Gentile united in His Body. He is the One for whom Jews surviving Jacob's Trouble will prophesy "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord". During this church age, lost sheep of the house of Israel are provoked to jealousy by Gentile submission, adoration and praise of Christ Jesus.

### **3.6 The Coming Bridegroom**

Jesus, the Bridegroom, awaits His Father's call to fetch His betrothed Bride to heaven to consummate His marriage. Seven years later He will return with His Bride to join their guests at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb on earth.

(Isa 9:6, 52:13-53:12; Lam 4:7; Matt 11:27, 12:40; Mk 8:31, 14:58; Lk1:26-35; John 1:1-14,18, 2:9, 14:6; Acts 1:9-11; Rom 1:3-4; 1 Cor 15:3-4; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 1:7; Phil 2:5-10; Col 2:9; 1 Tim 1:17, 6:13-16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb 1:1-2, 4:14-15, 7:25, 9:24; 2 Pet 2:21-24; 1 John 2:1-2)

## **4.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding God, the Holy Spirit:**

### **4.1 Third Person of the Godhead**

God's Word reveals the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Triune Godhead; not a force, energy, ghost, apparition, shadow or imagined entity.

### **4.2 Present in all Ages**

God, the Holy Spirit is present in all ages, though residence and operation varies; He did not indwell persons in the Old Testament but was sent at times to anoint particular servants. During this church age, God, the Spirit, indwells all those who are regenerated in Christ. The Spirit convicts of sin, of

righteousness and of judgment. His is the Comforter of the body, ministering and guiding in Christ's absence. The Spirit transcends time and place but His active operation is removed with the Bride when she is translated to heaven, allowing evil to prevail on earth.

### **4.3 Agent of Regeneration**

At the moment of regeneration God, the Holy Spirit seals, baptizing members into the body of Christ, permanently indwelling the believer for a life of fruitful victory and good works so that (s)he glorifies God and benefits man.

### **4.4 Uniform operation**

God, the Holy Spirit imparts individual gifts and callings to each soul sealed by His indwelling; His work is not limited to some, but not others, based on an optional "second or subsequent baptism." Supernatural filling by the Spirit generates fruit in the life of the submitted believer; obedience to the Spirit's correction and leading testifies of and determines the extent of the Spirit's filling of that life. Claims that baptism by the Spirit is necessarily accompanied by utterance in tongues is accurate based only on three incidents in Scripture, the first recorded in Acts 2, again in chapters 10 and 19; this sign gift testifying of Christ to unbelieving Jews ceased with the graduated transition from the age of law to the age of the church. In every age, God the Spirit is resisted, grieved, and quenched by sinful and carnal men. Blaspheming the Spirit is the only unforgivable sin.

### **4.5 Submitted**

God, the Holy Spirit subsumes His glory in the greater glory of God, the Son, never calling attention to Himself; never receiving adoration from man or angels. No man can harness God, the Holy Spirit who operates only to do the will of God, the Father, glorifying only God, the Son.

### **4.6 Blasphemy**

Unpardonable sin —blaspheming the Spirit —“...ceased with Christ's removal from the earth” (Chafer).

(John 14:26, 15:26; 16:8-15; John 16:8-14; Acts 1:8; 1Cor 3:16, 12:1-13; Eph 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; 2 Thess 2:7; Titus 3:5; Heb 2:4)

## **5.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Angels:**

### **5.1 Identity and Origin**

God's Word reveals angels are celestial beings, created in eternity past to glorify and obey the Godhead. They were created before the foundation of the world.

### **5.2 Messengers and Limited Servants**

Made to adore and obey, faithful angels are God's messengers sent on celestial and earthly spiritual assignments. In the service of the Godhead, they do good works for the benefit of man but without comingling with humans. Limited in power, even faithful angels cannot experience redemption with man.

### **5.3 The First Rebel and His Demons**

In eternity past unknown numbers of angels rebelled with Lucifer, the anointed cherub; these fallen angels (demons) cause all anguish and suffering, manifesting all sin committed by God's supreme Creation, man, in both the saved and the lost. In the Garden, Lucifer appeared to man as the serpent.

### **5.4 Warfare in Heaven**

Spiritual warfare between fallen and faithful angels continues until Christ subdues all rebellion at the end of time. Man's earthly welfare is affected by this warfare, the Holy Spirit operating to limit the full extent of Satan's desire to harm and destroy humans.

### **5.5 Limited in Power**

In eternity redeemed man will rule the just angels. But for now, our adversary, Satan and his demons are limited in power and will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with all other enemies of God. They will experience everlasting, just punishment for crimes against God and man. (Isa 14:12, Ezek 28:13, Luke 11:35)

## **6.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Creation:**

### **6.1 Abrupt Origin of Life**

God's Word reveals the triune Godhead is the Maker of all things, creating *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) all material and non-material reality, in six, twenty-four hour days.

### **6.2 Creation —a Single, Contiguous Work**

Genesis-revealed creation demonstrates a unique, contiguous, six-day creation with no gap in time between the events of Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. There is no Pre-Adamic race; there is no inherited sin from the seed of corrupted man before the creation of the universal parents, Adam and Eve.

### **6.3 Creation Corrupted**

Since the time of man's expulsion from perfect paradise all creation groans under the burden of sin, awaiting the renewal and restoration of all good things intended by the Creator.

### **6.4 Creator God is Personal**

The Genesis Creator is not an impersonal entity claimed by some interpretations of Intelligent Design.

### **6.5 Creation Unique**

Creation is unique to the earth with no evidence supporting creation extends to alien life forms.  
(Gen 1-2; Col 1:16)

## **7.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Evil and Sin:**

### **7.1 Origin and Evidence**

God's Word reveals evil manifested when Satan —by free will and corrupted nature —rebelled against his Maker. Misrepresenting God's Word, the serpent's lie was believed by Eve; subsequently the First Adam fell under the control of the master deceiver; Adam and Eve required a covering for transgression until the final sacrifice of the Last Adam removed the penalty of all transgression. Proudful rebellion —

allowed by divine permissive will —explains Satan's dominion over the earth. He instigates and perpetuates every imagined and committed evil. Evil is allowed for only a season.

## **7.2 Incidence and Operation**

Man's sin is the result of operative evil and was judged early in man's history at the global flood. Evil burgeoned again at Babel; sin continues to characterize lost human nature, but will be no more when prophecy is fulfilled and the God of prophecy is satisfied. Satan's purpose and vocation of evil is to steal, kill and destroy. Man is not a sinner because he sins; he sins because he is a sinner by nature.

## **7.3 Genetic Defect**

Suffering under Adam's curse, man is conceived in sin and enters life a child of the devil; The arch enemy of man, Satan rules this world. Human operation without the Spirit's indwelling reflects evil.

## **7.4 Power to Resist**

Indwelled by God, the Spirit, redeemed man has power to resist Satan's temptation. That power is imperfectly experienced until the resurrection—because of fluctuating obedience to the Spirit's filling.  
(Rom 3:9-19, 5:12-14, Eph 2:1-3,12)

## **8.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Salvation:**

### **8.1 Universal Need**

God's Word reveals that due to Adam and Eve's fall from perfect innocence, all are born depraved and must be declared righteous in order to pass into eternity an adopted child and friend of God.

### **8.2 Universal, Common Grace**

In every age adoption is by grace, manifest in multitudes of redeemed souls from Noah forward.

### **8.3 Special Grace**

In this church age individual souls are spiritually added to Christ's body as they are convicted by the Holy Spirit of their abject lost state, receiving in place of their just punishment the exonerating, substitute death of Christ for their complete and only justification before God the Father.

### **8.4 Unique Gospel Reconciles Man to God**

Righteousness is imputed to a redeemed soul upon hearing, believing, and receiving the good news of the gospel of Christ Jesus —vicariously experiencing the benefit of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Dying with Him, raised to glory with Him; and at last reconciled to God's perfect holiness in Him, standing justified in His sight —new life is wholly the work of One whose purpose is to redeem.

### **8.5 Blessing of Repentance and Chastening**

By operation of the Holy Spirit, the saved soul is immediately sealed —assured eternal security —by faith, turning from idols to God. Fruitful faith produces repeated repentance, not a singular act (1 Jn 1:8-10). Repeated repentance is necessary for unbroken fellowship with the Father and with men. Resistance to repentance brings chastening necessary to purify the believer's walk and witness.

### **8.6 Ongoing Sanctification**

Sanctification is the continuing work of God, the Holy Spirit in the life of the submitted believer. This work is not perfected or completed prior to the translation of the Body to the Bride since corruption cannot inherit incorruption. A believer's fallen nature contrasted with Christ's perfect nature is the experience of spiritual warfare waged from the moment of the new birth to the moment of resurrection.

### **8.7 Predestined**

All predestination is to heaven; no man is predestined to hell.

### **8.8 Today is the Day of Salvation**

No "purgatory" exists to expiate sin; souls do not transmigrate (reincarnate) as justified, without judgment. Karma is not an avenue of salvation. (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:12)

## **9.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Israel:**

### **9.1 Identity and Purpose**

God's Word reveals the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are His Chosen People, divinely called out of pagan culture to be separate and holy for God's Glory. God intends the Nation of Israel benefit the whole world through the giving of the Word and by producing the messianic lineage.

### **9.2 Israel Not Replaced**

God does not forsake His Chosen People; the Church is not Israel; Christ's body does not supersede Israel in God's eternal plan. Israel is secure in unconditional earthly covenant; yet Jews are commanded to be converted the same as Gentiles in this church dispensation. Returning to Judea and Samaria in 1948, Jews continue in unbelief, save a small remnant of followers of Yeshua HaMashiach. Romans 9 reveals Israel's past; Romans 10 reveals her current unconverted state; and Romans 11 reveals her future restoration and redemptive reign —no longer as the tail, but the head of the nations.

### **9.3 Future Restoration**

National Israel is yet to be redeemed out of tribulation —Jacob's trouble; one third world Jewry surviving that judgment will recognize and call upon the One whom they pierced, so that all Israel shall be saved.

### **9.4 Perpetuity of Relationship**

Covenant promises to Israel of seed, land and blessing are fulfilled at Christ Jesus' Second Coming.

### **9.5 One Thousand Year Millennial Reign**

Redeemed Israel will head the nations under the direct theocratic headship of Yeshua HaMashiach.

(Deut 32:8-9; Rom 3:1-2)

## **10.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding the Church:**

### **10.1 Identity, Origin and Completion**

In the present dispensation —the age of the church —Christ's body is the unique expression of God's grace; the mystery of Christ's Church is unrevealed in the Old Testament. Born at Pentecost, the church, the body and betrothed Bride of Christ, is complete at the pre-tribulation translation of the saints.

### **10.2 New Birth**

God's Word reveals One New Man, converted Jew and Gentile, co-members of Christ's spiritual, heavenly Body. Obeying the command to be saved, these are born again according to John 3:3, 5, 7.

### **10.3 Profession of Faith May Not be Confessional**

The spiritual Body of Christ (the confessing church) is not identical to the visible, professing church, i.e., not all who profess Christ are born again, by repentant faith in Christ alone. Mere professors are lost.

### **10.4 Body is Heavenly, Spiritual**

Body identity and purpose is not interpreted by post-apostolic history or defined by "church fathers." The spiritual, heavenly body of Christ is not limited just to Orthodox, Romanist, Evangelical, Protestant, Pentecostal or Emergent models. The Church is Christocentric —He is the vine —we are the branches.

### **10.5 Body is Identified and United in Her Head**

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism..." Christ's Body is united in Him and cannot be divided by denominations formed by man; she cannot be united by ecumenical decrees; this Spiritually sealed, eternal, unique Body maintains in those who are alive as well as those absent from the Body. Models claiming inclusive, universal membership based on sincere, voluntary participation in any religious or spiritual activity are false.

### **10.6 Body Life Is Spirit Led**

Body life is experienced and sanctified in water baptism; private and communal prayer; communion of the Lord's Table; worship in Spirit and in Truth; Bible study; fellowship; discipleship and evangelism of the lost. These are not conducted by volitional human effort but are the result of Spirit-filled leading and directing of the body. This contrasts with function or form of the body sourced to business theory (church growth movement); Psychological insight; applied charismata; or mysticism.

### **10.7 Ministers of the Body**

"And He gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:.." Ephesians 4:11-13

### **10.8 Commanded Ordinances**

It is the privilege and duty of members of Christ's body to make public profession of faith in water baptism and to corporately commemorate Christ's death at His prepared table, until He comes.

### **10.9 Work of the Body**

Christ's body is called to spread the good seed, witnessing for saving faith in Christ, taking the gospel to the Jew first; each mature member of Christ's body is called to ministry, to spread seeds of the gospel of grace.

### **10.10 The Head Comes for His Body**

Christ's Body endures until she is rescued before Tribulation terror comes to earth; she is resurrected to eternal life and married to Christ in heaven. She will continue forever as Christ's chaste Bride.

## **11.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Prophecy:**

### **11.1 Prophecy Unique and Unerring**

Accurate prophecy is unique to the Bible. Prophecy is perfectly fulfilled in Christ's first coming. Many Second Coming fulfillments are yet future —Preterist claims of fulfillment in AD 70 are false. Every prophecy of His Second Coming will be fulfilled.

### **11.2 Prophecy's Focus**

The central character of prophecy is the nation of Israel, her unique relationship with, and her eventual redemption in Christ Jesus. The essentials of all prophecy fall under categories of the Land, the Messiah, and the End.

### **11.3 Christ's Bride Absent during Tribulation**

The next 'event' on the prophetic calendar is the immanent and instant<sup>4</sup> 2 Thess 2:3 departure of Christ's Body to consummate her marriage to Him. She is not subject to tribulation wrath poured out on earth.

### **11.4 Man of Sin Revealed**

Following Christ's gathering of His own out of the earth, those who remain on earth experience seven literal years of Tribulation; With the Holy Spirit absent, human activity will be according to the will of Satan.

### **11.5 Anti-Christ's Future Operation**

The mystery of iniquity is revealed in the Man of Sin; the Antichrist will conduct a reign of worldwide tyranny with temporary, feigned regard for Israel during the first 3.5 years of the seven year Tribulation, .

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<sup>4</sup> Immanency is revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Immanency means 1) no identifiable event must occur prior to the Bridegroom removing His Bride from the earth and 2) this supernatural fact of the resurrection of the saints is 'near', i.e., its future accomplishment occurs in the twinkling of an eye, gathering both deceased and living saints to Christ in the air. 2 Thess 2:3 “*apostasia*” is correctly translated *departure* (of the saints), not apostasy from the faith.

### **11.6 Strong Delusion Experienced by Christ Rejecters**

2 Tim 2:9-12 reveals those previously accountable —having heard but reject the gospel —will remain on earth after the Body/Bride is removed. They are sent strong delusion from God. This will lead to their destruction as the result of willful faith in the false christ. This deluded state does not apply to all souls remaining on the earth. During seven years of tribulation multitudes of previously un-evangelized souls will be saved under the preaching of 144,000 Jewish missionaries; yet these souls will experience unprecedented persecution and martyrdom.

### **11.7 Israel's Conversion**

Israel suffers ultimate sorrow during Jacob's Trouble, at the end of which Christ returns to rescue His Chosen Nation and avert total world destruction.

### **11.8 Judgment Seat of Christ**

Simultaneous with seven years of Antichrist's reign; God's judgment of the nations; and salvation of Jews and Gentiles on earth —Christ judges His Bride in Heaven for their works done in the body. With crown rewards granted for pure works the Bride offers those crowns to Christ to glorify and honor Him.

### **11.9 Return and Marriage Supper**

At the end of seven years the now married Bride returns to earth with her Bridegroom to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. King Jesus commences a literal thousand year earthly reign from David's throne, marked by His universal and sovereign Lordship, with Israel at the head of the nations.

### **11.10 Millennium**

Creation's curse is lifted as Satan is Pit-bound for 1,000 years, only to be let out of chains for a last expression of rebellion before being cast into the Lake of fire along with demons and all lost souls.

### **11.11 Dispensations not "Progressed" Because Interpretation is Literal, Not Allegorical**

The departure of Christ's Body does not coincide with Christ's second coming at Tribulation's end; the 1,000 year kingdom is not now; Christ is not on David's throne; creation is not even partially restored.

## **12.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding Eternity:**

### **12.1 Divine Justice Satisfied**

God's Word reveals that when all prophecy is fulfilled and all souls are separated between those saved in glory and those suffering in separation, then, divine justice will be served. Righteousness restored, the earth is purged by fire —God refashioning a new heaven and new earth. Sin, death and the grave are no more, redeemed man set free of the penalty of sin first declared in the Garden. Those in heaven forever glorify and worship the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb in the holy city, new Jerusalem, while even those suffering hell's destruction will bend their knee and proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord.

## **13.0 God's Word reveals these beliefs and practices regarding Dispensations/ Covenants:**

### **13.1 Dispensations**

God's Word reveals distinct dispensations<sup>5</sup> or ages to mark the temporal state.<sup>6</sup> "...the dispensations are stewardships by which God administers His purpose on earth through man by varying responsibilities... they are chronologically successive;...they are not ways of salvation nor different methods of the administration of the Covenant of Grace but are a test of man's submission to God based on progressive revelation;... they are a necessary view of Scripture based on [1] literal interpretation, [2] a consistent distinction of Israel and the Church, ...[3] the ultimate purpose of God is His own glorification; [Ages] are not different ways of salvation but in every dispensation the basis of salvation [is] always the blood of Christ, the means of salvation [is] always by grace through faith, the object of faith [is] always God, but the content of faith chang[es] in different dispensations dependent upon progressive revelation."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "Dispensation" is not a fabricated term; not a mistranslation. See: 1 Cor 9:17, Eph 1:10, , Eph 3:2, Col 1:25.

<sup>6</sup> The author agrees God's Word reveals 7 dispensations (ages) over 7,000 thousand years of history described as Dispensations of --Innocence, --Conscience, -- Human Government, --Promise, --Law, --the Church, -- the Kingdom.

<sup>7</sup> **Article Five, "The Dispensations", Doctrinal Statement of Ariel Ministries, www.ariel.org, 2002.**

## **13.2 Covenants**

All enduring covenants are made with Israel, though Gentiles are benefited through Israel's blessings. The Mosaic Covenant was cancelled at Christ's resurrection, since He perfectly fulfills the Law. "Law keepers" —claiming they keep the commandments —are under a curse. Christ's body is a partaker of the New Covenant with Israel, not an overtaker of the Covenant. She is grafted into Israel's root.

## **14.0 God's Word reveals at least these beliefs and practices regarding False Teaching:**

### **14.1 Doctrinal Error**

God's Word reveals false teaching is used by the adversary to attack man, starting with Eve and persisting through the church age in specific heresies and lies. Doctrinal error presumes unity in ecumenical diversity, yet leads to compromise of God's call to separation. Berean believers are called to expose and refute false teaching that continues to morph and change as Satan anticipates his coming destruction. Jude 3 injunction requires faithful members of the Body engage in polemic defense of the faith.

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